LIFE SCIENCES AND HEALTH
A cutting-edge industry of the canton of Vaud
A UNIQUE CONCENTRATION OF SKILLS

The canton of Vaud brings together a very large number of research centers and companies active in the field of life sciences and health which are recognized worldwide. It is located at the heart of what is known as the Swiss “Health Valley”.

The vast field of life sciences is at the intersection of pharma, biotechnologies and medical technologies (or medtech). In the canton of Vaud, it benefits from a number of quality facilities as well as advanced knowledge and expertise. The sector has undergone huge expansion in recent years.

Almost 400 companies (of which about 200 active in the high-tech sector and 200 in services) and as many laboratories have already chosen to set up business in Vaud. Several technology parks and high-level incubators are driving innovation, such as the Biopôle, the EPFL Innovation Park and the Y-PARC.

The Vaud ecosystem continues to grow with the arrival of new players and the creation of startups, most of them emerging from the higher education institutions of the region. The Swiss Cancer Center Lausanne dedicated to cancer research has been inaugurated in 2018 near the University Hospital of Lausanne (CHUV). It houses 300 researchers and doctors.

Around 60 foreign companies, more than a third of which are US, have chosen the Vaud ecosystem for the development of their industrial activities and services. A good number of them have established their European headquarters here.

AN IDEAL ENVIRONMENT FOR INVESTING

Located in the heart of Europe, Switzerland never ceases to amaze with its diversity and prosperity. Its political system is based on direct democracy and consensus, giving rise to productive stability that greatly benefits the economy. The country regularly ranks among the most competitive in the world.

Vaud, the largest of the French-speaking cantons, is also the most populated, with more than 800,000 inhabitants. An illustration of its openness is that nearly a third of its population hails from abroad. A significant proportion of these people are highly qualified and were attracted by the working conditions and excellence of the region’s institutions.

There are some 50,000 companies in the canton, mainly operating in the service sector, but they also lead the way in sectors with high added value such as precision instruments, medical equipment and information technology.

“We are ideally positioned in the heart of Health Valley. There, the workforce is highly qualified and the quality of life is excellent.”

MICHEL PETTIGREW
Executive Chairman, Ferring Holding Inc.
AREAS OF EXPERTISE

The Vaud region brings together extremely advanced skills in a large number of innovative sectors.

Thanks to strong partnerships between key players in the sector, the region is at the forefront of research in the specific fields of neuroscience, oncology, immunology, nutrition and cardiovascular diseases. Innovative disciplines including bioinformatics, medical imaging and robotic surgery are also developing rapidly.

A network of private clinics and health facilities enables the secure and efficient transfer of research results in the following key areas:

**Immunology**
Around a hundred research laboratories and some 15 cutting-edge companies in the canton are ensuring that progress is made in the treatment of diseases such as AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. Partnerships between the academic, medical and engineering communities enable the development of devices and innovative solutions to improve patient care.

**Neurotech**
This union of state-of-the-art technologies and medicine, aimed at better understanding the functioning of the brain, is the subject of studies carried out by several actors in the region, including some 70 research laboratories and around 20 specialized companies. The design of robots, exoskeletons and virtual reality systems are envisioned as solutions for the future.

**Oncology**
The canton of Vaud comprises a multitude of research centers and companies ensuring high-quality care as well as highly qualified personnel in the fight against cancer. Nearly 6,000 researchers and employees are active in this sector. Since 2018, the Swiss Cancer Center Lausanne (SCCL) has brought together 300 international researchers to develop the treatments of the future. The American Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, located in the canton of Vaud, is also seeking expansion projects in order to further develop its activities.

**Digital health**
Medical professionals, innovators and entrepreneurs are part of a network featuring the most cutting-edge technologies in health. They are working at some 30 research laboratories and as many companies, active in areas ranging from prevention to patient treatment.

**MedTech and micro-technology**
Medical technologies are developed in the canton of Vaud by companies such as Medtronic, Symbios, Edwards Lifesciences, Intuitive Surgical, EMS and Valtronic. As manufacturers of medical equipment and devices, they are breathing new life into the health field.

The canton's historical expertise in miniaturization, micro-mechanics and mechatronics (originally from watchmaking) is now being expanded on in around a dozen sectors, including medtech. Some 50 suppliers active in this field are based in the canton.

