EOSC-CSN

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CALL FOR PARTNERS 2026–2027

Citizen Science Node

call for partners

Ibercivis, CIEMAT, Citizen Science Italia and Citizen Science Nederland are preparing the application to create the Citizen Science Node in the EOSC Federation, and are looking for partners to write it with them.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST DUE

9 Dec

Tell us by Wednesday 9 December 2026 that you are interested. The form does not commit you to anything.

EOSC ENROLMENT CALL CLOSES

31 Jan

31 January 2027 is the deadline of the EOSC enrolment call for new Nodes.

01 In short

In 2026, four organisations (Ibercivis, CIEMAT, Citizen Science Italia and Citizen Science Nederland) wrote a preparatory Project Charter for a citizen science Node in the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) Federation, the European network that connects researchers with research data and services. In December, EOSC is expected to open its next call for new Nodes, and we are going to apply.

This is our call for partners, that is, organisations that bring a service or a community and will write the final Project Charter with us in December and January. The application must reach EOSC by 31 January 2027.

Any public or private organisation in an EU Member State or a Horizon Europe associated country can join, if it runs a citizen science service or community and can contribute about one day a week.

If you are interested, fill in the expression of interest form by Wednesday 9 December 2026. It does not commit you to anything. We will then invite everyone who answers to a meeting.

02 What we are looking for

A service

The partner runs a service that covers a step of a citizen science project and can offer it through the Node.

A community

The partner runs citizen science projects or platforms and can bring its participants and its experience.

Unfunded effort

Each partner contributes at least 0.2 FTE, about one day a week, at its own cost. See Funding.

What being a partner means. A partner signs the agreement between partners and shares responsibility for the Node. Each partner may take on one of the five key roles described below, or a smaller task such as training or a national pilot. Its legal representative signs a letter of commitment in January, before the application is submitted.

What we need first. Between December and January, partners write the final Project Charter with us. This is the first commitment we ask for.

Who can be a partner. Any legal entity established in an EU Member State or in a country associated to Horizon Europe can be a partner, if it can make these commitments. This is the eligibility rule of the previous EOSC enrolment call; EOSC will publish the rules of the new one when it opens.

How we choose partners. The four organisations that wrote the preparatory Project Charter will review the expressions of interest together. We will look at five things: how well the service or community fits the five capabilities, the commitment to at least 0.2 FTE, whether the partner can take a key role (the operations, cybersecurity and legal roles are the hardest to fill), links to another EOSC Node for a shared use case, and a balanced spread of countries.

03 What partners get

Your services are listed in the EOSC catalogue, where researchers across Europe can find them.

The people in your community get verified identities, so they can use Federation services.

You get a seat and a vote in the Node's Steering Committee, and a say in the final Project Charter.

You gain experience and visibility that may help in future EOSC funding calls. Nothing is guaranteed.

04 Why a citizen science Node

Nodes are the entry points to the Federation. EOSC is a federation of services for research, such as data repositories, computing, analysis tools and catalogues. A researcher logs in once and can find and use resources offered by many organisations across Europe. Each Node connects a country, a discipline or a community to the Federation and offers its own services through it. The **EOSC Federation Handbook** describes how the Federation and its Nodes work. Since 8 October 2026, 14 Nodes are in **production**. None of them offers services designed for citizen science.

No organisation verifies citizens, and no services serve their projects. A person outside a university can log in to the Federation, but no organisation verifies who they are or says what they may do, so they cannot use research services on the same terms as a researcher. The Federation also has no services for running a citizen science project, so other Nodes have almost no way to work with citizen science communities.

The Citizen Science Node addresses both. Citizen science organisations accredited by the Node verify the identity of people in their own communities, and the Node offers services for each step of a citizen science project to citizens, citizen science projects and organisations, researchers and other EOSC Nodes. At the start, the accredited organisations will be the Node's partners. Once the Node is running, it aims to accredit other citizen science organisations too.

05 How we got here

The Node is one building block of a wider plan. The **RIECS-Concept** project (Horizon Europe, GA 101188210), led by Ibercivis, is designing a pan-European Research Infrastructure for Excellent Citizen Science, and the Node would be its entry point to EOSC.

The preparatory Project Charter was written in 2026 with funding from the EOSC Gravity project, which supported small groups to study whether a new Node was feasible. EOSC Gravity accepted our plan in June and approved the charter in September, and we presented the results at the EOSC Gravity Showcase on 3 November.

