swissuniversities

Programme Open Science II

Call for proposals: Communication and Awareness-Raising

List of Approved Projects

Call Deadline: Submissions are accepted on a rolling basis

Last update: 23.01.2026

Overview Approved Projects Communication and Awareness-Raising

Approved in December 25

Short title	Full title	Leading institution	Partner institution(s)	Project Manager	Total costs (CHF)	Funds approved (CHF)
SPR-OA	Promoting Awareness of Secondary Publication Rights and Open Access	UZH		Marc Thommen	50'000	25'000
CyanoCommunity	Empowering Citizens and Scientists to Safeguard Swiss Waters	UniNE		Pilar Junier	80'311	29'706
OSStories	Open Science Stories Series	EPFL		Charlotte Weil	60'000	30'000
PulseNext	PulseNext: Translating Research Software Impact Indicators into Actionable Narratives	EPFL	SDSC	Aruni Senaratne	60'000	30'000

Approved in March 25 and June 25

Short title	Full title	Leading institution	Partner institution(s)	Project Manager	Total costs (CHF)	Funds approved (CHF)
CitSciHelvetia'25	Citizen Science Helvetia 25	Université de Lausanne		Alexandre Camus	188'150	30'000
ODSS-PROV	Open Data, Shared Standards: Promoting Adequate Open Data Practices in Visual Social Research	USI		Katharina Lobinger, Anna Picco-Schwendener	60'000	30'000
LUCID	Lucerne Open Science Dissemination	Unilu	HSLU, PH Luzern, PH SZ, PH Zug	Doris Schmidli	32'550	16'200
OOC-GRP	Open Online Course on Good Research Practices	FernUni	UZH, HES-SO VS, HEG-FR, HES-SO FR	Matthias Voigt	99'510	30'000
DOACH	Diamond Open Access CH	UniBE	UZH, University of Basel, Unifr	Dirk Verdicchio	64'250	20'000

Short Summaries of the Projects

Abstracts by the applicants:

SPR-OA

Promoting Awareness of Secondary Publication Rights and Open Access

Open Access ensures that research results funded by public resources are freely available not only to academics but also to society at large. A statutory secondary publication right would allow researchers to make their articles—initially published in commercial journals—publicly accessible. The introduction of a secondary publication right would thus be a milestone on the path toward more open science as a long-term goal.

In 2023, Thouvenin et al. rendered a comprehensive expert report for swissuniversities demonstrating how a secondary publication right (Zweitveröffentlichungsrecht) could be implemented in Swiss law. Building on this foundation, the present project seeks to raise awareness in Switzerland about the benefits of Open Access in general and the secondary publication right in particular.

Whether a secondary publication right will be introduced is a political decision beyond our direct influence. Our goal, rather, is to raise public awareness of the importance and benefits of open science. We would like to pursue this goal through a professional communication strategy consisting of three steps:

1. Targeted media outreach – actively engaging national and regional outlets with compelling stories and background materials.

2. Strategic PR actions – communicating clear and accessible messages via factsheets, opinion pieces, and coordinated press activities.

3. Expert positioning – ensuring credible voices from academia and science are visible in the public debate, through interviews, op-eds, and panel discussions.

By combining targeted outreach, accessible communication, and the authority of academic experts, the project aims to build broad awareness and public support for Open Access and the introduction of a secondary publication right in Switzerland.

CyanoCommunity

Empowering Citizens and Scientists to Safeguard Swiss Waters

CyanoCommunity is a participatory science project that brings together citizens, researchers, government agencies, and private companies working with the common goal of contributing to the monitoring of harmful benthic cyanobacterial blooms in Swiss lakes and rivers. These microorganisms can produce toxins that pose risks to human and animal health, making early detection and awareness crucial.

CyanoCommunity is based on an inclusive approach: volunteers and government agencies collect samples and observations, which are then analyzed using different technologies. This collaboration not only enhances scientific understanding but also empowers communities to take an active role in protecting their local environments.

A cornerstone of the project is its commitment to open data. All collected information is shared transparently through an accessible online platform, allowing anyone (from policy-makers to curious citizens) to explore and use the data. This openness fosters trust, encourages informed decision-making, and supports further research.

Communication is central to CyanoCommunity's mission. Through workshops, public events, and digital outreach, the project will raise awareness about cyanobacterial risks and promote environmental stewardship. By making science approachable and actionable, CyanoCommunity will help bridge the gap between research and society. The combination of citizen engagement, scientific data generation, and transparent data sharing, sets this initiative as a powerful ex-ample of how collaborative efforts can lead to shared responsibility and meaningful environmental change.

OSStories

Open Science Stories Series

This project promotes the adoption of Open Science across disciplines by showcasing concrete success stories through a series of video podcasts. Designed for both watching and listening, the series of three chapters, each with three episodes, highlights how open research offers a valuable opportunity for advancing science. Starting with EPFL- ENAC (School of Architecture, Civil and Environmental Engineering) as the first chapter, the series will progressively feature success stories beyond ENAC. The format aims to become part of EPFL's institutional communication strategy, sustained by EPFL Open Science and Mediacom.

