

**BASEL**  
AREA+

**Annual report**  
**2019**



# Editorial

Dear Reader,

**Our goal is to strengthen the Basel Area as a business hub, to promote innovation effectively and to anchor it firmly within the region – a mission that drives us on a daily basis.**

At Basel Area Business & Innovation, we work day in, day out to kindle the interest of companies both at home and abroad in the Basel Area. When companies relocate and new companies set down roots here, this strengthens the region as a whole: attractive companies offer exciting jobs for well qualified talents. These people are drawn by the attractive labor market and the high quality of life. The talent pool in turn provides a strong argument for companies driven by innovation to settle in the cantons of Baselland, Basel-Stadt and Jura. An important part of our job therefore is to help pave the way for companies to move to the region and to support the founding and development of start-ups.

Ever more company founders are showing the courage to establish their own start-up. We support this gratifying development as part of our diverse range of activities to promote innovation. The Basel Area Business & Innovation team focuses on innovation in three key areas: In *Therapeutic Innovation* the primary focus is on drug development; *Healthcare Innovation – DayOne* has set itself the task of helping to shape the future of the healthcare sector; and *Industrial Transformation* is devoted to digitization in industry.

At the beginning of 2019, we also took over the operation of Switzerland Innovation Park Basel Area. In this way, we were able to extend our services, offering a diverse range of offices, laborato-

ries, co-working spaces and workshop rooms. Last fall, we opened a further site in the canton of Jura. However, Switzerland Innovation Park Basel Area is more than the sum of its parts: The three sites in Allschwil, Basel and Jura form a cohesive system in which start-up founders, entrepreneurs, consultants and researchers can exchange views and experiences. It is also home to our tried-and-trusted accelerator programs. Optimum conditions for providing pragmatic assistance to innovations from the Basel Area.

It is also gratifying that our future development has received broad support. Over the last two years, the parliaments and governments of the three cantons involved took all the necessary decisions to allow the creation of Switzerland Park Basel Area. In the fall, the parliaments of Basel-Landschaft and Basel-Stadt also approved a state contribution to Basel Area Business & Innovation by a large majority. Thanks to the steady support from our three sponsoring cantons and the federal government, we can look to the coming years with optimism.

Basel Area Business & Innovation wishes you an interesting read.

Domenico Scala  
President

Dr. Christof Klöpfer  
CEO

## The year in figures

We are driving the Basel Area forward. In 2019, we again provided numerous start-ups with support in founding their companies, kindled the interest of international companies in the business location and boosted our outstanding network.

### Companies that settled here

# 30

### Planned jobs in 3 to 5 years

# 305\*

\*estimates made by companies

### Countries of origin of companies that settled here

Belgium  
Canada  
Czech Republic  
France  
Germany  
Great Britain  
India  
Netherlands  
Singapore  
South Korea  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
USA



### Consultations for clients considering settling here, start-ups and founders

# 948



### Company foundations supported

# 62

### Planned jobs in 3 to 5 years

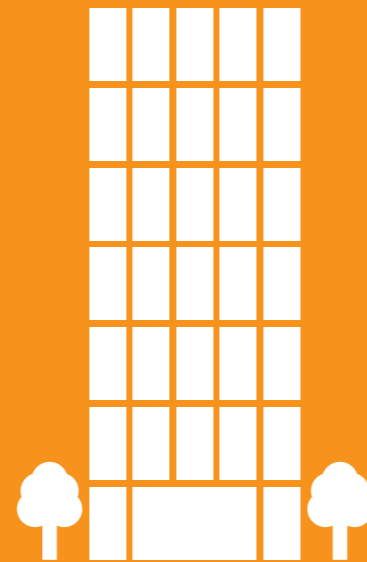
# 186\*

\*estimates made by companies



### Basel Area Business & Innovation employees

# 35



### Companies visited abroad

# 194



### Visits to the Basel Area by foreign companies

# 90

### Persons in network

# 24,511



### Events

# 106

### Participants

# 5,804

## How we have helped companies to grow in the Basel Area

### What we do

Basel Area Business & Innovation provides innovation-driven start-ups, organizations and companies with support in establishing their business in the Basel Area. As a promotional agency for the region and innovation sponsor, the organization awakens the interest of international clients in the region and supports them from the very first contact until they settle here. Basel Area Business & Innovation also promotes specific initiatives to establish the region as the Swiss business and innovation hub of the future. All the services are free of charge both for clients wanting to settle here and for start-up founders.

