



WISE Community May 2021 meeting

# Trust and Security in the EOSC era

*David Groep (Nikhef) et al.*  
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# The “European Open Science Cloud”

- a ‘commons’ for research data aiming to combine all disciplines across all (European) countries
- not quite a ‘cloud’, but with evolving means and methods
- its nature subject to evolution
- ‘lean’ or ‘comprehensive’, ‘infrastructure’ or its ‘data twin’
- co-guided by an association with diverse composition



whatever it is, it will be structuring data-driven research in Europe in the 2020s

Photo by Pop & Zebra on Unsplash

graphic sources: <https://www.eoscsecretariat.eu/eosc-symposium-programme>

# An ecosystem more than an infrastructure

The image displays two overlapping screenshots of the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) ecosystem. The background screenshot shows the main portal with a navigation menu including 'About', 'Services & Resources', 'Policy', 'Use Cases', 'Media', 'For providers', 'Subscribe', and 'Using the Portal'. A dropdown menu is open under 'Services & Resources', listing categories such as 'Sharing & Discovery', 'Processing & Analysis', 'Data Management', 'Compute', 'Storage', 'Networking', 'Training & Support', 'Security & Operations', and 'Help Desk'. The foreground screenshot shows the 'EUROPEAN OPEN SCIENCE CLOUD CATALOGUE' with a search filter for 'xaropen (data, X)'. It displays a list of services, including 'AMNESIA' (Anonymize your datasets) and 'French Tuna Atlas Spatial Data Catalog' (Catalog application to manage spatially referenced resources). Each service entry includes a star rating, a description, and an 'ADD TO COMPARE' button.

# A challenging landscape

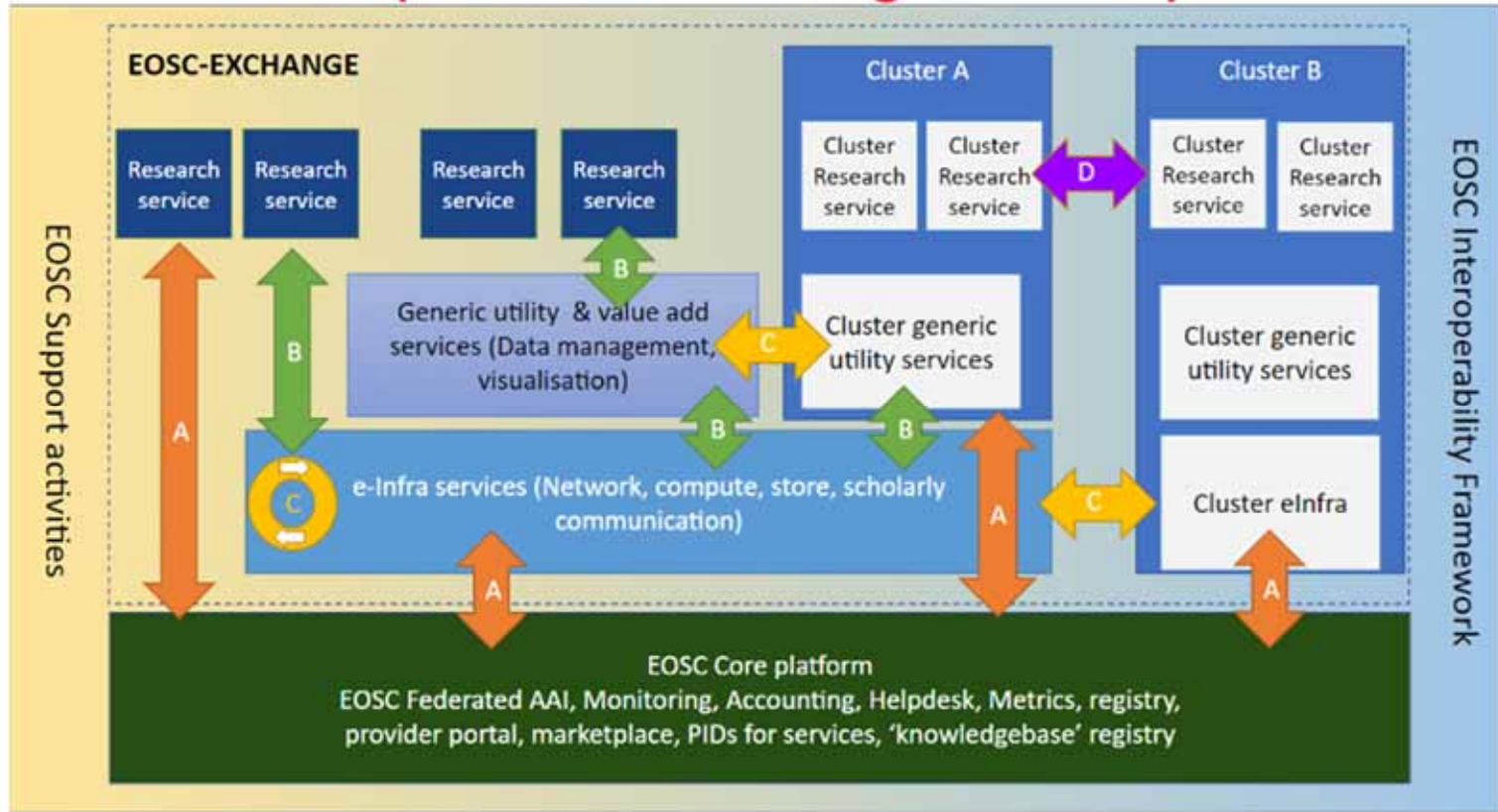
**Entities of all kinds** – diversity in the EOSC range  
from *data sets* to *storage* to *computing* to *publications & digital objects*