A video podcast features a moderator guiding a discussion on a success story. Episodes follow a common structure with distinct contributors for each section: What and Why, presenting the scientific motivation and added value of data sharing for the case; How, highlighting the open infrastructures and tools developed specifically; and For Whom, featuring insights from users beyond EPFL who leverage these resources. This structure brings together three contributors per episode, ensuring relevance, diversity, and dynamic exchange. The first chapter's success stories are: DisdroDB, a decentralized database of raindrop size distribution data facilitating access for scientists; the Atlas of Re-used Concrete, promoting sustainable construction via shared material data for architects building with regenerative materials; and the RESSLAB Hub, enabling open structural engineering research on steel structures. By letting researchers speak directly to researchers, the project raises awareness of ORD best practices and demystifies their implementation through real success stories, in line with the FAIR principles and the Swiss National ORD Strategy.

PulseNext

PulseNext: Translating Research Software Impact Indicators into Actionable Narratives

PulseNext aims to strategically communicate the value of recognizing diverse research contributions – especially open-source software (OSS) – as first-class scientific outputs. Although OSS plays a pivotal role in accelerating scientific progress, its creators and their impact remain overlooked in traditional research evaluation systems. Building on the foundations of the Open Pulse project, PulseNext will transform data-driven insights about research software impact into accessible stories that highlight the people, practices, and communities behind open-source research. Open Pulse, initially supported by an ETH Domain Explore grant, developed an open research data platform that maps and monitors OSS developed at EPFL. The platform provides three layers of insight—development metrics, community networks, and repository metadata—and will officially launch in November 2025. PulseNext adds a key layer to this foundation by translating Open Pulse into an actionable communication tool. Specifically, it will (1) develop PulseWebKit, a lightweight toolkit for creating customizable dashboards and software impact narratives; (2) pilot an EPFL test case to integrate Open Pulse insights into institutional

communication and strategic messaging; and (3) organize participatory events and produce multimedia storytelling content showcasing success stories and use cases of Open Pulse. Through these actions, PulseNext will raise awareness of OSS as a first-class component of Open Science, and provide replicable models for OSS recognition for the broader Open Science community. The project will contribute to a more inclusive research culture where collaboration and community, integral to the development and sustenance of research software, are visible and valued.

CitSciHelvetia'25

Citizen Science Helvetia 25

Citizen Science refers to collaborative scientific practices in which citizens actively engage in re-search projects, whether these initiatives are led by scientists or co-developed alongside participants.

CitSciHelvetia is the Swiss conference dedicated to Citizen Science (CS), aimed at connecting Swiss and international stakeholders involved in CS and participatory research. The conference promotes experience-sharing and mutual learning across the country's diverse linguistic and cultural regions.

The first edition took place online in Zurich in 2021, followed by the second in Solothurn in 2023, bringing together 120 attendees. The upcoming CitSciHelvetia'25 will be held on June 5-6, 2025, at the University of Lausanne, focusing on collaborations between civil society and academia. Addressing contemporary challenges such as biodiversity loss, climate change, engaging with youth and social cohesion, the conference reflects a growing engagement of citizens in research.

Aiming to gather 300 participants, including representatives from civil society, this edition will also foster international exchanges by welcoming colleagues from Austria, Germany, and the Francophonie. In collaboration with the Réseau International Université Société (REIUNIS) for its summer school, the University of Lausanne will dedicate the entire first week of June 2025 to Citizen Science and participatory research, significantly enriching the Swiss landscape in this field.

Overall, CitSciHelvetia'25 represents a major opportunity for fostering collaboration, sharing knowledge, and addressing pressing societal issues through collective efforts that integrate diverse forms of expertise and experience. This conference will mark an important milestone in advancing the community-building of Citizen Science in Switzerland and beyond.

ODSS-PROV

Open Data, Shared Standards: Promoting Adequate Open Data Practices in Visual Social Research

Open science brings specific challenges to visual research, especially regarding ethical and legal issues like anonymizing visual data, which is often difficult. To help with this, a Code of Conduct for Open Data Practices in Visual Social Research was created. This Code, developed with experts and through workshops, offers essential guidance for re-searchers on handling visual data responsibly.

The next step is to make sure this Code is widely known and used. To achieve this, we will use and develop a variety of communication methods, including in-person and online workshops, online learning resources, and simplified guides. Our goal is to build a strong community of researchers in visual social research who follow these best practices. This project aligns with the Swiss National ORD Strategy and FAIR principles, ensuring that visual data is easy to find, access, and reuse.