In our *Innovation Promotion* business unit we run the *Therapeutic Innovation*, *Healthcare Innovation – DayOne* and *Industrial Transformation* initiatives. All three initiatives organize their own accelerator programs, which showed further gratifying developments in 2019.

Basel Area Business & Innovation also operates Switzerland Innovation Park Basel Area with sites in Allschwil, Basel and Courroux.

### Jura shaping up for the future

Since the opening of the new Switzerland Innovation Park Basel Area site in Courroux near Delémont, in the canton of Jura, Basel Area Business & Innovation is now at home in all three sponsoring cantons. More than 250 interested visitors viewed the new premises, which foster collaboration. When planning this third site, people from all three cantons worked together intensively taking a goal-oriented approach.

The new Switzerland Innovation Park Basel Area in Jura is set to become a lively place where research and business work hand in hand to find solutions. In the field of *Industrial Transformation*, for example, the question arises as to how the traditionally strong watch industry of Jura can diversify with the aid of digitization. If the highly specialized SMEs in precision mechanics want to remain competitive and tap into markets such as the medtech sector, they must develop innovative products and manufacturing processes and remain at the cutting edge when it comes to technologies, business models and working procedures. To this end, workshops and seminars are being held at the Jura site of Switzerland Innovation Park Basel Area, in which entrepreneurs from different sectors are breaking new ground with researchers.

A good opportunity to consider the future of precision mechanics was offered by the annual event *Le Tout Connecté* that was attended by the business community from the canton of Jura. Almost 200 people took part in the event that was devoted to the topic of “Health and Innovation”. The focus was on possible applications of precision mechanics in the medtech sector.

**Maria Hahn**  
Founder Nutrix



We started with a course on building a company in Switzerland with Basel Area Business & Innovation and took full advantage of the many opportunities that have been offered to us since: During the Venture Mentoring we worked with an IP expert, which was key for us. We pitched at the DayOne Conference and were chosen to take part in the DayOne Accelerator.

Being introduced to the expert network through Basel Area Business & Innovation was an important door opener for Nutrix. I am neither from Basel nor from Switzerland, yet we found an amazing ecosystem and all the support is in place.

### Allschwil as a crystallization point

In 2019, Basel Area Business & Innovation and Switzerland Innovation Park Basel Area finalized the future planning for the Allschwil site: in 2022, the Innovation Park will move from its present site to the GRID Campus of Collaboration. The multifunctional building was designed by Herzog & de Meuron and is being developed together with Senn Resources AG. Switzerland Innovation Park Basel Area is acting as strategic partner for the campus on Bachgraben in Allschwil that covers 50,000 m<sup>2</sup> and will play a central role in the future of the Basel region as a crystallization point for life sciences, biotech, public health and ICT.

Basel Area Business & Innovation, the regional promotion office Standortförderung Baselland, the Department of Biomedical Engineering of the University of Basel, the architectural offices of Herzog & de Meuron and Senn Resources AG have opened the Switzerland Innovation Park Basel Area showroom. At the present site in Allschwil, visitors can see for themselves various new solutions in robotics, laser technology and virtual reality and find

out more about further projects and start-ups at the three sites of the Innovation Park. The showroom also offers a glimpse into the future of Switzerland Innovation Park Basel Area on the GRID Campus of Collaboration.

