SNSF Open Research Data Policy

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Open Science and Science Culture

«Open science is about the way researchers work, collaborate, interact, share resources and disseminate results. A systemic change towards open science is driven by new technologies and data, the increasing demand in society to address the societal challenges of our times and the readiness of citizens to participate in research. »

Amsterdam Call for Action, p. 4.
Greater Impact with Open Access/Science

- Public access for publically funded research
- Increased visibility
- Drives innovation
- Higher citation rates
- Enhanced communication
- More comparative & transnational research
- Access in developing countries
- Increased control of scientific misconduct

Research creates knowledge.
SNSF policy on Open Research Data – background & aims

The SNSF values research data sharing as a fundamental contribution to the **impact**, **transparency** and **reproducibility** of scientific research. In addition to being carefully curated and stored, the SNSF believes research data should be shared as openly as possible.

**Funding Regulations Article 47b**

«data collected with the aid of an SNSF grant must be made available to other researchers and integrated into recognized scientific data pools»
The SNSF expects all its funded researchers

• to store the research data they have worked on and produced during the course of their research work,

• to share these data with other researchers, unless they are bound by legal, ethical, copyright, confidentiality or other clauses, and

• to deposit their data and metadata onto existing public repositories in formats that anyone can find, access and reuse without restriction.
Data Management Plan – part of project submission

• A Data Management Plan (DMP) is integral part of the submitted proposal, starting at submission date October 2017.
  → DMP is a formal requirement

• DMPs are not part of the review process (no access for external reviewers).

• At project submission, DMPs are considered as drafts.
Data Management Plan – flexible and open to arguments

• The questions of the DMP are broad enough to capture the needs of different research communities. The SNSF only defines minimal standards for its structure and contents.

• Applicants can justify in the DMP, if data cannot be shared or an embargo period is needed
  → ethical, legal, copyright, confidentiality or other clauses
  → some examples: privacy issues, field specific needs or intellectual property issues

• Applicants can also explain in the DMP, if there are any other issues linked to data sharing.
Data Management Plan – structure

1 Data collection and documentation
   1.1 What data will you collect, observe, generate or reuse?
   1.2 How will the data be collected, observed or generated?
   1.3 What documentation and metadata will you provide with the data?

2 Ethics, legal and security issues
   2.1 How will ethical issues be addressed and handled?
   2.2 How will data access and security be managed?
   2.3 How will you handle copyright and Intellectual Property Rights issues?

3 Data storage and preservation
   3.1 How will your data be stored and backed-up during the research?
   3.2 What is your data preservation plan?

4 Data sharing and reuse
   4.1 How and where will the data be shared?
   4.2 Are there any necessary limitations to protect sensitive data?
   4.3 All digital repositories I will choose are conform to the FAIR Data Principles.
   4.4 I will choose digital repositories maintained by a non-profit organisation.
Data Management Plan – life cycle

• A “plausible” DMP is a condition for the release of the funds.

• DMPs are editable. Researchers have the possibility to update the content of their DMP at any time during the funding period of the research project.

• Once SNSF funding has ended and the final scientific report has been approved, the DMP cannot be modified anymore.

• The DMP is shared on P3 (SNSF’s public database) at the end of a project.
Data sharing – principles

• SNSF expects data of a publication to be shared.

• Data needs to be shared as soon as possible, but at the latest at the time of publication of the respective scientific output.

• Additional data can be shared if the researcher wishes to do so.
Data sharing on FAIR repositories

• Repositories need to be digital and conform to the FAIR data principles.

  **FAIR principles**: Standards ensuring that data sets are **Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable**.

• SNSF provides guidelines for assessing the suitability of repositories and examples of suitable repositories.
Data sharing – cost contributions

SNSF contributes to data preparation efforts/services and data uploading costs. Service or repository providers have to be non commercial entities.

- A max cost contribution of CHF 10'000 per grant is installed for
  - data uploading (incl. validating, indexing) and
  - related data preparation costs (prior to and for upload only).
- Limit can be exceeded, if justified.
- Cost contributions for data related to research funded by the SNSF.
- No cost contributions to data downloading and to commercial repositories.
Open Research Data – learning together

• Workshops for best-practice exchange on open research data sharing will be supported within the scientific exchanges instrument.

• Continuously updated information on SNSF website
Contact: **ord@snf.ch**