



JAHRESBERICHT 2024

4. GESCHÄFTSJAHR

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EINLEITUNG

Die Kick Foundation wurde am 22. April 2021 von der Ernst Göhner Stiftung und der Gebert Rüf Stiftung errichtet. Die Stiftenden widmen der Stiftung ein Gründungskapital von CHF 100'000. Das Stiftungsvermögen wird durch Zuwendungen der Stiftenden, von Dritten und durch Spenden von Investor:innen 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 Rüf Stiftung (im Mandat)

AKTIVITÄTSÜBERSICHT STIFTUNGSRAT

Der Stiftungsrat hat in seiner Frühlingssitzung am 8. April 2024 den Jahresabschluss sowie den Jahresbericht verabschiedet. Letzterer enthält umfassende Informationen zu den Programmaktivitäten und deren Entwicklungen. Zudem hat der Stiftungsrat die inhaltliche und formelle Umsetzung der im Jahr 2023 beschlossenen Ausgründung der Initiative Startupticker in eine eigenständige Stiftung, die «Startupticker Foundation», zur Kenntnis genommen.

In der Herbstsitzung am 25. November 2024 wurden nach Ablauf der laufenden Amtsperiode die Wiederwahlen der Mitglieder des Stiftungsrates durchgeführt und die finanzielle Planung für das kommende Jahr verabschiedet. Darüber hinaus wurden Berichte und Kurzpräsentationen zu den verschiedenen Förderprogrammen und Ausschüssen vorgestellt und diskutiert. Im Sinne eines Informationsaustausches wurde die «Deep Tech Nation Information Plattform» zu einer Präsentation und Diskussion in den Stiftungsrat eingeladen.

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 im Jahr 2024 an folgenden Terminen zu Sitzungen getroffen: 19. Januar, 15. März, 12. Juli, 19. September.

VENTURE KICK

Pascale Vonmont (Delegierte des Strategierats)

Suzanne Avedik

Philip Bodmer

Jan Lichtenberg

Der Strategieausschuss Venture Kick hat sich im Jahr 2024 an folgenden Terminen getroffen:

25. Januar, 2. Mai, 5. September, 27. 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. Die einzelnen Initiativen sind zwar unabhängig, aber gut aufeinander abgestimmt und bieten vielfältige Austauschmöglichkeiten.



Die Fördermittel wurden durch die Stifter und durch Zuwendungen von zahlreichen Donatoren mit regelmässigen jährlichen Beiträgen an die jeweiligen Initiativen eingebbracht.

Die Zuwendungen 2024 in der Höhe von CHF 9'856'099 verteilen sich wie folgt auf die einzelnen Initiativen: CHF 100'000 Idea Kick, CHF 985'000 Talent Kick, CHF 8'771'099 Venture Kick.

Für die Stiftungsaktivitäten wurden insgesamt CHF 10'185'689 eingesetzt. Für die einzelnen Programminitiativen sind das CHF 12'000 für Idea Kick, CHF 805'773 für Talent Kick und CHF 9'367'916 für Venture Kick.



KURZBERICHT PROGRAMME KICK FOUNDATION

IDEA KICK

Die Initiative «Idea Kick» schlägt eine Brücke zwischen Initiativen an Schulen der Sekundarstufe II wie «Schweizer Jugend forscht», «Young Enterprise Switzerland (YES)», «libs», «myIdea» 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 Rüf Stiftung im Rahmen ihrer Fördertätigkeit initiiert und finanziert und 2024 in das Förderprogramm der Kick Foundation überführt.

Es konnten insgesamt 6 Ideen unterstützt werden, 4 Projekte sind bereits abgeschlossen.

TALENT KICK

Talent Kick ist ein hochschulübergreifendes Entrepreneurship Programm, das Studierenden ermöglicht, während des Studiums in einem interdisziplinären Team ein konkrete Projektidee umzusetzen und ihre Fähigkeiten als verantwortliche und unternehmerische Führungspersonen zu stärken.

Das erste Semester besteht aus Bootcamps, Veranstaltungen, Workshops und Coaching, mit dem Ziel, ein Team mit einer ersten inhaltlichen Ausrichtung 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 erfolgt unter Bezug eines Netzwerkes von erfahrenen Unternehmern, Führungskräften, potenziellen Kund:innen, Investor:innen und Expert:innen. Am Ende des Programms haben die Studierenden neben dem Fachabschluss auch die Fähigkeit erworben, sich erfolgreich in einer unternehmerischen Laufbahn zu behaupten. Die besten Teams haben zudem den Grundstein für ihr Unternehmen gelegt und weitere Finanzierung und Unterstützung gesichert.

Im Jahr 2024 wurden in zwei Ausschreibungen aus 276 Bewerbungen 90 Talente ins Programm aufgenommen. Die Bewerbungen stammen von 19 verschiedenen Schweizer Hochschulen (Universitäten, ETH, Fachhochschulen). Insgesamt haben aus den bisher rund 750 Bewerbungen 44 Teams den zweiten Meilenstein erreicht und die daraus entstandenen Startups konnten Finanzierungen von insgesamt CHF 28 Mio. auslösen. Details zum Programm finden sich im angehängten Bericht bzw. auf der entsprechenden Programmwebseite.

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 Universitätsforschenden mit Ideen, sondern entwickelt auch deren unternehmerischen Fähigkeiten. Ein dreistufiger Prozess führt schliesslich zu einem Spin-off mit einem soliden Geschäftsplan für die wirtschaftliche Umsetzung der Innovation.

Im Jahr 2024 wurden aus 880 Eingaben 310 Ideen der Jury präsentiert. Davon wurden 97 in Stufe 1, 58 in Stufe 2 und schliesslich 34 in Stufe 3 gefördert. Detaillierte Angaben zum Programm finden sich im angehängten Jahresbericht oder auf der entsprechenden Programmwebseite.

venturekick.ch

EXTERNE STELLEN

BUCHHALTUNG

Bourcart Treuhand AG, Basel
bourcart.ch

REVISIONSSTELLE

Copartner Revision AG, Basel
copartner.ch

STIFTUNGSAUFSICHT

Eidgenössische Stiftungsaufsicht, Bern
esa.admin.ch/de

KICK FOUNDATION

Basel, 7. April 2024
Geschäftsstelle: St. Alban-Vorstadt 12, 4052 Basel

ANHANG

- Jahresberichte und Programminitiativen

Talent Kick Annual Report

2024



TALENT
KICK

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Foreword

2024 was characterised by **expansion** throughout Talent Kick!



“— As we reflect on Talent Kick’s journey in 2024, it is clear that this has been a year of remarkable growth and organizational transformation. Over the past year, we have expanded our team whilst also increasing our intake to almost 100 students in a two-batch pilot - this expansion is a testament to our commitment to elevate the scale and impact of the program while maintaining the high-quality standards that define it.

We had the chance to welcome Andrea Lidberg, former ETH Entrepreneurship Manager with background in VC, Physics degree and experience working for one of our alumni, as our new program manager to the team. We also had the chance to welcome Christina Ioannou with a degree in Cultural Diplomacy as well as in Media & Communications and 10 years of experience in PR to support a year round promotion. I want to take the chance here to thank Christina very much for her contributions to Talent Kick in 2024 and wish her much success and happiness in her future endeavours!

Cecilia Molina has transitioned from her role of Manager Romandie to Manager Switzerland overseeing all relevant strategic and operational partnerships Swiss-wide! Having taken over the partnerships in October 2024 she has, at the end of 2024, already been successful in continuing the strong partnerships and relationships across Switzerland and leading one full promotion and selection circle together with our partners Swiss-wide. I want to take the time to congratulate and thank Cecilia from my heart for her fantastic work, her dedication and her success in growing and maintaining a strong ecosystem around Talent Kick to foster further synergies, integration and the best support possible for the students and teams going through our program.

Further, our integration under the Kick Foundation’s umbrella has been a key step in solidifying Talent Kick’s organizational foundation. As the entire team is now part of the Kick Foundation we are supported by streamlined processes for accounting, infrastructure, and insurance. This integration ensures a robust infrastructure for our operations, enabling us to focus on what we do best: empowering entrepreneurial students to thrive.

The year also brought deeper connections with our academic partners across Switzerland. From Geneva to Zurich, Lausanne to Lugano, Talent Kick now collaborates with a broad network of universities and ecosystem partners. Our collaboration with strong ecosystem partners has further enhanced the Talent Kick experience. Co-hosting events like the Team Kick Celebration alongside Startup Nights, the graduation alongside the Swiss AI Week together with the Innovation Park Zürich and the ETH AI Center and the Kick-off together with >>Venture>> as well as securing a new partnerships with Startup Days for the Team Kick Celebration of the TK-A24 Autumn Batch in 2025, not only enhances the visibility for our teams but enables a shared platform, synergies and integration with key players in Switzerland.

In addition to strengthening our Swiss-wide impact, Talent Kick has made first steps in building an international network to support our Swiss-based teams even better in creating globally relevant startups through strong ties to the most relevant global innovation hubs. We further successfully launched a pilot program to digitise our methodology and our program making it available in global entrepreneurial hubs. Through new network to top universities like Harvard, Cambridge, MIT, Tsinghua, and the University of São Paulo, we’ve begun enabling Swiss students to extend their global network and integrating international students into our digital pilot.

Talent Kick’s success is the result of a shared vision: to empower students to become entrepreneurs and turn their talent and research into thriving startups to strengthen the innovation landscape in Switzerland as one of the global leaders in tech entrepreneurship. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our partners, university collaborators, and the dedicated Talent Kick team for their unwavering commitment to this vision. As we look ahead, we remain inspired by the transformative potential of entrepreneurial talent. Talent Kick is not just a program – it’s a movement that grows stronger with every new talent, every collaboration, and every milestone achieved. Together, we are building a future shaped by our most driven young talents and most innovative research. Here’s to another year of inspiring impact!

—”



01 Highlights & Growth

Our Core Mission

Talent Kick is a 1-2 year, **highly selective program** for **entrepreneurial talents** pursuing a PhD or Master degree program at a **Swiss University** to **find and validate ideas, build strong teams, leverage synergies** to their studies, and receive **hands-on support** for their path.

OUR VISION

We believe that Swiss universities provide a unique breeding ground to turn the most talented and driven students into global 21st century entrepreneurial leaders that will bring science-based innovation and positive impact to our society.

OUR MISSION

We bring the most outstanding talents together by leveraging Swiss universities to form interdisciplinary diverse teams and combine hands-on entrepreneurial experience with their studies.

USP

- Support in building strong cross-university teams incl. co-founder matching
- Highly selective; opening up career path as entrepreneurs for best outstanding talents
- Support to leverage synergies to the degree program
- Coaching for self-development and mentoring by experienced entrepreneurs & executive leadership coaches
- Hands-on learning and validation through financial support of 5'000 CHF per project

TARGET GROUP

- Entrepreneurial minds with a hands-on attitude
- Students pursuing a Master or PhD degree
- Excellent academic track record
- Team players with drive & leadership ability
- Strong desire for making impact
- At least 1 year left of their studies

A UNIQUE PROGRAM SUPPORTING THE BEST TALENTS AT SWISS UNIVERSITIES TO START THEIR ENTREPRENEURIAL JOURNEY DURING THEIR STUDIES



All Time Growth & Impact

THE STORY SO FAR

Since Talent Kick's inception, we have consistently delivered significant value to the participants and teams in our program and through this to the Swiss entrepreneurial ecosystem. The figures below illustrate the extent of this impact in 5 batches since 2021 and reflect the growth and meaningful change we have created along the way.



CHF 28'183'289.50

TOTAL FUNDRAISED BY TEAMS
WHICH IS 100 X MORE THAN THE TOTAL
FUNDING PROVIDED BY TALENT KICK!

+90 PRESS FEATURES OF
OUR TEAMS

19 TEAMS GRADUATED
51 TEAMS CURRENTLY ACTIVE
50 JOBS CREATED 11 UNIVERSITY SPIN OFF TEAMS

44 TEAMS

HAVE WON
THE TEAM
KICK AWARD



EQUALING
CHF 255K
AWARDED
IN TOTAL



Highlights of 2024

CONTINUATION OF OUR SOCIAL MEDIA GROWTH!

 **+77.2 %**  **+39.7 %**

TALENT KICK COURSE GETS FULLY DIGITALISED



50+ HRS OF WORK SAVED

WITH PROCESS AUTOMATION!

 FIRST TK DIGITAL PILOT LAUNCHED IN 3 TOP GLOBAL UNIVERSITIES! WITH AN OUTSTANDING NPS SCORE OF 95!



6 PARTICIPANTS IN TWO TEAMS ACCEPTED FOR NEW AI LAUNCHPAD PILOT COLABORATION

 **4.7/5 INTERVIEWER SATISFACTION**
SCORED DURING THE SELECTION PROCESS

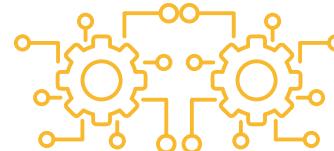
START UP DAYS 2025 SECURED AS PARTNER FOR TK-A24 TEAM KICK CELEBRATION! 

 PILOTED 2 BATCHES IN 2024 WITH ONE AUTUMN AND ONE SPRING BATCH

OVER 70 ACTIVE AND HIGHLY SUPPORTIVE SWISS-WIDE PARTNERS!

35+ EVENTS

CO-ORGANISED OR REPRESENTED WITH A BOOTH BY TALENT KICK (ADDITIONAL TO THE CORE PROGRAM EVENTS)



NPS +90

AVERAGE AT GRADUATION
(AVERAGE AT GRADUATION 2024: +91)



EXTENDED VISITS TO 3 TOP INNOVATION HOTSPOTS AND 6 TOP UNIVERSITY ADJACENT ORGANISATIONS IN THE US TO ESTABLISH NETWORK FOR TEAMS



2 TALENT KICK PODCASTS & 1 FREE MASTERCLASS RECORDED

NEW **CIRCLE** TO **PLATFORM**
IMPLEMENTED **MAXIMISE**
PARTICIPANT **EXPERIENCE**
STRENGTHEN **ENGAGEMENT** AND
SIMPLIFY **PROGRAM** **MANAGEMENT!**



02 Talent Kick at a Glance

Partnerships at a Glance (I)



In 2024, Talent Kick doubled down on creating even more opportunities for students and researchers to pursue the entrepreneurial career path while they are still at university. We collaborated closely with universities to integrate Talent Kick into students' academic journeys, exploring initiatives such as earning credits for participation and facilitating internships or master's theses within student-led startups. We also prioritized promoting the program efficiently through strategic partnerships. These collaborations enabled us to showcase Talent Kick at major ecosystem events, boosting our presence and unlocking new opportunities for the teams in our program. By engaging with key stakeholders across the startup landscape, we equipped our teams with valuable resources and connections to drive their success.

At Talent Kick, we are proud to have over 70 active and highly supportive university partners, professors, student organizations and ecosystem partners across Switzerland.

These partnerships are central to our mission of facilitating the entrepreneurial career paths for students and researchers. Currently, we are in discussions with more than five universities to integrate credits for Talent Kick participation or to explore initiatives like master's theses and internships within student-led startups. Our university partners play a key role in identifying top talent by promoting Talent Kick within their networks and encouraging participation. Equally important is our commitment to reconnecting the students and teams formed in the program with the outstanding startup support structures offered by their respective universities and local ecosystem, particularly during the program's second phase. This year, Talent Kick also took the lead in organizing the Dandelion Award at ETH to strengthen the community of entrepreneurial professors in Switzerland in partnership with other key partners. We are now working to expand this initiative to other universities, which will not only help us discover exceptional talent but also provide valuable insights into the entrepreneurial ecosystem for Talent Kick and the respective university partners. Feedback gathered through student and researcher voting offer valuable insight into their perceptions on what concrete actions by professors and other supporters they find particularly helpful on their entrepreneurial journey.

OVER 70 ACTIVE PARTNERSHIPS



STRONG COLLABORATION WITH >>VENTURE>>

This year, we successfully partnered with >>venture>> to host two Kickoff events for TK-S24 and TK-A24, and we're excited to continue this collaboration into 2025. Through this partnership, pitching teams benefit from increased visibility, valuable prizes, and access to >>venture>>’s extensive network. As this pitching event is combined with the Kick-off of the newest batch, this collaboration also fosters meaningful connections and displays inspiring role models between new and advanced participants and gives the new participants insight into valuable feedback the more advanced teams receive from the >> venture>> jurors. It inspires newcomers by showcasing how far they can progress within just one or two semesters and integrating them into the existing Talent Kick community of strong young startups. This approach strengthens engagement and immerses participants in a network of like-minded peers from the very beginning, setting the tone for their entrepreneurial journey.



