

On the Current and Future Uses of Quantitative Scientometric Indicators (QSI) in Swiss Higher Education Institutions

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Overview

The NAI (National Approach for Interoperable repositories and Findable research results) project aims to increase the visibility and findability of Swiss research output. This poster presents the results of the 6th SYoS workshop, attended by 27 stakeholders from Swiss higher education institutions (HEIs) on 15 September 2025, alongside a planned qualitative survey.

Track 1 focuses on the **responsible use of quantitative indicators** for research assessment, aligned with:
■ **DORA** — San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment
■ **CoARA** — Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment
■ **Leiden Manifesto** — Best practices for research metrics

? Q1: How firmly is QSI embedded?

✓ **Adoption:** Significant momentum to align with DORA, CoARA, and the Leiden Manifesto.

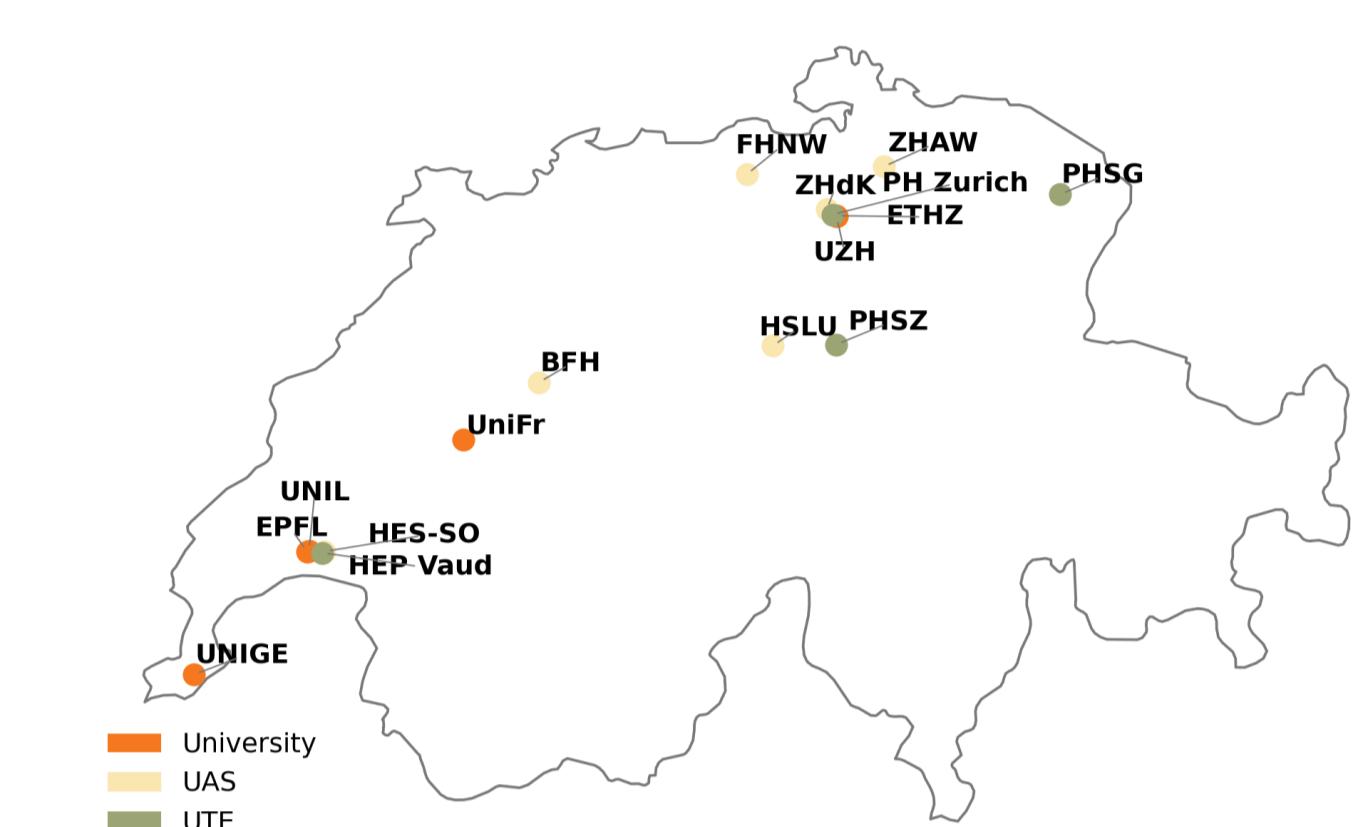
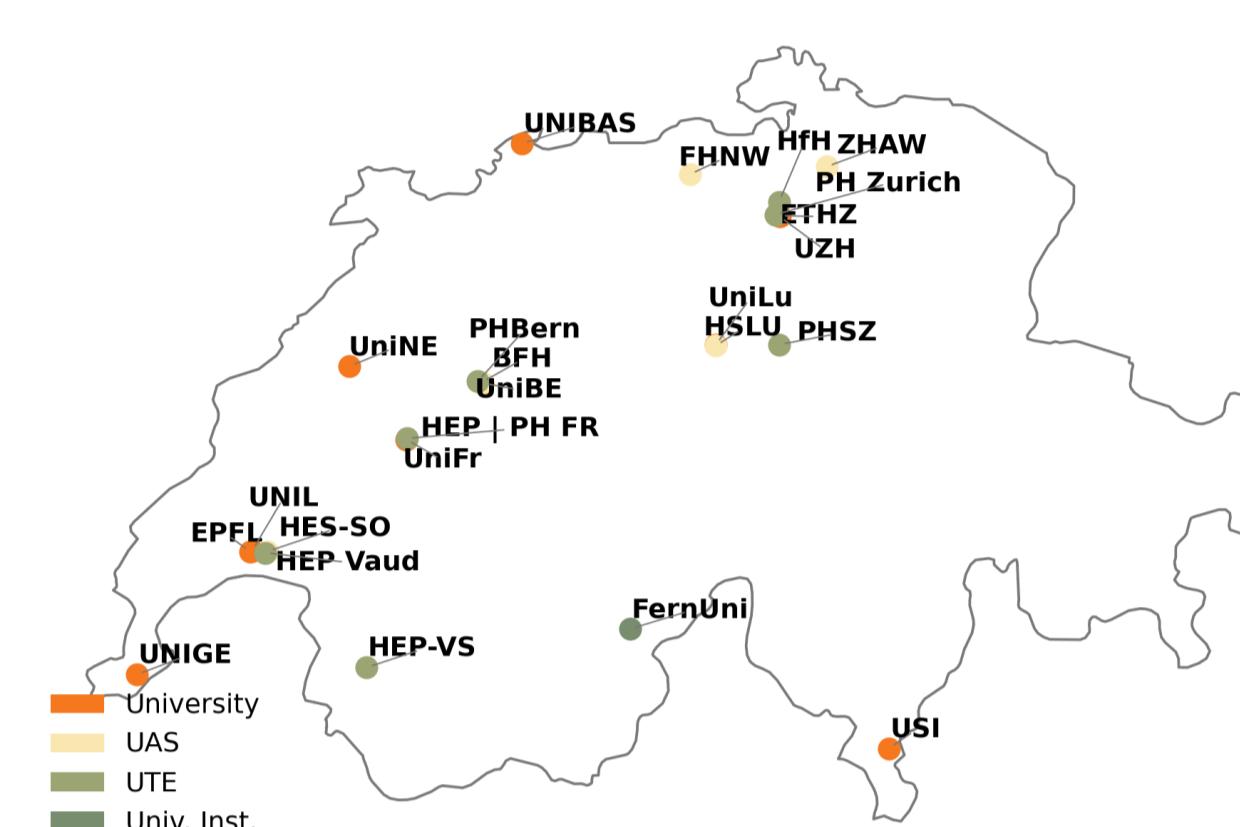
⚠ **Challenge:** Stakeholders struggle to translate these declarations into appropriate QSI practices.

