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Data Research in Switzerland: Swiss Personalized Health Network (SPHN) Initiative and Data Governance

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Agenda

Overview: Human Research and Data Research in Switzerland
Swiss Personalized Health Network (SPHN) Initiative
Local Implementation of the SPHN Initiative
Data Governance at USZ
Conclusions

Human Research in Switzerland



Human Research in Switzerland

Switzerland is highly competitive in research and innovation

one of the highest R&D spending of gross domestic product (3% of GDP = around CHF 22 billion)

- 2/3 from private sector; 1/3 public research funding
- Public funding relies on competition and international cooperation
- Division of tasks between public and private sectors:
based on subsidiarity and a liberal economy.



Human Research in Switzerland

Comprehensive framework governing research involving humans:

Swiss Federal Human Research Act (HRA) and international standards

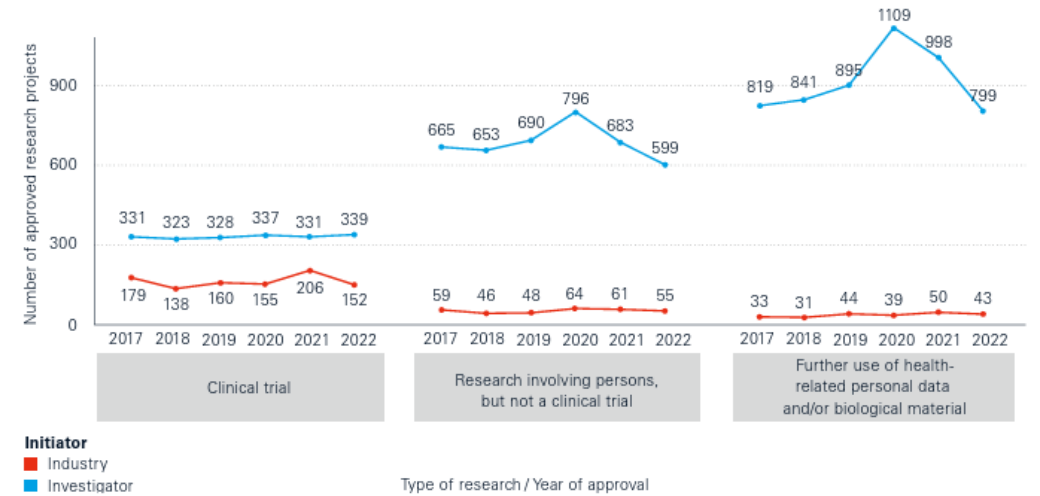
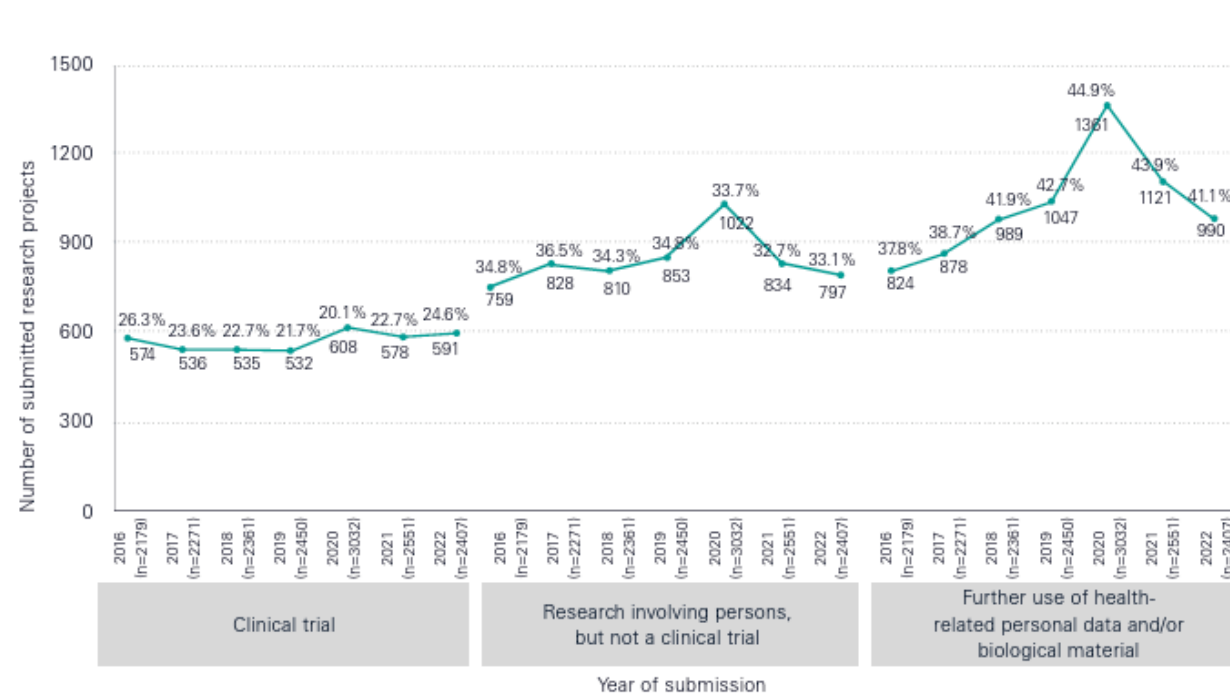
Research permissible only upon prior review and approval by independent body:

- **Interventional Research: Clinical Trials** (IMP, IMD, other clin. Trials)
- **Research with Data/Samples**
 - Research involving persons
 - Further use of Data/Samples

[Human research legislation \(admin.ch\)](https://www.admin.ch)



Human Research in Switzerland



- 25% interventional clinical trials; 75% research with data/samples
- 90% academic; 10% Industry-sponsored (clin trials 70/30)

Source: Annual Report FOPH 2022 (July

11, 2023)



Human Research in Switzerland

various agencies and initiatives support research and innovation

Swiss Personalized Health Initiative (SPHN) enables nation-wide use and exchange of health data for research



Swiss Personalized Health Network SPHN Initiative



Swiss Personalized Health Network SPHN



national initiative, start in 2017

Goals:

- develop, implement, and validate **data infrastructures** in Switzerland.
- ensure interoperability, accessibility, shareability of health-related data.
- Bring together decision-makers from clinics, research, support institutions, and patient organizations.

Budget: over 150mio CHF

Swiss Personalized Health Network SPHN

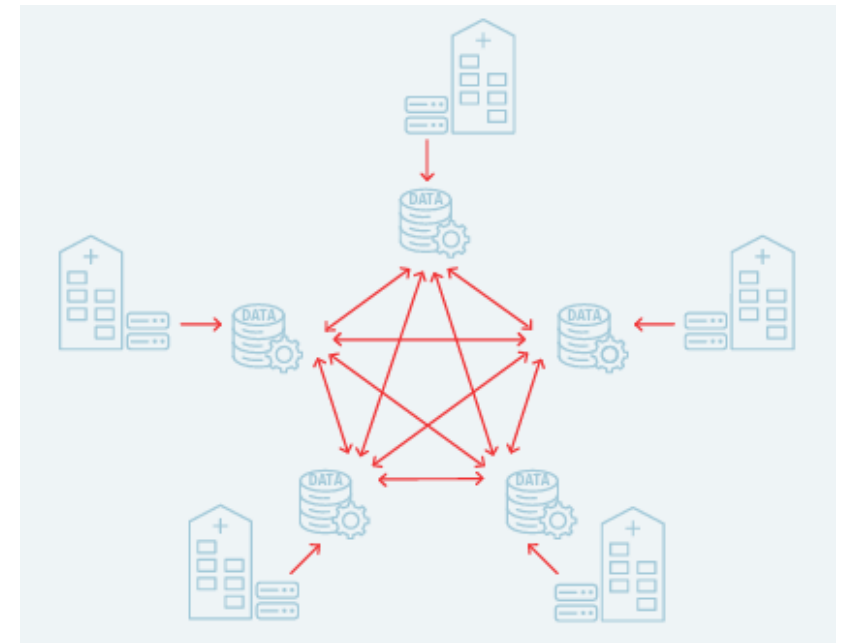


Efficient Data Provision:

- efficient provision of interoperable biomedical and clinical routine data
- National Data Streams

Discoverability and Exploration of Data:

- SPHN provides different tools, services and platforms

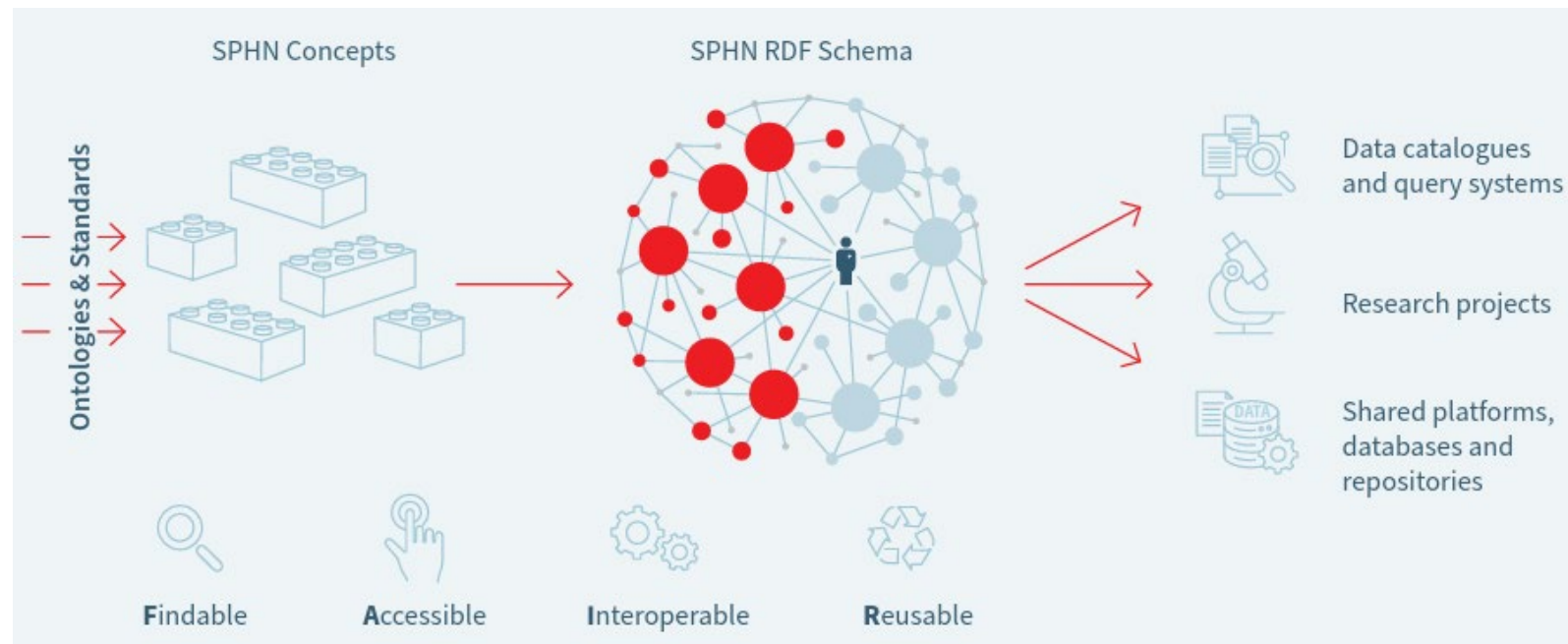


Swiss Personalized Health Network SPHN



FAIR principles and Data Interoperability

- standardized data schema (resource description framework, tools, services)
- makes biomedical and health data understandable by humans and machines