WRITTEN IN 2026, FUNDED BY EOSC GRAVITY

The preparatory Project Charter

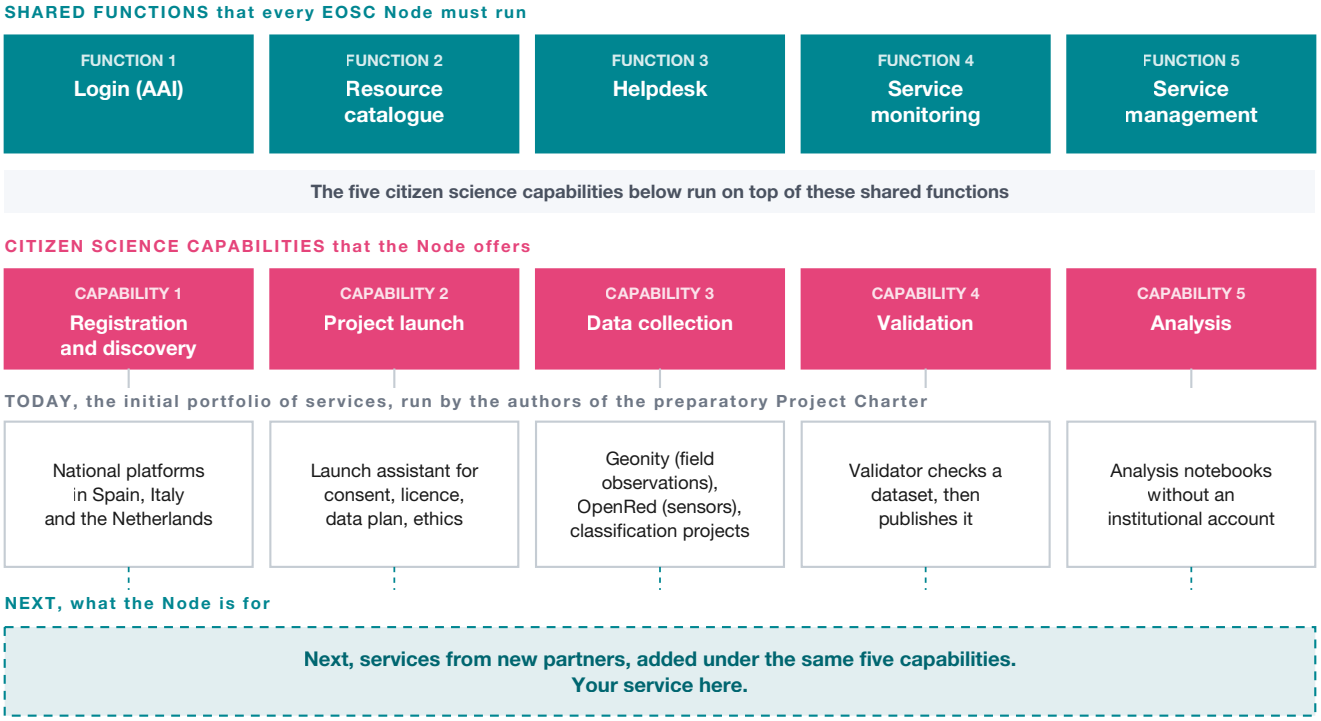
It describes what a citizen science Node would be, including who it serves, its services, four use cases, how it is governed and its technical plan.

Download the preparatory Project Charter (PDF) →

That work is finished. The application to EOSC is a separate step, and it needs a final Project Charter. The final one will be written by all the partners. The services, the use cases and the roles described below are what we have today, and all of them can change in the final Project Charter. **More about the 2026 work**

06 What the Node will offer

This section uses three terms. Functions are the core services that EOSC requires every Node to run. Capabilities are what this Node offers and no other Node does. Services are the actual tools that deliver each capability.



What exists today. The services in the diagram are run today by the four organisations that wrote the preparatory Project Charter. They are the initial portfolio of the Node, and it will grow with the services of the partners that answer this call.

