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## **Programme Open Science I, Phase B – ORD 2022–2024**

### **Call for proposals D1.3: Incentives and rewards**

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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; this work is financed through federal project contributions (PgB).

### 1.2 Measure D1 of the ORD Action Plan: Incentives and rewards

Measure D1 of the ORD Action Plan is designed to facilitate the build-up of systemic and supportive conditions for institutions and research communities regarding incentives and rewards. To implement ORD, a multipronged approach to rewarding researchers for adopting and adhering to ORD practices is required: research assessment and career evaluation systems must be aligned with the principles of Open Science, while different elements of practising ORD must be incentivised and rewarded. Moreover, criteria for evaluation and assessment procedures are to be adapted accordingly, including criteria for hiring academic staff or for the allocation of research funding.

The long-term objective of Action Line D1.3 is the development, implementation, and adaptation of assessment processes to establish ORD practices as a prerequisite for recruitment and career advancement. As a first step, the current call for project proposals focuses on the exchange of best practices among higher education and research institutions as well as other national and international stakeholders.

## 2. **Call for proposals D1.3: Incentives and rewards**

As a step towards incentivizing and rewarding ORD practices, interested higher education institutions may submit a project proposal for promoting interinstitutional exchange and the dissemination of best practices for considering ORD practices in recruitment and career advancement processes. This cultural shift calls for communication and awareness-raising activities (e.g. workshops, conferences, and other formats). The approaches developed should also align with Europe-wide developments concerning the reform of research assessment systems (e.g. [CoARA](#), [LERU-Framework for the Assessment of Researchers](#)).

### 2.1 Goals

The aim of the project must be to foster interinstitutional exchange and the dissemination of best practices for integrating ORD practices in recruitment and career advancement.

The project must comply with the following requirements:

- Projects address and incorporate the needs of the various institutions, types of higher education institutions, and research communities. Projects with several participating eligible higher education institutions are therefore desirable. This aspect is given particular weight, as funding will most likely be granted to only 1-2 projects due to the financial framework of the call (approx. CHF 240,000, excluding matching funds).
- Projects build on existing structures and initiatives. Collaboration with relevant actors and initiatives is actively sought.
- Proposals are in alignment with international and European developments, in particular with the work of CoARA (e.g. in the National Chapters and/or Working Groups); active participation in CoARA is ideal.
- Proposed projects make effective use of the given project duration (ideally 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024) to achieve initial results that spark interinstitutional exchange within the higher education landscape.

## 2.2 Selection procedure

Project proposals are evaluated by the swissuniversities Open Science Reviewers' Pool; the decision-making body is the Delegation Open Science. The extent to which the project proposal adequately addresses and incorporates the needs of the different institutions, types of higher education institutions and research communities is given particular weight in the evaluation. Cooperation with other [Swiss higher education institutions eligible for funding](#) is therefore desirable.

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 proposal opens
<b>7 September 2023</b>	<b>Submission deadline</b>
Sept. – Nov. 2023	Evaluation of applications by the Open Science Reviewers' Pool
December 2023	Decision by the Delegation Open Science with subsequent announcement
<b>January 2024</b>	<b>Earliest possible project start</b>

## 2.4 Formal requirements

<b>Submission</b>	The <a href="#">application</a> and the budget form ( <a href="#">individual project</a> , <a href="#">cooperation project</a> ) are sent to the following address with the subject line "Action Line D1.3: <i>Title of project proposal</i> ": <a href="mailto:open-science@swissuniversities.ch">open-science@swissuniversities.ch</a> The deadline for submissions is 7 September 2023
<b>Signature</b>	The application must be signed by the president or rector of the participating higher education institutions
<b>Project duration</b>	The earliest possible project start is expected to be January 2024; projects must be concluded by the end of 2024 at the latest
<b>Budget</b>	Up to CHF 240,000 in federal funding

## 2.5 Content requirements

Project proposals for Action Line D1.3 Incentives and rewards are assessed by external reviewers from the Open Science Reviewers' Pool and must meet the following requirements:

- (1) Align with the objectives of Action Line D1.3 of the [National ORD Action Plan](#) (pp. 27–28)
- (2) Fulfil the requirements on establishing interinstitutional exchange as listed in section 2 of this document
- (3) Provide proof of realistic project planning
- (4) Contain detailed financial planning for the annual costs up to the end of 2024
- (5) Specify the strategic and financial sustainability of the project in accordance with the described objectives, and provide an outlook on possible future activities

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

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