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Programme Open Science II Application guidelines for the call for Communication and Awareness- Raising Projects

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1. Context

1.1 OA-Strategy, ORD-Strategy, and the PgB Open Science II.

The Open Science II programme is a national funding programme entrusted to swissuniversities, the Swiss Rectors' Conference, for implementation as part of the federal government's project-related contributions in accordance with the HEdA. The Delegation Open Science manages the programme Open Science II on behalf of the Board of swissuniversities.

In the context of the programme [Open Science II](#), and based in particular on the [National Strategy for Open Research Data](#) and the [National Open Access Strategy](#), swissuniversities supports measures informing about and raising awareness of the different dimensions of Open Science.

1.2 Communication and Awareness Raising

Part of this programme is the support of projects that communicatively promote Open Science and raise awareness to it. The success of the strategies also depends on the support and participation of researchers and other members of the higher education community. Therefore, researchers and other members of the higher education community must be informed about Open Science, its advantages, and how they can contribute to the success of Open Science.

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 for Communication and Awareness-Raising Projects

In order to raise awareness for Open Science and to strengthen and accompany Open Science-related activities communication-wise, swissuniversities’ PgB programme Open Science II welcomes proposals for project funding from eligible higher education institutions ([German](#) | [French](#)) on a rolling basis.

2.1 Goals

The goal of this call is to enable eligible institutions to pursue projects that fulfil one or more of the following goals:

- Strategic messaging: communicate the importance and benefits of Open Science, tailoring the messages to specific target audiences, such as researchers, professionals in universities and libraries, funding bodies.
- Stakeholder engagement for a supportive environment for Open Science.
- Impactful storytelling: collecting and disseminating ‘impact stories’ (based on case studies) to illustrate benefits and possibilities of Open Science and OA / ORD implementation activities.

The following project activities could be financed through this call:

- Creation and / or adaptation of campaign materials promoting Open Science.
- Activities promoting Open Science, such as workshops, roundtables, conferences.
- Organising (joint) communication initiatives with online and social media outreach to promote Open Science activities and infrastructure
- Facilitating partnerships to share resources and co-host events.
- Impact measuring: gather insights about Open Science from researchers and other stakeholders about their perceptions, challenges and needs related to Open Science.

2.2 Requirements

Submission	<p>The following documents must be sent to open-science@swissuniversities.ch with the subject line "Communication Funding: Title of proposal":</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Application form (as PDF and Word) 2) Budget form for individual projects or budget form for co-operation projects (as Excel) <p>Proposals may be submitted by one applicant (individual projects) or by a consortium of applicants (cooperation projects). Submissions are accepted on a rolling basis.</p>
Signature	<p>The application must be signed by the president or rector of all participating higher education institutions. The signature can be either digital with a Qualified Electronic Signature (QES), or a handwritten one. By signing an application, the institution commits to providing the necessary matching fundings if a proposal is accepted.</p>

Project duration	Projects must be concluded by 31 July 2026 at the latest.
Budget	Up to CHF 100'000 in federal funding (see also 3. Regulations for federal project contributions [PgB])
General alignment	Project proposals must be in line with the principles of the National ORD Strategy and ORD Action Plan , in particular the FAIR principles, the revised National OA Strategy , and the swissuniversities Checklist Diversity Mainstreaming (German French).

2.3 Selection procedure

Proposals are evaluated on a rolling basis until the available funds are exhausted. When the amount of requested funding reaches the amount budgeted, a notice will appear on the website. If funds become available again at a later date, the call will be reactivated.

The General Secretariat of swissuniversities evaluates the project proposals (cf. [Implementation Plan](#)). The proposals are then submitted to the Delegation Open Science, the decision-making body, for approval at the quarterly meetings; in order to allow for faster processing, smaller projects (federal funding of less than CHF 10'000, no national scope, and/or involving only a limited number of higher education institutions) will be submitted to the President of the Delegation Open Science for approval.

Collaboration with other Swiss higher education institutions eligible for funding is desirable. The extent to which a proposal adequately addresses and incorporates the needs of different institutions, types of higher education institutions, and research communities is therefore given particular weight in the evaluation.

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 an annual as well as a final content and financial report. Detailed information on reporting can be found in the Guidelines for the PgB-funded programmes managed by swissuniversities ([German](#) | [French](#) | [English](#)).

4. Further Information and Contact

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