

swissuniversities

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Swiss Open Research Data Action Plan: Overview & Next Steps

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1. Introduction: Background of the ORD Action Plan

January 2020: The State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) mandates swissuniversities, the EPFL, ETHZ, and the SNSF to develop a Swiss National Strategy for Open Research Data (ORD)

July 2021: The [Swiss National Strategy for Open Research Data \(ORD\)](#) is published. It was developed in a joint undertaking by swissuniversities, the ETH Domain, the SNSF, and the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences

January 2022: Publication of the associated [ORD Action Plan](#) which concretises the measures of the ORD Strategy.

1. Introduction: ORD Action Plan & Open Science I Programme

- swissuniversities' [Programme Open Science I, Phase B – ORD](#) implements those action lines of the ORD Action Plan that are under the responsibility of swissuniversities and finances them through federal project contributions (PgB)
- The [Delegation Open Science](#) manages the implementation of the Open Science I Phase B – ORD Programme on behalf of the swissuniversities Board and is the decision-making body

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ORD Action Plan: Structure

1. Introduction

2. Governance

3. Objectives

3.1 Action Area A: Support researchers and research communities in imagining and adopting ORD practices

3.2 Action Area B: Development, promotion, and maintenance of financially sustainable basic infrastructures and services for all researchers

3.3 Action Area C: Equip researchers for ORD skills development and exchange of best practices

3.4 Action Area D: Building up systemic and supportive conditions for institutions and research communities

4. Funding

5. Schedule

ORD Action Plan: Governance

- [Strategy Council](#)
 - 2 members designated by the ETH Domain
 - 2 members designated by the universities (without ETHZ and EPFL)
 - 2 members designated by the universities of applied sciences and arts
 - 1 member designated by the universities of teacher education
 - 1 member designated by the SNSF
 - 1 member designated by the Academies of Arts and Sciences
- Coordination Group
- Sounding Board Researchers
- Sounding Board Service Providers

ORD Action Plan: Primary Ownership and Funding Responsibility

- Each Measure details Actions Lines, for which primary owners have been identified amongst the key actors.
- The identified responsibility for funding of the Action Lines lies with designated key actors (swissuniversities, ETH Domain, SNSF or Academies).
- The Action Plan covers two ERI periods (2022-2028).
 - For the period 2022-2024, the plan uses existing or planned ORD funds, including funds of the PgB Open Science I Phase B – ORD
 - For the second ERI period 2025-2028, the Strategy Council will evaluate the financial needs and detail them in a version 2.0 of the Action Plan.

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Action Area A: Support researchers and research communities in imagining and adopting ORD practices

Measure A1: Provide bottom-up support to promote excellence in ORD practices

No.	Action lines	Primary ownership	Identified funding responsibility
A1.2.1	Provide ORD grants to (a) support and develop ORD practices that primarily benefit researchers, and (b) help researchers develop ORD practices	swissuniversities and ETH Domain	swissuniversities: PgB Open Science I, Phase B – ORD ETH Domain
A1.2.2	By extension, provide ORD grants to research communities in a community building and institution building approach	swissuniversities and ETH Domain	swissuniversities: PgB Open Science I, Phase B – ORD ETH Domain

Action Area A: Swiss Open Research Data Grants

- The collaborative programme between swissuniversities and the ETH Domain promotes coherent and broad, bottom-up support for ORD practices across disciplines and higher education institutions in Switzerland, thereby facilitating the creation of synergies and complementarities.
- Three Tracks
 - Track A: Explore projects
 - Track B: Establish projects
 - Track C: Contribute projects
- [Matching funds principle and PgB-rules](#) apply

Action Area A: Swiss Open Research Data Grants

Track A: Explore projects – deadline: 1 August 2022 (first call)

- Goal: Help researchers pursue pathways to determine if and how ORD practices can be developed. This track encompasses early-phase exploration as well as the testing and prototyping of a potential ORD practice. It also allows for engagement with a community without necessarily creating a final product.
- Duration: up to 18 months
- Budget: the total cost of the project (including matching funds) must not exceed CHF 150,000

Action Area A: Swiss Open Research Data Grants

Track A: Planned schedule

By the end of June 2022: The application guidelines and the application form will be made available [on our website](#)

1 August 2022: Deadline of first calls for proposals

31 December 2022: Deadline of second call for proposals

Action Area A: Swiss Open Research Data Grants

Track B: Establish projects – deadline: 1 July 2022 (pre-proposals)

- Goal: Track B supports the anchoring of existing ORD practices that have a research agenda and a common understanding of ORD principles. It provides the opportunity to take these practices to the next level, improve their scope, and develop projects that can become de facto standards in a community and promote quality.
- Duration: up to 24 months
- Budget: the total cost of the project (including matching funds) must not exceed CHF 1.5 million

Action Area A: Swiss Open Research Data Grants

Track B: Planned schedule

- End of May 2022: The call for pre-proposals (first application phase) is issued. The application guidelines will be available [on our website](#).
- 1 July 2022: Submission deadline for the pre-proposals
- 1 September 2022: Submission deadline for the full-proposals

Action Area A: Swiss Open Research Data Grants

Track C: Contribute projects – deadline: 1 December 2022 (first call)

- Goal: this track enables researchers to contribute to existing open communities built on ORD principles, validate their integration into existing infrastructures (also on an international scale), and focus on their potential to improve scientific impact and technical quality.
- Duration: up to 12 months
- Budget: the total cost of the project (including matching funds) must not exceed CHF 30,000

