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## Programme Open Science II Call for proposals B3.2: ORD Funding for Existing Research Infrastructures of Strategic Relevance

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### 1. Context

#### 1.1 Open Research Data Strategy and Action Plan

In January 2020, the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) charged swissuniversities with drafting a [Swiss National Strategy for Open Research Data](#) and an associated action plan. The [Action Plan for Open Research Data](#), published in January 2022, details the measures of the ORD Strategy (2021); the Action Plan was developed jointly by swissuniversities, the ETH Domain, the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) and the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences.

The Delegation Open Science manages the programme Open Science II on behalf of the Board of swissuniversities. The programme implements all action lines of the ORD Action

Plan that fall under the responsibility of swissuniversities and finances them through federal project contributions (PgB).

### 1.2 Measure B3 of the ORD Action Plan: Ensure long-term funding of ORD infrastructures and services of foremost national relevance

Measure B3 targets the consolidation and strategic development of the Swiss ORD landscape with regard to infrastructures and services of foremost national relevance. The aim of Measure B3 is to allocate cost-effective, long-term funding for ORD services and infrastructures of national significance when they require this type of support. The ORD Strategy Council is responsible for implementing Measure B3, while the key actors bear responsibility for funding. In the context of this call, swissuniversities funds projects via the programme Open Science II, as described under 1.1.

### 1.3 Federal Spending Cuts: Limitation to 2025

On 20 September 2024, the Federal Council [announced](#) which cost-cutting measures suggested in the [report](#) of the 'Spending and Subsidy Review' expert group are to be pursued further. These measures include the discontinuation of project-related contributions. swissuniversities has been informed that for now, financial resources for the 2025-2028 programmes can only be committed for the year 2025. Projects may use funding received for 2025 until the end of July 2026.

## 2. **Call for proposals B3.2: ORD funding for existing research infrastructures of strategic relevance**

The aim of Action Line B3.2 is to ensure long-term funding for ORD infrastructures and services of foremost national relevance on the basis of decisions taken by the ORD Strategy Council.

To date, however, the strategic preparatory work and the identification of ORD infrastructures and services of foremost national relevance are ongoing. The ORD Strategy Council is actively working towards the evaluation of the Swiss ORD landscape through its Blueprint Process for three Clusters, namely Health and Life Sciences, Social Sciences and Humanities, and Data Science. In the meantime, this current call for proposals is open for the year 2025.

### 2.1 Eligibility

The current call for proposals is addressed to **existing**<sup>1</sup> research infrastructures of the [eligible higher education institutions](#) that have an ORD component or plan to add an ORD component.

The infrastructures must have received an excellent evaluation from a federal funding institution or a Swiss funding institution with a public funding mandate.<sup>2</sup>

Moreover, in order to be eligible, the infrastructures must demonstrate their strategic relevance for the Swiss landscape by fulfilling one or more of the following conditions:

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<sup>1</sup> By the time the project is submitted, the infrastructure must demonstrate secure and sustainable funding, that will extend through the entire project period.

<sup>2</sup> Examples include existing infrastructures that have been approved by swissuniversities or the ETH Domain for the 2019 or 2023 [Roadmaps for Research Infrastructures](#) (and are therefore declared as strategically relevant) and that have received an A-rating by the SNFS in the evaluation process.

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

## 2.2 Goals

The current call welcomes project proposals that aim to promote ORD either by introducing a new ORD element or by further developing an ORD component in existing research infrastructures.

Examples include the following:

- Defining a standard
- Community building
- Competence building
- Other activities that promote ORD practices

The ORD element must be in line with the principles of the [Swiss National ORD Strategy](#), in particular the FAIR principles. Furthermore, it is expected that the submitted project actively engages in community building and outreach activities. If possible, and to avoid duplication, synergies with other existing infrastructures should be sought. Accordingly, the submitted project should also consider a (potential) connection to an EOSC node.

