

**KICK**  
**FOUNDATION**  
SWISS FOUNDATION FOR  
INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP



# JAHRESBERICHT 2023

3. GESCHÄFTSJAHR

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## EINLEITUNG

Die Kick Foundation wurde am 22. April 2021 von der Ernst Göhner Stiftung und der Gebert Rüt Stiftung errichtet. Die Stiftenden widmen der Stiftung ein Gründungskapital von CHF 100'000. Zudem wurden die Vermögen von bisher bei der Fondation des Fondateurs bestehenden unselbständigen Stiftungen, wie insbesondere «Venture Kick» und «Startupticker», in die neue Stiftung eingebracht. Das Stiftungsvermögen wird durch Zuwendungen der Stifter, von Dritten und durch Spenden von Investoren des Kickfund geäufnet.

## ZWECK

Die Kick Foundation bezweckt, gemäss Art. 2 der Statuten, die Stärkung des Wirtschaftsstandortes Schweiz durch die Förderung von Innovation und Unternehmertum, sowie die Förderung junger engagierter Talente an den schweizerischen Schulen und Hochschulen.

Die Stiftung hat einen ausschliesslich und unmittelbar gemeinnützigen Zweck. Sie verfolgt keine Erwerbszwecke und erstrebt keinen Gewinn.

## GREMIEN

### STIFTUNGSRAT

Suzanne Avedik (Präsidentin)

Roland Siegwart (Vize-Präsident)

Philip Bodmer

Sandra Tobler

Roger Wüthrich-Hasenböhler

### GESCHÄFTSSTELLE

Pascale Vonmont, Gebert Rüt Stiftung (im Mandat)

### AKTIVITÄTSÜBERSICHT STIFTUNGSRAT

Der Stiftungsrat hat an der Frühlingsitzung vom 19. April 2023 den Jahresbericht und -abschluss verabschiedet, Berichte und Kurzpräsentationen von Förderprogrammen zur Kenntnis genommen und mögliche Kooperationen andiskutiert.

An seiner Herbstsitzung vom 12. September 2023 hat der Stiftungsrat Berichte und Kurzpräsentationen von Förderprogrammen zur Kenntnis genommen, den Wechsel des Bankenpartners und die Ausgründung des Förderprogrammes «Startupticker» als eigene Stiftung verabschiedet.

Im Kalenderjahr wurden das Förderprogramm «Idea Kick» als Pilot durchgeführt und die Datenplattform Kickbox im Rahmen des Förderprogrammes «Talent Kick» eingeführt.

### STRATEGIEAUSSCHÜSSE FÖRDERPROGRAMME

Der Stiftungsrat kann gemäss dem Organisationsreglement (Punkt 12) Strategieausschüsse bezeichnen. Der/die Geschäftsführer:in ist von Amtes wegen deren Mitglied. Die Strategieausschüsse sind für die inhaltliche und finanzielle Begleitung von Förderprogrammen zuständig.

## **TALENT KICK**

Michael Hengartner

Alex Ilic

Patricia Koop

Roland Siegwart

Sandra Tobler

Pascale Vonmont

Der Strategieausschuss Talent Kick hat sich an folgenden Terminen im 2023 zu Sitzungen getroffen:  
13. Januar, 28. April, 11. August, 22. September.

## **VENTURE KICK**

Pascale Vonmont (Delegierte des Strategierates)

Suzanne Avedik

Philip Bodmer

Jan Lichtenberg

Der Strategieausschuss Venture Kick hat sich an folgenden Terminen im 2023 zu Sitzungen getroffen:  
26. Januar, 8. Mai, 6. November, 15. Dezember.

## **STARTUPTICKER**

Pascale Vonmont (Präsidentin)

Sandra Tobler (Vizepräsidentin)

Ulrich Geilinger

Lorenzo Ambrosini

Jean-Philipp Lallement

Der Strategieausschuss Startupticker hat sich an folgenden Terminen im 2023 zu Sitzungen getroffen:  
12. Juni, 29. November.

## FÖRDERTÄTIGKEIT

Die Förderprogramme der «Kick Foundation» bieten jungen und engagierten Talenten in der Schweiz ein breit angelegtes Ausbildungs- und Förderprogramm für Innovation, Technologie und Unternehmertum, von der ersten Idee in der Schule über das Studium bis zur Gründung eines Unternehmens und einer dementsprechenden kommunikativen Austauschplattform. Die einzelnen Initiativen sind zwar unabhängig aber gut aufeinander abgestimmt.



In die Fördertätigkeit wurden insgesamt CHF 64 Mio. eingesetzt. Die Mittel wurden durch die Stifter und durch Zuwendungen von zahlreichen Donatoren mit regelmässigen jährlichen Beiträgen an die jeweiligen Initiativen eingebracht. Die Zuwendungen 2023 im Umfang von CHF 7.7 Mio. verteilen sich wie folgt auf die einzelnen Initiativen: CHF 655'000 Talent Kick, CHF 6'724'188 Venture Kick, CHF 242'292 Startupticker.

## KURZBERICHT PROGRAMME KICK FOUNDATION

### IDEA KICK

Die neue Initiative «Idea Kick» schlägt eine Brücke zwischen Initiativen an Schulen der Sekundarstufe II wie «Schweizer Jugend forscht», «Young Enterprise Switzerland (YES)» und Nachfolgeprogrammen. Das modulare Programm umfasst verschiedene Elemente wie Förderung, Teambildung, Coaching und Zugang zu weiteren Initiativen wie Talent Kick, First Ventures und Venture Kick, die es den jungen Talenten ermöglicht, ihre Ideen während ihres Studiums nahtlos weiterzuentwickeln.

Die Initiative «Idea Kick» wurde im Jahr 2022 und 2023 als Pilotprojekt von der Gebert Rüt Stiftung im Rahmen ihrer Fördertätigkeit initiiert und finanziert und wird im 2024 in das Förderprogramm der Kick Foundation überführt.

### TALENT KICK

Talent Kick ist ein hochschulübergreifendes Programm, das Studierenden ermöglicht während des Studiums, in einem interdisziplinären Team eine konkrete Projektidee umzusetzen und ihre Fähigkeit als verantwortliche Führungsperson zu stärken.

Das erste Semester besteht aus Bootcamps, Veranstaltungen, Workshops und Coachings, mit dem Ziel ein Team zu bilden. Die erfolgreichsten Studierenden erhalten eine Anschubfinanzierung als Team-Kick und wechseln in das 2. bis 4. Semester, um die Idee in der Praxis zu validieren. Dies unter Beizug eines Netzwerkes von erfahrenen Unternehmern, Führungskräften, potenziellen Kunden, Investoren und Experten. Am Ende des Programms haben die Studierenden neben dem Fachabschluss auch die Fähigkeit erworben, sich erfolgreich in einer unternehmerischen Laufbahn zu behaupten.

Im Jahr 2023 wurden aus 131 Bewerbungen 46 Talente ins Programm aufgenommen, sie stammen von 13 verschiedenen Hochschulen. Insgesamt haben aus den bisher über 500 Bewerbungen 52 Teams den ersten Meilenstein erreicht und die daraus entstandenen Startups konnten Finanzierungen von insgesamt CHF 8.8 Mio. auslösen. Details zum Programm finden sich im angehängten Bericht bzw. auf der entsprechenden Programmwebseite.

[talentkick.ch](https://talentkick.ch)

## **VENTURE KICK**

Venture Kick schliesst eine wichtige Lücke in der Innovationskette: die Umsetzung von Forschungsarbeiten in vielversprechende Geschäftsideen. Das Förderprogramm finanziert nicht nur die ersten Schritte von Universitätsforschern mit Ideen, sondern entwickelt auch ihre unternehmerischen Fähigkeiten. Ein dreistufiger Prozess führt zu einem Spin-off mit einem soliden Geschäftsplan für die wirtschaftliche Umsetzung der Innovation.

Im Jahr 2023 wurden aus 781 Eingaben 291 Ideen der Jury präsentiert, davon wurden 93 in Stufe 1, 55 in Stufe 2 und schlussendlich 31 in Stufe 3 gefördert. Detaillierte Angaben zum Programm finden sich im angehängten Jahresbericht oder auf der entsprechenden Programmwebseite.

[venturekick.ch](https://venturekick.ch)

## **STARTUPTICKER.CH**

Startupticker.ch ist die Online-Plattform für Innovatoren, Unterstützer und junge Startups aus den Schweizer Hochschulen. Die kostenlose Plattform dient dazu, das Angebot an Förderangeboten, Events, Weiterbildungen und News aufzuzeigen. Die wichtigsten Nachrichten und Ereignisse der Woche aus der Community werden in einem wöchentlichen Newsletter verschickt.

Im Jahr 2023 wurden 1'280 Artikel und 1'140 Kurse publiziert. Das Newsportal verzeichnete 374'000 Unique Visitors und 9'500 Newsletter Leser:innen. Hohe Aufmerksamkeit haben auch die jährlichen Publikationen «Swiss Venture Capital Report» und «Startup Radar» erzielt. Detaillierte Angaben zum Portal finden sich im angehängten Kurzbericht oder auf der entsprechenden Programmwebseite.

Im Verlaufe des 2023 wurde aufgrund der grossen und breiten Donatorenabstützung die eigenständige Stiftung «Startupticker Foundation» gegründet: Diese übernimmt ab 2024 sämtliche Aktivitäten der Plattform.

[startupticker.ch](https://startupticker.ch)

## **EXTERNE STELLEN**

### **BUCHHALTUNG**

Bourcart Treuhand AG, Basel

[bourcart.ch](https://bourcart.ch)

### **REVISIONSSTELLE**

Copartner Revision AG, Basel

[copartner.ch](https://copartner.ch)

### **STIFTUNGSAUFSICHT**

Eidgenössische Stiftungsaufsicht, Bern

<https://www.edi.admin.ch/edi/de/home/fachstellen/eidgenoessische-stiftungsaufsicht.html>

### **KICK FOUNDATION**

Basel, 8. April 2024

Geschäftsstelle: St. Alban-Vorstadt 12, 4052 Basel

## ANHANG

- **Jahresberichte und Programminitiativen**



# Talent Kick Annual Report

2023



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# FOREWORD

Reflections from Viviana, CEO

**“ This year at Talent Kick, our journey has been marked by exciting new partnerships and the inspiring successes of our teams. ”**

*The onboarding of Cecilia and Jean-Sebastien has been a pivotal moment for our team. Their seamless integration and exceptional contributions have filled me with immense pride. Their dedication and skill has significantly enhanced our operational capabilities and community.*

*The collaboration with universities in Romandie stands out as a significant achievement, reflecting our commitment to nurturing talent through meaningful alliances. These partnerships have not only broadened our reach but also enriched the experiences and opportunities available to our students.*

*Our internal team efficiency has been transformed through the implementation of CRM systems and tools like Monday.com. These advancements have streamlined our processes, enabling us to focus more on further strategic initiatives and enhancing our overall effectiveness.*

*Moreover, the professionalization and growth of our social media presence, spearheaded by Eloise, deserves special mention. Eloise's expertise has not only elevated our digital footprint but also strengthened our engagement with the community, further solidifying Talent Kick's presence digitally.*

*With such a talented team, I am confident and excited about our future endeavors.*

*We've furthermore strengthened our ties within the entrepreneurial ecosystem through partnerships with rready, Kickbox at ETH, the Transfer offices at ETH and EPFL, a first industry partner, Swisspreneurs and the Startup Nights.*

*These collaborations and developments have been instrumental in integrating Talent Kick firmly into the ecosystem, providing stability, many more exciting opportunities for the teams and setting the stage for our expansion to two batches starting in Spring and Autumn in 2024. Additionally, securing first funding for an internationalisation pilot marks an important step forward and has enabled us to bring Rebecca onboard. Her presence reinforces our commitment to global cooperation and impact.*

*I am immensely proud of the teams that have emerged from our program, those who have formed this year, those who have received the Team Kick, those who have graduated and those who are still actively validating their solutions as part of the 2nd-4th semester at Talent Kick. Their triumphs securing support through other programs and their successful fundraising endeavors are a clear indication of the effectiveness and sustainable impact of our program. These achievements represent the real-world impact of our efforts and the potential of our students to drive positive change.*

*As we look forward to another year of growth and collaboration, I am excited about the possibilities that lie ahead. Together, we will continue to build on these foundations, fostering a strong community of support to create more excellent entrepreneurial leaders.*





# FOREWORD

Reflections from the Talent Kick team



“Throughout this year, we successfully established five strategic partnerships with universities in Romandie, marking a significant step in our ongoing efforts to support students on their entrepreneurial journeys. Collaborating closely with these academic institutions, we have laid the groundwork for empowering students and facilitating their entrepreneurial career paths during their studies. Reflecting on the past year, our teams’ accomplishments were truly inspiring. These successes highlighted the real impact of our work and serve as fuel for my inspiration to continue fostering a vibrant community and enhancing our support system. As we transition into the upcoming year, I’m enthusiastic about continuing to nurture partnerships, sparking collaborations and synergies that unlock new and exciting opportunities for our teams, and explore avenues that will further empower our community in their entrepreneurial journey.”

**Cecilia Molina, Regional Manager Romandie**



“In 2023 we saw unprecedented growth in our social media presence and reach, a result of honing the TK brand and voice. My role enabled me to develop my skills in design and videography to greater serve and share the TK mission. By structuring and unifying our content generation processes, our marketing and

social media department is ready to go forward with confidence and consistency preparing for the expansion of the team with a promotion manager in 2024!”

**Eloise Martin, Marketing & Design**



“This year, we have taken our first steps in the internationalization and digitalization of our program. With the goals for our global initiative now clearly defined, we are excited and ready to embark on the thrilling journey of increasing global cooperation in 2024!”

**Rebecca Bähler, Internationalization**

“Throughout this year, we successfully reinforced our centralized infrastructure using our work management system Monday.com. Its successful adoption by our internal team has significantly contributed to the overall efficiency and success of the program resulting in an overall satisfaction of 4.2 out of 5 and an impressive NPS score of 46. The meticulous documentation of program management has played a crucial role in ensuring our growth to two batches per year. Looking at 2024, our primary focus will be leveraging AI tools and automation to enhance internal team efficiency, implementing Circle.so for an improved student program experience, and strengthening our partnership with the platform ready (Kick Box) to expand our reach in the Swiss ecosystem.”

**Jean-Sébastien Rahm, Operations Manager**



# TALENT KICK AT A GLANCE

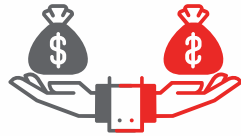
Take a look at some of our greatest accomplishments in numbers!

**CHF 8,871,750** **52** **TEAMS FORMED**

FUNDING RAISED BY TEAMS

WHICH IS 43 X  
THE INITIAL

**CHF 205,000**



TEAM KICK FUNDING  
AWARDED TO TEAMS!

**3 MAIN LOCATIONS**   
FOR BOOTCAMPS AND EVENTS

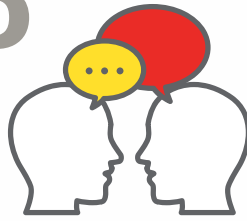


**17 UNIVERSITIES**

REPRESENTED IN OUR COHORTS

**30 BOOTCAMPS  
ORGANISED**

**280 HOURS**  
OF CONTACT TIME



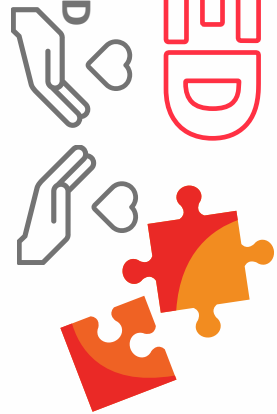
**13** **ALUMNI  
LEADING  
9 GRADUATED  
STARTUPS**

**65** **EVENTS  
HOSTED**



**1,500** **FOLLOWERS**

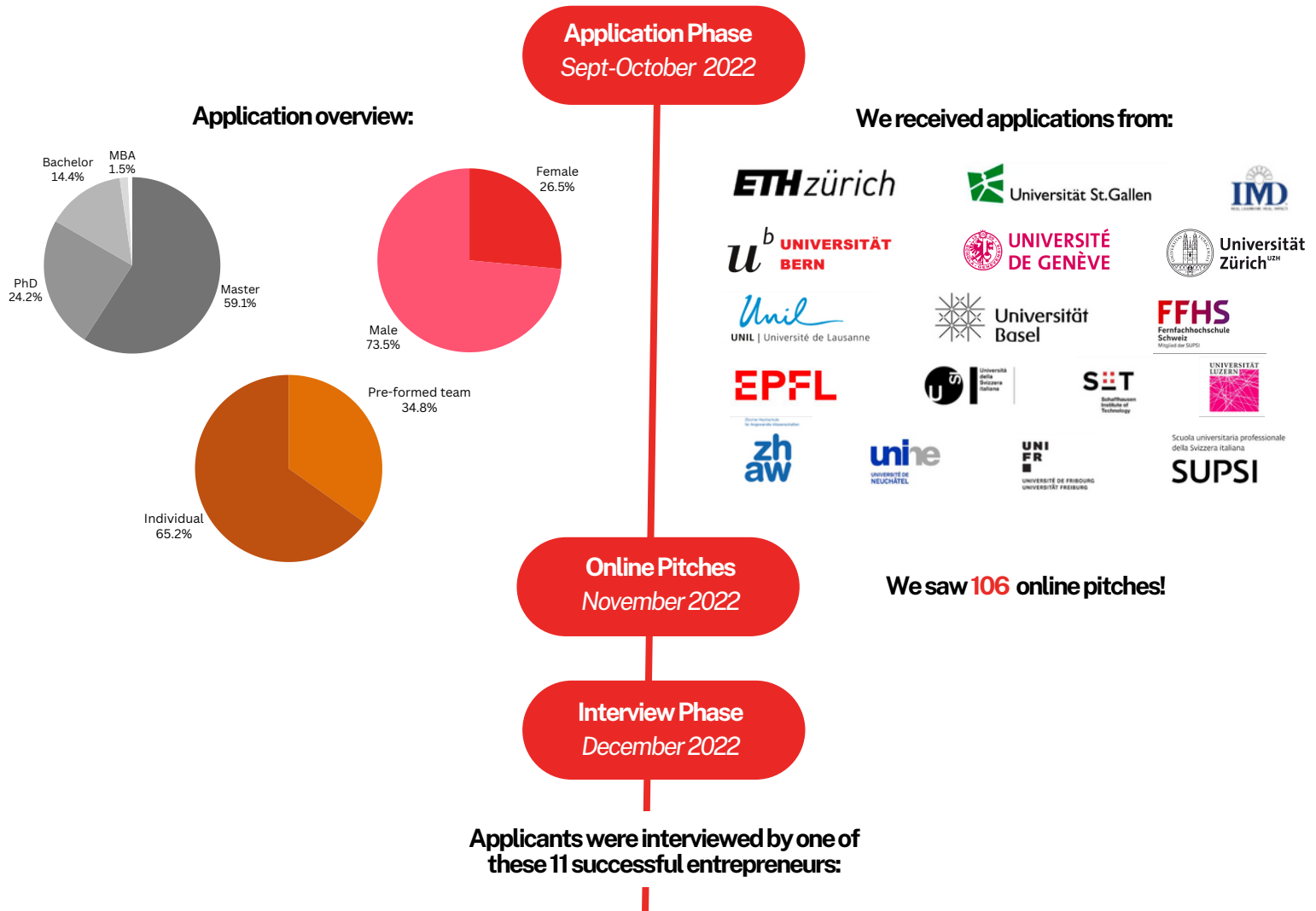
STUDENTS RECEIVED  
HIGHLY INDIVIDUALISED  
SUPPORT BY TK



**OVER 500 APPLICATIONS**  
RECEIVED SINCE THE SWISS-WIDE  
LAUNCH IN 2021

# TKS 2023 BATCH

In 2022, we opened our application portal for the third batch: TKS23



**Paulina Grnarova** is the Co-Founder & CEO at DeepJudge. DeepJudge is an AI-powered context-sensitive legal document processing platform. During her PhD, Paulina decided it was time to challenge the status quo in legaltech with her own team of AI experts after witnessing the AI revolution first hand at ETH and Google. While pursuing her PhD, Paulina connected research from OpenAI, Google Brain, and ETH Zurich, and now her current mission at DeepJudge is to connect the legal world with AI technology. DeepJudge secured over a million in non-dilutive funding, is backed by prominent investors, and is currently fundraising to boost its growth. The company now has over 20 employees. DeepJudge is an affiliated startup of the ETH AI Center, which is one of the lead partners of Talent Kick. Paulina has pursued a similar path as many of our talents in Talent Kick, starting her startup during her PhD and turning her research into a product, shaping AI solutions of tomorrow.

