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Ref.:
Tel.: +49 511 762 793978
E-mail: chair@e-irg.eu

Subject: **Response from e-IRG to SWD Implementation Roadmap of the EOSC**

Dear Jean Claude,

Thank you very much for providing us with the SWD on the **Implementation Roadmap of the EOSC**. On behalf of e-IRG I would like to congratulate you and you colleagues with this document, that aptly synthesizes the collected input from stakeholders into a comprehensive draft Implementation Plan. Because the document has been published shortly before the plenary e-IRG meeting, we have not been able to study the document in more detail, but we would like to comment as follows.

For e-IRG the concept of the European Open Science Cloud is an instantiation of the e-Infrastructure Commons as proposed by e-IRG in our 2013 White Paper and 2016 Roadmap, also adding more clearly the aspects of Open Science. From the point of view of provisioning EOSC services, the challenges will reside on the interface between discipline specific (vertical) and generic (horizontal) infrastructures. Horizontal infrastructures (e-infrastructures) have the potential of being efficient and effective, pooling hardware and software but more importantly people and expertise together instead of building disciplinary pillars. In the long run e-IRG believes that strong horizontal infrastructures will serve the ultimate goal of the EOSC, *offering professionals in science and technology a virtual environment with free at the point of use, open and seamless services for storage, management, analysis and re-use of research data, across borders and scientific disciplines.*

For the implementation of the EOSC e-IRG agrees with the observation in the document that this will most likely be a *federation of infrastructures, of data and services with an overall governance*. From e-IRG's perspective, for the generic e-infrastructures this will be the federation of national e-infrastructures. It is for this reason that e-IRG in its 2016 Roadmap advocates, that national governments, research support institutions and funding agencies should reinforce their efforts to create a better e-Infrastructure coordination at the

e-IRG secretariat

P.O. Box 93460,
Phone: +31 (0)6 303 69 904
E-mail: secretariat[at]e-irg .eu
NL-2509 AL The Hague
The Netherlands

<http://e-irg.eu>

Visiting address
Java Building,
Laan van Nieuw Oost-Indië 300
NL-2593 CE The Hague
The Netherlands





national level and build strong national e-Infrastructure building blocks, thus enabling coherent and efficient participation in European efforts. Relevant national actors should together analyze and evaluate their national e-Infrastructure *funding and governance* mechanisms, identify best practices, and thus provide input to the development of the European e-Infrastructure landscape.

Exactly this, *e-infrastructure coordination on the national level*, will be the topic of e-IRG's next policy document, containing concrete recommendations to different types of stakeholders. Furthermore, together with ESFRI e-IRG intends to distill use cases from ESFRI's projects and landmarks on the exciting interface of generic and specific infrastructures. What barriers do these exemplary RIs experience to realising the goals of the EOSC? What can we learn from these balancing acts between RI specific needs and generic provisioning?

Finally e-IRG wants to express its great willingness to contribute to the further development of the EOSC by participating in the proposed stakeholder forum and in dedicated working groups, whenever our collective expertise or that of individual delegates is welcome.

Sincerely yours,

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Gabriele von Voigt
(Chair of e-IRG)