Partnerships at a Glance (II)



30+ EXTERNAL EVENTS CO-ORGANIZED BY OR WITH STRONG REPRESENTATION OF TK

In 2024 there were over 35 external events - beyond the core events of the Talent Kick program - that the Talent Kick team either co-organized with partners or attended with a strong representation as part of a strategic partnership. Some events were seamlessly integrated into the program timeline through partnerships to enhance the experience for participants, such as legal basics and intellectual property workshops. These efforts secured valuable exposure for Talent Kick, as well as a continuing improvement of the Talent Kick experience for participants and partners - contributing directly to the growth and development of our participants.

As part of our commitment to continuously enhance the Talent Kick program, we introduced two new workshops free of costs: an IP Introduction by Matthias Käch from the Federal Institute of Intellectual Property for both the TK-S24 and TK-A24 batches, and a Legal Basics workshop led by Guy Beroud, Founder & Lecturer at EHL, open to all participants. These workshops received excellent feedback, with participants rating them 4.25/5 or higher. This initiative highlights our strong collaboration with partners to provide valuable resources to our talents.

We worked closely with student organizations across various universities to promote the program and deliver impactful workshops. These included a team-forming workshop for the ETH Entrepreneur Club, START Lausanne, and a sustainability and startup event at UNIL in collaboration with Innovation Time.

Our efforts also extended to university partners, where we contributed to a team-forming workshop as part of the Innosuisse Startup Training Module 2 at HSLU, as well as sessions during the Entrepreneurship Week at Uni Geneva, UNIL and USI.

We successfully secured booths and increased visibility at significant events through strategic partnerships, such as START Summit, AI Summit, Startup Nights, and ETH Launch through our close collaboration with the organisers.

Thanks to partnerships, we obtained sponsored venues for key events, including the Graduation event at Innovation Park Zurich.

Our partnerships allowed us to showcase Talent Kick at various events, including HSG's Female Founder Pitching, the Innosuisse FIND Workshop, UBS ITA meets SWITZ, Venture Briefings across Switzerland and others.

NEW WORKSHOPS ADDED TO PROGRAM THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

STRONG CO-PRESENCE WITH STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS AT RELEVANT EVENTS

WORKSHOPS DELIVERED FOR UNIVERSITY PARTNERS

VISIBILITY AT MOST SIGNIFICANT ECOSYSTEM EVENTS

SPONSORED EVENTS DUE TO PARTNERSHIPS

INCREASED VISIBILITY IN THE ECOSYSTEM



“ This year, I had the exciting opportunity to transition from leading partnerships in Romandie to shaping and overseeing partnerships in all of Switzerland. This shift has allowed me to create stronger synergies between regions, connecting our university partners, teams, ecosystem partners, and community. Looking back, I'm inspired by the dedication of the teams in the program and the meaningful impact we've had together. Their success drives my passion to continue empowering them on their entrepreneurial journeys. As we move forward, I'm excited to deepen these connections, unlock new opportunities, and support our community in reaching even greater heights of success and impact. ”

Operations at a Glance (I)



2024 was the year to test the backbone infrastructure we established in 2023 to run our operations and identify new key initiatives to strengthen it. Our focus was on maintaining and enhancing our core work management system, Monday.com, to ensure seamless daily operations across all areas of Talent Kick and successfully set our systems up to manage further increase in students participating in the program. We connected our data through the development of a comprehensive KPI dashboard, enabling real-time tracking of the impact and success of Talent Kick and its teams. Furthermore, we integrated first AI solutions into our core processes to drive efficiency and success e.g. by collaborating with one of our Alumni U THEREAL. We furthermore doubled down on compliance, with a particular emphasis on Data Management, ensuring robust regulatory adherence. Additionally, we maintained full budget compliance, demonstrating our commitment to efficient resource management. Looking ahead, we are driving continuous process improvements, and fostering a culture of innovation.

In response to the fast-moving AI environment, we leveraged AI and automation, implementing solutions that saved over 50 hours of work, including tailored GPT models and CRM enhancements, improving efficiency and planning. To ensure operational consistency, we diligently documented five key workflows and implemented respective automation solutions that collectively saved over **50 hours** of work across marketing, program management, and leadership roles. Notable innovations included tailored GPT models to create social media posts aligned with our tone of voice and success stories, as well as the "TK Feedback Analyzer," which efficiently highlights areas for improvement based on participant feedback. Further, we enhanced our CRM system, Monday.com, by creating dashboards that consolidates our key performance indicators (KPIs) and application data, enabling live access to critical insights in real time.

OVER 50 HOURS SAVED THROUGH AUTOMATION

TK Feedback Analyzer
By Jean-Sébastien Rahm, A
Analyzes feedback forms for the Talent Kick Program

What are the common themes in the feedback?
How satisfied are the students?
What improvements can be made?
What is the sentiment of the feedback?

OPTIMIZATION THROUGH TARGETED INITIATIVES

In 2024, we simplified our processes to help team members focus on their main responsibilities with fewer distractions. By introducing targeted initiatives for each role, we achieved a 4.8/5 employee satisfaction score. A key focus was ensuring smooth operations during the onboarding of our new Program Manager, Andrea, and the pilot of running one batch in spring and one in autumn. With two batches we needed to also run two selection processes, which allowed us to test and improve the systems we've built over time. As part of this, we onboarded 9 new entrepreneurs as interviewers, bringing the total to over 30 experienced entrepreneurs who now support us in selecting top talents. Aside from selecting the best talents in a fair process one of our core goals in the selection process is to provide a smooth experience for everyone involved, which was reflected in the impressive 4.7/5 satisfaction rating from the interviewers.



Operations at a Glance (II)



Circle

IMPLEMENTED
CENTRALIZED
PLATFORM
CIRCLE

Implementation of a new Talent Kick platform "Circle" for program participants facilitated simplified program management and improved user experience for students and our community. The implementation of circle was a major highlight of the year and elevated the program experience for students significantly. To achieve this, we fully integrated a centralized platform, supported by Circle.com, which consolidated all program operations and community interactions into one unified system. This platform now facilitates seamless onboarding, provides a shared space for learning and opportunities, and manages events effectively. It has strengthened the community while simplifying operational complexity.

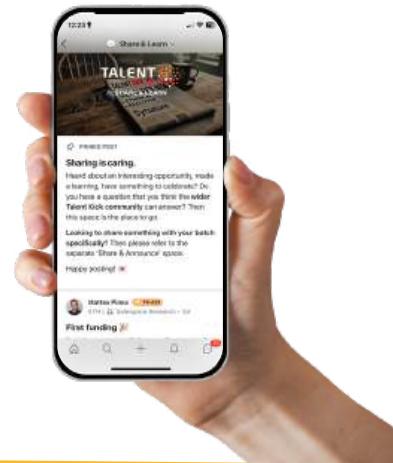
The screenshot shows the Talent Kick Circle platform's 'Feed' section. The left sidebar includes links for Welcome, Start here!, Onboarding - Giga Batch, Introduce Yourself!, Share & Learn, Community Events, Knowledge Base, TK-A24 - Batch, Program Calendar, Discover Your Batch, Share & Announce, Reserves, and TK-S24 - Batch. The main feed displays a 'Welcome to Talent Kick' post, a 'Start a post' button, and a list of upcoming events:

- 18 Workshop 2: Sales Psychology (4:00 - 5:00 PM)
- 18 Workshop 2: Sales Psychology (Optimal) (4:00 - 5:00 PM)
- 19 DEADLINE: Submit your pitch deck for feedback ahead of Interaction 5 (10:00 - 11:00 AM)
- 19 DRAFT: Submit your pitch deck for feedback ahead of Interaction 5 (10:00 - 11:00 AM)
- 20 Workshop 3 - Part 3: Market opportunity navigator (4:00 - 5:00 PM)

The right sidebar shows 'Trending Posts' for 'Entrepreneurship event at HGG' and 'Nikita is on board'.

TALENT KICK
COMMUNITY
IN YOUR
POCKET

"It's engaging, it really feels like a community."
- TK-A24



"Very well organised material, everything can be found in one neatly organised space. It also allows to share relevant material conveniently and get reactions from fellow Kickers. It is really a great platform!" - TK-A24

"I dont have to sift through a mountain of emails to find relevant information on Tasks, Dates and people from my cohort" - TK-S24



“ Looking back to when I joined Talent Kick in March 2022, I feel an immense sense of pride in the processes, systems, and backbone infrastructure we have built to support our growth. These efforts have brought us to 2024, where we have grown into a team of six amazing individuals supporting almost 100 students along their entrepreneurial journeys. This phase truly tested our infrastructure and kept me on my toes, constantly seeking ways to improve. One of the most exciting parts of this year was exploring new AI tools and thinking creatively about tasks – not just completing them but asking, “Can this be automated?” This mindset turned everyday challenges into opportunities, and as a result, we saved over 50 hours of work across the year. The best part? There’s still so much more that can be automated. How many more hours could we save next year? The possibilities feel endless, and that’s what excites me the most about the journey ahead.

“



Marketing, PR & Events at a Glance (I)



By leveraging both strategic PR and marketing efforts, we have not only elevated the visibility of our program but also amplified the stories of our incredible startups and alumni teams widely. From achieving prominent press coverage for Talent Kick itself in platforms like StartupTicker and Startup Nights Podcast to reaching international audiences through the EdUp Experience podcast in the US, or connecting with new media from Bloomberg Switzerland, Enterprise Romande, Ringier to UZH Magazine, we've positioned Talent Kick and its mission at the forefront of entrepreneurial innovation in Switzerland.

INCREASED
PRESS COVERAGE
AND AUDIENCE



Talent Kick expands program following two successful editions
25.04.2024

AWARD
More news about EthonAI AG, InkVivo Technologies SA, Manukai AG, Openversum GmbH.

Company profiles on startup.ch
EthonAI AG, InkVivo Technologies SA, Manukai AG, Openversum GmbH.

Startups such as Openversum, Ethon AI or InkVivo among

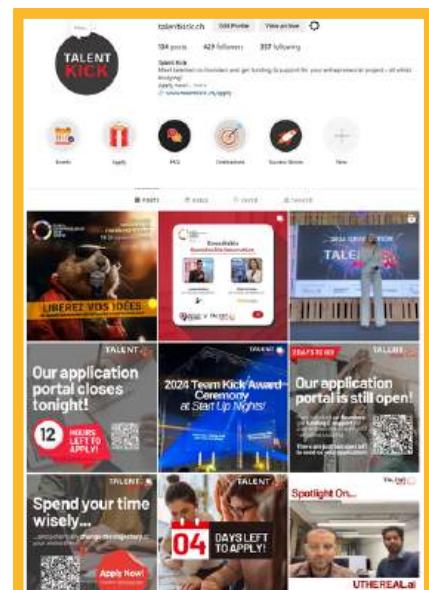
Highlights EthonAI AG
Top 100 Swiss Startup Award 2023 >
Top 100 Swiss Startup Award 2024 >

Highlights InkVivo Technologies SA
Top 100 Swiss Startup Award 2023 >
Top 100 Swiss Startup Award 2024 >

Principal
Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederación suiza
Innovatec - Swiss Innovation Agency

Swiss Venture Capital Report - Update for H1 2024
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In our Swiss Venture Capital Report Update you will find the results for the first half year 2024 results on a survey about Swiss investors' key outlook for the coming



CONSISTENT
SOCIAL MEDIA
GROWTH

+47.7 %
 +12.9 %

We have also seen consistent growth in our digital community, with an increase in followers and engagement across our social media channels throughout the year. This has been a fantastic way to connect with a broader audience, sharing not only program-specific insights but also external opportunities related to entrepreneurship, further establishing Talent Kick as a trusted resource and vibrant community for student entrepreneurs.

Highlights

Data for 12/22/2023 - 12/20/2024

121,270
Impressions

2,121
Reactions

134
Comments

56
Reposts



Marketing, PR & Events at a Glance (II)



IMPACTFUL PRESENCE AT EVENTS



We have proactively leveraged opportunities for our teams at events like the Global Entrepreneurship Week, where we co-hosted a panel on Sustainable Innovation with Innovation Time Lausanne featuring our teams Symactiv and REEcover as speakers. This is an example of how we create meaningful platforms for our startups to shine. We further enabled workshops led by our alumni teams, such as Catalina Ortiz, co-founder of Lumia, to foster knowledge-sharing and empowering younger entrepreneurs with practical insights. Our presence at flagship ecosystem events, including Startup Nights, Innonight, and AI + X Summit to name a few, has strengthened Talent Kick's positioning as a driving force in the Swiss entrepreneurial ecosystem and allowed us to connect with new promising entrepreneurial talents. In addition, we had the chance to present Talent Kick during Venture Lab's Briefing events at Swiss Universities, at the Venture Challenge workshops and in lecture shouts, to connect with new talents across the country and ensure that potential young entrepreneurs are aware of the support programs and systems that are in place to support them here in Switzerland.



“ This year at Talent Kick we have amplified the stories of our incredible startups and alumni while positioning ourselves further as a relevant entrepreneurship program in Switzerland. We achieved coverage in StartupTicker and the EdUp Experience podcast, reaching both local and international audiences. In addition, our digital community has grown substantially, fostering connections with a broader audience and cementing Talent Kick as a trusted resource for student entrepreneurs. We've created meaningful platforms for our startups to shine and inspire other students to follow their steps. Connecting with new talents through lecture shouts and events has been particularly rewarding for me. These efforts have expanded our reach and strengthened our impact, ensuring Talent Kick remains a vital force in Switzerland's entrepreneurial ecosystem.



The Program at a Glance (I)



In 2024, we expanded both in terms of the number of students supported, but also strengthened our collaborations with the wider ecosystem further. With our community growing stronger, spanning St. Gallen in East to Geneva in West, not only have we had fruitful interactions within the batch, but we have also strengthened our collaborations with the local initiatives in some of the main technology hubs like Lausanne, Zurich, and Bern. Each of the 6 full-day bootcamps per batch have been hosted by partners from our network: two in Zurich, two in Lausanne, and two in Bern. Bringing the events to selected partners in Switzerland has allowed us to bring the local ecosystems closer to our initiatives, but also to expose our batches to nationwide initiatives and local hubs. This has enabled our talents to build a profound network of both entrepreneurs and support initiatives in their respective 'homebase' and beyond. With an NPS of +50 at the end of the first semester of Talent Kick, and a graduating NPS of +91 in 2024, we can confidently say that our program and connected ecosystem are providing immense value to its participants. This can also be seen by the recognition of our community in the ecosystem; together our teams (active and alumni) have raised almost 30M CHF in funding, through Swiss and internationally renowned investors and grants.

To meet the demand and enable even more students to take the entrepreneurial path after their studies, 2024 was the year in which we piloted a two-batch set-up, with each batch composed of students from all over Switzerland. This gave about 100 students from the Swiss universities the opportunity to explore the entrepreneurial career path, and in 2024 alone we have had over 40 teams form. In this year we have enabled even more Swiss students to connect with other entrepreneurial talents, and with the innovation ecosystem. Talent Kick is unique in its approach to connect the entrepreneurial ecosystems at Swiss universities and has taken a bold and active role in shaping Switzerland as one of the most innovative nations in the world. The successes of 2024 show a strong foundation for the years to come, ensuring that Talent Kick remains a cornerstone of entrepreneurial excellence in Switzerland.

EXPANSION TO SUPPORT 100 ENTREPRENEURIAL TALENTS

STRENGTHENING OF THE SWISS-WIDE PROGRAM



This year, we hosted the 6 mandatory bootcamps with selected partners across Switzerland: two in Romandie, two in the Bern region, and two in the greater Zurich area, enabling the students to connect to and explore initiatives and ecosystems also outside their immediate area of operations. We are also continuously improving the quality, diversity and perspectives of our external speakers, consistently building on the alumni, mentor, and local ecosystems to find the most relevant, high-calibre speakers to provide value to the batches.



Program at a Glance (II)



AI LAUNCHPAD
STREAM
PILOTED

AI Launchpad is a pioneering pan-European accelerator designed to transform the landscape of AI innovation by nurturing AI startups emerging from European universities. The ETH AI Center is managing the hub in Zurich, and chose Talent Kick as the local acceleration program for the teams applying to Switzerland. The first two teams selected for the AI Launchpad/Talent Kick track have been going through the program together with our first autumn batch, TK-A24. These teams will benefit both from the Talent Kick program and ecosystem, as well as the wider ecosystem in and around the ETH AI Center and the international AI Launchpad network.