**An open ecosystem** – rules of participation will favour low barrier to entry regarding operational maturity, service management quality, &c

**A diverse ecosystem** – providers will come from e-Infrastructures, from member states, from research infrastructures, and private sector

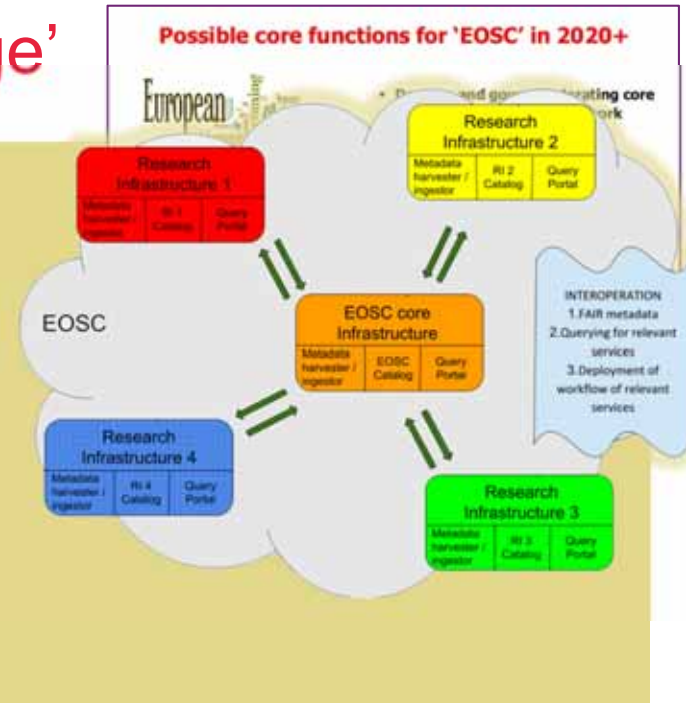
**An *interdependent* ecosystem** – aiming for composability and collective service design through an open, core AAI federation

# EOSC: an 'interoperable exchange' built upon a core



# Operating core services and 'exchange'

- IT service management for the (core) services
- Portal operation, with a demand and supply side
- **AAI federation** - authentication and authorization based on the 'AARC BPA' and federation concepts
- **operational security capabilities, trust policy, and security risk structuring**



*Sustainability and Architecture WGs* set criteria for inclusion of additional services  
*Architecture WG* and its taskforces set interoperability standards

and for the 'BPA' AARC Blueprint Architecture? See <https://aarc-community.org/architecture/>