**Laboratory and diagnostic technologies**
Thanks to the collaboration between the fields of nanotechnology and diagnostic analysis, state-of-the-art tools and applications are being developed in the canton of Vaud, where some 20 research laboratories and around a dozen companies are active, particularly in medical imaging.
CUTTING-EDGE RESEARCH INSTITUTES

Public institutions of international renown are energizing the health sector, working hand-in-hand with the private sector.

University Hospital of Lausanne (CHUV)
With its 11,000 employees, the CHUV ranks among the 10 best hospitals in the world (according to the magazine Newsweek). It plays a central role in the fields of medical care, medical research and training. It also conducts clinical studies and develops ambitious projects such as “Neurotech”, a platform unique in Europe dedicated to assessing the medical and medico-economic impact of new technologies in the field of clinical neuroscience. Furthermore, the CHUV actively participates in the development of new tools, for example in partnership with Accuray. The oncology department, headed by Prof. G. Coukos, carries out work of international renown in cancer research.

École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL)
The EPFL sits among the top 20 universities in the world according to a number of international rankings (World University Ranking, Times Higher Education and Leiden Ranking, among others). It is home to the Swiss Institute for Experimental Cancer Research (ISREC) and also runs a large European research project called the Human Brain Project.

The EPFL Innovation Park is located alongside the academic campus and houses more than 160 companies, most of them startups but there are also some larger firms. The technology park notably houses the Debiopharm biopharmaceutical group, which is working on the development of innovative treatments that target unmet medical needs. The group has a major center for R&D there.

School of Engineering and Management of the canton of Vaud (HEIG-VD)
As the largest player in the network of the University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Western Switzerland, the HEIG-VD has established a strong connection between its students and the world of industry. The “Health, Engineering and Economics” group specializes in the development of solutions focused on the health sector. The HEIG-VD and the School of Health Sciences Vaud have also set up the Engineering-Health platform with the aim of creating synergies within the framework of R&D projects where these two fields meet, such as the creation of smartphone applications to improve patient care by caregivers.
University of Lausanne (UNIL)
The Faculty of Biology and Medicine (FBM) at the University of Lausanne – the only university in Switzerland to unite these two disciplines – provides training covering living beings in their entirety. This alignment helps build strong links between basic research and clinical practice, promoting translational research, which places the FBM at the forefront of training and research.

The University of Lausanne is currently constructing a new building for the ever-growing number of students in life sciences. These projects illustrate the growing strength and vitality of the sector in the region.

unil.ch

15,400 students were enrolled in the 2018 academic year at the UNIL

511 ordinary and associate professors teach at the UNIL in 2018

Nestlé Institute of Health Science
Researchers at this institute are studying nutritional solutions to counter the progression of diabetes, obesity and Alzheimer’s disease. Based at the EPFL campus, the Nestlé Institute of Health Sciences forms part of (and thus benefits from) Nestlé’s global R&D.
nestleinstitutehealthsciences.com

160 scientists of around 30 different nationalities

280 peer-reviewed publications
AGORA Center
The AGORA building, which is the primary facility of the Swiss Cancer Center in Lausanne (SCCL), has been opened in 2018. It is the result of a partnership between four major institutions: the CHUV, the UNIL, the EPFL and the ISREC Foundation. It brings together doctors, researchers and bioengineers, creating a strong competence center on a single site.

300 specialists will work there
12,000 m² consisting of laboratories, technical areas, classrooms and an auditorium

Cell production laboratory for immunotherapy
This laboratory, founded in September 2016, is affiliated to the CHUV but located on the Biopôle campus at Épalinges. The facility aims to promote clinical innovation and provides patients in the canton of Vaud and French-speaking Switzerland with some of the most advanced cancer treatments in the world.

18.5 million francs granted by the Grand Council of Vaud in 2014
750 m² of surface area, merging production, quality control (QC) and administration

Ludwig Cancer Research
This prestigious US organization has chosen Lausanne as one of its leading global sites. It is set to invest in excess of 100 million francs in its Vaud branch to develop immunotherapy over the course of the next 10 years. This presence sees the canton interconnected with the network of Ludwig research centers in the USA, Australia, Belgium, the UK and Sweden.

1.8 billion US dollars has already been invested by the institute in cancer research
200 scientific publications have been written by Prof. George Coukos, director of the Ludwig Cancer Research in Lausanne

Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics
The SIB leads and coordinates the progress of bioinformatics in Switzerland. Its data science experts provide an advanced bioinformatics infrastructure that supports research conducted by the national and international life sciences research community. The institute brings together world-renowned researchers and provides training in bioinformatics.

