DARIAH-CH Consortium Agreement

for the period 2025-2028

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Preamble

Digital Research Infrastructure for the Arts and Humanities, DARIAH for short, is a pan-European distributed digital research infrastructure that aims to enhance and support digitally enabled research and teaching across the arts and humanities. DARIAH is a network of people, expertise, information, knowledge, content, methods, tools, and technologies from its member countries. DARIAH's vision is that the Arts and Humanities are anchored at the center of a technologically evolving knowledge society. DARIAH's mission is to empower research communities with digital methods to create, connect, and share knowledge about culture and society.

To enable Switzerland's participation in DARIAH, the DARIAH-CH consortium was founded in 2018 by several Swiss institutions with the support of the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences SAHSS. Over the years, the consortium agreement was renewed several times. The current agreement is the third one and replaces the previous one, starting on 1 January 2025. It runs until 31 December 2028.

The Consortium Agreement and the DARIAH-CH Statutes shall be used as complementing documents, and the DARIAH-CH Statutes are an integral part of the Consortium Agreement.

Partnership Agreement

Section 1 Mission

1. As stated in the DARIAH-CH Statutes, section 1, the mission of the DARIAH-CH Consortium is to build an active and impactful national network to enhance and support digitally enabled research and teaching across the arts and humanities.

Section 2 Basic principles

1. The members shall establish a simple partnership pursuant to Art. 530 of the Swiss Code of Obligations (Consortium) by signing this partnership agreement, governed by the DARIAH-CH Statutes.
2. As regulated in Section 2, point 1, of the DARIAH-CH Statutes, DARIAH-CH consists of a Representing Entity, a National Representative, a National Coordinating Institution, a National Coordinator, and a National Consortium of Swiss institutions.
3. The DARIAH-CH Consortium comprises the Swiss institutions who sign this Consortium Agreement. The representatives of the DARIAH-CH Consortium constitute the DARIAH-CH Board.
4. The DARIAH-CH Consortium pursues the common goal of organising DARIAH-CH in Switzerland, as regulated in the DARIAH-CH Statutes, Section 3.
5. For the period 2021-2028, the Swiss National Data and Service Centre for the Humanities (DaSCH) is the Coordinating Institution of DARIAH-CH.
6. The costs triggered by operating DARIAH-CH are covered by the Swiss National Science Foundation SNSF, as regulated in the Service Level Agreement with DaSCH until 2028.
7. The fees for membership in DARIAH ERIC are covered by SERI.

Section 3 Objectives

1. In relation to the mission of the DARIAH-CH consortium (see Section 1: Mission), the objectives of DARIAH-CH for the period 2025-2028 are:
   1) Actively contribute to DARIAH-EU by sharing data, services, education, and training materials.
   2) Build and maintain an internationally distributed infrastructure for the arts and humanities to process research data in the spirit of Open Science.

3) Strengthen digital approaches in the arts and humanities concerning training, teaching, and research.
4) Implement national Working Groups to address scientific and infrastructural issues at stake and promote Swiss scholars' participation in international DARIAH Working Groups.
5) Monitor Swiss research policies and cooperation with similar national consortia in the Social Science and Humanities area, as well as with the national EOSC initiative.
6) Enhance the liaison to the cultural heritage sector and promote cooperation.

2. To reach these above-mentioned objectives, dedicated task forces will be created to work in line with the lines of action provided in the Annex.

Section 4 Members, admission, and withdrawal

1. To join the Consortium, members need to adhere to the mission of the Consortium, agree with its Statutes, and sign this Consortium Agreement.
2. Members of DARIAH-CH may be Swiss institutions, as regulated in the DARIAH-CH Statutes, section 4.
3. The admission and withdrawal of members are regulated in the DARIAH-CH Statutes, Section 4.

