

Scientific IT-Services at D-GESS

January 2015

Due to the wide-spread application of quantitative and computer-based methods in Social and Political Sciences, the demand for support in terms of research-oriented IT has increased substantially at D-GESS. After joining the [Scientific IT Services \(SIS\)](#) in 2014, the researchers at D-GESS now have access to professional support in this area.

The SIS offer research-based IT services for computer and data intensive research at ETH Zurich. They are divided into three groups: High Performance Computing, Scientific Software and Data Management and Research Informatics. They offer a broad range of services.

D-GESS Scientific IT Service Board

The D-GESS Scientific IT Service Board (GESS SISB) functions as management committee and ensures communication between the SIS and the individual units of D-GESS. It is responsible for the initial screening of requests and manages the resources given to D-GESS as a shareholder (1 FTE / ca. 220 working days).

The GESS SISB includes members with experience in research-oriented IT and should represent the professorships and research sections adequately. Furthermore, the IT Support Group as well as the Department are represented on the Board. If required, the Board may be expanded by additional members. At the moment, the GESS Scientific IT Service Board consists of the following members:

Stefan Karlen (D-GESS, Chair)
Benjamin Baum (Head of IT Support Group D-GESS)
Stefan Wehrli (Professur Diekmann / Manager Behavioral Studies Laboratories)
Jonas Arnold (Archives of Contemporary History)
Tobias Kuhn (Professorship Helbing)
Luc Girardin (Professorship Cederman)

Use of and procedure of contact with Scientific IT Services

Cost: The services of SIS are free of charge in the amount of ca. 10-20 working days per professorship and year. Depending on the number of assignments, this exemption limit may be increased or reduced. Additional expenses are charged according to the offer.

Procedure of contact:

1. The request must be submitted to the IT Support Group at D-GESS [via ticket](#). The IT Support Group makes preliminary investigations and informs the applicant (if necessary, after consulting the GESS SISB) about further procedure (execution by IT Support Group / forwarding to Scientific IT Services and scheduling / forwarding to other service providers at IT Services / rejection of the request).
2. The applicant contacts the SIS independently after the IT Support Group has approved the request. The SIS determine the scope and scheduling of the assignment in consultation with the GESS SISB.
3. If additional expenses arise, the applicant decides on the basis of the offer to complete the assignment or withdraw the request.
4. Status messages informing about the course of the assignment must be sent to the GESS SISB as a cc. Communication takes place via the scientific_it@gess.ethz.ch mailing list.
5. Upon the completion of the assignment, the applicant gives a short feedback on the way the problem was solved to the GESS SISB.

The SIS provide the GESS SISB with a monthly statement of their activities. Furthermore, the Service Board receives access to the system of documentation of the SIS for closer investigation.

The services provided by the Scientific IT Services

- ❖ Organization of Workshops for statistical calculation, for the use of Stata or HPC Clusters;
- ❖ Code Review to improve existing code;
- ❖ Code Clinic for code not working properly;
- ❖ Set up and adaptation of scientific software;
- ❖ Integration of scientific software in workflows for the acquisition and evaluation of data.