

# Minimum Viable Community

## 1. Purpose

Network - meet and discuss with other RSEs.

Share knowledge - present, work together, mentor

Support - listen

## 2. Identity

No entry-exam, openness - everybody is welcome to join if they share our purpose and values

Coding and dealing with researchers

Identify with our RSE def - somewhere between researcher who thinks about code as throwaway product, and a system engineer who does admin work

## 3. Values

[FAIR principles for software engineers](#) - Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable

Improving code quality - we're not concentrating on throwaway software, but like to think software as a "Craft"

Diversity Equity Inclusiveness - we want to welcome everybody: DEI and respect are a contract, which can be breached, in which case the person breaching the contract is not welcome anymore.

## 4. Success Definition 2025

Increased involvement in meetings - as measured in pizza orders

Define roles and org structure - prepare the time RSE4ORD is ending

4 meetings with members talk, 2 non-EPFL speakers - invite outside people to the talks

1 "Romand" meeting - including UNIL, HEIG, Idiap, UNIGE, others?

## 5. Experience

RSE Community is presented during/after hiring - need to bring this to the attention of HR and propose to have a short presentation to new hirees

Mentoring of new RSEs (coffee, lunch) - when people join EPFL, or when they join the group, have

somebody meeting them twice for coffee and once for lunch

Meeting every 2 months - except during the holidays, which gives a total of 4-5 meetings a year

## 6. Roles - pre-Draft

Ambassadors - currently linked to the RSE4ORD grant, will probably disappear in the new structure. As per the grant, Linus Gasser is paid 10% of his time, and Son Pham-Ba 5% of his time

Member or Visitor - define clearly how somebody can join officially the group. This is also important wrt governance, if there are general assemblies or such

Junior - new RSE discovering the craft. Can be linked with one or more mentors if they would like to

Mentor - accompanying a junior RSE on their road to mastery

Hero - somebody knowledgeable in a specific subject

## 7. Rules - pre-Draft

Only OSS tools for management - should've thought about that before starting on google drive :)

Respect other people's time - most of us are paid to do other work, so don't ask for more than what they can give

## 8. Governance - pre-Draft

[RSE4ORD](#) 2026 - will go until October 2026 - it's not 100% clear yet how the Swiss-wide RSE chapter will look like

Pre-RSE meeting - currently involves Linus, Son, Nicolas, Emmanuel. Discuss what to discuss during the monthly RSE4ORD meeting. But can be renewed

RSE@EPFL 2027 - to be defined how the RSE should be organized officially at EPFL

Order w/o hierarchy? - what is the minimum amount of order we need to have an active group?

## 9. Communication

Email - [rse-digest@listes.epfl.ch](mailto:rse-digest@listes.epfl.ch) - current admins: [carine.dengler@epfl.ch](mailto:carine.dengler@epfl.ch), [ahmed.elghareeb@epfl.ch](mailto:ahmed.elghareeb@epfl.ch), [linus.gasser@epfl.ch](mailto:linus.gasser@epfl.ch), [emmanuel.lanti@epfl.ch](mailto:emmanuel.lanti@epfl.ch), [son.phamba@epfl.ch](mailto:son.phamba@epfl.ch), [nicolas.richart@epfl.ch](mailto:nicolas.richart@epfl.ch)

Website - <https://rse.swiss> - ask Uwe Schmitt or Linus Gasser for access

Matrix - Space is here: <https://element.epfl.ch/#/room/#rse-ch:matrix.org> - there is an RSE-EPFL room

EPFL screens - let's do some announcements there