Council of the European Union
General Secretariat

WORKING PAPER

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From:	The Commission
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Informal videoconference of the Ministers of Research on 27 November 2020 AOB item - Open Science progress; progress in implementing the European Open Science Cloud and Outcome of the Open Science Policy Platform - Information from the Commission

Delegations will find attached a note from the Commission on *Open Science progress; progress in implementing the European Open Science Cloud and Outcome of the Open Science Policy Platform* with a view to the AOB items at the Informal videoconference of the Ministers of Research on 27 November 2020.

AOB – Open Science progress; progress in implementing the European Open Science Cloud and Outcome of the Open Science Policy Platform

Information from the Commission

The implementation of the **European Open Science Cloud (EOSC)** has progressed at high pace since its formal launch in Vienna two years ago. As part of the ERAvsCorona Action Plan, EOSC has played a key role in the COVID-19 crisis by speeding up access and sharing of research data through the newly set-up European COVID-19 Data Platform. The EOSC governance framework has also enabled the rapid set-up by many Member States of national coordination teams on COVID-19 data, which bring together the policy, research and healthcare dimensions.

The renewed EOSC ambition is to develop a Web of FAIR data and services for Science, with common standards and core software, allowing research objects such as publications, datasets and software to be FAIR (findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable) by design. This web of data will lead to new insights and innovations, higher research productivity and improved reproducibility in science.

The interim EOSC Governance 2018-2020 has successfully involved the Member States, Associated Countries, the Commission and the research communities, and has co-defined the strategic orientations from 2021 onwards. EOSC is now moving towards a sustainable new governance structure that is stakeholder-driven, while maintaining a higher-level steering role for all Member States and the Commission. Broad consensus has been already achieved on the EOSC vision, staged approach and operational objectives. In parallel, hundreds of organisations across Europe and more than fifty Horizon 2020 consortia are co-investing to further prototype the EOSC along the six action areas identified in the EOSC implementation roadmap of 2018 (Architecture, Data, Services, Access & Interphase, Rules of Participation, and Governance).

The Commission services together with the EOSC Governance are preparing a new European Partnership under Horizon Europe to support EOSC from 2021 onwards. If such a partnership is put in place, it will be relevant to all parts of the Framework Programme and will bring coherence and complementarity between commitments at EU, national and institutional levels, thereby implementing the EOSC effectively to support the transition to Open Science. An EOSC Association has been set up in July 2020. More than 180 organisations have already applied to join the Association as members or observers. A first General Assembly of the EOSC Association will be held on 17 December. Attention will be given to articulating the EOSC data space with the other sectoral data spaces foreseen by the European Strategy for Data.

The Commission services call on the Member States to press on with their efforts to coordinate and align national initiatives and investments of EOSC relevance and to federate national research data and infrastructures in EOSC. The Commission services also invite the Member States to make every effort to launch in 2021 a high-level Steering Board which would provide strategic guidance to the future EOSC Partnership, as well as help coordinate EOSC implementation at national level.

The **Open Science Policy Platform (OSPP)** was established following the May 2016 Competiveness Council in order to co-develop and co-implement Open Science policies. It consisted of 25 major European stakeholder organisations. The Open Science Policy Platform has now completed its second mandate covering the period May 2018 - May 2020, in which it focused on the challenging areas of a rewards and incentives system for open science, citizen science and indicators for researchers' engagement. Deliverables of the Platform include a final report with an overview of progress made by each stakeholder group on the implementation of open science practices and a vision for creating a shared research knowledge system by 2030.

A structural reform of the rewards and incentives system would be necessary to make further progress towards Open Science. It can be achieved through a comprehensive participative approach that progressively aligns the assessment of research and researchers by universities, other Research Performing Organisations (RPOs) and research funders. Mutual learning among Member States in this field will be facilitated by an open registry, to be soon launched by a stakeholder group, in which organisations can report their open science initiatives relating to the rewards and incentives system and to the employment of relevant indicators.

As indicated in the ERA communication, in 2021 the Commission will identify ways to incentivise open science practice by improving the research assessment system so that it motivates researchers to share results and collaborate and encourages trans-disciplinary research. This requires the collaboration and agreement with Member States and stakeholders to coordinate and synchronise reforms at all levels.