



COMPUTING

OPEN SCIENCE: GRANT AGREEMENT FOR ESCAPE SIGNED

It is called ESCAPE, European Science Cluster of Astronomy & Particle physics ESFRI research infrastructures: it is the project put in place to address the Open Science challenges shared by both the ESFRI (European Strategy Forum for Research Infrastructure) research infrastructures such as SKA, CTA, KM3NeT, EST, ELT, HL-LHC, FAIR, and other major European infrastructures, such as CERN, ESO, JIVE, operating in the fields of astrophysics, particle and astroparticle physics. The 16 million euros European funding agreement has just been signed and the project will start next February. ESCAPE, led by CNRS in consortium with 31 partners, including INFN with European funding of almost 900,000 euros, is one of five cluster projects that will collaborate on the implementation of the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC), an initiative for a European research computing cloud that allows universal access to data through a single online platform. The strategy chosen by the member states of the European Union, aware of the great challenge that research of excellence implies in the management of big data, is to federate resources in national centres and research infrastructures, so that both researchers and citizens can have access to and use scientific data, a quantity of data equal to many Exabytes (billions of Gigabytes).

INFN will contribute to the development of the future infrastructure by providing the knowledge and expertise in the field of distributed scientific computing, acquired from the projects for the creation of the European Grid and the WLCG computing network and the recent successes in being awarded EOSC implementation projects, such as INDIGO-DataCloud, eXtreme DataCloud and EOSChub. ■