Country Report Switzerland
The Swiss Way: slow, consolidated and steady

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Open Access: Policy Phases

2006-2015
• Laissez-faire with early adopters/frontrunners

Nov. 2015
• Turning point with mandate of State Secretariat

2015-2016
• Elaboration of National Strategy and Financial Flow analysis

2017
• Action plan and implementation
Swiss political system and actors

Federal and cantonal competencies for higher education institutes:

• Limited authority of State Secretariat to give directives
• Limited implementation power of swissuniversities as an umbrella organisation of HEIs
• Leverage effect of SNSF as a funding organisation

Involvement of all federal and cantonal stakeholders necessary to reach consensus and enduring solutions!
Initial Situation in Switzerland

The SNSF has an OA Policy since 2008/2014

- 2006: Berlin Declaration
- 2008: Obligation to self-archive publications
- 2013: Direct funding of gold OA articles
- 2014: Revision of funding scheme for book publication
- 2015: Start of Project OAPEN

Big differences between OA-Policies of HEIs
No concerted actions to foster transition to OA
## Turning point

Mandate from the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) for swissuniversities and the SNSF to elaborate:

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<th>National Open Access Strategy</th>
<th>Financial Flow Analysis</th>
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<td>• Promote OA as overriding <strong>goal</strong></td>
<td>• Study Swiss scientific publishing</td>
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<td>• Foster stakeholder <strong>coordination</strong></td>
<td>• Create <strong>transparency</strong></td>
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<td>• Create a <strong>vision</strong></td>
<td>• Analyse which <strong>OA economic model</strong> would best support a full OA transition in Switzerland</td>
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Financial Flow Analysis

Method

- Data collection among all Swiss HEIs, the academies and the SNSF
- Cross-checks according Swiss public statistics and bibliographic analyses
- Economic modelling of diverse OA models in the perspective of a full OA transition by 2024 (10 years)

What have we learned?
In 2015, Swiss HEIs spent CHF 76 mio on publications:

- 70 mio CHF in subscription fees
- 6 Mio CHF in publication costs
- + 2 mio were spent on infrastructure supporting OA
Financial Flow Analysis

**Switzerland is a big research consumer**

Transition costs mainly depend on the evolution of other countries

Costs for a full OA transition: from savings of 2 mio CHF up to 42 mio CHF extra costs per year
Recommendations

• Model: Mixed Gold and Blue OA
• Improve quality of data
• National strategy and action plan required
• Continue to be active in international discussions on OA
• Demonstrate leadership
• Costs: impact as function of bargaining power of Swiss institutions
• Costs: Acting in a concerted fashion may reduce costs
• Infrastructure to facilitate OA needs to be developed
Further Appreciation of the Results

• The scenarios include a continuation of the present subscription costs. It is up to debate whether Swiss researchers really need all this content.

• The financial impact of a transition to OA is in relation to the costs for the present subscriptions relatively small. Hence, a transition to OA could also be cost-neutral if subscription costs are reduced.

• 30% of articles produced annually in Switzerland originate (at least partially) from SNSF funding. Therefore, the SNSF OA-Policy is considered to have a large impact in Switzerland.
National Strategy: Set Up

State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation
SERI

Swiss National Science Foundation
SNSF

Swissuniversities

Strategic Planning Delegation

Libraries

Working group

Swiss National Strategy on Open Access

Approval by swissuniversities Board on December 14th 2016
Approval by the Swiss Conference of HEIs in February 2017
National Strategy: Process

- Nomination of working group with most important stakeholders
- Elaboration of national strategy
- Pre-consultation of strategic partners: SNSF, SWIR, SERI, EDK, Academies, Libraries
- Adaptation of national strategy by working group
- Recommendation by SNSF
- Formal consultation of rectorats
- Adaptation of national strategy by the board of swissuniversities
- Ratification of national strategy in the plenary assembly of swissuniversities
- Transfer of national strategy to SERI and Swiss Conference of HEIs.
National Strategy: Guiding Principles

✓ Powerful and unified approach

✓ Support and commitment from research communities

✓ Cost transparency and cost neutrality

✓ Ascertaining control and diversity of the scientific production process

✓ Revision of quality assessment system
National Strategy: Vision

EU objectives as a benchmark

• 100% of scholarly publications OA by 2020

Objectives for Switzerland

• 100% of all scholarly publication activity in Switzerland should be OA by 2024

• 100% scholarly publications funded by public money must be freely accessible on the internet.

• Landscape with a mix of OA models
Concrete action items

1. **Adopting** and **aligning** OA policies
2. **Negotiations** with publishers
3. **Coordinating** and pooling resources
4. Alternative **forms of publishing**
5. **Communicating** and raising awareness
6. Supportive **regulatory framework**
   - Creation of an unconditional right of second publication (Copyright Act)
   - Ensure that text and data mining (TDM) is secured at no extra charge
7. **National Monitoring** of OA activities
Implementation

• Feb’-June 2017: **Elaboration of action plan**
  • Coordination by swissuniversities with the support of the program «scientific information»
  • Workshop with the different stakeholders (HEIs, libraries, funding agencies) in spring 2017
  • Consultation of the rectorates in June 2017

• November 2017: **Approval of action plan** at Swiss Conference of Higher Education Institutions (university council)

• Jan’ 2017: **National Conference on Open Access**
The Swiss Way

Inclusion of all major and strategic partners

- Difficult to maintain ambitious goals
- Complicated and lengthy process

Once a consensus is reached

- Commitment of all stakeholders is assured
- Action items can be quickly developed and jointly implemented

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