

## Post Event Report

*Country:* Switzerland

*Place:* Banquettesaal, Bernerhof, Bundesgasse 3, 3003 Bern

*Date:* 8 March 2023

*Format:* In-person

*National Organisers:* Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research (EAER), State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI)

### Executive summary

Switzerland's EOSC National Event, organised by the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) in collaboration with the EOSC Association and celebrated in Bern on 8<sup>th</sup> of March 2023, provided an ideal setting to discuss how to set a common ground for the practice of open and FAIR science across borders and how to increase the collaboration between Switzerland and EOSC. The main Swiss national stakeholders were joined at Bernerhof's Banquettesaal by representatives of the EOSC Association, as members of the Swiss government and research community, and of the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI).

The event showed the will to cooperate at all levels of Swiss and European institutions to advance in making Open Science the new normal. Switzerland's National Open Research Data and Europe's Data strategies, the latter embodied in EOSC, must align to enable this.

### 1. Overview

The main goal of the EOSC National Event Switzerland was to bring together representatives and activities of the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) with Swiss stakeholders from science policy institutions, funding agencies, research performing organisations, service and research infrastructure organisations, in order to further intensify the dialogue on Open Science, to exchange best practices and possibly to promote activities between stakeholders in the field of EOSC or Open Science in Switzerland. The event also contributed to discussing open questions in regard to the implementation of EOSC.

The Swiss scientific community is already active in the European Open Science landscape through e.g. participation in several Task forces of the EOSC Association, cooperation with the EOSC Future project, and the development and use of cloud-native supercomputing and open big data tools—all three activities were showcased at the event, which shows the awareness of the community of the expected benefits of becoming involved in EOSC to advance Open Science and Open Research data in the country. Swiss research infrastructures received special attention as establishing stronger links between European and Swiss initiatives will lead to better long-term funding opportunities as well as tools, services and incentives that would improve the overall perspectives.

Also highlighted at the event was the trust between organisations at all levels (from research institutes to communities and countries) required to enable the process of Open Science to take place, which must be accompanied by a parallel development and implementation of FAIR-compliant policies and adequate investment in training to form competent data stewards and connect with the scientific communities. Recognition of Open Science practices by funding agencies and the wider community is also essential to foster better science. The combination of these ingredients should ultimately translate into a positive contribution to the economy.



## 2. Main highlights<sup>1</sup>

*Provide a summary about the scope and key messages of the presentations.*

Participants discussed the opportunities and challenges brought by Open Science to science and the wider economy. This included talking about its current relationship of Switzerland to the European landscape and about how to ensure its progress and adoption by all stakeholders. As well Switzerland as EOSC Association acknowledged the importance of communication and recognition that science is not bound by borders for the development of Open Science, FAIR science and EOSC

Switzerland made a substantial leap forward with the approval of the National Open Research Data (ORD) Strategy in 2021 and sets the stage to address the next challenges at a global scale by taking part in international initiatives such as EOSC.

## 3. Bilateral collaboration

The event in Switzerland was a bilateral event between Switzerland and the EOSC-Association. The ministry of Switzerland emphasized the importance of collaborating for the development of Open and FAIR Science and the involved Swiss institutes, organisations and projects provided an overview of the Swiss research landscape. Ute Gunsenheimer and Karel Luyben (Secretary General and President of the EOSC Association, respectively) introduced the goals and aims of the EOSC endeavour, highlighting its organisational side, as well as the benefits it is set to bring to scientific disciplines and communities. EOSC's achievements so far and the progress expected for 2023 were also presented.

There was no representative from the EOSC Steering Board or the European Commission, since Switzerland is not an EU member.

## 4. Government level contributions

*Provide a summary of governmental or public authorities' (e.g. funders) key messages related to EOSC or Open Science national policies*

Martina Hirayama, Swiss State Secretary for Education, Research and Innovation, stressed the need for collaboration and cooperation between Switzerland and the EU to make Open Science a reality.

## 5. Relevant quotes

The challenges of OpenScience can by nature only be solved in a common coordinated effort, which makes collaboration so important.

Martina Hirayama, State Secretary @SBFI\_CH

Connecting the Swiss research landscape with the European system is a chance to link to the developments made at a European level in terms of data, datasharing and infrastructures.@LucianaVaccaro\_@hes\_so

Alignment is crucial to help bring costs down. For example, storage of data with this growing amount is in some cases taking as much energy as running the system. We need to focus on how to align our strategies and how to keep data alive sustainably.

