Module 5: Integrating resources into EOSC: What, why, and how?

Part 3: Process for connecting resources into EOSC

“The (high level) process for connecting resources”

…common high-level process to connect resources to EOSC. The current model is based on the following steps:

* Registering an account for the provider and submitting the provider for inclusion in the group of EOSC providers.
* The checks are basic sanity checks: does the provider look like it is suitable for EOSC, can we verify the information (e.g., address, registration of a legal entity,…).
* Once the provider is registered, the resource needs to be described and submitted for validation.
* And once the resource is validated (e.g., against the Rules of Participation criteria), it can be listed on the marketplace.
* After this, add-on components – like ordering – can be added. The ordering is relevant mainly for resources that can’t be used simultaneously by multiple users, for example, a virtual server instance.

“EOSC Profiles”

This unified path is made possible by consolidating the different resource description standards into a single set of EOSC profiles. They are published under creative commons (available through the links listed on the slide) and intended for use in EOSC, but also in other registries that want to use the tools to build their own federations.

Sharing of the approaches and tools means that these “community federations” will have an option of being interoperable or linked with EOSC, since the technical EOSC interoperability is already built in.

As noted in the green boxes, the published profiles include both the provider and resource profiles, so they cover both of the phases discussed in the previous slide.

“Provider profile”

The provider profile includes the information that is shared by all the resources integrated by the provider. These include:

* Basic information: name, website, legal form and so on
* Marketing information: short description and logo
* Classification: flagging whether the provider is an EOSC provider, focused on specific scientific disciplines; it can also include free-format tags
* Location: in essence, physical address information
* Contact information: emails and phone numbers
* Maturity: list of certifications (such as ISO 20 000) and life cycle status (essentially, under construction, operational or being upgraded) – this allows including providers early, so once the services are available the integration process will be quicker.
* Other information can be used to position the provider by listing e.g., participation in major EOSC projects or status as an ESFRI project participant.

Resource profile

The resource profile is similar to the provider profile, sharing some of the components, such as basic, marketing and maturity information. However, some of the items are more complex.

For example, the contact information needs to include details, such as helpdesk and security contacts. Maturity information needs to be more fine-grained to cover phases, such as limited pilot use or gradual retirement (e.g. no longer offered to new users).

The dependencies are also a new aspect, since using the resource may be possible only if the user has access to other EOSC services.

In general, resource profile is the area where the complexities involved in the integration become apparent: extending the user base and making the resource available in a completely new platform context means documenting things that most likely were not documented before. However, the process has recently been automated, speeding things up.

Wrap-up:

This concludes the module introducing EOSC resource integration. You can find a number of relevant links and in-depth resources on this subject in the slide deck.