Christof Roduner is the VP of Engineering, CIO & Co-Founder at Scandit AG. Scandit Smart Data Capture on smart devices provides actionable insights and automates end-to-end processes. In 2022 the company raised a Series D round of \$150 million that values the Swiss startup at over \$1 billion and they now have over 560 employees. As part of the initial Advisory Board, Christof supported Talent Kick from the beginning and was part of creating the Founders Agreement. He is now part of the Steering Committee and a valuable partner.



Herbert Bay is a Deep-Tech Entrepreneur and successfully co-founded multiple ventures. In 2008 he co-founded kooaba, which develops cloud-based image recognition solutions that integrate state-of-the-art visual recognition in applications. The company raised US \$2.9M in a Serie A round, had over 10 employees, and was successfully sold to Qualcomm in January 2014. In 2012, Herbert founded Shortcut Media as a spin-off from kooaba, and recently co-founded Earkick, which seeks to understand physiological signs of mental health issues and provide tools to track mental health in an effortless way. The company has raised a total of \$1.1M in Pre-Seed round in 2021 and now has over 15 employees. Herbert Bay is also an Angel Investor and Mentor of Ethon AI, one of the teams of the spring 2021 Talent Kick cohort.

# THE INTERVIEW PHASE

Meet the successful entrepreneurs who interviewed our TKS23 applicants...



Bernhard Kratzwald is the Co-founder and CTO at Ethon AI - one of Talent Kick's alumni and many success stories. Ethon AI's technology allows the detection and prevention of quality defects. After joining Talent Kick, Ethon AI received the prestigious Pioneers Fellowship grant from ETH Zurich and shortly after in 2022 secured a 1.3 million USD funding, followed by a 6.8 USD oversubscribed seed round to fuel their growth and ramp up their Zurich-based team which now consists of more than 25 employees.

Sélim Benayat is a successful serial entrepreneur. In 2018 he founded RosieReality, an ETH-Zürich spin-off that creates delightful family entertainment IP for mobile consumption at the intersection of software and AR-technology. The company raised US\$2.2M in a seed round. More recently, he co-founded Bento, a community space that helps talent get the spotlight it deserves. The company raised a Pre-seed of US\$ 1.6M and has been recently acquired by Linktree. Sélim Benayat supported the creation of the Talent Kick program and is a valuable partner.



Andreas is a Venture Partner at BackBone Ventures and was also the CEO and founder of Selfnation. Selfnation was an award-winning fash-tech company producing tailor-made jeans and chinos for the DACH and UK market. With its AI powered pattern generation technology and fully automated production facilities, Selfnation set new standards in ecological and customer-centric fashion fabrication. After having sustainably produced and shipped perfectly fitting trousers to more than 15k customers, Selfnation joined forces with TailorStore from Sweden in 2020. Before that, the company had raised a total of \$291K in funding over 6 rounds and had over 10 employees. Andreas is also an entrepreneur in residence at the ETH AI Center who is one of the lead partners of the Talent Kick program.

Andrej Kulikov is the Industry Partnership Manager at the ETH AI Center, one of the lead partners of the Talent Kick program. Andrej was the CEO and founder of Artisense Corporation, a computer vision and sensor fusion software company that develops an integrated localisation platform using cameras as lead sensors for the automation of robots, vehicles, and spatial intelligence applications. Artisense provides products and technology for highly accurate, robust, and safe navigation in any space and with low-cost hardware. The company has raised a total of \$5.3M in funding over 2 rounds and now has over 13 employees.



David Baur is an EPFL alumni and the Co-Founder & Co-CEO at Aeler. Aeler is a logtech company designing hardware and software to meet fundamental logistics needs: efficiency, visibility & sustainability. The company has raised a total of \$8.9M in funding over 4 rounds. Their latest funding was raised in 2022 from a Seed round. They now have over 50 employees. David Baur has been a speaker at Bootcamp sharing his experience and valuable knowledge with previous Talent Kick cohorts.

Julian Senoner is the co-founder and CEO at Ethon AI. After Julian and Bernhard joined Talent Kick whilst working on their PhDs, they quickly transitioned from doing scientific research to establishing a company that helps manufacturers switch from reactive to proactive quality management. Julian was listed by Forbes on their 30 under 30 list in 2022, and most recently, Ethon AI have worked with Lindt and Sprüngli to optimise their production processes.



Francesco Dell'Endice is the founder & CEO at QvalySense. QvalySense is a young and innovative Swiss company that invented the QSorter® technology, a sophisticated high-speed single-kernel robot, which measures the compositional and physical quality of each seed or grain at very high speed and sorts, from 30 to 3'000 per second. The company was founded in 2010 and it pioneered this breakthrough technology along the most prestigious institutes in USA and Switzerland and today it counts customers all over the world. QvalySense has raised a total of US \$24.6M in funding over 11 rounds. Their latest funding was raised in 2022. They now have over 25 employees.

Kevin Sartori is a Tech entrepreneur, product leader, strategist & Co-founder at Auterion. Auterion is a software company bringing open-source and open-standards into the mobile robotics industry for a simplified user and deployment experience through connected and autonomous fleets of drones in the air and on the ground. The company raised USD 10M in a seed round and now has over 80 employees. Kevin Sartori is also an entrepreneur in residence at the ETH AI Center, one of the lead partners of Talent Kick.





# MEET OUR 2023 TALENTS

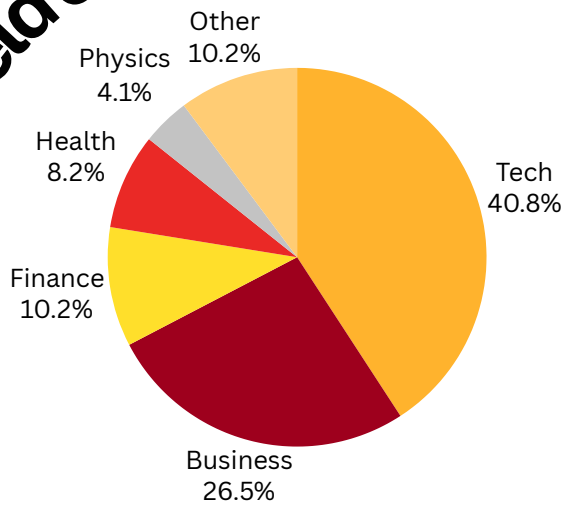
- ETH
- Uni Basel
- UNIFR
- UNIL
- ZHAW
- UNINE
- HSG
- UZH
- USI
- EPFL
- UNIBE



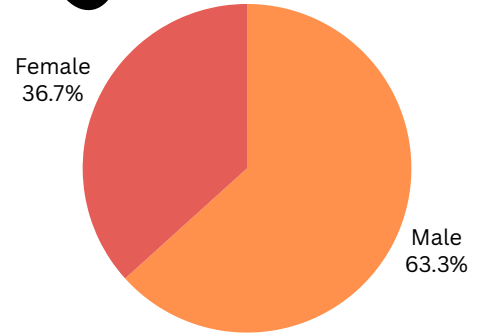
# 2023 COHORT COMPOSITION

Our TKS23 batch was made up of two cohorts: Central/East and Romandie

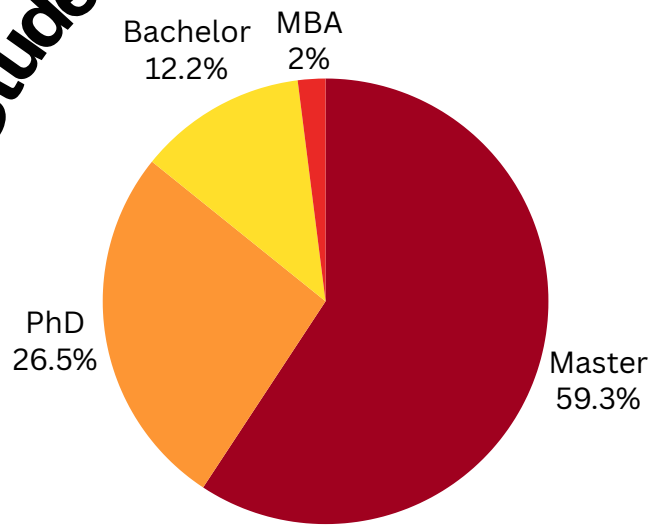
## Field of study



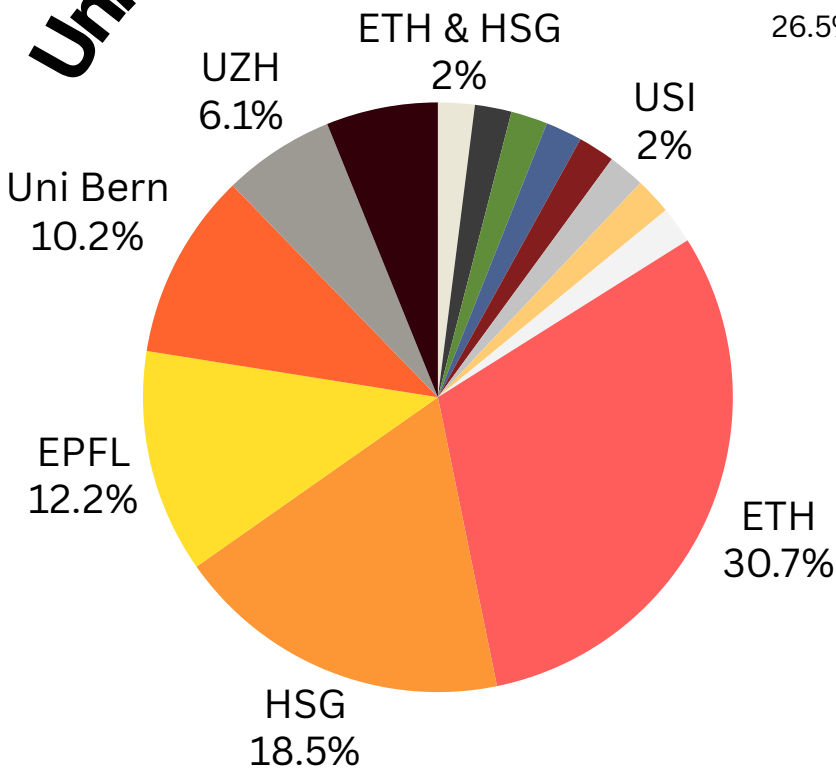
## Gender



## Student status



## University

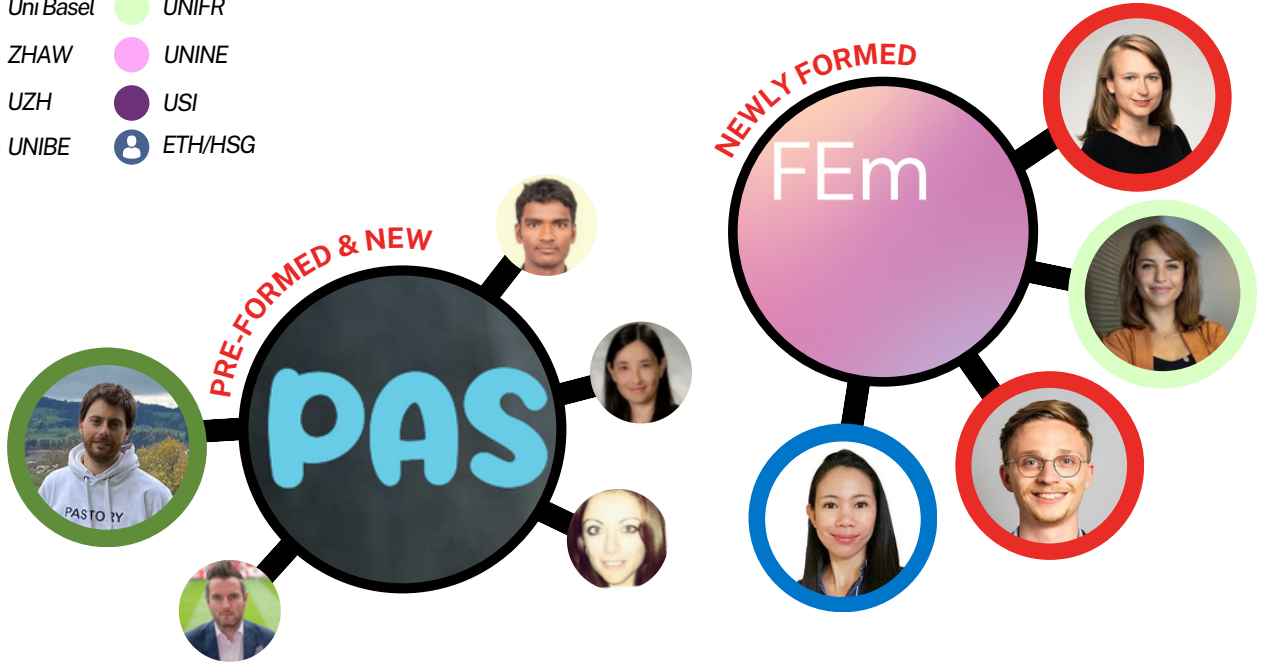


- ETH: 30.7%
- HSG: 18.5%
- EPFL: 12.2%
- UNIBE: 10.2%
- UZH: 6.1%
- UNI LAUSANNE: 6.1%
- ETH & HSG: 2.0%
- UZH & HSG: 2.0%
- UNI BASEL: 2.0%
- ZHAW: 2.0%
- UNI LUCERNE: 2.0%
- USI: 2.0%
- UNI NEU: 2.0%
- UNI FRIBOURG: 2.0%

# MEET OUR 2023 TEAMS

During the first semester, in our hands-on bootcamps and events, students work on achieving **Milestone 1: form a stable team**. This year, 5 fully pre-formed, 3 partially pre-formed (with additional co-founders from TK) and 14 entirely newly formed teams emerged!

- ETH    ● Uni Basel    ● UNIFR
- UNIL    ● ZHAW    ● UNINE
- HSG    ● UZH    ● USI
- EPFL    ● UNIBE    ● ETH/HSG





# MEET OUR 2023 TEAMS

- ETH    ● Uni Basel    ● UNIFR
- UNIL    ● ZHAW    ● UNINE
- HSG    ● UZH    ● USI
- EPFL    ● UNIBE    ● ETH/HSG

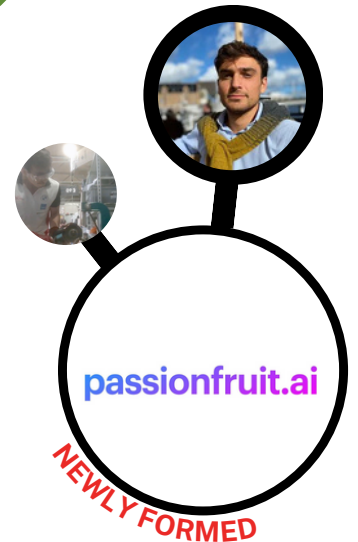
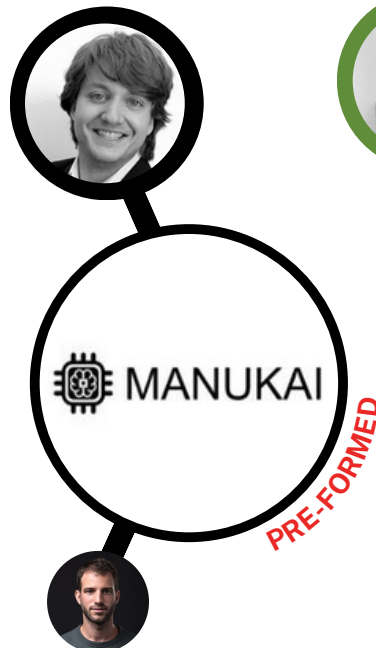
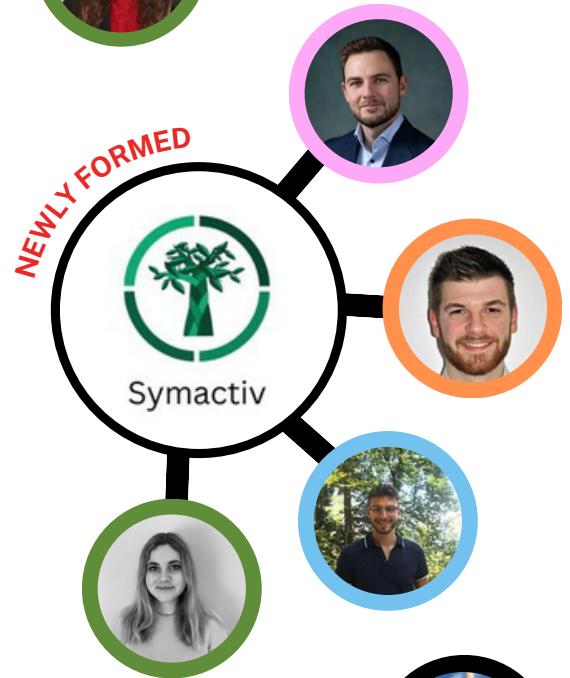
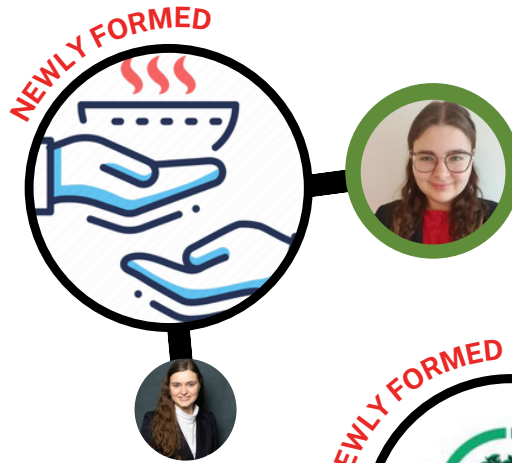




# MEET OUR 2023 TEAMS

- ETH    ● Uni Basel    ● UNIFR
- UNIL    ● ZHAW    ● UNINE
- HSG    ● UZH    ● USI
- EPFL    ● UNIBE    ● ETH/HSG

**PRE-FORMED\***: fun fact! Josepha came into the program as a pre-formed team, although the co-founders applied individually. Herbert who interviewed both decided to introduce them during the selection process. They hit it off and formed Josepha and when they were being selected for the TKS23 batch, entered the batch as a pre-formed team! 🚀





# TEAM KICK CEREMONY 2023

This year we partnered with **Start Up Nights** in Winterthur to host our **Team Kick** award ceremony!