Action Area A: Swiss Open Research Data Grants

Track C: Planned schedule

1 December 2022: Submission deadline for the first call for proposals

2 August 2023: Submission deadline for the second call for proposals

Further calls are issued in coordination with the ETH Domain and will be announced at a later date

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Action Area B: Development, promotion, and maintenance of financially sustainable basic infrastructures and services for all researchers

Measure B5: Professionalisation of ORD specialists and related services

No.	Action lines	Primary ownership	Identified funding responsibility
B5.1	Establish and maintain/update Swiss-wide best practices of ORD expertise	swissuniversities	swissuniversities: PgB Open Science I, Phase B – ORD
B5.2	Promote and incentivise data stewardship/ORD specialists at all research institutions in Switzerland; incentivise the hiring of Open Science experts, data stewards, and other experts to build competence centres at HEIs and promote cooperation between HEIs by providing start-up funding	swissuniversities	swissuniversities: PgB Open Science I, Phase B – ORD

Action Area B: Data Stewardship

Call for HEIs Action Plans

- All [eligible higher education institutions](#) (HEIs) are invited to describe their ideas and intentions for establishing data stewardship at their institution in the form of a (short) action plan.
 - It is important that the planned measures can be financially sustained by the HEI after the start-up funding by the Open Science Programme
- Collaborations with other eligible Swiss HEIs are welcome
- The decision-making body is the Delegation Open Science. In case of a positive decision, the available funds will be distributed on the basis of a distribution key

Action Area B: Data Stewardship

Planned schedule

- 3 June 2022: Eligible HEIs provide us with contact information for their representative
- 1 July 2022: The hand-out and forms for submission are posted on [our website](#)
- 5 July 2022: Workshop for the representative from each HEI
- 1 October 2022: Submission deadline for the action plans

Action Area B: Development, promotion, and maintenance of financially sustainable basic infrastructures and services for all researchers

Measure B5: Professionalisation of ORD specialists and related services

No.	Action lines	Primary ownership	Identified funding responsibility
B5.3	Establish networks for ORD experts (e.g. data stewards), if possible encompassing other experts (e.g., data curators)	swissuniversities	swissuniversities: PgB Open Science I, Phase B – ORD
B5.4	Establish ORD expertise (e.g. data stewardship) as an independent career path at HEIs by 2028	swissuniversities	swissuniversities: PgB Open Science I, Phase B – ORD

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Action Area C: Equip researchers for ORD skills development and exchange of best practices

Measure C1: Raising awareness of FAIR principles and ORD practices in the scientific community

No.	Action lines	Primary ownership	Identified funding responsibility
C1.3	Mobilise and facilitate participation in relevant international initiatives	swissuniversities	swissuniversities: PgB Open Science I, Phase B – ORD

Action Area C: Equip researchers for ORD skills development and exchange of best practices

Measure C2: Training researchers for RDM and ORD practices

No.	Action lines	Primary ownership	Identified funding responsibility
C2.1	Projects developing good practices for RDM training at HEIs in consultation with research communities	swissuniversities	swissuniversities: PgB Open Science I, Phase B – ORD
C2.2	RDM training is included as a required element in all curricula, from bachelor's to doctoral programmes	swissuniversities	swissuniversities: PgB Open Science I, Phase B – ORD
C2.3	Framework for systematic communication between trainers and data stewards to facilitate professionalisation and the exchange of experiences, best practices, needs, and to develop training modules	swissuniversities	swissuniversities: PgB Open Science I, Phase B – ORD

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Action Area D: Building up systemic und supportive conditions for institutions and research communities

Measure D1: Incentives and rewards

No.	Action lines	Primary ownership	Identified funding responsibility
D1.2	Develop and adapt assessment processes to make ORD practices a pre-requisite for funding, building on exchange of best practice among higher education, research and education institutions, and other national and international stakeholders	SNSF (lead) in cooperation with swissuniversities	
D1.3	Develop, implement, and adapt assessment processes to make ORD practice a prerequisite for recruitment and career advancement, building on exchange of best practice among higher education and research institutions as well as other national and international stakeholders	swissuniversities (lead) in cooperation with SNSF	swissuniversities: PgB Open Science I, Phase B – ORD

Action Area D: Building up systemic und supportive conditions for institutions and research communities

Measure D2: Ethical and legal aspects

No.	Action lines	Primary ownership	Identified funding responsibility
D2.2	HEIs adapt best practices regarding data ownership (including data, code sharing) and data protection to their own needs	swissuniversities	swissuniversities: PgB Open Science I, Phase B – ORD
D2.3	Incentivise, support, and fund Research Data Protection Officers (RDPO) at HEIs where necessary to build up support for research communities in legal questions	swissuniversities	swissuniversities: PgB Open Science I, Phase B – ORD
D2.5	Develop guidelines for collaboration with the private sector to determine whether, when, and how commercially sensitive data are to be developed, regularly updated, and made openly accessible	swissuniversities	swissuniversities: PgB Open Science I, Phase B – ORD

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Next steps: [Calls of the upcoming months](#)

Measure	Deadline First Call
Measure A1 Track A: «Explore projects»	1 August 2022
Measure A1 Track B: «Establish projects»	1 July 2022 (pre-proposals) 1 September 2022 (full proposals)
Measure A1 Track C: «Contribute projects»	1 December 2022
Measure B5 Data Stewardship	1 October 2022

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Q&A