Swiss National ORD Prize

Call 2027

The 2027 edition of the Swiss National Prize for Open Research Data (ORD Prize), awarded by the **Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences**, is now open for entries. The award seeks to encourage researchers and institutions in Switzerland to adopt and promote open science practices, to foster innovation, and to strengthen the open science community across the Swiss research landscape.

About the ORD Prize

Since 2023, the Academies have been awarding the Swiss National ORD Prize to individuals and research teams whose innovative and exemplary practices in their projects have made an outstanding contribution to open research data. Having organised the prize within the framework of the Swiss National ORD Strategy until 2025, the Academies are now continuing it independently and, from 2027, will issue a call for entries every two years. In doing so, they reaffirm their commitment to research that is transparent, reproducible, and accessible to society.

Definition of Open Research Data (ORD)

In line with the **UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science**, open research data include, ‘among other things, digital and analog data, both raw and processed data, as well as accompanying metadata, numerical analyses, text documents, images and sounds, protocols, analysis code and workflows that can be openly used, reused, preserved, and redistributed by anyone, subject to acknowledgement. Open research data are available in a timely and user-friendly, human and machine-readable and actionable format, in accordance with principles of good data governance and stewardship, notably the FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable) principles, supported by regular curation and maintenance.’

Open Thematic Focus

The thematic focus of this year's call is intentionally open. The aim is to recognise research projects of individual researchers and research teams, including research support staff (e.g., data stewards, research software engineers), at all career stages and from any discipline and/or data community for their contributions to open research data. This explicitly includes the creation, curation, and reuse of scientific outputs such as original research results, research data, software, hardware, source code, source materials, workflows and protocols, digital representations of pictorial and graphical materials, and scholarly multimedia material that are openly licensed or dedicated to the public domain in accordance with appropriate technical standards (cf. UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science, 9, 2021).

Projects working with data that cannot be made fully open, such as health, social, or security data subject to privacy or confidentiality constraints, are equally eligible. What matters is that such data are made reusable in a responsible way, for example through controlled access, anonymisation, or privacy-preserving techniques, in line with the principle 'as open as possible, as closed as necessary'.

Evaluation Criteria

Submissions are assessed against the following criteria:



Methodologically innovative

This criterion is broadly defined and will be evaluated with respect to practices in the specific field(s) of the research project. For example, a project showcasing best ORD practices in a field where this is not yet established can be considered innovative. In contrast, in other fields, the innovative aspect may lie, for example, in employing a new approach using ORD practices.



Impactful

This criterion focuses on the positive impacts related to the demonstrated ORD practices in the project. These can be, for example, scientific, societal, economic, educational, or intergenerational. Applicants should describe impacts that have already been achieved and support them with evidence wherever possible, rather than only outlining potential impacts.



Community-based

This criterion focuses on the community dimension of the project. This can include interactions of networks and groups that serve as role models for the targeted communities (e.g., outreach activities, codes of conduct) as well as a community that has been built around the project and actively participates in parts of the ORD lifecycle (e.g., by contributing, curating, or reusing data).



FAIR

This criterion focuses on whether the research data made available in connection with the project comply with the FAIR principles, meaning they are findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable. FAIR compliance is the baseline for this criterion. Awareness of current developments such as AI reuse, as reflected in the FAIR-R²L concept (FAIR, Ready for AI, Responsibly Licensed), is considered a plus but not a requirement.[1]

Applicants are asked to identify the primary contribution of their project (e.g., a dataset, software, a data stewardship framework, a metadata standard, a governance model, or practical guidelines) and its stage of development. The jury evaluates the quality of the contribution and the available evidence in light of this stage of development. Established impact and community uptake are not prerequisites, since many valuable contributions take years to become established.

Who can apply?

Submitted projects must be part of scientific work carried out at a Swiss research institution (e.g., universities, universities of applied sciences, federal research institutes, or universities of teacher education).

[1] The FAIR-R²L standard can be demonstrated, for example, by preparing data for use in AI applications (FAIR-R according to Verhulst et al., 2025) or by licensing them in a way that makes their reuse legally clear and responsible (ip4os). Responsible licensing does not require permitting commercial reuse, and applicants who choose licences that restrict such reuse will not be disadvantaged in the assessment.

Individual researchers, research teams, and research support staff at all career stages and from all disciplines can apply. Early-career researchers and members of underrepresented groups are especially encouraged to apply. To ensure equal opportunities, applicants will be evaluated taking into account differences in career stage and discipline, and the evaluation will be aligned with the Swiss National Science Foundation's approved **vision and mission for equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI)**.

Researchers who applied in previous years are welcome to reapply if their project meets the call criteria. Previous prize winners may apply again with a different project.

Award Ceremony & Prize Money

The Swiss National ORD Prize will be awarded on 21 May 2027 in Bern. In addition to CHF 10,000 in prize money, the award offers winners national visibility. At the award ceremony, they will briefly present their projects, showcasing their ORD practices to inspire others. They will also be featured in the Academies' communications. For everyone attending, the award ceremony is an opportunity to learn from various approaches to open research data across disciplines and to strengthen the open science movement. Get inspired by our **previous winners**!

Additional Information

For detailed eligibility criteria and submission guidelines, refer to the prize regulations on the Swiss Academies' **ORD website**.

Submission

Entries should be submitted in English via the digital application form on the official **ORD Website** by **15 February 2027, 17:00h local time Switzerland**. Late submissions will not be considered.

For further questions, please contact Olivia Denk (Specialist Open Science a+):
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