STEP	SERVICE RUNNING TODAY	RUN BY
Registration and discovery	ciencia-ciudadana.es, piattaforma.citizenscience.it and citizenscience.nl	Ibercivis, Citizen Science Italia and Citizen Science Nederland
Project launch	Project launch assistant for consent, licence, data plan and ethics	Ibercivis and Citizen Science Nederland
Data collection	Geonity (field observations), OpenRed (sensors), classification projects such as lostatnight.org	Ibercivis, and Geonity with Citizen Science Italia
Validation	validator.ibercivis.es, which checks a dataset and then publishes it	Ibercivis
Analysis	data.ibercivis.es, with notebooks that need no institutional account	Ibercivis

What new partners add. We invite you to be part of the Citizen Science Node. New partners add their own services under any of the five capabilities, and verify the identity of the people in their communities. The preparatory Project Charter sets a target of at least one new service accepted by month 18 of the two years it takes to build the Node.

What we still have to build together. The five shared functions are a login service, entries in the EOSC catalogue, a helpdesk, service monitoring and documented service management. They are defined in the **EOSC Federation Handbook**. None of us runs them yet, so building them is a large part of the partners' work.

07 Use cases

A citizen science project, end to end, within the Node 1

A school, a museum or a residents' group gets verified identities, launches a project, collects data and publishes it with a DOI and credit for every contributor.

Validating and publishing data from a project's own tools 2

An existing project keeps the tools it already uses. The Node checks its data against the project's own rules and publishes it with attribution.

Citizen science for another Node's data 3

A national or thematic Node asks citizens to classify its data or make field observations, and gets the results back with a record of where they came from.

A citizen identity accepted by a national Node 4

An accredited organisation verifies a citizen, and a national Node gives that person access to resources as it would to a researcher at an institution.

The last two need another Node to work with us, and the application must include at least one use case shared with another Node. If you work with a national or thematic Node, write to us.

08 The five roles

EOSC asks every Node to name a person for each of five key roles. According to the **EOSC Federation Handbook** (version 2.0, section 3.3.3), these people must be named when the application is submitted, so we will ask each partner that takes a role for a contact before 31 January 2027. A partner does not have to take a role.

Coordinator

The Coordinator represents the Node in the Federation and coordinates the partners.

This role fits a partner with project coordination experience.

Operations Manager

The Operations Manager is the contact person with the Federation's Operations Team. This person is typically close to running the login service, helpdesk and monitoring.

This role fits a partner with IT and operations staff.

Cybersecurity Officer

The Cybersecurity Officer is the contact person for all cybersecurity-related issues.

This role fits a partner with IT and operations staff.

Legal and Privacy Officer

The Legal and Privacy Officer takes the legal role, covering consent, licences and personal data.

This role fits a partner with legal and data protection staff.

Communication Officer

The Communication Officer takes care of dissemination activities.

This role fits a partner with an active community.

09 Funding

2 FTE

is our estimate of the effort needed in each of the two years, shared among all partners.

48 pm

is the total effort, in person-months, needed to build the Node.

0.2 FTE

is the minimum per partner, that is, about one day a week or about 5 person-months over the two years.

At the minimum level, 48 person-months is the work of about ten partners. Partners that take on a role, especially coordination or operations, will need more than the minimum.

EOSC funding may become available while the Node is being built, but nothing is decided yet. The current EOSC Partnership ends in 2027. The European Commission's proposal for the next framework programme (2028 to 2034) foresees support for EOSC, but its form and budget are still being negotiated. Each partner should count on its own resources.

10 Timeline

Now
This call for partners is open.

8 December 2026
EOSC's governing body, the Tripartite Governance, meets. The EOSC enrolment call for new Nodes is expected to open on eosc.eu in December.

Wednesday 9 December 2026
This is the deadline to send us your expression of interest. It does not commit you to anything.

December 2026
The four organisations review the expressions of interest. We meet with everyone who answered, confirm the partners and agree on roles and use cases.

December 2026 to January 2027
Partners write the final Project Charter with us.

January 2027
Partners sign their letters of commitment.

31 January 2027
The EOSC enrolment call closes and we submit the application.

Spring 2027 (expected)
EOSC selects the new Nodes.

From autumn 2027 (expected)
The partners build the Node over two years.

The dates of 8 December and 31 January come from EOSC. The others are our plan, and the dates after January are estimates until EOSC publishes the documents of its call.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST DUE WEDNESDAY 9 DECEMBER 2026

How to join

Fill in the expression of interest form by Wednesday 9 December 2026. It does not commit you to anything. We will then invite everyone who answers to a meeting.

Open the form →

SURVEY.IBERCIVIS.ES/386698?NEWTEST=Y

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