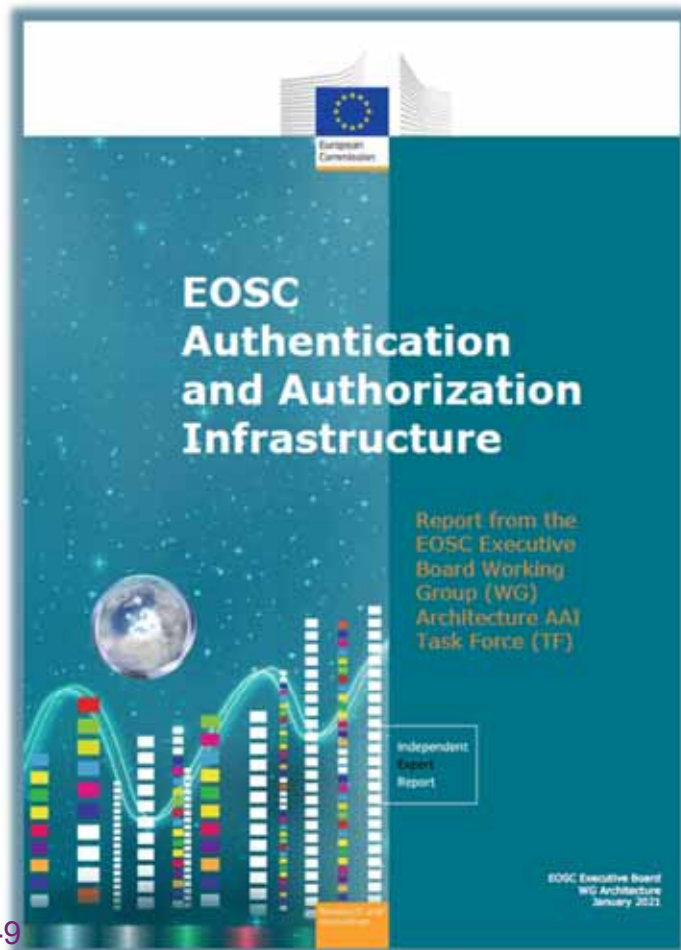
# The EOSC AAI and federation

In order to outline a globally viable, scalable and secure EOSC AAI, the group defined the following three core principles, on which to base their work:

- **User experience** is the only touchstone.
- All trust flows from **communities**.
- **There is no centre** in a distributed system.

*“The human element was the starting point of our exploration. We believe that providing a good user experience and making use of the existing trust relations that users already have within their research communities are the key factors for delivering a successful EOSC AAI.”*  
[Klaas Wieringa, EOSC AAI TF chair]

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# EOSC federation and the operational security baseline

... the new 'EOSC' federation gets policies and baseline at 'onboarding' time

Membership of the EOSC AAI Federation MUST be requested to the Federation Operator by each prospective member. In this request, the applicant MUST:

- declare its intent to join the EOSC AAI Federation;
- declare its participation in the EOSC and adherence to its Rules of Participation;
- commit to adherence to the pertinent technical requirements of the EOSC AAI Interoperability Framework (technical baseline);
- commit to adherence to the security policy baseline of EOSC security operations;
- provide contact information for administrative, technical, and security matters, each of which *Registered Representatives* SHALL have least two contact entry points;

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leveraging existing trust frameworks: SCI, AARC Policy Development Kit, ...  
implementing a baseline at the start, learning from previous experiences



# Back to Basics: the few tenets for the EOSC ecosystem security

From *promoting and monitoring capabilities* to *managing core risk*

## A service provider should

- **do no harm** to interests & assets of users
- **not expose *other*** service providers in the EOSC ecosystem to enlarged risk as a result of *their* participation in EOSC
- **be transparent** about its infosec maturity and risk to its customers and suppliers

this will mean *some minimum requirements* in the Rules of Participation

# Making the EOSC a trusted place

## Risk-centric self-assessment framework

- based on federated InfoSec guidance including WISE SCI

## Baselining security policies & common assurance

- AARC, REFEDS, IGTF, PDK & practical implementation measures

## An incident coordination hub and a trust posture

- spanning providers and core, based on experience & exercises

## Actionable operational response to incidents

- EOSC core expertise to support resolution of cross-provider issues

## Fostering trust through a known skills programme

- so that your peers may have confidence in service provider abilities

WISE SCI: [wise-community.org/sci](https://wise-community.org/sci)  
AARC&c: [aarc-community.org](https://aarc-community.org), [refeds.org](https://refeds.org), [igtf.net](https://igtf.net)  
PDK: [aarc-community.org/policies/policy-development-kit](https://aarc-community.org/policies/policy-development-kit)