💡 **Core Values:** Indicators must be transparent, contextual, and fair — serving to complement, not replace, expert judgment.

Adoption of DORA & CoARA in Switzerland

24 DORA signatories

16 CoARA signatories



? Q2: Where are QSI currently used?

🏛 **Organizational over Individual QSI** are favored for university or departmental monitoring, *not* for evaluating individual researcher output (based on the ETH Zurich case study).

📍 **Research Profiles:** Tracking topics and their evolution over time.

🌐 **Impact Analysis:** Analyzing citation patterns by discipline or country.

🔗 **Network Analysis:** Mapping collaboration patterns.

📊 **Strategic Initiatives:** Monitoring OA shares and funding sources.

? Q3: How important are QSI tools?

📊 **Data Quality First:** Metrics are often flawed or misapplied — meaningful analysis requires multiple sources and rigorous cleaning.

⌚ **Context-Driven:** Tools are only useful when purpose-driven — understand user needs first, then define the QSI.

🤝 **Collaboration:** Requires close cooperation between data specialists and subject experts.

? Q4: Future of responsible QSI?

🤝 **Expert Collaboration:** Integration of data, subject, and methodology specialists.

💬 **Dialogue-Based:** Clarifying purpose and limitations upfront.

⌚ **Context-First:** Building use cases before defining QSI.

🌐 **Holistic Scope:** Moving beyond citations to include ORD, Open Science, and media visibility.

Conclusion & Key Takeaways

The NAI project will develop **guidelines** for Swiss HEIs to apply transparent, context-specific research assessment aligned with international best practices by the end of 2026.

	Takeaway
1	Start with context, not indicators
2	Prioritize organizational monitoring over individual assessment
3	Data quality is non-negotiable
4	Multi-stakeholder dialogue drives implementation

Acknowledgments

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Contact

NAIF Track 1 Responsible use of quantitative indicators eth-library.github.io/naif

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