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Programme Open Science I, Phase B – ORD 2022–2024 Call for proposals C2.2: RDM Training in Curricula

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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 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 C2 of the ORD Action Plan: Training researchers for RDM and ORD practices

Research data management (RDM) is understood as the professional and transparent organisation and handling of research data throughout the entire data life cycle. As such, RDM forms an integral part of the research process and is a central element in the implementation of the ORD approach. This is particularly relevant, as research funders now also require data management plans for the projects they finance. The overall aim of measure C2 of the ORD Action Plan, *Training researchers for RDM and ORD practices*, is to promote RDM education and training for students and researchers at Swiss higher education institutions.

The objective of Action Line C2.2 is to ensure that *RDM training is included as a required element in all curricula, from bachelor's to doctoral programmes*. Initially, until the end of 2024, measures to implement this action line focus on training PhD students and junior researchers.

2. Call for proposals C2.2: RDM training in curricula

The call for proposals for the implementation of action line C2.2 of the ORD Action Plan is addressed to all [eligible Swiss higher education institutions](#).

2.1 Goals

Each project submitted must have the aim to develop a model curriculum for a specific discipline that integrates RDM into the training of PhD students and junior researchers. Preference is given to concepts with high potential for use at other institutions and other disciplines. If applicable, project proposals should involve the different types of higher education institutions and other relevant actors in the field of RDM.

All project deliverables must be openly accessible upon project completion. Towards the end of 2024, project leaders must organize an event to present the curricula developed as well as the implementation.

2.2 Selection procedure

Project proposals are evaluated by the 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 support the projects financially through federal project contributions (PgB) from the federal government. Applicants are expected to be informed of the decision on their application in December 2023.

2.3 Timetable

4 July 2023	Call for proposals opens
7 September 2023	Submission deadline
Sept. – Nov. 2023	Evaluation of applications by the Open Science Reviewers' Pool
December 2023	Decision by the Delegation Open Science with subsequent announcement
January 2024	Earliest possible project start

2.4 Formal requirements

Submission	The application and the budget form (individual project , cooperation project) are sent to the following address with the subject line “Action Line C2.2: <i>Title of project proposal</i> ”: open-science@swissuniversities.ch The deadline for submissions is 7 September 2023
Signature	The application must be signed by the president or rector of the participating higher education institutions
Project duration	The earliest possible project start is expected to be January 2024; projects must be concluded by the end of 2024 at the latest
Budget	Up to CHF 100,000 in federal funding per project

2.5 Content requirements

Project proposals are evaluated by external reviewers from the Open Science Reviewers’ Pool and must meet the following requirements:

- (1) Comply with the spirit of the [National ORD Action Plan](#)
- (2) Fulfil the requirements listed under section 2 of this document: Call for proposals C2.2: RDM training in curricula
- (3) Provide proof of realistic project planning
- (4) Contain detailed financial planning for the costs until the end of 2024

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 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 Katja Fiechter, scientific and policy officer in the division Higher Education Policy:

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