# Assessing risk ... in a peer-review framework

InfoSec risk assessment framework for EOSC services based on a federated evolution of WISE SCI and a multi-tier maturity model, also addressing data security and protection

- risks 'play out' differently in different infrastructures
- more than storage or compute, but also risks for (open) data and for reputation

Many risks are generic, some need context and expertise to assess. Or are under regulated regime

WISE COMMUNITY

Security Collaboration

<https://wise-community.org/>

Maturity

Alternative maturity

this spider diagram is fictional – idea by Urpo Kaila, CSC

# Shared understanding of a baseline?

Closely coordinated infrastructures – e.g. WLCG, EGI – started with a single common policy set and assurance level

- service providers and users ‘understand’ its meaning and compliance - and the understanding is shared

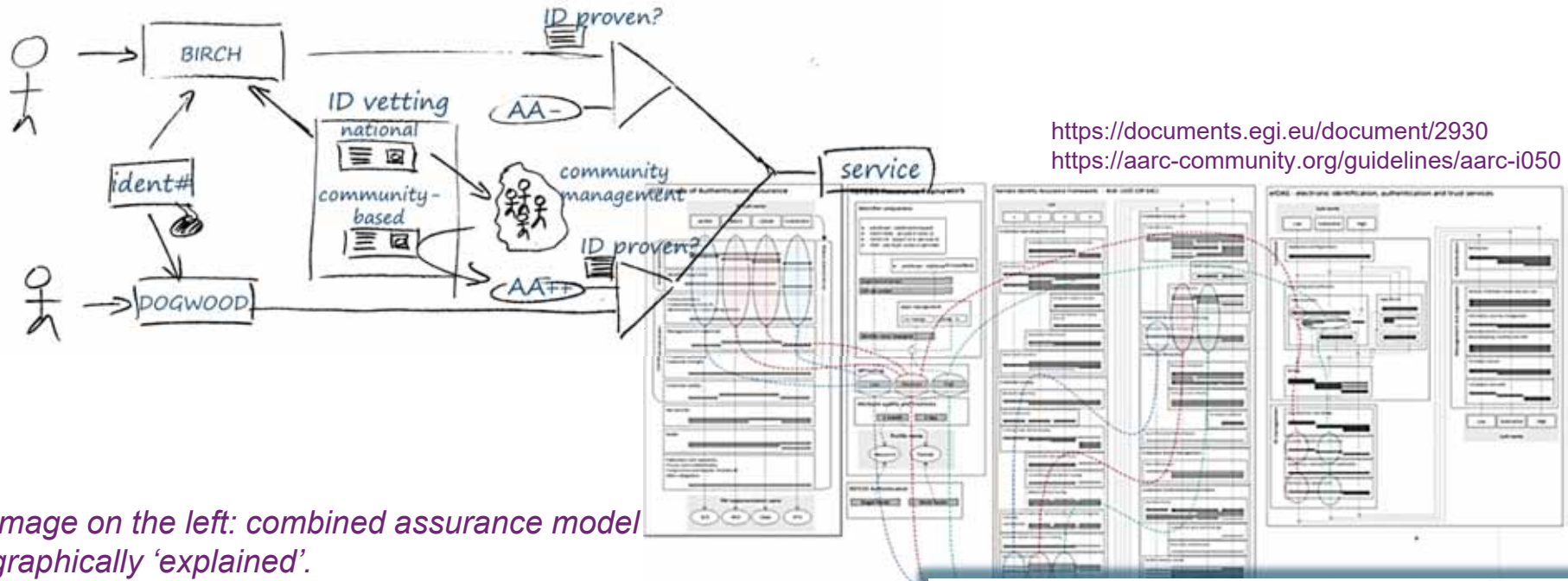
Move towards differentiated models adds flexibility, but also complexity!

