

Swiss Reproducibility Network: From Good to Better Research

The Swiss Reproducibility Network (SwissRN) is a peer-led consortium that aims to promote and ensure rigorous research practices in Switzerland by

- establishing targeted training activities,
- developing and evaluating research improvement efforts,
- disseminating best practice,
- engaging with stakeholders to coordinate efforts across the sector.

SwissRN is led by a steering committee aiming for broad disciplinary representation and an intensive interdisciplinary dialogue in order to include all empirical disciplines in its goal to improve reproducibility.

The core of SwissRN activities happens at the local nodes, the working groups, and the academy of the network. **Local Nodes** are self-organizing groups of researchers and staff interested in issues of research reproducibility and improvement. Local node activities may include cross-disciplinary journal clubs, Open Science working groups, peer groups for research proposal review etc. Each local node has a leader who is the point of contact for SwissRN.

Members from different local nodes, some of the stakeholders, and members of the advisory board collaborate in **Working Groups**, in which they are proposing and carrying out concrete projects on specific topics, e.g. Preregistration and Registered Reports, Research Assessment and Incentives, Replication Studies, Research Methodology, Training, Computational Reproducibility, Open Research Data.

PhDs, Postdocs and students can join the **Academy** of the network, which is a group of early career researchers from Swiss institutions who are interested in reproducibility, metascience, good research practices, and transparency. Their goal is to create a national network among young researchers from various fields and backgrounds, that enables interdisciplinary dialogue and collaboration in order to improve the quality of science by sharing knowledge of reproducible research.

Research institutions can join the SwissRN as **Institutional Members** to support the aims of the network. The corresponding local node leader is the primary SwissRN contact person for the responsible member of the senior management. Institutional membership does require a contribution

to SwissRN (see membership model below)¹. Internal support of local node activities (either in-kind or financially) is highly encouraged and counts to the membership fee. Currently, the Universities of Basel, Bern, Fribourg, Geneva and Zurich, the Università della Svizzera Italiana, the FernUni Schweiz / UniDistance Suisse, the Zurich University of Applied Sciences and ETH Zurich are institutional members of SwissRN.

SwissRN is supported by stakeholders through the **Stakeholder Engagement Group**. This ensures that SwissRN activities are aligned with the strategy and activities of the stakeholders, and allows the exchange of ideas on new initiatives from the research community. Potential stakeholders include funders (both governmental and charity), learned societies and other non-profit organizations that are part of the academic environment. To become a member of the Stakeholder Engagement Group, an organization has to provide direct financial support or support in kind to SwissRN and is required to agree to the mission and values of SwissRN. The Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences, the Swiss Centre of Expertise in the Social Sciences (FORS), and the Swiss Psychological Society are currently stakeholders of SwissRN.

Advantages of Institutional Membership

- **Have a say in strategic decisions of SwissRN**
Institutional members can propose a representative in the SwissRN Steering Committee. Members of the Steering Committee represent SwissRN in national and international boards, councils, working groups etc.
- **Access to the Swiss and international RN knowledge networks**
Researchers of institutional members benefit from mandated interaction, access to committees, and first-hand knowledge exchanges with national and international experts on Reproducible Research and Open Science topics and state-of-the-art best practice development.
- **Priority participation in transdisciplinary, national and international research projects**
Researchers of institutional members have priority to participate in national and international projects coordinated by SwissRN members across disciplines and organizations on topics such as reproducibility, preregistration, open research data etc.

¹ This will take effect as of 1.1.2024.

- **Priority access to training opportunities on rigorous, transparent and reproducible research**

SwissRN develops course material and promotes training opportunities for students and early career researchers to advance rigorous, transparent and reproducible (RTR) research practices. Students and researchers from institutional members are given priority access.

Eligibility for institutional membership

SwissRN aims to be open to any research institution based in Switzerland. This includes universities, universities of applied sciences, universities of teacher education, public and privately funded research organizations and institutes.

Membership fee

The annual fee for institutional members can be cash or in-kind (e.g. personnel resources for local node activities or SwissRN projects) and direct financial funding of the local node is taken into account. The fee depends on the size of the institution (for higher education institutions: based on the number of students).

Type of institution	Annual Fee Institutional Membership
HEI with more than 10'000 students	CHF 10'000
HEI with up to 10'000 students	CHF 5'000
HEI with up to 5'000 students	CHF 2'000
Other research institutions	tbd on individual basis (minimal fee: CHF 2'000)