### The future of healthcare requires a rethink

The initiative *Healthcare Innovation – DayOne* is the mainstay of innovation in the healthcare sector. The aim of the initiative is to help shape the future of the healthcare sector based on the needs of the patient. To achieve this, *DayOne* brings together specialists from a variety of disciplines, offering them a unique package made up of a dynamic and engaged community, events, accelerator, Catalyst Projects, workspace and investment promotion. All the different parts dovetail seamlessly and reinforce the ecosystem.

At the center of the initiative is the growing *DayOne* community with more than 2,000 members, who meet at conferences, workshops and seminars to address the most relevant challenges in the healthcare sector. In the open panel discussion *DayOne* Experts, for example, specialists and participants consider specific problems from the perspective of researchers, patients, entrepreneurs and industry.

**Philippe Kapfer**  
CEO NextDay.Vision



Basel Area Business & Innovation has supported us since the i4Challenge 2018 and offers us access to its network. Being part of this community and benefiting from excellent workshops, conferences and events is a real advantage for us. In particular, Basel Area Business & Innovation helped us to organize an event on “Safety and digital transformation for SMEs”, which met with great interest in Jura.

Last year, we became the first tenants on the new Jura site of the Switzerland Innovation Park Basel Area. The modern and inviting work environment we have here fosters an easy exchange of ideas. This almost inevitably results in opportunities to get to know other SMEs and to collaborate with them.

The *DayOne Conference* has long since achieved a high level of recognition. In 2019, more than 330 participants addressed, among other things, the question of how due account can be taken of ethical demands under the conditions of the global competition for innovation. Participants from different backgrounds came to grips with this issue in the workshops.

**Oskari Viinko**  
CEO UniteLabs



We were introduced to the Venture Mentoring services of Basel Area Business & Innovation during a workshop we attended. The program was super useful for us in terms of finding expert help to our challenges. Basel Area Business & Innovation also provided support in searching for office space. Further, we attended the i4Challenge in 2019 and were chosen finalists.

We will stay in the Basel Area, most importantly because our customers are in close proximity: We develop automation software for life sciences research. We find many people and firms here who understand what we are doing, which is incredibly valuable.

In the Catalyst Projects, interdisciplinary groups deal with technological and conceptual problems. Here it is all about solving complex problems and at the same time promoting collaboration in the regional healthcare system. In the *DayOne Accelerator*, companies are provided with support in the development of products and services. *DayOne* also runs the *DayOne Lab* in the Switzerland Innovation Park Basel Area. This collaborative work environment is available to teams, companies, founders and specialists from the healthcare sector.

*DayOne* is run in close collaboration with the canton of Basel-Stadt. Other partners include Centre Suisse d'Electronique et de Microtechnique (CSEM), the University of Basel, the Swiss



We evaluated several European business locations – in the end, Basel stood out as the most convenient location for Sotio. The region has a large talent pool, which is an important criterion for us. We plan to add top biotechnology professionals to our global team. The business environment is very friendly, and the international community and the proximity to Germany and France are a big plus.

Basel Area Business & Innovation helped us a lot during the settlement process: They did a good job in setting up meetings with the right people. The process from the first contact to our registration was smooth.

Institute of Bioinformatics, University Hospital Basel, the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland, the Department of Biosystems Science and Engineering (D-BSSE) of ETH Zurich and the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute based in Basel. In 2019, the University Children's Hospital Basel was also welcomed on board as a new partner. *Healthcare Innovation – DayOne* also works closely with *International Markets and Business Affairs*, so that companies in the healthcare sector are able to settle smoothly in the Basel region.

### BaseLaunch helps biotech companies get ahead

In the area of Therapeutic Innovation, Basel Area Business & Innovation operates the *BaseLaunch* Accelerator to promote start-up companies in drug development. Since the program was launched in 2017, experts have reviewed applications from a total of 250 teams. Each of the carefully selected projects receives funding of up to 250,000 francs, access to the program partners, customized advice and the opportunity to advance their research in cutting-edge laboratories. Partners from the healthcare sector include Johnson&Johnson, the Novartis Venture Fund, Pfizer, Roche and Roivant Sciences. The *BaseLaunch Accelerator* is supported not only by the three sponsoring cantons, but also by the Gebert RUF Foundation, the companies KPMG and Infors HT, the Technology Park Basel, Switzerland Innovation Park Basel Area and the law firms Vischer and Vossius & Partner.