- different means to achieve same goal
- varying means to achieve different goals with diverse risk



Image credit: ZULTAX, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NRznoYCJ0Hg>

# Diversification is complex



<https://documents.egi.eu/document/2930>  
<https://aarc-community.org/guidelines/aarc-i050>

*Image on the left: combined assurance model graphically 'explained'.*

*On the right: assurance mapping of four common frameworks: IGTF, REFEDS, Kantara IAF, eIDAS*

AARC-I050

Comparison Guide to Identity Assurance Mappings for Infrastructures



# Start with baselining

*baselining has been very effective with Sirtfi, for R&S, and for InCommon ...*

## Good Practice and implementation guidance

small number of assurance profiles (e.g. REFEDS, IGTF, eIDAS), AARC/AEGIS recommendations, CSIRT capability

## Trust marks or seals

for specific service levels, access classes, types of data, regulatory domains, &c

## SCI-based policy mapping

common templates like WISE baseline Acceptable Use Policy, risk assessment comparisons ...

## Technical guidance

e.g. assurance expression, service operations policy & service security

## Rules of Participation

minimal set of capabilities – initially maybe just contact information, responsiveness, confidentiality

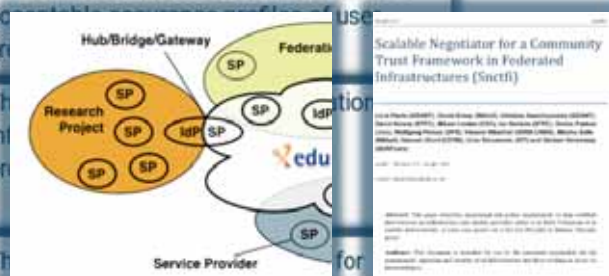
# THE POLICY DEVELOPMENT KIT



Document	Who should complete this template?	Subjects	Other
Top Level Infrastructure Policy	Infrastructure Management	All Infrastructure Participants (abides by)	This policy...
Incident Response Procedure	Infrastructure Management & Security Contact	Infrastructure Security Contact, Services (abides by)	This policy...
Membership Management Policy	Infrastructure Management	Research Community (abides by)	This policy...
Acceptable Use Policy	Infrastructure Management	Research Community	This policy...

Showing 1 to 3 of 9 entries

<b>Top Level Infrastructure Policy</b>	<b>Infrastructure Management</b>	<b>All Infrastructure Participants (abides by)</b>	This policy template defines the roles of actors in the Research Infrastructure and binds the policy set together
<b>Acceptable Authentication Assurance</b>	<b>Infrastructure Management</b>	<b>Research Community, Services (abide by)</b>	This is a placeholder for the Infrastructure to determine rules for the
<b>Policy on the Processing of Personal Data</b>	<b>Infrastructure Management &amp; Data Protection Contact</b>	<b>Research Community, Services (abide by)</b>	
<b>Service Operations Security Policy</b>	<b>Infrastructure Management</b>	<b>Services (abide by)</b>	running a service within the Infrastructure.
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	<b>Infrastructure Management, Services &amp; Security Contact</b>	<b>Infrastructure Management (completes)</b>	This table can be used as a starting point for identifying whether a full Data Protection Impact Assessment is required.



<https://aarc-project.eu/policies/policy-development-kit/>  
<https://aarc-community.org/policies/snctfi/>

graphic IdP-SP bridge: Lukas Hammerle and Ann Harding, SWITCH

# Establishing the trust basis for response

Collaboration frameworks, processes, exercises – the basis of trust  
*since not everything can be done on personal trust and 'blind faith'*



sources: GEANT CLAW  
Sirtfi: Hannah Short et al. <https://wiki.geant.org/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=123766092>

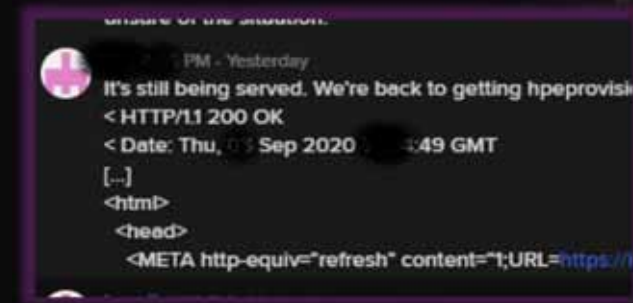


# Actionable Response – coordination involving the Core

We *know* we cannot address all needs, but we can make progress

**‘in the end, the same people do the same work, together, and regardless of the project or funding label’**

- EOSC core will itself be a significant hub
- tightly-knit team of experts looking after the security of the core
- who can work collaboratively with peer infrastructures and groups

