



ESCAPE

European Science Cluster of Astronomy &
Particle physics ESFRI research Infrastructures

INFRA-2026-01-EOSC-01
“OSCARS 2”

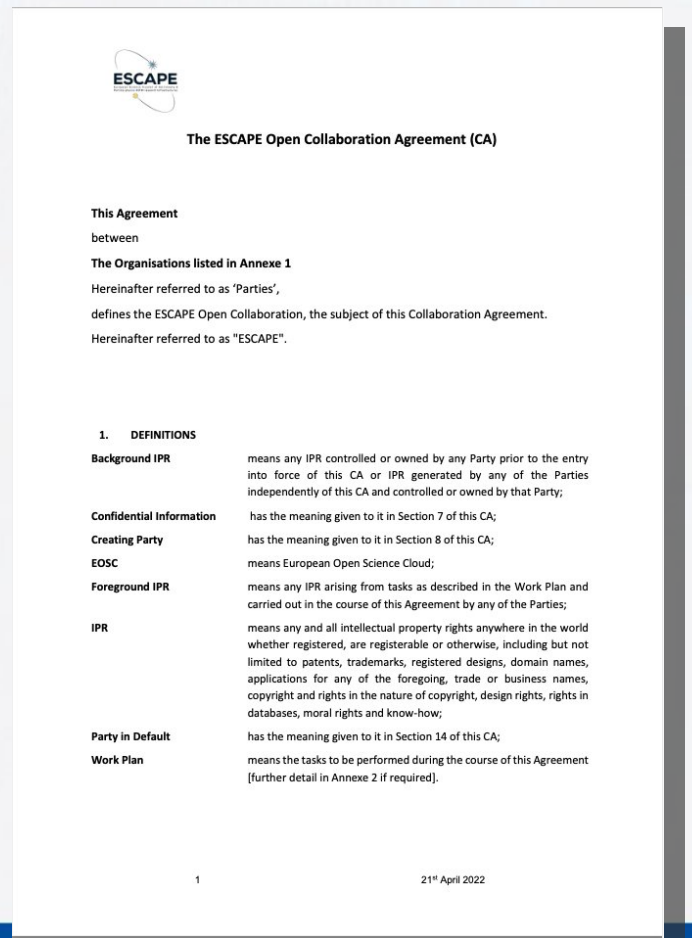
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08/04/2026



The ESCAPE Open Collaboration

Since February 2023, ESCAPE has a Collaboration Agreement signed by the Directors of all the partner RIs



<https://projectescape.eu/>



2026 Horizon Europe calls preparation

The 5 Science Clusters are:

- ENVRI - Environmental Science
- **ESCAPE - Astronomy and Particle Physics**
- LS RI - Life Science
- PaNOSC - Photon and Neutron Science
- SSHOC - Social Sciences and Humanities



<https://science-clusters.eu/>

● Calls in 2026:

● **HORIZON-INFRA-2026-01-EOSC-01: Uptake of FAIR data management practices and of EOSC by research communities and research infrastructures (40 MEur),**
—→ will bring the SCLs to “**OSCARS 2**”.

● **HORIZON-INFRA-2026-DEV-01-02: Consolidation of the research infrastructure landscape – pilots for strategic coordination, synergies and simplified access pathways, by large thematic clusters of pan-European research infrastructures (8 MEur max per project).**
—→ allowing us to build a new phase of our collaboration : “**ESCAPE enhance**”.

● ..and further in 2027:

● “**ESCAPE enhance**” should strongly support and coordinate actions under **HORIZON-INFRA-2027-SERV-01-01** and **HORIZON-INFRA-2027-SERV-01-02**

● Informal meeting at the end of March with the EC to discuss the evolution of ESCAPE and other SCLs (e.g. within **FP10**).

Main results / expectations from the RI questionnaires

● About ESCAPE, EOSC and OSCARS 2

- **Consolidation of the Community Competence Centre (CCC)** as a tool for making cross-fertilisation within ESCAPE sustainable and strengthening the specific role of an RI as a technical contributor; willingness to play a role in a distributed configuration. ESCAPE as a central gateway to research standards for nuclear, astrophysics and particle physics individually.
- **Community underrepresented in EOSC.** We need to leverage the first group of EOSC national nodes + the CERN node and increase our impact in the EOSC Federation; remain united to support the “physics of the two infinities” by leveraging our networks; further characterise VREs and manage them; engage with Member States that are considering co-funding EOSC in the future.



Current Status :

- The steering committee of the five SCLs (composed of the directors of the SCLs) have begun working on the OSCARS 2 proposal.
- An initial meeting was held in Paris on 23 January 2026.
- A second coordination meeting held in Seville on 9 March, prior to the OSCARS AGM.
- ESCAPE Cluster internal discussion with WG leaders and EB.