Since its launch, the *BaseLaunch Accelerator* has supported nine companies with funding and access to laboratories. After the start-up funding, these nine companies raised more than 100 million Swiss francs, mostly from venture funds, but also from private investors. In 2019 alone, former *BaseLaunch* participants acquired more than 88 million Swiss francs in investment capital: Anaveon 35 million, Versameb 6.4 million, Alentis 12.5 million, T3 Pharmaceuticals 12 million and Polynuron 22.5 million. All the sponsored companies remain active in the Basel Area, predominantly in the Technology Park Basel and Switzerland Innovation Park Basel Area.

### The joint search for innovative solutions for the industry of the future

Digitization in the working environment presents challenges for many companies. Basel Area Business & Innovation offers consultations, workshops and seminars to support entrepreneurs and SMEs in the search for innovative solutions, products, technologies and manufacturing processes. To promote innovations in the field of *Industrial Transformation*, Basel Area Business & Innovation organized the *i4Challenge* competition for the second time together with Interreg as part of the *Upper Rhine 4.0* project, the trilateral competence network for Industry 4.0. Thirty companies from the region submitted entries; of these the jury selected six finalists: Arviem (cargo monitoring in real time), Crevoisier

Georg Goeres  
Head of Europe Indigo



When Indigo decided to expand to Europe, we immediately shortlisted Switzerland as a possible location. In the end, Basel was selected because of its proximity to the most important markets and the pool of international talent available. Having access to so many professionals was key considering the rapid pace at which we wanted to establish a presence in Europe.

The Basel Area Business & Innovation team did a tremendous job in providing support and guiding us through the administrative part of setting up a business in Basel.

Jörg Breitling  
Team Leader Application Biological Qualification Hamilton



We took up our work at the Allschwil site of the Switzerland Innovation Park Basel Area with a small team and expanded within five months to the full team size. Basel Area Business & Innovation helped us to settle and find a starting setup with lab and office space. The team supported us greatly with bigger lab space and more office capacity to facilitate our growth. They were extremely helpful and supportive throughout all phases.

We are happy here, not least because the area is attractive for working and living. The appeal of the region for employees showed during the recruitment process: It was relatively easy for us to hire very good associates.

(robotization of precision machines), LCB Sàrl (human-machine interfaces), Qiio (internet of things), UniteLabs (automation solutions for the life sciences) and United Planet (software for Industry 4.0). The winners presented their innovations at the Salon Industries du Futur in Mulhouse.

### Entrepreneurship can be learned

The founder courses that are offered in *Innovation and Entrepreneurship* are free of charge and open to anyone from the Basel Area who is interested. Venture mentoring in turn is closely linked with the focus issues and accelerators of Basel Area Business & Innovation. Targeted individual supervision and advice are provided by a panel of experts so that innovative entrepreneurs quickly find answers to key strategic questions.

### Clients from Asia, Europe and the US settling in the region

Last year, Basel Area Business & Innovation provided 30 companies with support in setting up their business in the Basel region, including Czech biotech firm Sotio. Likewise new to the region is Indigo Agriculture from the US, which offers pioneering technologies for the agricultural sector. Basel Area Business & Innovation accompanies the clients from the first moment of contact, puts them in touch with the appropriate experts, advises on cantonal procedures and assists in the search for suitable offices and laboratories.

The Basel Area Business & Innovation has been operating the Switzerland Innovation Park Basel Area since the beginning of 2019, allowing two of the companies newly settled here to move into premises on the Allschwil site of Switzerland Innovation Park Basel Area: the biotech firm Hamilton Bonaduz AG and Coretag Holding AG, which is active in the field of personalized healthcare.

