



SSHOC-CH

**First meeting
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Bern**

Georg Lutz

FORS - Georg.lutz@fors.unil.ch

Cristina Grisot

DARIAH-CH & CLARIN-CH - cristina.grisot@uzh.ch

Agenda

1. Follow-up SSH position paper
2. SSHOC: Developments in Europe
3. A country-level model: SSHOC – NL
4. General discussion about SSHOC-CH: feedback from the audience
5. Steps towards creating a SSHOC-CH

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Position Paper “Toward a fair funding environment for infrastructures in social sciences and humanities” (August 2022)

1. Higher education institutions as well as research policy actors such as swissuniversities and SERI should **recognize the need for the SSH** to advance research through infrastructures and create respective funding and governance models.
2. Switzerland should systematically **participate in European SSH infrastructures** once the relevance for the Swiss research community is established.
3. The national roadmap process should create **fair and equal conditions** for prioritizing infrastructures in all disciplines.
4. Stronger emphasis should be placed on **data preservation and reuse**.
5. The SSH research community needs to coordinate well, create **synergies** between existing infrastructures and long-term projects, and make sure that newly proposed infrastructure projects for future roadmap processes are well linked to existing RI at the national and international level.

Position Paper “Toward a fair funding environment for infrastructures in social sciences and humanities” (August 2022)

- 144 signatures were collected from the SSH community
- The position paper was sent in August 2022 to the State Secretary, the president of swissuniversities, the president of the SNSF Research Council, the SNSF Director and to the rectors of all Swiss higher education institutions
- 3 official answers were received:
 - SERI
 - SNSF
 - swissuniversities
- An invitation to meet and discuss with the swissuniversities’ Recherche & Developpement Commission of the Chamber of universities of applied sciences and arts

Summary of points raised in answers from SEFRI, SNSF and swissuniversities

1. Acknowledgement of the fact that the **position paper addressed important topics**
2. Welcome the fact that the **SSH community has intensified its coordination and synergy-seeking efforts** (SERI, SNSF, swissuniversities)
3. Reminder of the financial commitment with respect to funding **FORS** and **DaSCH** (SNSF)
4. Acknowledgement of the fact that the **exclusion of less expensive infrastructure** from the roadmap process can be **detrimental** to the development of infrastructures for the SSH (SNSF)
5. Acknowledgement of the fact that the Higher Education Council determined *human and veterinary medicine* as the only particularly expensive field for the period 2025-28 (swissuniversities)

Thus, **federal funding of infrastructures with a budget of less than 10 CHF million or outside the selected areas is excluded (2025-28)**

At the cantonal level, **funding of research infrastructure is the responsibility of different higher education institutions** and their responsible authorities.

Meeting with the Commission R&D UASAs of swissuniversities

- Early September 2023
- The members of the Commission acknowledged that the current funding system for research infrastructures is not favorable to the SSH
- Invited us to submit by December 2023 a concrete proposal about next steps that could be taken by the SSH community
 - **SSHOC-CH proposal**

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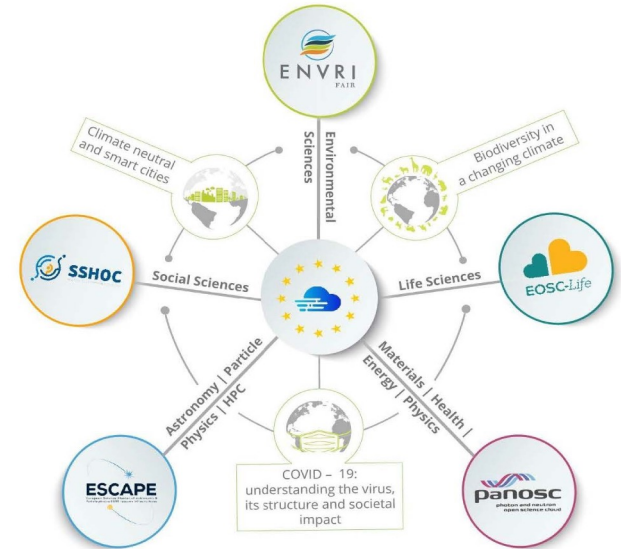
The original Social Sciences & Humanities Open Cloud (2019-2022)



- Prepared and submitted to the European Commission by several ERICs (CLARIN, DARIAH, CESSDA, ESS) and many other international bodies (a total of 20 partner organizations and their 27 associates)
- The project was funded by the EU framework programme Horizon 2020 to develop the SSH area of the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC).

SSHOC became one of the five **clusters of EOSC**

- The **vision** was to transform the SSH data landscape with its disciplinary silos and separate facilities into an integrated, cloud-based network of interconnected data infrastructures.