Swiss Personalized Health Network SPHN

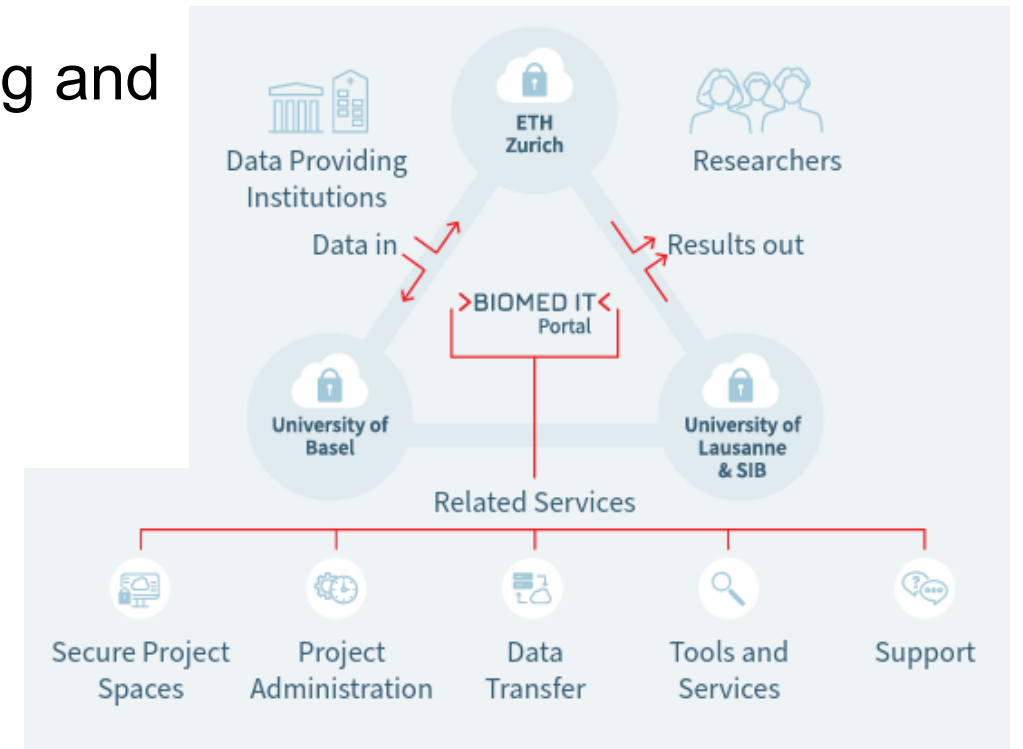


Trusted Research Environment:

- SPHN-BioMedIT network (secure IT infrastructure)
- Services for transferring, storing, processing and analyzing sensitive data

Compliance Structures:

- Harmonized ethical guidelines and legal requirements
- Local Data Governance Boards

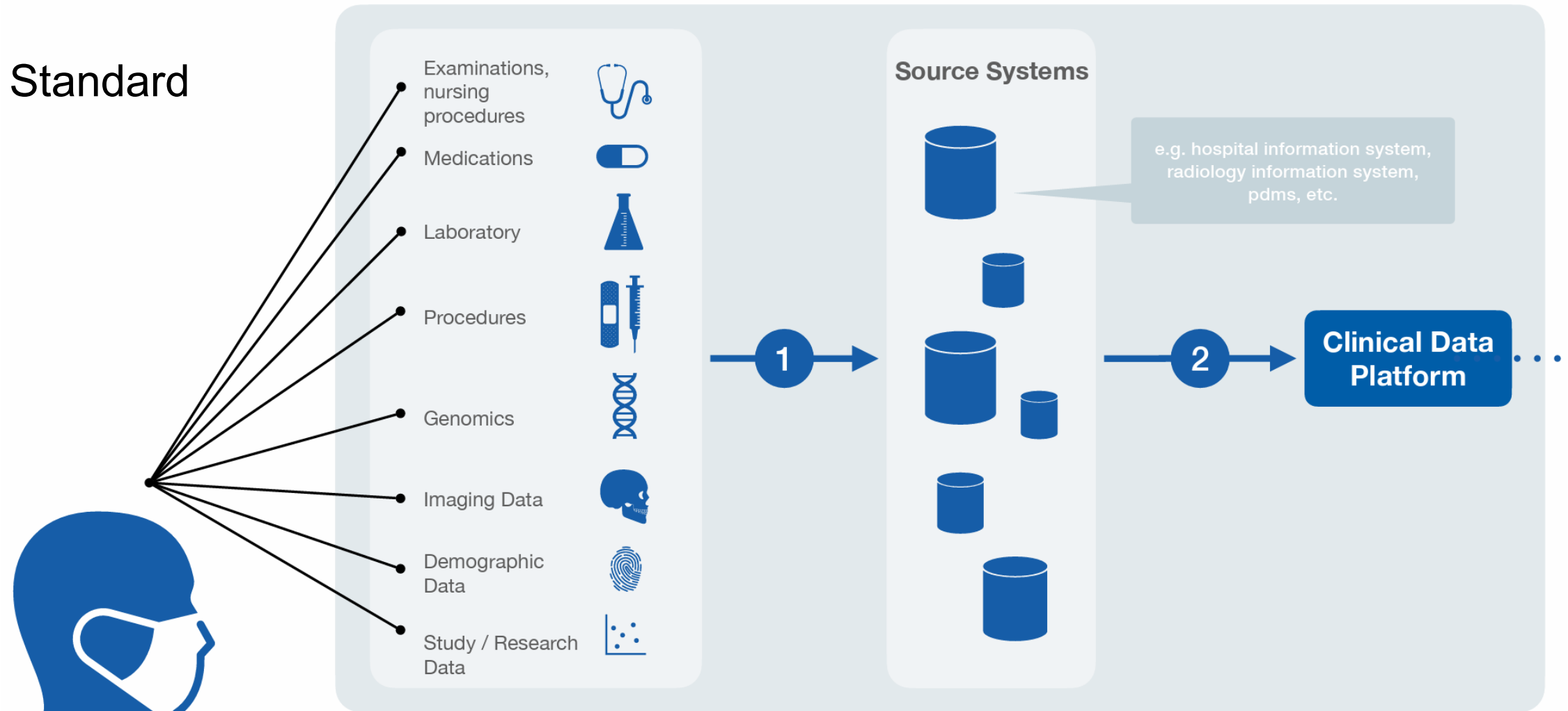


Local Implementation of SPHN

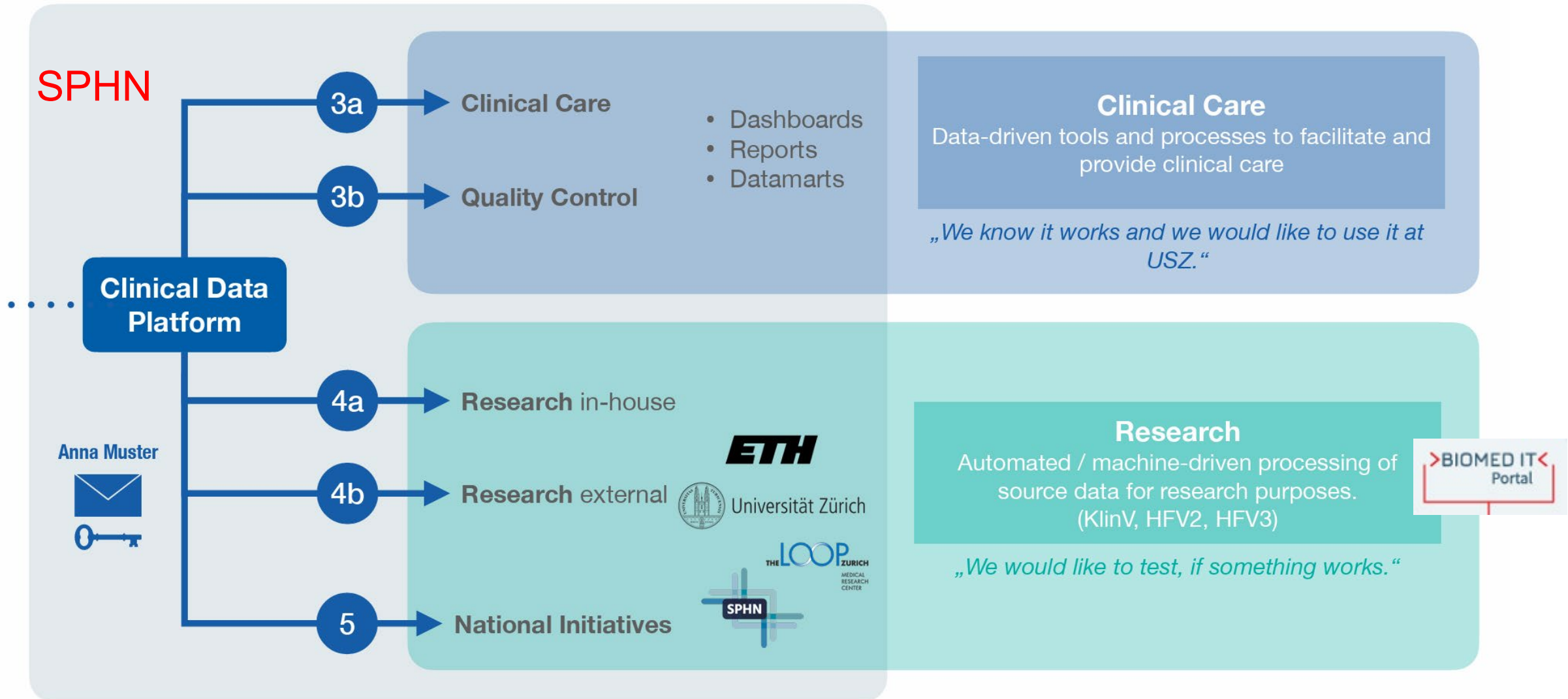


Local Implementation of SPHN: Data Availability at USZ

Standard



Local Implementation of SPHN: Data Availability at USZ



Data Governance at University Hospital Zurich USZ



Data Research and Data Governance at USZ



Hypothesis
Study plan

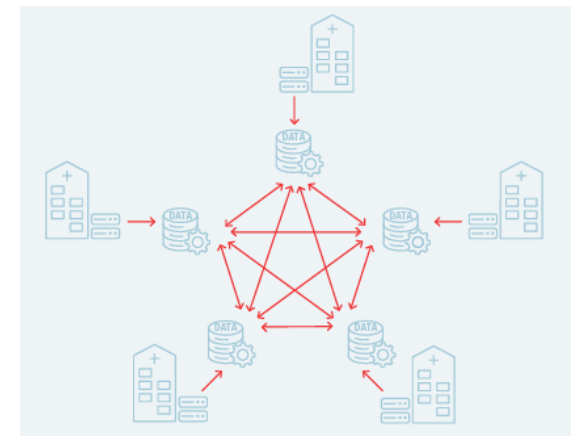
Specify Data

(General) Consent of study participants

Contracts with involved parties

Data Governance Board checks:

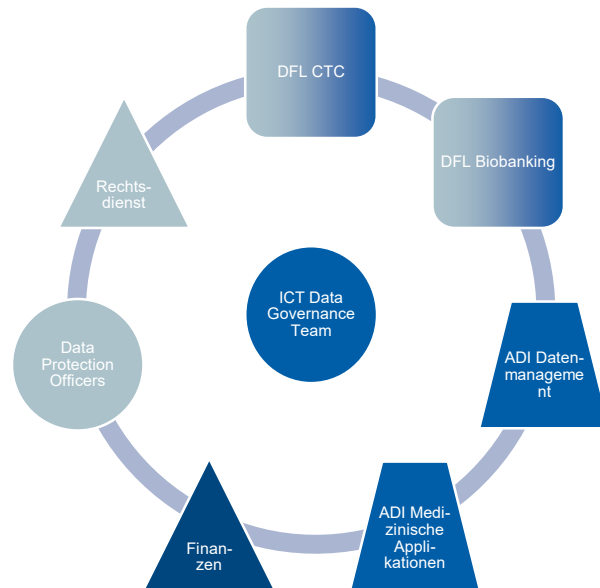
Regulatory Affairs / Regulatory Compliance
Data Protection
Data Transfer and Security
Legal Agreements
Others



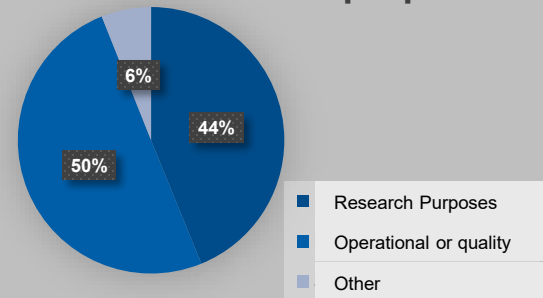
Data Governance Board (DGB) at USZ

Mandate

- Approve requests for reuse of data/ samples
- Assess requests from strategic, ethical, and legal perspectives



Distribution of applications for reuse purposes



DGB **monthly** meetings to:

- discuss complex requests
- harmonize rules (internal/external)

Topics:

- data storage and transfers
- data quality
- data protection issues
- de-identification of data
- General (informed) Consent

Added value of DGB

- Single contact point
- Panel of experts (regulatory, data protection, legal, data security)
- Comprehensive USZ strategy for reuse of data
- Increased reliability and reproducibility of research
- Central overview and control leads to more transparency

Conclusions



Conclusions

Responsible/compliant reuse of sensitive health data needs harmonized legal/ethical standards

Secure infrastructure and processes increase data quality and data security

- Enhanced Research Credibility, Validity and Reliability
- Transparency Boost

Ongoing Challenges:

- Dynamic nature of research and innovation: Integration of big data and AI in healthcare
- Forward Focus: Continuous adaptation and vigilance
- local, national and international perspective





**Thank you for your
attention**

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