AI LAUNCHPAD



NPS 91 SCORED AT GRADUATION 2024
NPS 50 SCORED BY TK-S24 AT THE END OF SEMSTER ONE



“Joining Talent Kick during this phase of growth has been incredible, and it brings me so much joy to see this many students benefit from the program. With nearly 100 students joining us in 2024 alone, and over 40 teams forming in the two 2024 batches, we can confidently say that Talent Kick is leaving a mark on the entrepreneurial ecosystem at Swiss universities. With the digital pilot running with excellent feedback (and with the first Swiss-Brazilian team formed), and through our collaboration with the pan-European university accelerator AI Launchpad, we are also expanding our reach and network to global hubs, which I am convinced will help our talents deepen the global impact of Swiss entrepreneurship more than ever before. With a growing community of strong and maturing alumni startups, our batches are also benefitting from the “giving back” culture - and I am so excited to see the future teams reap the benefits of this incredible program and community.”



International Reach at a Glance (I)



During the TK-S24 bootcamps and workshops, we recorded all program components to create a digital program. Over the summer and fall, the digital courses were developed by turning the footage into professionally edited course videos and uploaded alongside the sprints and exercises into a fully digital program on Circle. During Autumn 2024 it was piloted with the first international digital cohort running alongside the TK-A24 batch!

PROGRAM DIGITALIZATION



THE TK-A24 BATCH - DIGITAL



Vitor Kopas Ferreira
University of Campinas
(Bachelors)



Lucas Francisco Crispim
University of Campinas
(Bachelors)



Eduardo Dupper
University of São Paulo
(Bachelors)



Gabriel Thomas Dias de Freita
University of Campinas
(Masters)



Letícia Lima Maturano Martins de Castro
University of Campinas
(Bachelors)



Douglas Basso de Castro
University of Campinas
(Masters)



Qingyang Ma
Tsinghua University
(PhD)

The 7 students that started off in the Digital Pilot

DIGITAL PILOT WITH 3 TOP UNIVERSITIES

To test the digital program, expand TK's international reach, and incorporate diverse global talents and perspectives, we launched a pilot with three top international universities: Tsinghua University in China, and the University of Campinas and University of São Paulo in Brazil. Seven outstanding students were selected for the pilot. Four students from the University of Campinas have successfully reached Milestone 1 and one hybrid Swiss-Brazilian team has formed. The pilot has not only facilitated the formation of a first hybrid team but also provided encouraging feedback with an NPS of +95 highlighting the potential for future international collaboration and the program's value also in the digital format.

During the team retreat in the UK, we engaged with key players in the entrepreneurial ecosystem of London and Cambridge. In London, the entire team met with the Head of the Enterprise Lab at Imperial College. In Cambridge, the team connected with representatives from Cambridge Enterprise and the Cambridge Centre for Sustainable Leadership. Through these meetings the team could successfully build valuable relationships and was able to exchange on best practices with leading ecosystem players in the UK.

UK TRIP AND ECOSYSTEM



International Reach at a Glance (II)



Swissnex Boston

US IMMERSION TRIP



Viviana with Michael McGuire, Founder & Key Instructor of Ivy Entrepreneurs, in front of Columbia University, NY



Ahead of her meeting with Harvard iLab

Viviana spent two and a half weeks in the United States engaging with leading universities and key players in the entrepreneurial ecosystem. The trip began in New York, where she met with the Swissnex New York office, representatives from Columbia University and Princeton. She had the chance to present Talent Kick in an entrepreneurship lecture at Columbia and supported the lecturer in the vivid exchanges and questions. While in Princeton, she also attended the Tiger Entrepreneurship Conference. The second stop was Boston, where Viviana participated in a two-day event at the Martin Trust Center for Entrepreneurship at MIT. This event provided valuable opportunities for networking and learning about MIT's best practices. Additionally, she met with the Director of Program and Engagement at the Harvard Innovation Lab (i-lab) and with representatives from Swissnex Boston. Her final destination was San Francisco. There, Viviana connected with Swissnex San Francisco and engaged with representatives from the entrepreneurship ecosystems at both UC Berkeley and Stanford University. The primary goal of this trip was to establish a solid network for Talent Kick in the U.S. and gain deeper insights into the support structures for students and researchers abroad. These connections and learnings are intended to facilitate entry points for students navigating the U.S. ecosystem and market, enabling introductions to key individuals and programs. The trip also served as a valuable platform for exchanging best practices with other entrepreneurship centers and programs. The relationships built and knowledge gained will significantly enhance our ability to support students and teams in their journey and potentially foster cross-border entrepreneurial collaboration.



Viviana meeting Swissnex New York



The team ahead of their meeting at Imperial Enterprise Lab

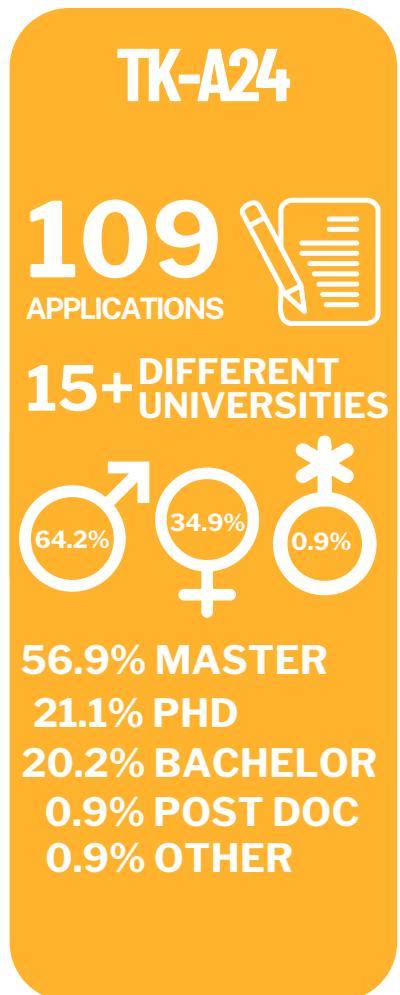
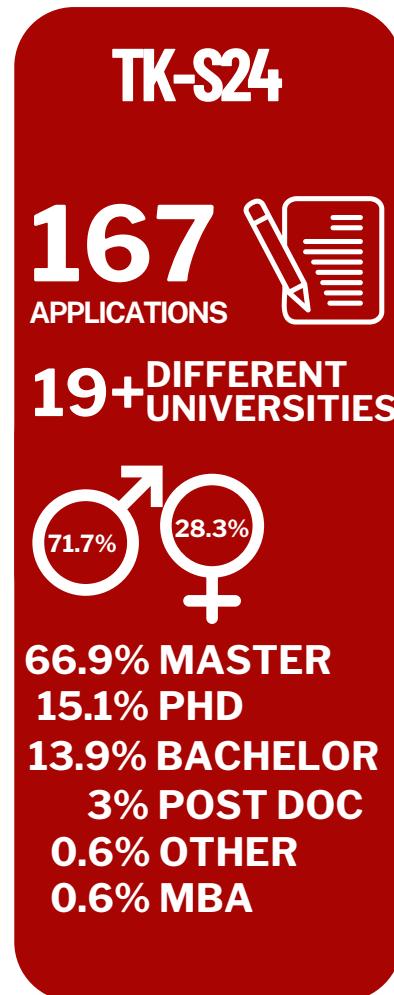
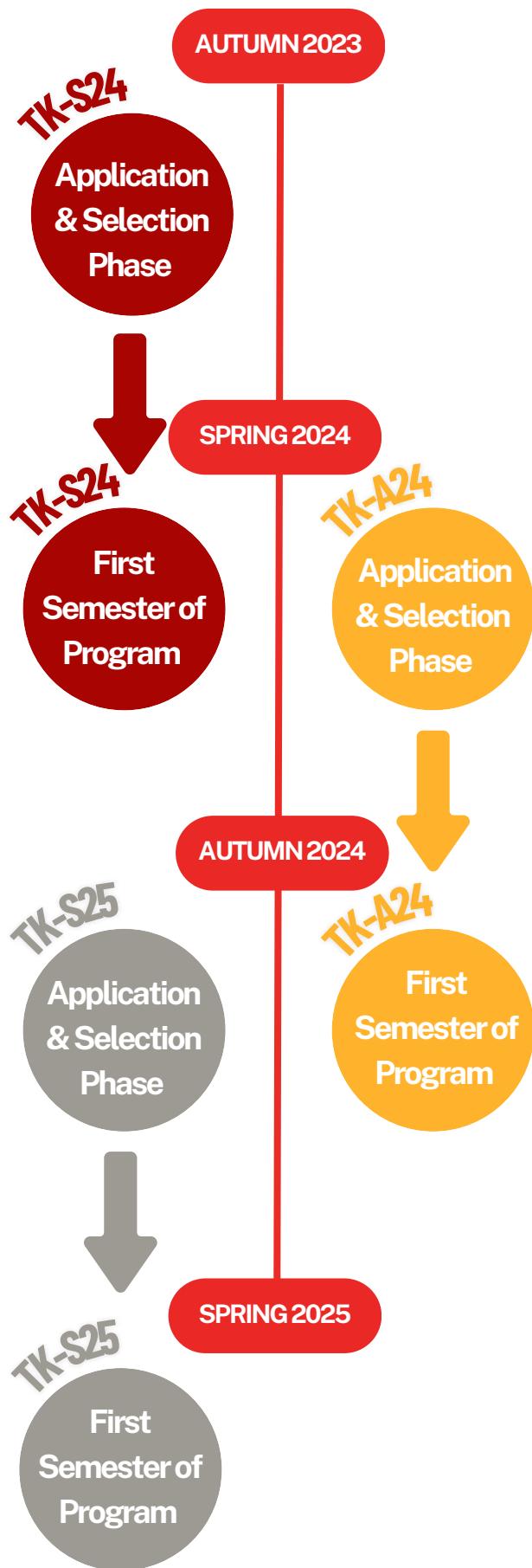


This year has been a remarkable journey for our first international pilot. With a clear vision to connect students globally and broaden the horizons and network of our aspiring students and teams, we took a major step forward by building a global network, fully digitalizing the program and piloting our first international program alongside the TK-A24 batch. Through targeted outreach and an immersion trip, we built strong network within top U.S. entrepreneurship hubs. It has been inspiring to see connections form across borders, including the creation of our first hybrid Swiss-Brazilian team. We are incredibly proud of the progress made this year and look forward to building on this momentum in 2025!

03 Current Batches and Talents

Meet Our Batches

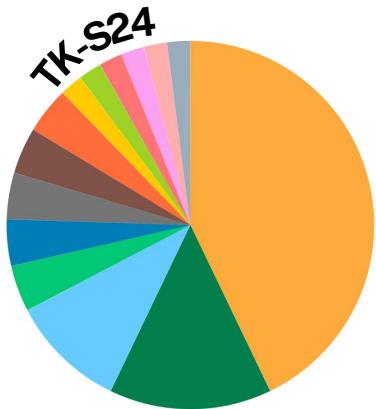
In 2024 we welcomed our **new talents** in two batches: TK-S24 & TK-A24!



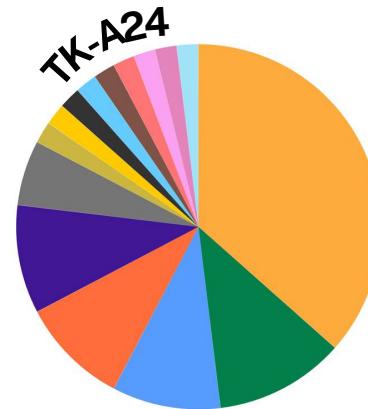
Batch Diversity

We're proud of the diverse, interdisciplinary students in our batches!

University

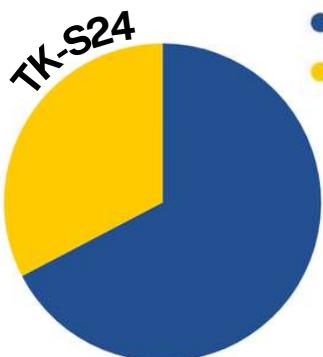


- ETH: 42.9%
- HSG: 14.3%
- EPFL: 10.2%
- UZH: 4.1%
- Uni Basel: 4.1%
- UNIL: 4.1%
- Uni Neuchâtel: 4.1%
- Uni Bern: 4.1%
- HSLU: 2.0%
- USI: 2.0%
- Uni Fribourg: 2.0%
- Uni Geneva: 2.0%
- x (Special Case): 2.0%
- The Graduate Institute, Geneva: 2.0%

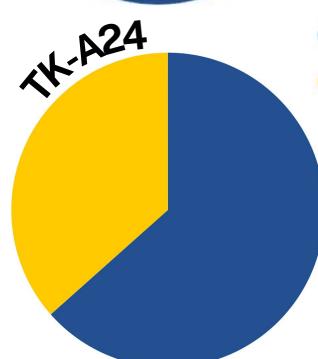


- ETHZ: 36.5%
- HSG: 11.5%
- EPFL: 9.6%
- Uni Zürich: 9.6%
- University of Campinas, Brazil: 9.6%
- Uni Geneva: 5.8%
- Tsinghua University, China: 1.9%
- HSLU: 1.9%
- AUS: 1.9%
- Uni Lausanne: 1.9%
- Uni Neuchâtel: 1.9%
- Uni Basel: 1.9%
- Uni Bern: 1.9%
- BFH: 1.9%
- University of São Paulo, Brazil: 1.9%

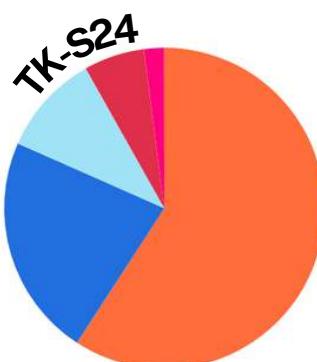
Gender



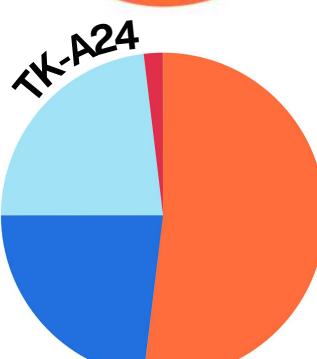
- Men: 67.3%
- Women: 32.7%



- Men: 63.5%
- Women: 36.5%

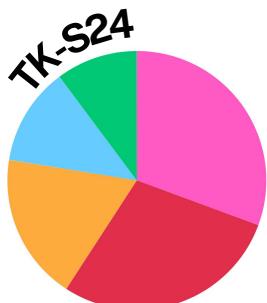


- Master: 59.2%
- PhD: 22.4%
- Bachelor: 10.2%
- Post-doctoral: 6.1%
- Other: 2.0%

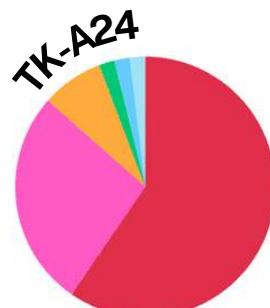


- Master: 51.9%
- PhD: 23.1%
- Bachelor: 23.1%
- Post-doctoral: 1.9%

Field of Study



- Business: 30.6%
- Tech: 28.6%
- Health, Biology and Biotech: 18.4%
- Math, Physics: 12.2%
- Environment, sustainability, energy: 10.2%



- Tech: 59.6%
- Business: 26.9%
- Health, Biology and Biotech: 7.7%
- Environment, sustainability, energy: 1.9%
- Math, Physics: 1.9%
- Other: 1.9%



Meet Our Talents

This year we supported almost 100 talented entrepreneurial students!

- ETH
- Uni Basel
- AUS
- Uni Geneva
- HSG
- Uni Fribourg
- EPFL
- UNIBE
- HSLU
- Uni Neuchâtel
- BFH
- USI
- UNIL
- UZH

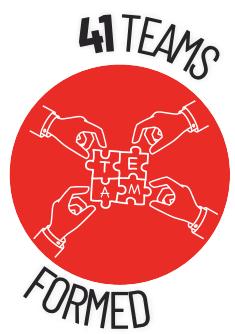




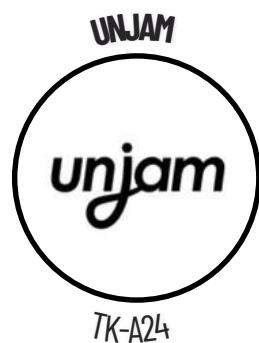
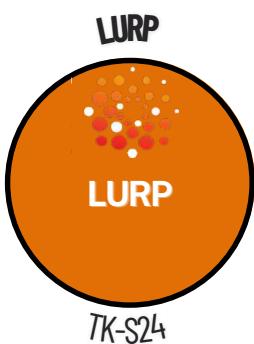
Teams Formed

During the **first semester** our **hands-on bootcamps, events and workshops** guide students towards **forming a stable team**.

