



Open Research Data

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»

SNSF policy on Open Research Data: implementation

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.

Open Research Data@SNSF: 3 enabling measures

Starting with project funding as of October 1st, 2017

- Submission of data management plans
- Cost contributions
- Best-practice workshops

Data Management Plan – part of submitted project

- A full dynamic 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

- A set of questions researchers are invited to reflect on.
- The questions of the DMP are broad enough to capture the needs of each specific research community. The SNSF only defines minimal standards for its structure and contents.
- Applicants can justify in the DMP, if data cannot be shared due to legal, ethical, copyright, confidentiality or other clauses, or therefore need longer embargo periods
- Applicants can also justify in the DMP, if there are any other problems why the data cannot be shared (for example lack of repositories)

Embargos and protection of sensitive data

- Flexible and reasonable embargo periods can be approved upon request, if they are duly justified in the DMP (ethical, legal, copyright, confidentiality or other clauses like privacy issues, field specific needs and intellectual property issues).
- No extensions of the embargo period are granted for any other reasons than what is stated in the SNSF policy.
- Sensitive data has to be handled in a proper way (for example anonymization, restricted access).

Data Management Plan: sections and sub-sections

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 I will choose digital repositories that conform to the FAIR Data Principles. [CHECK BOX]
- 4.4 I will choose digital repositories maintained by a non-profit organisation. [RADIO BUTTON yes/no]
→ If the answer is no: "Explain why you cannot share your data on a non-commercial digital repository."

Data Management Plan – during the lifetime of a project

- 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 underlying a publication to be shared.
- Data need 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, **A**ccessible, **I**nteroperable and **R**eusable.

- SNSF will provide guidelines for assessing the suitability of repositories and examples of suitable repositories.

** Please note: the previous sentence "Repositories need to conform to the FAIR data principles, digital and not for profit" has been retroactively replaced due to the frequent misinterpretation, that data can only be uploaded to repositories which are not for profit. The criteria "not for profit" needs to be fulfilled only whenever data preparation or data uploading costs shall be covered by SNSF funds. (10.07.2017)*

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

** Please note: the previous sentence "SNSF contributes to costs of data sharing in FAIR, digital, recognized, not for profit repositories" has retroactively been replaced due to the frequent misinterpretations on which cost contributions are eligible by the SNSF. (10.07.2017)*

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**