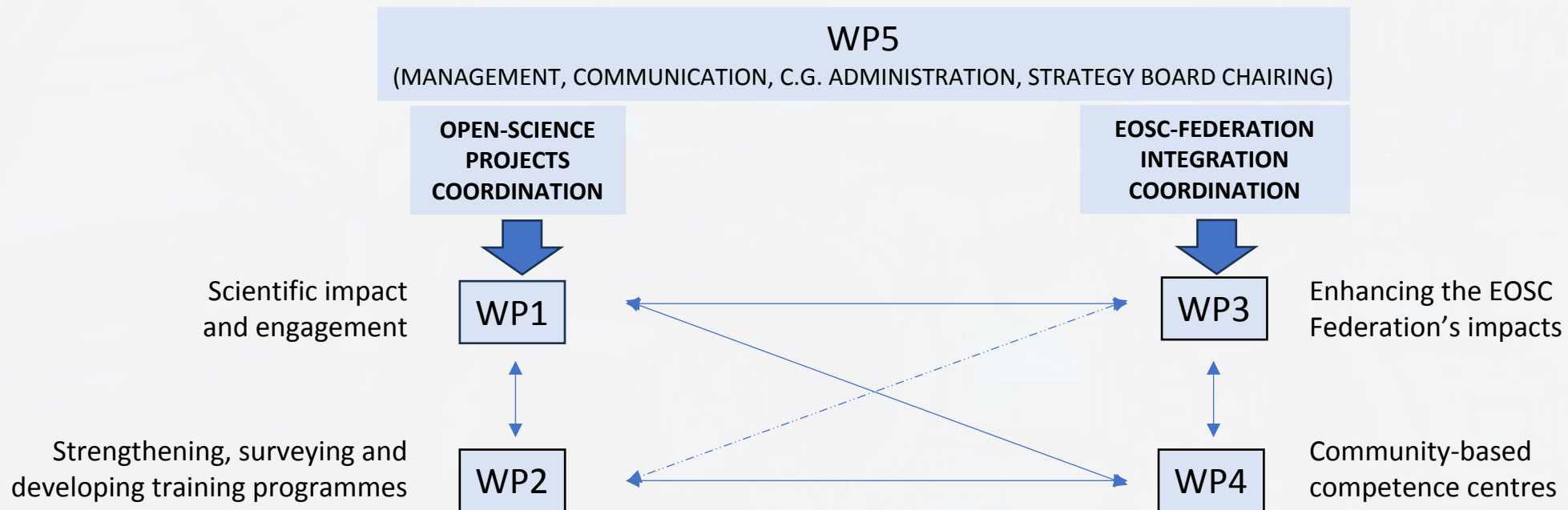
Next Steps :

- **Propose the WP leaders and co-leaders, who will:**
 - i) Join the editorial board, work on the draft and ensure consistency between its sections;
 - ii) Establish frequent and operational communication with the clusters to meet expectations and identify colleagues responsible for the tasks.
- **Define cluster representatives in each WP, to put forward ESCAPE priorities.**
- **Regular review by the SCL coordinators of the draft, which will be updated once every two weeks (first update on April 10).**
- **The WP leaders and cluster contacts will work on the WP and deliverables sections and will interact with frequently to update an internal version of the draft once a week (starting from the week 13-to-17 April).**

Note: more prominent role and representation of ESCAPE WG in OSCARS2 WP, compared to OSCARS



ACTIVITIES	WP1	WP2	WP3	WP4	WP5
1 (cascading grants)	X				
2.1 (CCC)				X	
2.2 (Training)		X			
2.3 (EOSC onboarding)			X		
2.4 (sustainability)			X		
2.5 (engagement)	X				
Management					X





ACTIVITIES:

1) Accelerate FAIR adoption and the contribution to and use of EOSC resources by multiple research communities through **open science projects**.

This activity should be implemented through open calls that provide grants to third parties for **open science projects** through a cascading grant mechanism. The open calls should encourage, where applicable, **cross-RI** and/or **cross-domain** collaborations, **including for data access, use and reuse**.

Open science projects should address questions of **high scientific impact**, adopting **best practices** for FAIR data and service management and **demonstrating their benefits**. Their activities may include developing, annotating, curating and making FAIR high-value datasets, developing direct pipelines to integrate large-scale experimental data in repositories federated in EOSC, operationalising data access for AI-based applications, reusing existing datasets, enhancing existing and developing new vocabularies, data standards, metadata mappings and crosswalks, developing software, tools and services, or supporting open science community building.

They should cover a broad range of (academic and/or industrial) research communities and scientific disciplines, **including those less represented** in the EOSC Federation. They should make use of resources available in the **EOSC Federation** and adopt existing EOSC policies and standards, **where possible**. **Projects should strive to ensure the sustained, beyond the projects' duration, integration, deployment and operation of relevant outcomes in the EOSC Federation.**



HORIZON-INFRA-2026-01-EOSC-01 (OSCARS 2)

At least EUR 29 million of the EU contribution to this topic should be used in this activity. The financial support to third parties for the open science projects must be provided in the form of grants that should be between EUR 100 000 and 250 000 per grant for a duration of 12 to 24 months. **The consortium shall put in place adequate measures to support the integration of the open science projects' results into the EOSC Federation.** These could include **mentoring, training and any other activities** providing effective linkage to the EOSC Federation and EOSC Nodes, as needed for the specific nature of each project.