This year, we had **23 newly formed teams**, **13 pre-formed teams**, and **5 pre-formed teams** that added new co-founders - totalling an incredible **41 teams** in all of **2024!**



PRE-FORMED



Of the 17 teams formed in TK-S24, 16 passed Milestone 1, while in TK-A24 a total of 24 teams formed and 21 teams passed the Milestone.



Teams Formed

NEWLY FORMED

DIMOVERSE



TK-S24

EMPOWER INNOVATIONS



TK-S24

EDUVISION



TK-S24

MOMENS



TK-S24

PHAROS



TK-S24

FORTYFOUR



TK-S24

XELERIT



TK-S24

KIIO



TK-S24

HORIZON SHIFTERS



TK-S24

BUSE & NASH



TK-S24

CATRINA MARIA



TK-S24

FORESIGHT



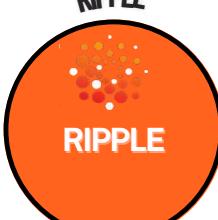
TK-S24

MINDGROUND



TK-S24

RIPPLE



TK-A24

VOCTEX



TK-A24

MICROBIONIX



TK-A24

EMPOWERX



TK-A24

KINEVO



TK-A24

CALAIDO



TK-A24

LISODION



TK-A24

TRACE



TK-A24

MINDS OF HER



TK-A24

DAN



TK-A24

NEW & PRE-FORMED

FROJIGO



TK-S24

CAREBOTICS



TK-A24

SELF



TK-A24

CONTOURAID



TK-A24

SAFESPACE RESEARCH



TK-A24

04 Celebrating our Senior Teams

Team Kick Celebration 2024

Our Team Kick Celebration for TK-A24 will be at **Start Up Days** in Spring'25!

Teams that accomplish **to convince a mentor**, go on to pitch to their peers, our 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**, which enables them to get into hands-on mode to validate their solutions over the remaining semesters of Talent Kick. This year we were thrilled to once again partner with Startup Nights in Winterthur to host our TK-S24 Team Kick Award celebration, including our winning teams pitching on the main stage!



33



00:33

1 Min



Meet the Team Kick Winners!

This year we were delighted to award **9 impressive teams** of TK-S24 the Team Kick Award of CHF 5'000 to launch them into the next stage of their journey!



Xelerit is slashing programming times in industrial automation with a solution that instantly generates optimized robot code from production line specs.



Federico Martelli - Master, HSG



Camilla Mazzoleni - Master, ETH



Riccardo Maggioni - External Co-Founder

NEWLY FORMED



Hephaistos is making chemistry more sustainable and efficient by designing novel biocatalysts using ML.



Arthur Theuer - External Co-Founder



Lukas Radtke - Master, ETH



Lucas Merlicek - Master, ETH



Jannik Neumann - Master, ETH



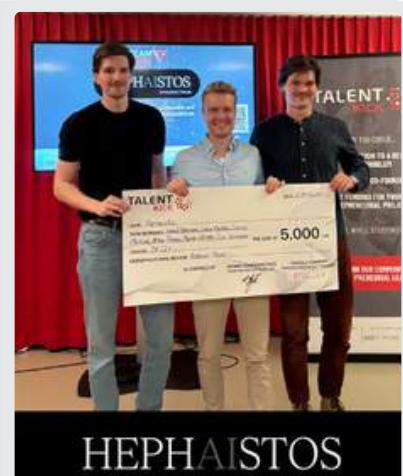
Moritz Ullhofer - External Co-Founder



Isa Schneider - External Co-Founder



PRE-FORMED



HEPHAISTOS



fortyfour

fortyfour is feeding crops with cheap and sustainable CO₂ at no additional cost and with zero emissions, paving the way for sustainable greenhouse cultivation.



Henry Willem Müller - PhD, HSG



Pedro Reina - Master, HSLU



Matthias Müller - External Co-Founder

NEWLY FORMED



Meet the Team Kick Winners!

Pharos is pushing the boundaries of surgical innovation with advanced solutions that improve precision and patient outcomes.



Oscar Cipolato - PhD, ETH



Benjamin Suter - PhD, ETH



Charlotte Meyer - PhD, ETH



NEWLY FORMED



MOMENS is social media that does the opposite of current social media - they bring back people to real life.



Guillaume Chapalain - Master, EPFL



Jean-Michel Carrel - External Co-Founder



NEWLY FORMED

Frojigo empowers businesses with AI-driven ESG management tools for enhanced sustainability, transparency, and social responsibility.



Maria Fernanda Cladera Melgar - Master, UPM



Ioannis Koureas - PhD, ETH



Antreas Koureas External Co-Founder



NEW & PRE-FORMED



Meet the Team Kick Winners!



EMPower Innovations builds a platform helping students to collaborate and enhance their studies.



Maxence Hofer - Master, EPFL



Pearl Oti-Amoako - Master, UZH



Etnik Sheremeti - PhD, Uni Basel

NEWLY FORMED

Eduvision uses AI to create personalized, adaptive learning paths, making education accessible and tailored to each student's unique strengths and pace.



Leo Lamy - Master, Uni Lausanne



Alexandre Clin - Master, ETH



Tiago Campelo - Post.Doc, UNIBE



Mamoun Chami - Master, ETH



Eduvision



NEWLY FORMED



Dimoverse is enhancing e-commerce by adding 3D product interaction and offering online retailers intuitive tools to digitize their inventory.



Dorine Lachat - Bachelor, Uni Fribourg



Alexandre Binninger - PhD, ETH



Jessie Li - Bachelor, ETH

NEWLY FORMED



We are looking forward to celebrating
our **TK-A24 Team Kick winners** at
Startup Days in May 2025!



startup
days



2024 Graduation Ceremony

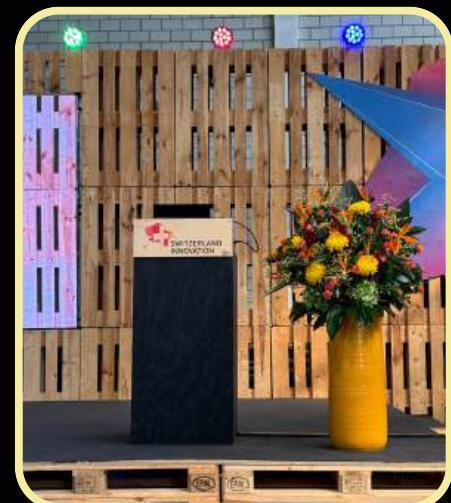


This year we partnered with the wonderful **Switzerland Innovation Park Zurich** to host our 2024 Graduation ceremony, celebrating the **graduation of 9 teams!**

Scan here to watch a short reflection film from this year's Graduation Ceremony!



OUR NINE GRADUATING STARTUPS!



Meet the Graduates

Our graduates have paved the way for their **incredible entrepreneurial career paths** - we couldn't be more proud of their achievements and the futures they've set themselves up for!

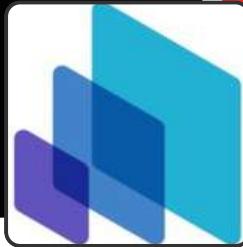
PATHY



Artificial intelligence in digital pathology

Team Members: Rina Mehmeti, Aous Khadhraoui, Luong Mong Ai Nhi, Oussama Ben Ghorbel

Mentor: Mary Tolikas, Marius Jatautas



Pathy is co-founded by Rina Mehmeti (University of Bern), Aous Khadhraoui (ETH Zürich), Luong Mong Ai Nhi and Oussama Ben Ghorbel, who formed their interdisciplinary team during Talent Kick. Pathy is an AI-powered digital histopathology staining platform which enables approximation of secondary stains in different organs and indications directly from primary routine stains, using AI and avoiding chemical staining. It helps pathologists to triage patients, prioritize and select for the correct staining, optimize their workflow and save resources.

They have currently ongoing pilot projects with Ohio State University, the University Clinic of Geneva and they are also in discussions with other pathology labs in Germany and Switzerland. Pathy was recently awarded 2nd place at the STAGE UP business creation competition, organised by the University of Bern in collaboration with Bern University of Applied Sciences and be-advanced, rising to the top out of 65 business ideas. In addition, Pathy made 1st place at the pitch competition during the 2023 RiseUp Summit in Zurich, and 2nd place at Boost, organised by ETH Entrepreneur Club.

Uthereal.ai co-founders Joao B. S. Carvalho (ETH Zürich) and Wael Abdelmalek (formerly AWS) came together to empower individuals and organizations to safely share and monetise their knowledge through Generative AI. The platform allows users to create AI representations of themselves based on their knowledge, making them always available and exploring new ways to interact and stay connected.

They are currently running several pilots and are in discussions with NGOs, enterprises, and individual experts who are testing the solution in diverse industries. The team has grown to four members and has received early pre-seed funding from Founderful Campus. For the further development of their product they were furthermore sponsored by AWS and GCP (Google) with cloud credits.



The expert AI revolution

Team Members: João B. S. Carvalho & Wael Wael Abdelmalek

Mentor: Andreas Slotosch



UTHEREAL.AI



Meet the Graduates

SYMACTIV



Healthy soil for a thriving world

Team Members: Louis Becker, Phillippe Stefan Schläpfer

Mentor: Peter Fröhlich



Symactiv is co-founded by Louis Becker (University of Lausanne) and Phillippe Stefan Schläpfer (ZHAW) who formed their cross-university interdisciplinary team during the first semester of the Talent Kick program. Through customer interviews they found a highly relevant problem in the agriculture space and leveraged their expertise, experience and studies to develop a solution that restores soil health by reintroducing essential microorganisms. Their innovative solutions are designed to increase crop yields while reducing the reliance on synthetic fertilizers and pesticides.

After receiving the Team Kick, Symactiv secured further 50K in funding through the First Ventures program, which is bringing them one step closer to realizing their vision of providing healthy soil for a thriving world. They are currently doing application and efficiency tests to check the effectiveness of the product and how it can best be applied. Since August 2024, they have started their field trials, with vegetables and cereal farmers as well as the Neuchâtel Golf and Country Club. They are also planning to collaborate with vineyards.

JOSEPHA is co-founded Dr. Silvan Weder (ETH Zürich) and Joseph Gitterle (University of St. Gallen), who met during the program's selection process where they were both connected by their interviewer, successful entrepreneur Kevin Sartori. JOSEPHA is designed to simplify the shopping experience by centralizing all relevant product information — such as offers, reviews, and videos — on one platform. Using advanced AI, JOSEPHA scans the entire internet to provide consumers with instant, comprehensive insights about their desired products, eliminating the need for time-consuming manual searches and helping consumers make well-informed purchasing decisions quickly.

The JOSEPHA platform was launched in May 2024 and has already attracted over 30'000 users without any paid advertising. Recently, JOSEPHA won the first stage of Venture Kick receiving CHF 10K further funding while their team is currently expanding. Further the platform was featured in brutkasten.com, the Austrian innovation news platform.



Where shopping begins

Team Members: Dr. Silvan Weder, Joseph Gitterle

Mentor: Herbert Bay



JOSEPHA



Meet the Graduates

IMPLANZ



The next generation of dental implantation planning

Team Members: Nicolas Gasser & Patrik Wili

Mentor: Matthias Peterhans



IMPLANZ is co-founded by Nicolas Gasser (University of Bern) and Patrik Wili (ETH Zürich & University of Bern), with the team being formed through Talent Kick. IMPLANZ provides cutting-edge technology tailored for surgical planning on human bone, enabling dentists to perform personalized and efficient surgeries, resulting in shorter patient journeys and cost savings. For implant manufacturers, IMPLANZ transforms the way new prototypes are tested by offering a virtual environment for rapid and accurate assessments.

Thanks to their innovation in the Swiss medtech space, IMPLANZ recently secured Innosuisse funding for the next 1.5 years to support technological development. The team also received CHF 10K in funding from Venture Kick. IMPLANZ has visited India and Mexico with Swissnex to explore local markets and build their international network. They were recently invited to pitch at the 123rd SICTIC MedTech Investor Day as well as MedTech Innovation in Biel. They have ongoing conversations with implant manufacturers for consulting purposes.

mimic is co-founded by Elvis Nava (ETH Zürich), Stefan Weirich (TUM), Stephan-Daniel Gravert (TUM) and Robert Katzschmann (ETH Zurich) with their team having formed during Talent Kick. Their technology leverages generative AI to create robots that can understand and imitate human behavior, revolutionizing how robotics fit into everyday lives and the economy.

Since its inception, mimic has achieved numerous milestones. It is affiliated with the ETH AI Center and was most recently selected for the 2nd stage of Venture Kick securing a total CHF 50K from both first and second round. In 2024, they also raised a \$2.5M pre-seed round to develop AI-driven collaborative robots with humanoid hands, thanks to the support of leading investors Founderful, another vc, and Tiny Supercomputer Investment Company, as well as angel investors. mimic is also an official ETH Spin-off. Being already present in media, the mimic team has been featured in Forbes and Sifted. They are currently operating with 10 people full-time, and are about to sign the first pilot project in the logistics and retail space.



Building embodied intelligence

mimic

Team Members: Elvis Nava, Stefan Weirich, Stephan-Daniel Gravert, Robert Katzschmann

Mentor: Andreas Guggenbühl



MIMIC



Meet the Graduates

RECOVER



Turning e-waste into treasure

Team Members: Marie Perrin, Prof. Dr. Victor Mougel

Mentor: Florent Héroguel



REEcover.

REEcover is a team co-founded by Marie Perrin (ETH Zürich) and Prof. Dr. Victor Mougel (ETH Zürich), with the aim to turn waste into 'tREEase': recycling Rare Earth Elements (REEs) from electronic waste. Their first proof of concept addresses the recycling of Europium and Yttrium from energy-saving lamps, with a separation factor 10 times superior to existing technologies. Taking advantage of the well-established recycling scheme, will allow the decrease of the dependence on minerals that are mined thousands of kilometers away.

They were Early Bird Winners at >>venture>> and were selected to participate at the CE Transition – Circular Economy Transition Impact Hub Zürich Incubator. This year they were also featured in RTS - Radio Télévision Suisse, Reset.org, and Phys.org, and other publications for their recent study published in the journal of Nature Communications. This development advances scientific knowledge and propels REEcover closer to its goal of commercializing sustainable rare earth metal recycling. Most impressively, Marie has been awarded the ETH Pioneer Fellowship, worth 150k!

Manukai is co-founded by Dr. Pascal Weber (ETH Zürich) and Dr. Daniel Wälchli (ETH Zürich), who deepened their connection during Talent Kick. Manukai revolutionises metal machining with their novel AI. Their first product, the CAM Copilot, processes key project information - 3D models, technical drawings, and machining programs - using algorithms that intelligently detect machining features and organise the data into a powerful knowledge database. This database allows their clients to instantly retrieve machining insights from similar past projects, significantly boosting production efficiency. This advancement saves their clients thousands of hours in machine programming and millions of dollars in production cost.

They are an ETH spin-off, and affiliated with the ETH AI Center and ETH Student Project House. They have been further recognised by international startup accelerators like Bluelion, CyberLab, Hubraum by Deutsche Telekom, and the Bosch Startup Harbor. Furthermore, they have been selected as "Catch of the Day" at the StartupDays, have received a BRIDGE Proof of Concept grant, and are in discussions with angel investors. They are currently raising their pre-seed round.



Your co-pilot for metal machining



Team Members: Dr. Pascal Weber, Dr. Daniel Wälchli

Mentor: Dr. Philipp Bolliger



MANUKAI



Meet the Graduates

LOKI ROBOTICS

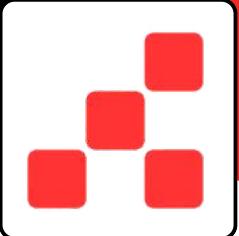


The world's first robot cleaning service.

Team Members: Miks Ozols, Antonio Arbues

Mentor: Klajd Lika





Loki Robotics, founded by Miks Ozols (ETH Zürich) and Antonio Arbues (ETH Zürich), aims to be one of the world's first robot office cleaning services. Their cleaning crew uses robots to handle all the mundane cleaning tasks. Recently, they opened their waiting list for customers in the USA Bay Area taking Loki to the US market.

