Robert-Jan Smits
Director General
Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (R&I)
European Commission
Brussels

Brussels, 15 Nov 2017

Frontiers endorsement of the European Open Science Cloud Declaration

Dear Mr Smits

We write to **express our support for the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) Declaration**, published by the European Commission on 26 October 2017.

Frontiers is a fully digital Open Science platform committed to make rigorously peer-reviewed high-quality publications openly available to the world according to the FAIR principles, whereby articles and data are findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable. We actively advocate for Open Science at the European level, where our goals are fundamentally aligned with those of the European Union (EU) institutions. We welcome and support the leadership of the Council of the EU in promoting a transition to immediate Open Access as the default option for scientific publications by 2020.

We fully endorse the principles of the EOSC Declaration and affirm our commitment to its implementation. We believe the EOSC will make a fundamental contribution to making data FAIR and to facilitating scientific progress, innovation and economic growth in Europe.

Importantly, the launch of the EOSC will confirm Europe's leadership role in Open Science and will provide the much-needed infrastructure to resolve many of the issues that currently impede a full transition to the open sharing of data and knowledge. The fully implemented EOSC will accelerate innovation and benefit Europe's knowledge economy.

As a leading Europe-based open-access publisher, Frontiers is both eager and well-positioned to support this initiative, from its conceptual phase to its full implementation. Our vision for scientific publishing includes the EOCS as a knowledge hub, to which all of Frontiers' articles will be dynamically linked to their research data.

We therefore wish to be actively involved in the establishment of the EOSC as a member of the 'coalition of doers' and offer the following contributions at this stage:

1) We will readily attend and contribute to the annual EOSC stakeholder forum.

2) We will look to join consortia to implement the EOSC via the Horizon 2020 programme wherever we can add value. Frontiers is a full partner in two existing Horizon 2020 research consortia that aim to advance Open Science: OpenMinTeD (text-and-data mining) and OpenUP (research evaluation and dissemination). We provide the perspective of an Open Science platform and advise on topics such as: intellectual property; best practices for content validation, production and archiving; data services; text-and-data mining use cases; and strategies for innovative and impactful dissemination of scientific results. We stand ready to contribute to future consortia relating to the EOSC.

3) In addition, **we commit to the following specific actions within the EOSC Declaration Action List** regarding:

Data culture: We will continue to work collaboratively with other partners to promote a data culture across all disciplines, institutions and countries wherein high-quality research data are appropriately curated according to the FAIR principles. This includes: raising awareness and promoting the establishment and use of the EOSC among all users (authors, editors and visitors) of the Frontiers Open Science platform; devoting time at our annual Data Services Workshop (Brussels, March 2018) to the EOSC; and continuing to lead and participate in multi-stakeholder advocacy activities.

Skills: Frontiers will endeavour to provide support to European research stakeholders, such as libraries, learned societies, and policy makers, on best practices for research data management from a publisher perspective – either via continued participation in the H2020 research consortia or through other mechanisms.

FAIR data governance: We offer to participate in the envisaged multi-stakeholder process to design and implement the FAIR principles, to share our experience and expertise as an Open Science innovator, and to align our data-related processes toward agreed goals.

Implementation and transition to FAIR: We will continue to provide and maintain a state-of-the-art platform for open-access data curation and sharing according to the FAIR principles and in alignment with EOSC standards (as these develop), and to work with other partners to promote a full transition to FAIR across the EU.

Research data repositories: We will collaborate as appropriate with other partners in the development and implementation of common standards for curation and interoperability, and technical implementation tools, for use across the federated repositories of the EOSC.

User needs: Our own community-founded Open Science platform has been custom-designed around the needs of users (i.e. researchers, editors and authors). We will continue to ensure that our platform continues to meet user's needs (in finding, accessing and using research data) in alignment with the EOSC standards as these develop, and to contribute our expertise (where appropriate) to solutions to help meet users' needs more widely across the EOSC. We are also willing to explore how the Frontiers Loop network of 400,000 leading researchers can contribute to helping ICT specialists identify key requirements for EOSC services.

Service deployment: We will continue to participate in dialogue with all partners to help implement service deployment models to support the EOSC architecture. We offer to share our experience and expertise as a provider of an economically viable and scalable commercial Open Science platform. In addition, I will participate as a member of the European Expert Group on the Future of Open Horizon 2020 expert group on Future of Scholarly Publishing and Scholarly Communication, tasked with assessing emerging and alternative open access business models with the aim of establishing how an economically viable transition towards open access can be achieved.

Thematic areas: Our aforementioned commitments extend to all thematic areas spanned by our Open Science platform.

Governance model: We offer to contribute our experience and expertise to the governance model, as appropriate.

We look forward to working with the Commission and all other partners on the design and establishment of the EOSC.

Sincerely

Dr Kamila Markram

CEO and Co-founder, Frontiers