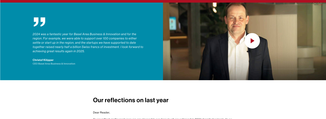
Annual report 2024

Welcome to the Basel Area Business & Innovation Annual Report 2024

On this page, we invite you to explore our overview of what we achieved last year and what we plan for the future. We highlight our key initiatives and success stories in the Basel Area, showcasing our commitment to fostering a dynamic ecosystem for innovation and sustainable growth. We also have some exciting developments and achievements to share. We hope you enjoy the read!

You'll find on this page:

- Our collaborations in each year
- Last year in numbers
- Our impact stories
- Testimonials
- Regional partnerships
- Charting the path forward



2024 was a fantastic year for Basel Area Business & Innovation and for the region. It is remarkable, we are able to provide our SME companies in Switzerland with an edge on the region, and the companies we have supported to date have achieved great results. We look forward to further years of investment. I look forward to achieving great results together in 2025.

Christof Krüger
CEO Basel Area Business & Innovation

Our reflections on last year

Dear Reader,

As we reflect on the past year, we are pleased to see how much we achieved in 2024 despite having to do so against the backdrop of what remained a challenging economic environment.

Our mission to foster a dynamic ecosystem for innovation and sustainable growth remained the region's focus and we are pleased to be recognised for the outstanding work of our team and the invaluable support of our national partners. Notably, the arrival of companies such as AC Rotterdam and Bitch Business – two companies that have chosen to establish their headquarters in Switzerland in the Nordwestschweiz, helping us to be best placed for an ever changing business environment.

The Basel Area ecosystem continues to evolve every year, from strategically being dominated by global pharma and life sciences companies, we are now seeing a rise in the number of companies from other sectors being attracted to the region by the functions and ecosystem we support. In 2024, these companies collectively created nearly half a million Swiss francs – an exceptional achievement, particularly considering that many of them are still in the early stages of their growth journey. This underscores the vital role our ecosystem plays in fostering innovation and nurturing our partners as a leading Swiss hub for entrepreneurship and growth.

READ THE FULL LETTER

Christof Krüger
CEO Basel Area Business & Innovation

Domenico Scala
President Board of Directors & Innovation

Basel Area Business & Innovation at a glance

BASEL AREA

Our mission
Constant the Basel Area to be the most attractive ecosystem for innovation.

What we do
We help companies easily, sustainably and successfully. Regardless.

How we do it

- **Attract & settle** Basel Area business companies
- **Accelerate innovation** initiatives
- **Attract & settle** Basel Area talents
- **Build an attractive** regional ecosystem
- **Promote the Basel Area** internationally, locally, collaboratively

Last year in numbers

Settling international companies in the Basel Area

36 Settlements

26 of IT companies

26 of life sciences sector

Global reach: Origin of companies

America
- USA
- Bermuda
- Canada

Europe
- UK
- Switzerland
- France
- Germany
- Denmark
- Ireland
- Finland
- Greece
- Italy
- Spain

Asia
- Korea
- India
- China

700

New jobs expected from company settlement foundations over 5 years

Fostering innovation across the Basel Area

1,712 innovation promotion consultations held

67 company foundations supported

478 million CHF cleantech investment raised by our portfolio companies

Bringing the region's ecosystem members together

46 Events

5,211 Event participants

88% Average event attendee satisfaction

85% Average event attendee usefulness rating

Success stories

Basel Area Business & Innovation had a successful year in 2024, as evidenced by our KPIs. However, details numbers often don't tell the full story of the impact we have on our companies. We have chosen to highlight some of our success stories, from companies that we helped settle or grow in the region, to stories of companies we supported to flourish in scale from innovative businesses. The welcome of services and nonnecessaries tells you an insight into the stories behind our KPIs.

The Basel Area kick-off competition from locations around the world to secure an important opportunity to its life sciences ecosystem.

Read more

One of our Basel Area's alumni companies closed out the biggest funding round in Switzerland of 2024.

Read more

SixPharma Bio secured a 5-figure investment, and a strategic partnership with Basel Area Business.

Read more

The first edition of THE MAGNET, a new annual flagship event held on Mont Soleil in Switzerland, took place to rave reviews.

Read more

An innovative clean energy startup graduated to full-scale production in the Canton of Jura.

Read more

Puzzle Lux uses pixel-free imaging into their baby's needs with its wireless camera.

Read more

Testimonials

Building a portfolio of rising star alumni companies in the biotech industry
Alexis Tsoukalas, one of our Basel alumni alumni companies, closed out the biggest funding round in Switzerland in 2024. Alexis, represented by Jessica Lo, rising star of the biotech by creating our the biggest funding round in Switzerland of 2024.