They are currently in discussion with their first customers mainly in the space of facility services and are working towards first pilot projects with several facilities service providers. They are endorsed and validated by the Worldwide Cleaning Industry Association (ISSA). Furthermore they have received initial investment of CHF 80K from private investors.

HEAR FROM OUR GRADUATE TEAMS!

PATHY



UTHEREAL.AI



SYMACTIV



JOSEPHA



IMPLANZ



MIMIC



REECOVER



MANUKAI



Success Stories

A snapshot of the trailblazing **achievements** of our **teams, graduates, and alumni** this year!

CHF 120'000 FUNDING WON BY TALENT KICK TEAMS FROM VENTURE KICK IN 2024!

Talent Kick teams **Roboa**, **Josepha**, **mimic**, and **fortyfour** all received funding by Venture Kick this year. Having been selected at the first support stage, the teams each won CHF 10'000 to continue growing their startups. Roboa and mimic went on to also be selected at the second support stage, with further funding of CHF 40'000!



Alumni team **Manukai** is to officially dock into the Bosch Startup Harbour after being selected with flying colours under the theme of 'smart and software-defined manufacturing.' They will partner with two metal machining divisions at Bosch to unlock the hidden treasure in manufacturing data!

MIMIC LISTED IN SIFTED TOP 11 EUROPEAN STARTUPS TO WATCH!

Sifted polled three VCs for their top picks of robotics startups to watch. We are thrilled to see our graduating team, **Mimic Robotics** make their pick of the top 11! Sifted commented: "Mimic Robotics is developing foundational AI models to bring intelligence to industrial robots in retail and manufacturing. The robots can then learn a variety of tasks from simply watching videos. Mimic has also developed its own robotic hand hardware, but it is the intelligence side, where they set themselves apart." Congratulations Mimic!

CONCENTRAID PARTAKES IN SWISS-ISRAEL LEAN LAUNCHPAD PROGRAM

Our team **Concentraid** was part of the 5th Edition of the Swiss-Israel Lean Launchpad Programme for mental health, a collaborative effort by Innosuisse and Swissnex. This program provides a unique opportunity to learn from Israel's thriving startup ecosystem, and offers further valuable insights and mentoring to work towards better mental health and well-being.



New ETH Pioneer Fellows



MARIE FROM REECOVER SELECTED FOR ETH PIONEER FELLOWSHIP

The Pioneer Fellowship of ETH Zürich enables entrepreneurial students and researchers in developing their research-based technologies into marketable products and services to launch a successful ETH Spin-off company. Marie Perrin, co-founder of one of our 2024 graduating teams **REEcov** was one of six exceptional individuals to have joined the prestigious Pioneer Fellowship Program this year. We can't wait to see her take her ground-breaking business to the next level!



ETHON AI NAMED AS ONE OF 20 RISING STARS IN FORBES CLOUD 100 LIST

Our first alumni team, **EthonAI**, has been selected as one of the 20 Rising Stars as part of the eighth annual Forbes 2024 Cloud 100 list, the definitive list of the top 100 private cloud companies in the world. The 20 Rising Stars represent young, high-growth and category-leading cloud companies who have raised up to \$25 million to date and are poised to join the Cloud 100 ranks. Year by year, Ethon AI continue to soar and we couldn't be more proud of their well-deserved success, growth and recognition!



PATHY WON 2ND PLACE AT STAGE UP COMPETITION

Graduates **Pathy** secured second place at the business creation competition event STAGE UP! out of 65 business ideas, they soared to the top. STAGE UP is organized by the Department of Management and Entrepreneurship at the University of Bern in collaboration with Bern University of Applied Sciences and be-advanced.



Testimonials

A small selection of some of the **heart-warming** and **inspiring** words our **students, graduates, and alumni** have shared with us!

I had the honour of graduating from the Talent Kick program, and I couldn't be more grateful for the incredible support and guidance I received throughout this journey. This program has been instrumental in shaping my entrepreneurial path, providing me with the tools, mentorship, and network to take RECover to the next level. I'm forever thankful to the entire Talent Kick team and of course the Kick Foundation who made this journey possible for me, and for many more young entrepreneurs to come. Your belief in us and your dedication to fostering young entrepreneurs in Switzerland has truly made all the difference!

MARIE PERRIN, CEO & CO-FOUNDER REECOVER (TK-S23)



Our journey at Symactiv was shaped by mentors, expert advisers, and more particularly - the Talent Kick team, who guided as all along - I am very grateful for that.

LOUIS BECKER,
SYMACTIV (TK-S23)



I'm personally very proud to be a part of the Talent Kick community. For me, it made a huge difference because it really connected us not only with people that wanted to advise us, but with people that were willing to roll up their sleeves and get their hands dirty and work together on a very, very successful company.

BERNHARD KRATZWALD,
CEO ETHONAI (TK-S21)

The whole concept is really beneficial and supportive for people with entrepreneurship passion. It is a great chance to create a strong team, receive coaching and support in networking. The whole team is super-hardworking and friendly.

RINA MEHMETI, CO-FOUNDER PATHY (TK-S22)



This is where bold ideas come to life, with the potential to reshape the world. What stands out here is the people. I'm surrounded by brilliant minds from different backgrounds, and each exchange sparks new possibilities. It is a setting that naturally encourages cooperation and innovation, and I am really happy for the excellent training and guidance I am receiving.

SANTIAGO PÉREZ-BERNAL, BASEL, PHD, (TK-A24)



Thank you to the whole team for everything - meeting amazing people, being part of the Swiss Startup Ecosystem, the opportunity to be challenged and the push to always do a bit more.

ADRIEN LACROIX, GOALDEN (TK-S23)



You know how sometimes you just need a good kick to get things rolling? Well, that's exactly what Talent Kick is - a high-energy community for real-world impact. What makes it even better? The people! I'm already surrounded by an incredible network of visionaries from all kinds of disciplines. It's like building a puzzle where each person brings a unique piece that unlocks new possibilities.

AUREL BERGER, ETHZ MASTER STUDENT (TK-A24)



A huge thank-you to the Talent Kick team for the opportunities and for believing in us. It's an amazing opportunity to meet like-minded students from across Switzerland with shared passion and entrepreneurial mindset. The program was very successful in selecting extremely smart and highly driven individuals and was well designed with various types of events and workshops to forge team building and exploration. I especially appreciate the opportunities to have both personal and team coaches, who helped us navigate through difficult moments and decisions related to our project and personal life."

LUONG MONG AI NHI, CO-FOUNDER PATHY (TK-S22)



Talent Kick is a very broad program with many elements. I especially liked the close connection with the TK team, it gave the feeling that they're always ready to help. The first semester with the bootcamps was a good start into entrepreneurship, although I'm sure that it gained even more value now that it is in-person. I like that the program is long-running and there's even support and events as an alumni. I liked the individual coaching by Masa a lot.

ALEXANDER KÜBLER, CO-FOUNDER ROBOA (TK ALUMNI)



Special Thanks

Without the **immense support** of the following organisations, it would not be possible to achieve what we do. We dedicate a **heartfelt thanks** to the valued organisations behind Talent Kick who continue to **enable our program to grow** and **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 synergistic Kick pipeline, offering an entrepreneurship, technology, and innovation funnel for the best talents in Switzerland in addition to the unique kickfund.



Gebert Rüf 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".



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.

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 extend our gratitude for the exceptional support, guidance and leadership offered by the visionary leaders of our **strategy board**, as well as the steadfast **collaboration** and **contributions** of the inspiring members of our **steering committee and partners**.

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#TalentKick

#FollowTheJourney



Get Involved

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ANNUAL REPORT 2024

VENTURE
KICK 
A KICK FOUNDATION INITIATIVE



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From left: Dr. Jan Lichtenberg, Jordi Montserrat,
Dr. Pascale Vonmont, Philip Hassler, Philip Bodmer,
Dr. Suzanne Avedik, Beat Schillig

VENTURE KICK
MUCH MORE IS POSSIBLE

Considerable impact, year by year

As an initiative of the charitable Kick Foundation, Venture Kick has been making a substantial contribution to kick-off early stage business ideas from Swiss universities with global potential and impact for more than 17 years. In 2024, Venture Kick celebrated 1,111+ projects kicked, making this year especially memorable and a milestone. Both the Venture Kick Magazine and the Annual Report illustrate the considerable impact of our initiative:

Since its launch in 2007 Venture Kick has funded 1,111+ startups with seed capital of over CHF 58 million in cash, which have generated more than CHF 9 billion in follow-on financing and created close to 14,500 new jobs. In many cases, the initial "kick" from Venture Kick was instrumental.

In recent years, however, Venture Kick has only been able to partially exploit the great potential of promising ideas. As Venture Kick financed one out of every three applicant projects in its early years, this ratio has decreased actually to only one out of ten. At the same time the demand and potential from highly qualified researchers who aim to take their innovations from the lab to the market and address real-world challenges increases year by year.

Scaling to further increase success results

Thanks to the ongoing support of existing partners and the additional support of new partners, such as the Lichtensteiner Foundation and the Deep Tech Nation Switzerland Foundation in 2024, Venture Kick will substantially increase its support in 2025 and subsequent years. Through Venture Kick, we are encouraging the global expansion of promising business ideas and contributing to Switzerland's development. In order to achieve our planned growth and the goal of kicking 3,000 innovative startups by 2033, creating 100,000 jobs and investments of CHF 50 billion, we still need the support of additional new partners.

What makes Venture Kick a success is a shared goal of kicking forward Swiss innovation for the benefit of Switzerland's economy and society. Join us in scaling the Venture Kick initiative with its great track record and leverage.

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

P. Vonmont *H. A.*

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

S. Avedik

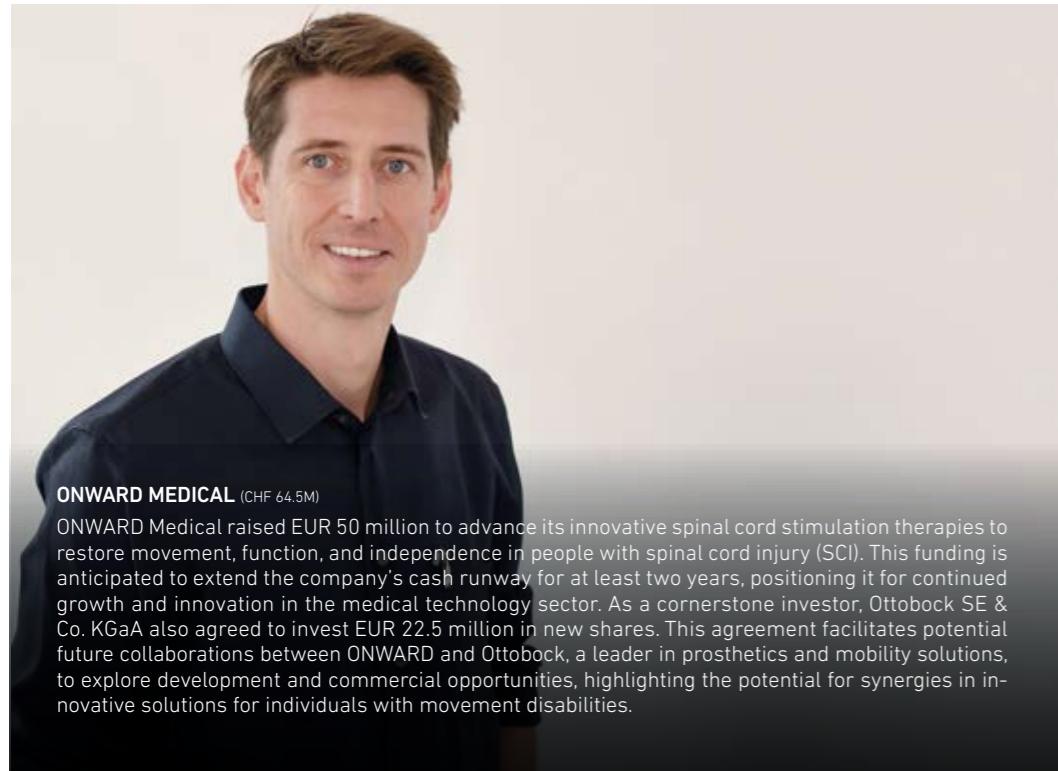
Dr. Suzanne Avedik
Strategy Board, Venture Kick
Delegate of the Managing Board,
Ernst Göhner Stiftung

HIGHLIGHTS 2024

The year 2024 presented significant challenges for the startup ecosystem, as geopolitical tensions and economic instability took their toll. In Switzerland, startup investments experienced an ongoing decline. Despite this downturn, our Kickers rose to the occasion, showcasing exceptional achievements. Through groundbreaking innovations, they not only secured vital funding and formed impactful partnerships but also gained widespread recognition with prestigious awards.

To read more about the investments our Kickers attracted in 2024, scan the QR-code here, or consult: www.venturekick.ch/newsroom

RAISING ROUNDS OF CHF 6+ MILLION



ONWARD MEDICAL (CHF 64.5M)

ONWARD Medical raised EUR 50 million to advance its innovative spinal cord stimulation therapies to restore movement, function, and independence in people with spinal cord injury (SCI). This funding is anticipated to extend the company's cash runway for at least two years, positioning it for continued growth and innovation in the medical technology sector. As a cornerstone investor, Ottobock SE & Co. KGaA also agreed to invest EUR 22.5 million in new shares. This agreement facilitates potential future collaborations between ONWARD and Ottobock, a leader in prosthetics and mobility solutions, to explore development and commercial opportunities, highlighting the potential for synergies in innovative solutions for individuals with movement disabilities.



BCOMP (CHF 36M)

As a leading global cleantech firm, Bcomp will use the funds to boost production, tap into the automotive market, and expand into Asia and North America. The company's innovative materials significantly aid decarbonization. For automotive interiors, they cut plastic use by up to 70% and reduce weight by 50% compared to traditional materials. These natural, high-performance materials can lower CO₂ emissions by up to 60% from production to delivery.



IKERIAN (CHF 12.6M)

USD 6.18 million in a Series A in April, and USD 8 million in a Series B in October: what a fast fundraising track for Ikerian! These investments will enhance its AI technology for large-scale data management, improve healthcare data workflows, and integrate AI-driven patient pre-screening. Additionally, it will support Ikerian's expansion into new therapeutic areas, including neurodegenerative disorders, vascular conditions, and rare diseases.



VOLIRO (CHF 10.7M)

The investment will support Voliro's innovative approach to industrial inspections, aiming to improve safety, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness in maintenance and repair operations using advanced aerial robotics solutions. Its first product features a tiltable rotor system that allows drones to interact with surfaces from any angle, enhancing safety and efficiency in critical industries.



SYNTHARA (CHF 9.8M)

The Engineering startup Synthara raised USD 5.5 million in financing and USD 5.9 million in grants to increase the compute performance of embedded chips by orders of magnitude. The round, led by V squared Ventures and including OTB Ventures, Onsight Ventures, Deep Tech Labs and existing investors, was aimed at supporting the launch of Synthara's ComputeRAM, a patent pending product designed for embedded computing applications.



DEEPJUDGE (CHF 9.8M)

DeepJudge, an AI-driven legal tech startup, secured a round to accelerate product development and expand market reach. Founded by AI researchers and former Google engineers Paulina Grnarova, Yannic Kilcher, and Kevin Roth, DeepJudge aims to harness the institutional knowledge contained in internal enterprise documents.



NEURAL CONCEPT (CHF 24M)

This significant investment will support the company's mission to revolutionize product design through advanced 3D deep learning technology, supporting its ambitious plans for global growth and innovation. Over 60 OEMs, including Airbus, Bosch, General Electric, Subaru, and four out of ten Formula 1 racing teams, use Neural Concept's platform to integrate engineering intelligence into their product development processes.



VOLUMINA MEDICAL (CHF 18.7M)

Volumina develops innovative biomaterials addressing high unmet needs in the market of reconstructive and plastic surgery and aesthetic medicine. The funding aims to accelerate the worldwide approvals for its dermal filler product, Adipearl™. Renowned experts in Europe are currently evaluating its performance in clinical trials. It will offer millions of patients natural and long-lasting solutions to enhance their health and quality of life.



LYMPHATICA MEDTECH (CHF 16.7M)

Lymphatica will use the funds to accelerate the development and validation of LymphoDrain, an innovative implantable device for treating lymphedema. The funding round was co-led by Panakès Partners, TechWald Next S.p.A., and CDP Venture Capital's Digital Transition Fund, with contributions from OCCIDENT, Zürcher Kantonalbank, and Club degli Investitori. Existing investors, including High-Tech Gründerfonds (HTGF), also participated.



