Support to Entrepreneurship around EPFL
About Ecosystems: the Rainforest

The Rainforest by Victor W. Hwang and Greg Horowitt perfectly explains that entrepreneurial innovation is chaotic and the diversity and connection of its actors make its richness and efficiency. The complexity of the EPFL ecosystem is therefore its strength even if it may appear complicated to a first-comer. But please remember all this is about people, not institutions. Indeed the following is of utmost importance:

The #7 Rainforest Rules
– Break the Rules and Dream
– Open Doors and Listen
– Trust and Be Trusted
– Experiment and Iterate Together
– Seek Fairness, Not Advantage
– Err, Fail and Persist
– Pay it Forward

The #6 Rainforest Tools
– Learn by Doing
– Enhance Diversity
– Celebrate Role Models and Peer Interaction
– Build Tribes of trust
– Create Social Feedback Loops
– Make Social Contracts Explicit
Entrepreneurship and Innovation are Complex

The next slides try to give an exhaustive list of tools and support mechanisms available for EPFL entrepreneurs. If it begins with research and technology transfer, innovation is further encouraged through:

- Advice (training, coaching, mentoring)
- Funding (grants, prizes, but also investments)
- Office space (co-working spaces, incubators, accelerators, technology parks)
- Exposure (events, networking, pitching of ideas, role models, community)
- Internationalization

This document shows the richness and related complexity of the EPFL ecosystem. We wish it will still be helpful as a resource reference list.

The online content can be found on www.epfl.ch/innovation/entrepreneurship/resources-for-entrepreneurs
Public Funding of Education & Research

Conseil des Ecoles Polytechniques – ETH Rat
www.ethrat.ch

Fonds National Suisse – Swiss National Fund
www.snf.ch

InnoSuisse - Agence Suisse pour la l'Encouragement de l'Innovation
(Swiss Innovation Agency)
www.innosuisse.ch

European Union
ec.europa.eu/research
ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/
erc.europa.eu/
VPI - A Facilitator Between Two Worlds

VPR
- Transdisciplinary Centers & Discovery Projects
- Technology Transfer Office (TTO)
- Contracts / Licenses / PoC (Enable)

VPI
- Strategic Partnerships
- Innovation Park
- Alliance - relationships / collaborations with SMEs
- Entrepreneurship
- Innogrannts
- xgrants

www.epfl.ch/innovation

EPFL Community (Professors, Researchers, Students)

VPE
- Bachelors / Masters

CORPORATES
- SMEs
- START-UPS

Support to Entrepreneurs around EPFL
Innovation and Tech. Transfer

EPFL Technology Transfer Office (part of VPR)

EPFL Technology Transfer Office (part of VPR)
tto.epfl.ch

Swiss TT Association

Swiss TT Association
www.switt.ch

Available technologies:

Available technologies:
www.switt.ch/pour_l_economie/swittlist

Industry Liaison Programme

Industry Liaison Programme
www.alliance-tt.ch

Partnerships & Innovation Square

Partnerships & Innovation Square
www.epfl.ch/innovation/industry/

Start-up creation

Start-up creation
www.epfl.ch/innovation/entrepreneurship/start-your-venture

Innogrants

Innogrants
www.epfl.ch/innovation/entrepreneurship/innogrants

XGrant

XGrant

Tech4Impact

Tech4Impact
t4i.epfl.ch/

YGrant

YGrant
Funding: Surviving the “Valley of Death” at EPFL

Start-Up foundation

Research Grants
Development Grants
Preseed Grants
Friends, Family & Fools
Business Angels, Seed VCs
Early Stage VCs, Corp. Partners
Late Stage VCs (… M&A / IPO)

Basic Research
Applied Research
Proof of Concept / Business Case
Prototype Founders
Product Development
Company Fast Growth (Revenues, Employees)

A rich ecosystem
Funding

Support to Entrepreneurs around EPFL
IT’S NOT ABOUT MONEY ONLY: A RICH AND DENSE ECOSYSTEM

