

As an emerging profile, the role of Data Steward is becoming increasingly important in the landscape of research data management support in Swiss academic institutions. Data Stewards play an expert role in research data management and open data, while dealing with many issues related to data protection, security, ethics, documentation, archiving, sharing, etc.

Today, this role is often filled by researchers from the relevant research fields, by computer scientists or by information science specialists. Most of these Data Stewards do not currently have a recognized qualification. UNIL, together with seven other partner institutions, will implement a CAS (Certificate of Advanced Studies) in Data Stewardship as part of the SwissDS-ENV project.

This educational program will allow a better recognition of this emerging profile, while strengthening its skills and offering a new career opportunity in the field of scientific research. It will be based on a grid of desired competencies and skills and will allow the federation of a community of practice at the Swiss level.

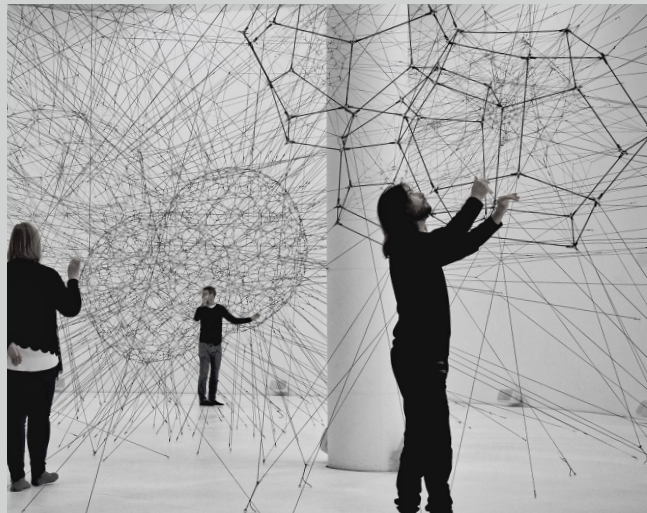


Image by Paul Henri Degrande from Pixabay

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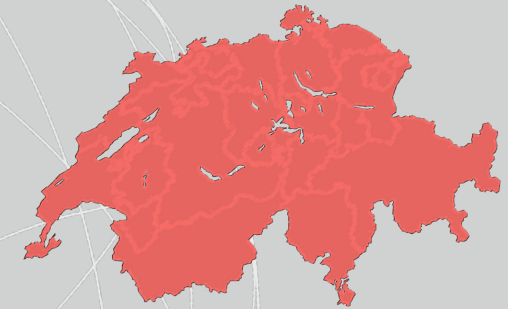
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Zürcher Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften



Swiss Data Stewardship Environment Profile - Training - Network (SwissDS-ENV)



- Université de Lausanne – **UNIL** (lead)
- Université de Genève – **UNIGE**
- Universität Zürich – **UZH**
- Zürcher Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften – **ZHAW**
- Haute école de gestion Genève – **HEG GE//HESSO**
- Haute école pédagogique Vaud – **HEP VD**
- Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics – **SIB**
- Swiss Centre of Expertise in the Social Sciences – **FORS**

ACTION 1

Data Stewardship: definition & profiles

Objectives

- Formalize a common language and definition of Data Stewardship and related profiles : *Data Librarian, Data Archivist, Data Curator, Data Scientist, etc.*
- Establish a grid of competences and skills (professional, methodological, personal and social) of a *Data Steward*
- Determine two profiles: generalist (transversal) and disciplinary (SHS - Life Science).

Action plan

- Elaboration of a glossary, definitions, terms used in the field
- Identifying the required competences and skills
- Creation of a skills and competences reference framework
- Drafting a functional specification for *Data Stewards*



ACTION 2

Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) in Data Stewardship

Objectives

- Establish an innovative and permanent training program to provide universities with *Data Stewards* to meet the expectations of the scientific community and national and international requirements.
- Create a pool of highly qualified people in different research fields and/or information science specialists to support researchers in managing research data throughout its lifecycle.
- Provide a new certified professional orientation for researchers, information science specialists and people with an IT background.

Action plan

- Establishing an education plan (teaching objectives, educational strategies, evaluation methods, etc.)
- Creation of a Scientific Committee to accompany the education program
- Development of transversal and transdisciplinary modules: Social Sciences, Life Sciences and specific modules (data types, format, etc.)
- Establishing a regulation, an inter-institutional study programme and an agreement between the education providers



ACTION 3

Swiss Data Stewardship Network (SDSNet)

Objectives

- Formalize and coordinate a network of future and current *Data Stewards* and Data Stewardship professionals (including teachers).
- Enable the exchange of good practices and experiences, the development of know-how and synergies to meet the requirements of data management and openness of research data.
- Provide a platform for exchange and collaboration for other audiences involved in research data management.

Action plan

- Establishing the list of people involved in research data management in Switzerland
- Development of the objectives, composition and mandate of SDSNet
- Analysis of the necessary legal form and statutes
- Development of Code of deontology and the network member's commitment