The original Social Sciences & Humanities Open Cloud (2019-2022)

Results:

1. The creation of the SSH Open Marketplace
2. Services and tools for daily use by SSH researchers, all available through the SSH Open Marketplace
3. Training, advice, and educational resources for producers, users, and curators of Social Sciences and Humanities data.
4. SSHOC trusted repositories (CoreTrustSeal)
5. A significant SSHOC knowledge base: expert reports, scientific publications and white papers

<https://sshopencloud.eu/>

From the SSHOC to the



- The SSH Open Cluster was initiated in 2022 after the end of the SSHOC project to continue to break down the silos within the cluster and to ensure the sustainability the resources in the long run.
 - The growing consortium has agreed to continue to collaborate to **enhance mutual interaction, build upon** and **expand existing synergies** and **expertise**, and **support sharing of know-how** in all areas of common interest.
- The overall objective is to establish the SSH Open Cluster as an **instrument of further collaboration** between different SSH community stakeholders taking an active role in promoting the quality and impact of SSH within the European Research Area and beyond.
- Jointly funded by the members of the consortium and active in new EU-funded projects.

<https://sshopencloud.eu/>

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Social Science and Humanities Open Cloud for the Netherlands



Introduction:

- SSHOC-NL is a consortium of infrastructures, organized under ODISSEI and CLARIAH, aiming at creating an **ecosystem of services, data and tools** for the SSH.

Rationale:

1. Given their focus on people, their interactions, and the products of their minds and culture, SSH share a need for **secure and flexible analytical environments** to analyse sensitive and copyright protected data and artefacts.
2. SSH **data** is notoriously **complex**, sometimes generated by processes which were not designed with science in mind (e.g., old administrative records, newspapers, modern tax systems, broadcasting archives, social media), which require **bespoke tools** that are methodologically sound, well documented, and transparent.
3. SSH are exceptionally **interdisciplinary**, with an emphasis on bringing together diverse forms of data and methodologies that offer complementary perspectives on culture and society.

Social Science and Humanities Open Cloud for the Netherlands



Aims:

1. Improve the **accessibility, interoperability, and sustainability** of SSH research infrastructures and facilitate **collaborations** that are globally unique and interdisciplinary in nature;
2. **Connect** and **train** a community of SSH scholars to jointly work on knowledge development, technology development, technology transfer, and innovation;
3. Create a **future-proof and coherent ecosystem** that enhances the position of Dutch SSH research infrastructures within the European Open Science Cloud and achieves economies of scale.

Social Science and Humanities Open Cloud for the Netherlands

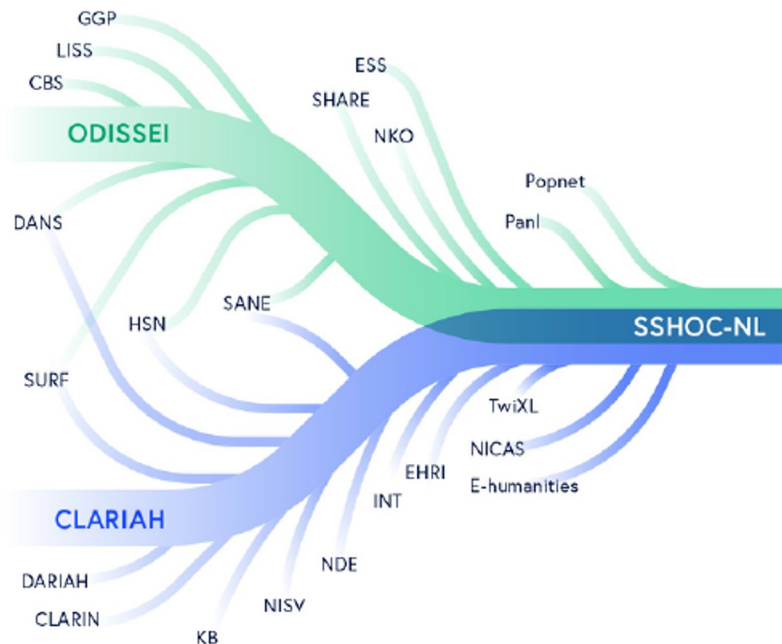


Figure 1 – The SSHOC-NL ecosystem

Large scale research infrastructure for SSH, which brings together general and more field specific infrastructures, such as:

- Open Data Infrastructure for Social Science and Economic Innovations (ODISSEI)
- the Common Lab Research Infrastructure for the Arts and Humanities (CLARIAH)
- the Netherlands Institute for Conservation+Art+Science+ (NICAS)
- European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI)

Social Science and Humanities Open Cloud for the Netherlands



Figure 3 – The five SSHOC-NL workstreams

Five workstreams:

1. The **Compute** workstream to provide computational solutions for SSH researchers: data security, data linkage and scaling up, supercomputing environments.
2. The **Data** workstream to ensure that high-quality, well-documented and rich data is available.
3. The **Tools** workstream to ensure that suitable software and tooling solutions are in place.
4. The **FAIR** workstream to help bind the data, computational solutions, and tools together and specifically facilitate the interoperability between data from the SSH.
5. The **Expertise** workstream is where the technical infrastructure meets with the research community: communication, education, training and support.