Section 5 Rights, responsibilities, and benefits of consortium members

1. The rights and responsibilities of the members of the DARIAH-CH Consortium are regulated in the DARIAH-CH Statutes, Section 5.
2. By participating in DARIAH-EU, Switzerland has the following benefits:
   1) increased involvement in European research and infrastructure programs and projects in the areas of digital arts and digital humanities, as well as Open Science;
   2) participation in the strategic bodies of DARIAH;
   3) clustering effect for communities by establishing a national coordination office;
   4) exchange of know-how in digital methods and infrastructures for the arts and humanities;
   5) higher visibility for successful national digital arts and digital humanities on a European level.
3. By participating in DARIAH-CH, Swiss institutions have the following benefits:
   1) increased opportunity to be involved in national and European research and infrastructure programs and projects in the areas of digital arts and digital humanities, as well as Open Science;
   2) increased opportunity to play an active role in the national digital arts and digital humanities scientific community, which is gathered around common and shared aims, resources, and infrastructures;

3) increased opportunity to exchange know-how in digital methods and infrastructures for the arts and humanities in Switzerland and beyond.

Section 6 Governance and functioning

1. The governance of DARIAH-CH is ensured by the DARIAH-CH Board, the National Coordinator and the Chair of the Consortium, as regulated in the DARIAH-CH Statutes, Section 6.
2. For the period 2021-2028, the director of DaSCH, which is the National Coordinating Institution of the DARIAH-CH consortium, acts as National Coordinator.
3. The functioning of the DARIAH-CH Consortium is regulated in the DARIAH-CH Statutes, Section 7.

Section 7: Intellectual Property and Open Science

1. The rights to works protected by copyright (publication) remain with the author in accordance with article 15 Regulations on secondary employment, agreements with third parties and the exploitation of intellectual property in the context of university activities. The rights to computer programs developed as part of research projects at a Swiss higher education institution remain with the institution itself and their rectorates.
2. DARIAH-CH is fully committed to Open Science, and thus encourages all consortium members and their researchers to live up to this commitment to the extent possible by publishing software under open source licences (such as the MIT License, the GNU General Public License (GPL), the BSD Licence, or the GNU Lesser General Public License) and content under a free copyright licence (such as the CreativeCommons Attribution (CC BY) or the CreativeCommons Attribution-ShareAlike (CC BY-SA) licences).

Section 8: Data Protection

1. DARIAH-CH Coordination Office adheres to the DaSCH Privacy Policy. DARIAH-CH Office processes personal data in compliance with the European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Swiss Data Protection Act (DPA), insofar as these laws are applicable, with appropriate technical and organisational measures. The General Data Protection Regulation only applies if its conditions of application are met, otherwise, Swiss data protection law applies exclusively. This general privacy policy applies to all our online offerings (websites, social media presences, etc.).

2. The Consortium members must process personal data under any project related to DARIAH-CH in compliance with applicable data protection laws. Each Consortium member represents and warrants that any personal data required for use in a project related to DARIAH-CH that is obtained, handled, or used by it will be obtained, handled, or used in accordance with all relevant laws and regulations (and where applicable, ethical guidelines) regarding their collection and use.

Section 9: Applicable law and jurisdiction

1. This Consortium Agreement and the respective rights and obligations of the members shall be governed exclusively by Swiss law.
2. Disputes in relation to this Consortium Agreement shall be submitted to the exclusive jurisdiction of the competent courts at the defendant's registered office in Switzerland.

Section 10 Start and end of the agreement

1. The agreement will come into force on January 1st, 2025, and is limited until December 31st, 2028.
2. As stated in Section 8 of the DARIAH-CH Statutes, the duration of DARIAH-CH is bound to the existence of the DARIAH-CH Consortium, which should have at least two members who sign the Consortium Agreement. The Consortium Agreement is renewed every four years for an indefinite period.
3. Amendments or additions to the Consortium Agreement require a two-thirds majority of the Consortium members.
4. The members of the DARIAH-CH Board may update the Annexes without constituting an amendment of the Consortium Agreement.

The English version of this contract is legally binding. Translations in other languages serve information purposes only.

The Consortium Agreement ends here.

DARIAH-CH

Annex 1: Signatures of Consortium members

One page per institution

By signing this document, the signatory acknowledges that they have read and agree with the DARIAH-CH Statues and Consortium Agreement.