@kolarjana @ESFRI\_Leu

Before EOSC different projects and disciplines were all going their own way. EOSC put them in the same bucket and also gives visibility to end users. It brings the FAIR principles into real day to day, concrete elements that are of value for the users. For CERN this meant bringing

<sup>1</sup> Include the link to the website where presentations are available

data from related but different disciplines and being able to analyse them while being linked to a different data source.

@BobJonesAtCERN @CERN

Open Research Data #ORD brings together different actors with different actions but the same goals through the national strategy council. They focus on four action areas:

(1) communities and adopting practices, (2) infrastructure and services, (3) skills and best practices, (4) framework conditions.

Gilles Dubochet, Chair of the Coordination Group of the ORD Strategy Council

## 6. Future plans and actions<sup>2</sup>

The Swiss partners will develop an Action Plan to implement the National Open Research Data Strategy along the following action areas: communities and (adopting) practices, infrastructure and services, skills and best practices, and framework conditions. The skills building area includes the provision of research data management training from the PhD level to experienced researchers.

To foster the progress of Open Science, Swiss and European decision makers must continue to support research infrastructures through long-term funding programs that ensure their sustainability. Swiss institutions share the same problems as the RIs part of the ESFRI programme, and similar solutions should be developed and adopted on both sides.

All actors involved in the Open Science endeavour, from the scientific community to politicians, must use the current momentum and seize the opportunity to make it the new normal. Increased cooperation with EOSC will contribute to align Swiss and European initiatives.

## 7. Use cases or practices

Showcases of EOSC Projects in Switzerland:

1. Material Cloud: curated and FAIR data. Cloud-native supercomputing and open big data tools, the Material Cloud manages the workflow to the operational work to make data easy to access. The Material cloud sets a bar of what should be operational in EOSC.
2. SWITCH Swiss National Science Foundation. Swiss data Science Center (SDSC): SWITCH adopted a community driven approach early on and learned the importance of sharing experience and competence. Participation in EOSC Task Forces is important to bring attention to technical challenges using a common approach where different institutions can be part of the development of a shared solution.
3. EOSC Future & CERN: Before EOSC different projects and disciplines were all going in their own direction. EOSC provides space to put all of them together and gives visibility to the end users. It brings the DAIR principles into real day to day, concrete elements that are of value for the users. For CERN this meant bringing data from related but other disciplines into the projects and being able to analyse this while it being linked to a different data source.

Showcase of ORD Projects Switzerland

- ACE, BFE and the vertical garden: use cases on breaking data silos in different projects

<sup>2</sup> If you have access to that information, indicate short term objectives (two years' time) for EOSC development in the **country** and dissemination strategy related to the tripartite event.

- LiRi: ORD practices within the linguistic community
- ORD in life science: model archive pilot

## 8. Main indicators

### 8.1 Indicators organisation event

*Official name of the event:* Switzerland EOSC National Event

*Start and end date:* 8 March 2023

*Thematic profile:*

Open Science in Europe and Switzerland: "What is needed from which actors to spur Open Science in Europe and Switzerland?"

State of play of EOSC and the ORD Strategy.

"How to move open access and open research data forward in Swiss Research Infrastructures? What can EOSC do to help?"

"How to move open access and open research data forward in Swiss Universities? What can EOSC do to help spur the interoperability?"

How should we approach the final steps towards Open Science?

*Target audience:* Swiss scientific community, universities, research infrastructures, service providers, and policymakers.

### 8.2 Profile of participants

*Total number of participants:* Around 100, 93 registered

*In-person:* Around 100, 93 registered

*Virtual (online):* -

*Gender (%):* Male: \_\_\_\_\_ Female: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

*Not asked in registration*

### 8.3 Type of participants affiliation

*From registered participants list*

*Research Performing Organisations:* 52 (number of participants)

*Research Funding Organisations:* 7

*Service providing Organisations:* 6

*Libraries:* \_\_\_\_\_ (no libraries were indicated as separate institutions, but they were represented by the universities attending)

*Public administration (governmental/national organisations and initiatives, can also be funding organisations but counted as public administration):* 17

*Others:* 7

*Unclear:* 2

### 8.4 Sectors (Optional)

*Identify from the participants registration form and the attendance list, which sectors were present in your event (e.g. Health, Education, ...)*

