

## The 10 Swiss Citizen Science Principles

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The 10 Swiss Citizen Science (CS) principles aim to provide common ground and orientation for the Swiss CS community. Developed by Swiss CS representatives, the Swiss CS principles were suggested to the CS community thanks to a national online consultation during which important feedback was collected and integrated. The Swiss CS principles may be adapted and modified according to the future needs and developments of the Swiss CS community. Therefore, best practice examples and feedback have been collected during the OECSK Conference. The Swiss CS principles proposal is based on the following documents: 1. The 10 Principles of Citizen Science (2015) by the European Citizen Science Association (ECSA) and 2. the Code of conduct for scientific integrity (2021) by the Swiss Academies of Art and Sciences.

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## 1. Introduction

As part of the Citizen Science Initiative of the Swiss Academies 2021-24 (ICSA+), the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences, Science et Cité (Swiss Citizen Science Network *Schweiz forscht*), the Participatory Science Academy and Citizen Science Center Zurich in conjunction with the Citizen Cyberlab Geneva have developed a proposal for CS principles for Switzerland to provide common ground and orientation for the Swiss CS community. The drafting of these principles was an important activity to strengthen the Swiss CS network and to enable the various actors to shape it. Important feedback from the CS community was collected and integrated thanks to a national online consultation.

### 1.1 Aim

The following principles are intended to serve as guidelines for all CS stakeholders. Anybody interested or involved in CS projects are invited to consider these principles.

## 2. The 10 Swiss Citizen Science Principles

### 2.1. Inspirations

The Swiss CS principles proposal is based on the following documents: 1. The 10 Principles of Citizen Science (2015) by the European Citizen Science Association (ECSA) [1], 2. the Code of conduct for scientific integrity (2021) by the Swiss Academies of Art and Sciences [2].

### 2.2 Formulation

By updating and reformulating the already existing 10 Principles of Citizen Science by ECSA, the Swiss CS principles working group wished to highlight the emerging themes in the field of CS in Switzerland, most notably issues of transparency. They also focused on making the CS principles more integrative in terms of languages and knowledge.

### 2.3 National online consultation

Once formulated, the principles were submitted to a four-language national consultation that ran from November to December 2021. More than 60 respondents from all over Switzerland commented on and suggested changes to the proposed principles. The respondents came from very different fields, ranging from representatives from administrations and funding institutions, CS researchers, CS projects leaders or citizen scientists. Responses and comments from a wide spectrum of the CS community were thus included in the final version of these principles.

### 2.4 Content

The Swiss CS principles include the following 10 themes: 1. the initial requirements for establishing a CS project, 2. the purpose of the project, 3. its added value, 4. the different levels of participation, 5. communication within and about the project, 6. research methods used and monitoring, 7. data collection and security issues, 8. project evaluation, 9. contributions to project participants, and 10. recognition for project participation.

The Swiss CS principles and their content are available [www.schweizforscht.ch](http://www.schweizforscht.ch)

### 3. Learning and use

Among the numerous feedback collected during the national online consultation some concerned the applicability of the principles to projects with very different scopes. As a result, the authors of the principles put effort in formulating them in a very flexible way. The reader and principles users are therefore invited to see the principles as an inspiration for their projects and not as a "to do list", as their applicability may vary according to the size of the project and the resources available. Some comments were also mentioned regarding the wording used for the principles' formulation. In order to increase the receptivity and use of these principles, the topics of the principles will be discussed during the *Schweiz forscht* network meetings. The meetings take place two to three times a year and gather the Swiss CS community.

The Swiss CS principles have been advertised and spread among several concerned institutions in Switzerland. The Swiss CS principles may be adapted and modified according to the future needs and developments of the Swiss CS community. During the poster presentation, conference participants were invited to share examples of good practice of these principles within their institutions.

#### Proposed citation

10 Swiss Citizen Science Principles (2022). Swiss Citizen Science principles working group. Bern. <http://www.schweizforscht.ch/>

#### References

- [1] ECSA (European Citizen Science Association), *Ten Principles of Citizen Science*, Berlin, 2015. <http://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/XPR2N>
- [2] Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences: *Code of conduct for scientific integrity*, 2021. <http://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4707560>