

Package: SCIProj (via r-universe)

May 22, 2026

Type Package

Title Creates a Scientific Project Skeleton as an R Package

Version 1.0.1

Description Provides a template for new research projects structured as an R package-based research compendium. Everything - data, R scripts, custom functions and manuscript or reports - is contained within the same package to facilitate collaboration and promote reproducible research, following the FAIR principles.

Language en-US

License MIT + file LICENSE

Depends R(>= 4.1.0)

Imports usethis (>= 2.0.0), rstudioapi, cli

Suggests knitr, renv, rmarkdown, targets, testthat (>= 3.0.0), withr

VignetteBuilder knitr

Config/testthat/edition 3

RoxygenNote 7.3.3

Encoding UTF-8

URL <https://github.com/saskiaotto/SCIProj>

BugReports <https://github.com/saskiaotto/SCIProj/issues>

Config/pak/sysreqs cmake git make libgit2-dev libuv1-dev libssl-dev libx11-dev

Repository <https://saskiaotto.r-universe.dev>

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| create_proj | <i>Create new data analysis project as R package</i> |
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Description

Create all the scaffolding for a new project in a new directory. The scaffolding includes a README file, different folders to hold raw data, analyses, etc, a `_targets.R` pipeline template, `renv` dependency management, and a `CITATION.cff` file. Optionally, initialize a git repository and/or set up a private or public GitHub repo with GitHub Actions CI.

Usage

```
create_proj(
  name,
  data_raw = TRUE,
  makefile = FALSE,
  testthat = FALSE,
  use_pipe = FALSE,
  add_license = NULL,
  license_holder = "Your name",
  orcid = NULL,
  use_git = TRUE,
  create_github_repo = FALSE,
  private_repo = TRUE,
  ci = "none",
  use_renv = TRUE,
  use_targets = TRUE,
  use_docker = FALSE,
  use_rproj = TRUE,
  setwd_to_proj = TRUE,
  open_proj = FALSE,
  verbose = FALSE
)
```

Arguments

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|----------|--|
| name | Character. Name of the new project. Could be a path, e.g. <code>"~/myRcode/newproj"</code> . A new folder will be created with that name. The directory name can contain underscores or hyphens (e.g. <code>"my_project"</code>) - these will be automatically converted to dots for the internal R package name (e.g. <code>my.project</code> in <code>DESCRIPTION</code>). |
| data_raw | Logical. If <code>TRUE</code> (default), adds a <code>data-raw/</code> folder for all the raw data files, including a <code>clean_data.R</code> script file for generating clean datasets, a <code>DATA_SOURCES.md</code> for documenting data provenance (source, license, download date, DOI), and a <code>README</code> . |

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| makefile | Logical. If TRUE, adds a template makefile.R file to the project. |
| testthat | Logical. If TRUE, adds testthat infrastructure. |
| use_pipe | Logical. If TRUE, adds magrittr's pipe operator to the package. Default is FALSE since R >= 4.1.0 provides the native pipe operator > which is recommended instead. |
| add_license | Character. Type of license to add. Options are "MIT", "GPL", "AGPL", "LGPL", "Apache", "CCBY", or "CC0". Default is NULL (no license added). |
| license_holder | Character. Name of the license holder / project author. Also used in CITATION.cff. Default is "Your name". |
| orcid | Character. ORCID iD of the project author (e.g. "0000-0001-7986-0308"). Used in CITATION.cff. Default is NULL. |
| use_git | Logical. If TRUE (default), initializes a local git repository. |
| create_github_repo | Logical. If TRUE, creates a GitHub repository. Note this requires some working infrastructure like git and a GITHUB_PAT. See https://usethis.r-lib.org/articles/articles/usethis-setup.html . |
| private_repo | Logical. If TRUE (default), the GitHub repo will be private. |
| ci | Character. Type of continuous integration for your GitHub repository. Options are "none" (default) or "gh-actions" (uses GitHub Actions with R CMD check). Only used when create_github_repo = TRUE. |
| use_renv | Logical. If TRUE (default), initializes renv for dependency management. Creates a lockfile and .Rprofile bootstrap. |
| use_targets | Logical. If TRUE (default), adds a _targets.R template file for pipeline-based workflow management. |
| use_docker | Logical. If TRUE, adds a template Dockerfile for building a reproducible computational environment. |
| use_rproj | Logical. If TRUE (default), creates an RStudio project file (.Rproj). Set to FALSE when working exclusively in IDEs that do not use .Rproj files, such as Positron or VSCode. The .Rproj file is harmless in these IDEs but simply unused. |
| setwd_to_proj | Logical. If TRUE (default), sets the working directory to the new project after creation so you can continue working inside it. Ignored when open_proj = TRUE (the new session gets the project; the current session keeps its original WD). Set to FALSE for script-driven workflows where you want to stay in your current working directory - for example, when creating multiple projects in sequence. |
| open_proj | Logical. If TRUE, opens the newly created project in a new RStudio or Positron session (ignored in other IDEs). In that case, the current session keeps its original working directory, regardless of setwd_to_proj. Default is FALSE. |
| verbose | Logical. If TRUE, prints verbose output in the console while creating the new project. Default is FALSE. |

Details

SCIproj creates a research compendium that combines **structure** (where files live) with **workflow** (how analyses are reproduced). By default, it sets up:

- `renv` for dependency management (reproducible package versions)
- `targets` for pipeline-based workflow (automatic dependency tracking and caching)
- `CITATION.cff` for machine-readable citation metadata (FAIR)
- `DATA_SOURCES.md` for data provenance documentation

Since R \geq 4.1.0, the native pipe operator `|>` is available and recommended over the `magrittr` pipe `%>%`. The `use_pipe` parameter is therefore set to `FALSE` by default.

Value

Invisibly returns the path to the new project directory.

Examples

```
## Not run:
library("SCIproj")

# Minimal project (includes renv + targets by default)
create_proj("myproject")

# Names with underscores/hyphens are fine - the R package name is
# auto-cleaned (e.g. "baltic_cod" -> "baltic.cod" in DESCRIPTION)
create_proj("baltic_cod_analysis")

# Full-featured project
create_proj("my_research_project",
  add_license = "MIT",
  license_holder = "Jane Doe",
  orcid = "0000-0001-2345-6789",
  create_github_repo = TRUE,
  ci = "gh-actions"
)

# Minimal without workflow tools
create_proj("myproject", use_renv = FALSE, use_targets = FALSE)

## End(Not run)
```

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