

Enabling new business

INVEST



INVESTMENT PROMOTION

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Investment promotion is an important part of Swiss economic policy and takes the form of close cooperation between businesses, the state, the cantons, and Switzerland Global Enterprise. The activities used to promote foreign direct investment in Switzerland are organized and coordinated by Switzerland Global Enterprise on behalf of the state.

14.1 RESPONSIBILITIES AND SERVICES

In accordance with Switzerland's federal form of government, responsibility for investment promotion is shared between the federal government and the cantons.

Acting on behalf of the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) and the cantons, Switzerland Global Enterprise (S-GE) informs foreign potential investors about Switzerland's particular strengths as well as the underlying conditions for doing business in Switzerland. The offices S-GE maintains abroad are known as "Swiss Business Hubs" (SBH). The specialists at these hubs are the first point of contact for foreign investors. Foreign investors from countries without SBHs can contact the S-GE team of experts in Switzerland directly. Its services for foreign companies include assessing the potential of their projects before they are presented to the cantons.

Area and cantonal economic development agencies are responsible for informing potential investors about the advantages of locating a business in their respective canton, presenting them with concrete location proposals, and organizing local support for investors as they settle in. Even after an investment project has been completed successfully, the economic development agencies continue to look after the investors through a kind of customer service.

S-GE supports foreign investors with the following tasks through the network of cantonal economic development agencies and various private-sector partners:

- Making contact with regional and cantonal economic development offices
- Looking for the ideal location in Switzerland
- Meeting legal and administrative requirements
- Working together with research centers and universities
- Obtaining work and residence permits
- Defining the ideal corporate structure and understanding the Swiss tax system

Switzerland Global Enterprise supports companies at all times throughout their investment project. Contact addresses can be found in the appendix.

www.s-ge.com/invest

Switzerland Global Enterprise S-GE

Languages: German, English, French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, Chinese, Japanese

www.s-ge.com/areas

www.s-ge.com/cantons

Areas and cantons

Languages: German, English, French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, Chinese, Japanese

14.2 PROMOTIONAL POLICY AND INSTRUMENTS

In line with Switzerland's liberal economic system, economic policy in Switzerland focuses on optimum structuring and support for the general business environment. Financial assistance programs are time-limited and strategic. In general, financial assistance from the state always complements private initiatives.

The possible funding options, the mix of various instruments and the scale of payments depend on the specific investment project. There is always room for individual solutions. It is therefore advisable, once a project has been roughly evaluated, to discuss it with the cantonal economic development agencies first.

14.2.1 Cantonal Promotion

Most Swiss cantons have their own economic development agencies, although some of these work together with other cantons. All cantons can offer tax relief to businesses as an economic development incentive. Other forms of economic assistance vary from canton to canton, depending on interest and regional economic conditions.

14.2.2 Tax Relief as Part of Regional Policy

As part of federal regional policy, specific support is given for the economic development of structurally weak regions such as mountainous areas and rural districts. The federal government can support major investment and innovation projects as well as the establishment of new companies in these regions through tax relief. The main requirement for federal tax relief is that the canton in question also supports the project by providing an equivalent level of tax relief. Since July 1, 2016, 93 regional centers in 19 cantons belong to the regions applying such relief.

The application process for tax relief in connection with regional policies is always handled by the cantons. The cantonal economic development agencies in question provide consultation on the best way to proceed.

See also chapter 9.4.3

www.seco.admin.ch > Promotion activities > SME policy
Tax Relief as Part of Regional Policy
Languages: German, English, French, Italian

Examples of Cantonal Business Promotion Instruments

(FIG. 67)

RANGE OF SERVICES	TYPE OF SUPPORT
Procurement of sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Providing commercial premises and land – Contribution to the costs of planning and / or building industrial premises – Subsidizing the cost of converting corporate buildings
Taxes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Offering tax relief during the start-up or construction phase as well as for restructuring projects
Funding investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Granting or assisting with securities for bank loans – Assisting with interest-rate cuts or paying/waiving interest costs – Offering interest-free or low-interest cantonal loans – One-off contributions ("à fonds perdu")

Sources: Legal basis and information from cantonal economic development agencies

Areas of Application for Tax Breaks, 2016

(FIG. 68)



● Areas of application as per DEA directive of July 1, 2016

Sources: State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), 2017

14.2.3 Switzerland Innovation

Switzerland Innovation offers domestic and foreign business in Switzerland's first-class locations for developing innovative ideas into marketable products. As a collective instrument of the Federal Government, cantons, science, and industry, Switzerland Innovation strengthens Switzerland's innovative capacity in international competition and creates a platform for making connections between Swiss universities and innovative enterprises.