I am grateful for the support and recognition that Alexis received from Basel Area and of the company's thoughtful approach to building a strong foundation for the growth it envisaged and to rapidly become the world-class company we are. CLICK HERE and subscribe to our YouTube channel for more Stories.

Natalie Hanlon
CEO, Alexis Therapeutics

Strong partnerships building the regional economy

We were pleased to be able to continue building productive working relationships with our three national partners in 2024. As part of this, we were able to invite them here to many new companies that we brought into the region.

Presenting a shared vision with our key partners

We were pleased to host our national partners for a delegation of our flagship events – Pharmapack Europe, Swiss Tech Summit, Jacques Gerber and Stéphane Thouvenin for the great collaboration.

Jacques Gerber, Partner, Government Counsellor of the Republic and Canton of Jura and President of the Jura Development Company of Jura Promotion since 2004

Thierry Jeanneret, Government Counsellor of the Canton of Neuchâtel, President of the Neuchâtel Economic Promotion Office and President of the Board of Directors of TWINT, Neuchâtel – Nov. 2024

Fabien Fischer, Government Counsellor of the Canton of Basel-Land and President of the Economic Development Office of the Canton of Basel-Land, Pharmapack Europe, Paris, Business Breakfast, Swiss Tech Summit, Basel, Business Breakfast, Pharmapack, Nov 2024

Stéphane Thouvenin, Government Counsellor of the Canton of Neuchâtel, President of the Economic Promotion Office of the Canton of Neuchâtel and Twint Neuchâtel, Nov 2024

Promoting connections between startups and SMEs

A highlight of the year was in the partnership we formed with Innovation Factory, a great platform created by the Technical University of Berlin. This has been a fantastic partnership. Three members of our scholarship programme joined – Sam Ellwood, Ivan Ilic and Ivan Ilic – and they have been able to connect with many other creative and innovative companies in a "real world" environment thanks to this platform.

As part of the scholarship, Ivan Ilic had the opportunity to work with Innovation Factory, a platform that connects startups and companies with the Technical University of Berlin. Exposure, Promotion of the Reputation and Lighton of Ideas and Ideas Exchange. Innovation Factory is a platform that connects companies with emerging talent and supports companies in their search for innovative technologies, establishing startups and fostering the development of a thriving ecosystem.

Ivan Ilic
Scholarship Holder

As part of the full scholarship, we were delighted to collaborate with Innovation Factory, a platform that connects startups and companies with the Technical University of Berlin. Innovation Factory has been the foundation for developing and establishing our calendar. The platform has been a great tool for connecting with other creative and innovative companies in the Basel Area, including Ivan, an alumni scholarship recipient, another. We are grateful to Ivan for the partnership.

Sam Ellwood
Scholarship Holder

Expanding the Basel Area's world-class innovation parks

Beyond the events that we run throughout the year, perhaps the other most visible aspect of our work is the Switzerland Innovation Parks in the Basel Area. We are pleased to be able to provide our companies with access to world-class innovation opportunities, and support their growth by providing a wide range of research and innovation in the region.

Thanks to the ongoing work of our teams at each site, it is now corresponding to be able to host the next wave of startups and scaleups that will drive future innovation for the region. Learn more about these expansion below.

The Guardaboss store for the new "SLL" building on Wien Campus was set during a ceremony held in October 2024

Read more

A whole new floor dedicated to innovative startups was opened in our site on Novartis Campus in July 2024

Read more

The cooperating space at our site in Courroux was recently expanded

Read more

Charting the path forward

We have big plans for our organisation and the continuing evolution and growth of the Basel Area in 2025 and beyond. By playing to our strengths, building global connections and focusing on supporting innovation ecosystems, we're helping the Basel Area stay at the forefront of the economic and thriving.

- **An optimal model for promoting regional growth**
- **Expanding our global reach and attractiveness**
- **Fuelling innovation and entrepreneurship**
- **Successful Innovation Park – Basel Area building the future**

Our strategic approach to achieving our goals comprises of four main pillars, more details of which you can find by clicking on the relevant icon or visiting the Roadmap below.

READ MORE

Thought leadership publications

Beyond the events promote for our frequently delivering for a wider audience, we also create more extensive publications aimed at specific target groups or experts in a particular field. Below are three of these publications that we published last year.

This handbook provides an overview of all the major research institutions based in the Basel Area, including their focus areas and the support organisations in place for ongoing innovation for which this area is known.

Read more

Packed with insights from industry leaders, this playbook offers a comprehensive roadmap for navigating the complex landscape of pharma giants and healthtech startups.

