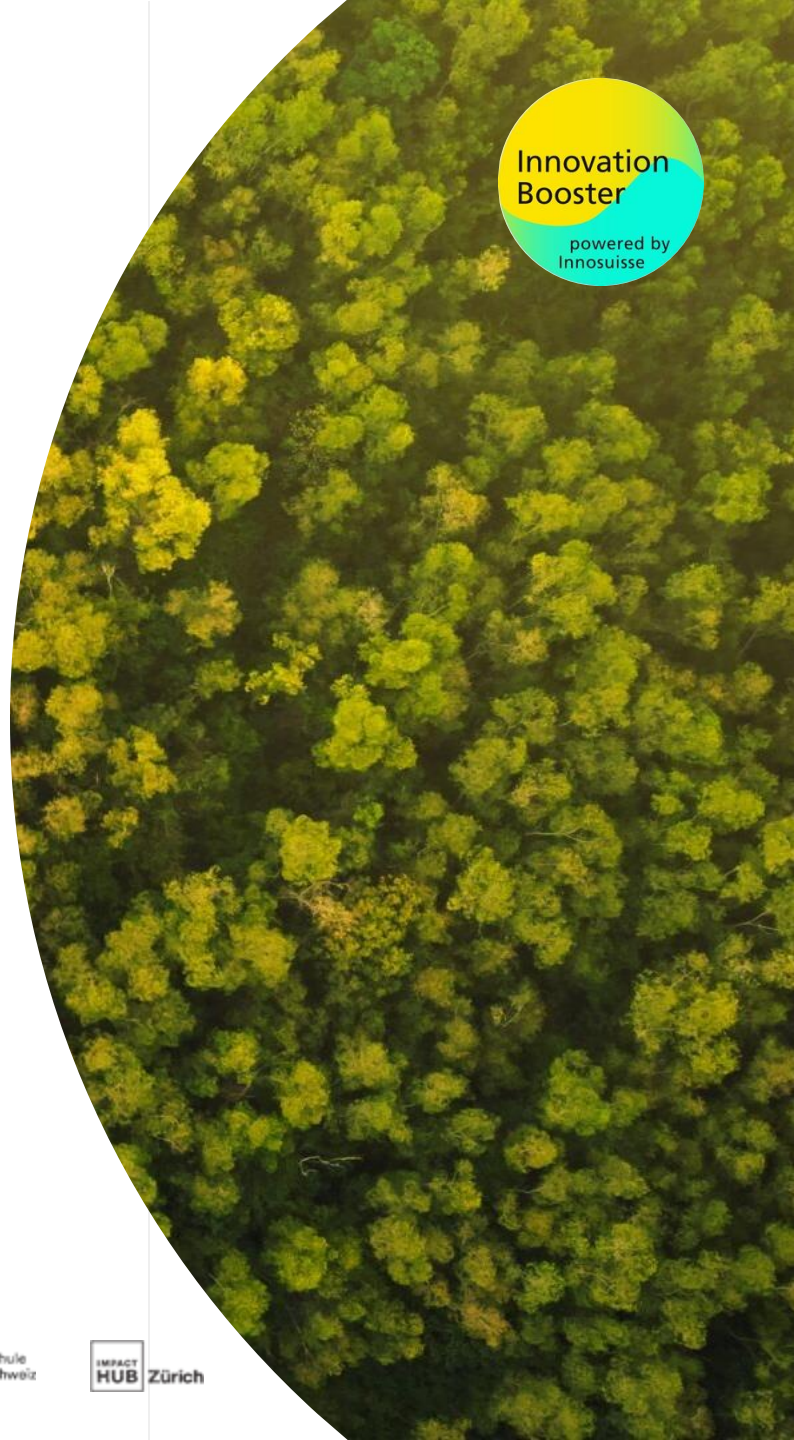




CARBON REMOVAL BOOSTER

Alternative Fundings

A glimpse – last updated April 2025



Overview

Innosuisse is the Swiss Innovation Agency dedicated to promoting science-based innovation for the benefit of the Swiss economy and society.

Eligibility Criteria

Varies by program; generally, **Swiss companies, research institutions, and start-ups** engaged in **innovative projects** are eligible.