We will kick off the project at the International Communication Association (ICA) Conference in June 2025 by presenting the Code of Conduct and will then gradually add resources until July 2026. By using a range of engaging communication strategies and collaborating with a wide network of academic partners, we aim to make the Code a widely recognized standard in visual social research.

LUCID

Lucerne Open Science Dissemination

Für eine erfolgreiche Umsetzung von Open Science sind Kommunikation und Sensibilisierung zentrale Voraussetzungen. Dies gilt insbesondere für die Geistes- und Sozialwissenschaften, die im Zentralschweizer Hochschulraum (Universität Luzern, Hochschule Luzern, Pädagogische Hochschule Luzern, Pädagogische Hochschule Schwyz und Pädagogische Hochschule Zug) eine bedeutende Rolle spielen, in denen jedoch Open Science

bislang weniger etabliert ist als in den Naturwissenschaften. Trotz zunehmender institutioneller Unterstützung stehen viele Forschende im Alltag weiterhin vor Herausforderungen – sei es aufgrund mangelnder Informationen oder fehlender Ressourcen. Hier setzt das Projekt LUCID an, das diesen Hürden mit einem ganzheitlichen Ansatz begegnet und sich auf drei zentrale Pfeiler stützt:

1. 10 Jahre LORY – Das Lucerne Open Repository (LORY) feiert 2025 sein 10-jähriges Bestehen. Durch strategisches Storytelling, Veranstaltungen und gezielte Öffentlichkeitsarbeit heben wir seine Wirkung hervor und ermutigen dadurch die Forschenden, ihre Publikationen über LORY frei zugänglich zu machen.
2. Open Science Ambassadors – Ziel ist der Aufbau eines Netzwerks von engagierten und gleichzeitig geschulten Forschenden der Universität Luzern, der Hochschule Luzern (das Open Science Ambassador Netzwerk der Hochschule Luzern wird durch das Data Stewardship Programm finanziert) und evtl. weiterer Zentralschweizer Hochschulen. Die Ambassadors sollen als Multiplikatorinnen und Multiplikatoren für Open Science Praktiken fungieren, Peer Support anbieten und Best Practices für Open Science fördern. Zentraler Bestandteil des Projekts ist die Förderung des Aus-tauschs und der Vernetzung.
3. Gamified Awareness Campaign – Um Open Science greifbarer und zugänglicher zu machen, wird LUCID bestehende Open Science Spiele weiter-entwickeln. Die Spiele können an verschiedenen akademischen Veranstaltungen und Workshops eingesetzt werden. Dadurch können neue Ziel-gruppen erreicht und Diskussionen über Open Science in einem interaktiven, unterhaltsamen Format angestossen werden.

Durch die Kombination von strategischer Kommunikation, kollegialem Engagement und innovativen Outreach-Methoden trägt LUCID zur Umsetzung der nationalen Open-Science-Agenda bei indem es Forschende in der Region Zentralschweiz befähigt, Offenheit und Transparenz in ihre tägliche Forschungspraxis zu integrieren.

OOC-GRP

Open Online Course on Good Research Practices

This project aims at further establishing and promoting good research practices in connection with Open Science.

The main objective of this project is to create and promote an open online course (with videos and podcasts) on best practices in Open Science primarily targeted at early career researchers and open to the general research community. The project will first lead to the configuration of an appropriate Online Learning Platform that can be opened for a broad academic audience to deliver added value at the national level. This platform is meant to stay on a long-term perspective, so that it can also host material on Good Research Practices beyond the scope of Open Science. Ideally, the project will connect to existing grassroots movements on Open Science in Switzerland and beyond and lead to material that can be used to build high-quality education resources for higher education institutions in Switzerland and abroad.

DOACH

Diamond Open Access CH

In the project Diamond Open Access CH (DOACH), the OJS Swiss Community of Practice – a long-standing AKOA working group in which all Swiss HEIs that have an Institutional Publishing Service Provider (IPSPs) are represented – develops the website dia-mondopenaccess.ch which will fulfil two primary functions: offering reliable, highly visible and curated information about diamond open access, its opportunities and significance, and, secondly, providing Swiss researchers and diamond open access publishing practitioners (authors, editors and platform providers) with an overview of and access to available structures, tools, and services that improve and facilitate diamond open access publishing according to established criteria and international standards. As a vital part of DOACH, the OJS Swiss Community of Practice will establish the structures for a sustainable operation of the website and the management of its content. The website will be a single point of access that offers state-of-the-art material concerning diamond open access in general as well as instructional and information material for practitioners. This material has been and will continue to be developed by members of the OJS Swiss Community of Practice. diamondopenaccess.ch will also connect Swiss diamond open access publishing with structures, initiatives and projects in Europe and on a global level. Use (and reuse) of the information and resources offered on the website are free. Like the services and infrastructure for scholarly publishing offered by Swiss IPSPs, the website is not linked to commercial interests. The aim is to inform and support scholars publishing their results in line with the best interests of science.