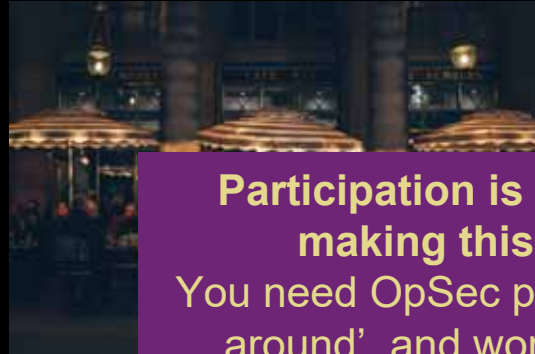


this team is essential to glue together the information during incidents – leveraging the trust built up before through engagement

# Do I know that you know what to know about what?

**Training** - and ability to exercise - intelligence sharing framework and best practices, but *also* collective technical and forensic expertise!

- build up expertise to desired maturity – esp. across EOOSC portal providers and research communities
- desirable, but not yet likely, to have training a requirement for participation *that is hard for an EOOSC that does not wish barriers to entry* 😞



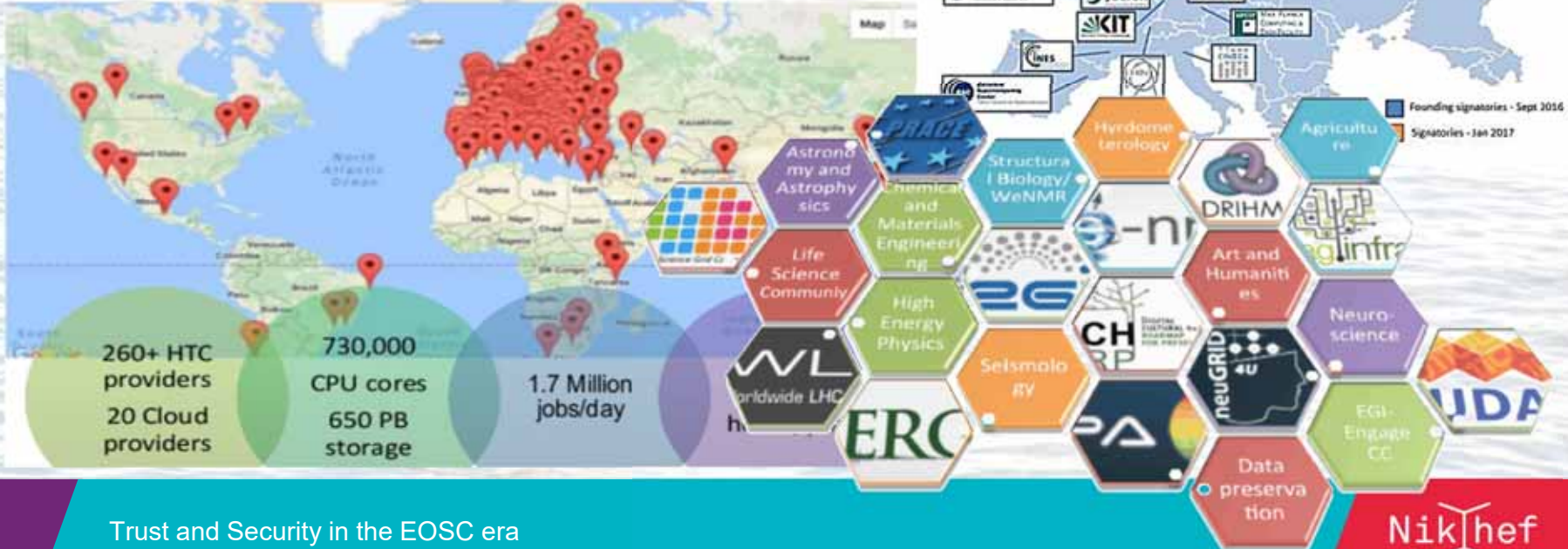
**Participation is critical to making this work**  
You need OpSec people to 'get around', and work globally



image credits: TRANSITS-I

# Must EOSC-level mechanisms solve everyone's issue?

do we face  
an unbounded challenge?



# What we expect in the infrastructures and services

Service providers should be at, or grow towards, a mature security stance

and an **infrastructure** provides coordination amongst 'similar' things

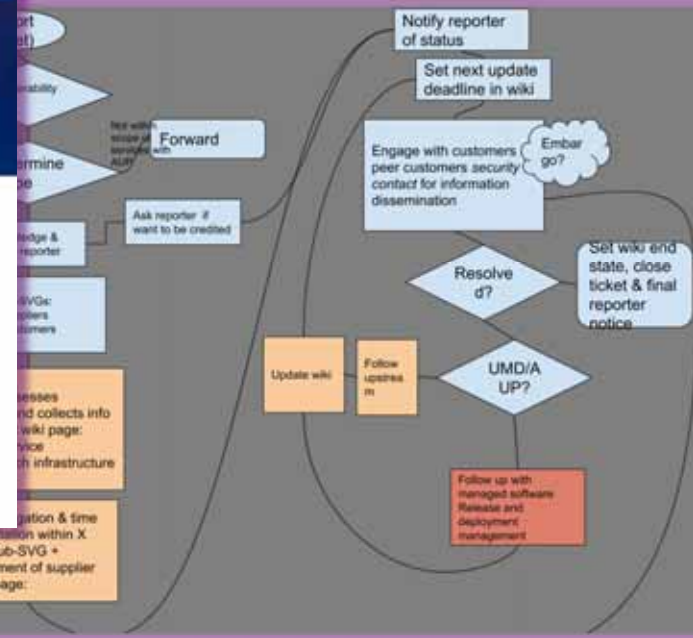
- providers in an infrastructure can **benefit from their commonalities** *in response and security verification, and vulnerability management*
- a mature EOSC security capability can be structured with infrastructure in a **scalable way** across many service providers

*While 'services' generally are very broad, including data, publications, &c*

# Infrastructures: profiting from shared services and understanding

common vulnerabilities,  
or common risk environment

The screenshot shows the EGI CSIRT website. At the top is the EGI logo and a navigation menu with links for Home, Activities, Materials, Trainings, Contacts, News, and About. The main header features the text "EGI CSIRT Computer Security Incident Response Team" over a background image of server racks. Below the header, there are three main sections: "MISSION" which describes the team's role in coordinating security activities; "WHAT WE DO" which lists services like incident prevention, response, and training; and "CONTACTS" with a link to report incidents. A news article titled "Third EGI-CSIRT F2F meeting in 2020 will be held in Amsterdam" is also visible, mentioning a meeting in September at Nikhef.



commonality in user base  
and access patterns – and testing

image sources: csirt.egi.eu and EGI SVG

# Thus even generic capabilities will be widely distributed

## EOSC core and ecosystem

*security for a loosely coupled ecosystem*

- risk management for collective services
- security baselining and trust marking
- coherence of response, community readiness/collaboration, and information sharing
- resolution, forensics, resolution and remediation for core and stakeholders
- training and capability enhancement

Core in EOSC-Future



## (e-)Infrastructures, services, content

- service security & integrity, responsiveness, compliance monitoring
- vulnerability management and pro-active security management
- incident response and resolution within the infrastructure or service

EGI

EUDAT

GEANT

r/e infra X

Service Y

See also *Trust Coordination for Research Collaboration in the EOSC era*, February 2020, <https://g.nikhef.nl/eosc-sec-wp>; <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3674676>

# Common questions – open answers

## Will the EOSC core team drown?

*the incident response and forensics experts busied consistently with service-specific response, and the 'portal' not able to help through of its participating providers?*

## Or can we do better?

- a baseline policy bringing enough trust to keep an EOSC-like ecosystem secure?
- will service providers act collectively in the common interest?
- will diverse policy and assurance establish a common reputation for services?
- will provider self-assessment and mitigation of key risks, be seen as 'good value'?

## And ... do the users care?

- and: *care enough* to make trust and security worth the cost for service providers?

Photo by Yash Prajapati on Unsplash

# So, do we stand a chance?

*partially based on the  
white paper co-authored with  
Jens Jensen, Dave Kelsey,  
Daniel Kouřil, Maarten Kremers, and Hannah Short  
and on discussions in the EOSC Future  
Security Operations & Policy collaboration*



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