HEMOTUNE (CHF 14M)

Hemotune develops breakthrough blood purification technology, enabling revolutionary intervention strategies for the most urgent medical needs. The closure of this CHF 14 million Series B2 funding round aims to accelerate the development and commercialization of Hemo-System, hemotune's blood purification platform leveraging nanoengineered magnetic beads.



MICROCAPS (CHF 9.3M)

This new capital will help the company scale up its production capacity, addressing the increasing market demand for its innovative ethanol-free fine fragrance Perfume Pearls. This expansion will also support continuous research and development, ensuring the company remains at the forefront of microencapsulation technology across various applications.



LIGHTIUM (CHF 8.9M)

This seed funding round of USD 7 million, combined with an earlier CHF 2.67 million Innosuisse grant will enable the startup to ramp up the commercial production of its photonic integrated circuits (PICs). It will position the company at the forefront of next-gen data transmission technology. Lightium plans to expand its manufacturing, optimize its Process Design Kit, and grow partnerships ahead of a 2025 launch.



LIMULA (CHF 6M)

Limula develops a modular solution for on-demand and at-scale manufacturing of cell therapies in a single device, integrating a bioreactor and centrifuge into a single device. The new funds aim to accelerate the development of Limula's platform, offering significant advancements in process automation and efficiency of therapeutic manufacturing.

RAISING ROUNDS OF CHF 1.4 MILLION TO 6 MILLION



TESTMATE HEALTH (CHF 5.3M)

With their innovative at-home rapid testing solution, the Lausanne-based startup aims to revolutionize STI detection and prevention, offering individuals accessible and timely screening options right from their homes.



ARTIRIA MEDICAL (CHF 5.3M)

Artiria Medical developing next-generation neuro-interventional products for stroke and aneurysms. The USD 6 million, funding, plus a USD 600k Fit Tech Growth loan, supports the completion of clinical trials in Europe and the United States.



BIOVERSYS (CHF 5.3M)

The funds from the Guangzhou Sino-Israel Bio-Industry Investment Fund will support the clinical development of its antibacterial drug, BV100, in China. The trials, set to begin in early 2025, will target infections caused by multi-drug resistant bacteria.



MEDUSOIL (CHF 5.2M)

This investment brings MeduSoil, a pioneer in sustainable construction materials, to a new phase of expansion, enhancing its production and sales capabilities. With a focus on strengthening its presence in Switzerland and Europe, MeduSoil aims to drive international sustainability initiatives.



ALMER TECHNOLOGIES (CHF 2.7M)

In September, Almer Technologies closed a USD 3 million funding round, with Vi Partners taking the lead. This new investment, joined by Kickfund,



SALLEA (CHF 2.6M)

The company's innovative 3D scaffolds aim to enable food manufacturers to produce whole cuts without the need for animal farming. With USD 2.6 million in Pre-Seed funding, Sallea plans to step up product development and launch pilot projects with cultivators globally.



KASPAR& (CHF 2.5M)

Kaspar& has successfully closed a CHF 2.5 million Seed financing round. The company has also partnered with Avaloq, a global leader in wealth management technology, which will integrate Kaspar&’s app into its core banking system.



WATTANYWHERE (CHF 2.2M)

WattAnyWhere closed its Seed round, raising CHF 2.2 million in equity. This achievement brings the company's total fundraising to nearly CHF 5 million, including equity, grants, and loans, highlighting its innovative renewable energy solutions and rapid expansion.



LUYA FOODS (CHF 5M)

The round will support the company's objectives to break even in Switzerland and prepare for its entry into the EU market, with its innovative plant-based meat alternatives made from upcycled okara, a nutrient-rich by-product of soy milk and tofu production.



ODNE (CHF 5M)

With FDA approval secured for its OdneFill and OdneCure solutions, the company has successfully raised USD 5.5 million in funding. The substantial investment will drive the imminent launch of their Root Preservation Technology (RPT) in the US market.



CULTIVATED BIOSCIENCES (CHF 4.4M)

The company secured funding from Navus Ventures, Founderful, Hack-Capital, Lukas Böni – the founder of Planted, US-based Joyful VC, Mandi Ventures, and Zürcher Kantonalbank, to scale up production and bring its dairy-free creamy alternatives to market by 2025.



NXI THERAPEUTICS (CHF 3.5M)

This funding will accelerate the development of revolutionary immunotherapies by modulating coronin 1 in immune cells, positioning the company at the forefront of next-generation treatments.



PEROVSKIA SOLAR (CHF 2.1M)

The funding comes from a global coalition of angels and early-stage funds. The startup obtained 10+ IoT industry leaders as clients, introducing the first ready-to-adopt perovskite solar cells for edge devices and is scaling up its Swiss manufacturing capacity.



COWA THERMAL SOLUTIONS (CHF 1.9M)

The startup, founded in 2019 as a spin-off of the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts, closed its second investment round, securing CHF 1.9 million and is ready to advance its innovative energy storage technologies, support hiring, and strengthen partnerships, positioning Enantios as a leader in scientific innovation.



ENANTIOS (CHF 1.8M)

Enantios has successfully raised over CHF 1.8 million in Seed funding for its new molecule characterization method. The financial boost will advance its technology, support hiring, and strengthen partnerships, positioning Enantios as a leader in scientific innovation.



NUNU.AI (CHF 1.78M)

Nunu.ai has secured USD 2 million in Pre-Seed funding from top investors including A16Z GAMESSPEED-RUN and YCombinator. The company is leveraging multimodal AI agents to automate game testing, promising to save the industry significant time and costs.



CHIRAL NANO (CHF 2.8M)

The Pre-Seed funding round signals strong investor confidence in Chiral's mission to pioneer the next generation of electronic devices by developing high-speed, automated robotic machines that precisely integrate nanomaterials into devices.



EIGHTINKS (CHF 2.8M)

The funding aims to support the scaling of its novel multi-layer coating technology for lithium-ion battery production, with the ambition to reduce costs by 30 percent.



RIVIA (CHF 2.8M)

The investment will drive Rivia's mission to integrate advanced AI analytics and robust data infrastructure, promising to centralize and optimize clinical trial processes from a single, accessible location.



ALITHEA GENOMICS (CHF 2.8M)

The funding will support the commercialization and manufacturing of Alithea's innovative RNA sequencing products, drive new technology development, and establish a subsidiary in the US.



ISOSPEC ANALYTICS (CHF 1.7M)

The funding aims to advance its cutting-edge biomolecular analytics technology and enhance precision in chemical and pharmaceutical research, fostering innovation in isotope analysis and expanding its applications across healthcare, environmental, and industrial sectors.



TUNE INSIGHT (CHF 1.68M)

The cybersecurity startup won a EUR 1.8 million grant through the Eurostars program. It will help develop privacy-preserving machine learning solutions for Electronic Health Records (EHR) in pediatric emergency care at hospitals in Italy and Switzerland.



APHEROS (CHF 1.6M)

Apheros raised CHF 1.6 million to enhance its cooling solutions for data centers and high-power computing. Focusing on metal foam technologies, Apheros targets the growing liquid cooling market driven by AI and high-power computing demands.



CORRENTICS (CHF 1.4M)

Correntics secured a EUR 1.5 million Eurostars grant to develop an AI-based climate-risk management platform that will boost resilience and support sustainable growth in the agri-food sector by adding weather models and crop risk analysis.

RAISING ROUNDS OF UP TO CHF 1.4 MILLION



ENERDRAPE (CHF 1.3M)

Renowned for its innovative prefabricated geothermal panel technology, Enerdrape announced the closure of the funding round, set to accelerate the development and commercialization of Enerdrape's technology. Companies like Après-demain and their initiative GenerRActions Planet et Romande Energie are investing in Enerdrape.



DEMOSQUARE (CHF 1.2M)

DemoSquare, specializing in AI-driven political and regulatory forecasting, has raised CHF 1.2 million in Pre-Seed funding. The investment will expedite the company's expansion into European markets, enhancing its ability to transform global political monitoring with innovative AI technology. DemoSquare already counts multinational companies as clients.



FLUOSPHERA (CHF 11M)

FluoSphera received a CHF 1.1 million grant from Innosuisse, the Swiss Innovation Agency. Teaming up with EPFL and the University of Geneva, FluoSphera's disruptive innovation project ambitions to revolutionize in-vitro solutions for drug discovery. The collaboration aims to develop innovative assays for improved drug efficacy and safety prediction.



GRAPHENERGYTECH (CHF 1.1M)

GraphEnergyTech, with offices in Lausanne and Cambridge, has raised CHF 1.1 million in funding led by Aramco Ventures and supported by existing shareholders. The funding aims to accelerate the development and scaling of GraphEnergyTech's advanced high-conductivity graphene electrodes, potentially shaping the next generation of solar cells.



SENSARS (CHF 1.03M)

Sensars, a leader in neuromodulation technology based in Lausanne, has successfully secured EUR 1.1 million in funding to boost the development of its innovative SENSY product. The funding will help Sensars develop advanced solutions for chronic pain relief, bringing new hope to millions of sufferers worldwide.



Matriq (CHF 1M+)

matriq secured over CHF 1 million for innovative plastic labeling technology. The funding will further support matriq's innovative DynamicMold technology. Developed as a spin-off from the Eastern Swiss University of Applied Sciences OST, matriq's technology directly enables the unique labelling and coding of plastic parts during injection molding.

MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS



42MATTERS ACQUIRED BY SIMILARWEB

42matters, an app intelligence provider, has been acquired by Similarweb, a leading digital intelligence company. It strengthens 42matters' presence in the rapidly expanding app analytics market, projected to reach USD 15.7 billion by 2028. 42matters' data covers 12 app stores, 2.1 million publishers, 2,600+ SDKs, and 20 million apps.



LOCATEE ACQUIRED BY TANGO

Leading workplace analytics provider Locatee has been acquired by Tango, a leader in cloud-based real estate and facilities management software. This strategic move combines their expertise to create the industry's first comprehensive and cost-effective solution for analyzing and optimizing workplace utilization.



SEVENSENSE ACQUIRED BY ABB

Sevensense's innovative prowess has been acquired by ABB, a global leader in the robotics industry, a partnership that promises to redefine the landscape of AI-powered mobile robotics. Sevensense's innovative navigation technology blends artificial intelligence (AI) and 3D vision, allowing autonomous mobile robots to make intelligent decisions in dynamic environments.



SYNPLE CHEM ACQUIRED BY EMOLECULES

The combination strengthens eMolecules' position as the global one-stop-shop solution provider for efficient chemical compound procurement, full-service compound management, and automation solutions for drug discovery researchers. Headquartered near Zurich, Synple Chem serves premier pharma and biotech customers in the United States and Europe.



VIVENTIS MICROSCOPY ACQUIRED BY LEICA MICROSYSTEMS

Viventis Microscopy, a forerunner in advanced imaging solutions, has teamed up with industry leader Leica Microsystems to integrate its patented light sheet technology into Leica's portfolio. This collaboration promises to redefine the boundaries of life sciences research, offering scientists brand new capabilities for detailed volumetric imaging.



ALMER TECHNOLOGIES ACQUIRED BY REALWEAR

RealWear, a global leader in wearable computing for industrial applications, acquired the smart-glasses innovator Almer to supercharge the industrial adoption of wearables and empower frontline workers worldwide with cutting-edge AR technology.

RAISING CHF 1 MILLION

- **FirmCyte** secures CHF 1 million investment for Non-Hormonal Endometriosis treatment
- **DAAV** secures CHF 1 million in its first funding to transform services for individuals with reduced mobility
- **Regenosca** secures CHF 1 million Pre-Seed funding to advance endoscopic delivery of innovative TissueSpan bio-implants
- **Coterra** secures USD 1 million in oversubscribed Pre-Seed funding to decarbonize coffee farming
- **SONIX** secures CHF 850k project for advancing AI audio communication
- **rrreefs** raises CHF 420k to scale up global coral reef regeneration efforts

UNDISCLOSED FUNDING AMOUNTS

- **CustomSurg** secures Seed round investment for AI-guided trauma surgery
- **Distalmotion** secures fresh funding to accelerate commercial growth of Dexter Surgical Robot
- **Edico** secures new funding to drive global expansion and enhance commercial operations
- **Logmind** secures Seed financing to advance cloud-based log data analysis platform
- **NematX** secures funds from Polyplastics to boost industrial 3D printing of high-performance polymers
- **Odne** secures investment from Dental Innovation Alliance (DIA) to accelerate US launch of FDA-approved dental health solutions
- **Oxara** secures Pre-Series A funding for cement-free building project

Check more fundraising news on
www.venturekick.ch/newsroom



ViSENSE MERGED WITH OCTOTRONIC

The companies will combine extensive experience in smart factory integration with AI video analytics and low-code technology. The merger aims to support their mission to scale the digital transformation in manufacturing and build a bridge between operational technology and IT systems.

INDUSTRY DEALS

- **Bayer (Schweiz)** and **ASPIVIX** collaborate to reduce pain in Women's Health procedures
- **BioVersys** strengthens tuberculosis drug development with expanded GSK collaboration and CHF 12.3 million Series C boost
- **CREAL** partners with **ZEISS** to innovate vision care with light-field display technology
- **EraCal Therapeutics** enters agreement with **Novo Nordisk**, including milestone payments up to EUR 235 million
- **HAYA Therapeutics** secures USD 1 billion deal with **Lilly** to target obesity through RNA platform
- **Supertext** merges with **Textshuttle** to become an AI-powered language service giant
- **Tandem Therapeutics** joins **Wyss Zurich Translational Center** to accelerate progress in fibrosis treatment
- **iniVation** and **SynSense** join forces to form a leading neuromorphic technology provider

A KICKERS' WORLD

THE WEB SERIES SHOWCASING THE FOUNDERS IN THEIR NATURAL SETTING.

AWARDS & WORLD-RECORDS



CLIMEWORKS

Climeworks powered up Mammoth, the world's largest direct air capture and storage plant in Iceland. Its Orca plant has received the first-ever AAA rating from BeZero Carbon: the highest rating in the industry and the first time it has ever been awarded to any project.



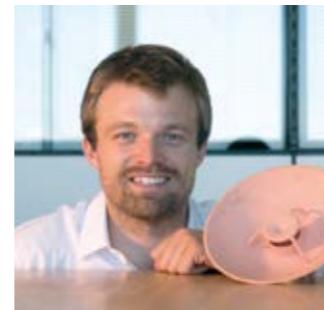
DEPOLY / SWISST012

The two Swiss companies DePoly and SWISST012 have been selected by the World Economic Forum in 2024. 100 young companies worldwide were designated to form the new cohort of technology pioneers who will engage with the senior executives who are regulars at the Davos meeting.



LIGENTEC

LIGENTEC was recognized at 2024 CCI France Suisse trophies for cross-border innovation in integrated photonics. The Swiss based LIGENTEC SA was honored for the successful establishment of its French operation (LIGENTEC France SAS) in Corbeil Essonne, Ile de France.



SWISST012

For its eleventh edition, the Vaud Prize for International Companies (PVEI) was awarded to SWISST012 that stands out for its innovative satellite technology in 3D printing. SWISST012 is now building its small geostationary satellite, HummingSat, which has been sold to Intelsat ViaSat / Inmarsat.



RREEKS

The Geneva-based foundation Innovate 4 Nature (I4N) awarded its first-ever prizes aimed at promoting sustainable action to halt and reverse biodiversity loss. Among the winners was rreefs, a startup celebrated for its work in the "Nature as Infrastructure and Green Cities" category.



ONWARD MEDICAL

Time Magazine has listed Onward Medical's ARC-EX technology, a therapy for spinal cord injuries, among the best innovations of 2024. A study in Nature showed that nine out of ten patients using ARC-EX therapy had recovered some strength or functionality.



VOLIRO

Voliro won the Swiss Economic Award 2024 in the DeepTech / Life Sciences category. This recognizes Voliro's innovative contributions to industrial inspection and maintenance, highlighting the company's role in reducing emissions and enhancing worker safety.



VOLUMINA MEDICAL

Amélie Béduer of Volumina Medical makes it into the finals for the EY Entrepreneur of the Year. The jury praised her: "Amélie Béduer heads her company with highly-innovative ideas, outstanding business acumen and pronounced foresight."



10 KICKERS OUT OF 18 »VENTURE« 2024 WINNERS

10 Venture Kick alumni won the prestigious »venture« Startup Competition: Borobotics took the Grand Prize stage, followed by Brian, Cultivated Biosciences, EVIIVE, Optiml, qCella, Planeto, Procavea Biotech, Rapidata, and RTDT Laboratories.



