Open Science Call
ETH Domain Open Research Data (ORD) Program

Information Session - Explore Track
11 January 2024
Content

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- Overview of 2$^{nd}$ Explore call
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Introduction to ETH Domain Open Research Data (ORD) program
Open Science practices are becoming a prevalent paradigm in academic research.

ORD at the core of Open Science.

Increase visibility and the impact of research within the scientific community & society as a whole.

https://ethrat.ch/en/eth-domain/open-research-data/
ETH Domain Open Research Data Program

- Leading role ETH Domain ORD Program.
- Five Measures to foster & improve ORD practices.
ORD Program’s Five Measures

Measure 1: Calls for Field-Specific Actions

Measure 2: Coordination of Access to Research Data Management (RDM) Services & Infrastructures

Measure 3: Development of Online Course Material for RDM Training

Measure 4: Information on Legal Questions related to ORD

Measure 5: Career Paths for ORD Professionals
ORD Program’s Governance Structure

- The **ORD Steering Committee** is responsible for the whole program.
- The **Expert Groups** implement the Measures.
- The **Expert Group Research (EG-R): evaluation panel for Measure 1.**
Overview of 2\textsuperscript{nd} Explore call
Measure 1: Calls for Field-Specific Actions

- To **support ETH researchers** to engage in and develop ORD practices & **to become ORD leaders** in their fields.

- To **strengthen the connections** between research communities and services & infrastructures providers (in synergy with Measure 2).

- Preference will be given to projects which engage and are connected to a **community**.
**Measure 1: Tracks & Status**

**Explore – Track A (projects of up to 18 months):**
- 1st call (2022): 13 projects selected & started.
- 2nd & **final call** currently open.

**Establish – Track B (projects of up to 36 months):**
- 1st & only call (2022): 2 projects selected & started.

**Contribute - Track C (projects of up to 12 months):**
- Six calls (2022-23): 37 projects selected & started or starting soon.
- **Last two calls in 2024**, expected to be launched by mid-February and by end of June. Calls to stay open around two months.

**List of selected projects:**
Explore Track: Aims

- Exploring, prototyping, building up ORD practices, which could foster and improve research capabilities and support communities.

- Paving the way, inside and outside the ETH Domain for ORD practices sustainable in the future and with potential to be adopted in many research and societal communities.
**Explore Track: Overview**

- **Call deadline:** 29 February 2024 (17:00)
- **Up to CHF 150 000**
  - Total cost of the project
- **Up to 18 months**
  - Start within 6 months of approval
- **One applicant or consortium of multiple applicants**
- **ETH Domain contribution:**
  - 50% of total budget
- **Decision:**
  - Around 4 months after deadline

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**OPEN SCIENCE CALL – ETH DOMAIN ORD PROGRAM**
Explore Track: Eligibility of applicant(s)

- **One applicant OR consortium** of multiple applicants.

- All applicants must be **employed by an ETH Domain institution** (ETHZ, EPFL, PSI, Empa, EAWAG, WSL) during project duration.

- **No restrictions on consortia (led by one “main” applicant):** they can be composed by applicants of one or multiple ETH Domain institutions; no limits on the number of applicants from the same institution.

- No restrictions on applicants with a project under the previous 1st call of Explore and/or other Measure 1 tracks.

- Involved lab(s)/group(s)/unit(s) commit to **make the necessary infrastructure** available to ensure the delivery of the project.

- **Each institution’s guidelines** may define additional requirements, so – if partnering with different institutions – eligibility guidelines may differ.
Explore Track: Application documents

- **Online application platform** to fill out, including ethics checklist.
- Project proposal (max. 12 pages, excluding bibliography) with budget.
- CV with major achievements (SNSF format).
- Support letter(s) if applicable: for any applicants who are **not a lab/group/unit leader** and/or who **have fixed-term contracts**.
- Support letter from the institution: for any applicants from **Research Institutes** (not needed for EPFL & ETHZ applicants).
- Links to templates for project proposal and support letters available via application platform or via application guidelines.
- **Each institution’s guidelines** may define additional requirements.
Match funding model:
- 50% contribution by ETH Domain (e.g. 75k if overall project budget is 150k)
- 50% from within institution (in-cash and/or in-kind)

Each institution has a different approach:
- EPFL Open Science funding (budget fully covered)
- ETHZ (25% applicant + 25% ETHZ central funding)
- See institutional guidelines for the RIs

Instalments / reporting:
- 1st instalment: 90% of budget at start
- Intermediate report one month after month 9 (except for projects lasting 12 months only)
- 2nd instalment: up to 10% of budget at end, upon receipt of final report and on basis of actual costs
Potentially eligible costs (non-exhaustive list):

- Costs linked with exploring an ORD practice only (i.e. research costs are NOT eligible).
- Subcontracting costs of no more than 20%.
- If an ORD platform is newly developed or extended as part of the project: its operating costs only until the end of the project.
- Travel costs & fees (e.g. conferences).
- Costs for the organization of conferences and workshops.
- Open access publication costs IF they cannot be financed by other means.
- See also each institution’s guidelines.

Non-eligible costs (non-exhaustive list):

- Salaries of applicants: they may be ineligible in some institutions.
- Costs already funded by a third party (these costs do not qualify as in-kind or in-cash contributions either).
- Costs related to a platform that duplicates features of an existing platform in the ETH Domain or a standard platform in use in the community.
- Any research costs (e.g. data production/collection and analysis, research software/hardware development).
- For consortiums, transfer of allocated funds between institutions after approval is generally not possible.
- See also each institution’s guidelines.
**Weighted criteria:**
- Excellence of ORD Practice – Weight = 0.3
- Impact on Community – Weight = 0.4
- Implementation – Weight = 0.3

**Evaluation:**
- External reviewers scoring
- EG-R rapporteurs + meeting
- Final decision by ORD Steering Committee
Evaluation and Selection Process Timeline

2nd call for applications
- 2nd call for applications: 5 Oct 2023 – 29 Feb 2024
- Eligibility checks
- Scoring by external reviewers
- EG-R rapporteur & meeting

Final decision by ORD Steering Committee & notifications to applicants
- Final decision by ORD: Around end of June 2024
- Notifications to applicants: Summer 2024 – January 2025

Start of the projects
Further information

- Application guidelines & link to application platform: https://ethrat.ch/en/measure-1-calls-for-field-specific-actions/

- Open Research Data Portal – in the pipeline & coming in near future

- For general queries: research@epfl.ch.

Institutional guidelines (links also in application guidelines):

- EAWAG: https://www.internal.eawag.ch/de/rechtsgrundlagen/weisungen-interne-regelungen/weisungen/2022/23-07/
- EMPA: https://www.empa.ch/group/empa/intranet
- PSI: https://intranet.psi.ch/en/ord
- WSL: https://intra.wsl.ch/de/direktion/calls-der-direktion/open-research-data-practices
Thank you