

10 Government Organisations: Longevity in Switzerland



BaselArea.swiss

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BaselArea.swiss is the office for promoting innovation and inward investment for the northwest cantons of Basel-Stadt, Basel-Landschaft and Jura. BaselArea.swiss today employs 20 people and has an annual core budget of 5 million francs, which is borne by the three cantons and the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO).

The core function of BaselArea.swiss is to promote the strengths of the Basel region as a centre for business and to support both Swiss and foreign entrepreneurs and companies in the implementation of their innovation and business projects in the region. The main focus of the services provided by BaselArea.swiss is on the sustained development and maintenance of a network of qualified decision makers, innovators, experts and disseminators. On the basis of this network, BaselArea.swiss provides clients with targeted access to knowledge and specialist know-how.

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biotechnet



The biotechnet is a partnership of the Swiss Universities of Applied Sciences, Universities as well as Research and Technology Organizations, active in the field of biotechnology. It was formed and supported by the commission for technology and innovation (CTI) in 1998 as a national network of competence in research. Through participation in and competent execution of high-caliber R&D projects, the biotechnet rapidly gained recognition as specialized partner to complement R&D projects with state-of-the art as well as innovative technologies.

Today the biotechnet is a virtual network enabling companies and interested institutions to activate biotechnological expertise according to their specific needs. Besides highly specific services for biotechnological R&D, their portfolio also contains process and development consulting. The biotechnet also gained an excellent reputation as designer, organizer and conductor of first class education programs for continuing education programs.

Web site:	biotechnet.ch
Location:	Geneva
Contacts:	Undisclosed

Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

The Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research is one of the seven departments of the federal government of Switzerland, headed by a member of the Swiss Federal Council. EAER deals with economic affairs and trade policy, including agricultural policy. It is also responsible for education, research and innovation. Further areas such as housing are also part of its remit. The department was renamed from Federal Department of Economic Affairs (FDEA) effective on 1 January 2013 based on decisions taken by the Federal Council in 2011.

The Department is composed of the following offices: State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO, State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation SERI, Federal Office for Agriculture FOAG, Federal Office for National Economic Supply FONES.

Web site: wbf.admin.ch

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St Gallen Elderly Care Bank



St Gallen is the first Swiss city to introduce a novel banking scheme in which retired care volunteers “deposit” hours worked looking after elderly people. In return they can use any time saved up for their own care provision later in life. The St Gallen government hopes the pilot project will lower social service costs and encourage local solidarity as it copes with a steadily aging population.

Although it is a voluntary project, it will not be cost free. The St Gallen authorities have proposed creating a foundation with a SFr150,000 annual budget to finance an internet site to allow volunteers to contact those needing help, as well as to cover administrative and training costs. The money will also serve as a guarantee if the project fails, to compensate volunteers for any hours they have accumulated.

Web site: swissinfo.ch

Location: St Gallen

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Swiss Biobanking Platform



Swiss Biobanking Platform (SBP) is the national coordination platform for human and non-human biobanks. It aims to respond to the increasing requests from biomedical researchers regarding quality and the interconnectedness of biobanks for research purposes. SBP was initiated by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), and the association was created on 1st June 2016. SBP should drive substantial progress in life sciences by being the privileged partner of Swiss biomedical researchers.

The SBP vision is to help Switzerland consolidate its position at the forefront of biomedical research by facilitating access and optimal usage of its existing and future biobanked specimens.

Web site:	swissbiobanking.ch
Location:	Lausanne
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Swiss Clinical Trial Organization



The Swiss Clinical Trial Organisation (SCTO) is the central cooperation platform for patient-oriented clinical research in Switzerland. Its primary objective is, in the interests of society, to attractively and competitively position Swiss clinical research in the international competition with respect to innovation and quality.

There are six hospitals in Switzerland with centres for clinical research. These Clinical Trial Units (CTUs) are located at the university hospitals in Basel, Bern, Geneva, Lausanne and Zurich and at the cantonal hospital in St. Gallen. The SCTO coordinates and enhances the cooperation between these centres for clinical research. The SCTO is a joint initiative of the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) and the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences (SAMS). Since 1 January 2013, the SCTO acts as an independent organisation.

Web site: scto.ch

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Swiss Federal Commission for Innovation and Technology



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

The CTI is the federal innovation promotion agency responsible for encouraging science-based innovation in Switzerland by providing financing, professional advice and networks.

The CTI operates on the principle of subsidiarity, supporting innovation projects which, due to lack of funding, would not otherwise be possible, or whose market potential could not be realised. It is active in cases where initiatives in the private sector can be supported by state measures. By helping to transfer research results into concrete marketable products, the CTI helps to improve the competitiveness of Swiss businesses, particularly SMEs, thereby contributing to a strong, innovative economy in Switzerland.

Web site: kti.admin.ch

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Swiss Personalized Health Network



The Swiss Personalized Health Network (SPHN) is a national initiative designed to promote the development of personalized medicine and personalized health in Switzerland. The Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences (SAMS) was mandated 2016 by the State Secretariat for Education, Research, and Innovation (SERI) and by the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH) to develop a Swiss Personalized Health Network (SPHN). The ultimate goal is to promote health and well-being, to prevent, diagnose and treat unfavourable health conditions more precisely, thus reducing the risk of developing such conditions and permitting more effective treatments of disease states with fewer adverse effects.

SPHN will lay the foundations that are needed to facilitate research projects in this area such as a system for a nationwide exchange of health-related data. During the period 2017–2020, priority is given to the development of a nationally coordinated data infrastructure ensuring data interoperability of local and regional information systems with special emphasis on clinical data management systems enabling effective exchange of patient data (e.g. disease phenotypes).

Web site: sphn.ch

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SystemsX.ch



SystemsX.ch is a large public research initiative in Switzerland, focusing specifically on systems biology; the aim of the initiative is for Switzerland to become a global frontrunner in this area of research. In systems biology, researchers describe and measure biological processes and develop theories which they then verify with the aid of models. This calls for cooperation with mathematicians, IT experts and engineers. The holistic approach of systems biology even makes it possible to tackle medical questions, which is why medical researchers are increasingly represented in research consortia.

SystemsX.ch supports well over 1000 scientists in approximately 200 projects and 400 research groups. Fifteen partners are responsible for the initiative on an equal footing: ETH Zurich, EPF Lausanne, eight cantonal universities and five other research institutions.

Web site:	systemsx.ch
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World Health Organization



The World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that is concerned with international public health. The organization was established on 7 April 1948. The WHO is a member of the United Nations Development Group. Its predecessor, the Health Organisation, was an agency of the League of Nations. WHO is now more than 7000 people working in 150 country offices, in six regional offices and at our headquarters. Their primary role is to direct and coordinate international health within the United Nations system. WHO`s main areas of work are health systems; health through the life-course; noncommunicable and communicable diseases; preparedness, surveillance and response; and corporate services.

The World Health Organization supports countries as they coordinate the efforts of governments and partners – including bi- and multilaterals, funds and foundations, civil society organizations and the private sector.

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