Easy FAIR (192-010)

Supporting the adoption of FAIR and reproducible digital scholarship with Renku

The World Wide Web and digital technologies are fundamentally changing how scientific knowledge is produced,disseminated and preserved. This transformation represents an opportunity to make the scientific endeavor more transparent, inclusive, collaborative, reproducible and impactful. However, research in the digital age requires new standards, tools and infrastructures, as well as a new set of research skills. The change is reflected by new requirements from funders, journals, from the research community in general, as well as society at large. Supporting researchers active in Swiss institutions in their adoption of digital best practice is necessary to guarantee they produce research results of the highest quality and impact.

This project stems from two observations:

- Many resources describing best practices in research data management (RDM) are available nationally and internationally; however, researchers are often not familiar with them, making it hard for them to take action.
- Many researchers have the motivation to adopt best practices in RDM, however they often struggle to identify and adopt the tools, or learn the skills, necessary to turn best practice recommendations into significant change in their daily research practices..

Over the past two years, the ETH domain has been developing Renku, a technological solution that tightly integrates existing standards and tools for data and code management, while facilitating the adoption of best practices over the data and analytics lifecycle (more on the website https://datascience.ch/renku/). Renku, as a well-maintained resource, provides a unique opportunity to offer a concrete, pragmatic and easy to adopt solution to the new requirements, including FAIR recommendations for data and code.

The goal of this project is to significantly increase the visibility of a mature solution, anticipating the adoption of Renku as a tool to improve research management in Switzerland, leveraging existing knowledge, resources and networks built in the context of past and current projects supported by swissuniversities. This approach will be based on the Renku platform, a pragmatic and intuitive approach to good data and code management, and therefore a valuable entry point for the implementation of reproducible, FAIR and collaborative science in the digital age.