Advice/Training:

Exposure/networks:

Housing:

Start-Up foundation

“Valley of Death”

Research Grants
Development Grants
Preseed Grants
Friends, Family & Fools
Business Angels, Seed VCs
Early Stage VCs, Corp. Partners
Late Stage VCs

Basic Research
Applied Research
Proof of Concept / Business Case
Prototype Founders
Prototype Founders
Prototype Founders

EPFL
LA FORGE
EPFL Innovation Park
EPFL Innovation Park

A to D
E to J

A rich ecosystem
More than funding

Support to Entrepreneurs around EPFL

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A Diversity of Support Tools

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A Rich Offering in Entrepreneurship Education

College of Management of Technology

cdm.epfl.ch

including

Bridging engineering and business

Master and Minor in Management, Technology and Entrepreneurship

smte.epfl.ch

EPFL EMBA

emba.epfl.ch

A TTO course for PhDs

mintt.epfl.ch

China Hardware Innovation Camp

www.chi.camp

... and much more in EPFL colleges and SHS classes for bachelor and Master students
A Rich Offering in Entrepreneurship Education

EIP StartupTraining
www.businessconcept.ch

venturelab
www.venturelab.ch

including startup champions / venture ideas
www.epfl.ch/innovation/entrepreneurship/startup-champions/
Coaching

“coaching” provided by Innovation Park & subject to approval by EPFL since 1996
epfl-innovationpark.ch/get-involved/start-right-away/coaching

CTI (InnoSuisse) Start-up coaching with various steps to acceptance

EPFL Alumni Mentors
www.epflalumni.ch/mentoring-programs/

Start-up competition
www.imd.org/emba/program/executive-mba-startup-competition
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Support to Entrepreneurs around EPFL
Enable: accelerating technology transfer through prototyping of IP
enable.epfl.ch

Innogrants: a 1-year salary for EPFL future entrepreneurs
www.epfl.ch/innovation/entrepreneurship/innogrants

XGrants: a support tool of up to CHF10’000 for EPFL bachelor and master students

YGrants: a support tool of up to CHF10’000 for EPFL bachelor and master students in social entrepreneurship
Additional Proof of Concepts Grants

The InnoSuisse “feasibility studies” or “projects without implementation partners” support R&D projects with a high applied research content
www.innosuisse.ch/inno/en/home/start-your-innovation-project/projekte-ohne-umsetzungspartner.html

The Swiss National Fund (SNF) is supporting similar mechanisms through its NCCRs
www.nccr-robotics.ch/tech-transfer/startups/spinfund

InnoPACTT: a financial support to create your spin-off at CHUV / Unil
www.pactt.ch/pactt_home/pactt-inventor-scientist/pactt-innopacct.htm

Bridge: a joint SNF – CTI (InnoSuisse) program
www.bridge.ch
More Funding: Foundation Grants


50’000CHF “Coup de pouce” award (1-3 per year) [www.fondation-liechti.ch](http://www.fondation-liechti.ch)

Up to 200’000CHF for projects in Information Technologies & Telecom [www.haslerstiftung.ch](http://www.haslerstiftung.ch)

and foundations are numerous in Switzerland
Funding & Loans

Venturekick provides seed funding up to 150'000CHF
www.venturekick.ch

A 100’000CHF loan mechanism by Fondation pour l’Innovation Technologique as well as other tools from Innovaud
www.fondation-fit.ch  www.innovaud.ch

Loans of 100’000-500’000CHF to founders
www.sti-stiftung.ch

Volkwirtschaft foundation : A 150’000CHF loan to support to young entrepreneurs
www.volkswirtschaft-stiftung.ch/en
Academic Awards

>>Venture>> 2019  www.venture.ch
Up to CHF150’000 awards

Prix Musy – 50’000CHF for a Woman Entrepreneur
www.epfl.ch/innovation/entrepreneurship/prix-musy/