## 2.3 Requirements

<b>Submission</b>	<p>The following documents must be sent to <a href="mailto:open-science@swissuniversities.ch">open-science@swissuniversities.ch</a> with the subject line "Call for Proposals B3.2: <i>Title of project proposal</i>":</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <a href="#">Application form</a> (as PDF <b>and</b> Word)</li> <li>2) <a href="#">Budget form for individual projects or budget form for cooperation projects</a> (as Excel)</li> </ol> <p>Proposals may be submitted by one applicant (individual projects) or by a consortium of applicants (cooperation projects).</p> <p><b>Submission deadline: Sunday, 2 March 2024, 23:59 CET</b></p>
<b>Signature</b>	<p>The application must be signed by the president or rector of all participating higher education institutions. The signature can be <b>either</b> digital with a Qualified Electronic Signature (QES), <b>or</b> handwritten. By signing an application, the institution commits to providing the necessary matching fundings if a proposal is accepted.</p>
<b>Project duration</b>	<p>The earliest project start is expected to be 1 July 2025, projects must be concluded by 31 July 2026 at the latest.</p> <p>Please note that given the brief funding period, projects should carefully address the challenges associated with identifying and securing qualified personnel. The likelihood of successfully</p>

	recruiting the necessary specialised personnel will be a key consideration during the evaluation process.
<b>Budget</b>	Up to CHF 250'000 <sup>3</sup> in federal funding per project (for details on federal funding, please consult Point 3 "Regulations for federal project contributions")
<b>General alignment</b>	Project proposals must be in line with the principles of the <a href="#">National ORD Strategy</a> and <a href="#">ORD Action Plan</a> , in particular the FAIR principles, the revised <a href="#">National OA Strategy</a> , and the swissuniversities <a href="#">Checklist Diversity Mainstreaming</a> .
<b>Other requirements</b>	Parts of the project that have already been submitted for another type of funding cannot be funded under this call.

#### 2.4 Selection procedure

Project proposals are assessed in a competitive evaluation process by external experts in swissuniversities' Open Science Reviewers' Pool (cf. [Implementation Plan](#)); the decision-making body is the Delegation Open Science. In case of a positive decision on the application, the swissuniversities Open Science programme will financially support the project through federal project contributions (PgB) from the federal government. Decisions on applications are expected to be communicated at the end of June 2025.

**Please note:** A possible positive decision on this application is not related to any possible funding decisions under HEdA, Article 47 paragraph 3 ([SR 414.20](#)) within the framework of the 2023 Roadmap.

#### 2.5 Timetable

18 December 2024	The call for proposal opens
22 January 2025	Open Science event for networking and planning cooperative projects
<b>2 March 2025</b>	<b>Submission deadline</b>
March – May 2024	Evaluation of applications by the Open Science Reviewers' Pool
June 2025	Decision by the Delegation Open Science with subsequent announcement
<b>1 July 2025</b>	<b>Earliest possible project start</b>

<sup>3</sup> Due to the maximum project duration of only 13 months, the project must clearly demonstrate in the application how the funds will be used coherently within this time limit. Please note that the maximum funding may be requested only in well-justified cases.

### **3. Regulations for federal project contributions (PgB)**

#### **3.1 Matching funds principle**

Subject to the budgetary decision of the Federal Assembly, federal funds are allocated by the State Secretariat for Education, Research, and Innovation (SERI) and awarded to the higher education institutions via swissuniversities; the regulations for federal project contributions (PgB) therefore apply. In particular, this includes the matching funds principle: the higher education institutions are required to cover at least 50 percent of the total project costs from their own resources. More information is available in the Guidelines for the PgB-funded programmes managed by swissuniversities ([German](#) | [French](#) | [English](#)).

#### **3.2 Reporting**

The project leaders must submit to swissuniversities content and financial reports. Detailed information on reporting can be found in the Guidelines for the PgB-funded programmes managed by swissuniversities ([German](#) | [French](#) | [English](#)).

### **4. Contact**

For further information please see the [website of the PgB Open Science II](#) or send an email to: [open-science@swissuniversities.ch](mailto:open-science@swissuniversities.ch).