

# gründen 2.0

## start-up guide

From an idea to an enterprise:  
information and tips for setting up  
a company in Switzerland



**Introduction**

**Information for non-Swiss nationals**

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## Welcome to gründen 2.0 start-up guide!

### Dear readers

You have a business idea and want to set up your own company? Then the **gründen 2.0 start-up guide** is right for you! The following pages contain useful information and practical tips on the way to establish your own company.

### gründen 2.0

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gründen 2.0 contains:

- Information for non-Swiss nationals: scope of possibilities and required permits
- Overview of legal structures
- Checklist for setting up a company
- Overview business incubators and technology parks
- Addresses and contact points for company founders
- Sponsorship awards and competitions

In addition to the information presented herein, a network of contacts is available (Switzerland-wide) to support you on your way to self-employment. We hope your discussions with the various partners listed in this guide will be fruitful and wish you the best of success with implementing your business idea.

**gründen 2.0** has been produced thanks to the commitment and efforts of the following supporting entities:

Office for Economy and Labor of the Canton of Zürich  
Economic Development  
[www.standort.zh.ch](http://www.standort.zh.ch)

Office for Economy of the Canton of Schwyz  
[www.schwyz-economy.ch](http://www.schwyz-economy.ch)

Economic Development and Tourism Agency of the Canton of Graubünden  
[www.awt.gr.ch](http://www.awt.gr.ch)

University of Applied Sciences HTW Chur  
[www.fh-htwchur.ch](http://www.fh-htwchur.ch)

Federal Office for Professional Education and Technology OPET  
Innovation Promotion Agency CTI  
[www.kti-cti.ch](http://www.kti-cti.ch)

State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO  
Sector SME policies  
[www.seco.admin.ch](http://www.seco.admin.ch)

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

Zurich Bar Association  
[www.zav.ch](http://www.zav.ch)

More than sixty other partners participated in the realization and distribution of **gründen 2.0** (see also [www.gruenden.ch](http://www.gruenden.ch) > Zusatzinformationen)

Some of the websites to which reference is made in this document currently only contain information in German.

## Arriving in Switzerland and setting up a company

### Attractive conditions

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There are several compelling reasons to set up a company or move the domicile to Switzerland. These include a favorable tax climate, political stability, a liberal labor market, social peace, a multilingual population, outstanding educational and research institutions as well as an excellent transportation infrastructure (road, rail and air).

More information about the general business conditions in Switzerland is provided by the Osec Business Network: [www.osec.ch/internet/osec/en/home/invest/worldwide.html](http://www.osec.ch/internet/osec/en/home/invest/worldwide.html).

If you already have a geographical preference, the cantonal organizations for the promotion of economic development are the right contact points:

[www.osec.ch/internet/osec/en/home/invest/worldwide/handbook/location\\_promotion/cantonal\\_assistance.html](http://www.osec.ch/internet/osec/en/home/invest/worldwide/handbook/location_promotion/cantonal_assistance.html).

The cantonal and regional organizations for the promotion of economic development provide useful information and assistance covering topics including:

- Qualities of the preferred location, in consideration of the needs of the interested party
- Location search (real estate, premises, relocation, international schools etc.)
- Work and other permits
- Company foundation
- Regional branch, cluster and technology transfer networks
- Coordination of services rendered by the authorities (one-stop shop)

### Scope of possibilities dependent upon nationality and type of permit

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The overview "Information for non-Swiss nationals" (see page B1 – B3) offers a general outline of your possibilities to enter the country, take up employment, set up a company and acquire real estate.

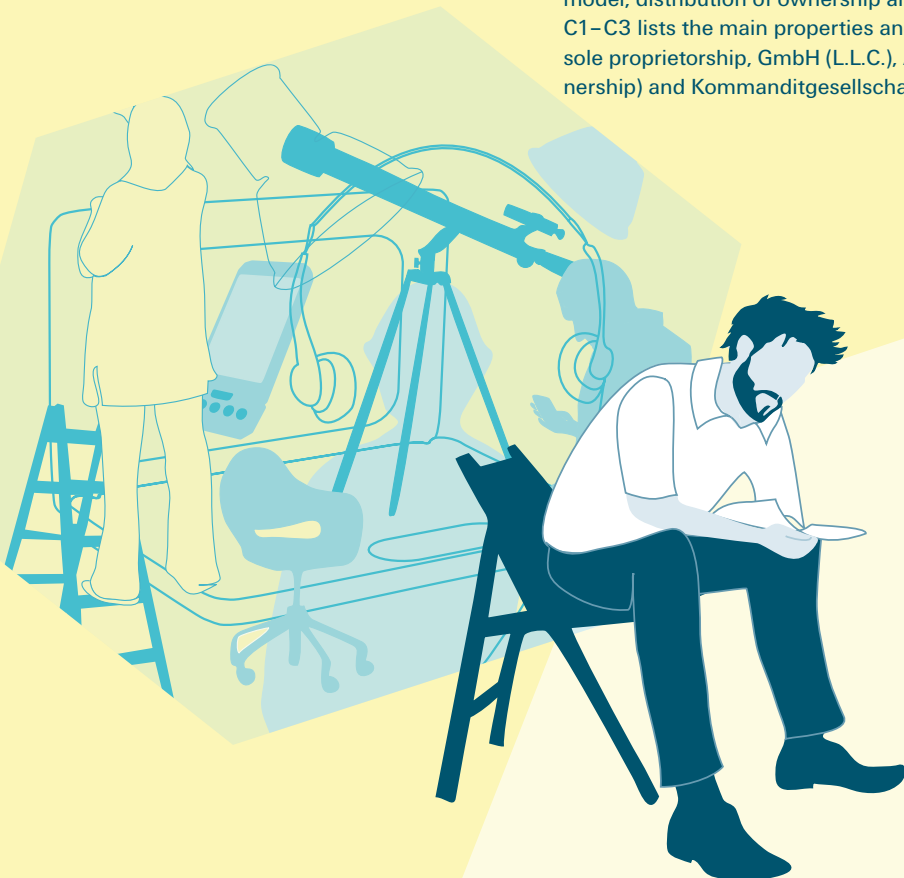
For EU-/EFTA- nationals, a registration procedure applies for employment lasting up to max. 90 work days per calendar year:

[www.bfm.admin.ch/bfm/en/home/themen/fza\\_schweiz-eu-efta/meldeverfahren.html](http://www.bfm.admin.ch/bfm/en/home/themen/fza_schweiz-eu-efta/meldeverfahren.html)

### Choice of legal structure

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The choice of legal form depends upon a number of factors (incl. available capital, business model, distribution of ownership and liability issues). The overview of legal structures on page C1 – C3 lists the main properties and requirements for the five most popular legal structures: sole proprietorship, GmbH (L.L.C.), AG (US: corp., GB: plc.), Kollektivgesellschaft (general partnership) and Kommanditgesellschaft (limited partnership).



## Preparing to set up a company – step by step

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The process of checking and preparing for the foundation of a company involves a wide range of different topics, including: checking the availability of a company name and the desired URL, intellectual property, clarification of social security questions, search for a location, specific incorporation formalities, value added tax and other insurance issues.

The checklist for setting up a company on page ... gives a general outline of the most important steps involved when establishing a sole proprietorship, a GmbH or an AG. Although admittedly rather extensive, the checklist supplies an overview of aspects that need to be taken into account before and after the actual act of founding a company (which, in itself, can be accomplished relatively quickly). In contrast to other countries, there are no business licenses in Switzerland. However, a number of occupational activities are subject to authorization (this can be the case at a national, cantonal or municipal level). An overview of the federal level is available at [www.e-service.admin.ch/bewilligungen/index.php?l=de](http://www.e-service.admin.ch/bewilligungen/index.php?l=de). Various cantonal authorities also provide overviews, such as the Canton of Zürich at [www.bewilligungen.zh.ch](http://www.bewilligungen.zh.ch). It is advisable to contact the inter-trade organizations for industry-sector-specific information: [www.verbaende.ch](http://www.verbaende.ch).

Based on experience, particular attention should be paid to the following topics: VAT registration, registration with the social insurances and obtaining required permits. Failure to meet the stipulated requirements can lead to high payments of arrears, even years later.

According to a study conducted by the Zürich University of Applied Science Winterthur, approximately 8.9 hours over a period of 26 days are required to establish an AG in Switzerland. This is not a top ranking, but certainly one in the upper midrange.

## All about taxes

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Generally speaking, taxation occurs on the following three levels: federal, cantonal and municipal (communal). With regard to legal entities, the direct taxes are levied on profit and capital. In the case of natural persons and business partnerships, they are imposed on income and assets.

Indirect taxes and charges in the form of duties on sales and consumption are reserved to the federal authorities.

Natural persons who have their place of residence in Switzerland or their residency in Switzerland and work here are subject to taxation in Switzerland. As a general rule, taxes are not deducted by the employer, but levied retroactively pursuant to the principle of self-declaration in an assessment procedure.

Natural persons with their place of residence or their residency in Switzerland without a C residence permit who work as employees (this is usually the case for new arrivals with a B permit) are subject to tax at source (withholding tax). The tax at source is deducted directly by the employer and replaces the direct federal, cantonal and municipal taxes. If the taxable amount reaches more than CHF 120'000 per year, a regular statutory assessment is made. Compared to the regular taxation, the tax at source per se is insofar special as the different tax rates of the municipalities (communes) do not come into play.

Executive staff or specialists (i.e. expatriates) who are posted temporarily in Switzerland by their foreign employer (e.g. to set up a branch office) generally benefit from the deductibility of (effectively incurred) special work-related expenses, such as living, travel and school tuition costs.

Natural persons without their place of residence or residency in Switzerland are subject to a limited tax liability (also tax at source) based on the economic affiliation, if they generate income in Switzerland. This refers, inter alia, to members of management of non-Swiss companies with a branch in Switzerland. To avoid or mitigate double taxation in Switzerland and abroad, Switzerland has double taxation agreements with more than 80 states.



Further information concerning taxes is available from the following websites:

- Federal Department of Finance (FDF)  
[www.efd.admin.ch/themen/steuern/index.html?lang=en](http://www.efd.admin.ch/themen/steuern/index.html?lang=en)
- Tax at source (withholding tax) and tax rates  
[www.estv.admin.ch/bundessteuer/dienstleistungen/00248/index.html](http://www.estv.admin.ch/bundessteuer/dienstleistungen/00248/index.html)
- Cantonal economic promotion agencies  
[www.osec.ch/internet/osec/en/home/invest/worldwide/handbook/location\\_promotion.html](http://www.osec.ch/internet/osec/en/home/invest/worldwide/handbook/location_promotion.html)
- Promotion and marketing organizations (e.g. Greater Zurich Area)  
[www.greaterzuricharea.ch/content/04/04\\_002de.asp](http://www.greaterzuricharea.ch/content/04/04_002de.asp)
- SME portal of SECO  
[www.kmu.admin.ch/themen/00256/index.html?lang=de](http://www.kmu.admin.ch/themen/00256/index.html?lang=de)  
(Information available in German only)
- Cantonal tax offices  
Overview of double taxation agreements (DTA)  
[www.estv.admin.ch/intsteuerrecht/themen/00170/00784/index.html?lang=de](http://www.estv.admin.ch/intsteuerrecht/themen/00170/00784/index.html?lang=de)

## Switzerland's three-pillar pension system

The Swiss pension and social security system combines and aligns the state, occupational and individual provisions. It is based on a three-pillar system which rates individual responsibility very highly. By international comparison, the overall burden of tax and social security charges is very moderate.

(See also: [www.bsv.admin.ch/themen/ueberblick/00003/index.html?lang=en](http://www.bsv.admin.ch/themen/ueberblick/00003/index.html?lang=en))

### 1st pillar

Coverage of basic needs of the insured is secured through the Federal Occupational Retirement and Survivors' Insurance (AHV) and the Invalidity Insurance (IV). Both these insurances are compulsory and financed through employer and employee contributions (income percentage). (Information is available in English at [www.bsv.admin.ch/themen/index.html?lang=en](http://www.bsv.admin.ch/themen/index.html?lang=en))

### 2nd pillar

The Occupational Pension Fund is complementary to the 1st pillar and designed to help secure a continuation of the former standard of living upon retirement. It is compulsory for all employees in Switzerland. It is also financed through employer and employee contributions (income percentage).

(Information in English is available at [www.bsv.admin.ch/themen/vorsorge/aktuell/index.html?lang=en](http://www.bsv.admin.ch/themen/vorsorge/aktuell/index.html?lang=en))

### 3rd pillar

The individual, optional private provisions of employed and self-employed persons are intended to cover additional personal needs, primarily through bank and insurance savings. These provisions are partly tax-privileged.

### Supplementary benefits

The three basic pillars of social security are supplemented by the unemployment insurance and the income compensation scheme (EO) to cover income losses resulting from military service, civil defense, civilian service and maternity. Children's allowances are to be paid pursuant to cantonal law.

(Information is available in English at [www.bsv.admin.ch/themen/eo/aktuell/index.html?lang=en](http://www.bsv.admin.ch/themen/eo/aktuell/index.html?lang=en))



## A good reception thanks to a growing network

In contrast to other countries, Switzerland does not prescribe any compulsory membership in trade or industrial organizations or chambers of commerce. What is more, the Swiss tend to be rather reserved when meeting people for the first time. Do not let this discourage you. Instead, take the initiative and join associations and organizations. Make the most of the multifaceted networking platforms, of which there are plenty both for leisure-time interests and business activities.

A selection of organizations is listed below:

- Chambers of Commerce, such as cantonal chambers of commerce  
Swiss-American Chamber of Commerce [www.amcham.ch](http://www.amcham.ch)  
Association of Swiss Foreign Trade Chambers [www.swisscham.ch](http://www.swisscham.ch)
- Industrial and other associations [www.verbaende.ch](http://www.verbaende.ch)
- Trade associations [www.sgv-usam.ch](http://www.sgv-usam.ch)
- International clubs

## Additional information sources

In conclusion, here are some additional links and contact points that could be helpful or of interest:

- [www.kmu.admin.ch/themen/00614/00715/index.html?lang=de](http://www.kmu.admin.ch/themen/00614/00715/index.html?lang=de)  
Contact persons for EU entrepreneurs who want to set up a company in Switzerland.
- [www.ctistartup.ch](http://www.ctistartup.ch)  
National promotion program for high-tech business ideas and projects (life sciences, ICT, etc.): as a rule, the CTI R+D project is executed in collaboration with a university or a university of applied science.
- [www.ige.ch](http://www.ige.ch)  
Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property
- [www.kmu.admin.ch](http://www.kmu.admin.ch)  
Setting up a company online (platform of the Swiss Federation).
- [www.seca.ch](http://www.seca.ch)  
Association for corporate financing SECA.
- [www.suisseid.ch](http://www.suisseid.ch)  
Electronic proof of identity for the electronic processing of correspondence with the authorities (as of May 2010).
- [www.snf.ch](http://www.snf.ch)  
Swiss National Science Foundation: basic research and promotion of technology partnerships.
- [www.y-e.ch](http://www.y-e.ch)  
Young Enterprise Switzerland Program: young people are given the opportunity to acquire their first entrepreneurial experience while running a mini-enterprise for one year.
- [www.venturelab.ch](http://www.venturelab.ch)  
Start-up training of the innovation promotion agency CTI for entrepreneurially-minded individuals from universities and universities of applied science with a focus on the growth industries ICT, life science, bio- or nanotechnology.
- [www.zefix.ch](http://www.zefix.ch)  
Central company index (includes all companies registered in the Commercial Registry).

The German edition of gründen 2.0 was launched in October 2009 and contains editorial contributions covering topics such as financing, future-oriented industries and trends, technology transfer and articles about young entrepreneurs who have already ventured into self-employment. A PDF version is available at [www.gruenden.ch](http://www.gruenden.ch) > **Zusatzinformationen**.



# Information for non-Swiss nationals

Due to differences between citizens from the various countries, the following chart can only provide a general overview. It is advisable to consult the appropriate authorities or seek advice on an individual basis.

This overview has been compiled by the sponsoring body of the website [gruenden.ch](http://gruenden.ch) in collaboration with the MSM Group [www.msmgroup.ch](http://www.msmgroup.ch) and Kellerhals Attorneys [www.kellerhals.ch](http://www.kellerhals.ch).

## Residence and employment

### Enforcement authorities

Federal Office for Migration [www.bfm.admin.ch](http://www.bfm.admin.ch) and cantonal migration authorities

### Introductory remarks

The business and sanitary provisions as well as the respective requirements to practice a profession (incl. permit requirements) must always be observed, irrespective of nationality and residence permit.

### Swiss citizens and citizens with a settlement permit C

do not require a work permit.

### EU-17 citizens ...

*... employed by a Swiss employer for more than 3 months*

receive a residence permit L or B (depending on length of employment; a confirmation of employment is to be presented for this purpose); these individuals are entitled to issuance; no other permits are required, with the exception of the obligation to register at the residents' registration office of the municipality of residence before starting work (a valid ID and an employment contract or confirmation of employment must be presented).

*... employed by a foreign employer*

are considered as posted employees/service providers even if they have their place of residence in Switzerland; the employer must obtain a work permit for them; registration before starting work at the residents' registration office of the municipality of residence can only occur once this permit is available (a valid ID and an employment contract or confirmation of employment must be presented).

*... whose place of residence is outside of Switzerland*

and who are gainfully employed for more than 3 months per calendar year receive a cross-border commuter permit (G permit) on presentation of a certificate of employment.

### EU-8/EU-2 citizens ...

*... employed by a Swiss employer:*

first of all, the employer needs to apply for a work permit for the employee (a local worker priority exists in this respect; furthermore, there is an annual numerical ceiling on the permits); once the work permit has been obtained, the residence permit can be granted (L or B, depending on the length of employment); finally, registration is required before starting work at the residents' registration office of the municipality of residence (a valid ID and an employment contract or written confirmation of employment must be presented); bear in mind that notification must be given of any change of residence.

*... employed by a foreign employer:*

see EU-17 citizens.

### Third-country citizens ...

*... entry only possible with valid visa and travel documents.*

*... employed by a Swiss employer: see EU-8/EU-2 citizens.*

*... employed by a foreign employer: see EU-17 citizens.*

### Characteristics of the residence permits

#### Permit B:

for stays lasting more than 1 year; for a specific purpose; limited; can be extended provided there are no reasons for withdrawal.

#### Short-term residence permit L:

for residence up to 1 year, can be extended at the most to two years provided there are no reasons for withdrawal; change of employment is generally not possible.

### Short-term residence for work purposes

#### EU-17 citizens ...

... can work in Switzerland for a maximum of 90 work days per calendar year without a permit; however, they are required to register with the authorities if employment exceeds 8 days (obligation to register from day 1 for: main and subsidiary construction work, hospitality, cleaning, surveillance and security services; registration must occur at the latest 8 days in advance).

#### EU-8/EU-2 citizens ...

... are subject to prior authorization for employment with a Swiss employer or for provision of independent services in the sectors construction, landscaping/gardening, cleaning, surveillance and security industries; for independent service providers in the hospitality sector as well as those working as travelling salesmen and providing erotic services, the obligation to register is as of the first day of work; other lines of business are required to register as of the eighth day of work.

Some of the websites to which reference is made in this document currently only contain information in German.

## Provision of services on a self-employed basis. Setting up a sole proprietorship, GmbH (L.L.C.) or AG (corp./plc.)

### Further information is available at

[www.kmuadmin.ch](http://www.kmuadmin.ch), [www.kmu.ch](http://www.kmu.ch), [www.gruenden.ch](http://www.gruenden.ch), [www.bfm.admin.ch](http://www.bfm.admin.ch)

### Introductory remarks

As a general rule, EU/EFTA citizens with a B permit (residence permit) and their spouses can become self-employed.

Non-Swiss nationals with a C permit (settled foreign nationals permit) or a B permit (residence permit) who are married to

1. a Swiss citizen
2. a C permit holder
3. a B permit holder

can generally become self-employed (however, no. 3 is subject to authorization).

Third-country citizens without a residence or settlement permit can only become self-employed if the planned endeavor is economically meaningful and the required financial and operational conditions are met. The application forms and documents (incl. a business plan) are examined by the labor market authorities.

### Establishing a sole proprietorship

The family name must constitute a key component of the company name (Art. 945 para. 1 CO); as the case may be, registration of the sole proprietorship in the Commercial Register at the place of business (dependent on type of business and turnover: required for a business carried out in a commercial manner with an annual turnover of minimum CHF 100 000).\*

### Establishing an AG (corp./plc.)

*In principle the following applies:*

1 founder (Art. 625 CO); at least 1 member of the board of directors or officer domiciled in Switzerland (Art. 718 para. 4 CO); registration in the Commercial Register at the place of the registered offices of the AG (Art. 640 CO).

*In addition:*

Lex Friedrich Declaration pursuant to Art. 2 para. 1 in conj. with Art. 4 para. 1 lit. e BewG (Federal Law on the Acquisition of Real Estate by Persons Resident Abroad) for persons abroad, pursuant to Art. 5 BewG, who are participating in the AG.\*

### Establishing a GmbH (L.L.C.)

*In principle the following applies:*

1 founder (Art. 775 CO); at least 1 manager or officer domiciled in Switzerland (Art. 814 para. 3 CO); registration in the Commercial Register at the place of the registered offices of the GmbH (Art. 778 CO).

*In addition:*

Lex Friedrich Declaration pursuant to Art. 2 para. 1 in conj. with Art. 4 para. 1 lit. e BewG (Federal Law on the Acquisition of Real Estate by Persons Resident Abroad) for persons abroad, pursuant to Art. 5 BewG, who are participating in the GmbH.\*

\* For further requirements, please consult the overview of legal structures in this document or go to [www.gruenden.ch](http://www.gruenden.ch).

CO = Swiss Code of Obligations

## Acquisition of real estate

### Applicable law

Federal Law on the Acquisition of Real Estate by Persons Resident Abroad and cantonal provisions.

**Supervisory authority:** Federal Office of Justice [www.bj.admin.ch](http://www.bj.admin.ch).

### Acquisition which is not subject to authorization

*real estate for business purposes*

irrespective of place of residence, domicile and nationality.

*main residence*

for all foreigners domiciled in Switzerland.

*secondary residence*

EU/EFTA nationals and third-country citizens with C permit who are domiciled in Switzerland.

*of holiday home/serviced flat in apartment hotel*

EU/EFTA nationals who are domiciled in Switzerland.

### Acquisition which is not possible

*secondary residence*

- by foreign nationals domiciled abroad (exception: secondary residence at the place of work for cross-border commuters with EU/EFTA citizenship).
- by third-country citizens without a C permit.

*main residence*

by third-country citizens without a C and B permit.

### An acquisition permit is required for ...

... *acquiring a holiday home/serviced flat in an apartment hotel for:*

- foreign nationals domiciled abroad.
- third-country citizens without a C permit.
- companies domiciled abroad; by companies or domiciled in Switzerland that are controlled by persons abroad.

## Family reunification

### Enforcement authority

Federal Office for Migration [www.bfm.admin.ch](http://www.bfm.admin.ch) and cantonal migration authorities

### For Swiss citizens and foreign nationals with a C permit

*foreign spouses, registered partners and unmarried children under 18 years of age*

are entitled to the granting and extension of the residence permit provided they live together.

*children under 12 years of age*

are entitled to the granting of a settlement permit.

### For EU/EFTA citizens with a residence permit or a short-term permit

*parents, parents-in-law and grandparents, spouses, registered partners, (step)children under 21 years of age*

can be granted a residence permit provided their keep is assured and adequate dwellings are available.

### For foreign nationals with residence permit B or L

*foreign spouses, registered partners and unmarried children under 18 years of age*

can be granted a residence permit under the following conditions:

- if they live together
- adequate dwellings are available
- if they do not depend on social welfare

### Glossary

Short-term residence permit	EU-8	Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia
up to 4 months or 120 days per year (no foreigner ID card)	EU-2	Bulgaria and Romania
L permit	Local worker priority	The applicant employer must produce evidence that he/she was unable to find a suitably qualified person (in terms of education and job experience) from Switzerland or an EU/EFTA country; furthermore, salaries must be in keeping with local, professional and trade standards. For EU-8/EU-2 citizens, evidence of search is merely required in Switzerland.
Short-term residence permit L; from 4 up to 12 months, prolongable up to 24 months (foreigner ID card L)	Fixed quotas	Annual fixed quotas of L and B permits which are stipulated by the Federal Council.
B permit		
Permanent residence permit for EU-/EFTA citizens or residence permit for third-country citizens, annual B permit (foreigner ID card B)		
C permit		
Settlement permit C (foreigner ID card C)		
EFTA		
Principality of Liechtenstein, Iceland, Norway, Switzerland		
EU-17		
Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Germany, Finland, France, Great Britain, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxemburg, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden		

# Overview of legal structures

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	Sole proprietorship*	Kollektivgesellschaft* (general partnership)	Kommanditgesellschaft* (limited partnership)	Gesellschaft mit beschränkter Haftung (GmbH) (private limited liability company, L.L.C.)	Aktiengesellschaft (AG) (US: corp., GB: plc.)
<b>Legislative basis</b>	Not regulated separately in the Swiss CO.	CO 552–593	CO 594–619	CO 772–827	CO 620–763
<b>Main use</b>	Small firms, activities carried out by individuals (e. g. artists).	Small, permanent businesses centering on specific individuals.	Special cases, e. g. small businesses that carry out activities which are strongly individual-centered, with involvement of external investors.	Small, individual-centered businesses.	Suitable for virtually all types of commercial companies.
<b>Legal status</b>	Sole property of the firm's owner.	Partnership.	Partnership.	Legal entity, incorporated body.	Legal entity, incorporated body.
<b>Composition of the company name</b> General restriction: legislation prohibits misrepresentation and protects public interest CO 944	Family name of proprietor with or without given name. CO 944, 945 Permissible additions: business activity, fantasy designations. CO 944	Family name of at least 1 partner with a suffix indicating the corporate relationship of the partners, or the family names of all partners. May not include any other name than that/those of the partners. CO 947 I, II, IV Permissible additions: business activity, fantasy designations. CO 944	Family name of at least 1 partner with unlimited liability (general partner) with a suffix indicating the corporate relationship. May not include any other name than that of the partner with unlimited liability. CO 947 III, IV. Limited partner may not be named; otherwise the liability of the limited partner becomes unlimited. CO 607 Permissible additions: business activity, fantasy designations. CO 944	Free choice by the firm (personal names, activity, fantasy designations). The legal form must be indicated in the company's name. CO 944, 950	Free choice of company name (personal names, activity, fantasy designations). The legal form must be indicated in the company's name. CO 944, 950
<b>Formation through</b> (Business pursued according to commercial principles; see comment 1)	Self-employment, economic activity as a means of permanent gainful employment.	Signing of articles of partnership CO 552, informal, i.e. a general partnership can be created without any written agreement. If no commercial activity is pursued the partnership becomes a legal entity only upon its registration in the CR. CO 553	Signing of articles of partnership CO 594, informal, i.e. a limited partnership can be created without any written agreement. If no commercial activity is pursued the partnership becomes a legal entity only when it is registered in CR. CO 595	Public act of signing when the company is founded, adoption of articles of incorporation/association, appointment of a board of management and representatives and (provided such are not dispensed with pursuant to CO 727 a II) the auditors. Registration in CR. CO 777–779	Public act of signing when the company is founded, adoption of articles of incorporation/association, appointment of a board of directors (BD) and (provided such are not dispensed with pursuant to CO 727a II) the auditors. Registration in CR. CO 629–635 a, 640, 643
<b>Registration in CR (Commercial Register)</b>	Obligatory for businesses pursuing commercial aims. Optional if no commercial aims are pursued. Obligatory as soon as annual turnover of CHF 100 000 is achieved. OCR 36	Obligatory for businesses pursuing commercial aims. CO 552 II	Obligatory for businesses pursuing commercial aims. CO 594 II	Becomes a legal entity when registered in the CR. CO 779	Becomes a legal entity when registered in the CR. CO 643
<b>Number of partners or members</b>	One natural person is the sole proprietor.	Two or more natural persons become partners. CO 552	At least 1 natural person with unlimited liability (general partner) and at least 1 natural person, legal entity or corporation that is a limited liability partner (limited partner). CO 594 II	At least 1 shareholder. Shareholders may be natural persons, legal entities or corporations. CO 775	At least 1 shareholder. Shareholders may be natural persons, legal entities or corporations. CO 625

CR = Commercial Register    OCR = Ordinance on the Commercial Register    CO = Swiss Code of Obligations  
BD = Board of Directors    CC = Swiss Civil Code

\* For natural persons, the self-employment activity must be recognized by the compensation fund pursuant to social insurance law.  
Further information is available at: [www.gruenden.ch](http://www.gruenden.ch)

	Sole Proprietorship*	Kollektivgesellschaft* (general partnership)	Kommanditgesellschaft* (limited partnership)	Gesellschaft mit beschränkter Haftung (GmbH) (private limited liability company, L.L.C.)	Aktiengesellschaft (AG) (US: corp., GB: plc.)
<b>Capital required</b>	No stipulations.	No stipulations. Amount and partners' share as per contract. CO 557 and/or 531	No stipulations. Amount and partners' share as per contract. CO 598 and/or 557 The partner's contribution of each limited partner must be registered in the CR. CO 596 II sub section 2	Obligatory nominal capital, the level of which is defined in the articles of association, divided into equity shares each with a nominal value of at least CHF 100. CO 774 Minimum: CHF 20 000 All equity shares must be fully paid up. CO 777c I	Obligatory capital, the level of which is defined in the articles of association, divided into shares each with a nominal value of at least CHF 0.01. Minimum: CHF 100 000 Minimum paid in: CHF 50 000 CO 621, 622
<b>In-kind payments instead of cash</b>	Permitted.	Permitted. CO 557/531	Permitted. CO 598 and/or 557	Permitted, special procedure. CO 777 II in conj. with 628 and 634	Permitted, special procedure. CO 628, 634
<b>Organization and executive bodies</b>	No executive bodies; trustees/auditors may be appointed.	Partners; auditors may be appointed.	Partners; auditors may be appointed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- General meeting of members</li> <li>- Management board (a minimum of 1 member)</li> <li>- Auditors if not dispensed with pursuant to CO 727a II CO 809 et seq.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Annual general meeting</li> <li>- Board of directors (a minimum of 1 member)</li> <li>- Auditors if not dispensed with pursuant to CO 727a II CO 698 et seq.</li> </ul>
<b>Liability/further contributions</b> subsidiary = complementary to company capital if this is exhausted	Unlimited liability of the proprietor with personal assets.	Primary liability to the level of company capital. Subsidiary joint and several unlimited liability of each partner with personal assets. CO 568	Primary liability to the level of company capital. Subsidiary joint and several unlimited liability of each general partner with personal assets. CO 604 Subsidiary joint and several limited liability of each limited partner (liability limited to level of partnership capital). CO 608	Liability limited exclusively to the company's assets. CO 794 Optional limited liability to make further contributions according to the articles of association. Further contributions linked to each equity share that must be paid up are determined in the articles of association and may not exceed twice the nominal value of the ordinary share. Liability only for further contributions linked to own share in equity. CO 795	Liability limited exclusively to the company's assets. Each stockholder is obliged to pay in his quota of the share capital (payment under subscription). CO 630
<b>Growth using external capital/investors</b> (See comment 2)	Not suitable.	Admission of new partners. CO 569	Admission of new general or limited partners. CO 612	Increase of equity share capital by modifying articles or association. CO 781	Various forms of capital increase possible by modifying articles of association. CO 650 et seq.
<b>Use of profit and bearing losses</b>	The proprietor alone.	As stipulated in the articles of partnership. CO 559 et seq.	As stipulated in the articles of partnership. CO 601	Entitlement to share of balance sheet profits according to legislation and the articles of association. CO 798, 801 in conjunction with 660	Entitlement to share of net earnings as on the balance sheet as stipulated by the legislation and the articles of association. CO 660
<b>Compulsory accounting requirement</b>	If the firm is obliged to be registered in the CR. CO 957, OCR 36	If the firm is obliged to be registered in the CR. CO 957-964	If the firm is obliged to be registered in the CR. CO 957-964	Yes. CO 957-964	Yes. CO 957-964
<b>Taxation</b> Further information is available at <a href="http://www.gruenden.ch">www.gruenden.ch</a>	Proprietor for entire income and assets from business and private sector.	Each partner for share of income and assets derived from the partnership as well as for private income and assets.	Each partner for share of income and assets derived from the partnership as well as for private income and assets.	Company for profit and capital. Members for equity as assets and distribution of profits as income.	Company for profit and capital. Shareholders for shares as assets and dividends as income.
<b>Consultation costs, formation, notary</b>	CHF 500 to 2500	CHF 2500 to 5500	CHF 2500 to 5500	From CHF 3000	From CHF 3000

CR = Commercial Register OCR = Ordinance on the Commercial Register CO = Swiss Code of Obligations  
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\* For natural persons, the self-employment activity must be recognized by the compensation fund pursuant to social insurance law.  
Further information is available at: [www.gruenden.ch](http://www.gruenden.ch)

	Sole Proprietorship*	Kollektivgesellschaft* (general partnership)	Kommanditgesellschaft* (limited partnership)	Gesellschaft mit beschränkter Haftung (GmbH) (private limited liability company, L.L.C.)	Aktiengesellschaft (AG) (US: corp., GB: plc.)
<b>Transfer of membership (exit, employee shares etc.)</b> (See comment 3)	No membership, full or partial sale of business operations.	With the approval of all partners. CO 557, 542	With the approval of all partners. CO 598, 557, 542	Transfer of equity shares by means of written notice. CO 785  Approval of the annual general meeting of shareholders (at least two-thirds of all represented votes and the absolute majority of the total share capital with voting rights) unless determined otherwise in the articles of association.  CO 786, 808b I sub section 4	Freely disposable, provided no restrictions exist in either the legislation or the articles of association. CO 685 et seq.
<b>Nationality and residency</b> (See comment 4)	The proprietor does not have to be domiciled in Switzerland.	The partners do not have to be domiciled in Switzerland.	The partners do not have to be domiciled in Switzerland.	The company has to be sub section represented by one person domiciled in Switzerland. CO 814 III	The company has to be represented by one person domiciled in Switzerland. CO 718 IV

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\* For natural persons, the self-employment activity must be recognized by the compensation fund pursuant to social insurance law.  
Further information is available at: [www.gruenden.ch](http://www.gruenden.ch)

#### Information for board members and executive directors\*

It is incumbent on members of the board of an AG or the executive director of a GmbH to supervise and manage the corporation according to the legislation. Breach of this obligation can lead to the office bearers being held personally liable. Make sure you have regular access to the required information and compare events continuously with the business plan/budget and intervene quickly when something goes wrong. Special care should be taken to pay the Old Age and Survivors' Insurance (OASI, in German AHV) contributions regularly because a more stringent level of personal liability is applied in respect of such contributions. The obligations and responsibilities referred to may also be incumbent on so-called de facto organs meaning persons who are not formal members of the board or executive directors but who may substantially influence management of the business.

#### Information concerning simple partnerships and general partnerships\*

A simple partnership is a community based on law and a partnership under Swiss law. Pursuant to Art. 530 of the CO, it is defined as a contractual association of two or more individuals to attain a mutual goal by means of mutual powers and funds. According to Art. 530 para. 2 CO the simple partnership is defined conversely as the form of corporation that arises if the conditions are not met for any other form of corporation. Individuals who "carry on trade, manufacturing or any other business according to commercial principles under a mutual firm" (Art. 552 CO) become a general partnership. The simple partnership is not a legal entity and therefore has no legal capacity. The partners are primarily liable jointly and severally for the corporation's debts. Be aware that the moment you do not decide for any other legal form and engage in business mutually with others you become part of either a simple partnership or a general partnership. Both may be informal, that is they come into existence without a written contract simply through mere activity performed. e. g. by representation with a mutual name, letterhead or by submitting quotations and invoices in the name of the association.

\* This information has been kindly provided by the MSM Group, Winterthur, [www.msmsgroup.ch](http://www.msmsgroup.ch)

Some of the websites to which reference is made in this document currently only contain information in German.

#### Comments

- 1 An independent economic activity of an intended permanent nature that does not necessarily presuppose profit orientation.
- 2 In addition to the possibilities provided under corporate law for acquiring external investors, there are various contractual arrangements possible covering the range from external capital to equity capital, e. g. convertible loans, loans with a conversion option or a success-related interest rate.
- 3 *Exit*  
Sale of the business through transfer of assets and liabilities is permitted for all corporate structures. The conditions of the law on mergers (CO 181 IV) regulate takeovers of the assets or the business of general partnerships, limited partnerships, partnerships limited by shares, corporations/public limited companies, limited liability companies, cooperatives, associations, foundations and sole proprietorships registered in the Commercial Register. In all other cases see CO 181 I, II and III (continued liability of the transferor). For information on transfer of employment relationships cp. CO 333.  
  
*Employee participation:*  
Alternatives to transferring company equity (e. g. shares) are, inter alia, bonus contracts and participation in profits.
- 4 Before taking up employment foreign nationals require both a work permit and a residence permit entitling them to pursue gainful employment. Citizens of EU\*/EFTA\*\* member states need a valid residence permit (L or B EU/EFTA). Citizens of non-EU/EFTA states are only granted initial work permits as an exception, provided they are indispensable specialists or if special reasons can be given justifying the exception. Further information is available at: [www.bfm.admin.ch](http://www.bfm.admin.ch) or the appropriate cantonal offices.

\* *EU member states:* Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain (United Kingdom), Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden

Temporary arrangements are applicable for *EU-8 citizens* (EU-8 = Czech Republic, Hungary, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia).

Temporary arrangements are also applicable for *EU-2 citizens* (EU-2 = Bulgaria and Romania). Further information is available at: [www.bfm.admin.ch](http://www.bfm.admin.ch)

\*\* *EFTA member states:* Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland

# Checklist for setting up a company

Preparation		
All three legal structures		
<b>Draw up a concept or a business plan</b>	Before you begin, check if you fulfill the personal requirements to work in a self-employed capacity and that you possess sufficient know-how and experience. Consult your family, friends and acquaintances, and draw up a concept or a business plan. Further information is available at: <a href="http://www.gruenden.ch">www.gruenden.ch</a> .	
All three legal structures		
<b>Obtain permits</b>	Clarify if permits or other legal requirements are necessary to pursue the planned activity. More information is available at: <a href="http://bewilligungen.kmuinfo.ch">http://bewilligungen.kmuinfo.ch</a> (national level) or the cantonal websites.	
<b>Pre-inquiries re recognition of self-employment</b>	<b>Sole Proprietorship</b>	<b>GmbH (L.L.C.)</b> <b>AG (corp./plc.)</b>
	Check in advance with your compensation fund if the activity you plan will be recognized as self-employment by the Old-Age and Survivors' Insurance AHV. Further information is available at: <a href="http://www.ausgleichskasse.ch">www.ausgleichskasse.ch</a> .  For some trades and professions recognition of self-employment is granted exclusively by the Swiss Accident Insurance Fund SUVA. Further information is available at: <a href="http://www.suva.ch">www.suva.ch</a>	No provisions required.
All three legal structures		
<b>Pre-inquiries re required insurances</b>	Check your insurance needs and responsibilities, including those covering your business risks. Request insurance quotes from SUVA ( <a href="http://www.suva.ch">www.suva.ch</a> ), your trade/professional association and private insurance providers. Premium amounts are based on the insured salary. Further information is available at: <a href="http://www.bsv.admin.ch">www.bsv.admin.ch</a> , <a href="http://www.gruenden.ch">www.gruenden.ch</a> , <a href="http://www.ausgleichskasse.ch">www.ausgleichskasse.ch</a> .	
	<b>Sole proprietorship</b>	<b>GmbH (L.L.C.)</b> <b>AG (corp./plc.)</b>
	Arrange insurance coverage of the following <i>for yourself</i> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 1st pillar (AHV, IV (disability), EO (unemployment)</li> <li>– occupational/private pension plans 3a/3b (3rd pillar)</li> <li>– a daily indemnity insurance for sickness</li> <li>– an accident insurance (work-related accidents (BU) and non-work-related accidents (NBU))</li> <li>– a daily indemnity insurance for accident</li> </ul> <p>As a rule, you do not have the option to join an occupational pension plan, i.e. 2nd pillar (BVG: Federal Law on Occupational Benefit Plans concerning Old-Age, Survivors and Invalidity). However, you do have the possibility to pay in contributions to pillar 3a and/or pillar 3b.</p> <p>If you <i>employ staff</i>, you must conclude the aforementioned insurances for your employees as well. Furthermore, you are required to arrange for 2nd pillar coverage, i.e. occupational pension plan (BVG), and compulsory health insurance for your employees. All employers are also obligated to join a family compensation fund. Joining is compulsory even if only childless individuals or part-time staffers are employed.</p>	Check the following insurances <i>for yourself* and your employees</i> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 1st pillar (AHV, IV (disability), EO (unemployment)**</li> <li>– family allowances**</li> <li>– 2nd pillar, i.e. occupational pension plan BVG (Federal Law on Occupational Benefit Plans concerning Old-Age, Survivors and Invalidity) (compulsory)</li> <li>– occupational/private pension plans 3a/3b (3rd pillar)</li> <li>– a daily indemnity insurance for sickness</li> <li>– an accident insurance (compulsory: work-related accidents (BU): non-work related accidents (NBU) if more than eight working hours per week)</li> <li>– a daily indemnity insurance for accident</li> <li>– children's allowances**</li> </ul> <p>* In insurance terms, you are also considered an employee of the AG/GmbH.  ** In this respect, please contact your designated compensation or family compensation fund. Further information is available at: <a href="http://www.ausgleichskasse.ch">www.ausgleichskasse.ch</a></p>
All three legal structures		
<b>Secure financing</b>	The search for capital constitutes a further challenge. Bear in mind that potential investors will request a business plan, to assess your project and its prospects for success. Further information is available at: <a href="http://www.gruenden.ch">www.gruenden.ch</a> . Once financing is secured, you can open a company account at the bank of your choice.	
All three legal structures		
<b>Business premises</b>	Look around for suitable business premises. In this regard, consider that, as a general rule, a deposit the equivalent of three months' rent will need to be paid into a blocked account. Further information is available at: <a href="http://www.gruenden.ch">www.gruenden.ch</a> . In the event of reconstruction/renovation, the local building authorities must be consulted first.	
All three legal structures		
<b>Decide on company name</b>	Decide on the company name. It is advisable to check the availability of the envisaged name, to avoid conflicts with companies using a similar name. Company name searches can be requested at the Federal Commercial Registry Office (FCRO) <a href="http://www.ejpd.admin.ch">www.ejpd.admin.ch</a> . Further information is available at: <a href="http://www.gruenden.ch">www.gruenden.ch</a> .	

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<b>Decide on company name</b>	<b>Sole proprietorship</b>	Sole proprietorships require the inclusion of your surname in the company name.	<b>GmbH (L.L.C.)</b>	Inclusion of the legal form (AG/GmbH) in the company name is required.
	<b>AG (corp./plc.)</b>			
<b>All three legal structures</b>				
<b>Registration URL</b>	Reserve the desired/available URL at the SWITCH foundation <a href="http://www.switch.ch">www.switch.ch</a> or with another provider. This procedure takes 2 to 4 work days. Costs: first-time registration fee plus annual fees of CHF 17.			
<b>All three legal structures</b>				
<b>Preparation of office stationery and internet presence</b>	Develop your logo and corporate identity for your office stationery and internet site. Whenever possible, consult an expert for this. If you wish to protect your logo as a figurative trademark, you will need to register it with the Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual property (IGE) <a href="http://www.ige.ch">www.ige.ch</a> . Consider that, although the visual appearance is important, you will be measured primarily by the quality of your products or services and your customer approach. Note the requirement to correctly denote the name of the company [ <i>Firmengebrauchspflicht</i> ] as stipulated in Art. 954a CO: the company name or name as registered in the Commercial Register (CR) must be stated fully and accurately in your correspondence, on order forms and invoices. In addition, abbreviated terms, logos, trade names, company labels and similar details may be used. Further information is available at: <a href="http://www.gruenden.ch">www.gruenden.ch</a> .			
<b>Check requirement to register in the CR</b>	<b>Sole proprietorship</b>	Natural persons who engage in trade or commerce and who achieve gross earnings of minimum CHF 100 000 (annual turnover) are required to register their sole proprietorship in the Commercial Register (Art. 36 OCR). Compare also <a href="http://www.admin.ch">www.admin.ch</a> .		

### Forming a company

<b>Determine capital amount and subscription level</b>	<b>Sole proprietorship</b>	<b>GmbH (L.L.C.)</b>	<b>AG (corp./plc.)</b>
	No steps required.	<p>Determine the level of equity share capital (minimum CHF 20 000) and the value of equity shares (minimum CHF 100 each), and decide how many shares are to be allotted to each individual founder.</p> <p>Decide on type of payment (cash contribution, contribution in kind with or without real estate, offsetting). Note that the share capital must be fully paid up.</p> <p>Open a blocked account at the bank of your choice for cash payments.</p>	<p>Determine the level of share capital (minimum CHF 100 000) and the nominal value of shares (minimum of CHF 0.01), and decide how many shares are to be allotted to each individual founding partner.</p> <p>Decide on type of payment (cash contribution, contribution in kind with or without real estate, offsetting) and how much of the share capital is to be paid in at the time of formation, or rather, is to be covered through offsetting or contributions in kind (minimum CHF 50 000, but at least 20% of the nominal value of each share must be paid up). Open a blocked account at the bank of your choice for cash payments.</p>
<b>Determine (corporate) bodies</b>	<b>Sole proprietorship</b>	<b>GmbH (L.L.C.)</b>	<b>AG (corp./plc.)</b>
	No action required.	<p>No action required.</p> <p>All shareholders have joint responsibility for the management of the company, unless the shareholders make other arrangements in the articles of association.</p> <p>Each executive director is entitled to represent the company. The articles of association can regulate the representation differently; however, at least one executive director must be authorized to represent the company.</p>	Determine which of the shareholders will be appointed to the board of directors.
		<b>GmbH (L.L.C.)</b>	<b>AG (corp./plc.)</b>
		Decide on independent statutory auditors in accordance with the rules of the Audit Oversight Act (RAG) and pursuant to Art. 728 CO, and request a declaration of acceptance of the appointment. If the company has no more than the equivalent of ten full-time positions on an annual average the company may, with the consent of all shareholders, dispense with the (limited) statutory audit (cp. Art. 727a para. 2 to 5 CO).	

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nMWSTG = new Federal VAT law (entered into force on 1. 1. 2010) CO = Swiss Code of Obligations CC = Swiss Civil Code BD = Board of Directors

<b>Determine organizational structure</b>	<b>Sole proprietorship</b>	<b>GmbH (L.L.C.)</b>	<b>AG (corp./plc.)</b>
	No action required.	Decide on the organizational structure of the company and determine who is to be responsible for its management as well as who will be granted signatory rights if not all shareholders will carry out the management of the company, or rather, if not every executive director is to be authorized to represent the company.  It is recommended, furthermore, to draw up organizational regulations that determine the tasks, competencies and responsibilities of the executive directors and further responsible officers.	Decide on the organizational structure of the company and determine who is to be responsible for the management and who will be granted signatory rights.  It is recommended, furthermore, to draw up organizational regulations that determine the tasks, competencies and responsibilities of the members of the board of directors. If management is delegated to individual board members or third parties, organizational regulations are compulsory by law.
		<b>GmbH (L.L.C.)</b>	<b>AG (corp./plc.)</b>
	As the case may be, obtain work permits for non-Swiss qualified employees.		
<b>Establishment</b>	<b>Sole proprietorship</b>		<b>GmbH (L.L.C.)</b> <b>AG (corp./plc.)</b>
	The sole proprietorship starts with the initiation of business operations. The company exists irrespective of whether it is registered in the Commercial Register or not.		The GmbH and AG become a legal entity only upon registration in the Commercial Register.
<b>Payment of foundation capital</b>	<b>Sole proprietorship</b>	<b>GmbH (L.L.C.)</b>	<b>AG (corp./plc.)</b>
	No action required.	In the event of a formation by cash subscriptions, the equity share capital is to be paid into a blocked bank account (capital contribution account), at the disposal of the company.	In the event of a formation by cash subscriptions, the share capital is to be paid into a blocked bank account (capital contribution account), at the disposal of the company.
		<b>GmbH (L.L.C.)</b>	<b>AG (corp./plc.)</b>
	For information concerning the lodgment of capital, see e. g. ZKB (Zürich Cantonal Bank) brochure and website*.		
<b>Prepare Commercial Register application</b>	<b>Sole proprietorship</b>		
	<p>Prepare the application for registration in the Commercial Register which must include the following information: company name, potential translations of the company name, domicile (political district), address (street and house number), purpose (field of activity), personal details of the company proprietor (surname, first name, place of origin – or for non-Swiss citizens: nationality –, place of residence), details regarding any additional authorized signatories (surname, first name, place of origin – or for non-Swiss citizens: nationality –, place of residence, type of signatory power).</p> <p>The application for registration (form for the Commercial Registry Office) needs to contain a legally certified personal signature of the firm's owner and the legally certified signatures of other potential signatories. The application is to be submitted to the cantonal Commercial Registry Office at the registered office of the sole proprietorship. This can be done personally or by post. As a rule, the extract from the Commercial Register is available within one week of the company's registration (an extract can also be ordered prior to the publication in the Swiss Official Gazette of Commerce (SHAB), available within 24 to 48 hours).</p> <p>Information sheets, forms and specimens are available on the websites of the cantonal Commercial Registry offices: <a href="http://www.zefix.admin.ch">www.zefix.admin.ch</a>.</p>		

Preparation of founding documents	GmbH (L.L.C.)	AG (corp./plc.)
	<p><i>Incorporation information and documents:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Personal details of the founders (or as the case may be, of their representatives), of the management members, of persons entrusted with representing the company and of the auditors (surname, first name, date of birth, place of origin and address; in the case of companies: company name and company domicile).</li> <li>- Commercial Register application with the signatures of two members of the management or of one member with sole signatory power, as well as the signatures of all persons with signatory power (further members of the management, procuration-holders, other authorized representatives). All signatures must be legally certified.</li> <li>- If the position of executive director is by vote: proof that the individuals concerned have accepted the appointment (declaration of acceptance of the appointment if such acceptance of appointment is not apparent from the certificate of incorporation).</li> <li>- As the case may be, resolution of the founders or, to the extent prescribed by the articles of association, resolution of the board of management ruling the chairmanship of the management.</li> <li>- As the case may be, resolution of the founders or, to the extent prescribed by the articles of association, resolution of the board of management concerning the appointment of additional individuals authorized to represent the company.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Incorporation information and documents:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Personal details of the founders (or rather, of their representatives), of the members of the board of directors, of persons entrusted with representing the company as well as the auditors (surname, first name, date of birth, place of origin and address; in the case of companies: company name and company domicile).</li> <li>- Commercial Register application with the signatures of two members of the board of directors or of one member with sole signatory power, as well as with the signatures of all persons with signatory power (further members of the board of directors, officers, managers, procuration-holders, other authorized representatives). All signatures must be legally certified.</li> <li>- Proof that the members of the board of directors have accepted their appointment (declaration of acceptance of the appointment if such acceptance is not apparent from the certificate of incorporation).</li> <li>- Minutes of the board of directors regarding its constitution, ruling the chairmanship and the granting of signatory rights.</li> <li>- Lex Friedrich Declaration if the company intends to acquire real estate that will not serve as a permanent place of business.</li> </ul>
GmbH (L.L.C.)	AG (corp./plc.)	
<p>Contact a notary public to prepare the public deed of incorporation and inquire about the documents and information that need to be submitted. Prepare them yourself or consult an attorney or fiduciary. The drafts of the documents required for CR registration can be submitted to the Commercial Registry Office for pre-inspection. However, the Commercial Registry Office will only check if the documents are in keeping with mandatory law and not individually as to whether they are suitable and contain the necessary content.</p> <p><i>Further incorporation information and documents:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Official deed of incorporation.</li> <li>- Articles of association that clearly reflect all content stipulated by law (in particular company name, registered domicile and purpose of the company). When formulating the purpose of the company, avoid defining the field of activity too narrowly, in order to leave some room for potential future changes. However, descriptions which are too broad are not permissible (e. g. services of all kinds or manufacturing of goods of all kinds).</li> <li>- As the case may be, proof that the auditors as required by law have accepted their appointment (declaration of acceptance of appointment if this is not evident from the deed of incorporation).</li> <li>- For cash contributions: confirmation that shows at which bank the deposits have been made (if the banking institution is not mentioned in the deed of incorporation).</li> <li>- If the company does not have a legal domicile where it is registered: a written declaration issued by the domicile-holder that the company has been granted a legal domicile at the place where it is registered (c/o address).</li> <li>- Declaration of the founders that no other contributions in kind, acquisitions of assets, offsetting issues or special privileges exist other than what is stated in the presented documents (Stampa declaration).</li> </ul> <p>If contributions in kind, acquisitions of assets, intended acquisitions of assets, offsetting issues or special privileges exist, the following additional documents need to be submitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Contracts of contributions in kind with the required documents (inventory and/or acquisition balance sheets).</li> <li>- Contracts of acquisition of assets with the required documents (inventory and/or acquisition balance sheets).</li> <li>- Incorporation report signed by all founders.</li> <li>- Unreserved confirmation of audit by a state-supervised auditing firm, accredited auditing expert or accredited auditor.</li> </ul> <p>Leaflets, forms and examples are available at the websites of the cantonal Commercial Registry Offices: <a href="http://www.zefix.admin.ch">www.zefix.admin.ch</a>.</p>		

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	Sole proprietorship	GmbH (L.L.C.)	AG (corp./plc.)
<b>Legal situation in the event of contributions in kind and acquisition of assets</b>	No action required.	If the share capital or equity capital is covered by contributions in kind, this must be stated in the articles of association (Art. 628 paras. 1 and 2 CO; Art. 777c subparas. 1 und 2 CO), furthermore, special formalities need to be observed. The same applies if capital is paid in cash, but with the intention to acquire significant assets on or after foundation of the company; see also section 2 of the Stampa declaration.	
	Sole proprietorship	GmbH (L.L.C.)	AG (corp./plc.)
<b>Preparation of founding/incorporation documents</b>	No action required.	It is recommended to submit the drafts required for registration in the Commercial Register in advance, for preliminary checking by the cantonal Commercial Registry Office. This takes approx. seven working days and generally costs between CHF 200 and 300. More extensive preliminary checks can be more expensive.	
	Sole proprietorship	GmbH (L.L.C.)	AG (corp./plc.)
<b>Notarization of founding documents</b>	No action required.	Submit the notarization documents required for the foundation of the company to the notary public as early as possible. The subscribers (for the AG) or the members (for a GmbH) must either be personally present or legally represented by an appointee, and sign the foundation documents in the presence of the notary public. They must produce official identification (e.g. passport). Legal representatives must also produce appropriate identification, as well as an officially certified power of proxy.	
	All three legal structures		
<b>Official certification of all signatures</b>	All signatures on the Commercial Register application need to be officially certified. Certification can be done by a notary, a town official or at the counter of the Commercial Registry Office. The individuals concerned must produce official identification. Duration: approx. 30 minutes. It is recommended to make an appointment in advance. Costs for certification per signature: CHF 10 to CHF 30.		
	All three legal structures		
<b>Application at the Commercial Registry Office</b>	<p>The application (self-prepared or form of the Commercial Registry Office) is to be submitted to the cantonal Commercial Registry Office at the registered offices of the company. This can be done personally or sent by post. It is advisable to order an extract from the Commercial Register.</p> <p>The application is checked by the Commercial Registry Office. If the application documents are complete and legally compliant, the entry in the cantonal Commercial Register will occur within approx. 7 working days.</p> <p>The text to be entered is forwarded to the Federal Commercial Registry Office. Once that Office has given its approval, the entry is completed in 1 to 2 working days. The Federal Commercial Registry Office subsequently arranges for publication of the entry in the Swiss Official Commercial Gazette (SHAB). This takes approx. 3 working days.</p> <p><i>Registration fees:</i> CHF 120 for the sole proprietorship; CHF 600 for the AG (there is an additional charge if capital exceeds CHF 200 000); CHF 600 for the GmbH (there is an additional charge if capital exceeds CHF 200 000). CHF 20 for each office holder; CHF 30 for each signatory authority.</p> <p><i>Further costs (based on the example of the Canton of Zürich):</i> CHF 70 for preparation of an application, CHF 50 for an extract from the Commercial Register, CHF 80 for confirmation of entry prior to publication in the Swiss Official Commercial Gazette (SHAB), between CHF 5 and CHF 150 in official fees depending on the volume of work involved.</p>		
	GmbH (L.L.C.)	AG (corp./plc.)	
	As soon as the company is registered in the Commercial Register, it can obtain an extract from the Commercial Register to present to the bank. This entitles the company to use the capital deposited in the capital contribution account. The AG (as a legal entity) is established, meaning it becomes a legal personality with its registration in the Commercial Register. The company is now fully entitled to act.		
	<i>Legal acts prior to registration:</i> Legal acts can be undertaken prior to registration in the Commercial Register. However, in this case the acting individuals are personally as well as jointly and severally liable. They can only be released from this liability if the liabilities are expressly incurred in the name of the company being established and are assumed by the company within three months upon registration of the company in the Commercial Register.		

<b>Securing of other required documents</b>	<b>Sole proprietorship</b>	<b>GmbH (L.L.C.)</b>	<b>AG (corp./plc.)</b>
	No action required.	Possibly create an evidentiary document for the shares (optional).  Establish and maintain a shareholder register (compulsory).	Depending on the articles of association: issuing of shares, share certificates or evidentiary documents concerning the status of shareholders.  Establish and maintain a share register (of holders of registered shares).
<b>Start of bookkeeping requirement</b>	<b>Sole proprietorship</b>		<b>GmbH (L.L.C.)</b> <b>AG (corp./plc.)</b>
	<p>Companies required to register in the Commercial Register also have the duty to keep books of account. In contrast, companies that register in the Commercial Register voluntarily are not subject to a compulsory bookkeeping requirement (OCR 36).</p> <p>Pursuant to Art. 58 MWSTG (Art. 70 nMWSTG) every taxable person is required to maintain his/her books of account in an orderly fashion and to structure them in a manner that helps to reliably and easily ascertain the relevant facts regarding taxability as well as for calculation of VAT on turnover and VAT on input. For businesses that are in any case required to keep accounts, the VAT calculation will be based on these books.</p> <p>Taxable persons who are not subject to the CO-prescribed keeping of books of account are nonetheless advised (in their own interest) to follow the corresponding rules.</p> <p>Irrespective of the registration in the Commercial Register, self-employed persons (including professionals and farmers) must observe the compulsory documentation and safekeeping duty for taxation purposes (cp. Art. 125 para. 2 Federal Law on the Direct Tax to the Confederation DBG <a href="http://www.admin.ch">www.admin.ch</a>).</p> <p>Provided receipts are available, formation costs incurred in advance can be booked in the accounts as per the date of foundation. Further information is available at: <a href="http://www.gruenden.ch">www.gruenden.ch</a>.</p>		<p>Your duty to keep books of account begins with the registration of the company in the Commercial Register. Provided receipts are available, the cost incurred prior to this can be booked in the accounts as per the date of foundation.</p> <p>Further information is available at: <a href="http://www.gruenden.ch">www.gruenden.ch</a>.</p>
<b>Registration with the compensation fund and family compensation fund</b>	<b>Sole proprietorship</b>		
	Contact your association's compensation fund and the family compensation fund regarding the registration of your self-employment as well as the mandatory OASI (AHV) payments and the family allowances for your employees. Further information is available at: <a href="http://www.ausgleichskasse.ch">www.ausgleichskasse.ch</a>		
<b>Registration at the company's registered offices</b>	<b>Sole proprietorship</b>		
	Register your business activity at the municipality/district office of your firm's domicile.		
<b>Further registrations</b>	<b>All three legal structures</b>		
	As a general rule, an extract from the Commercial Register, or rather, registration in the Commercial Register is required when applying for a company telephone number.  In some cases, a deposit needs to be paid per telephone or fax number (amounting to approx. CHF 800). The road traffic licensing office requires an extract from the Commercial Register for number plates and for the registration of company vehicles.		

CR = Commercial Register    OCR = Ordinance on the Commercial Registry    MWSTG = Federal VAT law  
nMWSTG = new Federal VAT law (entered into force on 1. 1. 2010)    CO = Swiss Code of Obligations    CC = Swiss Civil Code    BD = Board of Directors

## After founding the company

### All three legal structures

#### Clarify VAT liability

With the new VAT law (nMWSTG) which entered into force on 1.1.2010 the threshold for mandatory tax liability is increased to CHF 100 000 (Art. 10 para. 2 lit. a nMWSTG). Then, any person running a business will be liable to VAT. A business is defined as an independent professional or commercial activity with the purpose of sustainably achieving income from performing services. Tax-exempt are: enterprises with a domestic turnover of < CHF 100 000; non-profit, voluntarily managed sports and cultural clubs or charitable organizations with a domestic turnover < CHF 150 000; companies with their place of business abroad that provide services which are exclusively subject to the acquisition tax.

Taxable entities that do not achieve the foregoing turnover thresholds, but wish to become VAT liable, should contact the Swiss Federal Tax Administration. Pursuant to Art. 14 nMWSTG, tax liability begins with the initiation of the business activity.

In principle, it is advisable to clarify the situation with the Swiss Federal Tax Administration regarding VAT liability for your envisaged activity. You can do so online at [www.estv.admin.ch](http://www.estv.admin.ch) via an electronically available form or via e-mail to [mwst.webteam@estv-admin.ch](mailto:mwst.webteam@estv-admin.ch).

It is also recommended to check if you meet the conditions for one of the simplified accounting variants (net tax rate method pursuant to Art. 59 MWSTG, Art. 37 nMWSTG or reporting of tax on the basis of the agreed consideration pursuant to Art. 44 para. 4 MWSTG, Art. 39 para. 2 nMWSTG).

Further information is available at: [www.gruenden.ch](http://www.gruenden.ch).

#### GmbH (L.L.C.)

#### AG (corp./plc.)

The VAT number can be applied for prior to registration in the Commercial Register. However, it only becomes valid once the company is registered in the Commercial Register.

### All three legal structures

#### Take out the required insurances

Take out the required insurances (inter alia: fire, water, operational liability). These generally cost between CHF 1 000 and 5 000 per year. Further information is available at: [www.gruenden.ch](http://www.gruenden.ch).

Insurances of persons as outlined under the heading "Pre-information re required insurances" also need to be concluded.

### All three legal structures

#### Beginning of the development phase

Congratulations! You have completed the foundation of your company and can now begin with the development phase. The activities of the coming months are decisive for the future of your company. It is important to keep careful track of the key factors. Further information is available at [www.gruenden.ch](http://www.gruenden.ch).

Even after the foundation of your company, there are several requirements that must be taken into account: on the one hand, those stipulated in the CO (inter alia: duties of the corporate bodies, retention of a share register if there are registered shares, ordinary general meeting within 6 months of the close of the financial year). On the other hand, there may be industry-sector-specific permits which need to be renewed or other conditions that require fulfilling.

Furthermore, the Commercial Register stipulates specific requirements (e. g. mandatory accounting and retention duty). Other duties are also defined in the articles of association of the GmbH or the AG.

In addition, there are social security and tax obligations, as well as duties resulting from contracts with customers, suppliers or employees.

From now on, it is essential that you always keep these duties in mind.

## Useful information sources

<a href="http://www.ausgleichskasse.ch">www.ausgleichskasse.ch</a>	Compensation funds of Switzerland > cantonal compensation funds
<a href="http://bewilligungen.kmuinfo.ch">http://bewilligungen.kmuinfo.ch</a>	Permit platform of the Confederation
<a href="http://www.bsv.admin.ch">www.bsv.admin.ch</a>	Federal Office for Social Insurance > SME advice
<a href="http://www.ch.ch">www.ch.ch</a>	Swiss information portal
<a href="http://www.estv.admin.ch">www.estv.admin.ch</a>	Swiss Federal Tax Administration > VAT
<a href="http://www.finma.ch">www.finma.ch</a>	Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority FINMA > Bank
<a href="http://www.ezv.admin.ch">www.ezv.admin.ch</a>	Federal Customs Administration
<a href="http://www.kmuadmin.ch">www.kmuadmin.ch</a>	Official counter for online company formation
<a href="http://www.kmu-info.ch">www.kmu-info.ch</a>	SME portal of SECO
<a href="http://www.kmunext.ch">www.kmunext.ch</a>	kmuNEXT business succession platform
<a href="http://www.kmu.unisg.ch">www.kmu.unisg.ch</a>	Swiss Institute for SMEs, University of St. Gallen
<a href="http://www.osec.ch">www.osec.ch</a>	Business Network Switzerland > Cantonal economic development promotion
<a href="http://www.seco.admin.ch">www.seco.admin.ch</a>	State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO
<a href="http://www.statistik.admin.ch">www.statistik.admin.ch</a>	Swiss Federal Statistical Office
<a href="http://www.suva.ch">www.suva.ch</a>	SUVA Swiss Accident Insurance Fund
<a href="http://www.treuhandsuisse.ch">www.treuhandsuisse.ch</a>	Swiss Fiduciary Association
<a href="http://www.treuhand-kammer.ch">www.treuhand-kammer.ch</a>	Fiduciary Chamber
<a href="http://www.swisslawyers.com">www.swisslawyers.com</a>	Swiss Bar Association
<a href="http://www.zefix.admin.ch">www.zefix.admin.ch</a>	Federal Office for the Commercial Register

Some of the websites to which reference is made in this document currently only contain information in German.

# Business incubators and technology parks

## National organizations

**Technopark Allianz**  
www.technopark-allianz.ch

**Association of technology and business incubators**  
www.swissparks.ch

**Innopark**  
www.innopark.ch

**Genilem**  
www.genilem.ch

## Berne/Midlands

- 1 **Business incubator Berne, Berne**  
www.inno-be.ch
- 2 **Technopark Berne, Berne**  
www.bernertechnopark.ch
- 3 **innoBE AG\* Berne, Biel and Thun**  
www.inno-be.ch
- 4 **WRT center for new entrepreneurs, Thun**  
www.wrt.ch
- 5 **e.Tower Thun, Thun**  
www.e-towers.ch
- 6 **Business incubator Solothurn\*, Solothurn**  
www.gzs.ch
- 7 **Coaching services in the Bernese Jura, Bévillard**  
www.cep.ch/coaching

## Northwestern Switzerland

- 8 **Spin-off incubator Basel, Basel**  
www.eva-basel.ch
- 9 **Business Park, Reinach**  
www.businessparc.ch
- 10 **Tenum AG (center for construction/energy and environmental technology), Liestal**  
www.tenum.ch
- 11 **TZW Technology Center, Witterswil**  
www.tzw-witterswil.ch
- 12 **Business Parc Laufental, Zwingen**  
www.businessparc.ch
- 13 **Technology center and business incubator Zurzibiet**  
www.zurzibiet.ch
- 14 **Technopark Aargau, Windisch**  
www.technopark-aargau.ch

## Zürich/Eastern Switzerland

- 15 **Business incubator Zürich, Zürich**  
www.startzentrum.ch
- 16 **Technopark Zürich, Zürich**  
www.technopark.ch
- 17 **Biotech Center Zürich, Schlieren**  
www.biotechcenter.ch
- 18 **Technopark Wetzikon, Wetzikon**  
www.tp-wetzikon.ch
- 19 **grow start-up organization Wädenswil, Wädenswil**  
www.grow-waedenswil.ch
- 20 **Technology Center Linth, Ziegelbrücke**  
www.technologiezentrum.ch
- 21 **Futur Foundation, Rapperswil**  
www.futur.ch
- 22 **SME center, Vaduz**  
www.kmu-zentrum.li
- 23 **E-Tower\*, Chur**  
www.e-towerchur.ch
- 24 **Innozeta, Gräsch GR**  
www.innozeta.ch
- 25 **Technopark Winterthur, Winterthur**  
www.technopark-winterthur.ch
- 26 **glaTec – technology center at Empa (Swiss Lab. for Materials Testing and Research), Dübendorf**  
www.glatec.ch
- 27 **HTC High-Tech-Center AG, Tägerwil**  
www.high-tech-center.ch
- 28 **Tedi Center Wil, Wil**  
www.tedizentrum.ch
- 29 **START! business incubator, Frauenfeld**  
www.gruendungszentrum.ch

## Central Switzerland

- 30 **ri.nova Impulse Center, Rebstein**  
www.rinova.ch
- 31 **Tedi Center Flawil, Flawil**  
www.tedizentrum.ch
- 32 **Tedi Center Toggenburg, Wattwil**  
www.tedizentrum.ch
- 33 **Spider Town, Tägerwil**  
www.spidertown.ch
- 34 **ITS Industry and Technology Center\*, Schaffhausen**  
www.its.sh.ch
- 34 **tebo, St. Gallen**  
www.tebo.ch
- 36 **Business Park Zug, Zug**  
www.businessparkzug.ch
- 37 **Technopark Lucerne, D4 Root-Längenbold**  
www.technopark-luzern.ch
- 38 **mccs – Micro Center Central-Switzerland AG, Sarnen**  
www.mccs.ch
- 39 **microPark Pilatus, Alpnach**  
www.microparkpilatus.ch
- 40 **areal #1 entrepreneur center Nidwalden, Stansstad**  
www.nwcontact.ch
- 41 **Technology Center Steinen, Steinen SZ**  
www.technologiezentrum.ch

- 42 **InnovationsTransfer Central Switzerland\*, Horw**  
www.itz.ch
- 43 **Center for New Technologies Hohle Gasse, Küsnacht**  
www.hohle-gasse.ch

## Valais

- 44 **Fondation The Ark, Sion**  
www.theark.ch
- 45 **BioArk, Monthey**  
www.bioark.ch
- 46 **IdeArk, Martigny**  
www.ideark.ch
- 47 **PhytoArk, Sion**  
www.phytoark.ch

- 48 **TechnoArk, Sierre**  
www.technoark.ch
- 49 **Sodeval SA\*, Naters**  
www.ccf-valais.ch
- 50 **CimArk SA\*, Sion**  
www.cimark.ch

## Western Switzerland

- 51 **Scientific Park PSE, Lausanne**  
www.parc-scientifique.ch
- 52 **Biopôle Park Lausanne, Epalinges**  
www.biopole.ch
- 53 **Y-Parc AG, Yverdon-les-Bains**  
www.y-parc.ch
- 54 **BioAlps\*, Geneva**  
www.bioalps.org

Some of the websites to which reference is made in this document currently only contain information in German.

\*These centers offer services, but no physical office space.

# Addresses and contact points for company founders

Some of the websites to which reference is made in this document currently only contain information in German.

## Education and further training

### Business Tools Zürich

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

### EB Zürich

[www.eb-zuerich.ch](http://www.eb-zuerich.ch)

### ESW start-up

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

### Henri B. Meier Entrepreneur School

[www.unternehmerschule.es.unisg.ch](http://www.unternehmerschule.es.unisg.ch)

### IFJ Institute for Young Entrepreneurs

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

### School of Business Administration, Fribourg – Master in Entrepreneurship

[www.heg-fr.ch](http://www.heg-fr.ch)

### Swiss Institute for Entrepreneurship

University of Applied Science for Technology  
and Business Administration, Chur  
[www.sife.ch](http://www.sife.ch)

### Swiss Institute for Entrepreneur Training SIU

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

### St. Gallen University, Swiss Research Institute of Small Business and Entrepreneurship

[www.kmu.unisg.ch](http://www.kmu.unisg.ch)

### Universities of applied sciences

[www.fachhochschulen.net](http://www.fachhochschulen.net)

### venturelab

Practical training for students  
and high-tech start-ups  
[www.venturelab.ch](http://www.venturelab.ch)

### Wyrsch Entrepreneur School AG

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

### Young Enterprise Switzerland YES!

[www.y-e.ch](http://www.y-e.ch)

## Consulting

### Adlatus

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

### BDO Visura

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

### Bellone Syncon Franchise Consulting

[www.bellone-syncon.ch](http://www.bellone-syncon.ch)

### Creditreform

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

### Genilem

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

### Gewerbe-Treuhand, Lucerne

[www.gewerbe-treuhand.ch](http://www.gewerbe-treuhand.ch)

### FUTUR Foundation

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

### Innovation Advice Center of the Solothurn Chamber of Commerce

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

### innoBe – consulting for entrepreneurs and SMEs in the Canton of Berne

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

### Innovations Transfer Central Switzerland ITZ

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

### KMUNext – Consultancy for succession planning

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

### Senexpert

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

### SME Center at the University of Applied Sciences, Chur

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

### Swiss Confederation's Innovation Promotion Agency CTI

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

[www.kti-cti.ch](http://www.kti-cti.ch)

### Swiss Franchise Association Zürich

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

### Swiss Fiduciary Association

[www.treuhand-suisse.ch](http://www.treuhand-suisse.ch)

### Swiss SME Foundation

[www.stiftung-kmu.ch](http://www.stiftung-kmu.ch)

### Swiss technology and start-up centers

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

### Technopark Alliance

[www.technopark-allianz.ch](http://www.technopark-allianz.ch)

### The Basel life sciences start-up agency

[www.eva-basel.ch](http://www.eva-basel.ch)

## Cluster initiatives

### → Automobile industry

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

### → Bio and medicinal technology/ life sciences

Basel: [www.lifesciences.ch](http://www.lifesciences.ch)

Basel: [www.biovalley.com](http://www.biovalley.com)

Berne: [www.medizinal-cluster.ch](http://www.medizinal-cluster.ch)

Zug: [www.technologieforumzug.ch](http://www.technologieforumzug.ch)

Zürich: [www.swissbiotechassociation.ch](http://www.swissbiotechassociation.ch)

Zürich: [www.lifescience-zurich.ch](http://www.lifescience-zurich.ch)

Zürich-Schlieren: [www.biotechcenter.ch](http://www.biotechcenter.ch)

Zürich-Schlieren: [www.biotop-inkubator.ch](http://www.biotop-inkubator.ch)

### → Creative / Cultural industries

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

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

Zürich: [www.creativezurich.ch](http://www.creativezurich.ch)

### → Energy

National initiative: [www.energie-cluster.ch](http://www.energie-cluster.ch)

### → Financial / Business sector

Berne (business consulting): [www.wbcw.ch](http://www.wbcw.ch)

Zug: [www.ifz.ch](http://www.ifz.ch), [www.vqf.ch](http://www.vqf.ch)

Zürich: [www.finanzplatz-zuerich.ch](http://www.finanzplatz-zuerich.ch)

Swiss financial center watch: [www.sfcw.ch](http://www.sfcw.ch)

### → Information and communications technology

Lucerne: [www.gridlucerne.ch](http://www.gridlucerne.ch)

Basel: [www.inet-basel.ch](http://www.inet-basel.ch)

Berne: [www.tcbe.ch](http://www.tcbe.ch)

Winterthur: [www.winlink.ch](http://www.winlink.ch)

### → Industry and technology

Plastics technology network:

[www.reseau-plasturgie.ch](http://www.reseau-plasturgie.ch)

Zug: [www.technologieforumzug.ch](http://www.technologieforumzug.ch)

### → International Cluster Initiative Database

[www.tci-network.org](http://www.tci-network.org)

### → Logistics

Basel: [www.logistikplattform.ch](http://www.logistikplattform.ch)

### → Micro- / Nanotechnology /

### Precision industry

Basel: [www.nccr-nano.org](http://www.nccr-nano.org)

Biel: [www.cluster-precision.ch](http://www.cluster-precision.ch)

St. Gallen: [www.ncb.ch](http://www.ncb.ch)

Schaffhausen: [www.its.sh.ch](http://www.its.sh.ch)

Neuenburg, Alpnach, Basel, Landquart,

Zürich: [www.csem.ch](http://www.csem.ch)

Hombrechtikon ZH: [www.toolpoint.ch](http://www.toolpoint.ch)

## Export

### Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Switzerland

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

### Fargate AG

[www.fargate.com](http://www.fargate.com)

### Osec Business Network Switzerland

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

### Pool of Experts

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

### Swiss Export

[www.swissexport.com](http://www.swissexport.com)

### School for International Business

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

## Financing

### SECA Swiss Private Equity & Corporate Finance Association

The members are venture investors,  
investment companies, Business Angels  
[www.seca.ch](http://www.seca.ch)

### CTI Invest

Financing platform for high-tech enterprises  
[www.cti-invest.ch](http://www.cti-invest.ch)

### Valais Club of Business Angels

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

### BioValley Business Angels Club

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

### BrainsToVentures

International network of private investors  
[www.b-to-v.com](http://www.b-to-v.com)

## Business Angels Switzerland

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

## Go Beyond

International network for Business Angels

[www.go-beyond.biz](http://www.go-beyond.biz)

## Go! Self-employment as a goal

Consulting and micro-credits for young entrepreneurs

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

## MSM Investors' Association

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

## Startfinance

Financing platform for growth-oriented young enterprises

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

## Start Angels Network

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

## Cantonal banks

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

## Guarantee cooperatives

### Bürgschaftsgenossenschaft Basel-Land

[www.bgm-ccc.ch](http://www.bgm-ccc.ch)

### Bürgschaftsgenossenschaft Basel-Land and Basel-Stadt

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

### Bürgschaftsgenossenschaft Mitte

[www.bgm-ccc.ch](http://www.bgm-ccc.ch)

### Bürgschaftsgenossenschaft Western Switzerland

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

### Bürgschaftsgenossenschaft Eastern Switzerland

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

### OVAC – Office valaisan de cautionnement

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

### SAFFA – Guarantee cooperative for women

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

## Women's networks

### Association of female company founders and entrepreneurs

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

### Association of Swiss women's centers

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

### AUF working group of independent women

[www.arge-auf.ch](http://www.arge-auf.ch)

### Business network for active women

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

### Business and Professional Women Switzerland

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

### European Women's Management Development Network

[www.ewmd.org](http://www.ewmd.org)

### FemWiss Association of Feminist Science Switzerland

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

## FFU – Professional women in the environmental sector

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

## FOKA – Forum of women in commercial professions

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

## NEFU – network for one-woman entrepreneurs

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

## Online magazine for professional women

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

## SME Women Switzerland

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

## SVA – Swiss association of female university graduates

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

## SVIN – Swiss association of female engineers

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

## Swiss Business Women

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

## VCHU – Association of Swiss female entrepreneurs

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

## WIN – Women Innovation Network

[www.win-web.ch](http://www.win-web.ch)

## Zonta Switzerland and Liechtenstein – part of the network of professional women

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

## Internet platforms

[www.kmu.admin.ch](http://www.kmu.admin.ch)

SME portal of the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO

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

Canton of Zürich's platform for setting up a company

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

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

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

Setting up a company online

[www.kti-cti.ch](http://www.kti-cti.ch)

Innovation promotion agency CTI

[www.swissstartups.com](http://www.swissstartups.com)

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

Blog for and about young Swiss companies

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

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

Swiss SME and founding portal

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

Portal and meeting point of Swiss SMEs

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

SME stock exchange platform

[www.start-net.ch](http://www.start-net.ch)

Foundation platform of the Canton of Aargau

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

Foundation portal

## Organizations/Networks

### APTE – Association of Micro-technologies

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

### Efficiency clubs

Basel: [www.efficiency-club.ch](http://www.efficiency-club.ch)

Biel: [www.efficiency-biel.ch](http://www.efficiency-biel.ch)

Berne: [www.efficiency-bern.ch](http://www.efficiency-bern.ch)

Lucerne: [www.efficiency-luzern.ch](http://www.efficiency-luzern.ch)

Zug: [www.efficiency-club-zug.ch](http://www.efficiency-club-zug.ch)

Zürich: [www.efficiency.ch](http://www.efficiency.ch)

### Engineers shaping Switzerland's future

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

### EO Entrepreneurs Organization Switzerland

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

### FBN Family Business Network

Association of Swiss family businesses

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

### Junior business chambers of Switzerland

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

### Manufuture-CH

Swiss affiliate of the European network and platform for manufacturing industry topics (MEM industry)

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

### SAP Swiss Automation Pool

[www.sap-verband.ch](http://www.sap-verband.ch)

### Swiss Association of SMEs

[www.sgv-usam.ch](http://www.sgv-usam.ch)

### Swiss Biotech Association

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

### Venture Apéros

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

### Winclub

Club for young entrepreneurs in the Winterthur region

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

### Xing Networking

Largest international business network; actively used in Switzerland

[www.xing.com](http://www.xing.com)

## Science and technology transfer centers

### → National organizations

### Association of Swiss technology and company foundation centers

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

### CSEM (Neuchâtel, Alpnach, Basel, Landquart, Zürich)

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

### Energy Cluster

[www.energie-cluster.ch](http://www.energie-cluster.ch)

### Environment and Energy

[www.eco-net.ch](http://www.eco-net.ch)

### Swiss Technology Transfer Association swiTT

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

**Technopark Alliance**  
[www.technopark-allianz.ch](http://www.technopark-allianz.ch)

→ **Consortia**

**Alliance (Western Switzerland)**  
GE, VD, VS, NE, FR, JU, Bernese Jura  
Gabriel Clerc, T: +41 (0)21 693 35 82  
[www.alliance-tt.ch](http://www.alliance-tt.ch)

**CHost**  
Knowledge and technology transfer  
Eastern Switzerland  
Thomas Friedli, T: +41 (0)71 224 72 60  
[www.wtt-chost.ch](http://www.wtt-chost.ch)

**Midlands W6**  
BE, FR, ZH, Greater Zurich Area  
Domenico Alexakis, T: +41 (0)44 786 14 28  
[www.whoch6.ch](http://www.whoch6.ch)

**Innovation transfer Central Switzerland (ITZ)**  
LU, UR, SZ, OW, NW, ZG  
Willy K uchler, T: +41 (0)41 349 50 62  
[www.itz.ch](http://www.itz.ch)

**Northwest Switzerland WKNW**  
BS, BL, AG, SO  
Thomas Ruppli, T: +41 (0)61 267 33 88  
[www.wknw.ch](http://www.wknw.ch)

→ **University transfer centers**

**ETH Transfer Z rich**  
[www.ethz.ch](http://www.ethz.ch)

**Ticinotransfer**  
Giorgio Travaglini, T: +41 (0)58 666 66 77  
[www.ticinotransfer.ch](http://www.ticinotransfer.ch)

**unitetra**  
Technology transfer of  
Berne and Z rich university  
[www.unitetra.ch](http://www.unitetra.ch)

**Universities of applied sciences**  
[www.fachhochschulen.net](http://www.fachhochschulen.net)

**WTT knowledge and technology transfer  
University of Basel and University  
of Applied Science FHBB, Basel**  
[www.unibas.ch/wtt](http://www.unibas.ch/wtt)

→ **Regional/Local organizations**

**Empa technology transfer**  
[www.empa.ch](http://www.empa.ch), [www.glatec.ch](http://www.glatec.ch)

**FITT technology transfer, Windisch**  
[www.fhnw.ch](http://www.fhnw.ch)

**grow – organization for company  
founders, W denswil**  
[www.grow-waedenswil.ch](http://www.grow-waedenswil.ch)

**ITS Industry and Technology Center  
Schaffhausen**  
[www.its.sh.ch](http://www.its.sh.ch)

**Knowledge transfer center WTT,  
St. Gallen**  
[www.fhsg.ch](http://www.fhsg.ch)

**Network CCSO, Fribourg**  
[www.ccsso.ch](http://www.ccsso.ch)

**Paul Scherrer Institute, Villigen**  
<http://techtransfer.web.psi.ch>

**SME Center, Vaduz**  
[www.kmu-zentrum.li](http://www.kmu-zentrum.li)

**TEK – knowledge puts you a step  
ahead, Z rich**  
[www.tek-kmu.ch](http://www.tek-kmu.ch)

**The Ark Foundation, Sion**  
[www.theark.ch](http://www.theark.ch)

**Unitec, Geneva**  
[www.unige.ch/unitec](http://www.unige.ch/unitec)

**Promotion of economic  
development**

**Aargau (AG)**  
Aargau Services, T: +41 (0)62 835 24 40  
[www.aargauservices.ch](http://www.aargauservices.ch)

**Appenzell Auserrhoden (AR)**  
Economic development office  
T: +41 (0)71 353 61 11  
[www.wifoear.ch](http://www.wifoear.ch)

**Appenzell Innerrhoden (AI)**  
Promotion of economic development  
T: +41 (0)71 788 96 60  
[www.ai.ch](http://www.ai.ch)

**Basel-Stadt (BS)/Basel-Land (BL)**  
Promotion of economic development in the  
Basel area, T: +41 (0)61 295 50 00  
[www.baselarea.ch](http://www.baselarea.ch)

**Berne (BE)**  
Promotion of economic development (WFB)  
T: +41 (0)31 633 41 20  
[www.berneinvest.com](http://www.berneinvest.com)

**Fribourg (FR)**  
Promotion of economic development (WIF)  
T: +41 (0)26 425 87 00  
[www.promfr.ch](http://www.promfr.ch)

**Geneva (GE)**  
Promotion of economic development  
T: +41 (0)22 388 34 34  
[www.geneva.ch](http://www.geneva.ch)

**Glarus (GL)**  
Business contact point  
T: +41 (0)55 646 66 14  
[www.glarusnet.ch](http://www.glarusnet.ch)

**Grisons (GR)**  
Promotion of economic development  
T: +41 (0)81 257 23 42  
[www.awt.gr.ch](http://www.awt.gr.ch)

**Jura (JU)**  
Promotion of economic development  
T: +41 (0)32 420 52 20  
[www.jura.ch/eco](http://www.jura.ch/eco)

**Lucerne (LU)**  
Promotion of economic development  
T: +41 (0)41 367 44 00  
[www.luzern-business.ch](http://www.luzern-business.ch)

**Neuch tel (NE)**  
Promotion of economic development  
T: +41 (0)32 889 68 23  
[www.e-den.ch](http://www.e-den.ch)

**Nidwalden (NW)**  
Nidwalden Contact, T: +41 (0)41 618 76 65  
[www.nwcontact.ch](http://www.nwcontact.ch)

**Obwalden (OW)**  
Promotion of economic development  
T: +41 (0)41 660 90 66  
[www.iow.ch](http://www.iow.ch)

**St. Gallen (SG)**  
Promotion of economic development  
T: +41 (0)71 229 35 60  
[www.standort.sg.ch](http://www.standort.sg.ch)

**Schaffhausen (SH)**  
Promotion of economic development  
T: +41 (0)52 674 03 03  
[www.sh.ch/wf](http://www.sh.ch/wf)

**Schwyz (SZ)**  
Office for Economy of the Canton of Schwyz  
T: +41 (0)41 819 16 34  
[www.schwyz-economy.ch](http://www.schwyz-economy.ch)

**H fe – promotion of economic  
development**  
T: +41 (0)55 410 25 50  
[www.standort-hoefe.ch](http://www.standort-hoefe.ch)

**Solothurn (SO)**  
Promotion of economic development  
T: +41 (0)32 627 95 23  
[www.standortsolothurn.ch](http://www.standortsolothurn.ch)

**Thurgau (TG)**  
Promotion of economic development  
T: +41 (0)52 724 26 06  
[www.wiftg.ch](http://www.wiftg.ch)

**Ticino (TI)**  
Promotion of economic development  
T: +41 (0)91 814 35 41  
[www.ti.ch/spe](http://www.ti.ch/spe), [www.copernico.ch](http://www.copernico.ch)

**Uri (UR)**  
Promotion of economic development  
T: +41 (0)41 875 24 01  
[www.ur.ch/wfu](http://www.ur.ch/wfu)

**Vaud (VD)**  
Business services, T: +41 (0)21 316 60 21  
[www.vd.ch/setl](http://www.vd.ch/setl)

**Valais (VS)**  
Promotion of economic development  
T: +41 (0)27 606 73 51  
[www.business-valais.ch](http://www.business-valais.ch)

**Zug (ZG)**  
Business contact point  
T: +41 (0)41 728 55 04  
[www.zug.ch/economy](http://www.zug.ch/economy)

**Z rich (ZH)**  
Promotion of economic development,  
Canton of Z rich  
T: +41 (0)43 259 49 92 or  
+41 (0)43 259 26 13  
[www.standort.zh.ch](http://www.standort.zh.ch)

**Promotion of economic development,  
Winterthur region**  
T: +41 (0)52 267 67 97  
[www.standort-winterthur.ch](http://www.standort-winterthur.ch)

**Promotion of economic development,  
City of Z rich**  
T: +41 (0)44 412 36 93  
[www.stadt-zuerich.ch/wirtschaft](http://www.stadt-zuerich.ch/wirtschaft)

**Greater Zurich Area**  
[www.greaterzuricharea.ch](http://www.greaterzuricharea.ch)

# Sponsorship awards and competitions

Some of the websites to which reference is made in this document currently only contain information in German.

