



# EPFL start-up support

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P. Biro – Program Director Venture Kick

# Main start-up support for EPFL



Grant / investment / loan



Training / coaching



Visibility to customers / investors / partners



Housing / working space

## Venture Kick



## Venturelab



Venturelab Ask the Entrepreneur workshops



Innosuisse Start-up training module 1

Venturelab Venture Leaders (int. Business dev.)



Innosuisse Start-up training module 3 & 4



Innosuisse Start-up training module 2



Gebert ruf Stiftung grants



Fondation de Vigier & Prix PERL



Fondation pour l'innovation technologique



Incubators: NEODE, La Forge, Le Garage



Venture.ch competition



Swisscom Startup Challenge



IMD Startup Competition



Tech Transfer Office (TTO-VPI)

Enable grant



EPFL

EPFL reasearch Awards



X grant & InnoGrant (VPI)



## Innosuisse / SNF

Innosuisse/ SNF Bridge (discovery & PoC)



Innosuisse Start-up coaching, innovation check & market entry camp



Innosuisse innovation projects (with or without partner)



Research

POC / Business case

Product Dev / market test

Product improv, growth, scale-up

# Other supports



Grant / investment / loan







Training / coaching





Visibility to customers / investors / partners




Housing / working space


Accelerators: MassChallenge, Baselaunch (Biotech), Inartis Challenge    

Fondation Latsis 

Fondation Liechti 



Cautionnement romand 




Horizon 2020 – Research Projects 

Horizon 2020 – SME Instrument 


National Centres of Competence in Research (NCCRs) 



DebioPharm (biotech)  



Hasler Stiftung (Innovation ICT)  

Prix Strategis HEC Lausanne / Prix Start HEC   




Startups.ch Award  


Impact Hub Fellowship Energy-Cleantech 


Swiss Startup Awards: PostFinance, Axa Innovation, Axpo Energy Award  


Internation Create Challenge  


Rolex Award

Hello Tomorrow   

Platinn 



InnoVaud (SPEco) – Innovation information desk in Canton de Vaud 

EY Entrepreneur Of The Year 

Genilem 

Microsoft Partner of the Year Awards 

Swiss ICT Award 

EPFL Seed Money Program - CODEV  

Research

POC / Business case

Product Dev / market test

Product improv, growth, scale-up

Nom	Organisation	Description	Eligibility	When?	Max Cash
Venture Kick	Venture Kick fondation	Double the number of spin-offs at Swiss academic institutions through early detelnnosuisseon and promotion of promising business ideas of in all disciplines. Up to 130k Chf in 3 stages (stage 1 10k, stage 2 20k, stage 3 100k) + coaching and exposure to investors and in media.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Enrolled in a Swiss university or other academic instituions</li> <li>- Future incorporation of a company in Switzerland</li> <li>- Company not yet started and no venture capital received</li> </ul>	Open call, more than once per month	130k
Venture Leaders	Venturelab	SeleInnosuisseon of 20 young entrepreneurs with innovative high-tech product ideas. 4 different program: Silicon Valley (tech), Boston (Life Science), New York (Fintech), China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Be the founder or manager or a promising high-tech start-up</li> <li>- Have an innovative technology idea</li> </ul>	Annual	N/A
Startup Acceleration workshops	Venturelab	workshops covering the know-how and tools required to accelerate the development of your project.	High-tech innovation business based in Switzerland	2 times per year	N/A
Bridge - Proof of Concept	Innosuisse / SNF	Support for young academic persons developing an innovative application based on their work. Max 12 months renewable for 6 more months. Can pay salaries and material costs.	Academic link required (bachelor min)	4 times per year	Not defined
Bridge - Discovery	Innosuisse / SNF	Support for more experienced academic persons developing an innovative application based on their work. Only high impact projects  Max 4 years. Salarie of project staff and project-related materials. The salaries of project leaders are generally excluded	Academic link required	2 times per year	Not defined
Innosuisse innovation projects	Innosuisse	To be developped with a company (can be a startup). Pay half of the reserach costs, usually costs on the academic institute side. Company other half can be paid in-kind but usually, some cash should be paid also. 350k Chf in average, can be more or less.	Having a team with an academic member and a company.	Open call. Evaluation aprox. Once per month	>350k

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Innosuisse Start-up coaching	Innosuisse	You receive vouchers in 3 steps to get coaching. 1st level is Business idea reviewed (5k CHF in coaching). 2nd level is develop strategy, enter markets (50k CHF in coaching). Last and 3rd level is being ready to grow (75k CHF in coaching).	Swiss startup with a tech component.	Open call	N/A
Vice presidency for innovation	EPFL-VPI	Protect your ideas and disclose your inventions to the Tech Transfer Office (TTO). Define a research contract with an industrial partner. Develop a project or an idea as a start-up. Write a Innosuisse project	Be an EPFL member	N/A	N/A
Innogrants	EPFL-VPI	Support financially high-potential projects in which its employees or students are involved. An innogrants is a maximum of CHF100'000, mostly in the form of an EPFL salary.	- Project in the very early stage, even if the start-up already exists. - If you are not an EPFL employee, you will have to find a hosting laboratory.	Open call	100k
XGrant	EPFL-VPI	Awards up to 10k CHFm workshops, immersive trips to Berlin and San Francisco, guidance.	-You need to be an EPFL Bachelor or Master Student. - Have a great idea	Open call	10k
Innosuisse innovation projects without an implementation partner	Innosuisse	Researchers who have an idea for an innovative project but who do not have a partner to help implement it can still submit a funding application to the Innosuisse. This gives a chance to promising, highly innovative projects which are otherwise considered too high-risk for market implementation. Max 18 months.	Academic link High innovation potential Too risky as such for go to market Intention to team with a company.	Open call. Evaluation aprox. Once per month	Not defined
Innosuisse start-up training	Innosuisse / Venturelab (except module 2)	The Innosuisse start-up training programme helps the businesspeople of tomorrow in four specialist modules. There is 4 modules: Module 1: business idea - motivational event Module 2: business concept - for future founders Module 3: Business creation - for those ready to found a company Module 4: Growth: to grow your startup	Module 1 & 2: for people with an academic link. Module 3 & 4: for people building a startup	In different cities, several time per year, see calendar	N/A

Nom	Organisation	Description	Eligibility	When?	Max Cash
Innosuisse internationalisation camp	Innosuisse / Swissnex	Programme in collaboration with Swissnex and local Swiss embassies. Help projects wanting to develop on an international scale to go abroad. Available for USA, China, India, Brazil, Uk. Cover up to 20k in costs.	Need to be registered in the Innosuisse start-up coaching.		N/A
Fondation de Vigier	Fondation de Vigier	CHF 500'000, of which CHF 100'000 for each of five companies per year	Innovative project in CH. CEO is full time and less than 45 years old Already incorporated as AG or GmbH	Annual	100k
Trophé PERL – Prix Entreprendre	Ville de Lausanne	Promote entrepreneurial excellence, spirit of innovation and leadership in the region of Lausanne. CHF 80'000, of which CHF 50'000 for the 1st, CHF 10'000 for the 2nd to 5th and CHF 10'000 for the others.	- Any large corporation, SME, start-up or individual - Based on the territory of the community of Lausanne	Annual	50k
Gebert rüf Stiftung grants	Gebert rüf Stiftung	Grant-making foundation for promotion of innovation in Switzerland. 15 millions in grant each year. Range from 20k to 500k most of the time.	- Must be pilot projects of highly qualified young scientists - New projects and ideas only - Preferably linked to a Swiss academic inst. Without support from other funds	4 times per year	500k
Fondation pour l'innovation technologique	Canton de Vaud	Promote innovation technology ventures with a high degree of feasibility. FIT SEED: up to 100k, max 50% of co-financing. <12 months since incorporation. FIT EARLY: 300 to 500k, max 50% of co-financing. 12 to 36 months since incorporation.	- Based in Swiss Romandie - Collaboration with a Swiss academic institution - From applied research to prototype stage	N/A	500k
EPFL reasearch Awards	EPFL & Others	Several reaserach prizes exists with different conditions for award.	Various	Mostly annual	Not defined

Nom	Organisation	Description	Eligibility	When?	Max Cash
Venture	Venture	ObjetInnosuisseve Promote innovative business ideas through a business plan competition in combination with learning support Prize money 60k Chf (Business plan) or 15k Chf (Business idea) for 1st plus other prizes for other winners + coaching.	- For budding entrepreneurs in Switzerland who have innovative business ideas - Individuals or teams resident in Switzerland	Annual	60k
IMD Start-up Competition	IMD	- To provide a hands-on learning experience in entrepreneurship - To provide input and support to B52 to improve their chances of funding and success - To provide a unique opportunity to benefit from the help and insights of a team of experienced IMD participants Price: collaboration with IMD students	Regional early stage ventures or more advances start-ups with development issues	Annual	N/A
Enable	TTO EPFL	Programme of the TTO supporting EPFL inventions, technologies and start-up projects. Particularly provides funding for prototyping, advanced proof-of-concept, benchmarking of inventions with existing technologie. Up to 30 k per project Can also pay also an intern to support project team	Being registred at EPFL with a	Open call (14 projects in 2015)	30k
La Forge	EPFL Innovation Park	Located at the heart of EPFL Innovation Park, La Forge is a co-working space offering a unique environment for starting entrepreneurs related to EPFL to shape their ideas into companies.	La Forge is open to innovative entrepreneurs in their starting phase, and startup value added contributors.	N/A	N/A
NEODE	Microcity EPFL	Provide housing an potentially access to infrastructure of Microcity (e.g. clean rooms). There is also a NEOD Award providing 50k in coaching and services.	Project technologic wishing to access infrastructure in Microcity.	N/A	N/A
MassChallenge	Mass challenge Switzerland	MassChallenge is a startup accelerator. It awards up to 1MChf each year to 10 to 20 startups. Also provide in-kind award in the shape of advisory, working space, etc...	Any project with high innovation potential, based in CH	Annual	<100k

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Kickstart Accelerator	Kickstart Accelerator	Kickstart Accelerator is one of the Europe's largest multi-corporate, zero equity accelerators. For 11 weeks it brings 30 of the most promising international startups to Zürich. CHF 15'000 seed funding and chance to get an additional grant of up to CHF 25'000.	Innovative startup in the field of Healthcare, Food, FinTech, Smart Cities and Robotics & Intelligent Systems	Annual	40k
Baselaunch	Baselaunch (backed by J&J, Novartis, VF and Pfizer)	Support and accelerate the most promising and ground-breaking healthcare companies. 2 phases, which extend over a total of 15 months. Phase 1: up to 10k Chf - Phase 2: up to 250k Chf	- projects at the pre-seed to seed funding stage - Strong innovation in healthcare - From anywhere, willing to establish in Basel	Annual	260k
Debiopharm Inartis Challenge	DebioPharm foundation	Competition with the objetInnosuisseve to improve patient quality of life. 25k chf for winner, 25k among remaining finalists.	Project with innovation, impact of patient life quality, commercial potential	Annual	25k
Swisscom Startup Challenge	Swisscom / Venturelab	Business acceleration program in Silicon Valley for 5 winners	Startup with high potential in the fields: Artificial Intelligence, eCommerce, Smart Cities, Internet of Things, FinTech and Telecommunications	Annual	N/A
Le Garage	EPFL Innovation Park	Located at the heart of EPFL Innovation Park, La Forge is a co-working space offering a unique environment for starting entrepreneurs related to EPFL to shape their ideas into companies.	La Forge is open to innovative entrepreneurs in their starting phase, and startup value added contributors.	N/A	N/A
Hasler Stiftung	Hasler Stiftung	Promote Information & Communication Technologies (ICT) in Switzerland. CHF 50'000 maximum per project Other rewards: Coaching & Training for students - PR & Visibility	- For educational, research and innovation projects developping ICT technologies (real innovation, not just application) - University and other Swiss academic institutions - Non commercial organisations - Individuals and start-ups resident in Switzerland		50k



Nom	Organisation	Description	Eligibility	When?	Max Cash
SME Participation	Europe / Horizon 2020	Phase 1: up to 50k € Phase 2: between 500k€ to 2.5 M€, financing up to 70% of the expansion plan.	- Innovative project with an existing product - strong innovation and large potential for international scale-up.	4 times per year	50k / 2.5M
Horizon 2020	Europe / Horizon 2020	Multitude of calls for projects	Various	Various	Not defined
DebioPharm	DebioPharm foundation	Invest money in Life Science projects. Over USD 95 million invested since 2008. Cumulative equity raised by all companies: USD 500 million.	Experienced management team Innovative technology Fit with Debiopharm Group's interests Strong execution plan	Open	Not defined
Prix Strategis HEC Lausanne		ObjetInnosuisse Reward a young company of the Swiss Romandie region for its entrepreneurship. CHF 50'000 for the 1st, in kind of coaching for 2nd and 3rd. Coaching by Deloitte, media training by Bilan	1 – Swiss Startup 2 – Project less than 5 yrs old 3 – Product or service already implemented	Annual	50k
STARTUPS.CH Award	STARTUPS.CH	Encourage the creation of new commercial business ventures through the definition of a business plan. 50'000 CHF, 30k in cash, 20k in service	- New ideas of all business areas - Company either not incorporated yet or less than three years - Applicant must be Swiss resident	Annual	30k
Start-up support	Hasler Stiftung	from 100k to 500k for start-up support with equity stake	- Based in Swiss, ideally university spinoff - Scalable and innovative in the domain of ICT. Real innovation, not only an app. - Real commercial potential	Open call for research prog. 3 times per year for seed funding	500k
Cautionnement romand	Cautionnement romand	Can back-up entrepreneurs (guarantee credit reimbursement) to get credit with a bank up to 500k Chf.	- have a credit from a bank - Be in the french part of CH	n/a	500k

Nom	Organisation	Description	Eligibility	When?	Max Cash
Coup de Pouce de la Fondation Liechti	Fondation Liechti	Support entrepreneurial projects in economy, ecology or preferably humanitarian fields that foster sustainable progress in view of improvement of health or against poverty. CHF 50'000 as grant	Early stage projects not benefiting yet of other important supports or funding	Annual	50k
Prix Start	Start HEC	Foster innovation in Unil and EPFL campus and create links between them. 30'000 CHF grant	Student from EPFL or UNIL with a innovation idea	Annual	30k
Impact Hub Fellowship Energy-Cleantech	Impact Hub	Award given to the most innovant projects in cleantech. Winners win also coaching and housing. 28k for winner and 4k for other finalists	Projects linked with cleantech in CH	Annual	28k
PostFinance Digital Business Award	PostFinance	Winners get 50k Chf	Startups innovating in the value-chain of a service company like Post Should not be incorporated	Annual	50k
AXA Innovation Award	AXA Winthertur	Winners get 50k Chf	Startups with innovative concept Should not be incorporated	Annual	50k
Axpo Energy Award	Axpo	Winners get 50k Chf	Startups from the energy production sector Incorporated less than 3 years before deadline	Annual	50k
International Create Challenge (ICC)	IDIAP	Programme objective is to bring 10 teams to work 3 weeks to work on their product with support of IDIAP. 5k CHF for 3 winners + services and housing from The Ark in Valais..	- Projects using ICT tech developed at IDIAP - Not incorporated	Annual	5k
Innovaud	Canton de Vaud	Support innovation and SMEs in canton de Vaud	Any innovative company wishing to establish in Canton de Vaud	N/A	N/A

Nom	Organisation	Description	Eligibility	When?	Max Cash
Entrepreneur Of The Year	EY	Entrepreneur Of The Year is highly respected across the globe	Innovation in the following sectors: Industry/High-Tech/Life Sciences	Annual	N/A
Hello Tomorrow	Hello Tomorrow	100k equity free	Innovation with at least 2 co-founder FTE and a 1st POC/prototype.		100k
Genilem	Genilem	ObjetInnosuisse is to coach and help young companies in Switzerland. Coaching / training for startups.	Be a young innovative company / startup	N/A	N/A
Platinn	SECO	Supports startups and SMEs in Western Switzerland with coaching and advices	SMEs or Startup from Western CH	N/A	N/A
Rolex Awards	Rolex foundation	100'000 Chf for each of the 5 winners	- environment, applied science and technology or exploration - between the ages of 18 and 30 years old	Annual	100k
Fondation Latsis Internationale Award	EPFL	The "Fondation Latsis Internationale", a charitable organisation, was established in 1975 by the Greek family Latsis in Geneva. The Foundation currently awards four University Prizes, worth CHF 25,000.- each, as well as a National and a European Latsis Prize of CHF 100,000.- each.	Candidates can be nominated by EPFL professors or they can apply directly to the EPFL Research Office. Candidate max 40 years	Annual	100K
Red Herring 100 Euro Award	Red Herring (GB)	As the most important European Award and one of the most known globally, Red Herring wants to promote the top 100 hightech companies in three global regions : Asia, North America, Europe.	- a technology/life science company - Headquartered in the specific region - Privately held	Annual	N/A
Innosuisse Medtech Award	Innosuisse	To support innovation and competitiveness in the Swiss Medtech sector and stimulate the transfer of knowledge between research, medtech firms, startups and SMEs. 10k CHF	Swiss project based on medical technology using high-tech	Annual	10k
Microsoft Partner of the Year Awards	Microsoft	Honor yearly the companies who achieved outstanding results with the help of MS software. PR & Visibility and exclusive access to Microsoft resources	Be MS partner network member who has registered its software solution in the MS Pinpoint database	Annual	N/A

