

Aligning the European Health Data Space and the European Open Science Cloud

What the Health Data Task Force is, and what it has delivered, 2024–delivered, 2024–2026

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Two frameworks, one community

Why a Health Data Task Force

EHDS

Binding EU Regulation

Top-down; governs electronic health data only.
Secondary use through health data access bodies,
data permits, secure processing environments and
HealthData@EU.

EOSC

Voluntary federation

Community-driven, across all disciplines. EOSC
Nodes contribute data, services, compute and
expertise; no EHDS-like legal powers over health
data.

Shared challenge: FAIR health data, with semantic interoperability, data quality and privacy-preserving reuse. The EHDS Regulation requires the EHDS Board to cooperate with EOSC, but does not say how.

The Health Data Task Force

An EOSC Association Task Force on EHDS–EOSC alignment

OBJECTIVES (TERMS OF REFERENCE)

Strategy. Define EOSC's view on the use of health data in research: requirements, regulation, ethical and legal grounds.

Interoperability. Legal, organisational, semantic and technical alignment with EHDS, minimising redundancy.

Partnerships. Mobilise the EOSC and EHDS communities.

HOW IT WORKS

Experts from research-performing organisations, research infrastructures (ERICs) and e-infrastructures; EC observers.

Three activity areas: Interoperability Liaison, EOSC Federation Monitoring, EOSC–EHDS Synergies.

Monthly plenaries; reports to the EOSC-A Board.

From kick-off to strategy

2024–2026

Jun 2024 Task Force kick-off	2025 Activity areas map stakeholders, standards and researcher user journeys	Mar 2026 Deliverable 1 published: gaps, redundancies, synergies	May 2026 Workshop with DG SANTE on the scope of Deliverable 2	Sep 2026 Deliverable 2, strategic view, under review
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Deliverable 1: doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.19254262

Deliverable 1

Gaps, redundancies and synergies in researcher user journeys · March 2026

Synergies

- EOSC Nodes as SPE-compliant infrastructure
- Shared metadata standards (HealthDCAT-AP)
- Compatible AAI and eID frameworks
- Trusted research environment experience informing SPE design

Open gaps and risks

- Fragmented semantic interoperability of health datasets
- SPE technical requirements still pending
- EHDS does not prescribe standards for secondary-use data

Conclusion: use the window before EHDS secondary use applies (2029–2031) to align both ecosystems.

Deliverable 2

From gaps to actions, each with an owner · under review

Six actor groups

- Data holders and source stewards
- Applicants and health-data users
- EHDS bodies and formal-role candidates
- EOSC Node operators and service providers
- Research infrastructures and communities
- Federation governance, funding and liaison

Six themes

- Data quality and stewardship
- Discovery, linkage and data access
- Secure processing environments
- Outputs, return and reuse
- Participation and readiness
- Governance and external liaison

Each action states its mode of engagement (hands-on, organise, contribute, monitor) and its EHDS phase. EOSC complements; it does not replace the bodies that decide on access.

Timed to the EHDS calendar

Implementation phases used in the Deliverable 2 action tables

Phase	Window	EHDS milestone	What the EOSC Federation does
P0	Mar 2025 – Mar 2027	Transition; implementing acts prepared	Submit requirements, service profiles, role options, pilot evidence
P1	26 Mar 2027	Regulation applies; key implementing acts due	Check profiles and readiness criteria against adopted acts
P2	2027 – 2029	Member States build national secondary-use structures	Run role, conformance and cross-Node pilots; prepare onboarding
P3	From Mar 2029	Secondary use applies to most data categories	Operate discovery, access support, SPE and reuse services
P4	From Mar 2031	Genomic, clinical-trial and cohort data added	Scale omic, multimodal and high-volume workflows
P5	From Mar 2035	Third-country participant pathway and international organizations	Operate international access and transfer safeguards

A planning framework of Deliverable 2, not an obligation imposed by EHDS on EOSC.

Secure processing environments

Example from Deliverable 2: what EOSC Nodes can do

Node operators

HANDS-ON

Offer SPE services to HDABs, trusted data holders and authorised participants under explicit contracts; publish service model, evidence pack and audit logs.

Lead Nodes

ORGANISE

Define a shared EOSC evidence profile mapped to the EHDS SPE implementing act; revise it when the act changes.

National Nodes

CONTRIBUTE

Liaise with national HDABs; keep a matrix of national requirements and accepted assurance approaches.

A technical operator does not acquire the decision-making authority of the HDAB or the data holder.

From strategy to operations

Proposed focus for the 2027–2028 mandate

EHDS secondary use applies from 2029: the next mandate is the preparation window.

Connect two worlds

EOSC Federation operations with research infrastructures and providers already implementing EHDS.

Shorter, actionable advice

Concise courses of action to the Board, organised around a few focus topics.

Nodes ready for HealthData@EU

Work with the EOSC EU Node and national nodes on their role in EHDS secondary use.



Health Data
Task Force

Thank you

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