## International

### European Biotechnica Award

Award for the development & implementation of innovative business ideas  
[www.biotechnica-award.de](http://www.biotechnica-award.de)

### EUOWARDS

European award for entrepreneurs  
[www.euowards.com](http://www.euowards.com)

### ispo BrandNew Awards

Award for sports items and products  
[www.ispo-brandnew.com](http://www.ispo-brandnew.com)

### James Dyson Award

International design contest  
[www.jamesdysonaward.org](http://www.jamesdysonaward.org)

### Red Herring Award

Top 100 tech start-ups in the world  
[www.redherring.com](http://www.redherring.com)

### R. I. O. Award

For innovative products, processes and services that create added value with reduced energy and material consumption  
[www.rio-innovation.de](http://www.rio-innovation.de)

### SAM/SPG Sustainability Leadership Award

For achieving excellence in the implementation of sustainability principles  
[www.sustainability-award.com](http://www.sustainability-award.com)

### Schweighofer Prize

European innovation award for forestry, wood technology and timber products  
[www.schweighofer-prize.org](http://www.schweighofer-prize.org)

## National

### Best of Swiss Gastro Award

For innovative and interesting Swiss catering and restaurant businesses  
[www.gastroawards.ch](http://www.gastroawards.ch)

### Best of Swiss Web

Swiss award for e-business and internet  
[www.bestofswissweb.ch](http://www.bestofswissweb.ch)

### Creativity Award and Innovation Award

Award for the clever implementation of an idea in the field of market performance  
[www.idee-suisse.ch](http://www.idee-suisse.ch)

### CTI Medtech Award

Award for innovative development projects financed by the innovation promotion agency CTI  
[www.kti-cti.ch](http://www.kti-cti.ch)

### Ecosport Innovation Award for the Spirit of Sport

Award for the most outstanding environmentally friendly measures at sports events  
[www.ecosport.ch](http://www.ecosport.ch)

### Entrepreneur of the Year

Award presented by Ernst & Young for exceptional entrepreneurs; part of the global competition of the same name  
[www.ey.com](http://www.ey.com)

### ENTERPRIZE

Award of the foundation for entrepreneurship in business and society  
[www.enterprise-stiftung.ch](http://www.enterprise-stiftung.ch)

### ESPRIX

Swiss excellence award for outstanding entrepreneurial excellence  
[www.esprix.ch](http://www.esprix.ch)

### Golden Plug

Award of the Swiss agency for efficient energy use (S. A. F. E.) for energy-efficient, ecological and affordable lighting  
[www.energieagentur.ch](http://www.energieagentur.ch)

### Heuberger Winterthur Young Entrepreneur Award

Figures among the largest financial awards for young entrepreneurs in Switzerland; awarded to innovative young entrepreneurs  
[www.jungunternehmer-preis.ch](http://www.jungunternehmer-preis.ch)

### Innovation award of the Swiss insurance industry

Award for insurance companies and insurance brokers  
[www.innovationspreis-assekuranz.ch](http://www.innovationspreis-assekuranz.ch)

### Life Sciences Prize

Under the patronage of the Swiss Biotech Association and BioValley Platform Basel, awarded to promising life science companies  
[www.lifesciencesprize.ch](http://www.lifesciencesprize.ch)

### Milestone – Swiss Tourism Award

For innovative projects in Swiss tourism  
[www.htr-milestone.ch](http://www.htr-milestone.ch)

### Prix Evenir

Sustainability award endowed by the Crude Oil Association  
[www.prixevenir.ch](http://www.prixevenir.ch)

### Prix Veuve Clicquot

Award for Swiss female entrepreneurs, sponsored by the champagne company of the same name  
[www.prix-veuve-clicquot.de](http://www.prix-veuve-clicquot.de)

### Social Entrepreneur of the Year – Switzerland

Award and platform for socially committed entrepreneurs  
[www.schwabfound.org](http://www.schwabfound.org)

### Start-up Entrepreneur Award of the W.A. de Vigier Foundation

Oldest encouragement prize for start-ups (since 1989). 5 x CHF 100'000 are awarded annually for innovative business ideas  
[www.devigier.ch](http://www.devigier.ch)

### Swiss Economic Award

Most renowned award for young entrepreneurs in Switzerland – presented annually at the Swiss Economic Forum  
[www.swisseeconomic.ch/award](http://www.swisseeconomic.ch/award)

### Swiss Environmental Award

Prize money for technological, process- or product-oriented innovations. Recognition award "Ecopreneur" honoring the recipient's special commitment to protecting the environment  
[www.umweltpreis.ch](http://www.umweltpreis.ch)

### Swiss Logistics Award

For special achievements in the field of logistics  
[www.swisslogisticsaward.ch](http://www.swisslogisticsaward.ch)

### Swiss Robotics Cup

For inventors, tinkerers and technicians focusing on robots  
[www.robocup.ch](http://www.robocup.ch)

### Swiss Solar Prize

For the best new building and reconstruction of a building, the best insulated MINERGIE or solar house, the best energy system (solar thermal and photovoltaic, biomass and wood power plant)  
[www.solaragentur.ch](http://www.solaragentur.ch)

### Swiss Technology Award

Champions league for technological innovations  
[www.swisstechology-award.ch](http://www.swisstechology-award.ch)

### Venture

Largest business plan competition in Switzerland; held every two years  
[www.venture.ch](http://www.venture.ch)

### venture kick

Supports innovative business ideas of university graduates. Winning projects receive a seed capital of up to CHF 130 000  
[www.venturekick.ch](http://www.venturekick.ch)

### venture leaders

The winners receive intensive entrepreneur training in Boston and the chance to expand their network in the US  
[www.venturelab.ch/dt/vLeaders.asp](http://www.venturelab.ch/dt/vLeaders.asp)

### Watt d'Or

Award for the best energy projects and products  
[www.bfe.admin.ch](http://www.bfe.admin.ch)

### **XAVER Event Award**

For events that offer a unique experience  
[www.xaveraward.ch](http://www.xaveraward.ch)

### **ZKB Pioneer Award Technopark**

Swiss innovation award for a fully-developed technical product of a start-up company  
[www.technopark.ch](http://www.technopark.ch)

### **ZKB Sustainability Award**

For SMEs that make an outstanding contribution to sustainable development  
[www.zkb.ch/Nachhaltigkeitspreis](http://www.zkb.ch/Nachhaltigkeitspreis)

## **Regional**

### **Berne/Midlands**

#### **Burgdorf Inno Award**

For innovative student projects of the Bern University of Applied Sciences  
[www.burgdorfer-innopreis.ch](http://www.burgdorfer-innopreis.ch)

#### **InnoPrix SoBa**

Promotes innovative product and service ideas in the Canton of Solothurn  
[www.baloise.ch/innoprixsoba](http://www.baloise.ch/innoprixsoba)

#### **Solothurn Entrepreneur Award**

For companies in Solothurn  
[www.unternehmerpreis.ch](http://www.unternehmerpreis.ch)

#### **SVC Entrepreneur Award Midlands Area**

Award for the best SMEs in the economic area of the midlands  
[www.swiss-venture-club.ch](http://www.swiss-venture-club.ch)

### **Northwest Switzerland**

#### **Aargau Entrepreneur Award**

For the best entrepreneur (SME) in Aargau  
[www.akb.ch](http://www.akb.ch)

#### **Award for Young Entrepreneurs in Northwest Switzerland**

Award for innovative companies established or decisively redefined in the past five years  
[www.jungunternehmerpreis.ch](http://www.jungunternehmerpreis.ch)

#### **SVC Entrepreneur Award Northern Switzerland**

Award for the best SMEs  
[www.swiss-venture-club.ch](http://www.swiss-venture-club.ch)

### **Zürich/Eastern Switzerland**

#### **Business Award of Swissregiobank**

Motivational award for companies in the Wil region  
[www.wifo-regionwil.ch](http://www.wifo-regionwil.ch)

#### **KMU Primus**

Entrepreneur award for SMEs in the cantons of St. Gallen and Appenzell Ausserrhoden  
[www.sgkb.ch/kmuprimus](http://www.sgkb.ch/kmuprimus)

### **Lista Innovation Award and Tebo Implementation Award**

For university of applied sciences graduates from the Lake Constance Area  
[www.tebo.ch](http://www.tebo.ch)

#### **MSM Genesis**

Winterthur competition for sustainable start-up companies  
[www.msmgroup.ch](http://www.msmgroup.ch)

#### **SVC Entrepreneur Award Eastern Switzerland**

Award for the best SME's  
[www.swiss-venture-club.ch](http://www.swiss-venture-club.ch)

#### **SVC Entrepreneur Award Zürich Area**

Award for the best SME's  
[www.swiss-venture-club.ch](http://www.swiss-venture-club.ch)

#### **"Thurgauer Apfel" Award**

Motivational award given by the Thurgau economic community  
[www.ihk-thurgau.ch](http://www.ihk-thurgau.ch)

#### **Thurgau SME Women's Award**

Recognition and motivational award  
[www.kmufrauen-thurgau.ch](http://www.kmufrauen-thurgau.ch)

#### **Zürich Award for the Promotion of Health at the Workplace**

Award for companies who actively promote employee health  
[www.gesundheitsfoerderung-zh.ch](http://www.gesundheitsfoerderung-zh.ch)

### **Central Switzerland**

#### **Award for new companies in Central Switzerland**

Five nominated young companies in Central Switzerland are given the opportunity to present themselves at a public event  
[www.gewerbe-treuhand.ch](http://www.gewerbe-treuhand.ch)

#### **Innovation Award of the Chamber of Commerce of Central Switzerland**

For entrepreneurial achievements and innovations  
[www.hkz.ch](http://www.hkz.ch)

#### **SVC Entrepreneur Award Central Switzerland**

Award for the best SMEs  
[www.swiss-venture-club.ch](http://www.swiss-venture-club.ch)

#### **Zug Innovation Award**

Awarded to companies that create jobs  
[www.zug.ch/innovationspreis](http://www.zug.ch/innovationspreis)

#### **Zug Young Entrepreneur Award**

The awardees are chosen by the participants of the Zug Technology Forum  
[www.technologieforumzug.ch](http://www.technologieforumzug.ch)

### **Valais**

#### **Prix DEBIOPHARM/Valais**

Valais motivational award for innovative activities in the fields of science and life technology  
[www.debiopharm.com](http://www.debiopharm.com)

### **Suisse Romande**

#### **Award for Sustainable Development in Jura**

For companies in the Canton of Jura  
[www.juragenda21.ch/prixDD](http://www.juragenda21.ch/prixDD)

#### **IMD Start-up Competition**

For technology start-ups in the Lausanne region  
[www.imd.ch](http://www.imd.ch)

#### **Innovation Award Canton Fribourg**

Award for the most innovative companies in Fribourg  
[www.frinnovation.ch](http://www.frinnovation.ch)

#### **PERL – Prix Entrepreneurs Lausanne Region**

For companies in the Lausanne region  
[www.lausanne-region.ch](http://www.lausanne-region.ch)

#### **Prix Start-up Y-Parc Yverdon**

For innovative start-up companies in the early stages  
[www.y-parc.ch](http://www.y-parc.ch)

#### **Prix Strategis**

For young companies in Suisse Romande promising growth  
[www.hec-espace-entreprise.ch](http://www.hec-espace-entreprise.ch)

#### **SVC Entrepreneur Award Suisse Romande**

Award for the best SMEs in Suisse Romande  
[www.swiss-venture-club.ch](http://www.swiss-venture-club.ch)

#### **Young Entrepreneur Award (CCE Suisse)**

For students with the best entrepreneurial project  
[http://cdm.epfl.ch/ccef\\_en.php](http://cdm.epfl.ch/ccef_en.php)

### **Ticino**

#### **SVC Entrepreneur Award Svizzera Italiana**

Award for the best SMEs  
[www.swiss-venture-club.ch](http://www.swiss-venture-club.ch)