Name of institution:
University of Bern

Bern, 14 June 2024

Name of signatory:
Christian Leumann
Rector of the University of Bern

DARIAH-CH

Annex 2: Lines of action for 2025-2028

1. The lines of action defined below are the means decided by the consortium to reach its mission, as stated in Section 1 of the Statutes and the present Consortium Agreement, and objectives, as stated in Section 4 of the present Consortium Agreement, during the period 2025-2028.
2. Lines of action relative to Objective 1 - *Actively contribute to DARIAH-EU by sharing data, services, education, and training materials*:
   a) Focus on communities and user communities to create and promote a sense of sharing.
   b) Proactively identify which data, services, education, and training materials could be shared at the European level and facilitate the sharing and dissemination process.
3. Lines of action relative to Objective 2 - *Build and maintain an internationally distributed infrastructure for the arts and humanities to process research data in the spirit of Open Science*:
   a) An "infrastructure for the arts and humanities" is defined as follows: an infrastructure that serves the needs of arts and humanities, produces, enriches, stores data, sustainably offers service, and (potentially) open to Swiss-based scholars. Given the history of the DARIAH-CH consortium, the focus is on the arts and humanities with the willingness to coordinate and integrate with infrastructures of adjacent sectors (e.g., cultural and cultural heritage sectors).
   b) The common infrastructure shall be developed according to the requirements of existing technology standards and best practices and allow for the easiest possible data production and reuse.
   c) The common infrastructure shall consist of:
      - DaSCH[1] who has the mandate to archive and preserve complex Humanities data.
      - Other national discipline-specific infrastructures cooperating in a federalist way concerning funding, provision of services to the scientific community, training and education, and technical aspects (interoperability, API, automatic workflows).
      - If possible, infrastructures of adjacent sectors (e.g., cultural heritage sector)
   d) The common infrastructure shall be funded jointly by the consortium members, who may cooperate in order to submit joint funding proposals.
4. Lines of action relative to Objective 3 - *Strengthen digital approaches in the arts and humanities concerning training, teaching, and research*:

[1] https://www.dasch.swiss/

a) Promote discipline-specific training in digital information management and digital research methods.
b) Cooperate by organising workshops, training sessions, and doctoral schools.
c) Promote each member's education offerings and materials by adding them in the DH Course Registry[2] and, respectively, by sharing them by means of the DARIAH Tools and Services Catalogue[3] and the SSH Open Marketplace[4].

5. Lines of actions relative to Objective 4 - *Implement national Working Groups to address scientific and infrastructural issues at stake and to promote the participation of Swiss scholars in international DARIAH Working Groups*:
   a) Pursue the activities of the DARIAH-CH Working Group on Digital Editions[5]
   b) Identify other potential topics at stake, which are relevant to the Swiss context, and facilitate the creation of new working groups
   c) Promote the participation of Swiss scholars in DARIAH Working Groups[6]
6. Lines of action relative to Objective 5 - *Monitor Swiss research policies and cooperation with similar national consortia in the Social Science and Humanities area, as well as with the national EOSC initiative*:
   a) Pursue involvement in Swiss SSH initiatives[7] aiming at enabling cooperation and creation of synergies within the SSH area.
   b) Support the creation of the Swiss node(s) of EOSC and thus contribute to creating a point of access to the Arts and Humanities in the Swiss node of EOSC.
   c) Enable, if possible, cooperation with the Research Data Connectome[8] developed by SWITCH as part of "Managed Services for the European Open Science Cloud".
7. Lines of action relative to Objective 6 - *Enhance the liaison to the cultural heritage sector and promote cooperation*:
   a) Foster communication and collaboration with the Swiss cultural heritage sector with respect to answering Open Science requirements, teaching, and education.
   b) Whenever possible, agreements should be made to cooperate with Swiss cultural heritage institutions and to foster their participation in the national DARIAH-CH ecosystem.

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[2] https://dhcr.clarin-dariah.eu/

[3] https://www.dariah.eu/tools-services/tools-and-services/

[4] https://marketplace.sshopencloud.eu/

[5] https://www.dariah.ch/swiss-editions

[6] https://www.dariah.eu/activities/working-groups-list/

[7] https://www.dariah.ch/ssh-ris-switzerland

[8] https://www.switch.ch/en/about/innovation