10’000CHF plus 3x 1’000CHF, with ETHZ and EPFL as co-organizers
www.epfl.ch/innovation/entrepreneurship/young-entrepreneur-award
&  www.cnccef.org

A 50’000CHF award by HEC - Uni. Lausanne
www.prixstrategis.ch

A 30’000CHF award by HEC Lausanne & EPFL students
startlausanne.ch
External Awards

Fondation de Vigier (restricted to Swiss residents)
www.devigier.ch
100’000CHF per project (usually 4-5 per year)

PERL award
www.lausanne-region.ch
A total of 100’000CHF (50’000CHF, 20’000CHF and 3x – 10’000CHF)

A 160’000 € pan-European competition
for <2-year old start-ups and projects
www.hello-tomorrow.org

Generation Entrepreneur – in Romandie
www.generationentrepreneur.ch
External Awards

Swiss Economic Award - A total of 75'000CHF for Swiss-based companies set up in the past six years
www.swisseconomic.ch/en/sef-award

Swiss Technology Award
www.swiss-innovation.com/award
www.en.swiss-innovation.com/award

All type of business ventures with high growth potential. For German-speaking Swiss entrepreneurs
150’000CHF amount (3 prizes; every two years)
www.jungunternehmerpreis.ch

A 200’000CHF total. Annual business plan competition sponsored by several partners. 4 awards. www.swiss-startups-awards.ch
External Awards

20k & 10k Awards around ideas for sustainable development in Geneva
www.prix-iddea.ch

10kCHF Dyson Student Award
Marketingaward
https://www.swissmarketingforum.ch/events/marketing-tag

Entrepreneur of the year AWARD with a start-up category
www.ey.com/ch/eoy
A Diversity of Support Tools

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Financial Support
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- Business angels, Venture Capital
Close support: the EPFL Innovation Park

- The **Innovation Park**: 13 buildings for companies partnering & collaborating with EPFL
  [epfl-innovationpark.ch](http://epfl-innovationpark.ch)

  - Including 6 buildings for start-ups, offering a variety of value-added services (coaching, training, funding,…)

- The **Garage** (opened in 2008) for very early stage ventures
  [epfl-innovationpark.ch/legarage](http://epfl-innovationpark.ch/legarage)

- A co-working open-space for early-stage projects
  [epfl-innovationpark.ch/laforge](http://epfl-innovationpark.ch/laforge)
More Co-Working Spaces

edtech-collider.ch

www.gothamco.com

coworking.univercite.ch

geneva.impacthub.net
zurich.impacthub.net

La Muse – Geneva & Lausanne
la-muse.ch/coworking
More Science Parks

www.campusbiotech.ch

www.biopole.ch

www.y-parc.ch

www.neode.ch

www.creapole.ch

www.fongit.ch

Geneus.ch

www.eclosion.ch

www.friup.ch

www.bluefactory.ch

www.swissparks.ch
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Building a community

Join the EPFL start-up community on www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=516530

Subscribe to the EPFL start-up events memento memento.epfl.ch/subscription/start-up

Steve Jobs was mentored by Robert Noyce, founder of Intel
EPFL VPI Events

Startup Champions @ EPFL
www.epfl.ch/innovation/entrepreneurship/startup-champions/

Pizzas & Start-up

Most Tuesdays 5:30pm at Puur @EIP
epfl-innovationpark.ch/happy-hour
EPFL Events

Start-Up Day  
[Forum EPFL logo]  
http://forum.epfl.ch

Startup Weekends –  
[Startup Weekend logo]  
lausanne.startupweekend.org

Salon des Technologies et de l’Innovation de Lausanne  
[STIL logo]  
en.salon-stil.ch

Startup Corner  
[Startup Corner logo]  
www.facebook.com/pages/A3-Startup-Corner/120165334746207

beyondlab.org
External Events

Swiss Start-up Day
www.swiss-startup-day.ch/

LIFT Innovation Conference –
www.liftconference.com

Innovation Forum Lausanne –
inno-lausanne.ch/

START UP
BOOTCAMS

digitalswitzerland
digitalswitzerland.com/startupbootcamps/

And many more…

www.euforiaction.org
techup.ch
Innovation Platforms

digital switzerland  digitalswitzerland.com
Strengthen the country’s position as a digital hub

