

Position of the Delegation Open Science on the ORD Mandates B5.1, B5.4 and C2.3

Within the framework of the [PgB Open Science I](#) and in order to implement Action Lines B5.1, B5.4, and C2.3 of the [National Action Plan for Open Research Data \(ORD\)](#), the [Delegation Open Science \(DeIOS\)](#) of swissuniversities commissioned three projects to analyze the current and target status of data stewardship and ORD support (including research data management, RDM) in the higher education landscape from October 2024 to June 2025. The projects examined the implementation and long-term promotion of ORD best practices (Action Line B5.1, lead institution University of Bern), the training and career paths of ORD specialists (Action Line B5.4, lead institution University of Basel), and the communication of RDM trainers and data stewards (Action Line C2.3, lead institution Università della Svizzera Italiana). The mandates summarized the results of their studies in final reports and formulated recommendations for promoting data stewardship and ORD support at Swiss higher education institutions.

The DeIOS has validated the final reports of the three mandates and approved their publication. It should be noted that the projects and the resulting reports and recommendations are commissioned work that does not necessarily reflect the position of DeIOS.

The DeIOS supports the establishment of ORD support at higher education institutions and the recruitment of appropriate staff, as envisaged in the [ORD Action Plan](#), and notes that institutional and discipline-specific characteristics must be taken into account during implementation. In the long term, RDM and ORD should become part of normal operations and researchers should be able to carry out RDM themselves, with the support of trained personnel if necessary. This is also the goal of Action Area C of the [ORD Action Plan](#), which aims to enable researchers to develop ORD skills and exchange best practices.

The DeIOS also emphasizes that the creation of dedicated institutional solutions is desirable, particularly in view of the current national and cantonal cost-cutting measures, which also affect higher education institutions.