Social Science and Humanities Open Cloud for the Netherlands



Governance

- Since SSHOC-NL is a collaborative project incorporating existing research infrastructures, it did not create new permanent governance structures or new legal entities.
- SSHOC-NL's host partner, the Erasmus University Rotterdam, acts as the host of the Project Coordination Team and secretariat to all governance bodies.

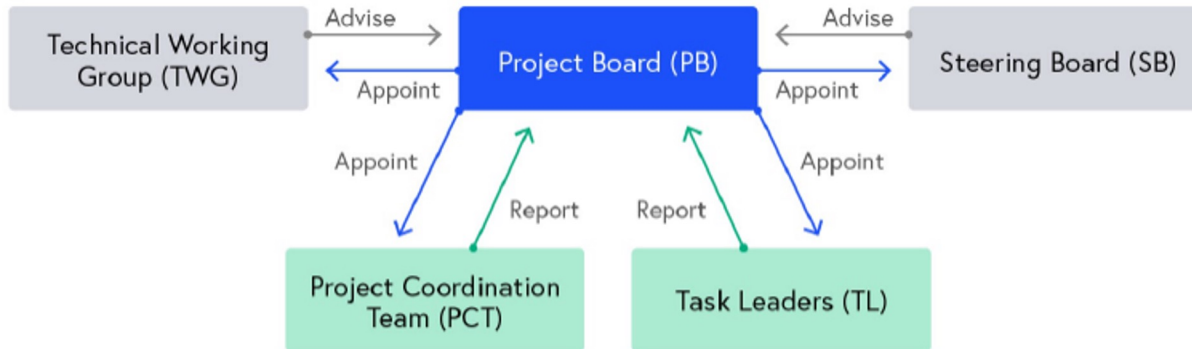


Figure 6 – SSHOC-NL governance structure

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Preparatory questions

1. Concretely, what would a SSHOC-CH organization look like?
2. How could it function and with what governance model?
3. What synergies should be made?
4. What financial plan to fund SSHOC-CH?
5. How to manage nationally a large array of federated services relevant for the entire SSH field?
6. How will it fit into the current national strategic ecosystem, i.e. the Roadmap process, the Open Research Data Strategy and the Strategy Council?

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Forms of cooperation

- **Key decision:** shall we “formally” declare the creation of a “SSHOC Switzerland”? If yes, in what form (e.g. through an MoU).
- **Objective:** Exchange and participation on SSH infrastructure policy, identification of synergies cooperate on emerging themes in the SSH, joint funding applications;
- The question of **membership:**
 - Representatives of national nodes of existing and emerging European Infrastructures where Switzerland participates (CESSDA, CLARIN, DARIAH, ESS, MEDem GGP, SHARE), including their national consortia (CLARIN-CH and DARIAH-CH).
 - Representatives of established national infrastructures
 - SNF funded: FORS, DaSCH, TREE, Editions, Swiss Human Relations Barometer, Studies at the Jacobs Center
 - Infrastructures in the SAGW/ASSH domain
 - Swissuniversities RIs, libraries?
 - Emerging: SDD21, Cluster on parliamentary research, ??
- Forms of **governance.** Start very lightly
 - A coordination group/steering committee
 - A plenary meeting (exchanges 1-2 per year)

Possible joint activities and funding applications

- Visibility: a webpage?
 - Mapping of existing infrastructures / marketplace -> linked to SSHOC and EOSC.
- Exchange on:
 - Key challenges in funding and operations of RIs in CH
 - New trends and developments in research infrastructure (policy)
 - Identification on possible synergies
- Participate actively in the upcoming national roadmap process
 - Outline of existing projects, gaps etc. (based on outline from the January 2023 meeting)
 - Support of the establishment of new potential projects. Workshop on roadmap process national and European for the SSH community,
 - Advocacy work towards key BFI-Stakeholders
- Joint funding applications, eg. through swissuniversities calls

Next steps

- Taking steps towards establishment of SSHOC Switzerland.
 - Establishment of a coordination group, steering committee -> who would be willing to participate?
 - Establishment of some governing principles (e.g. MoU/ Statutes)?
 - Establishment of a website?
 - Founding SSHOC-CH meeting in Spring 2024?
- Preparation of a workshop on research infrastructures for the SSH community, especially for new potential roadmap projects (including inviting key stakeholders such as faculties, research institutions etc.)
- Start internal inventory of SSH RIs, with a more structured description (based on summary of the January event).

FORS 
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