In addition to many platforms supported by FNS or CTI such as the NCCRs or Nano-Tera, French-speaking Switzerland has its own clusters and support organizations:

BioAlps
MicronArc
Alp ICT
CleantechAlps

www.bioalps.org
www.micronarc.ch
www.alpict.com
www.cleantech-alps.com

www.nano-tera.ch
Innovation Related-media in Switzerland

A local student media
innovation-time.com

www.startupticker.ch

www.inno-swiss.com

republic-of-innovation.ch
Information about Swiss Start-ups

VICE PRESIDENCY FOR INNOVATION VPI

www.epfl.ch/innovation/entrepreneurship/epfl-spin-offs

EPFL Spin-offs

www.epfl-innovationpark.ch/community/companies

Company list

spied.ch

Spin-off Information ETH Domain

www.startup.ch

All the Swiss Startups
# A Diversity of Support Tools

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Exposure to US entrepreneurship

Vleaders by Venturelab and sponsored by EPFL: a free training in the USA and China of selected individuals (a Prize format)

[venturelab.ch/ventureleaders]

A week in Silicon Valley: a competition opened to residents of Canton de Vaud under 25 year-old.

[www.facebook.com/BCVsvsc]

[www.bcv.ch/La-BCV/Responsabilite-d-entreprise/Silicon-Valley-Startup-Camp]
Exposure to Entrepreneurship in Europe

Become a European Entrepreneur in 12 days

Are you eager to boost your business beyond borders?

APPLY NOW to embark on a journey to learn from the best and brightest in European technical entrepreneurship.

The European Venture Programme will help you kick-start your business into a successful European adventure!

Intensive 12-day programme at all alliance locations
Build your international network
Workshops, pitching sessions, startup visits
Programme travel and accommodation costs covered

The programme is split into two sessions:
- July 7th – 13th, 2019 at Technical University of Munich (TUM) and École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL)
- August 25-31, 2019 at the Eindhoven University of Technology (TU/e) and the Technical University of Denmark (DTU)

Next session deadline: March 29, 2019

www.europeanventureprogramme.com

Previous session
July 7-13, 2019 at the Technical University of Munich (TUM) and the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL),
August 25-31, 2019 at the Eindhoven University of Technology (TU/e) and the Technical University of Denmark (DTU)
Swiss Accelerators

kickstart-accelerator.com

masschallenge.org/programs/switzerland

fintechfusion.ch

www.swissstartupfactory.com

www.f10.ch

www.seedhopper.ch
International Accelerator Programs

Support from the Cantons

Service de la promotion de l’économie et de l’innovation (SPEI)  
(Up to 50kCHF per year)  
https://www.vd.ch/themes/economie/soutien-aux-entreprises/soutiens-aux-entreprises/  

Développement économique, recherche et innovation  
https://www.ge.ch/comment-creer-entreprise/aides-aux-entreprises-encouragement-innovation

Service de la promotion économique  
www.neuchateleconomie.ch

Promotion Economique  
www.jura.ch/eco

www.promfr.ch

Direction du développement économique (DEVS)  
www.business-valais.ch

Entrepreneurship  
Cantonal Support
Creating the Company

A lot of advice on [www.gruenden.ch/english-version/](http://www.gruenden.ch/english-version/)
and a very complete pdf guide:
[www.kmu.admin.ch/dam/kmu/fr/dokumente/Publications/g3_engl_version_201212.pdf.download.pdf/g3_engl_version_201212.pdf](http://www.kmu.admin.ch/dam/kmu/fr/dokumente/Publications/g3_engl_version_201212.pdf.download.pdf/g3_engl_version_201212.pdf)