Large sites suitable for development in the vicinity of leading universities are made available to internationally operating businesses for setting up research and development facilities. Switzerland Innovation consists of five regional locations and one national foundation.

For more information on Switzerland Innovation, please see chapter 12.6.

14.2.4 Commission for Technology and Innovation (CTI)

CTI is Switzerland's federal innovation promotion agency. For more than 60 years, it has fostered the transfer of knowledge and technology between businesses and universities. It brings partners from these two areas together in applied research and development projects and provides assistance to start-up companies during the development phase. Switzerland has one of the highest levels of innovation of any country in the world. CTI has a budget of about CHF 100 million and operates under the motto "Science to Market." Companies work with universities to generate new knowledge that can be used to develop products and services and bring them to market.

CTI provides funding for:

- market-oriented R+D projects carried out jointly by companies and universities in the areas of industry and services,
- the establishment and development of science-based companies,
- transfer of knowledge and technology through platforms and networks.

R&D project grants are available in all disciplines involving scientific innovation. Project applications are submitted in accordance with the bottom-up principle. Grants are awarded on the basis of innovative content and market potential.

In its Venturelab program, CTI helps promising entrepreneurs get started by guiding them through customized training modules. The modules give them the tools and methods they need to implement an exciting business idea and establish a new company. Young entrepreneurs can also apply for professional coaching. Support is provided to knowledge-intensive technology-based companies with great market potential.

The CTI promotes knowledge and technology transfer (KTT) between universities and industry, where this does not happen without support. CTI's KTT support strengthens knowledge and technology transfer between universities and industries in the same region. Professionally run national thematic networks (NTNs) provide on-site assistance to SMEs and universities in making contacts and developing projects.

Innovative Swiss companies and researchers are also offered development opportunities through access to international programs and networks such as IS, ESA, and EUREKA.

For the CTI to be as effective as possible in its role as a promoter of innovation and to be well equipped for the challenges of the future, it was converted on January 1, 2018 from a government commission to a public institution called Innosuisse.

www.kti.admin.ch
Commission for Technology and Innovation (CTI)
Languages: German, English, French, Italian

www.innosuisse.ch
Innosuisse - Swiss agency for innovation promotion
Languages: German, English, French, Italian

www.venturelab.ch
Venturelab
Languages: German, English, French

www.ctistartup.ch
KTI Start-up
Language: English

14.2.5 Technology Parks and Business Incubators

Facilities and support centers designed to encourage or facilitate entrepreneurial activity are now part of an economy's infrastructure. Switzerland has a large number of technology parks and business incubators or start-up centers. Most have joined together to form networks or associations. They differ in concept and specific focus; some have developed in close cooperation with universities while others stem from purely private initiatives. They offer premises (generally at preferential rates) for the start-up and development phase as well as shared infrastructure and professional support.

Participation by their umbrella organizations in international networks enables them to use technology park infrastructures throughout Europe. This enables companies to speed up the difficult start-up phase and save on start-up costs. A number of business incubation centers have also been formed in major cities. They too serve as short-term start-up locations for foreign companies establishing new operations in Switzerland by providing flexible and expandable premises, contacts, and business incubation support.

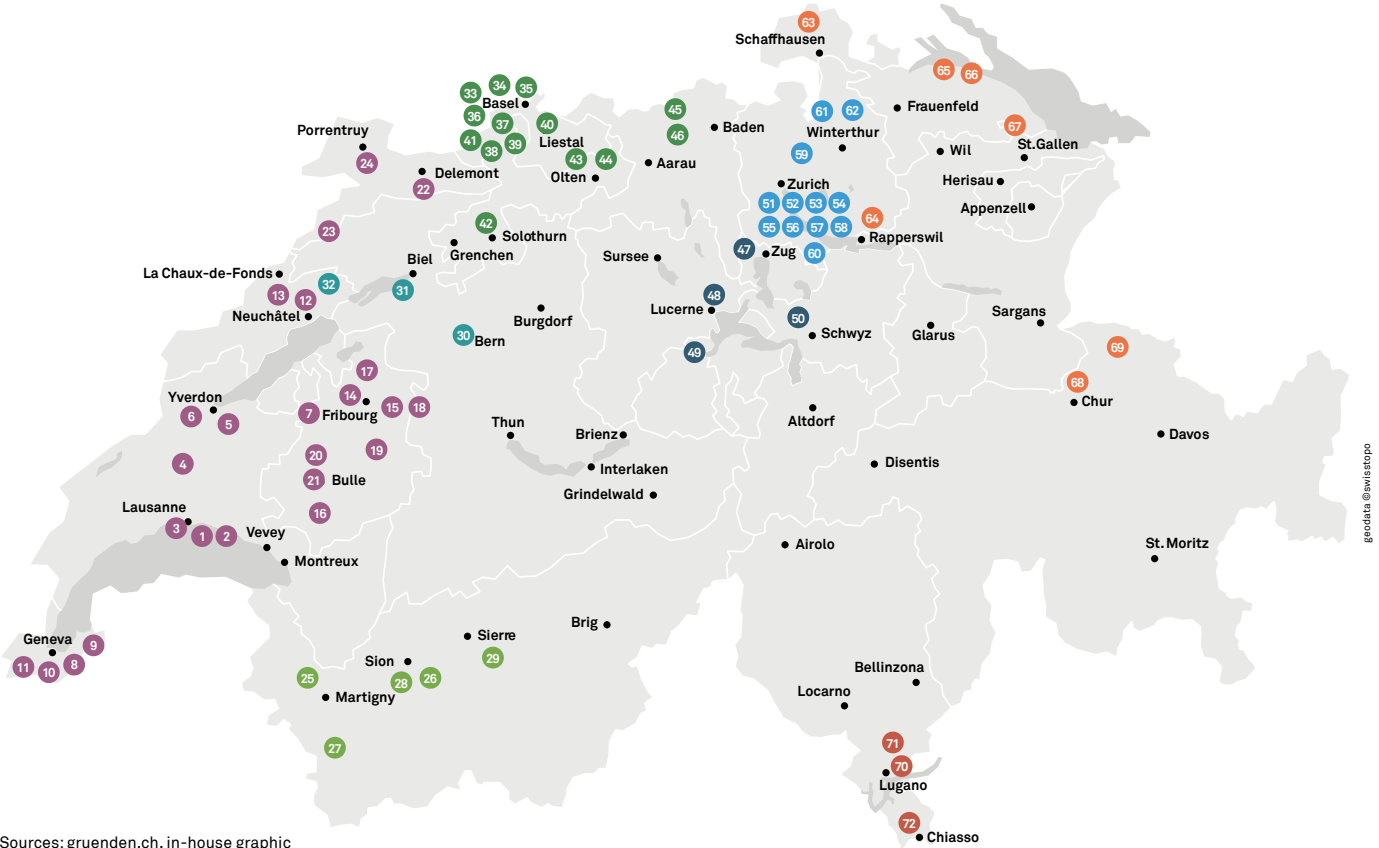
Technology parks and business incubators have the following advantages:

- They provide services such as consultation, coaching, telephone services, etc.
- They offer contacts to universities
- Companies are surrounded by like-minded entrepreneurs
- Infrastructure and flexible premises
- Networking
- Higher chance of success: the average survival rate is more than 90%

www.swissparks.ch
Association of Swiss Technology Parks and Business Incubators
Language: English

Technology Parks and Business Incubators

(FIG. 69)



Sources: gruenden.ch, in-house graphic

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Technopark-Allianz

www.technopark-allianz.ch

SwissParks – Association of Swiss Technology Parks and Business Incubators

www.swissparks.ch

Interest group Coworking Schweiz

www.coworking-schweiz.ch

Switzerland Innovation, innovation park at 5 locations

www.switzerland-innovation.com

WESTERN SWITZERLAND

1 EPFL Innovation Park, Lausanne

www.epfl-innovationpark.ch

2 Biopôle Business Park Lausanne, Epalinges, Life Sciences

www.biopole.ch

3 La Fondation des Ateliers de la Ville de Renens, Renens

www.ateliersvdr.ch

4 TecOrbe, Cleantech, Orbe

www.tecorbe.ch

5 Y-Parc - Swiss Technopole, Yverdon-les-Bains

www.y-parc.ch

6 Center for microwelding, Sainte-Croix (VD)

www.technopole1450.ch

7 Aéroport Broye, Aviation and aerospace industry, Payerne

www.aeropole.ch

8 Campus Biotech, Geneva

www.campusbiotech.ch

9 Impact Hub Geneva

<http://geneva.impacthub.net>

10 Ecllosion SA, incubator, Plan-les-Ouates

www.ecllosion.com

11 FONGIT, technology center, Plan-les-Ouates

www.fongit.ch

12 Neode Parc center for micro / nanotechnology, Neuchâtel

www.neode.ch

13 Neode Parc center for micro- / nanotechnology, La Chaux-de-Fonds

www.neode.ch

14 Bluefactory, innovation center, Fribourg

www.bluefactory.ch

15 Fri Up, business incubator, Fribourg

www.friup.ch

16 Fri Up, business incubator south, Vaulruz

www.friup.ch

17 Fri Up, business incubator north, Murten

www.friup.ch

18 Innovation Lab Fribourg

www.innolabfribourg.ch

19 Marly Innovation Center, Marly

www.marly-innovation-center.org

20 Venturi Start-up Accelerator, Villaz-St-Pierre

<http://venturi.vivier.ch>

21 Le Vivier, Technology park

Parc technologique Villaz-St-Pierre

www.vivier.ch

- 22 medtech lab, Creapole SA, Courroux
www.creapole.ch
- 23 media lab, Creapole SA, La Noirmont
www.creapole.ch
- 24 micro lab, Creapole SA, Porrentruy
www.creapole.ch