ACTIVITIES:

2) Support the **integration of thematic research and RI communities** in the EOSC Federation

2.1 Coordinating, aligning and networking **existing community-based competence centres** on FAIR and open science practices **developed within the EOSC ecosystem**.

2.2 Developing **training programmes**, modules and material on FAIR and open science practices tailored to the specific needs of different thematic research communities. This activity should include **feedback mechanisms** to ensure that the training services are responsive to the evolving needs of EOSC user communities.

2.3 Developing frameworks for the **provision and continuous evolution** of **high-impact** services and data repositories **onboarded** to the EOSC Federation, **fostering** interoperability and integration of data and resources from diverse scientific domains and promoting their **sharing** through the EOSC Federation.

2.4 **Establishing mechanisms** for the integration and long-term sustainable provision of **all relevant outcomes into the EOSC Federation**, as well as for continuous **feedback and adaptation**, ensuring evolving requirements of researchers and RIs are met within the EOSC ecosystem.

2.5 **Engaging underrepresented thematic research and RI** communities to increase their integration in EOSC.



WP1

Scientific impact and engagement (ACTIVITIES : 1 and 2.5)

- Accelerate FAIR adoption and the contribution to and use of EOSC resources by multiple research communities through **open science projects** through a cascading grant mechanism. (1)
- **Engaging under-represented thematic research and RI** communities to increase their integration in EOSC. (2.5)

WP2

Strengthening, surveying and conceiving training programmes (ACTIVITIES : 2.2)

- **Training programmes** tailored to the specific needs of different thematic research communities and the evolving needs of EOSC user communities.

WP3

Enhancing the EOSC Federation's impacts (ACTIVITIES : 2.3 and 2.4)

- Developing frameworks for **high-impact** services and data repositories **onboarded** to the EOSC Federation.
- **Establishing mechanisms** for the integration and long-term sustainable provision of **all relevant outcomes into the EOSC Federation**.

WP4

Community-based competence centres (ACTIVITIES : 2.1)

- Coordinating, aligning and networking **existing community-based competence centres** on FAIR and open science practices **developed within the EOSC ecosystem**.



WP1 Scientific impact and engagement (ACTIVITIES : 1 and 2.5)

TASKS

- 1.1 Organize and deploy mechanisms or events for further engagement of communities.
- 1.2 Coordinate with EC, ESFRI and the future EOSC Federation governance.
- 1.3 Scientific steering of the cascading grant calls

WP2 Strengthening, surveying and conceiving training programmes (ACTIVITIES : 2.2)

TASKS

- 2.1. Join, integrate and develop EOSC-based and cross-functional FAIR data management training programmes.
- 2.2 Survey, evaluate and promote successful domain-based SCL training programme (one per cluster if possible).
- 2.3 Deploying the training and mentoring offers paving the way for the future by launching EVERSE multidisciplinary Knowledge Hub (EmKH). (**OSSR2, OSSR3 & OSSR6**)
- 2.4 Coordinate with training offered by other Competence Centres further than the ESOC ecosystem (EuroHPC, AI RAISE and other actions)
- 2.5 Conceive debates and seminars for new training or on topics that would demand to conceive dedicated training: ex. Open Science Hardware, Software Heritage, Citizen Science and Science diplomacy

WP3 Enhancing the EOSC Federation's impacts (ACTIVITIES : 2.3 and 2.4)

TASKS

- 3.1 Coordinate the consolidation of a series of high-impact individual services and archives of each Science Cluster integrated into the EOSC. (**DIOS1, DIOS2, VRE2, OSSR1**)
- 3.2 Operational connection with the EOSC Nodes and the EOSC board. (**OSSR5**)
- 3.3 Promoting a selection of projects funded by OSCARS for integration of the results obtained into the Federation. (**DIOS3, VRE3**)
- 3.4 Gap analysis and federated actions to plan.

WP4 Community-based competence centres (ACTIVITIES : 2.1)

TASKS

- 4.1 Specific support to any domain-based SCLs' CCC. (**CS1, DIOS2, VRE1, VRE3**)
- 4.2 Coordinating synergies and complementarity enhancing impacts of the SCLs CCCs (cross-fertilisation by inter-SCL synergies and where applicable with other EOSC CCCs).
- 4.3 Sustainability, economic model and functional role in the EOSC federation of the CCCs.
- 4.4 Monitoring the CCCs' impacts for science, RI and cascading grant funded projects. (**C2**)

(**OSSR1, OSSR2, OSSR5**)

(**DIOS1, DIOS3, VRE2**)

TO DO :

- Define **cluster representatives in each WP**. Some volunteers already (A.Iess, G.Guerrieri, S.Serjeant).
- Define ESCAPE WG **consolidation priorities** and map to OSCARS2 WP and tasks. *(mostly done)*
- **Budgeting** (FTEs personnel and other costs), list of beneficiaries. *(some input needed)*
- Proposal editing.



DISCUSSIONS Q&A