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swissuniversities

swissuniversities
Effingerstrasse 15, P.O. Box
3001 Bern
www.swissuniversities.ch

2027 Swiss Roadmap for Research Infrastructures DRAFT: Selection criteria used by swissuniversities

General remarks on federal funding of research infrastructures

Participation in the process, the submission of project proposals to the SNSF, and pre-selection by swissuniversities are unlikely to provide access to additional federal funding. At present, swissuniversities is making provisions for a scenario with no federal funding for infrastructures during the 2029–2032 ERI period. For this reason, the HEIs are currently to understand the 2027 Roadmap as a collaborative coordination instrument and not as a financing instrument. In the case that new information about the funding situation should arise, swissuniversities will immediately communicate this information and act accordingly.

Information from SERI and the ETH Board

[Reference to SERI's guide on the Roadmap 2027]

The ETH Board is the responsible body for research infrastructure projects in the lead of institutions of the ETH Domain. The ETH Board takes its decisions according to its established internal process and in line with SERI's guidelines.

swissuniversities' internal selection criteria for projects

Collaboration and strategic importance (must-have)

The project should either

- Be supported by at least two institutions that commit to funding if the project is selected by swissuniversities (i.e. a consortium), or
- Be supported by one institution that commits to funding if the project is selected by swissuniversities and meets the strategic objectives of at least one other institution that has committed to using the infrastructure (and if applicable, paying the corresponding user fees) if the project is selected.

Funding and utilization commitment (must-have)

Commitment to funding will be obtained in two steps during the coordination process led by the VPsRES:

- Initial commitment: After the researchers have submitted the two-page proposals, the VPsRES clarify a possible initial commitment with the Rectorate/President's Board; during this step, projects that clearly have no chance of being funded can be withdrawn.
- Binding commitment: Following the SNSF evaluation, a binding financial commitment must be issued by the Rectorate/President's Board prior to the VPsRES' meeting. On this

basis, the responsible swissuniversities bodies decide upon the projects for the 2027 Roadmap.

Scientific Evaluation (must-have)

It is recommended to select projects that were evaluated by the SNSF at the highest level of excellence, A.

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Description of national relevance (must-have)

Infrastructures must demonstrate their national relevance for the Swiss landscape by fulfilling one or more of the following conditions:

- They are interdisciplinary and operate nationally or, at the minimum, supra-regionally, and/or
- They offer services on a national level to a significant number of researchers in a specific discipline, and/or
- They have international outreach and play a significant role in the European (or international) research infrastructure landscape

Alignment with the ORD Strategy guiding principles (nice-to-have)

The project should – as far as possible – take into account the basic principles (as they develop and evolve) of the ORD Strategy for managing the data components of infrastructures.

Link to NCCR/NRPs (nice-to-have)

Where adequate, it is desirable that the project transparently shows thematic links with existing or future NCCR/NRPs, as it is essential to avoid duplication both between infrastructures created as part of the Roadmap process and those within NCCR/NRPs.

Threshold of CHF five million (principle)

The project budget should in principle be at least CHF five million; this threshold should be regarded as a basic guideline that may be waived if the project meets the criterium 'description of national relevance. The project may be a research infrastructure or a service in the form of a building or hardware; costs for data or software and the human element of the infrastructure, i.e. staffing, are to be considered.