830 million
amount raise by the region’s life science startups in the period 2015–2018 (CHF).

800 scientists active in fields including genomics, transcriptomics and proteomics
65 world-class research and service groups

12,000 m² consisting of laboratories, technical areas, classrooms and an auditorium

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HIGHLY SKILLED WORKFORCE

Switzerland, and the canton of Vaud in particular, is a veritable magnet for international talent.

Almost 175 nationalities are represented among the canton’s active population. This diversity can be attributed to the region’s world-renowned quality of life and the excellent work-life balance it offers.

“Health Valley” is home to nearly 25,000 professionals as well as 5,000 researchers and scientists active in the life sciences and health sectors. More than half of them are based in the canton.

Key skills
The canton of Vaud provides a pleasant living and socio-educational environment. It is safe as well offering easy access to high-level academic institutions. Aspects valued by the foreign companies that have set up there include the quality and commitment of workers, the rigorousness and honesty of business relations and subcontracting, and in particular a strong political support for innovation.

Institutions responsive to the needs of entrepreneurs provide substantial public support for research and development and proactive technology transfer between academia and industry. The low level of social costs means that labor is relatively inexpensive in comparison with productivity.

KEY DATES

1982
Hans Wallstén, a Swedish businessman based in Switzerland, invents the medical stent.

1984
Merck builds its first production plant in Aubonne.

1996
Rolf Zinkernagel, who had been a post-doctoral fellow at the UNIL, receives the Nobel Prize for Medicine for discovering how the cells of the immune system recognize a virus.

2014
The Jules Gonin Eye Hospital and the company Second Sight perform the first implant of an artificial retinal prosthesis, allowing sight to be restored to a blind patient.

2018
After restoring mobility to paralyzed rats, a team of researchers led by Grégoire Courtine, associate professor at the EPFL, succeed in helping three paraplegic patients regain the ability to walk.

“Thanks to its high concentration of companies, research laboratories and clinical centers, the canton of Vaud benefits from an outstanding talent pool in the life sciences sector. That is what brought me here.”

GEORGE COUKOS
World-leading expert in oncology
CUTTING-EDGE COMPANIES
A selection of multinationals, SMEs and startups in the canton of Vaud.

AB2Bio
AB2Bio is based at the EPFL Innovation Park and specializes in the development of innovative therapies for the treatment of inflammatory diseases with unmet medical needs.
ab2bio.com

Abionic
Abionic designs and markets rapid and effective diagnostic tools: namely tests for sepsis, allergies and iron-deficiency anemia.
abionic.com

Accuray
This radiation oncology company develops, manufactures and sells customized and innovative treatment solutions with the aim of improving patients’ quality of life.
accuray.com

ACG Inspection
ACG Inspection manufactures measuring and control instruments, mainly for the pharmaceutical, cosmetic and food industries.
acg-world.com

ADC Therapeutics
ADC Therapeutics specializes in antibody drug conjugates (ADC) to be administered to patients with cancer.
adctherapeutics.com

Akka Technologies
This engineering and technology consulting group is based in Lausanne. It provides services in around a dozen industrial sectors, including life sciences and most notably in terms of chemical, pharmaceutical and biotechnology processes.
 akka-technologies.com

Aleva Neurotherapeutics
This spin-off from the EPFL specializes in deep brain stimulation devices, which are particularly useful for treating Parkinson’s patients.
aleva-neuro.com

Anokion
Anokion develops antigen-specific immune tolerance technology to treat autoimmune diseases.
anokion.com

Asceneuron
Founded in 2013, Asceneuron is working on new treatments to provide relief to patients with neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s and orphan tauopathies.
asceneuron.com

B. Braun Medical
The subsidiary based in Crissier belongs to the international group B. Braun, one of the leading manufacturers and suppliers of medical products.
bbraun.ch
BD Switzerland (Beckton Dickinson)/Carefusion
BD is an international medical technology company striving to advance in the research of diseases, diagnostics, treatment and patient care.
bd.com/ch

Beckman Coulter
Nyon-based Beckman Coulter develops, manufactures and sells products that simplify, automate and deliver innovations dedicated to complex biomedical analysis.
beckmancoulter.fr