### Global presence

Basel Area Business & Innovation follows the markets and expanded its representative offices in 2019: we now have a representative working the Korean market and a further representative office in Silicon Valley working the west coast of the US. Basel Area Business & Innovation also targeted the Canadian market with its own roadshow for the first time. Since Canada is also a focus market of the national promotional agency Switzerland Global Enterprise as of 2020, this could give rise to interesting synergistic effects.

Prestigious international events, such as the J.P. Morgan Healthcare Conference in San Francisco, BIO Europe in the spring and BIO USA in the fall, were used to cultivate contacts and interest companies in the Basel region. In 2019, Basel Area Business & Innovation was present at BIO Asia in Tokyo for the first time and was also invited to the reopening of the Swiss embassy in Seoul in a building designed in Basel.

## Organization



The Basel Area Business & Innovation management board comprises **Frank Kumli**, Head of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, **Gabriela Güntherodt**, Head of International Markets and Business Affairs, **Christof Klöpfer**, CEO, **Julia Meyer**, Head of Marketing and Communications, **Saskia Cecchi**, Head of Shared Services.

In December 2019, Basel Area Business & Innovation had 35 employees working in *Innovation and Entrepreneurship*, *International Markets and Business Affairs*, *Innovation Space and Infrastructure*, *Marketing and Communications* and *Shared Services*. In addition, six representatives and three external employees work for Basel Area Business & Innovation.

In December 2019, the Board was made up of the following members:

**Domenico Scala**, President, Chairman of the Board with Oettinger Davidoff AG and Basilea Pharmaceutica AG  
**Samuel Hess**, Vice-President, Head of Economic Affairs, Economy and Labour Industry of Canton Basel-Stadt  
**Pierre-Alain Berret**, Head of Jura Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
**Adrian Bult**, President Bank Council BKB  
**Martin Dätwyler**, Director Chamber of Commerce and Industry of both Basel  
**Martin Frey**, Executive Vice President EMEA, Fossil Group Europe, Inc.  
**Thomas Kübler**, Head of Inward Investment Promotion for Baselland  
**Arnaud Maitre**, CEO and of the Board with Louis Bélet SA  
**Ahmet Muderris**, Managing Director Composites Busch SA  
**Dieter Regnat**, CEO Getec Park.Swiss AG  
**Claude-Henri Schaller**, Head of the Office of Economy and Employment of the Canton of Jura

## Funding body and partners

### Funding body

New Regional Policy (NRP) of the federal government  
State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO)  
Canton of Basel-Landschaft  
Canton of Basel-Stadt  
Canton of Jura

### Partners

Business Parc Reinach  
Business Park Laufental & Thierstein  
Campus Industrie 4.0  
Chamber of Commerce of Basel-Stadt and Baselland  
Chambre de commerce et d'industrie du Jura (CCIJ)  
Creapole  
CSEM Centre Suisse d'Electronique et de Microtechnique SA  
Digitalswitzerland  
Euresearch  
Finanzplatz BS  
Gebert Rüt Foundation  
German-French-Swiss Upper Rhine Conference  
IFJ Institut für Jungunternehmen AG  
Ilmac  
Impact Hub Basel  
Innosuisse  
Startup Academy  
Startupticker  
Switzerland Global Enterprise  
Switzerland Innovation  
Technology Park Basel  
University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland  
University of Basel

Project management: Annett Altvater, Basel Area Business & Innovation  
Translation: Pendox Language Solutions  
Photos: Adriano Biondo (p. 2), Pino Covino (p. 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10), Karel Cudlin (p. 8), Michael Hochreutener (p. 2), Eduard Melzer (p. 2), Mathias Mangold (p. 2)  
Design: Lukas Zürcher, visual design  
Printing: Stuedler Press AG

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Dufourstrasse 11  
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