3001 Bern, 05.12.2023
Higher Education Policy Division

# swissuniversities

**swissuniversities**
Effingerstrasse 15, Postfach
3001 Bern
www.swissuniversities.ch

## Programme Open Science I, Phase B – ORD 2022–2024
## Call for proposals B3.2: ORD Funding for Existing Research Infrastructures of Strategic Relevance

**Contents**

## 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 Open Science Delegation manages the Open Science I, Phase B – ORD programme 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. While the ORD Strategy Council is responsible for implementing Measure B3, the key actors bear responsibility for funding. In the context of this call, swissuniversities is responsible for funding projects via the Open Science I, Phase B – ORD programme, as described under 1.1.

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

Action Line B3.2 of the ORD Action Plan consolidates the investments requested by the key actors in their respective strategic plans for the 2025–2028 ERI period. The aim 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 has not yet been completed. For this reason, the ORD Strategy Council and the Delegation Open Science have decided to initiate a transitional phase with this current call for proposals.

### 2.1 Eligibility

The current call for proposals is addressed to existing 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 funding institution with a public funding mandate.[1]

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:

- 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.

---

[1] 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.

Examples include the following:

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

**swissuniversities**

The ORD element must be in line with the principles of the Swiss National ORD Strategy, in particular the FAIR principles. If possible, and to avoid duplication, synergies with other existing infrastructures should be sought.

### 2.3 Selection procedure

Project proposals are evaluated by external experts in swissuniversities' Open Science Reviewers' Pool; 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 in June 2024.

**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.

### 2.4 Timetable

| | |
|---|---|
| 4 December 2023 | The call for proposal opens |
| **22 February 2024** | **Submission deadline** |
| March – May 2024 | Evaluation of applications by the Open Science Reviewers' Pool |
| June 2024 | Decision by the Delegation Open Science with subsequent announcement |
| **July 2024** | **Earliest possible project start** |

### 2.5 Formal requirements

| | |
|---|---|
| **Submission** | The application and budget form (individual project, cooperation project) must be sent to the following address with the subject line "Call for Proposals B3.2: *Title of project proposal*": open-science@swissuniversities.ch The deadline for submissions is 22 February 2024 |
| **Signature** | The application must be signed by the president or rector of the participating higher education institutions |
| **Project duration** | The earliest project start is expected to be July 2024, projects must be concluded by the end of June 2025[2] at the latest |
| **Budget** | Up to CHF 500,000 in federal funding |

### 2.6 Content requirements

The project proposals are evaluated by external reviewers from the Open Science Reviewers' Pool and must meet the following requirements:

---

[2] Projects can run until the end of June 2025, provided an extension is approved by the SHK and SERI.

(1) Uphold the principles of the [National ORD Action Plan,](#) in particular the FAIR principles
(2) Fulfil the requirements listed under point 2 of this document: Call for proposals B3.2: ORD funding for existing research infrastructures of strategic relevance
(3) Verify the existence of realistic project planning
(4) Contain detailed financial planning for costs until the end of June 2025
(5) Provide an outlook on continuation after 2025

**Please note:** Parts of the project that have already been submitted for another type of funding cannot be funded under this call.

## 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. Contact

In case of questions, please do not hesitate to contact Dr Magali Mari, scientific and policy officer in the division Higher Education Policy:
T +41 (0) 31 335 07 36, [magali.mari@swissuniversities.ch](mailto:magali.mari@swissuniversities.ch)