

# The ESCAPE Open-source Software and Services Repository policy

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Thomas Vuillaume<sup>1</sup> and Second Author<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Univ. Savoie Mont-Blanc, CNRS, LAPP, Annecy, France  
thomas.vuillaume@lapp.in2p3.fr

<sup>2</sup> Another institute  
email

**Abstract.** This document provides the requirements, recommendations, guidelines, and user agreement to contribute to the ESCAPE OSSR (Open-source Software and Services Repository).

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## 1 Introduction

This document provides the requirements, recommendations, guidelines, and user agreement to contribute to the ESCAPE OSSR (Open-source Software and Services Repository).

The following guidelines, are based on the the ESCAPE deliverable 3.7 - "License, provenance and metadata guidelines for the software and service repository" (the link to the document will be shared soon).

Integration of a new record in the OSSR is submitted to a curation phase validating its compliance to the following guidelines.

## 2 Guidelines and rules of participation to the ESCAPE OSSR

As the ESCAPE OSSR is built on Zenodo, its policies<sup>3</sup> apply.

In addition, we have the following recommendations:

1. Any digital resource in the OSSR must contain a license. This license should be provided in a machine-readable format. The application of the FAIR principles to the products offered in the OSSR results in the necessity to assign licenses to all relevant parts, including software code, containerized and bundled software and metadata.
2. It is strongly recommended to provide an open-source license. In addition:

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<sup>3</sup> (<https://about.zenodo.org/policies/>)

- the choice of a permissive open-source license is advised.
  - the Terms of Use for the OSSR require contributors/providers to ensure that all copyright is respected when offering software products through the OSSR. Thus, compatibility between the licenses of derivative or combined works must be checked before the on-boarding into the OSSR and done by the contributor/provider side.
  - the choices of proprietary licenses must be justified.
  - if no license is assigned yet, it is recommended to use either the MIT or BSD-3 Clause license.
  - the metadata file itself is considered to be offered under a CC0 license<sup>4</sup>.
  - for contributed software, guidelines<sup>5</sup> are collected and offered to the contributors to manage the licenses in their software product.
  - final ESCAPE open science products, as well as container images, are expected to follow these guidelines too.
3. It is strongly recommended that any software provided to the OSSR incorporates a metadata file that describes the software to be uploaded. The use of the CodeMeta project schema, and therefore the addition of a `codemeta.json` metadata file into the root directory of the resource is recommended for the OSSR.
- The metadata file can be generated at using the CodeMeta generator<sup>6</sup>
  - The minimum metadata information to be added into any digital resource is the one required to create a new upload or a new version within Zenodo (see Metadata for the OSSR section). However, we strongly recommend to create a metadata file as complete as possible. `codemeta.json`
  - In relation with the previous point, it is recommended to provide a summary of user-visible changes between versions (e.g. provide a 'release note' with every new software release as well as fill this field within the `codemeta.json`) together with the OSSR software product or its documentation. This is essential provenance information and helps fulfilling the FAIR principles.
  - The verification that the entry contains the minimum provenance information defined in this document is the responsibility of the software provider.
  - To date, the only eOSSR compatible metadata context file is the `codemeta.json` schema file.
  - Providing a `codemeta.json` file with your software, in concurrence with the use of the eOSSR will allow the provider to define all software metadata using a single model and implementation. The integration of the software into the OSSR, as well as the use of other services (such as the production of a container for your software) will be based on this metadata.

<sup>4</sup> <https://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://escape2020.pages.in2p3.fr/wp3/licensing>

<sup>6</sup> <https://codemeta.github.io/codemeta-generator/>

### 3 Checklist

All points are required, unless they're marked as *optional*. Please consider the optional points. They usually provide benefit to the users.

#### 3.1 Software Package Checklist

- Stable Release
- Open-Source License
- Provide a pointer to your version control development platform (GitHub, GitLab...) (optional)
- Consider providing a container image `/page/services/containerization` (optional)
- Reasonable set of software development / software engineering practices. See for example: WOSSL docs<sup>7</sup>, Research Software Engineers<sup>8</sup>, or Netherlands eScience Center Guide<sup>9</sup>
- Add a reasonably complete `codemeta.json` to your repository

#### 3.2 Onboarding Procedure Checklist

- Sign User Agreement (We don't have a formal User Agreement yet. We currently assume *conduct implying an intent implied contract*.)
- Request an issue<sup>10</sup> in the project platform<sup>11</sup> to start the onboarding process by filling this registration form<sup>12</sup>, or contacting a repository maintainer.
- A short onboarding presentation should be held during an FG1 call using this template<sup>13</sup>, an example can be found in this talk: [https://indico.in2p3.fr/event/22516/contributions/87503/attachments/60378/82050/20201016%20-%20ESCAPE\\_GammaLearn.pdf](https://indico.in2p3.fr/event/22516/contributions/87503/attachments/60378/82050/20201016%20-%20ESCAPE_GammaLearn.pdf). Please book your date in this poll<sup>14</sup>.
- A sufficiently detailed documentation should be provided with the software. If there is none, a technical report should be filed based on this template<sup>15</sup>, or this example<sup>16</sup>. It is still recommended to write and maintain a detailed documentation, for which the technical report can serve as a basis.

<sup>7</sup> <https://gitlab.in2p3.fr/escape2020/wp3/wossil/-/wikis/Best-Practices-for-software-development>

<sup>8</sup> <https://rse.dlr.de/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://guide.esciencecenter.nl/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://project.escape2020.de/issues/8>

<sup>11</sup> <https://project.escape2020.de/projects/wp3-ossr>

<sup>12</sup> <https://forms.gle/dLGjvEQ9BHfSQkcz7>

<sup>13</sup> <https://cloud.escape2020.de/index.php/s/uDEC7cTMNsCfYAv>

<sup>14</sup> <https://terminplaner2.dfn.de/kb7eJw5inAICldFE>

<sup>15</sup> <https://cloud.escape2020.de/index.php/s/e2HIqX6Lerjs2Xx>

<sup>16</sup> <https://cloud.escape2020.de/index.php/s/NFYyFz2uPZYBUF>

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**4 Recommendations**

**5 User agreement**

**References**