Read more

Unlock the potential of life sciences manufacturing SME with our AUGMA Guide. Discover how companies can leverage Industry 4.0 to drive quality, productivity and efficiency. Read actionable path to Operator Point 4.

Read more

We sincerely thank all our partners for their invaluable collaboration and support.

To our sponsors and partners

A selection of our region-focused articles

As part of our work to promote the Basel Area to people and companies who are considering settling here, we regularly publish informative articles targeting that audience on our website. Below you can find three of our best performing articles from 2024.

The Basel Area has proven to be the Second Best Location for Life Sciences Companies in Innovation in the economic and research leading European hub for pharma growth.

Read more

What makes Switzerland – and the Basel Area in particular – a leading pharma growth ecosystem?

Read more

How can we lead bring the renowned "Swiss Quality" into the era of Industry 4.0?

Read more

Contact us

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- Never miss the Basel Area events and excitements

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Last Name*
Job Title*
Company*
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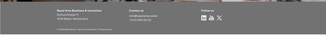

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Our reflections on last year

Dear Reader,

As we reflect on the past year, we are pleased to see how much we achieved in 2024 despite having to do so against the backdrop of what turned out to be a quite challenging economic environment.

For example, the fact that we were able to attract a comparable number of company settlements to the region as in the previous year is a testament to the outstanding work of our team and the invaluable support of our cantonal partners. Notably, the arrival of companies such as UK Robotics and Moth Quantum underscores that our success extends beyond our traditional strength in the life sciences, helping us to be best prepared for an ever-changing business environment.

The Basel Area ecosystem continues to evolve away from historically being dominated by global pharma and chemical corporations. A clear sign of evolution in this regard has been the significant investment secured by the founders and companies we support. In 2024, these companies collectively raised nearly half a billion Swiss francs—an exceptional achievement, particularly considering that many of them are still in the early stages of development. This investment will help drive further innovation and job creation in our region, reinforcing our position as a leading Swiss hub for entrepreneurship and growth.

The Swiss Venture Capital Report 2025, published last month, confirmed what we've known all along: the Basel Area is leading the charge in Swiss biotech innovation. In this specific sector, our region raised CHF337.5m in investments, more than double its pre-pandemic level. What is particularly pleasing for us is that our BaseLaunch venture builder, together with organizations like TechPark Basel, the Switzerland Innovation Park Basel Area and all the other innovation infrastructure in the region, are proving to be key drivers of growth, supporting many of the area's top biotech startups.

Last year, we initiated a review of our entrepreneurship and innovation promotion activities that will allow us to have even more impact in the region in coming years. While we did see a reduction in the number of company foundations that we were able to support last year, we are pleased to report that the quality of our services remained high, and we increased the number of innovation promotion consultations that we delivered. This shows the increasing interest that founders and entrepreneurs in the region have in getting guidance on how to move forward with their innovative ideas. We are grateful for the adaptability and dedication of our team, ensuring that startups and SMEs continue to receive valuable guidance.

Bringing people together is at the heart of what we do, and our events play a crucial role in strengthening the Basel Area ecosystem. Last year, we facilitated interactions among more than 5,000 people, fostering many new connections and collaborations. Events like these don't just happen by themselves—they require detailed planning and strategic coordination, and we are proud to have played a key role in enabling these vital exchanges.

There were many highlights throughout 2024 – the following stand out for us. In Basel-Land, the announcement that the Botnar Institute of Immune Engineering will be housed in the ALL building on Main Campus marked a significant milestone, with the groundbreaking ceremony for ALL taking place in October. In Basel-Stadt, we celebrated the expansion of our coworking space on Novartis Campus, to accommodate the next wave of healthtech startups. And in Jura, our flagship Medtech Congress was a resounding success, drawing praise from participants and stakeholders alike.

Looking ahead, we recognize that 2025 will bring further economic challenges. However, we are confident in the region's ability to continue to adapt and grow, and our collective ability to navigate these uncertainties successfully.

Our continued evolution as an organization has positioned us well to take on the challenges ahead. A testament to our new strategic approach is the recognition we recently received in the FDI Intelligence European Cities and Regions of the Future 2025 report, where we secured the #1 ranking among Small Cities in the Foreign Direct Investment Strategy category.

Part of our forward-looking strategy is to build upon the region's existing strengths in the life sciences while expanding into complementary sectors such as ICT. We look forward to sharing more details on this in the coming months as we continue to enhance the region's competitive edge.

As we come to the end of our reflections, we would like to extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who contributed to our success in 2024—our dedicated employees, funding partners, portfolio companies, network of experts, and the broader Basel Area community. Your commitment and collaboration have been instrumental in driving progress.

Here's to another year of innovation and success in 2025.

