

Sounding Board Researchers of the Swiss National Open Research Data Strategy and Action Plan Mandate

Final Version: March 30, 2022

1. Introduction

The Swiss National Open Research Data Strategy Council (referred to as “StraCo”) has established the permanent Sounding Board Researchers (referred to as “SB R”) on the basis of the Swiss National Open Research Data Strategy of April 23, 2021 (p. 11) and the Swiss National Open Research Action Plan of November 17, 2021 (p. 14f.). The SB R shall facilitate the deliberations and decisions of the StraCo by acknowledging and accommodating the needs and experiences of experts in the field. For this purpose, it will collaborate with the Sounding Board for Service Providers.

2. Scope of responsibility and tasks

The SB R’s main task is to advise both the StraCo and the Open Research Data Coordination Group (referred to as “CoG”) by responding to their questions and issuing recommendations to enable the participation of research communities in the further development of the Swiss Open Research Data (ORD) landscape. Within the context of these tasks, the SB R may consider anticipating future ORD-related developments. Furthermore, it acts as the Jury of the Open Research Data Prize awarded by the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences (referred to as “Swiss Academies”). To achieve its goals, the SB R will also liaise with other networks of research communities.

If needed, the StraCo can assign further tasks to the SB R.

The scope of the SB R consists of three areas:

2.1 Giving advice at the request of StraCo or CoG

The SB R examines questions at the request of StraCo or CoG concerning the implementation of action lines of the ORD Action Plan. The SB R conducts this task by considering different disciplinary and methodological perspectives and, where appropriate, the different needs of academic career stages. The recommendations produced by the SB R must be communicated to the StraCo or CoG in writing in due time.

2.2 Foresight activities

At the request of the StraCo, the SB R examines the wider implication of the ORD development by carrying out foresight activities. These include exploring long-term perspectives of ORD in the light of national and international developments, identifying pain points and blind spots of disciplinary or data-specific needs of the community regarding ORD, and anticipating attitudes and reactions of researchers towards the implementation of ORD. For this task, the SB R establishes its agenda in consultation with the StraCo or CoG.

2.3 Jury for Open Research Data Award

The SB R acts as the Jury for the Open Research Data Award given by Swiss Academies. This task encompasses the determination of both the scope of the award and its criteria, the compilation of the shortlist and the selection of the winner.

3. Composition

The SB R shall include different perspectives and at the same time meaningfully nurture an active culture of debate. Therefore, the number of members of the SB R shall not exceed 16 people.

To adequately represent the different perspectives of research towards ORD, the board shall be composed according to three diversity principles:

- a. Diversity of members: career level, gender, languages / regions, institutional affiliation.
- b. Diversity of research communities: balanced representation of the different disciplines and research communities.
- c. Diversity of methodological approaches to process data, such as big data methods, qualitative methods, empirical methods, theoretical modelling etc.

4. Organisation

4.1 Chair

The SB R is led by a chair or two co-chairs, elected by the StraCo for a two-year period. The chair or co-chairs represent the SB R externally. For additional roles, the SB R constitutes itself.

4.2 Meetings

The SB R meets at least twice a year. The board takes its decision as a collegiate body. If a decision cannot be reached unanimously, the simple majority of the attending members shall decide the vote. In the event of a tie, the vote of the chair or co-chairs shall decide the matter.

4.3 Members

The members are proposed by the CoG and nominated by the StraCo for a two-year period. Their term/period can be renewed.

4.4 Support

The board will receive support from a secretary. The secretary supports the board on an operational level by preparing the meetings (agenda, documents, etc.) in accordance with the chair or co-chairs, taking minutes and completing tasks subsequent to each meeting.

4.5 Administration

The administration of the board lies within the responsibility of Swiss Academies. This includes providing the resources for the board and its secretary which are necessary to fulfil their assigned tasks.

4.6 Reporting

The SB R reports regularly to the StraCo on its planned and ongoing activities and provides an annual report for the attention of the StraCo.

5. Finances

The costs for the administration of the board are covered by federal project contributions (PgB) for the period from 2022 to 2024. The details will be regulated in a service agreement between swissuniversities and Swiss Academies. Furthermore, Swiss Academies will contribute in-kind services (IT, office, communication/website, HR management).

For the period from 2025 to 2028, Swiss Academies included the financial resources needed for the administration of the board within its multi-annual planning for the ERI dispatch 2025-28. The allocation of this additional

contribution from the SERI is crucial / key to the continuing administration of the board.

6. Final clauses

Any amendments to this mandate require the approval of the StraCo. This mandate was adopted by the StraCo on March 18, 2022.

Date: March 30, 2022

On behalf of the Strategy Council:

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Chair of the Strategy Council

Vize-chair of the Strategy
Council