Nom	Organisation	Description	Eligibility	When?	Max Cash
Swiss ICT Award	Swiss ICT Award	Honor outstanding ICT performances of Swiss companies	Company based in Switzerland - Three categories: 1- Champion 2- Newcomer 3- Public	Annual	N/A
Swiss Logistics Award	GS1	Honor innovative achievements in logistics that had over average market success to attract attention to the quality of Swiss logistic	Swiss company in manufacturing, trade or services	Annual	N/A
Swiss Solar Award	Swiss Solar Agency	To reward individuals, companies, associations, federations, communities and other private or public institutions who have distinguished themselves for the use and promotion of solar energy or biomass energy installations as well as other renewable energy sources.	Three main categories and several sub-categories	Annual	N/A
Swiss Technology Award	Swiss Innovation Forum	Reward specially innovative innovations that have unique technological, economic and market potential in implementation	- Three categories: 1 – Inventors 2 – Start-ups stage 3 – Companies in maturity stage - Swiss based innovation and cie	Annual	N/A
Watt d'Or	Confédération suisse	Reward best energy projects in Switzerland Pay tribute to especially significant and exemplary projects in the energy sector, and to those persons and organisations who played a major role in the realisation of such projects	Five categories: 1 – Society 2 - Energy technologies, systems and appliances 3 - Renewable energy 4 - Energy-efficient mobility 5 - Buildings and space	Annual	N/A
National Centres of Competence in Research (NCCRs)	NCCRs	Several grants and call for proposals. Example: NCCR robotics spine fund: up to 150 K CHF for 12 months project.	- Academic link to university - Relevant field of application - Additional criteria variable depending on the grant / call for proposal	Various	150K (depends)

Nom	Organisation	Description	Eligibility	When?	Max Cash
SEF Award	Social Entrepreneurship Foundation	Forster the profesionalization of social entrepreneurship with a business plan competition. 10'000 Chf x 4 categories.	Be a student or alumni of a Swiss university or other academic institution in the area of health, social or environment and social entrepreneurs	Annual	10k
Seed Capital FR	Canton of Fribourg	Seed funding to confirm viability of a project Up to CHF 200'000.- if form of loan without interest	- Innovation projects based in canton de Fribourg - Innovation/tech project with interest already demonstrated	n/a	200k
EPFL Seed Money Program	Codev	Commitment in favour of partnerships with emerging and developing countries is coordinated by the Cooperation & Development Center (CODEV). Finance projects with its Seed Money award max 20k chf	Student from EPFL trying to develop a project linked with developing countries.	Open call	20k
InnoSeed	ENAC-EPFL	Different grants to support innovation in ENAC school. From 10k to 60k	Being resigestered as EPFL-ENAC Researcher	N/A	60k
Fondation pour le financement initial d'entreprises novatrices	Canton de Neuchatel	Promote technology ventures CHF 100'000 to 500'000 as an interest free loan with strings, maximum 50% of the project's budget with 30% of personal liability.	- Based in the canton of Neuchâtel - Venture must be working at the incubator Parc scientifique et technologique Neuchâtel (Neode)	N/A	500k
Generation Entrepreneur	Generation Entrepreneur		New entrepreneurs, less than 3 years old company.	Annual	N/A

Complete list for all Switzerland:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1RGUJahxG0MvKua5qeA7XUvrYOB1Ri12kQma0YSZEu8I/edit#gid=1523173118>