#### *8.5 EU HE INFRAEOSC funded projects, dataspace or other partnerships participation*

European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI)

EOSC Future

e-IRG

### **9. Programme and List of organisations that participated at the National Tripartite Event**



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Economic Affairs,  
Education and Research EAER  
**State Secretariat for Education,  
Research and Innovation SERI**  
International Research and Innovation Programmes



## EOSC National Event Switzerland

8 March 2023, 08:30 am – 3.30 pm

Banquettesaal, Bernerhof, Bundesgasse 3, 3003 Bern

### Programme

08:30 – 09:00	Arrival of guests	
09:00 – 09:10	Welcome Speech	<b>Martina Hirayama</b> , State Secretary of the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research, and Innovation, SERI
09:10 – 09:50	<b>High-Level Panel Discussion on Open Science in Europe and Switzerland:</b> „What is needed from which actors to spur Open Science in Europe and Switzerland? “.	<b>Matthias Egger</b> , President of the National Research Council at the Swiss National Science Foundation SNSF (pending)  <b>Martina Hirayama</b> , State Secretary of the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research, and Innovation, SERI  <b>Jana Kolar</b> , Chair of the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures, ESFRI  <b>Karel Luyben</b> , President of the EOSC Association  <b>Lucciana Vaccaro</b> , President of swissuniversities (pending) and Rector of the University of Applied Sciences Western Switzerland, HES-SO  <b>Martin Vetterli</b> , President of the ORD Strategy Council and Rector of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne, EPFL (pending)
09:50 – 11:00	<b>State of Play EOSC</b>  – EOSC Governance – EOSC Association – Showcases of EOSC Projects in Switzerland and short interviews.  After the discussion there will be a short Q&A session for the audience.	<b>Karel Luyben</b> , President of the EOSC Association  <b>Ute Gunsenheimer</b> , Secretary General of the EOSC Association  <b>Switch Spokesperson</b>  <b>Representatives Showcases</b>
11:00 – 11:15	Break	
11:15 – 12:00	<b>State of Play ORD Strategy</b>  Overview of the ORD Strategy – Showcase of ORD Projects Switzerland  After the discussion there will be a short Q&A session for the audience.	<b>Jean Marc Pivteau</b> , Rector of the Zurich University of Applied Sciences, ZHAW and former president of the ORD-Strategy Council (pending)  <b>Olivier Verscheure</b> , Executive Director of the Swiss Data Science Center, SDSC (pending)  <b>Gilles Dubochet</b> , Chair of the Coordination Group of the ORD Strategy Council, EPFL

## Representatives Showcases

12:00 – 13:15 Standing Lunch

13:15 – 13:20 **Intro to the afternoon sessions from provider to user:**

13:20 – 14:10 **Panel Discussion:**

"How to move open access and open research data forward in Swiss Research Infrastructures? What can EOSC do to help?"

After the discussion there will be a short →A session for the audience.

**Katrin Crameri**, Director of the Personalized Health Informatics (PHI) Group at the Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics, SIB

**Mirjam van Daalen**, Head of Communications, Paul Scherrer Institute, PSI and former Chair of the ESFRI-EOSC Taskforce

**Bob Jones**, senior member of the scientific staff at CERN, coordinator for the award-winning Helix Nebula Science Cloud Pre-Commercial Procurement contributing to the EOSC

**Jana Kolar**, Chair of the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures, ESFRI

**Georg Lutz**, Director of Fors

**Karel Luyben**, President of the EOSC Association

14:15 – 14:25 Break

14:25 – 15:10 **Panel Discussion:**

"How to move open access and open research data forward in Swiss Universities? What can EOSC do to help spur the interoperability?"

After the discussion there will be a short Q&A session for the audience.

**Gilles Dubochet**, Chair of the Coordination Group of the ORD Strategy Council, EPFL

**Stephan Kuster**, Head of Institutional Relations at Frontiers

**Karel Luyben**, President of the EOSC Association

**Katrin Milzow**, Head of Strategy, Swiss National Science Foundation, SNSF (pending)

**Ariane Studer/ Rahel Imobersteg**, swissuniversities

**Beat Immenhauser**, Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences (pending)

15:10 – 15:25 **Concluding remarks**

How should we approach the final steps towards Open Science?

**Philipp Langer**, Head of International Research and Innovation Programmes at the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research, and Innovation, SERI