Biosafe/GE Healthcare
Biosafe specializes in cell therapies aimed at a broad range of diseases, from cancer immunotherapy to stem cells for regenerative medicine.
biosafe.ch

Biosensors
With its European headquarters established in Morges, international group Biosensors provides devices and solutions related to four therapeutic areas: cardiovascular, endovascular, intensive care and cardiac imaging.
biosensors.com

DAY Medical
Using fully automated procedures, Day Medical provides a new generation of tests to transfusion centers and hospital serology laboratories.
day-medical.com

DBS System
This startup is aiming to use innovative technology to revolutionize and simplify blood sampling.
dbs-system.ch

Debiopharm
This group comprises five companies active in life sciences, focusing on the development of treatments for diseases with unmet needs. Its specialization is oncology.
debiopharm.com

Debiotech
Debiotech conducts research into artificial organs, micro and nanotechnologies, drug delivery systems, diagnostics and medical devices.
debiotech.com

FERRING PHARMACEUTICALS
Based in Saint-Prex since 2006, this biopharmaceutical company with international influence focuses above all on research. It identifies, develops and markets innovative products in the fields of reproductive and maternal health, urology, gastroenterology, endocrinology and orthopedics. The Saint-Prex site houses both the group's global headquarters, which generated revenues of € 1.8 billion in 2016, and a production plant. The company has subsidiaries in nearly 60 countries and markets its products in 110.

“Economic Development - canton of Vaud (DEV) has always been on hand to support us, especially in finding our site at Saint-Prex,” says the Executive Chairman of Ferring Holding Inc. Michel Pettigrew. The multinational received the Vaud International Business Award in 2015, in the “foreign company” category. “It is an honor and a great reward for us all. It also provides recognition for our efforts in terms of local production, scientific collaborations, job creation and support to the local community. We intend to continue our excellent collaboration with the canton of Vaud, with whom we share values regarding quality of life, innovation and expertise.”
ferring.com

Deep Cube
Deep Cube is a Swiss startup that uses artificial intelligence to improve the efficiency and accuracy of medical diagnostics.
deePCube.ch

Dentsply Sirona
Dentsply Sirona aims to enable oral health professionals to provide faster, safer and more effective care.
corporate.dentsplysirona.com

Distal Motion
Distal Motion, a spin-off of the EPFL, designs, develops and manufactures robotic surgical systems in Switzerland.
distalmotion.com

Edwards Lifesciences
Based in Nyon, this US company specializes in cardiovascular medical equipment, in particular the artificial heart.
edwards.com
**E.M.S Electro Medical Systems**
This Swiss company has been developing a wide range of precision medical equipment (orthopedic, urological and dental prophylaxis instruments) for more than 30 years.
[ems-company.com](http://ems-company.com)

**Fresenius-Kabi**
Fresenius-Kabi offers products for the collection and processing of blood as well as products for transfusion medicine and cell therapy.
[fresenius.ch](http://fresenius.ch)

**Galderma**
This global pharmaceutical company specializes exclusively in the research, development and commercialization of medical solutions in dermatology. Acquired by Nestlé in 2014, Galderma is now a subsidiary of Nestlé Skin Health.
[galderma.com](http://galderma.com)

**Glenmark**
Glenmark focuses on the discovery and development of biotechnology mainly in the fields of immunology and oncology.
[glenmarkpharma.com](http://glenmarkpharma.com)

**Globus Medical**
Globus Medical is active in the search for solutions for spinal disorders. Its Swiss branch is in Lausanne.
[globusmedical.com](http://globusmedical.com)

**GSK**
GSK is one of the 10 giants in the global pharmaceutical industry. It markets vaccines as well as a large number of prescription drugs.
[glaxosmithkline.ch](http://glaxosmithkline.ch)

**GTX Medical**
This company is developing a therapy combining a spinal cord implant with gravity-assisted training for injured people.
[gtxmedical.com](http://gtxmedical.com)

**Haemonetics**
This US company has set up one of its laboratories in Signy, near Nyon. There, it develops solutions for every step of the blood supply chain, from plasma and blood collection systems through to hospitals.
[haemonetics.com](http://haemonetics.com)

**Heraeus**
Heraeus is the world’s leading supplier of precious metals. The German group, based in Yverdon-les-Bains, also develops medical technologies.
[heraeus.com](http://heraeus.com)

