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2.1 billion for Swiss startups

Investment in Vaud based startups reach CHF 409.1 million; record number of financing rounds in our canton since 2012

The Coronavirus epidemic since March 2020 has had an impact on fundraising in Switzerland. Nevertheless, investors have financed Swiss startups in a stable manner: 2.1 billion francs in 2020, versus 2.2 billion francs in 2019. In the canton of Vaud, the year 2020 recorded a very slight decrease of investments, linked to the lockdown in March and the fact that many investors pressed on the brakes until the second half of 2020. Vaud investments nonetheless reached CHF 409.1 million in 2020, against CHF 455.7 million in 2019. The number of financing rounds in our canton has significantly increased, from 48 in 2019 to 55 in 2020, a record figure since the first systematic survey carried out in 2012. The trend is the same throughout Switzerland: While the cumulative volume of venture capital investments has decreased, the number of funding cycles has increased by 16% compared to 2019, reaching 304. This is indicated by the latest Swiss Venture Capital Report, produced by Startupticker.ch online information portal in collaboration with SECA (the Swiss Private Equity & Corporate Finance Association).

Vaud startups have been hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic but are resisting the storm. Investors' confidence is still present and, as a reminder, the cantonal authorities were the first in Switzerland to put in place emergency financial aid measures for young technology companies. In 2020, Vaud startups attracted CHF 46.6 million less than in 2019, as investments slowed down sharply from March 2020. Commitments restarted and became more numerous as of summer 2020. This trend is confirmed nationwide.

2020: A year without "mega deals"

In 2020 at the national level, investors focused on making startups resistant to the crisis. Less funds were put into new projects. There has been no funding of more than CHF 200 million in Switzerland. Despite this, five Vaud startups together managed to raise CHF 272 million in 2020: SOPHiA Genetics (CHF 110 million), Kandou (CHF 84.1 million), Polares Medical (CHF 37.9 million), Lunaphore (CHF 23 million) and NetGuardians (CHF 17 million). SOPHiA Genetics, Kandou, Polares Medical and Lunaphore enter the TOP 20 of the most important fundraising rounds in Switzerland in 2020.

First place in Vaud in digital health and Medtech at the national level, ICT on the rise

The canton of Vaud ranks first nationally in terms of investments in digital health, thanks to the fundraising from SOPHiA Genetics (CHF 110 million). This sector reached CHF 114 million in our canton in 2020, compared to CHF 78.6 million in 2019, an increase of 45%. The canton of Vaud also ranks first in Switzerland in 2020 in Medtech with CHF 97.05 million, thanks to fundraising from Polares Medical (CHF 37.9 million) and Lunaphore (CHF 23 million). Investment in information and communication technologies (ICT) increased by 4.5% in our canton, from CHF 110.4 million in 2019 to CHF 115.45 million in 2020. Follow, the Vaud investments in Fintech (CHF 35.5 million), Cleantech (CHF 25 million), micro-nano technologies (CHF 17.7 million) and Biotech (CHF 4.4 million).

Boom in the Biotech sector in Switzerland, the canton of Basel takes the benefits

Swiss biotechnology startups collected more than CHF 800 million in 2020, an increase of 31% compared to 2019. This is linked, on the one hand, to the fact that innovation in drug development is taking place on long term and, on the other hand, to the constant growing worldwide trend of investments in Biotech. Because, for the first time since 2017, more money was given in Biotech than in ICT startups, the ranking of the Swiss cantons has also changed. After years that the first two ranks have been occupied by the two cantons where the EPFs are located, Zurich and Vaud, Basel has taken the second place in terms of investment in startups behind Zurich, followed by the canton of Vaud in 3rd position.

[Download the Swiss Venture Capital Report 2020](#)

Swiss Venture Capital Report: Some numbers in detail

1. Investment in Vaud startups (million CHF)

2012	206,1
2013	89,7
2014	199,75
2015	193,3
2016	463,22
2017	298,25
2018	342,2
2019	455,7
2020	409,1

2. Number of financing rounds Vaud

2012	20
2013	18
2014	19
2015	26
2016	48
2017	29
2018	37
2019	48
2020	55

3. Investment in Swiss startups (million CHF)

2012	316
2013	415
2014	457
2015	676
2016	909
2017	938
2018	1236
2019	2294
2020	2124

4. Number of financing rounds Switzerland

2012	61
2013	90
2014	92
2015	120
2016	151
2017	175
2018	230
2019	266
2020	304

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About**Swiss Venture Capital Report**

For the 9th consecutive year, the Swiss Venture Capital Report identifies and analyzes all (published) venture capital investments in startups. The report is produced by the national information portal Startupticker.ch in collaboration with SECA (Swiss Private Equity & Corporate Finance Association). The partners of the 2020 study are the School of Management of Fribourg (HEG-FR), the Swiss Entrepreneurs Foundation, Gebert Rüt Stiftung and digitalswitzerland. The publisher is the JNB Journalists Bureau.

Startupticker.ch

The Swiss information portal Startupticker.ch informs daily and in its weekly newsletter about the news of Swiss startups. Launched 8 years ago, Startupticker.ch has established itself as the benchmark media for innovation in Switzerland. The study was commissioned by Innosuisse, the Swiss agency for the promotion of innovation. Startupticker.ch also benefits from the support of more than 40 organizations and companies.

Innovaud

Innovaud is the innovation and investment promotion agency for the canton of Vaud, in Switzerland's Lake Geneva region. Its objectives are to help tech-oriented companies (startups, scale-ups, SMEs and corporates) develop their businesses and carry out innovation projects. Innovaud also assists foreign companies wanting to set up in our region. Innovaud is an initiative from the State of Vaud carried by the Department of economy, innovation and sport (DEIS) and the Department of education, youth and culture (DFJC).

SECA

SECA (Swiss Private Equity & Corporate Finance Association) represents the Swiss sectors of Private Equity, Venture Capital and Corporate Finance. SECA aims to represent the private equity and corporate finance activities vis-à-vis important target groups and the public. It also encourages the exchange of ideas and collaboration between members and their clients. Among its other skills, we can cite the promotion of continuing professional training as well as the development and application of codes of ethics.