Application Process

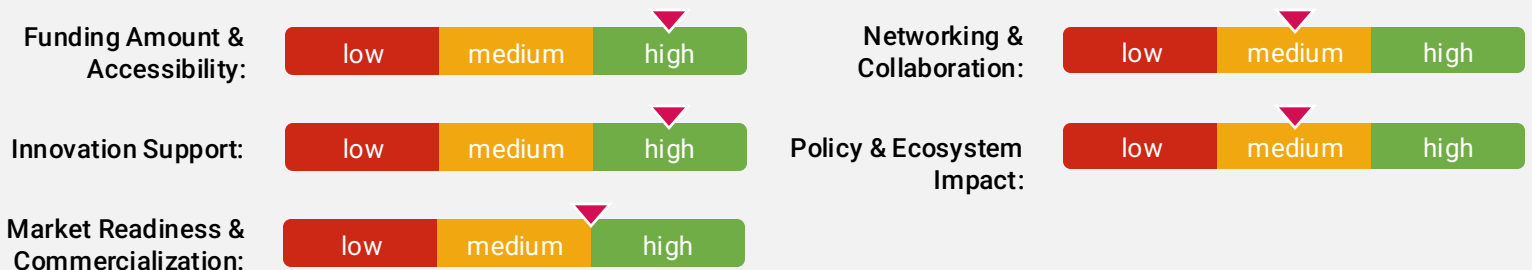
Detailed information and application guidelines are available on their website.

[Discover More!](#)



Key Offerings

- **Innovation Projects with Implementation Partner:** Supports companies collaborating with research partners to develop innovative products, services, or processes.
- **Innovation Projects without Implementation Partner:** Enables researchers to carry out innovation projects independently, focusing on ideas with strong commercial potential.
- **Innovation Cheque:** Provides SMEs or small organizations with vouchers to test innovative ideas in collaboration with Swiss research partners.
- **Flagship Initiative:** Encourages systemic and transdisciplinary innovations addressing current and future challenges through collaborative projects.
- **BRIDGE Projects:** A joint program with the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) supporting researchers in transforming their results into marketable products and services.
- **Start-up Innovation Projects:** Funds science-based projects by start-ups preparing for market entry.
- **Swiss Accelerator Innovation Projects:** A transitional measure for Horizon Europe, aimed at accelerating the growth of SMEs or start-ups already established in the market.



👁 Overview

KlimUp is a funding program initiated by the City of Zurich to support projects that contribute to the city's climate and environmental protection goals.

📄 Eligibility Criteria

Early-stage startups and **non-profit organizations** (NPOs) focused on climate protection and circular economy.

📈 Application Process

Three funding calls are announced annually on the KlimUp website. The application process is divided into two stages, with funding contingent on successfully passing both.

[Discover More!](#)



🏠 Key Offerings

- **Startups** receive one-time innovation grants of CHF 35,000 to CHF 250,000.
- **NPOs** can apply for one-time project grants of CHF 5,000 to CHF 100,000 or multi-year operating grants of CHF 60,000 to CHF 600,000.
- In addition to financial support, startups and NPOs benefit from various other services from implementation partner Bluelion and the KlimUp network.

Funding Amount & Accessibility:

low medium high

Networking & Collaboration:

low medium high

Innovation Support:

low medium high

Policy & Ecosystem Impact:

low medium high

Market Readiness & Commercialization:

low medium high



Overview

Bluelion is a Zurich-based non-profit incubator and accelerator dedicated to helping tech entrepreneurs transition from concept to market.

Eligibility Criteria

Varies by program; generally, **Swiss companies**, **research institutions**, and **start-ups** engaged in **innovative projects** are eligible.

Application Process

Accepted periodically; specific deadlines are announced on their website.

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Key Offerings

- **Acceleration Program:** A 10-week program covering essential topics from team setup to fundraising strategies for pre-seed tech start-ups.
- **KlimUp Program:** An initiative providing funding and support for early-stage climate-tech start-ups aiming for net-zero impact.
- **Co-Working Spaces:** Affordable office spaces in the heart of Zurich, fostering a collaborative community.
- **Access to Network:** Offers personal coaching and connects start-ups with an extensive network of experts, mentors, and investors.

Funding Amount & Accessibility:



Innovation Support:



Market Readiness & Commercialization:



Networking & Collaboration:



Policy & Ecosystem Impact:



Overview

The Migros Pioneer Fund seeks and promotes ideas with social potential, supporting projects that dare to carve out and seek unconventional solutions.

Eligibility Criteria

Projects with a clear **societal impact** and **innovative approach**.

Application Process

Interested parties can submit project proposals through their website.

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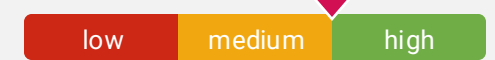
Key Offerings

- **Funding:** Financial support for pioneering projects with the potential to drive societal change.
- **Coaching and Networking:** Access to a network of experts and mentors to guide projects toward success.
- **Project Advancement:** Assistance in defining and implementing project plans tailored to innovative ideas.

Funding Amount & Accessibility:



Networking & Collaboration:



Innovation Support:



Policy & Ecosystem Impact:



Market Readiness & Commercialization:



Overview

The Climate and Innovation Act (KIG) is a legislative framework promoting innovative technologies and processes that contribute to climate protection.