“

A year ago, the Startup Nights was the first event I visited with Manukai. Desperately searching for an industrial problem to tackle with the technology from our doctoral studies...

..we have gone a long way. As part of the most recent Talent Kick batch with Manukai, we had the honor to pitch on the main stage, presenting to an amazing audience, and celebrating the Team Kick Award.

All this while (re)connecting with so many people amazing people.

**Pascal Weber, Manukai**

”

“

Talent Kick was a great experience! From zero to pitching at Startup Nights within a semester.

**Katerina Rigana, Elysia Solutions**

”

**STARTUP NIGHTS**

**Talent Kick: Pitching of the 2023 Team Kick Winners**



“

A week ago, I was attending thanks to Talent Kick the largest event for startups in Switzerland: the Startup Nights!! And what an event it was. I am really grateful to be part of the vibrant Swiss startup ecosystem, and that I could attend so many inspiring talks and workshops. It was also the occasion for me to finally meet in person the great TKS23 family and get to pitch in public for the first time for REEcover!

**Marie Perrin, REEcover.**

”



# TEAM KICK CEREMONY 2023

Having secured their mentors in preparation for Milestone 2 and completing several successful pitching rounds, we awarded the best **11 teams CHF 5'000** each, allowing them to get into **hands-on mode** to **validate** their solutions over the remaining semesters of Talent Kick!



11  
TEAMS  
AWARDED!





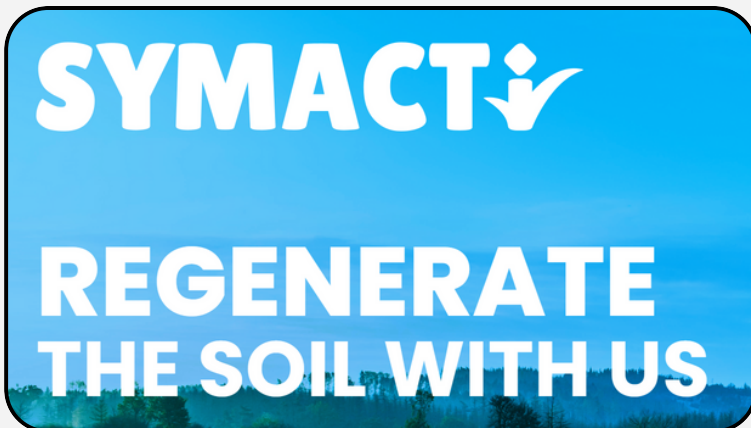
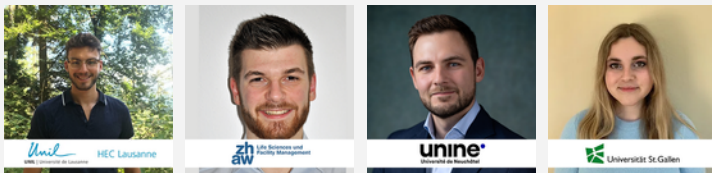
# MEET THE 2023 TEAM KICK WINNERS

Teams that accomplish **Milestone 2: Convince a mentor**, go on to pitch to their peers, steering committee and partners and the strategy board. The most **exceptional teams** are selected as winners of the Team Kick award of CHF 5,000 and continue the Talent Kick journey, receiving very individualised support for 2-3 more semesters until the end of their studies!



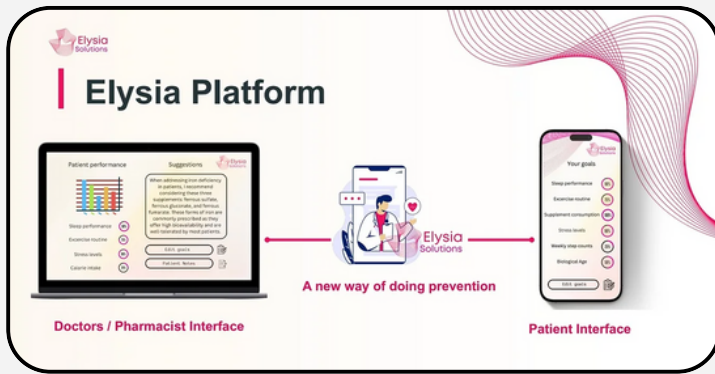
THIS YEAR ALL OUR WINNING TEAMS PITCHED ON THE UNICORN STAGE AT **START UP NIGHTS** WINTERTHUR! MEET THE WINNERS:

**SYMACTIV** aim to improve soil health, decrease water consumption and eliminate the need for pesticides through their product offerings.

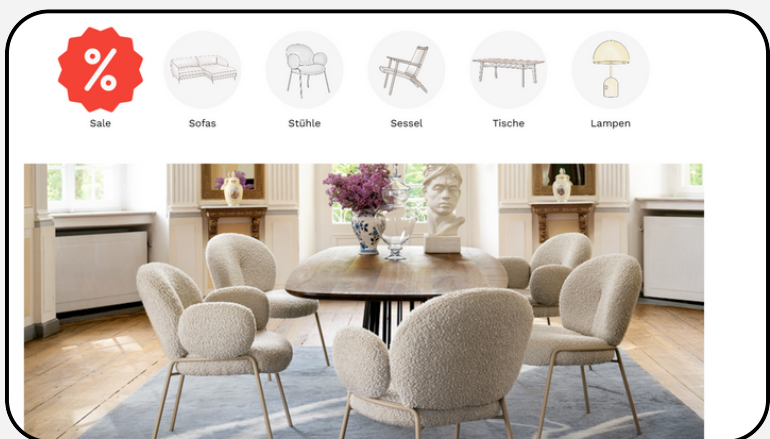
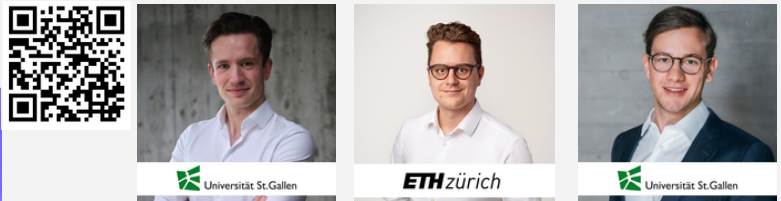


# MEET THE 2023 WINNERS

**ELYSIA SOLUTIONS** is a B2B software for the longevity market that empowers doctors to utilise lifestyle data for better health outcomes.



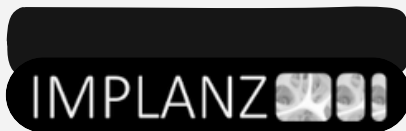
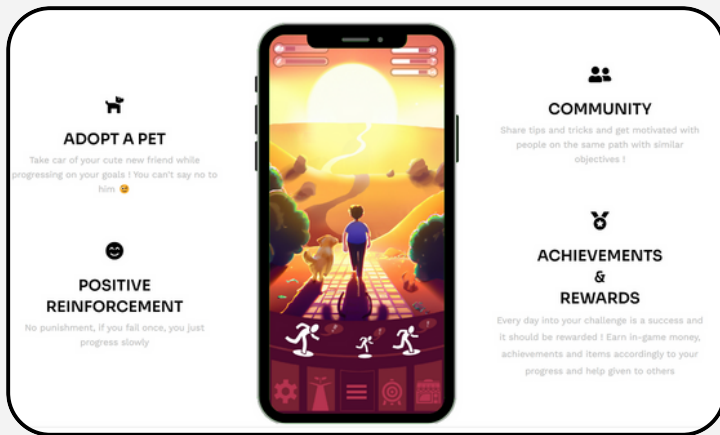
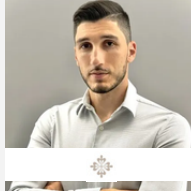
**JOSEPHA** is the first smart furniture marketplace where customers can effortlessly search and buy their desired products.



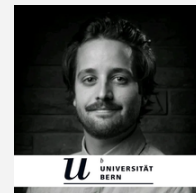
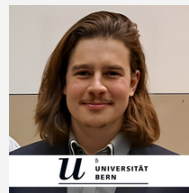


# MEET THE 2023 WINNERS

**GOALDEN** is a mobile game helping people attain their goals and good resolutions.



**IMPLANZ** is developing a software for dental implantation planning that empowers dentists to assess implant stability before surgery.



# MEET THE 2023 WINNERS

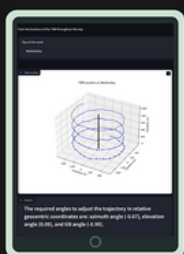
**HERMIO** empowers exploration professionals with transparent, data-driven insights for rapid target generation and evaluation.



NEWLY FORMED TEAM

**/Hermio**

## Underground Surveying ToF Network



**Accuracy**  
±1mm

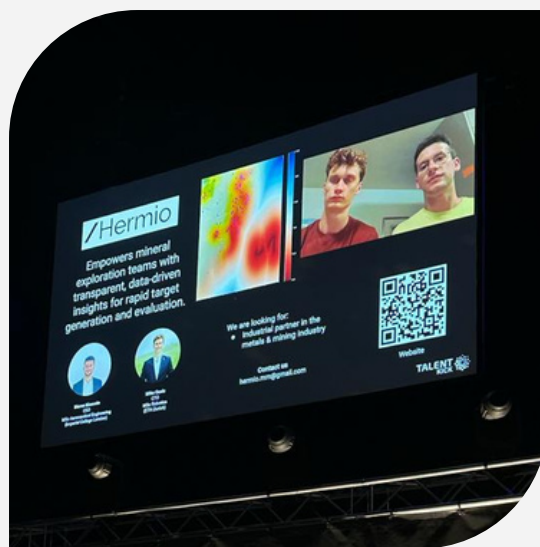
**Battery**  
24 months

**Efficiency**  
+10% excavation productivity

**Cost**  
60% cut on survey operations

**Availability**  
Real-time analytics

**Modelling**  
Distributed state estimation



PRE-FORMED TEAM

**REECover.**

**REECOVER's** goal is to recycle Rare Earth Elements (REEs) from electronic waste, to build a sustainable and circular future.



**REECover.**  
Let's start the reevolution together.

Marie Perrin  
PhD Student at ETH Zürich, president of the young Swiss Chemical Society



# MEET THE 2023 WINNERS

**RAVENRL** builds advanced AI solutions for complex decision-making problems, starting off with optimal wind farm management.



ETH zürich



ETH zürich



NEWLY FORMED TEAM



RavenRL

### Our concept

"There is not yet an out-of-the-box, single framework for delivering reinforcement learning solutions. We anticipate that something like this will be available in a few years [...]"

McKinsey Report<sup>1</sup>

Our objective is the democratization of advanced AI solutions for decision-making.



PRE-FORMED TEAM



NEOSENS  
The right care at the right time

**NEOSENS** fights the over-diagnosis of sepsis for newborns in low- and middle-income countries.



EPFL



ETH zürich



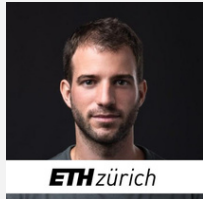
EPFL





# MEET THE 2023 WINNERS

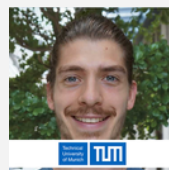
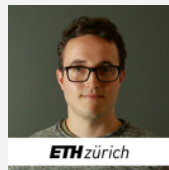
**MANUKAI** strive to reshape traditional manufacturing practices by introducing software tools that optimise production workflows.



NEWLY FORMED TEAM



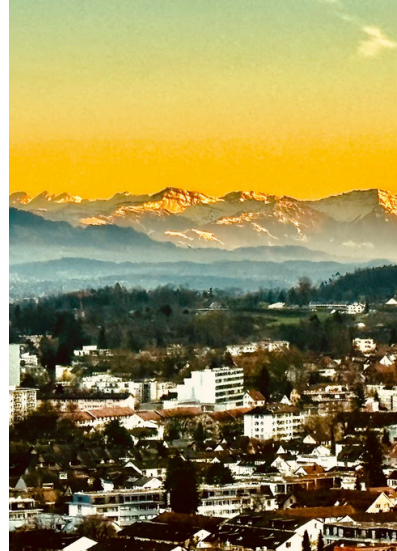
**FAIVE ROBOTICS** automate complex tasks with a versatile automation platform, driven by dexterous robotic hands and AI trained on human observations.





# GRADUATION CEREMONY 2023

We also celebrated the **expansion of our Talent Kick Alumni** with the graduation of 8 more teams, some from our first batch, TKS21 and some from the TKS22 cohorts. We were able to host the ceremony at the offices of one of our lead partners, the **ETH AI Center**, at the Andreas Tower overlooking the beautiful city of Zurich!



## Hear from some of our graduates!



**Simon Iyamu Perisanidis**  
Co-founder of Lumia & Talent Kick Graduate





# GRADUATING TEAMS 2023 & GROWING ALUMNI

Our graduates have gone on to **incredible heights** and we couldn't be prouder of them! From starting as Master and PhD students, often without a team or an idea, to graduating from their studies and Talent Kick with a **commitment to the entrepreneurial career path**, pushing their startups further! We are immensely proud to see the success they achieved in such a short amount of time and the impact they have in the Swiss and global startup and innovation ecosystem!

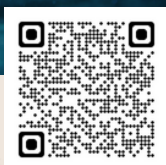


**Synature** is developing next generation, real-time, wildlife monitoring technologies, through the use of AI and smart microphones.

**Synature** have been accepted into the **EPFL Blaze accelerator**, won **CHF 10'000 funding from Venture Kick**, and were invited to the **Showcase 2030 at EPFL SwissTech Convention Center**, which highlights stakeholders who excel in sustainable innovation and drive action towards an inclusive and net-positive planet. They also recently expanded their team and were **featured on Swiss TV SRF1** after completing an extensive field trial in Glarus. They have also secured a second field trial **partnership with Swisscom** and were accepted by the **Brainforest Biodiversity Lab Program!**



**We will bring clean drinking water to 50 Million people by 2030, sustainably**



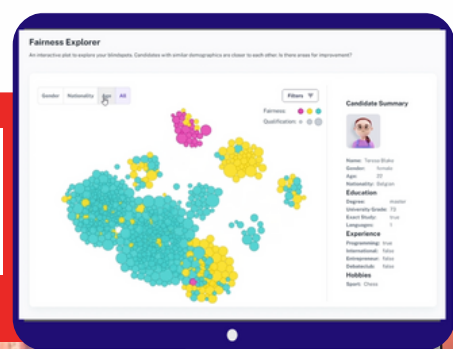
**Openversum** provides water entrepreneurs with the tools, materials and know-how necessary to successfully run a business while bringing safe drinking water to their community. They have just **exceeded the goal of their crowdfunding campaign by 100% raising CHF 50'216**, which is twice the amount they needed to expand to two more countries, Colombia and Ecuador. Furthermore, they were **nominated as one of the finalists for the W.A. De Vigier Stiftung Award** and won the 1st place in 2023 at the NPO track of **Switzerland's leading startup competition >>venture>>**. They were also invited as one of the **UpLink - World Economic Forum top innovators to The Villars Institute summit 2023** and won **CHF 40'000 from Venture Kick!** What's more, Laura has just been listed under the **Forbes 30 Under 30 list 2023!**



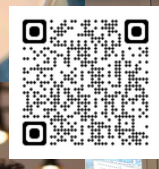
# GRADUATING TEAMS 2023 & GROWING ALUMNI



Lumia is a tool that enables recruiters to **see, understand and improve their biases in the hiring process**. This is done through CV anonymization and individualised statistics about the tendencies that recruiters have when selecting candidates. With this solution they are aiming to ensure more equality and diversity in the hiring process. Since receiving the **Team Kick award of CHF 5'000** in October 2022, they have been in touch with a pool of potential customer to test their solution. **They extended their team with three further students** supporting them on building their solution and recently they completed their proof of concept. They are currently working on **securing their first paying customers** and have **received funding from the sustainable development goal fund** for fostering diversity and inclusion!

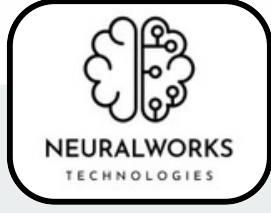


**InkVivo's** 3D design medications support clinicians and healthcare providers in **optimising treatments** by offering an **innovative drug delivery system**. Their manufacturing approach can design implantable patches, tablets, and injectable biomaterials. This year, **InkVivo incorporated the company as InkVivo Technologies AG** and have **grown their team** to support the development of their scalable 3D printing technology. They were also **awarded CHF 50'000 by Venture Kick** and made it to the final stage! Last year they featured on **Radiotelevisione Svizzera (RSI)** and were recognised as an **official ETH Spin-Off** in May 2023. They have secured **two new projects**, one at Balgrist University Hospital focusing on soft tissue regeneration and one with FFHS on dietary supplementation, with a particular focus on iron anaemia. **They have recently been recognised as one of the top 100 Swiss Startups** and are currently fundraising!

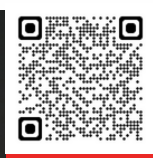




# GRADUATING TEAMS 2023 & GROWING ALUMNI



Neuralworks combine **brain sensing, physiological sensing** and other **control signals** into the **ultimate user interface**. This year, Neuralworks was **one of two winning teams** (the other NEOSENS - a TK23 team) to win the **SW Spark Award**, sponsored by **Schellenberg Wittmer** and were accepted in the **Blaze accelerator** offering up to **10k non-dilutive funding**. They are currently developing their solution further together with first potential customers in the drone manufacturing, control equipment and computer peripherals and software area!



RoBoa have developed a **20m long worm-like and steerable robot**. With their robot they can easily enter small and confined spaces and help **rescue workers to search and locate victims**, communicate with them, and **provide them with water**. This technology can **save lives** when people are trapped under debris, such as after an earthquake. RoBoa have an **impressive portfolio of press coverage**, including the **BBC CrowdScience podcast** and **SRF Kids**, and recently **showcased their robot at ARCHE 2023**. They performed first **real-life missions** with potential customers, and recently inspected previously uninspected caves to get a clearer view on the internal structure. RoBoa has also just won the **ETH Pioneer Fellowship grant!**



# GRADUATING TEAMS 2023 & GROWING ALUMNI



Aircloud (previously MiEnv) is closing the loop from air quality data to air pollution control. They propose a closed-loop solution that uses machine intelligence for environmental analysis and control to provide accurate and explainable analysis results, as well as intelligent control solutions. After designing and implementing the first version of AirCloud, the platform was tested with first potential customers in real deployment. This year, Aircloud was officially affiliated to the ETH AI Center!



Even is a digital coach for better eating habits that focuses on the best aspects of category leading apps and integrates them for quick impact. After co-founding this project during the TKS21 cohort, Mohammed Khouni (MSc, ETH) went on to co-found Cave, supporting enterprise customers in the development of digital solutions. Cave currently has a diverse portfolio of projects including: smuf, Parkit, derm GPT, Lawia, MeduFlow, and Battleskills. They also gained a contract of a large Swiss financial institution and have begun growing their team!



SAAS <b>smuf</b>	MOBILITY TECH <b>Parkit</b>	GENERATIV AI <b>dermGPT</b>
LEGAL TECH <b>:Lawia</b>	SAAS <b>MeduFlow</b>	MOBILE GAMING <b>BATTLE SKILLS</b>



# TESTIMONIALS

Warm words of encouragement: Lets hear from our fantastic students and teams!

*"I could not recommend Talent Kick enough. It really helped me learn the basics of entrepreneurship, and how to go from zero to one. I entered Talent Kick without a team, nor a startup idea-- just the drive to create something unique. If you're ready to turn your motivation into action, I would wholeheartedly recommend it."*



**Simon Iyamu Perisanidis**  
Co-founder Lumia (TKS22)

*I hope that one day I'll be able to make a living from my entrepreneurial projects. For this ambitious goal to become a reality we need to start somewhere. And it is not easy. We need a strong team, a problem to solve and a lot of support and advice. That is why I joined Talent Kick. And thanks to Viviana Gropengiesser, Cecilia Molina, Jean-Sébastien Rahm & Jean-Baptiste Beau my mentor, I joined the wonderful and dynamic Swiss entrepreneurial community. Everything is yet to be done but the journey will be sensational, and I now have the right keys for a great start!*

**Adriren Lacroix - Co-founder Galden (TKS23)**



*Embarking on the entrepreneurial path while pursuing my PhD has been less than trivial, and I owe a significant part of my journeys success to the Talent Kick Program, which has been instrumental to my growth as a co-founder. The program, has provided me with invaluable guidance and a supportive community of driven and knowledgeable individuals. I cannot thank you enough Viviana Gropengiesser, Cecilia Molina and Jean-Sébastien Rahm for giving me this unique opportunity.*

**Marie Perrin - Co-founder REECover (TKS23)**

*I joined Talent Kick in 2022 because I wanted to gain hands on experience in the field of entrepreneurship. The program has supported me in gaining valuable skills and set the foundation for a successful future as an entrepreneur and has enabled me to expand my network with relevant, leading entrepreneurs in the Swiss and International ecosystem. I am so glad to be a part of this community.*

**Nicolas Gasser - Co-founder IMPLANZ (TKS23)**



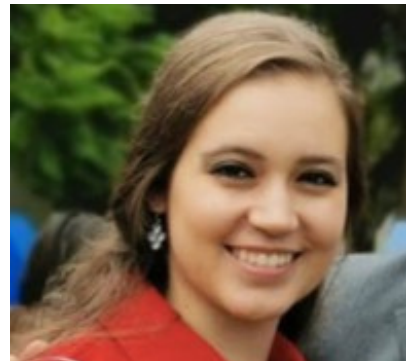
*Being part of the Talent Kick cohort 2023 has been transformative for me, both personally and for my venture, Neosens. From bootcamps to workshops, I have been able to explore the entrepreneurial landscape and its possibilities more deeply.*

**Mateo Hamel - Co-founder Neosens (TKS23)**



*My journey in Talent Kick has truly been one that has set my mindset into an ambitious and entrepreneurial one. Through the program's ups and downs, I was able to learn to take risks, think outside of the box and network with peers that share a common vision. From Talent Kick, I understood the value that finding great teammates has to build any project, and thanks to the bootcamps, I was able to connect with my team of today to further develop our project Lumia!*

**Catalina Ortiz - Co-founder Lumia (TKS22)**



*"Personally, from entering the program with mere curiosity in 2022, to exiting as a part of a founding team with a problem to solve and skills to tackle it, it's been an amazing transformation."*

**Mak Fazlic - (TKS22)**

# TESTIMONIALS



*"Really, I am super happy - big thanks to you guys, the Talent Kick team. I truly enjoyed the journey and would 100% recommend it to anyone else - really amazing work!"*

**Pascal Weber - Co-founder  
Manukai (TKS23)**



*"Thank you very much Cecilia Molina and Jean-Sébastien Rahm! It has been a pleasure to take part in the first semester of Talent Kick, and to have been selected for continuing! I'm looking forward to the next steps!"*

**Elvis Nava - Co-founder, Faive Robotics  
(TKS23)**

*"Thank you for all your feedback, Talent Kick team! We're excited for what's next!"*

**Miks Ozols- Co-founder, Hermio (TKS23)**



*"I just wanted to thank you both again, Cecilia and Viviana, for the fruitful conversation! Since the startup nights, REEcover has been selected to pitch at the Jury Night of the Circular Economy Incubator in Zurich! I hope to be selected by the jury for the rest of the program!"*

**Marie Perin - Co-founder  
REEcover (TKS23)**

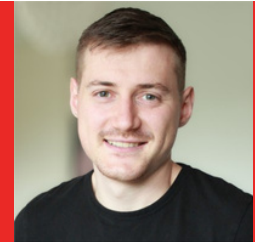


*"It's been stressful but rewarding too! I did not expect to find mentors so quickly!"*

**Lisa Katharina Rumpfmayr - Co-founder, Makers (TKS23)**

*"Thanks Sébastien & the rest of the Talent Kick team! We are looking forward to the next semester!"*

**Gregory Duthé - Co-founder, RavenRL  
(TKS23)**



*"I am super excited! Thanks a lot for your trust, it really means a lot!"*

**Adrien Lacroix - Co-founder, Goalden (TKS23)**



*"We are truly excited about this promising opportunity!"*

**Mateo Hamel - Co-founder, NEOSENS  
(TKS23)**



*"We are thrilled for the journey and to continue on to Milestone 2. The Founders Agreement really helped us in addressing important topics."*

**Nicolas Gasser - Co-founder, IMPLANZ  
(TKS23)**



# SUCCESS STORIES

Some achievements of our Talent Kick teams in 2023!

## FIRST TERM SHEETS

Faive Robotics has already received their first term sheet (CHF 2.2M with CHF 8.8M post-money valuation), as well as being officially affiliated to the ETH AI Center! Manukai is currently working on first term sheets with business angels.

## ENTREPRENEUR FIRST & VENTURE KICK

A minimum of two TK teams of our new TKS23 cohort are already invited to the first round of Venture Kick, and another two teams have been accepted to join Entrepreneur First in September!



TKS23 team, REEcover, has been selected for the CE Transition - Circular Economy Transition Incubator 23/24! A fantastic opportunity to accelerate their mission in recycling critical metals from electronic waste, right here in Switzerland.

## NOAH CONFERENCE



After bringing TKS22 team Synature with us to the NOAH Conference in 2022, we are absolutely thrilled that Synature co-founder Miya Ferrisse, has been selected to speak as part of NOAH's Sustainability Industry Vertical: Environmental Systems on Dec 13-14th!



## OPENVERSUM >>VENTURE>> COMPETITION



TKS22 team Openversum, has emerged as the winner in the not-for-profit track at the 2023 >>venture>> Startup Competition! With innovative technology and sustainable solutions, openversum is dedicated to tackling the global water crisis by ensuring access to clean drinking water for all.

## LINDT X ETHON AI COLLABORATION

Lindt & Sprüngli, a global leader in the premium chocolate sector, has partnered with Talent Kick Alumni and ETH Zurich spin-off, EthonAI, to leverage EthonAI's tools in the quest to perfect the production of their chocolate and achieve best-in-class performance!

## TRAILBLAZING NEOSENS

TKS23 team, Neosens, has been unstoppable this year, winning both the jury and audience award at the Blaze award ceremony, the SW Spark Award (sponsored by Schellenberg Wittmer), the Prix Tremplin Startup award (sponsored by YB Startup), and taking first place at the START Lausanne. We can't wait to see what is in store for this dedicated team in 2024!



## FORBES 30 UNDER 30

It seems to be becoming a tradition for Talent Kick to see our co-founders make the Forbes 30 Under 30 list - last year our TKS21 Alumni Julian Senoner (co-founder of Ethon AI) made the list, this year it's Laura Stocco, co-founder of TKS22 team, Openversum!



## ROBOA RECEIVES THE ETH PIONEER FELLOWSHIP

We are very proud to announce that our TKS21 alumni RoBoa received the prestigious Pioneer Fellowship from ETH Zurich! The Pioneer Fellowship is known for supporting visionary projects like theirs, aiming to bridge the gap between research and real-world applications.



# HIGHLIGHTS 2023

2023 has been a remarkable year for Talent Kick internally, with a deepening of partnerships, collaboration, securing of funding and the adoption of more streamlined systems.

## TEAM KICK X STARTUP NIGHTS COLLAB

Our collaboration with Startup Nights together with Kick Foundation allowed our Team Kick Winners to pitch for 30 seconds on the main stage, enabled us to host a private award ceremony, have a booth to attract more talents and partners and invite our teams, founders, partners, board and team giving them access to the entire event. It was a fantastic event to nurture our community and celebrate the evolution of the Talent Kick students.



## COLLABORATIONS WITH ECOSYSTEM PARTNERS LOWERED OUR LOCATION COSTS TO CHF 0.00!

This year we were able to host 100% of our bootcamps (including our Kick-off) at our partner locations, saving on all venue hire costs whilst giving our students a taste of the Swiss ecosystem in a practical way and personal contacts at every location we visited.

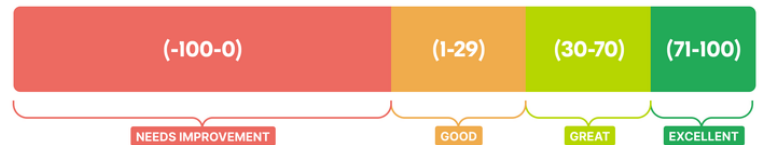


## 97% INCREASE IN FOLLOWERS

Our followers have increased by a massive 97% on LinkedIn and Instagram alike in one year. This has translated to increased engagement and increased awareness of the Talent Kick program. This year, LinkedIn was the number one place students heard about us in the application phase, therefore highlighting it as an extremely valuable marketing medium for us!

## NPS SCORE: + 46

Throughout this year the spring 2024 program have achieved and great average Net Promoter Score (NPS) of 46.00. We thank you - all the partners, successful entrepreneurs and participants for contributing to this success.



## TALENT KICK OFFICIALLY RECOGNISED BY ETH AS A COURSE WITH CREDITS!



From 2023 onwards, Talent Kick will be listed as a course with 3 ECTS at ETH for Master and PhD students, further incentivising students to enrol and begin their entrepreneurial journey. The course is also already listed for the coming Autumn semester in 2024.

## FUNDING SECURED FOR TWO BATCH EXPANSION!

With the securing of the funding necessary to expand to a two-batch format, we will be able to recruit a dedicated Program Manager to start in 2024 to lead two program cycles starting in spring and autumn of every year!



# HIGHLIGHTS 2023

## FIVE NEW ESTABLISHED

## ROMANDIE

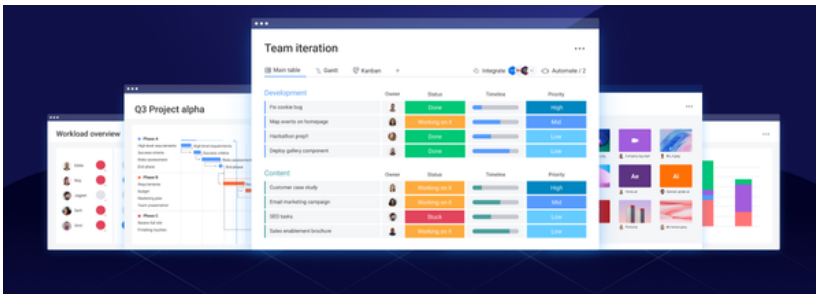
## PARTNERSHIPS



In the coming year, Talent Kick is set to leverage the dynamic relationships we have established this year with five universities in the Romandie region—University of Geneva, EPFL, University of Neuchâtel, University of Lausanne, and EHL—to support students in combining their studies with their entrepreneurial endeavours. The collaborative spirit showcased in our latest partner video, featuring EPFL, UNIBE, UNINE, and UNIGE, not only reflects the strength of our partnerships but also provides a sneak peek into the collaboration opportunities that lie ahead. See our new video on the following page to hear from them. Our new presence and initiatives in Romandie this year were also reflected in the variety of applications we received this year for the next TKS24 batch. We are happy to share that we received applications from 11 different institutions in Romandie, demonstrating the growing interest and engagement in our program across the Romandie region.

## PROGRAM & COHORT MANAGEMENT SIMPLIFIED BY CRM SYSTEM AND COSTS REDUCED TO CHF 0.-

By adopting Monday as our CRM, we ensure meticulous documentation of program management to ensure friction-less execution within our cohorts. This has resulted in: comprehensive timelines, easy task assignment, smooth communication of sprint instruction and management of several cohorts, comprehensive overviews for event organisation, consolidation and optimisation of Google Drive & Monday. We were further accepted into their non-profit program bringing the costs of the core system down to CHF 0, receiving access to additional features with a 70% discount.



## ENTREPRENEUR FIRST X TALENT KICK PRE-PROGRAM BOOTCAMP



We were excited to collaborate with Entrepreneur First to deliver a comprehensive pre-program bootcamp that focused on the early stages of building a start-up. We discussed best practices on finding co-founder(s), identifying a problem and validating solutions. Every participant that took part was selected from a pool of applicants, and we were so impressed by their brilliant level of engagement, insights, and enthusiasm. It was a pleasure to work alongside EF whose vision closely aligns with ours at Talent Kick. Some of the participants went on to apply for the program starting in spring 2024!



## KICKBOX INTEGRATION & PARTNERSHIP

In 2023 we partnered with Rready, embedding their Kickbox platform and physical Kick Box into our program, making it easily accessible to our students and adding extra value through their established resources.





# SUCCESS STORIES

## PILOT PROJECT LAUNCHED WITH EPFL & ETH TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER OFFICES!

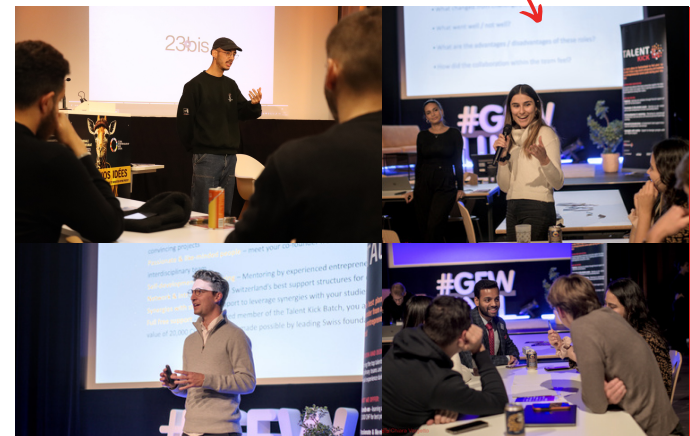
This year, we collaborated with the technology transfer offices of ETH & EPFL. This pilot initiative empowered our teams to explore diverse licensing opportunities. This strategic initiative shows our commitment to leveraging innovative research and talented teams to support the transition of groundbreaking innovations from research to market reality.

## TWO EVENTS DURING THE GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP WEEK

Another collaboration this year was with EPFL-UNIL Entrepreneur Club at the Global Entrepreneurship Week Lausanne (UNIL) for our event “CoLaunch: the Art of Partnering.” During this event we guided the participants through the exciting process of finding the ideal co-founder. Later that same week we also partnered with Innovation Time at Libérez vos idées (UNIGE) for our event “Pitch & Networking”. During this event 7 entrepreneurs with unique backgrounds shared with us their entrepreneurial experience.

## SWISSPRENEUR MASTERCLASS

We are collaborating with Swisspreneur to co-design a masterclass on team forming to make our learnings and best practices available to students outside of Talent Kick. We are currently in joint fundraising activities to realise the project in 2024!



## COLLABORATION WITH DAVE HENGARTNER'S ETH LEAN STARTUP COURSE ENABLES NEW TEAM KICK APPLICANTS

This year we invited two selected teams from an ETH course taught by Dave Hengartner - which also used the Kick Box - to apply for the Talent Kick Award. REEcover was part of the Team Kick winners and is currently going through the 2nd-4th semester of Talent Kick. This first pilot tested whether selected teams from other courses can benefit from our best practice formats/resources (team forming/founders agreement, etc) and whether they can competitively catch up with the progress made by Talent Kick students in semester one. In 2024, we will roll out this concept to further selected courses, ideally inviting them to network with our current teams in the first semester already.

Hear from some of our partners!



# OUTLOOK

As Talent Kick embarks on an **ambitious journey in 2024**, our excitement is palpable. We're thrilled to announce the **expansion to two Swiss-wide batches per year**, starting in spring and autumn. This growth is a **milestone in our mission to nurture more excellent entrepreneurial leaders and interdisciplinary teams** across the Swiss universities. Operating from 3 main locations, **Lausanne, Zürich and Bern**, the bootcamps will bring together talents from all over Switzerland giving them **access to their most outstanding peers across regions** and enabling them to form **top interdisciplinary teams**.

We are also looking forward to the **digitalization of our program**, a step that will **broaden the access to our best practices** and **significantly increase our impact**. We will continue optimizing both the **program experience** and our **internal efficiency** through AI tools and continuous content and process advancements.

**Deepening our integration within the Swiss ecosystem remains our top priority**, with new **pilots and partnerships** to come and the **strengthening and roll-out of existing partnerships**. Furthermore, with a **first international pilot** we aim to create a base for **effective global partnerships** and a strong international network to ensure **best support and real-world impact** of our teams through **world-wide collaboration amongst top innovation and emerging hotspots**.

As we prepare for this growth, we are **steadfast in our commitment to building a community that supports the most talented and driven students in becoming excellent, responsible, global, entrepreneurial, 21st century leaders** who will bring **science-based innovation and positive impact to our society**.

We are excited for the year ahead!

Viviana Gropengiesser

## Upcoming highlights for 2024

### Joint bootcamps in three main locations

With the merging of our two previously cohorts, Central/East and Romandie, we will be hosting joint bootcamps at three main locations in Switzerland: Zurich, Bern and Lausanne. This will enable a streamlining of planning and execution and a greater opportunity for collaboration, synergies and networking within our batch and amongst our talents.

### New batch starting in autumn semester 2024

We will be moving away from our single annual batch, two-cohort (Central/East and Romandie) structure into a mixed batch, twice per year, enabling more talents to join the program more often during the year and fostering better connections across regions during our program.

### Joint event: Kick-off TKS24 & Pitching of TKS-22 & 23 Teams with >>venture>>

Next year, we have a special collaboration with >>venture>>, Switzerland's leading startup competition, for our TKS24 Kick Off. For the closing of the Kick Off, we invited TKS22 and TKS23 teams to pitch in front of a jury of experts brought by our partner >>venture>>. This not only provides a fantastic opportunity for the pitching teams to get visibility, direct interaction and feedback from >>venture>> experts, but also the opportunity for the new batch to witness the pitching and connect with the TKS22 & 23 teams. Some experts might even have some special opportunities for collaboration for the most impressive teams.

### Pre-TK pilot for Bachelor Students

This year, we are launching a pre-TK pilot program for selected early bachelor students with great profiles who want to have a sneak peek into the Talent Kick journey. We invited selected bachelor students to become buddies for the active Talent Kick spring teams. As a buddy, they gain exclusive access to the bootcamps recording, useful resources, and the mingling part at the end of each bootcamp. Furthermore, they will be able to match up with a TKS24 team to support them and learn from their early-stage journey.

# SPECIAL THANKS

Without the support of the following organisations, we would not be able to achieve what we do. A whole-hearted thanks to the strong organisations behind Talent Kick who continue to enable growing our program to support the next generation of entrepreneurial leaders.



Talent Kick is an initiative by the Kick Foundation, a value creation pipeline for boosting entrepreneurship. The Kick Foundation provides Talent Kick with a strong organisational framework as part of a larger sustainable and synergetic Kick pipeline, offering an entrepreneurship, technology, and innovation funnel for the best talents in Switzerland in addition to the unique kickfund.



Gebert RUF Stiftung has supported Talent Kick from the very start of the first pilot in 2021. As a foundation, they support entrepreneurial projects committed to impact in accordance with their motto "Science.Moving". They have particularly supported the building and ongoing operations of the core program components of Talent Kick and are funding the Team Kick Award.



Formed by EPF Lausanne and the four research institutes Eawag, WSL, Empa and PSI, ETH Zurich, the ETH Domain is a closely cooperating network which places Swiss research in an excellent position at international level. ETH Domain has been particularly supporting the Swiss-wide launch of Talent Kick in 2022 enabling the program to operate strongly across all Swiss regions.



Every year, the Ernst Göhner Stiftung distributes a significant amount to charitable purposes in the areas of culture, the environment, social affairs, education and science. They have been supporting Talent Kick since 2022 particularly enabling the expansion of the program to two batches per year starting in spring and autumn, supporting the growth of core operations of the program.

An initiative by the Kick Foundation



Kick Foundation: a value creation pipeline for boosting entrepreneurship.

We envision to enhance the Swiss start-up ecosystem by offering an entrepreneurship, technology, and innovation funnel for the best talents in Switzerland in addition to the unique kickfund, a legally independent entity, with a refinancing model for exploiting this innovation potential and strengthening Switzerland as an innovation and entrepreneurial location.

The Kick Foundation is supported by



# PERSONAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank you for investing your time and energy supporting the next generation of entrepreneurs!

## STRATEGY BOARD

 <p><b>Pascale Vonmont</b> Director Gebert Rüt Stiftung</p>	 <p><b>Roland Siegwart</b> Professor ETH Zurich</p>	 <p><b>Sandra Tobler</b> Co-Founder &amp; CEO Futura Technologies AG</p>	 <p><b>Michael Hengartner</b> President ETH Board</p>	 <p><b>Patricia Kopp</b> Education &amp; Science Ernst Göhner Stiftung</p>	 <p><b>Alex Illic</b> Executive Director ETH AI Center</p>
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## STEERING COMMITTEE & PARTNERS

 <p><b>Ursula Oesterle</b> Vice President for Innovation EPFL</p>	 <p><b>Elgar Fleisch</b> Professor ETH &amp; HSG</p>	 <p><b>Dietmar Grichnik</b> Director ITEM-HSG &amp; Professor HSG</p>	 <p><b>Anna-Elina Pekonen</b> Program Manager Program Integration University of Basel</p>	 <p><b>Maria Luisa Fuchs</b> Head of Startup@HSG Program Integration HSG</p>	 <p><b>Sarah-Maria Nordt</b> Founder &amp; CEO of SANOGÉ Program Integration HSG</p>
 <p><b>Maria Olivares</b> Head of Innovation Program Integration UZH</p>	 <p><b>Sébastien Hug</b> Head Innovation Office Program Integration Uni Bern</p>	 <p><b>Maria Friedrich</b> Entrepreneurship Manager Program Integration ETH</p>	 <p><b>Julien Levallois</b> Innovation Hub Program Integration UNIGE</p>	 <p><b>Alice Freton</b> Startup Program Manager Program Integration University of Basel</p>	
 <p><b>Emmanuelle Reuter</b> Assistant Prof. Innovation Management Program Integration University of Neuchâtel</p>	 <p><b>Marc Gruber</b> Editor in Chief AMJ Professor EPFL</p>	 <p><b>Aleksandra Laska</b> Business Angel &amp; Partner Redalpine</p>	 <p><b>Marius Aeberti</b> Programs Lead VP Innovation Program Integration EPFL</p>	 <p><b>Melanie Gabriel</b> Co Founder &amp; CMO Yokoy</p>	 <p><b>Christof Roduner</b> VP Engineering &amp; CIO Scandit</p>

# KEEP IN TOUCH

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# TALENT KICK





ANNUAL REPORT  
2023





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VENTURE KICK

## BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE THROUGH INNOVATION

Innovative ideas – when implemented in an entrepreneurial way – secure an economically, ecologically and socially sustainable future for the next generation. Venture Kick has been making a substantial contribution to address global challenges for more than 16 years.

In 2023, Venture Kick celebrated 1,000 projects kicked, making it an extraordinary moment and milestone. With 1,000 startup projects funded, Venture Kick is a leading startup accelerator in Europe and even on the global scale. The special magazine "1,000 Startups Kicked" illustrates the considerable impact of our initiative:

Since its launch in 2007, Venture Kick has funded 1,024 startups with seed capital of over CHF 51.98 million, which have generated more than CHF 8 billion in follow-on financing and created 13,305 new jobs. In many cases, the initial "kick" from Venture Kick was instrumental for the founders to launch their companies.

### Filling the Gap to Create Impact

Regarding disruptive research, Swiss universities are global leaders in many areas. Switzerland stands as the world champion in patent applications per capita and has consistently attracted top-tier talent. But we are not yet the best in the exploitation of the commercial potential of our innovations.

Venture Kick was launched in 2007 to address this imbalance, with the goal of doubling the number of startups from Swiss universities, reducing the time-to-market, and promoting these young companies among professional investors. The idea sought to kick researchers out of the labs and onto the market, turning them into successful entrepreneurs.

The focus on business development means that we prioritize customers and not technology. The demanding program results in the flourishing development of the entrepreneurs. The jury, comprising of private and institutional investors, plays a major role in the highly competitive selection process. In addition to the financial support of up to CHF 150,000, founders benefit from intensive coaching and an extensive network of international investors and industry experts. Plus, the winners of stage 1 of Venture Kick can apply for an InnoBooster grant of CHF 150,000 and the winners of stage 3 can access additional CHF 850,000 from the new Kickfund.

Overall Venture Kick has become a very strong credibility stamp for investors around the globe and a visibility boost for our winning startups.

What makes Venture Kick such a success for startups is the shared goal of all partners involved in kicking forward Swiss innovation for the benefit of Switzerland's economy and society.

In the name of the Venture Kick board, we would like to thank everyone for their great support.

**Dr. Pascale Vonmont**  
Strategy Board, Venture Kick  
CEO, Gebert RUF Stiftung

**Dr. Suzanne Avedik**  
Strategy Board, Venture Kick  
Delegate of the Managing Board,  
Ernst Göhner Stiftung



# HIGHLIGHTS 2023

Geopolitical situations and the consequent economic uncertainties undoubtedly influenced the startup ecosystem to a great extent. For the first time in the Swiss startup ecosystem, investments generally have been cut in half compared to the previous year. Nevertheless, our Kickers demonstrated outstanding accomplishments in 2023. They reached significant landmarks in fundraising, establishment of partnerships, and acknowledgment with awards, all directed towards advancing the development and application of revolutionary innovations.

 To read more about the investments our Kickers attracted in 2023, scan the QR-code here, or consult: [www.venturekick.ch/newsroom](http://www.venturekick.ch/newsroom)

## RAISING ROUNDS OF CHF 8+ MILLION



### **DISTALMOTION (CHF 128M)**

Distalmotion secured USD 150 million to expedite the FDA approval process and enhance the clinical deployment of Dexter, its robotic platform. This substantial funding underscores the trust of its current investors, spearheaded by Revival Healthcare Capital. Dexter is actively employed in daily clinical practices throughout Europe, effectively treating patients in a range of complex and high-volume procedures in general surgery, gynecology, and urology.



### **KANDOU (CHF 61.3M)**

Kandou successfully raised USD 72 million in first close of its series E round. The fabless semiconductor company offers differentiated and fundamental interconnect technology. This significant achievement marks a pivotal milestone in Kandou's journey, enabling the Vaud-based company to pursue ambitious market expansion endeavours, strengthening its position as a prominent figure in the semiconductor industry.



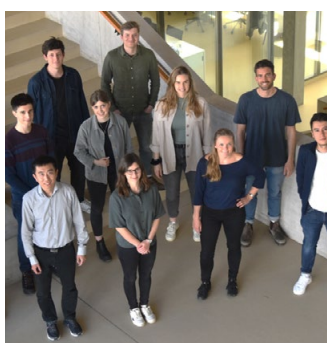
### **LUNAPHORE (CHF 40M)**

In March 2023, Lunaphore secured CHF 40 million to boost its portfolio of tissue diagnostics solutions. The team develops spatial biology solutions – for the visualization of molecules in cells and tissue – based on cutting-edge chip technology extracting spatial proteomic and transcriptomic data from tumors. Later in 2023, the startup announced its acquisition by Bio-Techne, paving the way for advancements in spatial biology. Read more in EXITS on page 9.



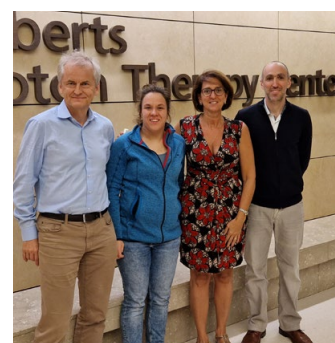
### **BIOVERSYS (CHF 32.6M)**

BioVersys announced extension of its Series C round to CHF 32.6 million as the Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Action Fund makes first investment in a European-based company. The funds will go towards further trials of the pharmaceutical company's assets. In June 2022, the company had announced the successful completion of its Phase 1 trial, as well as the first closing of an oversubscribed Series C round with CHF 24.2 million with existing and new investors.



### **ZURIMED (CHF 14.5M)**

ZuriMED, a spin-off from the University and ETH Zurich, completed a CHF 14.5 million Series A financing round to revolutionize surgery with Surgical-Fiberlock technology. Led by Chindex Medical Limited, Yellowstone Holding AG and leading orthopaedic surgeons, the funding will be employed to expedite ZuriMED's development and adoption of the revolutionary Surgical-Fiberlock technology, designed for minimally invasive soft tissue surgery.



### **EBAMED (CHF 13.4M)**

EBAMed secured EUR 14.35 million in Series A funding for the advancement of non-invasive ventricular tachycardia treatment. The funds will help further develop their innovative CardioKit system, designed to progress the treatment through Proton Therapy. This funding round, led by Panakès Partners and backed by notable investors, including Mayo Clinic, propels the potential impact of this groundbreaking medical technology.





**KOA (CHF12.8M)**

Swiss-Ghanaian startup Koa has raised USD 15 million in Series B funding to scale up its upcycled cacao business, intensify regenerative agriculture practices to involve over 10,000 more farmers, and address the climate footprint of the West African cocoa industry. The startup received support from both existing and new investors in this latest investment cycle: The Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Fund, the Regenerative Growth Fund 1, and Mirabaud.



**NAGI BIOSCIENCE (CHF 12.4M)**

Nagi Bioscience secured CHF 12.4 million investment in Series A round to revolutionize animal testing alternatives. The oversubscribed funding marked a significant step forward in the Swiss life sciences innovator's mission to advance the field of laboratory equipment. Nagi Bioscience's first commercial product, SydLab™ One, was launched at the end of the first quarter of 2023 and has already gained significant traction in the biopharma and agrochemical R&D sectors, among others.



**DEPOLY (CHF 12.3M)**

DePoly secured CHF 12.3 million seed round to revolutionize plastic recycling. With less than 10% of the 400 million tonnes of plastic produced annually being recycled, DePoly's process holds immense promise. By converting plastics into raw materials, the company addresses the global plastic waste crisis and establishes a sustainable circular plastic economy. BASF Venture Capital and Wingman Ventures co-led the oversubscribed funding round, with participation from big industry players.



**UNISERS (CHF 11.9M)**

Unisers secured USD 14 million to develop contamination detection in production of semiconductors. The startup develops solutions for the identification of invisible contamination-caused defects in semiconductor materials. Unisers developed a particle monitoring platform that uses surface-enhanced Raman scattering to identify the source of contamination, facilitating stronger product yield and lower carbon footprint at chip manufacturing plants.



**SCEWO (CHF 9.2M)**

In a leap toward revolutionizing accessibility solutions, Scewo raised CHF 9.2 million Series A extension funding, led by RSBG Ventures, for stair-climbing wheelchair innovation. The new capital is set to drive the company towards profitability and mark a strategic entry into the US market. Scewo aims to enhance its revolutionary wheelchair technology, ensuring that individuals with mobility challenges experience newfound freedom and independence.



**TREATTECH (CHF 9M)**

TreaTech, specializing in hydrothermal gasification technology, closed its series A financing, raising CHF 9 million, led by Engie New Venture and Montrose Environmental Group, alongside support from the EIC Fund, Sipchem Europe, CMA CGM Fund for Energies, and Holdigaz. TreaTech aims to advance its innovative circular economy solution, converting waste streams into valuable resources while providing a continuous supply of renewable gas.



**SYNSENSE (CHF 8.5M)**

SynSense raised USD 10 million to accelerate mass production of smart vision sensors. The leading commercial supplier of ultra-low-power sensory processing hardware and application solutions announced the completion of a pre-Series B+ funding round. Building on long experience in neuromorphic computing and engineering, SynSense (formerly aiCTX) has been at the forefront of neuromorphic research since its founding in 2017.



**ETURNITY (CHF 8M)**

Eternity secured CHF 8 million Series A funding to drive growth in solar, heating, and e-mobility sales software. The round was led by Klima, Alantra's Energy Transition Fund and will accelerate Eternity's growth strategy and expand its software solutions across Europe, empowering businesses in their energy transition journey. As the global demand for sustainable energy solutions rises, the startup's offerings positioned it at the forefront of the industry.

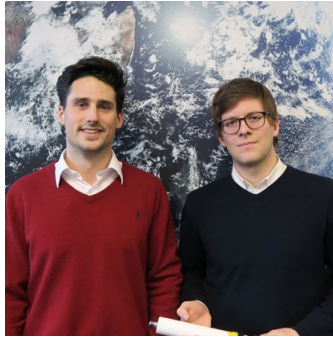


## RAISING CHF 1.2 TO CHF 7 MILLION



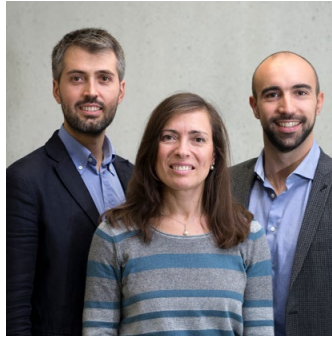
**SCAILYTE (CHF 6.8M)**

Scailyte has successfully extended its Series A funding to USD 8 million. This financial boost will accelerate Scailyte's impact within the immuno-oncology landscape, create new business partnerships, and expand its market footprint.



**UNISIEVE (CHF 4.7M)**

The cleantech startup closed an over-subscribed seed funding round. It is developing a high-precision membrane solution to decarbonize emitting industries by drastically reducing heating and cooling in chemicals and improves the carbon capture.



**HYLOMORPH (CHF 4.5M)**

This significant funding marks a major milestone for Hylomorph as it continues pursuing its mission to make a substantial impact on patients' care. The investment will help the Zurich-based ETH spin-off Hylomorph expand its product portfolio.



**ALMER (CHF 4.5M)**

Pioneering developer of Augmented Reality (AR) glasses for industrial applications, Almer completed its Seed II funding round, raising CHF 4.5 million to produce its next-generation AR glasses, the Almer Arc 2 and expand into new markets.



**MEDYRIA (CHF 3.7M)**

The Series B financing is a CHF 3.7 million equity investment from new and existing investors. Medyria's Py-Cath will be the only device on the market with pressure and blood flow velocity sensing for the invasive diagnosis of ischemic heart conditions.



**ASCENTO (CHF 3.7M)**

Ascento raised USD 4.3 million to launch its autonomous security patrolling robot. The startup is introducing its latest creation, the Ascento Guard robot. This continued growth is made possible by fresh investments from seasoned investors.



**SEPRIFY (CHF 3.4M)**

The spin-out of University of Cambridge and the University of Fribourg raised Seed funding to help commercialize a cellulose-based alternative to titanium dioxide (TiO<sub>2</sub>), a white pigment recently banned in the EU for use in foods.



**TUNE INSIGHT (CHF 2.9M)**

Tune Insight raised USD 3.4 million to pioneer the secure insight economy. Its visionary approach ensures that raw, sensitive data remains firmly under lock and key, while empowering companies to harness their data and models to their fullest potential.



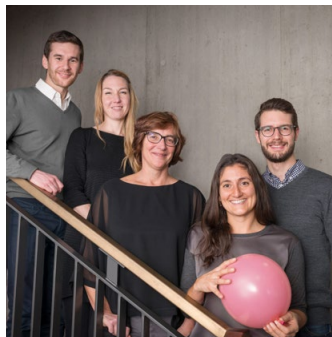
**AESYRA (CHF 2.5M)**

Aesyra is set to make great steps forward in improving sleep health. The latest funding injection of USD 3 million will empower the company to further innovate and address the growing demand for advanced solutions in the field of sleep disorders.



**BIONOMOUS (CHF 2.3M)**

The biotech startup, founded in 2019, raised USD 2.7 million in a Series A funding round that will allow to scale production for global deployment of its EggSorter, an automatic screening and sorting device for small biological entities.



**PREGNOLIA (CHF 2.2M)**

The investment is earmarked to evolve the Pregnolia device, originally designed for identifying premature birth risks, into a comprehensive diagnostic system, and will support the entry into the US market to advance maternal healthcare solutions.



**BOTA SYSTEMS (CHF 2.1M)**

The USD 2.5 million capital injection will help strengthen Bota Systems' global footprint and introduce robotic solutions to address labour shortages in manufacturing, particularly in areas like polishing, assembly, and handling.





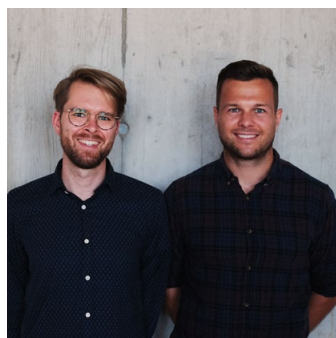
**SEPRIFY (CHF 2M)**

Seprify secured a CHF 2M grant from Innosuisse to enable the construction of an innovative pilot production line in Marly, Fribourg, facilitate team expansion, and expedite collaborative efforts with partners for a swift market entry.



**CALCISCON (CHF 1.8M)**

Calciscon, Amsterdam University Medical Center, and Admesy – the CAL-PROTECT consortium – agreed for the development of a laboratory bench-top analyzer for the measurement of the T50 test and is supported by EUR 2 million Eurostars funding.



**VIBOO (CHF 1.5M)**

The oversubscribed round was led by High-Tech Gründerfonds, Swisscom Ventures, and Rainmaking Impact confying in viboo's potential to decarbonize buildings. Funds will be used to scale up the commercialization of the technology.



**RAPIDATA (CHF 1.5M)**

The round was led by BlueYard, supported by Acequia Capital and an angel investor, and will empower Rapidata to build a "human processing unit in the cloud" and propel its platform to the forefront of AI data annotation and human data processing.



**ANTEFIL COMPOSITE TECH (CHF 1.5M)**

The startup revolutionizing light-weight structure production for industrial applications closed a CHF 1.5 million Pre-Seed financing round that will boost industrialization of its innovative, cost-efficient, and sustainable hybrid fibers.



**OPTIML (CHF 1.5M)**

OPTIML secured CHF 1.5 million Pre-Seed funds to launch its software platform enabling sustainable real estate investment planning. These funds will help assembling a team to launch their first web-based Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) solution.



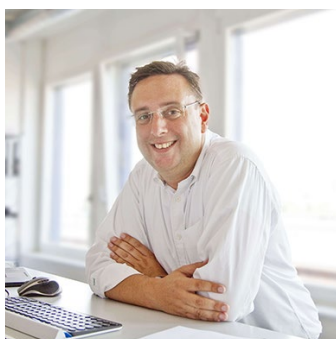
**MPC THERAPEUTICS (CHF 1.5M)**

The biotechnology company, focusing on metabolism and rejuvenation, closed its Seed funding round with CHF 1.5 million to advance MPC Tx's proprietary small molecule towards clinical trials and open new therapeutic applications.



**ZURICH SOFT ROBOTICS (CHF 1.5M)**

Zurich Soft Robotics raised a CHF 1.5 million round led by an undisclosed international market leader based in Switzerland. The ETH spin-off intends to put the funds towards the market launch of Solskin, a multi-functional adaptive photovoltaic facade system.



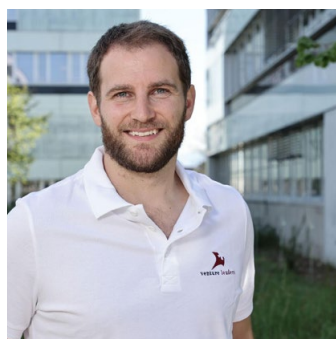
**INSPHERO (CHF 1.4M)**

The Eurostar funding to InSphero and Brenus will support a collaborative project titled "STC-1010: A First-in-Class Allogeneic Cell Vaccine Against Cancer" aiming to use 3D cell cultures to develop a novel cell immunotherapy for colorectal cancer.



**AVELO (CHF 1.4M)**

Avelo secured a CHF 1.5 million boost from Innosuisse to revolutionize lower respiratory tract infection diagnosis and will help develop AveloCollect, a new breath-sampling device improving the diagnosis of lower respiratory tract infections (LRTIs).



**BEARMIND (CHF 1.3M)**

The EPFL spinoff, developing built-in helmet sensors and software for the prevention of brain injury and performance monitoring in contact sports, closed a Seed round. The technology is being tested in collaboration with the Swiss National Hockey League.



**BIPED.AI (CHF 1.2M)**

The AI-powered navigation harness developed by biped.ai transforms mobility for the visually impaired. With the investment, biped.ai aims to enter the US market, extend its reach across Europe, scale operations, and advance its technology.

## RAISING UP TO CHF 1.2 MILLION



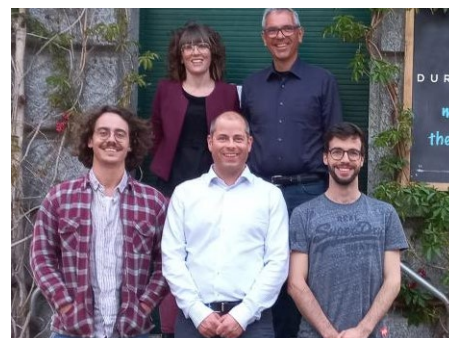
### AICA (CHF 1.2M)

The EPFL spin-off, founded in 2019 and developing software solutions to make robotic programming more efficient and affordable, closed a seed round allowing it to expand its application library and its foothold in international markets.



### INERGIO (CHF 1.1M)

INERGIO coordinated a Consortium to win a EUR 1.2 million Eurostar grant which will be used to advance its research and development activities focused on providing green energy solutions wherever and whenever needed.



### DURAMON (CHF 1M)

Led by QBIT Capital, the investment round saw participation from SIKA, Serpentine Ventures, ETH Foundation, and experienced Angel Investors. It will help DuraMon accelerate its market entry, streamline processes, and scale-up phase.



### TINAMU LABS (CHF 1M)

Tinamu Labs, developing indoor drone-based monitoring systems, closed a CHF 1 million Pre-Series A financing round to continue driving innovation in automated inventory management across the European market.



### AKINA (CHF 1M)

Akina secured CHF 1 million in direct funding from Innosuisse. These newly acquired funds will be instrumental in accelerating the launch of Akina's AI software product designed for connected physiotherapy in Switzerland.



### KLEPSYDRA TECHNOLOGIES (CHF 1M)

Klepsydra, a leading provider of onboard software for edge computers, raised CHF 1 million in a funding round that will allow to accelerate its growth and expand its product offerings to meet the increasing global demand.

## UNDISCLOSED FUNDING ROUND

- **AgriNorm** raised a seven-digit sum to combat volatility in fresh-produce supply chains.
- **aiEndoscopic** closed a Seed round to boost development of AI-supported endoscopic solutions.
- **Araris** snagged a strategic investment from Samsung Ventures.
- **CompPair Technologies** secured funding to advance global growth in the composites industry.
- **Fixposition** secured investment from Segway-Ninebot.
- **Flyability** attracted a new strategic investor.
- **Haelixa** received a new capital injection from Zurich Silk Association.
- **Gaia Tech** closed a Pre-Seed round to start pilot production and enter the cosmetic ingredients market.
- **InSphero** obtained a strategic investment from ZEISS Ventures.
- Cleantech startup **Librec** closed a funding round to boost closed-loop battery recycling.
- Significant investment fuels **MimiX Biotherapeutics'** advancements in human tissue regeneration.
- **PeriVision** achieved successful closing of the first seed round tranche, revolutionizing eye testing and care.
- **Xsensio** secured an investment and collaboration agreement with the Mayo Clinic.
- **YASAI** secured investment to boost its growth.
- **Yumame Foods** closed its Pre-Seed funding round.

Check more fundraising news on  
[www.venturekick.ch/newsroom](http://www.venturekick.ch/newsroom)





## EXITS



### 3DB ACCESS acquired by Infineon Technologies

3db Access is at the forefront of secured low-power Ultra-Wideband (UWB) technology. The startup has officially joined the Germany-based semiconductor conglomerate Infineon Technologies with 56,200 employees, a prominent global leader in semiconductor technology for power systems and IoT, boasting an impressive revenue of EUR 14.2 billion in 2022.



### AVRIOS acquired by Battery Ventures

Venture Kick alum and TOP 100 Swiss Startup and Scale-Up Avrios received a growth investment from Silicon Valley investor Battery Ventures. Avrios provides a cloud fleet management platform, aimed at 20 to 20,000 vehicles. Battery Ventures is a global, technology-focused investment firm founded in 1983 and managing an estimated USD 13 billion in assets.



### LUNPAHORE acquired by Bio-Techne

Swiss life sciences company founded in 2014 and headquartered in Tolothenaz, Lunaphore Technologies, announced its agreement to be acquired by Bio-Techne Corporation, a global leader in innovative tools for the research and clinical diagnostic communities. The acquisition was closed in the third quarter of 2023, paving the way for advancements in spatial biology.



### METACO acquired by Ripple

Ripple, the leader in enterprise blockchain and crypto solutions, acquired Metaco, a Swiss-based provider of digital asset custody and tokenization technology. Diversifying into custody solutions is a milestone in Ripple's business and product strategy, bringing new revenue opportunities to the company. Ripple and Metaco share strong crypto DNA and top-tier institutional customers.



### PROTEOMEDIX acquired by Blue Water Biotech

Proteomedix, improving prostate cancer care and stemming from ETHZ, has been acquired by US-based Blue Water Biotech on NASDAQ. This deal gives rise to Onconetix, a venture aiming to transform prostate health. The collaboration aims at tackling prostate cancer diagnosis and benign prostate hyperplasia treatment.



### QUALYSENSE acquired by Ferrum

To enhance its capabilities and lead the charge towards sustainable practices in the food industry, Swiss company Ferrum acquired Qualysense, an innovative startup specializing in AI-powered grain, seed, and bean sorting technologies. The integration aims not only to expand its business horizons but also to establish new benchmarks for sustainability within the food sector.



### SEERVISION ACQUIRED BY Q-SYS

Seervision, a Swiss-based pioneer in AI-driven camera automation software, announces an agreement to join Q-SYS, a division of QSC LLC. The acquisition by Q-SYS represents an exciting milestone for Seervision, as it opens up new opportunities to further expand the reach of its AI-driven camera automation software solutions, delivering innovative and transformative AV experiences to customers worldwide.

## INDUSTRY DEALS

- **Biognosys** and **Bruker** formed a partnership to serve global biopharma and biomarker customers.
- **Climeworks** and **BCG** signed a 15-year agreement redefining carbon removal leadership.
- **EraCal** and Nestlé Health Science teamed up to develop new treatment for obesity.
- **hemotune** initiated a joint feasibility project on the HemoSystem with AstraZeneca.
- **MIRO Analytical** joined forces with Bruker: A new era in analytical instrumentation.
- **Nu Glass** landed a major Swiss Railway order.
- **PharmaBiome** and **Roquette** collaborated on the development of tailored fibers.
- **PharmaBiome & Ferring** concluded a R&D collaboration and a licensing agreement
- **RetinAI** joined forces with Boehringer Ingelheim to advance novel treatments for patients with **geographic atrophy** using Artificial Intelligence
- **SEED Biosciences** got a new major commercial partner for SWISSto12's I-8 satellites from the HummingSat program are chosen by Inmarsat to support its L-band network
- **Terapet's** partnership with Yonsei University and Oncosoft Inc. secures multi-million funding from Innosuisse and **KIAT**.

## AWARDS & WORLD-RECORDS

Venture Kick alumni regularly contribute to world premieres, winning global awards, and making headlines. Here is a short selection.



### BIOSIMO AND OPENVERSUM

Biosimo, developing and operating processes to produce bio-based platform chemicals, won the Grand Prize of »venture« Startup Competition. Openversum, empowering local entrepreneurs in Colombia and Ecuador to provide safe drinking water, won the First Prize.



### COMPHYA

Comphy collaborated with the Royal Melbourne Hospital and the Australian Prostate Centre in the world first implantation of a high-tech, battery-powered device to restore erectile function, leading a global trial for the ground-breaking treatment.



### DAPHNE TECHNOLOGY

Daphne Technology received the prestigious Deep-Tech/Life Science Award at the 25<sup>th</sup> Swiss Economic Forum. Daphne's commitment to developing sustainable solutions to combat emissions and our innovative products stood out among the finalists, securing this recognition.



### EXEON ANALYTICS

David Gugelmann, founder and CEO of Exeon Analytics, was an EY Entrepreneur of the Year Finalist in the "Emerging Entrepreneur" Category. The startup protects companies' IT through AI-driven security analytics. Its solutions detect and prevent cyber attacks and insider threats.



### HEMOTUNE

hemotune was recognized as one of the Top Innovative Companies in Switzerland 2024 in the chemistry, pharma and medtech vertical. The ranking was published by Bilanz and PME, in partnership with Statista.



### LIGENTEC

LIGENTEC is one of "Europe's largest integrated photonics companies that called on the EU to support building a resilient supply chain for photonic ICs". The European initiative is called "photonixFAB" and prepares for an industrial silicon photonics value chain.



### MYLEG, SMARTBREED, AND YASAI

Greta Preatoni of MyLeg, Patrik Bertschi of SmartBreed, and Philipp Bosshard of Yasai made it into the Forbes 30 under 30 Europe list. In total, 300 founders, leaders and entrepreneurs were again selected for the eighth Forbes 30 under 30 Europe list.



### POLARITON TECHNOLOGIES

Polariton Technologies and Lightwave Logic announced additional world-record performance for 250 GHz optical link, as breakthrough peer-reviewed paper results presented at prestigious 2022 European Conference on Optical Communications (ECOC).



### SEPRIFY

Seprify (ex-Impossible Material) won the first prize in the MassChallenge Switzerland Awards Ceremony that took place in Lausanne on October 27, 2023. Seprify has been distinguished as the Diamond Winner with CHF 120,000 in cash. The ceremony celebrated the 12 early-stage startups that won the MassChallenge Switzerland awards.



### VOLTIRIS

Voltiris won CHF 15,000 as the Public Prize of ClimaNow. The startup offers solar modules compatible with greenhouse operations, converting light unused by the photosynthesis process into renewable energy. With the annual "ClimaNow Spotlight" event, the organization provides a platform for climate projects on a specific topic.



# A KICKERS' WORLD

THE WEBSERIES INTRODUCING THE FOUNDERS IN THEIR ENVIRONMENT

Meet the Venture Kick winners in their office or labs and learn more about their innovation and the global problems they are solving.

Scan the QR-code to watch their interviews, or check the full Kickers World episode in our Youtube playlist.



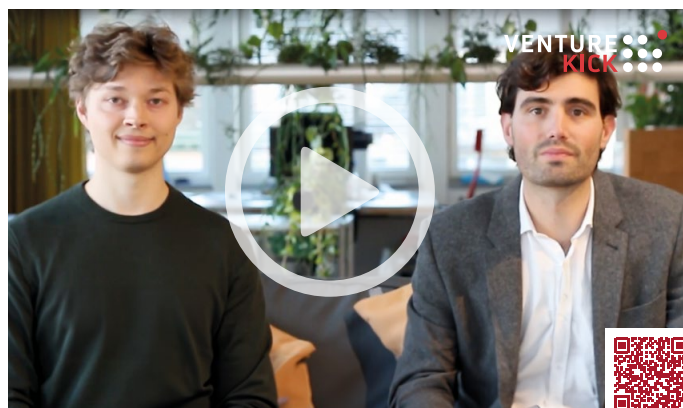
## AEROSPEC

ANALYZING CHEMICAL COMPOSITION AND SOURCE OF AEROSOL AIR POLLUTION



## ASKEARTH

PREDICTING EARTH'S FUTURE TO EMPOWER EVERYONE



## CHIRAL

PRODUCING NANOMATERIAL-BASED CHIPS 300 TIMES FASTER



## INVERTO

INNOVATIVE MANGROVE RESTORATION TO MAKE BLUE CARBON PROFITABLE



## NEOLOGY

UNLOCKING CARBON-FREE ENERGY FOR COMMERCIAL TRANSPORTATION



## PLANETO

ACCELERATING DISTRICT ENERGY PLANNING WITH INNOVATIVE SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS



# 64 VENTURE KICKERS

## 5 IN TOP 10

**1 HAYA THERAPEUTICS**  
 → [www.hayatx.com](http://www.hayatx.com)  
 Treating heart failure through innovative RNA-therapies.  
 START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 03.10.17



**11 VOLUMINA MEDICAL**  
 → [www.volumina-medical.ch](http://www.volumina-medical.ch)  
 Dynamic biomaterials for reconstructive and plastic surgery.  
 START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 04.09.17



**2 PLANTED FOODS**  
 → [www.eatplanted.com](http://www.eatplanted.com)  
 Sustainable, healthy and cruelty-free plant-based meat.  
 START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 21.05.19



**12 EXNATON**  
 → [www.exnaton.com](http://www.exnaton.com)  
 The platform for renewable energy and sustainable lifestyles.  
 START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 09.06.20



**6 BLOOM BIORENEWABLES**  
 → [www.bloombiorenewables.com](http://www.bloombiorenewables.com)  
 Making biomass a true alternative to petroleum.  
 START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 25.06.19



**13 TUNE INSIGHT**  
 → [www.tuneinsight.com](http://www.tuneinsight.com)  
 Data collaborations with federated confidential computing.  
 START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 22.06.21



**8 RESISTELL**  
 → [www.resistell.com](http://www.resistell.com)  
 Revolutionary alternative for antibiotic susceptibility test.  
 START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 30.01.18



**14 ARARIS BIOTECH**  
 → [www.ararisbiotech.com](http://www.ararisbiotech.com)  
 Building tomorrow's antibody-drug conjugates (ADCs).  
 START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 10.07.18



**10 DEPOLY**  
 → [www.depoly.co](http://www.depoly.co)  
 Closing the loop on PET plastic recycling.  
 START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 20.08.19



**15 CORINTIS**  
 → [www.corintis.com](http://www.corintis.com)  
 Enabling the computing of tomorrow with in-chip cooling.  
 START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 28.09.21



**16 FLYBOTIX**  
 → [www.flybotix.com](http://www.flybotix.com)  
 Professional drone solutions for the inspection of confined spaces.  
 START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 20.11.18

**18 AGROSUSTAIN**  
 → [www.agrosustain.ch](http://www.agrosustain.ch)  
 A one-stop-shop solution for biological plant protection.  
 START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 08.08.17

**20 ERACAL THERAPEUTICS**  
 → [www.eracal.ch](http://www.eracal.ch)  
 Next generation of anti-obesity drugs.  
 START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 20.03.18

**21 DEEPJUDGE**  
 → [www.deepjudge.ai](http://www.deepjudge.ai)  
 The future of the legal profession.  
 START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 17.11.20

**23 MICROCAPS**  
 → [www.microcaps.ch](http://www.microcaps.ch)  
 Microencapsulation with Swiss precision.  
 START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 26.06.18

**26 CULTIVATED BIOSCIENCES**  
 → [www.cultivated.bio](http://www.cultivated.bio)  
 Production of dairy fats by microbial fermentation.  
 START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 16.11.21

**27 NANOFLEX ROBOTICS**  
 → [www.nanoflexrobotics.com](http://www.nanoflexrobotics.com)  
 Endo and neuro vascular remote control soft robotic system.  
 START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 18.01.22

**28 ALMER TECHNOLOGIES**  
 → [www.almer.com](http://www.almer.com)  
 All day AR-Glasses.  
 START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 17.08.21

**29 FENX**  
 → [www.fenx.ch](http://www.fenx.ch)  
 Transformation of mineral waste into insulation materials.  
 START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 30.10.18

**32 OXYLE**  
 → [www.oxy.le](http://www.oxy.le)  
 Clean technology to remove toxic micropollutants from water.  
 START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 19.11.19

**33 TINAMU LABS**  
 → [www.tinamu-labs.com](http://www.tinamu-labs.com)  
 Automated drone-based indoor monitoring.  
 START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 17.04.18

**35 GRAPE INSURANCE**  
 → [www.grapehealth.ch](http://www.grapehealth.ch)  
 Fully digital employee insurance improving health.  
 START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 18.01.22

**36 ADIPOSS**  
 → [www.adiposs.com](http://www.adiposs.com)  
 Imaging body fat and saving lives.  
 START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 25.06.19

**37 SOHHYTEC**  
 → [www.sohhytec.com](http://www.sohhytec.com)  
 Solar fuel the smarter way.  
 START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 28.04.20

**38 POSITRIGO**  
 → [www.positrigo.com](http://www.positrigo.com)  
 Cost-effective functional brain imaging for everyone.  
 START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 27.02.18

**39 NEURAL CONCEPT**  
 → [www.neuralconcept.com](http://www.neuralconcept.com)  
 Optimizing engineering processes.  
 START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 12.06.18

**41 ASCENTO**  
 → [www.ascento.ch](http://www.ascento.ch)  
 Autonomous outdoor security patrolling.  
 START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 22.11.22

**42 WATTANYWHERE**  
 → [www.wattanywhere.com](http://www.wattanywhere.com)  
 Renewable energy for EV fast-charging anywhere in one month.  
 START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 08.02.22

**46 SEVENSSENSE ROBOTICS**  
 → [www.sevensense.ch](http://www.sevensense.ch)  
 Visual navigation for the next generation of service robots.  
 START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 30.10.18

**48 AVELO**  
 → [www.avelolife.com](http://www.avelolife.com)  
 Breath collector for better diagnosis of pneumonia.  
 START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 22.06.21

**49 VOLIRO**  
 → [www.voliro.com](http://www.voliro.com)  
 Aerial robots for in-depth inspection and maintenance.  
 START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 12.06.18



- 55 SEED BIOSCIENCES**  
→ [www.seedbiosciences.com](http://www.seedbiosciences.com)  
Isolating single cells reliably and cost-effectively.  
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 30.01.18
- 56 BIOSIMO**  
→ [www.biosimo-chemicals.com](http://www.biosimo-chemicals.com)  
Sustainable chemicals for a greener future.  
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 31.08.21
- 57 LUYA FOODS**  
→ [www.luya.bio](http://www.luya.bio)  
Smart processing for a world without wasted food resources.  
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 08.06.21
- 59 TERAPET**  
→ [www.terapet.ch](http://www.terapet.ch)  
Next generation imaging technology for nuclear medicine.  
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 29.10.19
- 60 MATRIQ**  
→ [www.matriq.ch](http://www.matriq.ch)  
The unique individual watermark for plastics products.  
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 19.05.20
- 62 ANNAIDA TECHNOLOGIES**  
→ [www.annaida.ch](http://www.annaida.ch)  
Non-invasive chemical analysis at embryo scale.  
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 26.06.18
- 63 SOLAXER**  
→ [www.solaxer.com](http://www.solaxer.com)  
Supplier of receivers for solar heat powered processes.  
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 04.01.22
- 64 INKVIVO TECHNOLOGIES**  
→ [www.inkvivo.tech](http://www.inkvivo.tech)  
Development of advanced drug delivery system.  
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 27.09.22
- 65 PEROVSKIA SOLAR**  
→ [www.perovskia.solar](http://www.perovskia.solar)  
Energy self sufficiency by enabling a solar cell on devices.  
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 01.09.20
- 66 MARK INVESTMENT HOLDING**  
→ [www.splintinvest.com](http://www.splintinvest.com)  
Diversify your portfolio, like an expert.  
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 04.01.22
- 67 TWICE**  
→ [www.twiice.ch](http://www.twiice.ch)  
Powered exoskeletons for walking assistance.  
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 28.03.17
- 68 AGRINORM**  
→ [www.agrinorm.com](http://www.agrinorm.com)  
AI for fresh fruits quality standardisation & forecasting.  
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 28.01.20
- 69 FLOWBONE**  
→ [www.flowbone.com](http://www.flowbone.com)  
Restoring hip strength to resist breaking.  
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 19.11.19
- 72 ARTIRIA MEDICAL**  
→ [www.artiria-medical.com](http://www.artiria-medical.com)  
Fighting strokes, saving lives.  
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 08.01.19
- 74 AICA**  
→ [www.aica.tech](http://www.aica.tech)  
Accessible robotics for everyone.  
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 07.07.20
- 75 DIMPORA**  
→ [www.dimpora.com](http://www.dimpora.com)  
Novel porous membranes for outdoor clothing.  
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 17.04.18
- 77 PASTA SOFTWARE STUDIO (PASTAHR)**  
→ [www.pastahr.com](http://www.pastahr.com)  
Recruiting directly via WhatsApp.  
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 07.03.23
- 78 SEPRIFY**  
→ [www.seprify.com](http://www.seprify.com)  
Providing plant-based formulation for coloring applications.  
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 27.09.22
- 79 RECOLONY**  
→ [www.recolony.ch](http://www.recolony.ch)  
Bacteria-based oral therapy to treat colorectal cancer.  
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 12.04.22
- 80 LIBREC**  
→ [www.librec.com](http://www.librec.com)  
Recycling of lithium-ion batteries from e-Mobility.  
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 17.11.20
- 81 ARCOSCREEN**  
→ [www.arcoscreen.ch](http://www.arcoscreen.ch)  
Screening patients cells to improve drug discovery.  
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 18.08.20
- 82 COMPOSITE RECYCLING**  
→ [www.composite-recycling.ch](http://www.composite-recycling.ch)  
Closing the loop on recycling composite materials.  
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 02.11.2021
- 83 ENERDRAPE**  
→ [www.enerdrape.com](http://www.enerdrape.com)  
Turning underground environment into renewable heat sources.  
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 07.07.2020
- 84 INERGIO TECHNOLOGIES**  
→ [www.inergio.ch](http://www.inergio.ch)  
Fuel flexible fuel cells to accelerate the energy transition.  
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 09.07.2019
- 85 PLASTOGAZ**  
→ [www.plastogaz.com](http://www.plastogaz.com)  
Advanced plastic recycling technologies.  
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 09.07.2019
- 86 TYXIT SA (SONIX)**  
→ [www.sonixapp.com](http://www.sonixapp.com)  
High quality audio at the speed of light.  
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 21.08.2018
- 86 AKINA**  
→ [www.akina.health](http://www.akina.health)  
Embrace movement's full potential through AI-enhanced physiotherapy.  
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 03.08.2021
- 92 LIMULA**  
→ [www.limula.ch](http://www.limula.ch)  
Cell and gene therapy made easy.  
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 21.08.2018
- 93 ISOCHRONIC**  
→ [www.isochronic.com](http://www.isochronic.com)  
Software-driven Industrial pick&place robotics.  
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 29.09.2020
- 94 AUXIVO**  
→ [www.auxivo.com](http://www.auxivo.com)  
Improving people's lives through innovative and accessible exoskeletons.  
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 02.10.2018
- 95 SYNENDOS THERAPEUTICS**  
→ [www.synendos.com](http://www.synendos.com)  
Therapies for neuropsychiatric disorders.  
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 11.12.2018
- 97 EBAMED**  
→ [www.eba-med.com](http://www.eba-med.com)  
Non-invasive and automated treatments of heart arrhythmias.  
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 21.11.2017
- 99 INVASIGHT**  
→ [www.invasight.com](http://www.invasight.com)  
Advanced targeted therapies for invasive cancers.  
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 19.02.2019

# SUPPORTED PROJECTS

## BIOTECH

**ADORAM THERAPEUTICS** – Pejoski David, University of Geneva (UNIGE), Small molecule immunotherapy R&D at optimized lead stage.

**AMPORIN PHARMACEUTICALS** – Stott Kelvin, PSI Paul Scherrer Institut, Membrane-protecting therapies for neurodegenerative diseases.

**ARIYA BIO** – Boontanart Mandy, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Increasing beneficial hemoglobin in hemoglobinopathy patient.

**ARTEMIX** – Vinet Laurent, Centre hospitalier universitaire vaudois (CHUV), Drug delivery system to fight vessel stenosis.

**ASTRA THERAPEUTICS** – Gaillard Natacha, PSI Paul Scherrer Institut, Pioneering the design of anti-parasitic drugs.

**CHECKTOR BIOSCIENCES** – Paganini Carolina, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Fighting drug-resistant infections with point-of-care tests.

**DIATHERIS** – Ramadori Giorgio, University of Geneva (UNIGE), Developing game-changing therapeutics for type 1 diabetes.

**DNAQURACY** – Chernev Andrey, University of Lausanne (UNIL), Technology for DNA quality control for pre-sequencing.

**INKVIVO TECHNOLOGIES** – Guzzi Elia, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Advanced drug delivery systems for active ingredients.

**ISOSPEC ANALYTICS** – Ben Faleh Ahmed, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Next-level molecular intelligence to empower biotechnology.

**KIDEMIS** – Marakhov Kostiantyn, Berner Fachhochschule (BFH), Sidestreams mycoproteine conversion for aquaculture.

**MARACELLS** – Zubkovs Vitalijs, Centre Suisse d'Electronique et de Microtechnique (CSEM), Optical sensors for bioprocess automation.

**METALEAD THERAPEUTICS** – Shoshan Michal, University of Zurich (UZH), Next-generation medications to treat lead poisoning at various levels.

**NAIALABS** – Michielin Grégoire, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), A single drop of blood from home, multiple tests at nailalabs.

**ORIO THERAPEUTICS** – Julier Ziad, Andere - Autres - Others, Drug-delivery technology based on protein engineering.

**PALTO THERAPEUTICS** – Wishart William, Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz (FHNW), Smart-coats for targeting and delivery of therapeutic RNAs.

**PROCAVEA** – Edwardson Thomas, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Innovative molecular delivery solutions for medicine.

**RECOLONY** – Montalban-Arques Ana, University of Zurich (UZH), Bacteria-based oral therapy to treat colorectal cancer.

**SALLEA** – Fehlmann Simona, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Enabling the production of whole cut meat for foodtech companies.

**SYDRA** – Dakhovnik Alexander, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Artificial neural networks to develop novel geroprotectors.

**TANDEM THERAPEUTICS** – Chabria Mamta, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Unlocking the matrix barrier in fibrotic diseases.

**TRANSIRE BIO** – Paunovic Nevena, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Painless alternative to injectables.

**TRANSLATION-X** – Genç Özgür, University of Basel (UNIBAS), Developing novel therapeutics for autism spectrum disorders.

**TROJAN THERAPEUTICS** – Bredl Simon, University Hospital of Zurich, Turning "cold" tumors "hot" with gene engineered macrophages.

## CLEANTECH

**ADVECTION ENGINEERING** – Hofmann Martin, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Equipment for the production of wholecut meat analogues.

**AEROSPEC** – Dudani Nikunj, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Chemical composition & source analysis of aerosol pollution.

**ARRHENIUS** – Tamburini Reto, Hochschule Luzern (HSLU), Developing atmospheric CO2 removal plants.

**BOROBOTICS** – Dennig Hans-Jörg, Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW), Smart drilling robot for geothermal energy.

**COTIERRA** – Käslin Thomas, Hochschule Luzern (HSLU), Carbon removal and welfare through decentralized biochar.

**DIVEA** – Khalil Karl, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Selling filters that capture CO2 from industrial emissions.

**EIGHTINKS** – Baade Paul, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Building the next generation of lithium ion batteries.

**ETAVALVE** – Omanovic Andyn, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Efficiently converting waste heat to electric power.

**EVOLIUM TECHNOLOGIES** – Staub Alexandre, HE-Arc (BE-JU-NE), Affordable second-life batteries with guaranteed capacity.

**INSITUSTRETECH** – Horvath Alex, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Enabling safer and more efficient geo-energy projects.

**INVERTO EARTH** – Germann Jürg, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Innovative solutions to invert the loss of coastal wetlands.

**NEOLOGY HYDROGEN** – Maroonian Aris, IMD Lausanne, Ammonia carbon-free energy vector for commercial transport.

**PLASNIFIX** – Poms Martin, Andere - Autres - Others, Green, plasma-assisted ammonia production.

**REMAFTER** – Hilber Götz, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Circular, low-carbon, price competitive earth-timber slabs.

**SEPARATIC** – Ashirov Timur, University of Fribourg (UNIFR), Adsorptive membranes for direct carbon capture from the air.

**SOL-HAIR** – Vaccaro Maria, Hautes écoles vaudoises, Sustainable insulation panels made from recycled hair waste.

**SUN-WAYS** – Danichert Baptiste, HES-SO Valais-Wallis, Removable solar power plants directly between the rails of a railroad.

**UPCIRCLE** – Kolvenbach Hendrik, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Revolutionizing waste management for a circular economy.

## ELECTRONICS, MECHANICS

**A-METAL** – Steiner Stephan, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Making metal 3D printing more accessible.

**ASCENTO** – Morra Alessandro, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Autonomous robots for outdoor security patrolling.

**BTRY** – Futscher Moritz, EMPA, Transforming energy storage through cell stacking.

**CASSIO-P** – Delgoffe Antoine, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Disruptive photonics modules.

**DPHI SPACE** – Belkhiria Aziz, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Streamlining space access with satellite ridesharing.

**ELYTHOR** – Vourtsis Charalampos, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Sustainable solutions for inspecting and monitoring linear infrastructure.

**EMPATH** – Azadifar Mohammad, Hautes écoles vaudoises, Radio frequency test solution for wireless systems.

**K2 PHOTONICS** – Pupekis Justinas, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Unlocking the power of optical frequency combs.

**NOVOVIZ** – Muntean Andrada, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Single-photon processing detectors for computational imaging.

**PAVE SPACE (CASEUS)** – Böhning Julie, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Comprehensive autonomous systems for space exploration.

**PEAKFLOW** – Bosshard Yvan, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Turning building data into actions.

**REMA** – Schenk Steven, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), The most efficient electrolyzer at the lowest cost.

**ROBOTIC ON-SITE TECHNOLOGIES (ROST)** – Sou-nigo Eliott, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Switzerland's first autonomous robot for surface finishing.

**SOLIDWATTS** – Aicheler Markus, Conseil Européen pour la Recherche Nucléaire (CERN), High-efficiency electric heating solutions for industry.

**TALPA INSPECTION** – Bircher Lukas, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), New inspection method for underground corrosion monitoring.

**TETHYS ROBOTICS** – Wuest Jonas, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Enable search and inspection missions in all waters.



## INTERNET, MOBILE

**ASKEARTH** – Petit Gaëtan, University of Zurich (UZH), An easy-to-use tool to access unique information from Earth observation images.

**RAPIDATA** – Corkill Jason, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Powering AI with rapid and scalable human data processing.

**SHOWZONE** – Beyer Simon, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), AI copilot for delivering engaging presentations.

## MATERIALS, CHEMICALS

**APHEROS** – Carpenter Julia, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), High surface area metal foams for thermal, catalysis, and battery applications.

**CATCHFREE** – Eder Severin, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Seafood without a catch.

**CIRCULAR LUGANO** – De Savelli Mirco, University of Zurich (UZH), Centralizing item sharing.

**GRAPHENERGYTECH** – Baumeler Thomas, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Unleashing the power of graphene for solar cells.

**OPENVERSUM** – Gröninger Olivier, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Providing safe water with microfranchising and engineering.

**QCELLA** – Schreck Murielle, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Next generation heating of textiles.

**SEPRIFY** – Schertel Lukas, University of Fribourg (UNIFR), Providing plant-based formulation for coloring applications.

**YUMAME FOODS** – Zamprogna Eliana, Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW), Sustainable plant-based food from fungi and fermentation.

## MEDTECH

**BREATHE MEDICAL** – Lumpe Thomas, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), A low-cost ventilator for all.

**CALICO BIOSYSTEMS** – Turrini Riccardo, University of Lausanne (UNIL), Precision oncology platform for combination therapy.

**COMPAGOS** – Schädli Gian Nutal, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Personalized diagnostics for bone health.

**CONDUCTIVE SKIN (COSKIN)** – Kourouklis Andreas, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Stopping infection in heart failure.

**DENTEXION** – Madsen Dennis, University of Basel (UNIBAS), The dentist's AI assistant to objectively diagnose patients.

**DERMATOTHERMA** – Paparo Davide, Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW), Safe and accessible treatment devices for the most neglected.

**EARDREAM** – Baur Simon, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Predicting and tracing Alzheimer's before brain damage.

**ENANTIOS** – Lightner Carin, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Accelerating drug development with chiral analytics.

**GLUCKLI.CH** – Di Costanzo Mata Aldo, University of Zurich (UZH), Safe non-invasive continuous newborn glucose sensor.

**HEROSUPPORT** – Dipasquale Giovanna, Hôpitaux universitaires de Genève (HUG), Personalized breast immobilization (shells) for radiotherapy.

**IMAI** – Catto Francesca, University of Zurich (UZH), Bringing cancer diagnosis to new dimensions.

**IMMUNI** – Aires Lina, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Nanoengineered substrates to advance CAR-T cell production.

**IN-TEETH TECHNOLOGY** – Meley Hugo, Hautes écoles vaudoises, Aesthetic and patient-friendly orthodontics.

**LIGHTHOUSE TECH** – Burlando Franco, Università della Svizzera italiana (USI), Enabling blind and visually impaired people navigate safely.

**MED4CAST** – Lädemann Alexandre, University of Geneva (UNIGE), AI-driven orthopedic diagnostics solution.

**MOONLIGHT AI** – Ruiz Christian, University of Basel (UNIBAS), Democratizing access to predictive diagnostics in cancer.

**NEOSENS** – Hamel Mateo, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Fighting the misdiagnosis of sepsis for newborns.

**OPTOHIVE** – Wyser Dominik, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Empowering brain health with wearable optical neuroimaging.

**PACE LOCATOR** – Thompson Emily, Berner Fachhochschule (BFH), Improving patient care with novel heartbeat visualization.

**PATHY** – Khadhraoui Aous, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Alleviate pathologists workload with the help of AI.

**RHEO** – Vetter Philipp, Centre Suisse d'Electronique et de Microtechnique (CSEM), Streaming vital patient data from anywhere.

**SESTANTE ANALYTICS** – Fontana Federico, University of Bern (UNIBE), A single hub for diabetes self-management.

**VALTECH LIFESCIENCES** – Zheng Shaokai, University of Bern (UNIBE), A prosthetic heart valve with reduced thrombogenicity.

**WAKEUP HEALTHCARE** – Paludnevičute Ieva, HE-Arc (BE-JU-NE), Helping patients to achieve their pelvic physiotherapy goals.

## MICRO-, NANO TECHNOLOGY

**CHIRAL NANO** – Lanz Natanael, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Industrial production of high-quality quantum processors.

**SWISSBN** – Cun Huanyao, University of Zurich (UZH), High-quality boron nitride for next generation electronics.

## SOFTWARE

**ABRINCA** – Roder Thomas, University of Bern (UNIBE), Simplifying the analysis of microbial genomes.

**ADIRA HEALTH** – Villalaz Mary, Centre Suisse d'Electronique et de Microtechnique (CSEM), Data-driven, blended care for better pregnancy outcomes.

**ALPINEWELL** – D'Hulst Gommaar, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Personalised supplements for seniors via 3D scan & AI.

**ATLASVR** – Holzwarth Valentin, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Revolutionizing vocational training with Virtual Reality.

**BRAVA** – Grossenbacher Kathrin, Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz (FHNW), Custom made bra created by 3D technology.

**DEMOSQUARE** – Kristof Victor, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Helping companies to anticipate the future of regulations.

**EX NUNC INTELLIGENCE** – Bongard Kyriaki, University of Geneva (UNIGE), Revolutionizing the legal industry with technology.

**FLINK ROBOTICS** – Geilinger Moritz, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), intelligence for material handling robots.

**HOOQ** – Zumofen Livia, Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW), hooq creates climbing shoes simply based on your uniqueness.

**IRMOS TECHNOLOGIES** – Martakis Panagiotis, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Maximizing the safe life of buildings and bridges based on data.

**MAGIC HEIDI** – Ganser Nathan, University of Geneva (UNIGE), Simple QR Code Invoices for Switzerland.

**MEDNOTA** – Kalarickamakel Ranjit, University Hospital of Basel, Enabling infection control through data-driven technology.

**PLANETO** – Cozza Stefano, University of Geneva (UNIGE), Digital design of climate-neutral district heating networks.

**REFFIT** – Crassee Iris, University of Geneva (UNIGE), for spectroscopic data in material science.

**RFLECT** – Rot Cornelis, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Scalable personal development for universities and students.

**SUNWELL** – Kahl Annelen, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Solution for solar photovoltaics energy projects.

**TERENSIS** – Perich Gregor, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Digital twin of farming systems.

**THOT** – Carlsen Brian, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Online platform that turns data management for scientists easy.

**TRANSCALITY** – Ambühl Lukas, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Virtual replica of traffic for a sustainable future.

**VAMOZ** – Wildhaber Isabelle, University of St. Gallen (HSG), Enabling remote work abroad.

**WENURSE** – Hodel Simon, Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW), Staffing platform for nurses owned by nurses.

**YUON CONTROL** – Mühlebach Lorin, Hochschule Luzern (HSLU), Helping single-family homeowners reduce their heating cost.

## OTHERS

**FOUNTAIN** – Pfyffer Luca, Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW), Zero waste beverage stations.

# PROJECT SELECTION

→ 781 APPLICATIONS REVIEWED

65 applications per month

→ 61 % German Part

→ 35 % French Part

→ 48 % PROJECTS ETHZ & EPFL

→ 43 % WITH FEMALE FOUNDERS

The number of projects applying to join Venture Kick increased year-on-year by 9.7%, to 781 (from 712 in 2022). The majority, 61%, came from the German-speaking part of Switzerland, 35% from the French-speaking and the remaining 4% from Italian-speaking Ticino.

Venture Kick has national coverage and attracts applicants from across the country: 40% of applications originate from the Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology Zurich and Lausanne, with the remaining 60% coming from projects distributed among 36 other universities and research institutions.

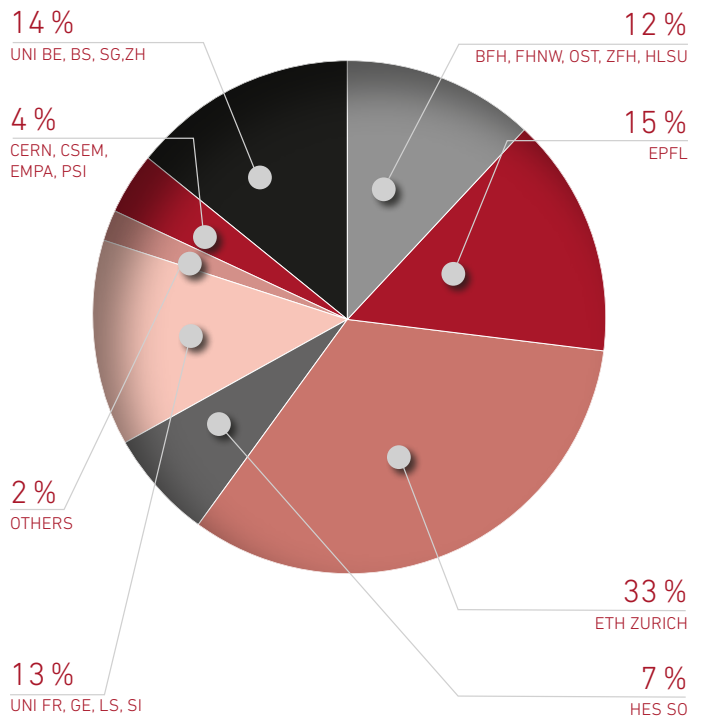
Applications come from all high-tech sectors. The most strongly represented sectors are ICT (Software, Internet, Mobile), with 53%; life sciences, encompassing biotech and medtech, account for 19% of the applications; 7% are cleantech projects and another 7% are electronics and mechanics. The remaining 14% are split among micro-, nano-technologies, materials, chemicals, and others.

Selection is competitive. Projects from the two Federal Institutes of Technology represent 48% of those selected by Venture Kick's juries, which is slightly lower than 2022 (54%).

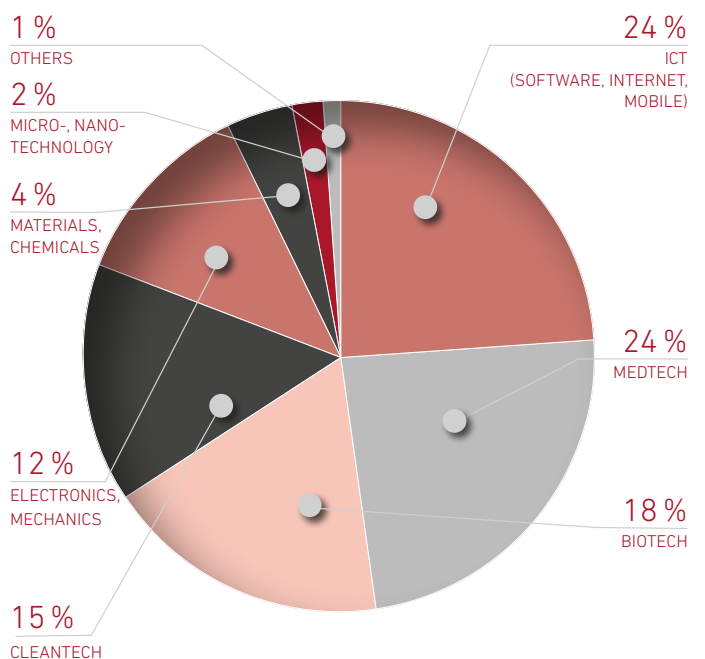
42% of supported projects are in the life sciences, 24% concern information and communication technologies, 15% are cleantech projects, 14% are electronics/mechanics and micro/nano-technologies, material and chemical innovations represent 4%, and 1% is classified as others.

## SUPPORTED PROJECTS

### BY UNIVERSITY



### BY SECTOR





# FINANCES

## DIRECT CONTRIBUTIONS TO STARTUP PROJECTS

	ACTUAL 2023		BUDGET 2024	
CASH SUPPORT FOR STARTUPS	6,230,000	72.3%	6,640,000	73.0%
Grants of CHF 10,000	930,000		960,000	
Convertible loans of CHF 40,000	2,200,000		2,280,000	
Convertible loans of CHF 100,000	3,100,000		3,400,000	

## INDIRECT CONTRIBUTIONS TO STARTUP PROJECTS

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT FOR STARTUPS	2,000,000	23.2%	2,050,000	22.6%
Venture Briefing contribution				
Review of 800 project applications, feedback and preparation for candidates				
Presentation to investors and supporters at 51 jury sessions in 2023 and 53 in 2024				
Personal introductions to investors and pilot customers				
Individual coaching and support at 61 Kickers Camps and Kickers Briefings in 2023 and 62 in 2024				
Written feedback and pitch videos, monthly reporting, startup hotline				
Support and management for invested portfolio				
Coordination and recommendations for Kick Fund investment				
Press releases and articles for startups to create national and international visibility				
Creation of PRs, articles, video portraits, social media news about Startups				
Promotion of startup news via social media and news channels (Handelszeitung, startup.ch, startupticker.ch, and others)				
Business software, checklists and templates				

## ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS

PPROGRAM MANAGEMENT	390,000	4.5%	400,000	4.4%
Planning / Team management / Reporting				
Promotion at all Swiss universities and partners				
Startup Portfolio Management / Kick Foundation Transfer / Financial returns / Donations				
IT / Website development and maintenance				
Kick Foundation Audit / Accounting				

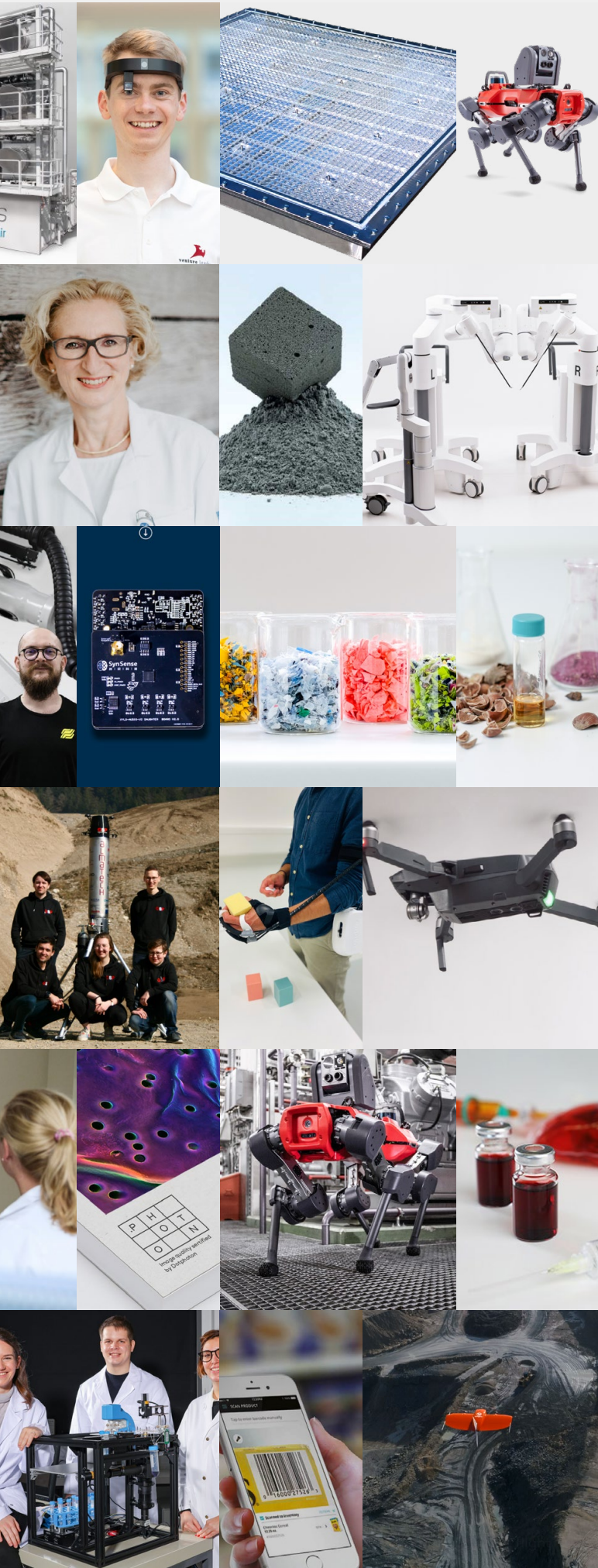
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<b>TOTAL</b> (excluding VAT)	8,620,000	100%	9,090,000	100%
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# OUTLOOK



For 2024 we plan the following:

→ 800 APPLICATIONS

→ 313 PROJECTS PRESENTED  
at 53 jury sessions (20 stage 1 / 20 stage 2 / 13 stage 3)

→ 187 PROJECTS FUNDED  
(96 at CHF 10,000 / 57 at CHF 40,000 / 34 at CHF 100,000)

→ CHF 6,640,000  
in seed-funding for startup projects

→ 50 KICKERS CAMPS  
2-day workshops in small groups

→ 12 KICKERS' BRIEFINGS  
Workshops at Swiss universities

## GOAL 2033: 100,000 JOBS

Venture Kick is looking for additional CHF 50 million from donors to achieve the following milestones in ten years from now:

→ 3,000 STARTUPS  
3,000 incorporated high-tech companies, leading to 2,600 active Venture Kick alumni by 2033

→ 100,000 JOBS  
43.5 high-quality and sustainable jobs created per active Venture Kick alumni (2023: 21.8 jobs per alumni)

→ CHF 50 Billion INVESTMENT  
CHF 19.3 Million of investment raised per active Venture Kick alumni (2023: CHF 10.1 Million per alumni)



# 1 Million Plus

**STARTUPS FROM SWISS UNIVERSITIES CAN GET MORE THAN A MILLION IN CASH PLUS SUPPORT AND GREAT NETWORKS. IT STARTS WITH A FIRST KICK OF CHF 10,000 FOR A GREAT IDEA.**

Since its launch in 2007, Venture Kick has provided 1,024 Swiss university spin-offs with CHF 51.98 million in seed capital. To date, 796 of them have been incorporated, creating 13,305 jobs. These startups have attracted CHF 8 billion in extra investment.

The philanthropic initiative Venture Kick is financed by a private consortium:

WISSENSCHAFT.  
BEWEGEN  
GEBERT RUF STIFTUNG

ERNST GÖHNER STIFTUNG

Hauser-Stiftung

Fondation  
Alcea

André Hoffmann

Hansjörg Wyss

Martin Haefner

Fondation  
ProTechno

esa business incubation centre  
Switzerland

swisscom



[www.venturekick.ch](http://www.venturekick.ch)



## Review 2023

### Website

- 1280 news, 1140 events
- 374,000 unique users (+0%)
- 45.5% users from abroad
- 9500 newsletter subscribers (+3 %)

### LinkedIn

- 13,300 followers (+32%)

### Venture Capital Report

- 7500 downloads
- 5000 copies distributed
- 120 media mentions

### Swiss Startup Radar

- Topics: AI, ICT business models
- 1500 copies distributed
- 700 downloads

### Content and Team

- 75% of the articles are based on our own (additional) research
- New data base in the back-end for Venture Capital Report data
- New team member Salome Räuschel, M.Sc. in biochemistry (30%)
- Team size: 3.3 FTEs

# Startupticker.ch - Team



Stefan Kyora  
Lucerne  
Editorial, 2011



Ritah Nyakato  
Lucerne  
Editorial, 2015



Eugène Schön  
Lausanne  
Editorial, 2014



Fabienne Roos  
Lucerne  
Editorial, 2020



Luca Calderara  
Lugano  
Editorial, 2023



Benjamin Klavins  
Lucerne  
Analyst, 2023



Salome Räuschel  
Lucerne  
Editorial, 2023



Lynne Constable  
Triest  
Translator, 2011



Jost Dubacher  
Lucerne  
Editorial, 2011



## Outlook 2024

### New projects

- Directories: Redesign of existing Grants & Loans directory  
New support directory
- Better promotion of directories, SEO

### Standard projects

- Venture Capital Report including half year update
- Startup Radar

### New structure

- Completion of the transition phase

### Team

- Further expansion team:  
Fabienne Roos will work 60% instead of 40% from 1 February 2024