Yours sincerely,

Christof Klöpper
CEO, Basel Area Business & Innovation

Domenico Scala
President, Basel Area Business & Innovation

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Charting the path forward

An optimal model for promoting regional growth

Expanding our global reach and attractiveness

Fueling innovation and entrepreneurship

Switzerland Innovation Park Basel Area: building the future

An optimal model for promoting regional growth

At Basel Area Business & Innovation, we bring investment and innovation promotion together under one roof. This approach helps us create new opportunities, drive more economic growth, and have the maximum possible impact on the regional ecosystem. Looking ahead, we'll continue to build on this approach to make an even bigger impact.

Another defining strength is our collaborative funding model. While many economic promotion agencies rely solely on public sector support, we have successfully cultivated substantial private sector contributions. This balanced approach enables us to deliver sustainable, high-value services to companies and startups while reinforcing our role as a catalyst for regional economic development.

Maintaining our leadership in life sciences remains a top priority. As a global hub at the heart of this industry, we will continue strengthening flagship initiatives such as BaseLaunch and DayOne. At the same time, we recognize the importance of fostering other high-potential sectors across the region. Our i4Challenge program and Venture Mentoring service will help ensure that innovation flourishes across diverse industries, securing the long-term strength of our regional economy.

Expanding our global reach and attractiveness

Our International Markets and Business Affairs (IMBA) team is sharpening its focus on high-potential investment opportunities worldwide. By deepening our engagement with strategically chosen foreign ecosystems (e.g. the Boston Area in the USA), we aim to attract companies that best complement and enhance the Basel Area's life sciences cluster. This proactive approach will contribute to a more diversified and resilient industry while creating high-quality employment opportunities in the region.

A major milestone for 2025 is the rollout of our new positioning and marketing strategy. This initiative will raise international awareness of the region's thriving life sciences ecosystem, positioning it more prominently in key target markets. Additionally, we are increasing visibility for the region's growing medtech sector, ensuring its strengths and opportunities are recognized.

Fueling innovation and entrepreneurship

The Innovation and Entrepreneurship (I&E) team is committed to solidifying the Basel Area's reputation as a world-class innovation hub. Our strategy centers on expanding our startup incubators and accelerators, while broadening our impact across the regional economy in different sectors outside of the life sciences.

Driving innovation and collaboration

We're here to help small and midsize businesses, as well as startups, tackle challenges and grow. With our deep expertise and broad network, we connect entrepreneurs with the resources they need to thrive. By working together, we bring in fresh ideas, spark creativity, and develop innovative solutions. Some of our key initiatives include:

- Innovation catalyst projects within the DayOne Digital Health Nation program, connecting innovators to industry leaders.
- SME/startup partnerships in the i4Challenge program, driving the application of cutting-edge technologies in industrial settings.

Global competitiveness intersects with local strengths

Our efforts span all three Basel Area cantons, ensuring balanced innovation growth. For example:

- Strengthening the DayOne program as the premier launchpad for early stage healthtech ventures working at the intersection with pharma.
- Building on BaseLaunch's recent funding successes to reinforce its standing as Europe's top biotech incubator.
- Leveraging industrial expertise, such as fine mechanics from watchmaking, to drive medtech innovation and regional economic diversification. Programs like the Medtech Congress will continue playing a key role in ecosystem development.

Switzerland Innovation Park Basel Area: building the future

As the Switzerland Innovation Park Basel Area evolves, we remain committed to fostering a dynamic environment where cutting-edge research, entrepreneurship and collaboration thrive. Our 2025 strategy has four core pillars:

1) Growth and infrastructure

Expanding our facilities is a priority. By enhancing occupancy and strengthening lab infrastructure—including private and shared spaces—we ensure that innovators have the resources they need. A major milestone will be the opening of HORTUS, a new coworking space designed to facilitate groundbreaking collaboration. Operational efficiency across all our sites remains a key focus as we scale.

2) Community building

Great ideas thrive when people connect. That's why we're focused on bringing together entrepreneurs, industry leaders and researchers in meaningful ways. Instead of just hosting large events, we're building real partnerships and creating opportunities for lasting collaboration.

3) Strengthening strategic partnerships

Partnerships are at the heart of what we do. We're working on a plan to build lasting connections with key industry players, research institutions and service providers. By linking great ideas with the right resources, we help everyone in our community move forward faster.

4) Enhancing lab services

To support cutting-edge research and development, we are expanding our lab service capabilities. This includes exploring joint ventures with equipment providers and other stakeholders to deliver world-class facilities that attract innovative companies to the region.

With these initiatives, the Switzerland Innovation Park Basel Area will continue to be a driving force in making the Basel Area a globally recognized hub for innovation and progress.

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