



FIT For the Future

Date: 01.05.2026

ELSA, Polydoc and EPDA understands the need to better organize the ETH domain to enhance their ability to perform research, bring efficiencies and improve their overall visibility.

Firstly, we would like to emphasize that any changes should first and foremost be in the interests of the students and researchers that perform much of the research work.

We polled our members (see below). The majority prefer a “light touch”, Swiss National LabS model; a structured main organization with sub-branded units that can maintain a certain independence.

Most concerns that came with a sole single entity model would be a homogenization of ideas reducing the level of science. However on the level of administration (IT, HR, research and grant support, etc) a centralized resource may reduce overlap and streamline operations.

We also want to emphasize that any reorganization should promote more cooperation between each lab as well as to promote better interdisciplinary science.

Member Consultation

In parallel with this response, ELSA EPFL surveyed its members with the following question:

“The ETH Domain will reorganize into either two variants : A Swiss National LAB or a Swiss National LABS. What would you prefer?”

A) Lighter coordination (keep 4 legal entities) - 15 votes

B) Full merger (1 legal entity) - 3 votes