**Incyte**
This US pharma company has its headquarters located at the Biopôle. A production site for anti-cancer treatment will soon be established at the Y-PARC.
[incyte.com](http://incyte.com)

**Intento**
Founded in 2016, this spin-off from the EPFL has developed an electrical stimulation device to aid rehabilitation following a stroke. It was acquired by the unicorn Mindmaze in 2018.
[intento.ch](http://intento.ch)

**MEDTRONIC**
This US medical technology giant established its regional headquarters as well as a production unit in Tolochenaz in 1996. Some 750 people are employed there. The firm, which has 85,000 employees worldwide and achieved a turnover of nearly 30 billion US dollars for the year 2016–17, has introduced a large number of technological innovations in medicine since it was first founded. A recent example which typifies this innovation is the miniaturized Micra pacemaker, the smallest in the world, which is implanted directly into the heart. During its 20 years in the canton, the company has established partnerships with stakeholders in the local economic and scientific fabric: technical development projects with the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) and the School of Engineering at Yverdon-les-Bains, research collaborations with the University Hospital of Lausanne (CHUV), sponsorship of a chair at the EPFL, recruitment of engineers, not to mention its relations with many goods and services suppliers.

“Vaud Economic Development has played an important role in facilitating the establishment of Medtronic in the region,” explains company spokesman Eric Gasser. “We have appreciated the simplicity and quality of dialog with the cantonal authorities ever since.”
[medtronic.com](http://medtronic.com)
**Intuitive Surgical**
Intuitive Surgical is the world leader in minimally invasive robot-assisted surgery technology. In particular, it is the maker of the Da Vinci Surgical System.
intuitivesurgical.com

**Iqvia**
This US biopharmaceutical service company specializes in studies and consulting for the drug and health care industries.
iqvia.com

**Kaz Europe**
The European headquarters of the Kaz international group for the production and marketing of health and home comfort products is located in Lausanne. It owns various brands, including PUR, Vicks, Honeywell and Braun.
kaz.com

**Leman Micro Devices**
This startup based in Ecublens develops smartphone applications that allow users to check their health, for example blood pressure.
leman-micro.com

**Lunaphore**
Lunaphore specializes in diagnostics and develops tumor analysis platforms based on microfluidic technology.
lunaphore.ch

**Merck**
This pharmaceutical and chemical company designs biotherapies for the treatment of cancer and multiple sclerosis as well as cutting-edge systems for scientific research and production.
merckgroup.com

**Nanolive**
This startup develops innovative microscopes to improve our knowledge and understanding of how cells and bacteria work.
nanolive.ch

**Neogenomics**
American company NeoGenomics, which specializes in oncology tests, has set up its European headquarters in Rolle.
zeogenomics.com

**Nestlé Health Science**
The “health” branch of the world’s leading agribusiness focuses on the research and development of new nutritional solutions to prevent or cure various ailments.
nestlehealthscience.ch

**Oculis**
Oculis is a biopharmaceutical company that develops eye drop treatments for ophthalmic diseases.
oculis.com

**Precision for Medicine/Simplicity Bio**
SimplicityBio is a company specializing in biomarkers useful in understanding DNA, protein and microbe data. It has just been acquired by Precision for Medicine, an American company specializing in clinical trial management.
precisionmedicinegrp.com/pfm/

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**MINDMAZE**
MindMaze is a spin-off from the EPFL, launched in 2011. Today it is the first unicorn in Switzerland, i.e. a company worth more than a billion US dollars. The recipe for its success consists of technology which facilitates and accelerates the rehabilitation of stroke victims by means of virtual reality. The tool, called MindMotionPRO, combines neural sensors, cameras and computer-generated images. It allows the patient to follow a series of exercises and see their movements reproduced on the screen by an avatar, then correct them. Performance is displayed as a score, just like in a video game. With nearly 90 employees in Switzerland, MindMaze also has a sales office in Germany and the UK. It plans to expand gradually to the USA.

