

Open data need reliable and efficient national infrastructures. FORS develops them.

We believe that data are a key strategic resource for an open and modern Switzerland and that open data are crucial for the successful evolution of the Swiss research landscape.

Our mission:

- Promote and support open data access to all data relevant for research in Switzerland.**

We support open access to research data, administrative data and official statistics. Moreover, we promote and claim open access to data produced by private companies.

- Contribute actively to reconciling open data and data protection.**

Open data may conflict with personal data protection. As part of the research community we contribute to the implementation of legal requirements and technical solutions to make data as open as possible in accordance with the FAIR data principles, which allow respecting both personal data protection and scientific principles.

- Develop reliable national public infrastructure in Switzerland to archive and share data.**

Data producers should keep control over their data. Research data should not be in the hands of private companies, behind the paywall of publishers, or deposited anywhere in the world without any guarantee for long-term sustainability and data protection in line with Swiss and European law. We therefore contribute to the development of national data infrastructure, which should be funded by the same institutions that fund research.

Our vision for 2030:

Data access will have improved considerably by 2030 as a result of three principal measures:

- Institutional framework:** National public infrastructures to archive and share data according to FAIR principles are in place for all research disciplines. These infrastructures are:
 - interoperable and connected,
 - managed and controlled by national research institutions like FORS, and
 - sustainable.
- Funding:** The primary funding institutions for research in Switzerland are committed to (co-)funding data infrastructures to enable open data.
- Legal framework:** A legal framework ensuring open data, respecting data protection and privacy rights, is in place.

The FAIR Data principles:

Data and Metadata need to be **F**indable **A**ccessible **I**nteroperable and **R**eusable

To learn more about the FAIR Data principles, please scan the QR code



Our contributions:

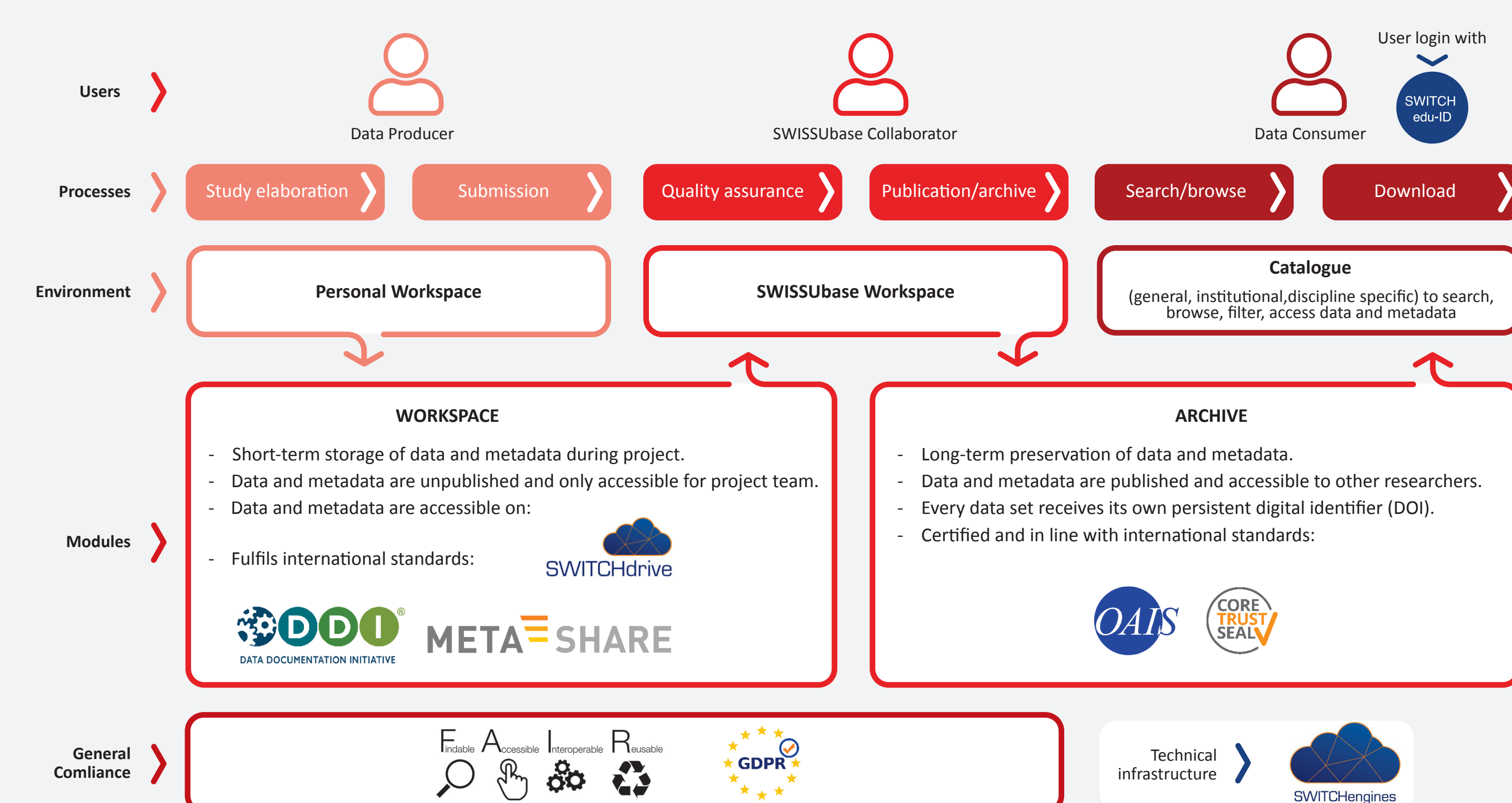


Context: High quality and well-documented datasets, as well as their long-term preservation and accessibility are basic requirements for open data and also its key challenges. Most of the universities in Switzerland do not have the necessary expertise and technical solutions to fulfill these requirements.

Objective: Further develop the functionalities of the established social science archive FORSbase and, as a result, offer the national infrastructure SWISSbase for the long-term preservation and sharing of scientific research data across all scientific disciplines.

What it is: SWISSbase offers to Swiss universities and other research institutions a research data management service to archive, share and promote data and project metadata. Fully compliant with international standards, the modular structure of SWISSbase is at the same time flexible enough to provide tailored responses to the needs of different institutional policies and scientific disciplines.

How it works:



When: SWISSbase will be available by the end of 2020.



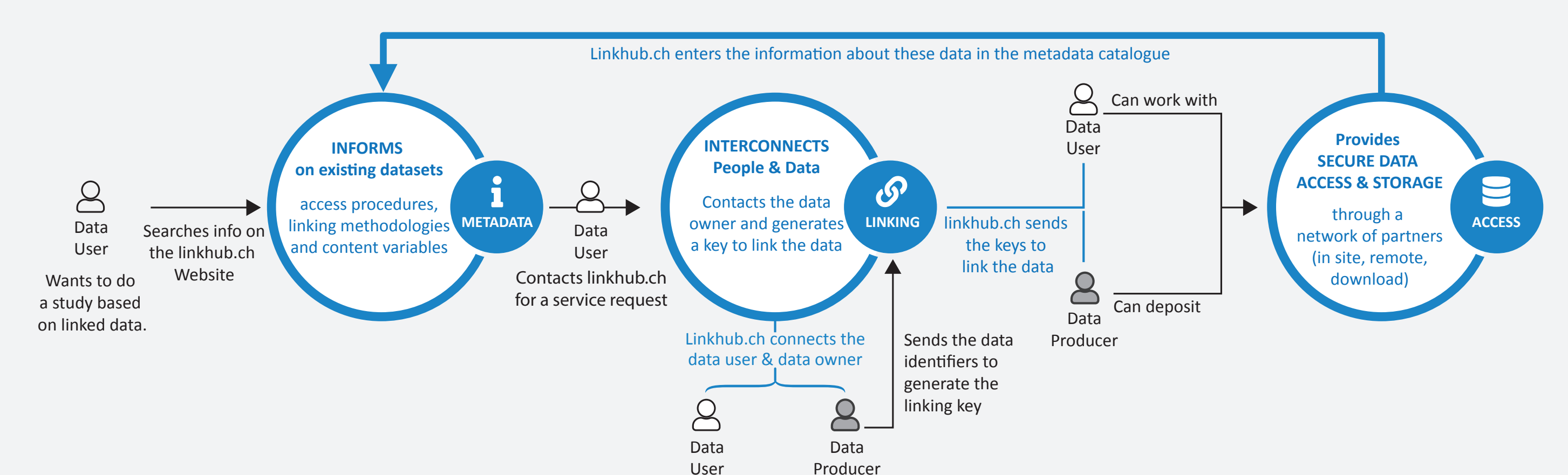
Context: Open data opens up new possibilities for employing the full potential of existing data by linking them. At the same time open data creates new legal and technical challenges for data linking, as the linked data need to be preserved and accessible in the long term.

Objective: Provide an environment to support academic and administrative studies based on linked data. This environment respects data protection and scientific principles.

What it is: Linkhub.ch was initiated by FORS in collaboration with NCCR on the move, NCCR LIVES, Swiss RDL, Swiss National Cohort, and TREE. Linkhub.ch is:

- an initiative to improve the legal framework for data linking in Switzerland, and
- a service center providing metadata, offering linking services, and assuring access to linked data.

How it works:



When: Linkhub.ch will be in place by the end of 2019. The service centre will offer first services in 2020 and will be fully functional in 2021.