Eligibility Criteria

Projects must demonstrate a **significant impact on climate protection** through innovation.

Application Process

Details on application procedures are provided through official government channels.

[Discover More!](#)



Key Offerings

- **Funding:** CHF 1.2 billion allocated for projects submitted through tenders and direct applications.
- **Focus Areas:** Support for projects aimed at reducing CO₂ emissions and advancing climate-friendly innovations.

Funding Amount & Accessibility:

low medium high

Networking & Collaboration:

low medium high

Innovation Support:

low medium high

Policy & Ecosystem Impact:

low medium high

Market Readiness & Commercialization:

low medium high



▪ **Funding Amount & Accessibility:** how much financial support is available and how it is easy to access.
▪ **Innovation Support:** the extent to which the program helps develop and refine innovative ideas.

▪ **Market Readiness & Commercialization:** how well the program supports turning ideas into market-ready solutions.
▪ **Networking & Collaboration:** the strength of the network, mentorship, and partnership opportunities.

▪ **Policy and Ecosystem Impact:** whether the entity providing the program contributes to climate policy and systemic change.

Overview

EBP assists emerging start-ups with solid project ideas in navigating the application process for public funding.

Eligibility Criteria

Start-ups with projects focused on **CO₂ reduction** or **innovative climate technologies**.

Application Process

Details on application procedures are provided through official government channels.

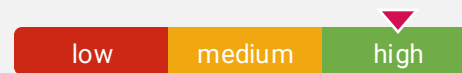
Discover More!



Key Offerings

- **CO₂ Compensation Projects:** Support for projects with established funding concepts, offering around CHF 100 per tonne of CO₂ reduced.
- **Innovative Technologies Funding (Art. 6 KIG):** Assistance in accessing new funding opportunities with higher amounts, totaling CHF 1.2 billion.

Funding Amount & Accessibility:



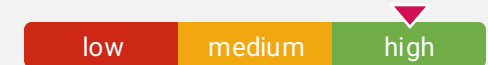
Networking & Collaboration:



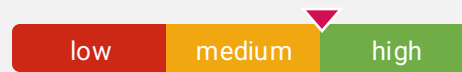
Innovation Support:



Policy & Ecosystem Impact:



Market Readiness & Commercialization:



Overview

Helbling is a leading service provider offering expertise in innovation, technology, and product development.

Eligibility Criteria

Companies of all sizes looking to develop new products or improve technologies.

Application Process

Contact for a tailored consulting package; specific details for available through the Helbling Venture Challenge.

Discover More!



Key Offerings

- **Ideation:** Product vision and scouting, innovation pre-projects.
- **Technology Development:** Pre-development, solution search, modeling & simulation, feasibility studies.
- **Product Development:** Project management, concept development, detailed engineering, industrial and UX design, software development, technical risk management.
- **Industrialization:** Experimental verification, testing, performance validation, design transfer, design verification.
- **Consulting package** worth CHF 25 000 as part of the Helbling Venture Challenge for promising young companies.

Funding Amount & Accessibility:

low medium high

Networking & Collaboration:

low medium high

Innovation Support:

low medium high

Policy & Ecosystem Impact:

low medium high

Market Readiness & Commercialization:

low medium high



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Overview

A multi-stakeholder platform fostering collaboration in Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR) across Switzerland. Brings together government, industry, research, and civil society to accelerate sustainable CDR solutions.

Eligibility Criteria

Open to **Swiss-based organizations** committed to advancing **sustainable carbon removal** through collaboration and systemic impact.

Application Process

Contacting via email and completing a membership form, with fees scaled to organization size.

[Discover More!](#)



Key Offerings

- **Cross-sector Collaboration:** Members gain access to a growing network of over 60 organizations, enabling strategic partnerships between public agencies, research institutions, and private-sector innovators.
- **Knowledge Sharing Events:** The platform hosts regular conferences, webinars, and workshops to keep members informed on the latest developments, technologies, and policies in CDR.
- **Thematic Working Groups:** Focused groups tackle specific challenges such as measurement, policy design, and financing, allowing members to co-create solutions and lead joint initiatives.
- **Support for Innovation & Funding:** While it doesn't provide direct grants, the platform connects members with funding opportunities and helps build strong consortia for national and international climate programs.
- **Policy & Public Engagement:** Acts as a neutral, science-driven voice in Swiss climate policy, while also engaging the public to build awareness and social acceptance of carbon removal methods.

Funding Amount & Accessibility:



Networking & Collaboration:



Innovation Support:



Policy & Ecosystem Impact:



Market Readiness & Commercialization:



Overview

An international accelerator supporting early-stage carbon removal startups in Europe and India with funding, mentorship, and access to a global ecosystem of experts and investors.