MindMaze was presented with awards by Venture Kick and Venture Leaders in 2010, and Innograts in 2011, followed by a further award from the IMD the following year. “All this financial support has stimulated our growth,” observes CFO Pierre-Emmanuel Meyer. “All in all we have received a lot of help from Switzerland, especially from the canton of Vaud.” There was also CHF 100,000 granted by the Office for Economic Affairs and Innovation (SPEI) of the canton of Vaud. “This has allowed us to make investments in training, building our prototype and taking part in exhibitions abroad.” MindMaze has also been certified by Scale-up Vaud since the fall of 2017.
www.mindmaze.com

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Source: EY ranking
SOPHiA GENETICS
Based on a philosophy of “data-driven medicine”, SOPHiA GENETICS dissects and analyzes the molecular information of patients to then help practitioners make a diagnosis and recommend a personalized treatment plan. This approach is particularly useful in oncology and hereditary cancers, as well as cardiac, metabolic and pediatric diseases. Today, the company has 270 hospitals in its network, forming the largest clinical genomics community in the world. Thanks to the sharing of knowledge, “the result of the data analysis of a patient treated in a hospital in France can help with the diagnosis of a patient in Latin America, for example. It’s a real breakthrough,” says Jurgi Camblong, CEO and co-founder of the company.

In its early days, SOPHiA GENETICS received direct financial support from both the SPEI and the Foundation for Technological Innovation (FIT): an initial loan of CHF 100,000 in 2011 followed by a second loan of CHF 500,000 at the end of 2013. “This contribution allowed us to recruit our CTO, then start developing our technology and carry out market research,” recalls Camblong.

Qgel
This biotech company focuses on cancer research and diagnosis.
qgelbio.com

Quotient
Quotient’s mission is to transform transfusion diagnostics by providing a comprehensive automated testing solution.
quotientbd.com

Regen Lab
This Vaud-based biotech company develops and produces medical devices for autologous cell therapies (PRP-BMC).
regenlab.com

Sensimed
Sensimed specializes in the personalized treatment of glaucoma and the assessment of these treatments.
sensimed.ch

Sunstar
The Japanese company has a subsidiary in the canton. Sunstar is specialized in the production of oral care, cosmetics and health care.
sunstar.com

Symbios
Also established in Vaud, this company designs and markets hip and knee prosthetics.
symbios.ch

Synaptive Medical
This company develops robotic systems, designed primarily for surgery.
synaptivemedical.com

Unilabs
With 230 laboratories worldwide, including one at the Biopôle, Unilabs offers diagnostic services in laboratory medicine, imaging and pathology.
unilabs.ch

Valtronic
Valtronic is active in the design and industrialization of systems and implants for the medical industry.
valtronic.com
NETWORK OF SUPPORTING PARTNERS

Economic Development – Canton of Vaud (DEV)
The DEV is the main contact for foreign companies looking to set up in the region. To fulfill its role, the DEV works with both private (banks, notaries, lawyers, etc.) and public partners (various government departments). It provides advice on administrative procedures and financing, and allows newly established companies to benefit from its vast network.
dev.ch

EPFL Innovation Park
Located next to the EPFL, the technological park of the same name hosts over 160 companies housed in 14 buildings – of which five are equipped with biological or chemical laboratories – covering an area of 55,000 m². Over 2,000 researchers, engineers, scientists and administrative staff work there. AC Immune, AB2Bio, Aleva Neurotherapeutics, Asceneuron and G-Therapeutics conduct their research into life sciences at this location.
epfl-innovationpark.ch

Foundation for Technological Innovation (FIT)
The FIT awards grants and loans (of between CHF 100,000 and 500,000) to support the development of innovative technology projects at different stages in their evolution.
fondation-fit.ch

Inartis Network
The Inartis Foundation is committed to promoting innovation, particularly in the technological and life sciences fields, as well as fostering interactions between innovators, whether they be entrepreneurs or researchers. It manages the Inartis Network, which is a national network specially dedicated to the life sciences.
inartis.ch

Innosuisse
Innosuisse is the agency which promotes innovation in the Swiss Confederation. It is responsible for encouraging knowledge-based innovation in Switzerland via financial means, advice and professional networks.
innosuisse.ch

BioAlps is a life sciences cluster in Western Switzerland which brings together research institutes and industry. It forms a network and a community of researchers and professionals. It provides companies with exposure at events and trade shows as well as regional, national and international business opportunities.