12 KICKERS AMONG THE TOP 15 W.A. DEVIGIER FINALISTS

The oldest award for young entrepreneurs in Switzerland shortlisted apherios, Ascento, BTRY, EVIIVE, Grensol, MYNERVA, Neology Hydrogen, Neurosoft Bioelectronics, Optiml, Perovskia Solar, Tandem Therapeutics, and Tethys Robotics who competed to win CHF 100,000 each.



66 KICKERS IN TOP 100 2024

66 alumni ranked in the TOP 100 of the Swiss Startup Award 2024, with DePoly taking first place and nine Kickers in the Top 10. This marks a record-breaking number, illustrating their impact and recognition in Switzerland's thriving startup landscape. Check the full list on the next pages.

Meet the Venture Kick winners in their offices or labs to discover their exciting solutions and the major challenges they are addressing globally.

Scan the QR-code to watch their interview.



BTRY

REDEFINING ENERGY STORAGE SOLUTIONS



CALICO BIOSYSTEMS

PREDICTING LIFE-CHANGING DRUGS FOR CANCER PATIENTS



CELLX

SUSTAINABLE TREATMENT OF INDUSTRIAL CHEMICAL WASTE



HELIX ROBOTICS

DEVELOPING THE FIRST SOFT ROBOTIC MANIPULATOR



NEURIA

TRANSFORMING UNHEALTHY CONSUMPTION BEHAVIORS EFFORTLESSLY WITH GAMIFIED TECHNOLOGY



WASTEFLOW

TRANSFORMING WASTE INTO VALUE WITH VISION



66 VENTURE KICKERS

9 IN TOP 10

1 DEPOLY
→ www.depoly.com
Closing the loop on PET plastic recycling.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 20.08.2019



2 CORINTIS
→ www.corintis.com
Enabling the computing of tomorrow with in-chip cooling.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 28.09.2021



4 PLANTED FOODS
→ www.eatplanted.com
Sustainable, healthy and cruelty-free plant-based meat.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 21.05.2019



5 HAYA THERAPEUTICS
→ www.hayatx.com
Treating heart failure through innovative RNA-therapies.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 03.10.2017



6 VOLTIRIS
→ www.voltiris.com
Green Energy-as-a-Service for greenhouse growers.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 19.10.2021



14 TUNE INSIGHT
→ www.tuneinsight.com
Data collaborations with federated confidential computing.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 22.06.2021

15 VOLIRO
→ www.voliro.com
Aerial robots for in-depth inspection and maintenance.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 12.06.2018

16 ENERDRAPE
→ www.enerdrape.com
Turning underground environments into renewable heat sources.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 07.07.2020

17 ARARIS BIOTECH
→ www.ararisbiotech.com
Building tomorrow's antibody-drug conjugates (ADCs).
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 10.07.2018

19 EXNATON
→ www.exnaton.com
The platform for renewable energy and sustainable lifestyles.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 09.06.2020

21 MICROCAPS
→ www.microcaps.ch
Microencapsulation with Swiss precision.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 26.06.2018

22 WATTANYWHERE
→ www.wattanywhere.com
Renewable energy for EV fast-charging anywhere in one month.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 08.02.2022

7 BLOOM BIORENEWABLES
→ www.bloombiorenewables.com
Making biomass a true alternative to petroleum.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 25.06.2019



8 DEEPJUDGE
→ www.deepjudge.ai
AI-powered legal research and document analysis for faster, smarter decision-making.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 17.11.2020



9 FLYBOTIX
→ www.flybotix.com
Professional drone solutions for the inspection of confined spaces.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 20.11.18



10 NANOFLEX ROBOTICS
→ www.nanoflexrobotics.com
Remote-controlled soft robotic systems for endovascular and neurovascular procedures.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 18.01.2022



12 AVELO
→ www.avelolife.com
Breath collector for better diagnosis of pneumonia.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 22.06.2021



25 SEPRIFY
→ www.seprify.com
Sustainable cellulose white pigment, from food to furniture.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 27.09.2022

26 LUYA FOODS
→ www.luya.bio
Smart processing for a world without wasted food resources.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 08.06.2021

27 ASCENTO
→ www.ascento.ai
Autonomous outdoor security patrolling.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 22.11.2022

28 FIMMCYTE
→ www.fimmcYTE.com
First disease-modifying treatment for endometriosis.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 28.09.2021

30 ISOCHRONIC
→ www.isochnronic.com
Software-driven industrial pick&place robotics.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 29.09.2020

31 ARTIRIA MEDICAL
→ www.artiria-medical.com
Enabling a new standard of care to fight stroke and save lives.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 08.01.2019

35 ADIPOSS
→ www.adiposs.com
Imaging brown body fat for early detection of body wasting in patients.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 25.06.2019

50 VIBOO
→ www.viboo.io
Empowering efficiency and building intelligence with a cloud platform for building operators.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 17.08.2021

52 BTRY
→ www.btry.ch
A sustainable battery that can be charged in one minute.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 03.10.2023

53 ENANTIOS
→ www.enantios.com
Cutting-edge solutions to analyze chiral molecules and biologics.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 10.01.2023

54 ANTEFIL COMPOSITE TECH
→ www.antefil.com
Microengineered hybrid fibres for lightweight structures.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 09.02.2021

55 CUSTOMSURG
→ www.customsurg.com
Rethinking treatment of complex trauma surgery.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 09.06.2020

57 SOHHYTEC
→ www.sohhytec.com
Cost-effective solution for renewable hydrogen and electricity.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 28.04.2020

58 APHEROS
→ www.apheros.ch
Metal foams for thermal, catalysis, and battery applications.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 23.08.2022

59 INKVIVO TECHNOLOGIES
→ www.inkvivo.tech
Developing advanced drug delivery systems.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 27.09.2022

61 CULTIVATED BIOSCIENCES
→ www.cultivated.bio
Crafting creamy, dairy-free food solutions.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 16.11.2021

63 TERAPET
→ www.terapet.ch
Next-generation imaging technology for nuclear medicine.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 29.10.2019

64 PERSEO PHARMA
→ www.perseo-pharma.com
Next-generation enzyme replacement therapies.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 09.11.2010

66 NU GLASS
→ www.nu.glass
Enhancing mobile coverage by making glass permeable to mobile frequencies.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 19.10.2021

67 GRAPE INSURANCE
→ www.grapehealth.ch
Improving health via fully digital employee insurance.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 18.01.2022

69 ALMER TECHNOLOGIES
→ www.almer.com
All day AR-glasses.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 17.08.2021

70 TWIICE
→ www.twiice.ch
Powered exoskeletons for walking assistance.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 28.03.2017

72 LIMULA
→ www.limula.ch
Modular solution for on-demand and at-scale manufacturing of cell therapies in a single device.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 21.08.2018

75 AICA
→ www.aica.tech
Software to simplify robot integration and programming across diverse hardware.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 07.07.2020

77 NAGI BIOSCIENCE
→ www.nagibio.ch
Unlocking organism-on-chip testing for every lab.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 20.03.2018

78 DPHI SPACE
→ www.dphispace.com
Streamlining space access via satellite ridesharing.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 15.08.2023

79 SALLEA
→ www.sallea.ch
Adding the third dimension to cell-cultured meat.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 07.02.2023

80 FLINK ROBOTICS
→ www.flink.so
Intelligent software solutions for material handling robots.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 07.11.2023

81 ARCOSCREEN
→ www.arcoscreen.ch
Improving drug discovery through patient cell-screening.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 18.08.2020

82 BOTTNEURO
→ www.bottneuro.ch
3D-printed wearables for brain recording and stimulation.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 02.03.2021

84 INERGIO TECHNOLOGIES
→ www.inergio.ch
Fuel-flexible fuel cells to accelerate the energy transition.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 09.07.2019

86 PLASTOGAZ
→ www.plastogaz.com
Advanced plastic recycling technologies.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 09.07.2019

87 OXYLE
→ www.oxyle.ch
Transforming waste streams into valuable circular feedstock for the chemical industry.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 19.11.2019

89 ROOMPRICEGENIE
→ www.roompricegenie.com
The most intuitive revenue management solution for hotels.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 05.02.2019

91 QCELLA
→ www.qcella.com
Novel heating mats to reshape product heating.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 22.11.2022

92 IRMOS TECHNOLOGIES
→ www.irmos-tech.com
Maximizing the safe-life of buildings and bridges.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 12.07.2022

93 EIGHTINKS
→ www.8inks.com
Building the next generation of lithium ion batteries.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 14.06.2022

94 HEROSUPPORT
→ www.herosupport.care
Personalized breast immobilization shells for radiotherapy.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 10.01.2023

95 MARK INVESTMENT HOLDING
→ www.splintinvest.com
Enabling fractional investments in rare and alternative assets for everyone.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 04.01.2022

96 SYNENDOS THERAPEUTICS
→ www.synendos.com
Developing therapies for neuropsychiatric disorders.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 11.12.2018

97 TANDEM THERAPEUTICS
→ www.tandem-tx.com
Unlocking the matrix barrier in fibrotic diseases.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 08.02.2022

98 SOLIDWATTS
→ www.solidwatts.ch
High-efficiency electric heating solutions for industry.
START VENTURE KICK SUPPORT IN 13.09.2022

SUPPORTED PROJECTS

BIOTECH

ACYTRONIX – Krivitsky Adva, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Advancing exosome applications with fast, precise separation.

AMPORIN PHARMACEUTICALS – Stott Kelvin, PSI Paul Scherrer Institut, Acute membrane repair for deadly degenerative diseases.

APRICOT THERAPEUTICS – Zering Michael, University of Zurich (UZH), Data-driven drug discovery for targeted medicine.

AZURE CELL THERAPIES – Fares Bilal, University of Geneva (UNIGE), Developing next-gen CGTs for neurodegenerative diseases.

BLEEDNFIRE THERAPEUTICS – Prince Raja, University of Bern (UNIBE), Pioneering innovative siRNA-based therapies for hemophilia.

CALDRE – Baier Felix, University of Bern (UNIBE), Innovative liver disease therapeutics.

CELLX BIOSOLUTIONS – Clerc Estelle, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Novel bacterial solutions for industrial pollution treatment.

EVIIIVE – Yim Kevin Ho Wai, University of Zurich (UZH), Next-generation liquid biopsy solutions.

EVIS BIOSCIENCE – Montanari Elita, University of Zurich (UZH), Developing next-generation non-viral gene delivery systems.

KIDEMIS – Marakhov Kostiantyn, Berner Fachhochschule (BFH), Sustainable alternatives to fishmeal and fish oil for aquafeed.

LEMNA BIO – Houmani Moustafa, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Physics-inspired AI for biomolecule discovery and design.

MYRIAD OPTICS – El Chazli Marwan, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), The world's fastest bacterial contamination detection tool.

NERAI BIO – Melkonyan Sasha, University of Zurich (UZH), AI-assisted CRISPR protein engineering.

NOOSH DRINKS – Baumgartner Gaëtan, HES-SO Valais-Wallis, A new probiotic drink made from water kefir.

OBARIS – Klein Cerrejon David, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Providing a painless alternative to injectable drugs.

ORIO THERAPEUTICS – Julier Ziad, Protein engineering-based drug delivery technology.

PRECISE HEALTH – Luis Jose, HES-SO Valais-Wallis, Reducing antimicrobial resistance via bacteriophage therapies.

REMIJUN – Chahwan Richard, University of Zurich (UZH), On-demand therapeutic monoclonal antibody development.

SHAPE BIOPHARMACEUTICALS – Ghasparian Arin, Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW), A new class of immunotherapies based on nanoparticles.

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

TRILLIOME – Guye Patrick, University of Basel (UNIBAS), Boosting healthspan with microbiome precision nutraceuticals.

UNOMR – Schlotter Tilman, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Revolutionizing medical research via single biomolecule sensors.

VISIENCO – Jandet Lucie, Centre Suisse d'Electronique et de Microtechnique (CSEM), Providing automated organoid handling technologies.

CLEANTECH

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

APRICOT 366 – Haller Michel, Ostschweizer Fachhochschule, Heat and power supply from seasonally-stored renewables.

CIRCULAR FLOW TECHNOLOGIES – Riechmann Michel, EAWAG, On-site wastewater treatment and fertilizer production.

DIVEA – Khalil Karl, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), CO₂-capturing filters for industrial emissions.

DNAIR – Roger Fabian, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Revolutionizing biodiversity monitoring via airborne eDNA.

DYNEO TECHNOLOGIES – Perret Mael, HES-SO Genève, Data-driven technologies for sustainable thermal networks.

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

FIREFLY FUSION – Ospanov Rустем, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Bringing nuclear fusion energy to the grid.

FORTYFOUR – Müller Henry Willem, Hochschule Luzern (HSLU), Boosting agricultural yield via sustainable CO₂-capture.

FROSTFORGE – Koifman Jonathan, an autonomous cold chain for humanitarian resilience.

GRENSOL – Singhal Rajiv, Hautes école vaudoises, Extracting useful raw materials from mixed waste.

HYDRODE – Chen Liyang, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Advancing green hydrogen production.

IONIC WIND TECHNOLOGIES – Rubinetti Donato, EMPA, Silent and efficient cooling with no moving parts.

JAIPUR ROBOTICS – Zamboni Ermes, Centre Suisse d'Electronique et de Microtechnique (CSEM), Building the number one OS for waste recognition.

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

RIVERKIN – Droujko Jessica, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), A sensor platform to manage water risk.

SPARE ENERGY – Wilhelm Erik, Hochschule Luzern (HSLU), Enabling used battery cell and pack reuse.

SUN-WAYS – Danichert Baptiste, HES-SO Valais-Wallis, Removable solar power systems installed between railway tracks.

TEXUP – Baudin Sylvain, HES-SO Valais-Wallis, Innovative acoustic panels made out of recycled textile.

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

VERRETEX – Anderson Mitchell, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), De-carbonizing regenerated glass fiber textiles.

WASTEFLOW – Ibars Valentin, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), AI-driven solutions to boost recycling efficiency at facilities.

WINDDUCTION – Bhuka Sonam, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Developing inductive charging technologies for electric vehicles.

WINDWORKS – Le Fouest Sébastien, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Empowering energy autonomy with smart wind turbines.

ELECTRONICS, MECHANICS

BTRY – Futscher Moritz, EMPA, A sustainable battery that can be charged in one minute.

BUSHFIREDRONE – Posva David, Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW), Large fixed-wing drones optimized for fighting forest fires.

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

DUATIC – Sako Dhonis, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Unlocking the full potential of robots.

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

HELIX ROBOTICS – Stella Francesco, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Developing the first soft commercial robot.

MILAN FLUGZEUGWERKE – Wiedmer Simon, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Revolutionizing the electric airplane market.

MIMIC ROBOTICS – Gravert Stephan-Daniel, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Preparing food with AI-powered robotic hands.

MOSAIC SOC – Di Mauro Alfio, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Developing cutting-edge low-power AI chips.

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

OPTOLUMINA – Höhener Thomas, University of Bern (UNIBE), Developing a well plate illumination device for cells.

R2HOME – Hadji Yohan, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Using robotics to improve atmospheric data collection.

ROBOA – Kübler Alexander, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Safely entering confined spaces with robots.

RTDT LABORATORIES – Mukherjee Aris, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), No-code SaaS for structural health monitoring of wind turbines.

SENTINUS – Schnarrenberger Felix, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Automated quality control for manual assembly.

SIDELIGHTS – Claessens Arthur, Hautes école vaudoises, Innovative lighting systems for cyclist safety.

SURROUNDPOWER – Guadagnini Flavio, Ostschweizer Fachhochschule, Adaptive power distribution solutions for residential use.

ICT

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

BREEZING – Eid Bassil, Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW), Crypto accounting software for accountants.

CAREWELL – Meylan Josselin, University of Geneva (UNIGE), A seamless digital marketplace for healthcare.

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

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

HOSHII – Awdir Jiir, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Automating wholesaler communications.

INTONATE – Gmünder Tim, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Responsibly leveraging AI to improve the healthcare system.

JOSEPHA – Gitterle Josef, University of St. Gallen (HSG), AI-powered price search for online shoppers.

LITEREV – Orel Erol, University of Geneva (UNIGE), Streamlining literature review with NLP and Machine Learning.

LOGBOOK – Göltl Leonard, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Logistics location profiling as a service.

OPENREG – Caelen Isabelle, Enabling formula compliance for manufacturers.

OPTIVERSE – Assaf Elio, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Empowering swift insight through transformative video AI.

REGCHECK – Makarova Anna-Marie, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), A compliance automation tool for medical device certification.

SCIREP – Chen Wen, PSI Paul Scherrer Institut, Reconstructing the testing service industry with AI.

SHOOTIFY LABS – Ambrosini Luca, Scuola Universitaria Professionale della Svizzera Italiana (SUPSI), An AI to create on-model fashion photo shootings.

SIMORGH – Momeni Seyyedmaalek, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Automatic and high-precision fracture monitoring services.

SPACETALK – Guyot Benjamin, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Coordination of space traffic.

TOFUPILOT – Buteau Julien, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), The collaborative workspace for hardware product teams.

UCENTRICS – Golshani Amir, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Behavior-driven error preventing user guidance with XR.

WEAREFREEMOVERS – Pellini Andrea, University of St. Gallen (HSG), The first one-stop-shop for free-mover students.

MATERIALS, CHEMICALS

CRYOSPEC SOLUTIONS – Zviagin Andrei, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Fast, unambiguous and accurate isomer identification.

MOLCENT – Schilling Johannes, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Chemical property prediction through molecular intelligence.

PHOREST – Shyshkanov Serhii, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Manufacturing pharma ingredients from renewable feedstock.

MEDTECH

ACTIVAL – Kalentics Nikola, Centre Suisse d'Electronique et de Microtechnique (CSEM), Dental aligner with microchannels for antibacterial delivery.

ADJUST MEDICAL – Biadillah Youssef, University of Geneva (UNIGE), A new differentiated treatment for Mitral Valve Regurgitation.

AIMORPHOUS HEALTH – Pun San, Centre Suisse d'Electronique et de Microtechnique (CSEM), Antithrombotic diagnostics and management.

ALPINASANA – Schreiber Robert, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), All-in-one solution for treating malnutrition.

AUGURY MEDICAL – Thompson Emily, Berner Fachhochschule (BFH), Improving patient care with novel heartbeat visualizations.

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

CLEEE MEDICAL – Lapinski Matthew, Transforming brain surgery with real-time vision and control.

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

DEEGITAL – Ménétré Eric, University of Geneva (UNIGE), AI-powered epilepsy diagnosis software for rapid results.

DIGEHEALTH – Abassi Nour Ghalia, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), 24/7 non-invasive solutions for bowel obstruction prevention.

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

IMPLANZ – Gasser Nicolas, University of Bern (UNIBE), Personalized and efficient implantation planning.

INCAPEK – Fontanellaz Olga, Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz (FHNW), Tailor-made advanced drug delivery systems.

LIGHTIUM – Loizeau Frédéric, Centre Suisse d'Electronique et de Microtechnique (CSEM), Enabling the next generation of photonic integrated circuits.

QUANTUM BRAND PROTECTION – Hefiana Nasser, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), A Swiss authentication standard for luxury watch brands.

SECONDWAVE PHOTONICS – Morandi Andrea, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Novel spectrometer for infrared light analysis.

NEURIA – Plourde Frédéric, University of Fribourg (UNIFR), Evidence-based digital therapies for chronic diseases.

NEUROVIA BIOELECTRONICS – Shalby Omar, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Developing blood pressure modulation devices.

ONCOSWAB – Lara Pablo, Accessible point-of-care lung cancer screening tests.

OPTIMALPSI – Smit Thijis, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), Topology optimization for patient-specific spinal implants.

SAISIR – Bigoni Claudia, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Neurotechnologies to help patients regain independence.

SCANVIO MEDICAL – Tuchschmid Stefan, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), AI-assisted gynecologic ultrasound diagnostics.

SEFIT HEALTH – Börlin Elena, Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz (FHNW), A therapeutic stress management tool for less reliance on meds.

SKINMIND – Beheshti Sepehr, Università della Svizzera Italiana (USI), AI-enabled skin cancer self-diagnosis.

SOFTSOCKET – Ammann Cara, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich

PROJECT SELECTION

→ 880 PROJECTS applied for Venture Kick

→ 73 APPLICATIONS per month

→ 59% from German-speaking Switzerland

→ 37% from French-speaking Switzerland

→ 46% of supported projects are from ETH Zurich and EPFL Lausanne

→ 30% of supported projects have women in the founding team

Applications to Venture Kick grew by 12.7% year-on-year, reaching 880 in 2024 (up from 781 in 2023). Most applications came from the German-speaking region (59%), followed by the French-speaking region (37%), and Italian-speaking Ticino (4%).

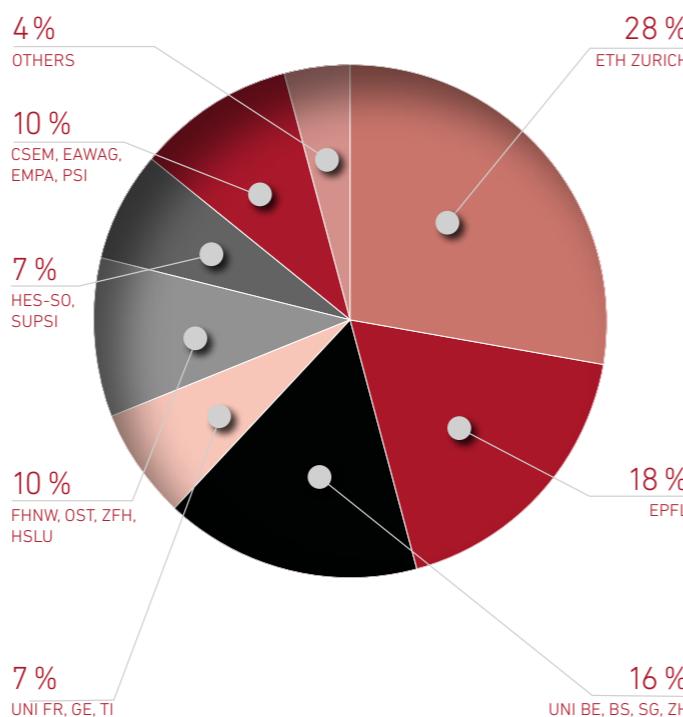
Venture Kick attracts applicants nationwide, with 19% of submissions originating from the Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology in Zurich (ETHZ) and Lausanne (EPFL), and 81% from 36 other universities and research institutions.

Applications span all high-tech sectors. Information and communication technologies (ICT) dominate with 42%, followed by life sciences (24%, including biotech and medtech). Cleantech projects account for 9%, electronics/mechanics for 5%, materials/chemicals and micro/nano-technologies for 2% each, while 16% fall under other sectors.

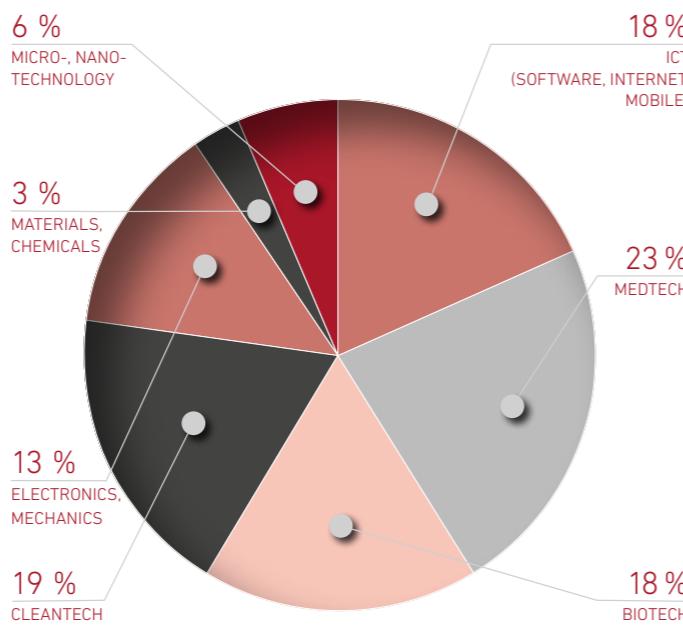
Selection remains competitive. Projects from ETHZ and EPFL represent 46% of those selected, slightly down from 48% in 2023. Among supported projects, 41% are in life sciences, 19% in cleantech, 18% in ICT, 13% in electronics/mechanics, 6% in micro/nano-technologies, and 3% in materials/chemicals.

SUPPORTED PROJECTS

BY UNIVERSITY



BY SECTOR



FINANCES

DIRECT CONTRIBUTIONS TO STARTUP PROJECTS

	ACTUAL 2024	BUDGET 2025
CASH SUPPORT FOR STARTUPS	6,690,000	73.2%
Grants of CHF 10,000	970,000	1,300,000
Convertible loans of CHF 40,000	2,320,000	3,120,000
Convertible loans of CHF 100,000	3,400,000	3,900,000

INDIRECT CONTRIBUTIONS TO STARTUP PROJECTS

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT FOR STARTUPS	ACTUAL 2024	BUDGET 2025
Venture Briefing contribution		
Review of 880 project applications, feedback and preparation for candidates / Validation of 416 projects for presentation		
Presentation to investors and supporters at 53 jury sessions in 2024 and 68 in 2025		
Personal introductions to investors and pilot customers		
Individual coaching and support at 62 Kickers Camps and Kickers Briefings in 2024 and 73 in 2025		
Written feedback and pitch videos, monthly reporting, startup hotline		
Support and management for invested portfolio		
Coordination and recommendations for Kickfund 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

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT	ACTUAL 2024	BUDGET 2025
Planning / Team management / Reporting	425,000	4.4%
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		

TOTAL (excluding VAT)	ACTUAL 2024	BUDGET 2025
	9,165,000	100%
	11,325,000	100%

ORGANIZATION

Transforming scientific innovation into commercial activity and jobs is the foundation of social and economic prosperity. Early-stage startups bear high risks that aren't covered by public money or private investors. Supporting such seed-stage startups therefore fills a crucial gap and performs a philanthropic role in society.

Purpose

Venture Kick aims at promoting entrepreneurship at Swiss universities and kicking off science-based, highly innovative startups. Too often, excellent research ideas are not transferred to the market. Venture Kick helps these great ideas to get funded at the early stage of their development.

Legal Structure

Venture Kick is an initiative by the charitable Kick Foundation, launched and supported by a private consortium and operated by Venturelab. www.kickfoundation.ch

The Kick Foundation is monitored by the Swiss Federal Supervisory Board of Foundations.

The board of trustees of the Kick Foundation supervises Venture Kick's business activities based on detailed annual reports. The trustees have delegated all strategic and managerial competencies to Venture Kick's strategy board.

Venture Kick's Strategy Board

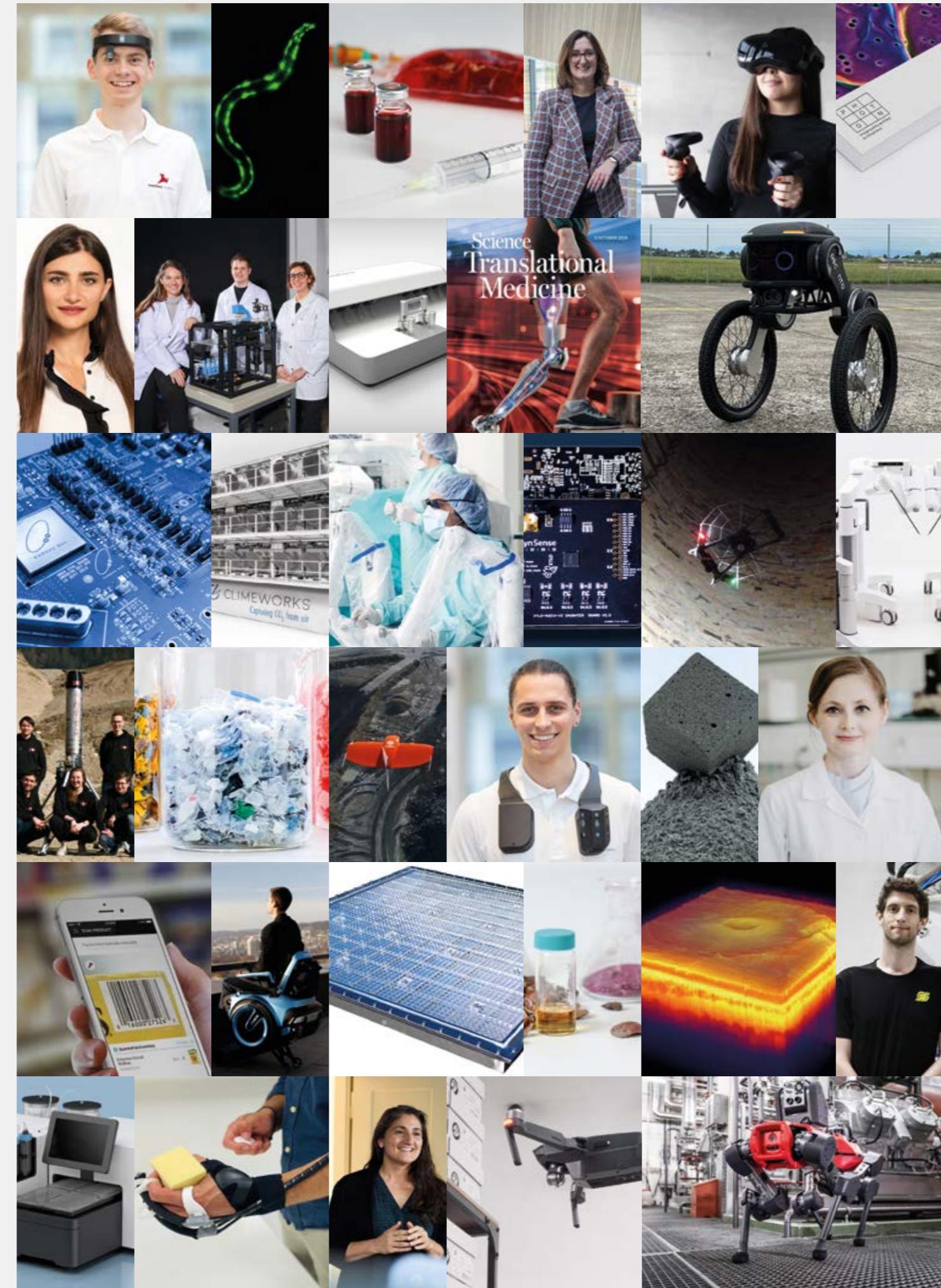
The strategy board of successful entrepreneurs and supporting partners' representatives defines Venture Kick's medium- and longterm objectives and strategy. It is composed of Dr. Pascale Vonmont, Gebert Rüf Stiftung; Dr. Suzanne Avedik, Ernst Göhner Stiftung; Philip Bodmer, former Volkswirtschaftsstiftung, and Dr. Jan Lichtenberg, Co-Founder and CEO of InSphero AG, and a former winner of Venture Kick.

Pool of Experts

Juries of successful investors and proven business experts regularly evaluate Venture Kick applicants' projects at jury sessions. The composition of each jury varies from session to session and is drawn from a pool of experts listed at www.venturekick.ch/jury.

Venture Kick Management

Venture Kick's strategy board has mandated Venturelab Ltd. to manage operations. Co-managing directors Beat Schillig, Jordi Montserrat, and Philip Hassler built the program since day 1 and share responsibility for Venture Kick's successful operations and sustainable growth. They are supported by a strong team running the daily startup support operations, selection process, jury sessions, Kickers Camps, promotion activities at Swiss universities and introductions to national and international investors.



OUTLOOK

For 2025 we plan the following:

→ **880 APPLICATIONS**

→ **416 PROJECTS PRESENTED**

at 68 jury sessions (26 stage 1 / 26 stage 2 / 16 stage 3)

→ **247 PROJECTS FUNDED**

(130 at CHF 10,000 / 78 at CHF 40,000 / 39 at CHF 100,000)

→ **CHF 8,320,000**

in seed-funding for startup projects

→ **56 KICKERS CAMPS**

2-day workshops in small groups

→ **17 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 nine years from now:

→ **3,000 STARTUPS**

3,000 incorporated high-tech companies

→ **100,000 JOBS**

43 sustainable jobs created per active Venture Kick alumni (2024: 19 jobs per alumni)

→ **CHF 50 Billion INVESTMENT**

CHF 19 million of investment raised per active Venture Kick alumni (2024: CHF 11 million per alumni)



A KICK FOUNDATION INITIATIVE

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 2007, the philanthropic initiative Venture Kick has invested CHF 90 million to support 1,111+ startup projects from Swiss universities. Today 750 high-tech companies have attracted CHF 9 billion from investors, created 14,500 jobs and keep growing strong!



www.venturekick.ch

THE PRIVATE INITIATIVE VENTURE KICK IS FINANCED BY:

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