

**BASEL**  
AREA+

**Annual Report**  
**2021**

**It is our mission  
to establish the Basel Area  
as Switzerland's business  
and innovation centre  
of the future.**

## “Interest in the Basel Area as a location has markedly increased.”

Digital health is growing in importance in the Basel Area. At the same time, many production plants are tapping into new markets with digitization. This is a strong signal for the innovative strength of the region, Christof Klöpfer and Domenico Scala state. The CEO and the Chairman of Basel Area Business & Innovation on the future of the Basel Area.

**Despite the coronavirus, Switzerland’s economy again showed above-average growth last year. How much did the Basel Area contribute to Switzerland’s economic success?**

Domenico Scala: The healthcare sector plays a big part in this development. The pharmaceutical industry and the biotech sector account for 5.4 percent of Switzerland’s economic output – which is well above average compared with other countries. Because the Basel Area is a strong location for the life sciences, we were also outstandingly well positioned in the crisis. Companies based here are helping to manage pandemic-related problems – worldwide. The economy and political stability in the region have enabled the Basel Area to develop very well during the crisis and may possibly even emerge from it stronger.



Domenico Scala, President of Basel Area Business & Innovation

Christof Klöpfer: This development strengthens us because it shows very clearly that the Basel Area remains attractive as a business hub. In the past year, we have helped 39 companies to settle here. Of these companies, 28 operate in the life sciences and seven of these in digital health. Five production and engineering companies have also started operations in the Basel Area. In addition, we provided 76 startups with support in the founding of their companies.

**What do you think are the most important success factors for the future?**

Scala: The region will be successful if many players participate actively with their commitment and expertise to strengthen the cluster. This includes not only companies and startups, but also technology and innovation parks, foundations, universities and the many other excellent research institutions. We therefore attach great importance to cultivating close contacts with these actors and are grateful for the good collaboration.



Christof Klöpfer, CEO Basel Area Business & Innovation

**What are the issues that you will primarily concern yourselves with over the next year?**

Scala: In the Basel Area, we have always traded with the whole world. And when we see who is setting up companies here today, it is clear how international the list of founders is. Take for example the Clozels, who come from France and founded first Actelion here and then Idorsia. We must remain attractive as a region so that people like this continue to come here. I’m committed to a cosmopolitan region.

Klöpfer: Interest in the Basel Area location and in our services has markedly increased. But this does not automatically lead to more companies settling and being founded here. Interest is one thing, the final decision is another. This is where we focus on building a persuasive argument. The results speak for themselves: our initiative in the area of digital health, DayOne, has picked up speed, which has led to more startups in this area. We’re working flat out to reinforce this trend.

→ Read the whole interview

[www.baselarea.swiss/AR2021](http://www.baselarea.swiss/AR2021)

## What we achieved

We get companies interested in the Basel Area, support startups in the founding of their businesses and further bolster the outstanding network – with success.



**39**

companies settled here

of these, **28** were in the life sciences sector,

of which **7** were in the digital health sector



### Origin

**9** Cantons outside the Basel Area **5** France **5** USA  
**3** United Kingdom **2** Bulgaria **2** China **2** Germany  
**2** Italy **2** Netherlands **2** Singapore **1** Australia  
**1** Denmark **1** Indonesia **1** Ireland **1** Russia



**76**

company foundations supported



**501**

jobs planned within the next 3 to 5 years

estimate of companies



**1671** consultations for clients settling here, startups and founders



**52** events, online and offline

**6441** participants



**44** staff Basel Area Business & Innovation and Switzerland Innovation Park Basel Area

**30 592** people in the network



**3** accelerators for startups and SMEs: BaseLaunch, DayOne, i4Challenge

## Voices from the Basel Area

Stefan Suter,  
Head of Holmusk Europe



“The Basel Area is the ideal gateway to European expansion for startups in the digital health sector. We find a lively ecosystem here with well qualified talents, a lot of startups and established companies which allow us access to Europe and the whole world.”

Holmusk generates evidence through specialized data analytics and is building the world’s biggest real-world evidence platform for mental health. The company headquarters are in Singapore.

Fritz Bircher,  
Founder and CEO of Personalized Medical Products SA



“PMP was selected as the winner of i4Challenge in a professional, multistage evaluation. This confirmed our business case and markedly increased our visibility. We are based in the canton of Jura, which offers outstanding conditions for startups. We also benefit from a great environment, support and exchange of ideas in the Switzerland Innovation Park Basel Area, Jura.”

PMP aims to make personalized medicines accessible. The company is developing highly automated and precise production equipment for this purpose.

Hanns-Christian Mahler,  
CEO ten23 health



“We took over a fully functional laboratory and office facility in Basel and found optimum starting conditions here. Some biotech and pharma companies – potential new partners and customers – are headquartered in the Basel Area. The region is dynamic and international and therefore an ideal starting point for building our global business.”

ten23 health supports customers of the global biotech and pharma sectors in the development, manufacture and testing of injectable biopharmaceutical medicines. The company was founded in 2021.

Rainer Henning,  
Chief Scientific Officer Worg Pharmaceuticals AG



“We carefully considered several locations in Europe and opted for the Basel Area for a number of reasons: a crucial factor was the concentration of large and small life sciences companies in the region, which form one of the best clusters in Europe, if not worldwide.”

Worg Pharmaceuticals is a biopharmaceutical company with headquarters in Hangzhou, China. The company has opened a European branch in the Switzerland Innovation Park Basel Area in Allschwil.

## Our partners

Basel Area Business & Innovation is funded by:



Kanton Basel-Stadt

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We thank our sponsors for the good collaboration.

## Our organization

Basel Area Business & Innovation operates Switzerland Innovation Park Basel Area, which has sites in Allschwil, on the Novartis Campus and in Basel as well as the Jura site in Courroux. At the end of December 2021, a staff of 44 people were working for both organizations. Others are actively employed on a project-by-project basis.

Management board:

**Christof Klöpfer**, CEO

**Saskia Cecchi**, Head of Shared Services

**Karin Crisanto**, Head of Innovation Space and Infrastructure

**Frank Kumli**, Head of Innovation and Entrepreneurship

**Julia Meyer**, Head of Marketing and Communications

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Read the annual report online