VALAIS

- 25 BioArk, biotechnology center, Monthey
www.bioark.ch
- 26 BlueArk, technology center for renewable energy, Sion
www.blueark.ch
- 27 IdeArk, technological center for multimodal interaction, Martigny
www.ideark.ch
- 28 PhytoArk, development center for plant-based products, Sion-Conthey
www.phytoark.ch
- 29 TechnoArk, ICT center, Sierre
www.technoark.ch

BERN

- 30 Impact Hub Bern
www.bern.impacthub.net
- 31 Switzerland Innovation Park, Biel/Bienne
www.innocampus.ch
- 32 Technologieparks, Saint-Imier, TP I (Techtransfer), TP II (Cleantech)
www.saint-imier.ch

NORTHWEST SWITZERLAND

- 33 Basel incubator, start-up center of the University of Basel and the FHNW
www.basel-inkubator.ch
- 34 Technologiepark Basel
www.technologiepark-basel.ch
- 35 Switzerland Innovation Park, Basel
www.switzerland-innovation.com/baselarea
- 36 Startup Academy, Basel
www.startup-academy.ch
- 37 Stellwerk Basel, for self-employed people in creative industries
www.stellwerkbasel.ch
- 38 Business Park Laufental & Thierstein, Zwingen
www.bplt.ch
- 39 business parc, Reinach
www.businessparc.ch
- 40 Tenum AG, center for construction, energy and environmental technology, Liestal
www.tenum.ch
- 41 TZW technology center, Witterswil, Life Sciences
www.tzw-witterswil.ch
- 42 Business incubator, Canton of Solothurn, Solothurn
www.gzs.ch

- 43 Plug&Start, Start-up Factory, Olten
www.plug-and-start.ch
- 44 SwissbioLabs, Olten, accelerator for diagnostics and bioanalytics
www.Swissbiolabs.ch
- 45 Switzerland Innovation Park Innovaare at PSI, Villigen
www.parkinnovaare.ch
- 46 Technopark Aargau, Brugg
www.technopark-aargau.ch

CENTRAL SWITZERLAND

- 47 BusinessPark Zug, business incubator
www.businessparkzug.ch
- 48 Technopark Lucerne, ROOT D4
www.technopark-luzern.ch
- 49 microPark Pilatus, Alpnach
www.microparkpilatus.ch
- 50 Technology center Schwyz, Steinen
www.tzsz.ch

ZURICH

- 51 Technopark Zurich
www.technopark.ch
- 52 BlueLion, Zurich; incubator for ICT and cleantech companies
www.bluelion.ch
- 53 Impact Hub Zurich
www.zurich.impacthub.ch
- 54 StartZentrum Zurich
www.startzentrum.ch
- 55 Switzerland Innovation Park Zurich
www.switzerland-innovation.com/Zurich
- 56 Swiss Startup Factory, Zurich
www.swissstartupfactory.com
- 57 Biotechnology park, Schlieren Zurich
www.bio-technopark.ch
- 58 startup space, Schlieren Zurich
www.startup-space.ch
- 59 glaTec - Empa incubator, Dübendorf
www.glatec.ch
- 60 grow - Gründerorg. Wädenswil
www.grow-waedenswil.ch
- 61 Technopark Winterthur, Winterthur
www.technopark-winterthur.ch
- 62 RUNWAY, Start-up incubator, ZHAW Winterthur
www.zhaw.ch/runway

EASTERN SWITZERLAND

- 63 RhyTech - Materials Work, Neuhausen
www.rhytech.ch
- 64 Futur foundation, business incubator Rapperswil-Jona
www.futur.ch
- 65 High tech center, Tägerwilen
www.high-tech-center.ch

- 66 Bodensee Technologie & Trade Center, business incubator, Kreuzlingen
www.btcc.ch
- 67 Startfeld Innozentrum, St. Gallen
www.startfeld.ch
- 68 HTW Entrepreneurship Lab, Chur
www.e-towerchur.ch
- 69 Innoznet, TRUMPF, Grösch
www.innoznet.ch

TICINO

- 70 Centro Promozione Start-up, Lugano
www.cpstartup.ch
- 71 Tecnopolo Manno
www.agire.ch
- 72 Tecnopolo Chiasso
www.agire.ch