BioAlps has a network of close to 25,000 professionals who are active in a whole range of cutting-edge fields: these include biomaterials, diagnostics, endocrinology, immunology, medtech, neurosciences and oncology. The cluster regularly organizes events, notably the "4 à 6", which takes place between 4 pm and 6 pm and presents one of the actors in the network, wherever he may be based in Switzerland.
bioalps.org

Source: Global Competitiveness Report 2019

No. 1

Switzerland’s ranking in 2019, ahead of Sweden and the USA, according to the Global Innovation Index, for the 9th consecutive year.
BIOPÔLE

Biopôle, a science park entirely dedicated to life sciences which was inaugurated in 2004. It is located in Épalinges outside Lausanne, and is home to more than 75 companies and institutes – including several head offices of multinationals as well as innovative SMEs – representing more than 1,500 professionals. It also hosts more than 25 world-class research groups from the University Hospital of Lausanne (CHUV) and the University of Lausanne (UNIL), as well as the renowned Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research and the CHUV’s Cell Production Center for Immunotherapy.

The site, covering an area of 134,000 m², provides its occupants with high-level facilities as well as community spaces, thus promoting innovation as well as commercial development. “We strongly believe that no company, whatever it may be, can succeed on its own. It is based on this principle that the new Biopôle strategy was developed, encouraging both diversity (from the academic and industrial worlds, and from big business to startups) and proximity,” explains science park CEO Nasri Nahas.

Setting up on such a site clearly helps with meetings and exchanges with industry players, giving rise to future partnerships and collaborations. “Being part of an ecosystem ensures support and assistance. It provides not only opportunities for experience sharing, but also state-of-the-art equipment, which is paid for based on usage instead of having to buy very expensive equipment,” Nahas adds.

To meet strong demand, Biopôle is undergoing a major expansion of its facilities. In addition to the 44,000 m² already built, a further 36,000 m² is set to be added by 2020. The park also has an incubator called StartLab which is dedicated to young life sciences startups as well as emerging projects. It was set to open its doors in spring 2018 and provide laboratories, equipment and shared offices in exchange for a reduced financial cost and flexibility via usage on quarterly basis. The Biopôle also hosts the Digital Health Hub, which brings together research and companies active in digital health.

biopole.ch
Innovaud
As a gateway to innovation in the canton of Vaud, Innovaud supports and provides networking opportunities for startups and SMEs, particularly those in life sciences, to develop solutions with them in the area of hosting, promotion, funding and/or coaching. Innovaud is firmly established in a vast network of partners, enabling it to redirect requests to the organizations most suited to the needs of each party.
innovaud.ch

ISREC
The foundation has been committed to experimental cancer research for 50 years. Its mission is to help Lausanne get to the forefront of global research into oncology with its funding of the entire Swiss Cancer Center Lausanne (SCCL) project.
isrec.ch

Swiss Medtech
Swiss Medtech was established following the merger of two national medtech organizations, FASMED and Medical Cluster. The association represents the interests of the industry and serves 1,400 companies and 58,500 employees. It is committed to rapid patient access to innovation and high-quality standards.
swiss-medtech.ch

Office for Economic Affairs and Innovation (SPEI)
The SPEI supports companies established in the canton of Vaud, and more specifically those active in the sectors of industry and advanced technologies. SPEI advises and informs entrepreneurs, particularly by putting them in touch with the appropriate organizations according to their specific needs. SPEI can also provide direct financial support.
invest-vaud.swiss

Swiss Biotech
Based in Zurich, this Swiss biotech portal launched a joint project in 2005, led and managed by the Swiss Biotech Association (SBA), with a range of partners. The aim of this portal is the presentation of biotechnology resources, services and companies, as well as the life sciences disciplines.
swissbiotech.org

Vaud BioMed
The association brings together specialized service-providers in life sciences in order to enhance this concentration of highly specialized skills. Its goal is to develop a key platform for expertise, advice, training, exchange, networking and lobbying for all stakeholders in the sector.
vaudbiomed.ch

Y-PARC
This technology park was created in 1991 in Yverdon-les-Bains and is the first of its kind in Switzerland. It is also one of the largest, covering an area of 50 hectares. It is a competence center which is home to more than 150 companies and startups. Y-PARC provides a complete and varied infrastructure – with land for sale, premises to rent and a business incubator – and support services tailored to all. For life sciences, this includes the imminent arrival of an Incyte production plant and several medical technology companies (Heraeus Medical Components, Dentsply-Maillefer and Symbios Orthopédie).
y-parc.ch

16,000
employees, a quarter of the Swiss workforce in life sciences, work in the 360 companies established in the canton of Vaud.

Source: Vivactis