

SPHN & PHRT: upcoming joint call for proposals for National Data Streams

On the road towards establishing a Swiss personalized health ecosystem, SPHN and PHRT will launch soon a joint call for proposals for National Data Streams (NDS). This new format provides funding to multidisciplinary consortia that invest in sustainable and reusable health-related data infrastructure development in conjunction with high-end research. The call will be open to applicants from all disciplines of data-driven health research.

An NDS will work across the value chain from biomedical research to personalized health and clinical application to address which, and in what form, data can support clinical decision-making for the benefit of patients. This NDS concept will allow building a growing data-rich research platform for the next generation of researchers and clinicians, with subsequent long-term benefits for patient care.

Aim & scope of National Data Streams

- NDS are multidisciplinary consortial research structures involving a nationwide network of clinical and science/engineering partners promoting data-driven, stratified or personalized health research of a given broad topic (e.g., oncology, neurodegenerative diseases, rare diseases) or focused on specific data types. NDS structures are inspired by NCCRs - and thus require experienced management.
- NDS that build on pre-existing infrastructures and data sets are preferred; NDS funding is not intended for building up infrastructures from scratch. In addition, NDS should not serve the sole purpose of establishing new/combined cohorts or registries.
- Data assembly and integration into the NDS framework must follow the SPHN semantic framework and should encompass clinical as well as analytical (e.g., -omics, imaging) high-quality data. NDS data must be made FAIR (findable, accessible, interoperable, reusable) based on a robust data lifecycle plan. Data flows and processes should be established on existing SPHN related infrastructures (data warehouses, DCC/BioMedIT Nodes, etc.).
- An NDS includes a lighthouse research project that (1) addresses a highly relevant scientific/medical question in the area of personalized health, (2) demonstrates the value of NDS for research and healthcare, and (3) generates international visibility. An NDS can also include additional research or clinical implementation projects.
- NDS data must be reusable for additional research projects and NDS consortia must have a governance structure in place accounting for the regulatory needs of the data providers. The underlying legal framework must transparently regulate the use of data in further research projects of the NDS consortium at a later stage (secondary research use) or of external partners (tertiary research use), including other projects of SPHN and PHRT.
- NDS consortia must have a governance (including regulatory and legal framework and data sharing policy), data quality, and management concept as well as a sustainability concept in place, enabling them to serve the research and healthcare community long-term once SPHN and PHRT funding has ended.

Duration and funding

SPHN and PHRT allocated together a total of CHF 20 million for NDS. An NDS is envisaged to be funded for up to 36 months with a maximum total of CHF 3-5 million (max. 2.5 million from each program). After that, NDS should be financially and organizationally independent.

The funding regulations of both SPHN and PHRT must be fulfilled for receiving the full amount of funding. SPHN funding requires matching contributions by the applicants' institutions. PHRT funding requires full participation of affiliates of the ETH Domain in the NDS consortium.

Call documents

The call for National Data Streams with detailed information will be published on the SPHN and PHRT websites in the coming weeks.

Contact

For questions, please contact nds@sphn.ch. The SPHN & PHRT management offices will compile all questions and address them during an online workshop (date to be announced).