Swissnex – Embassy Antennas

Swiss House for Advanced Research and Education
Boston
www.swissnexboston.org

Swiss House for Scientific and Technological Cooperation
San Francisco
www.swissnexsanfrancisco.org

Knowledge and Competencies in Science, Education, Art, and Innovation
Shanghai
www.swissnexchina.org

Connecting Switzerland and India in Science, Education, Art, and Innovation
Bangalore
www.swissnexbangalore.org

Connecting Switzerland and Brazil in Science, Education and Innovation
Rio de Janeiro
www.swissnexbrazil.org
US Market Entry and Swissnex

www.swissnexusanfrancisco.org/what-we-do/residents/

Also follow Swissnex webinars and events
swissnexusanfrancisco.org/Ourwork/events
## A Diversity of Support Tools

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Seed Investors

Swiss Private Equity Association
www.seca.ch

Swiss Investor Association
www.swiss-startup-invest.ch

www.blueocean-ventures.com

www.go-beyond.biz

www.redalpine.com

www.b-to-v.com

www.sictic.ch

www.startangels.ch

www.businessangels.ch

EPFL Alumni – Angels
www.epflalumni.ch/start-up-services/
More Funding Tools

Platforms to connect with investors

www.investiere.ch

www.c-crowd.com

Even Micro-credit initiatives should be looked at
(World Microfinance Geneva, Microcredit solidaire)

Banks (usually they do not directly fund innovation)

www.swiss-venture-club.ch

A Credit Suisse initiative

www.zkb.ch

ZKB provides convertible loans

https://wemakeit.com

www.technologyfund.ch/

www.crcpme.ch
Venture Capital – 3 funds at EIP

Seed fund
office at EIP

www.polytechventures.ch

CHF100M, office at EIP

www.vipartners.ch

CHF190M, office at EIP

rennaissance.net

Swiss Private Equity Association

www.seca.ch

www.investeurope.eu
Venture Capital – more funds in Romandie

Pan-European fund with offices in Geneva, London & San Francisco
Fund V of €300M
www.indexventures.com

Index spin-off in life sciences
www.medicxi.com

Geneva based
€160M Endeavour II fund
www.endeavourvision.com

Geneva based Life-science seed fund
www.eclosion.com
Venture Capital – funds in Switzerland

Office in Basel
www.venturefund.novartis.com

German, French VCs invest in CH (eg Wellington, Sofinnova, Auriga, Banexi, etc) as well US ones (Highland, Oak, Matrix, Austin, Greylock…)

Office in Schlieren - ZH

Office in Zurich
www.emerald-ventures.com

Office in Zurich
www.creathor.de

The GSK VC arm in Bioelectronics
www.actionpotentialvc.com

Office in Basel
www.versantventures.com

Office in Basel
www.actionpotentialvc.com
Remember: any project takes time

Pedro Bados (Nexthink) is a just one but clear illustration that even a friendly ecosystem will not avoid a long maturation.

**Sept 03:** Invention disclosure  
**March 04:** Option for License  
**April 04:** Patent filing  
**Janv. 04:** contact with an IT expert  
**Mar 04-Jun 04:** coaching PSE financed by EPFL  
**May 04:** publication in Dialogue newsletter  
**Sept 04:** foundation of NEXThink SA  
**Avril-Sept 04:** Further coaching  
**Déc. 04:** Winner of the “startup competition”  
**Dec 04:** contacts with VCs  
**Jun 04:** Loan of CHF100k  
**April 06:** 1st round CHF 1.6M  
**Jul. 07:** 2nd round CHF 6M  
**Jan 05:** 1st pilots with customers  

As of 2018, more than 150M in funding, 200+ employees,  
www.nexthink.com  

**Generate**  
**Develop**  
**Launch**  
**Grow**  

**A 2-3 year initial phase**  

Support to Entrepreneurs around EPFL
In Summary again! A rich and dense ecosystem

Financiers

Incubators & coaching

Training

Poles of excellence

EPFL

Funding of research

Generate

Develop

Launch

Grow

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