Eligibility Criteria

Open to **early-stage, science-based startups** with **carbon removal** at the core of their business model, based in **Europe or India**.

Application Process

Open calls; Shortlisted teams invited to interviews before final cohort selection.

[Discover More!](#)



Key Offerings

- **Tailored Accelerator Programs:** Startups join structured, multi-month programs (Europe and India-specific) designed to refine their business, technology, and go-to-market strategies with expert support.
- **Non-Dilutive Grant Funding:** Selected startups receive equity-free funding (typically €20,000–50,000), helping them scale without giving up ownership or control.
- **Mentorship from Industry Experts:** Participants gain one-on-one access to mentors from the CDR, climate tech, policy, and investment sectors to guide product, science, and market development.
- **Deep Ecosystem Integration:** remove connects founders with hundreds of partners, corporate buyers, and investors across the carbon removal space, ensuring opportunities for collaboration and pilot projects.
- **Long-Term Community & Resources:** Graduates remain connected through an active alumni network, while also benefiting from shared tools, case studies, and market insights via the remove CDR Hub.

Funding Amount & Accessibility:

low medium high

Networking & Collaboration:

low medium high

Innovation Support:

low medium high

Policy & Ecosystem Impact:

low medium high

Market Readiness & Commercialization:

low medium high



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▪ **Policy and Ecosystem Impact:** whether the entity providing the program contributes to climate policy and systemic change.

Overview

The official cleantech promotion platform for Western Switzerland, created by the cantons of BE, GE, VD, VS, FR, NE, JU and supported by the Swiss government (SECO). It acts as a driving force for the development of the cleantech sector in Switzerland

Eligibility Criteria

Cleantech companies and organizations (especially those based in Western Switzerland) looking to **scale their sustainable technologies** and **expand their network**. The platform is open to various cleantech domains.

Application Process

Join the platform through an online application; benefits available to members based on sector and location.

[Discover More!](#)



Key Offerings

- **Visibility and networking for cleantech innovators:** CleantechAlps supports research institutes, start-ups and SMEs by showcasing their know-how and giving them access to industry networks and events.
- **Being part of the CleantechAlps ecosystem** helps companies strengthen their business, gain exposure, and connect to specific industrial and financial partners in the sustainability field.

Funding Amount & Accessibility:



Networking & Collaboration:



Innovation Support:



Policy & Ecosystem Impact:



Market Readiness & Commercialization:



Overview

Swiss business association wholly committed to fighting climate change – it represents over 550 companies from all sectors that believe a climate-neutral economy by 2050 is achievable and worthwhile.

Eligibility Criteria

Open to companies of all sizes and industries that commit to ambitious climate action (membership-based)

Application Process

Membership application online; includes access to events and policy groups.

[Discover More!](#)



Key Offerings

- Swisscleantech serves as the united **voice of climate-conscious businesses**. It champions effective climate policies (e.g. carbon pricing, renewable energy, sustainable mobility) that make climate-friendly business models more competitive.
- Members benefit from a powerful **network** that brings together leaders in business, politics, and science for knowledge exchange and collaboration on building a “climate-smart” economy.
- Regular events, policy-working groups, and initiatives** like CEO4Climate are part of its offering.

Funding Amount & Accessibility:



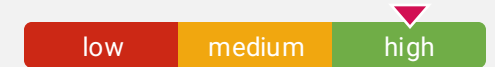
Networking & Collaboration:



Innovation Support:



Policy & Ecosystem Impact:



Market Readiness & Commercialization:



Sustainable Innovation Challenge



Overview

A student-led initiative at EPFL (École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne) aimed at inspiring and developing sustainable tech solutions among students – with a focus on combating climate change and ecosystem degradation.

Eligibility Criteria

University students (primarily EPFL but also welcoming other Swiss and international students) can form teams to participate in the challenge; industry and academic partners can join as mentors or sponsors.

Application Process

Students and teams register for the challenge; industry partners can join as sponsors or mentors.

Discover More!



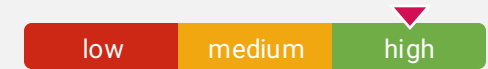
Key Offerings

- An **annual two-day event and competition** that brings together student teams, researchers, start-ups and industry partners.
- Student teams from EPFL and other universities **pitch sustainability projects** (e.g. clean energy, circular economy, mobility solutions) for awards, get mentored by experts, and network with companies and labs.
- The **event features workshops, keynotes and panels** on sustainability topics, and creates a platform for internships, research collaborations, and turning student ideas into real-world impact.

Funding Amount & Accessibility:



Networking & Collaboration:



Innovation Support:



Policy & Ecosystem Impact:



Market Readiness & Commercialization:

