Post Event Report – NTE Slovakia

Country: Slovakia
Place: **Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information (CVTI SR), Bratislava**
Date: 31 May 2023
Format: Hybrid
National Organisers: CVTI SR (EOSC Association Mandated Organisation)

Executive summary

Open Science stakeholders in Slovakia, including representatives from the scientific community, funders and the national innovation landscape, joined guests from the European Commission, EOSC Steering Board, and the EOSC Association (EOSC-A) at the first EOSC National Tripartite Event in the country, held on 31 May at the premises of the Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information (CVTI SR, EOSC-A Mandated Organisation in the country) in Bratislava.

Attendees had the opportunity to hear about progress made in Open Science so far, and discussed the tasks ahead towards implementing EOSC and further Open Science beyond the end of Horizon Europe in 2027 as essential to maximise the potential of public funded research. Successful implementation of EOSC will contribute to increase the perception of results from public funded research as "public good". Examples of current initiatives in Slovakia showed the country's efforts towards making OS "the new normal".

All stakeholders were called on to make Open Science a community-driven process in which EOSC can play the role of a "centre of gravity" to raise awareness, and help align policies on FAIR research data management. Robert Ševčík (General director of the Science and Research Division, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport) highlighted the importance of this first NTE to pave the way for stronger cooperation for the advance of Open Science in Slovakia, with hopes that future meetings will involve more and different people from the Slovakian scientific community.

The panel discussion concluded that Slovakia and the other countries participating in the EOSC endeavour need policies and resources in place—but also encouragement to go beyond the status quo. Specifically, participants remarked the need for

- discipline-specific information on Open Science tailored for different scientific disciplines,
- strategies & policies,
- incentives to engage in open access (OA) publishing,
- bundling OS (for research data) sectorial data from governmental institutes.

Other topics covered included the cost of OA to institutions and publishers, and the costs linked to the transition from current practices. In countries like Slovakia, where financing science is rarely a political priority, the benefits for the quality of research brought by OS practices must be brought to the front to convince funders.

1. Overview

Slovakia's first National Tripartite Event brought together the Slovakian scientific community, funders and decision makers, to meet representatives of the EOSC Tripartite governance (European Commission, EOSC Association and EOSC Steering Board) and discuss with them what has been delivered so far to implement Open Science in Europe including the creation of EOSC, and the remaining tasks and challenges that lie ahead. A key conclusion of the event was that EOSC and Open Science are key to maximise the potential of public funded research.

The event was organised as follows: a first set of keynote presentations from representatives of the EOSC Tripartite Governance about the role of Open Science in Europe and its place in EC policies, in particular the EOSC Partnership, and the role played by the EOSC Steering Board, EU Member States, and the EOSC-A; the Slovakian EOSC-A Mandated Organisation CVTI SR, and a member of the one of EOSC-A Task Forces, followed by two panel discussions on the implementation of Open Science policies from the perspective of policy makers, funders and R&D performing institutions, and one on examples of Open Science initiatives in Slovakia.

2. Main highlights

The slides from the presentations delivered at the Slovakia NTE can be found in this link.

Support from Slovakian policy makers was visible at the event through the participation of Robert Ševčík (General director of the Science and Research Division, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport).

The keynote presentations highlighted the following aspects of EOSC and Open Science:

- The EC supports Open Science by funding and co-governing the EOSC Partnership, as well as by dedicated projects and policy development, with over 240 million Euros assigned in the INFRAEOSC calls 2021-24 and the current procurement of central EOSC Core services. Furthermore, the EC endorses the enabling of EOSC through a community-driven, gradual implementation, moving from prototype to operations. An important milestone will be delivery of the Minimum Viable EOSC (MVE) that includes all the elements for the EOSC Core to be created with the help of the procurement.

- The EOSC Steering Board represents the voice of the EU Member States in the Partnership, and collaborates with EC and EOSC-A in the coordination and alignment of policies and funding streams for Open Science. Currently it develops two lines of work through the EOSC Policy and National Contributions to EOSC sub-groups. They create opinion papers to advance policies, benchmarking activities, mapping of EOSC-ready infrastructures and in-kind contributions, and monitoring of the benefits of implementing OS policies. Two new papers on FAIR data productivity and digitalisation of research are expected to be published during 2023. The EOSC SB is aware of the need to align with the emerging Data Spaces to avoid the risk of misaligning investment, and has an active role in the conversations with research infrastructures, where it recommends to update the EU Charters for Researchers and for Access to Research Infrastructures to realise OS-enabled interdisciplinary research. As preferred legal forms to be adopted by EOSC after the end of the current funding programme Horizon Europe, the EOSC SB indicated those based on Art. 185 or 187 of the Treaty for the Union, plus temporary solutions (through e.g. grants) where needed.

- The EOSC-A is the key organisation that channels the interests of many Open Science stakeholders, and is the "executive body" of the EOSC Partnership, ensuring a common strategy with the Partnership's governance and the integration of all actors, with special attention to research infrastructures. With its member base and close contacts with the EC and the EOSC SB, the EOSC-A is developing a clear picture of what EOSC is, in order to create a path to implementation of EOSC that ensures the buy-in of all relevant stakeholders.

- CVTI SR, as EOSC-A Mandated Organisation CVTI SR in Slovakia, leads the implementation of national policies in coordination with the Ministry of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport. Following the approval of the National

Strategy for Open Science for the period 2021-2028, adopted in June 2021 by the Government, nine strategic priorities, have been defined, with action plans every two years (the plan for 2023-24 is currently under inter-ministerial consultation). CVTI SR fosters the publication of research results in Open Access journals, and, among other initiatives, organises webinars and workshops on Open Science-related topics and "OS in practice" course for librarians and information specialists, and promotes citizen science.

The **panel discussions** highlighted the need for:

- tailored discipline-specific information for academics in various fields (perhaps also suggest some standardization through examples);
- strategies and policies to make Open Science a duty for national research funding agencies, just like they are required for Horizon Europe projects;
- courage among Open Science stakeholders to overcome the difficulties of implementation, which must be accompanied by the funding to bear the costs;
- incentives for researchers to engage in Open Access publishing;
- bundling of Open Science data (including Open Access publications and research data) with data from sectorial data from government institutes to be open to public.

3. Tripartite collaboration

The EC supports Open Science through dedicated funding streams (including INFRAEOSC calls and procurement of central services) and co-governance of the EOSC Partnership.

The EOSC Steering Board collaborates with the EC and EOSC-A to coordinate and align policies and funding streams for Open Science, and advances the position of EU Member States through opinion papers and other activities that support the design and implementation of national OS policies.

The EOSC-A as the "executive body" of the EOSC Partnership is developing a clear picture of what EOSC is and brings in all relevant stakeholders to implement EOSC and make OS the "new normal".

4. Government level contributions

Robert Ševčík (General director of the Science and Research Division, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport) stated that the Slovakian Government has understood the importance of data not only for research, but more generally for the economy and society at large, and is interested in taking part in the EOSC endeavour. To this end, the Government is setting up infrastructures and supporting sharing of data. The concrete examples of successful OS practices from the Slovakian scientific community presented at the NTE show the country is on its way of adoption of OS. The Slovakian Government hopes believes events such as this one contribute to showcase the progress made by national institutions and researchers, share best practices and gain new insights on the benefits of data sharing. It hopes more and different members of the community in Slovakia will participate in future editions. When OS and data sharing soon become the new normal, Slovakia will be ready to join the EOSC community.

5. Relevant quotes

Jan Kyselovic (CVTI SRSCSTI): "EOSC is an important ingredient for the successful implementation of Open Science, but it is also a difficult one for all involved. Meetings like this NTE are important to get everybody engaged".

Robert Ševčík: "OS and data sharing expected to become the new normal soon, Slovak should join the EOSC community. We have top-class scientists, but we need to work on data sharing to further enhance the success of research in #Slovakia.

Pantelis Tziveloglou (EC, DG RTD): "The EC aims to help the research community embrace #OpenScience as the modus operandi of research. This is being done by improving the practice and developing enablers. The EOSC Tripartite Governance unites the EU Commission, EOSC Association, and Member States in advancing Open Science. Let's align policies and resources to enhance FAIR research output."

Giorgio Rossi (EOSC Steering BoarD): "The three key policy issues identified by the EOSC Steering Board in 2022 for Open Science were data literacy, the relation of EOSC and the private sector, and sovereignty on FAIR data.

"EOSC is the European contribution to the global web of FAIR data that will enable European researchers to collaborate better with researchers all over the world, and help tackle global scientific challenges".

Conclusions from the panel: "Policy, financing and encouraging are needed for Open Science to succeed in Slovakia".

Zuzana Reptová (CVTI SR: "To successfully implement EOSC, we need alignment across disciplines and countries, putting the right incentives in place, and tackling key issues related to the costs of the transition towards Open Science. Thanks for joining today's EOSC National Tripartite event!"

6. Future plans and actions[1]

In the coming period, CVTI SR, a Slovak EOSC-A Mandated Organization, aims to raise awareness of EOSC among scientists, researchers, and the public.

CVTI SR has various plans to increase awareness and encourage other scientists to participate in the EOSC initiative and upcoming NTE.

Our primary objective for the upcoming period is to host webinars and on-site events organized across the whole country aimed at educating the Slovak scientific community about the significance and potential of EOSC. We aim to engage with scientists and experts from various scientific fields.

For effective collaboration, it will be desirable to establish an interdepartmental group to meet regularly to inform and expertly address the topics of the National Data Strategy and EOSC.

In Slovakia, it is crucial to establish a conducive setting for data infrastructure and data sharing. As part of the efforts to develop the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) in the country, a detailed plan outlining the architecture, list, and priorities of each data centre in Slovakia will be formulated. Once the National Repository platform (currently under development) will be fully operational, series of workshops on the platform usability will follow.

The Slovakian Government is evaluating the action plan for 2023-24 to develop the National Strategy for Open Science.

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[1] *If you have access to that information, indicate short term objectives (two years' time) for EOSC development in the **country** and dissemination strategy related to the tripartite event.*

7. Use cases or practices

The second panel introduced current best Open Science practices in the Slovakian science community.
- Martina Malakova, president of the Slovakian Industry Innovation Cluster, introduced the GAIA-X national hub.
- Tomas Szemes (Comenius University Science Park) described the use open data for public heath during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Miroslav Bahna from the Slovak Academy of Sciences shared the experience of enhancing secondary analysis of survey research data with an increasing user uptake, though establishment of the Slovak Archive of Social Data.

These experiences highlight the importance of both institutional and disciplinary expertise to face the challenges encountered by OS actors in the Slovakian open science landscape.

8. Main indicators
Provide the main indicators related to the audience

8.1 Indicators organisation event
Official name of the event: Slovakian National Tripartite Event

Date: 31 May 2023

Thematic profile (was there a specific theme to the event apart from the Tripartite collaboration?): no

Target audience: scientific community, stakeholders and organisations in the field of open science, political leaders

8.2 Profile of participants
Total number of participants: 73
In-person: 48
Virtual (online): 25
Gender (%): Male: 40% Female: 60%

8.3 Type of participants affiliation

Research Performing Organisations: 40 (number of participants)
Research Funding Organisations: 6
Service providing Organisations: 7
Libraries: 11
Public administration: 9
Others:

8.4 Sectors
(Optional)
Identify from the participants registration form and the attendance list, which sectors were present in your event (e.g. Health, Education, …)
- *Social sciences*
- *Engineering and technology*

- *Natural sciences*
- *Agricultural sciences*
- *Medical and Health sciences*

8.5 EU HE InfraEOSC funded projects, dataspaces or other partnerships participation
Please indicate name of projects and partners from EU funded projects that participated in your event (this question should be included in the registration form)

9. Programme and List of organisations that participated at the National Tripartite Event

Slovak National Tripartite Event

Hybrid event
In-person venue: Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information (CVTI SR), Lamacska cesta 8A, 840 05 Bratislava, Slovakia
Date: 31 May 2023, 09:30-14:00

PROGRAMME (draft)

Time	Title	Speakers / Panellists
09:00-09:30	Registration	
09:30-09:45	Opening and Welcome	Jan Kyselovic, General director of the Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information Robert Sevcik, General director of the Science and Research Division, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic
09:45-10:00	EC position on Open Science and EOSC	Pantelis Tziveloglou, European Commission, DG Research & Innovation
10:00-10:20	EOSC Steering Board - introduction	Anna Krivjanska, EOSC-Steering Board Slovak representative
	The future of EOSC: the member states' view	Giorgio Rossi, EOSC-Steering Board Co-chair (remote)
	EOSC Association:	Karel Luyben – President of the EOSC Association

10:20-10:50	activities and priorities	
	Invitation to participate in EOSC task forces	Marek Cebecauer, J. Heyrovsky Institute of Physical Chemistry of the Czech Academy of Sciences
10:50-11:05	Slovak mandated organisation CVTI SR and its Open Science-related activities	Jitka Dobbersteinova, Head of the National Contact Office for Open Science, Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information
	Coffee break	

Part II

11:20-12:20	**_Panel discussion:_** Implementing Open Science policies: perspectives from policy makers, funders and R&D performing institutions	Moderator: Anna Walek, National Science Centre, Poland Panellists: ● Ivana Budinska, Presidium of Slovak Academy of Sciences ● Jitka Dobbersteinova, Head of the National Contact Office for Open Science, Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information ● Michal Habrman, Research and Innovation Authority, Government Office of the Slovak Republic
12:20-12:50	Examples on the Open Science Initiatives in Slovakia	● National COVID-19 reporting system – open data for public health use – Tomas Szemes, Comenius University Science Park ● GAIA-X national hub (Martina Malakova) ● The Slovak Archive of Social Data (SASD) - Miloslav Bahna, the Slovak Academy of Sciences
12:50-13:00	Closing remarks	Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information
13:00-14:00	Light lunch	