

The CORSTAT R Working Group:
Expanding statistical
collaboration in Switzerland

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Who are we?

The CORSTAT R Working Group was established to unite R experts from municipal and cantonal statistical offices across Switzerland, enhancing the application of the R programming language in statistical practices.

Established at the end of 2023, the group has rapidly grown to become the largest CORSTAT working group, with nearly 40 members representing 20 statistical offices.

While R remains the primary focus, the group is now expanding its scope to incorporate additional open-source programming languages such as Python and Julia, AI tools for coding, versioning systems and integrated development environments.

Expanding Swiss collaboration

The group aims to foster collaboration by not only sharing knowledge but also by developing and maintaining essential tools and resources.

Its key objectives include creating a robust network for knowledge exchange, establishing a further education network for skill development, enhancing the quality of statistical outputs, and streamlining production processes through a national code base for shared use across various open-source programming languages.

Activities involve peer reviewing and co-developing software packages, as well as ensuring their ongoing maintenance.

We invite all interested statistical offices to join this initiative and contribute to enhancing the use of open-source programming languages in statistical work throughout Switzerland.

The SwissStatsR.org project

Swiss Stats R			
Home	Articles	Submission	About
R packages			
NAME	DESCRIPTION	MAINTAINER	BADGES
sf3	Get Data from the Swiss Federal Statistical Office	Felix Luginbuhl	 
SpDataXML	Extract data from SpData XML files	Felix Luginbuhl	 
chensus	Estimate Totals, Means, Proportions and Confidence Intervals of the Swiss Federal Statistic Office's Surveys	Souad Guemghar	 
dcatapack	Create DCAT-AP CH Metadata Files	Sandro Burti	 
dlist	Estimate and Manage Empirical Distributions	Sandro Burti	 

The SwissStatsR.org website provides a catalog of R resources related to Swiss statistics.

To be hosted on SwissStatsR.org, R packages and projects related to Swiss statistics should follow community standards and best coding practices (see section on the right).

To ensure code quality and ease maintenance, all R projects are regularly tested on the Swiss Stats R Universe, hosted on the *rOpenSc's* continous integration platform (see: <https://swissstatsr.r-universe.dev>).

The "SwissStatsR.org" project is an pilot project for the new Swiss "Open Code" Platform.

Toward an Swiss "Open Code" Platform

The "Open Code" initiative seeks to develop a secure code exchange platform that enables public administration units to share open-source code (e.g. R, Python, Julia, etc.) efficiently and responsibly.

Key objectives include fostering collaboration among administrative units and organizations, ensuring platform development is closely linked to the Swiss statistical system, I14Y and the emerging data spaces, enhancing data processing efficiency through standardized code blocks, and empowering administrations to retain control over their code and data management practices.

The "Open Code" initiative adheres to the principle of "Public Money, Public Code" to enhance governmental transparency.

In alignment with Switzerland's digitalization strategy, the initiative leverages the "Open by default" concept, which is becoming increasingly important in public administration, promoting transparency and trust through the release of Open Data and Open Code.

The "Open Code" platform project is coordinated by the Statistical Office of the Canton of St.Gallen and funded by the DVS.

Discover our website: www.swissstatsr.org

Let's get in touch:

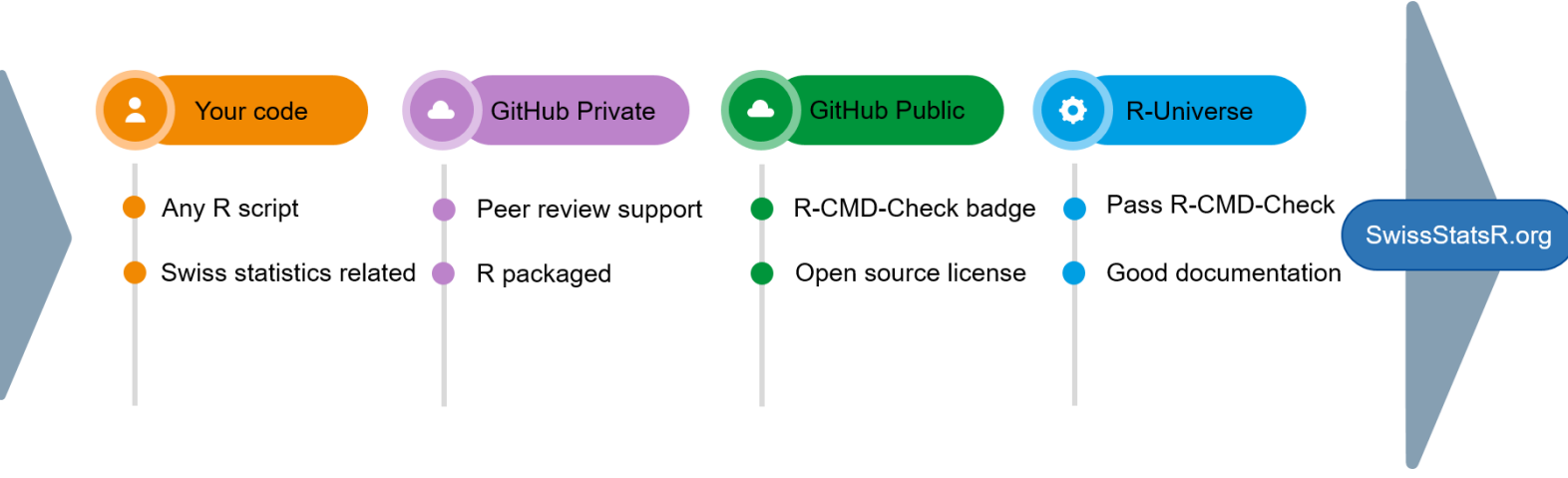
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Meet the CORSTAT R
Working Group
Let's expand Swiss statistical
collaboration together!

Our collaboration workflow

The phases of a submission



1. Your Code

- Any R script can be submitted to SwissStatsR.
- Our only requirement is to be open source and related to Swiss Statistics.
- Make a submission using the form or by email.

2. GitHub Private

- Once your submission is accepted, peer reviewing starts with SwissStatsR members.
- You should have an account on GitHub.
- Hosting on our SwissStatsR GitHub is recommended but not mandatory.

3. GitHub Public

- R packages and R projects (see next sections) can be hosted on any GitHub repository, including SwissStatsR GitHub, or another DevOps public provider.
- They should have an GitHub Action *R-CMD-Check* badge.
- They should have an open source license such as MIT, GPL or LGPL.

4. R-Universe

- Open source R package or R project should pass *R-CMD-Check*.
- They should be well documented.
- Unit tests are recommended but not mandatory.
- Adding a SwissStatsR badge is optional.

5. SwissStatsR.org

- Once the R package or R project hit the *SwissStatsR Universe*, it will be added on *SwissStatsR.org*.

R package submission

The R package should have an open source license such as MIT, GPL or LGPL. The R package should also have an GitHub Action R-CMD-Check badge.

SwissStatsR hosts only R packages passing all R-CMD-Checks.

R project submission

If you have R scripts related to Swiss statistics which could be useful to the R community, you can submit an GitHub repository containing R scripts.

DESCRIPTION file

Your repository should contains metadata about your project in a *DESCRIPTION* file. Even if your project is not an R package, this file helps us standardize metadata collection among all SwissStatsR projects, such as contacts and licensing.

/R folder

We strongly recommend to have all the R function in the */R* folder, following R package guidelines.

/tests folder

All tests should be in the */tests* folder.

Other files

Other R scripts and files can be added to the */inst* and */scripts* folders.

If for some reasons the R projects cannot follow an R package structure, all the other files and folders should be listed in the *.Rbuildignore* file.

.gitignore file

You can avoid sharing specific files and folder using the *.gitignore* file, in particular sensitive files.

renv

We strongly recommend you to use *renv* to track the dependencies of your R project with snapshots.

Checks

Even if your R project is not an R package, we ask you to add GitHub Actions R-CMD-Check to check if your *DESCRIPTIONS* and *.Rbuildignore* files are correctly filled.

SwissStatsR hosts only R projects passing all R-CMD-Checks.

For more details please see our related online page:

- <https://swissstatsr.org/collaboration>