

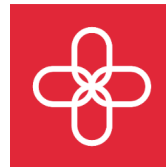
# Switzerland's Blockchain Ecosystem and Recent Initiatives in Africa.

Blockchain Africa Conference. 12 March 2020.

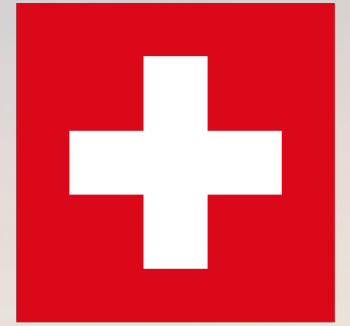


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Embassy of Switzerland to South Africa, Botswana,  
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**Switzerland.**



# Presentation Breakdown

- + Swiss blockchain in context of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.**
- + Switzerland as Crypto Nation. When, how and why?**
- + Why is Switzerland so attractive for blockchain innovations?**
- + Recent Embassy blockchain initiatives.**

# Swiss blockchain in context of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

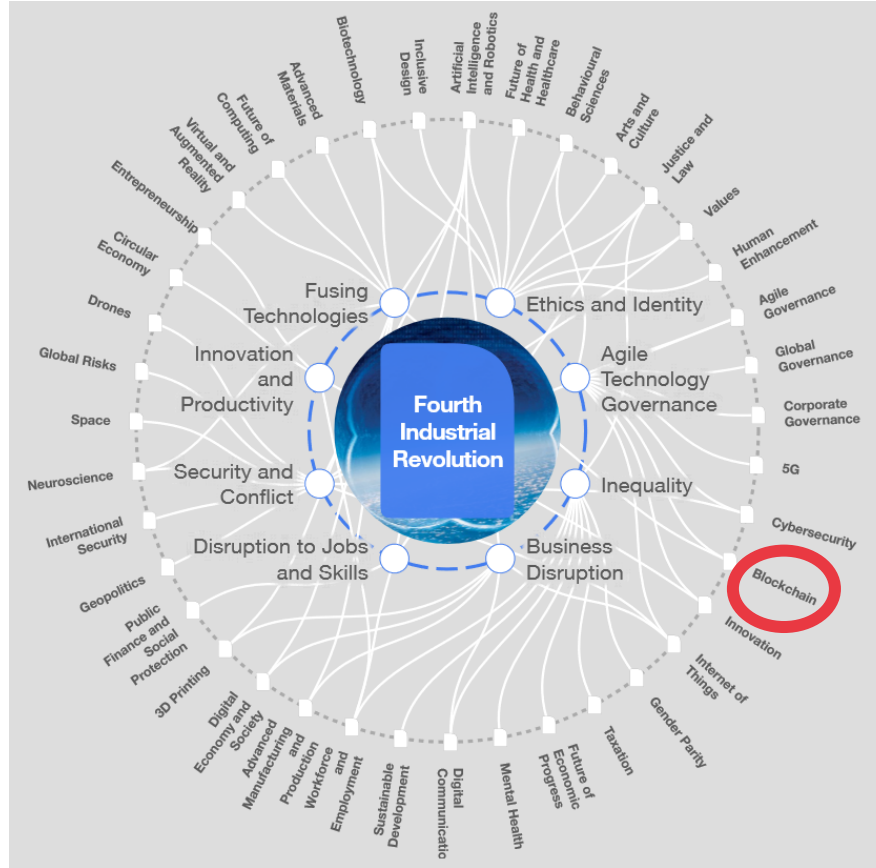


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<https://intelligence.weforum.org/topics/>

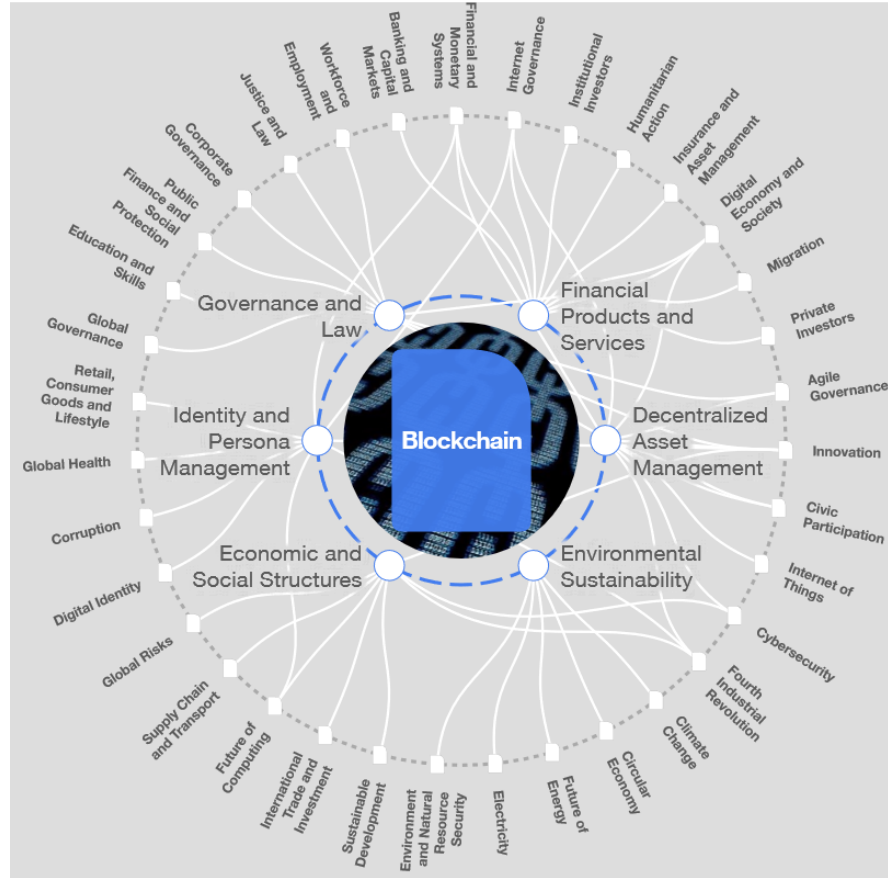


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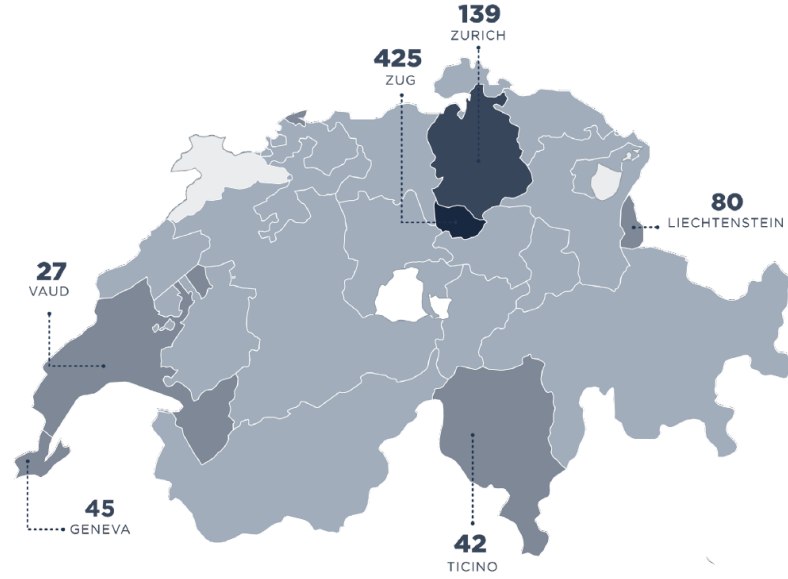


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# Crypto Nation Switzerland



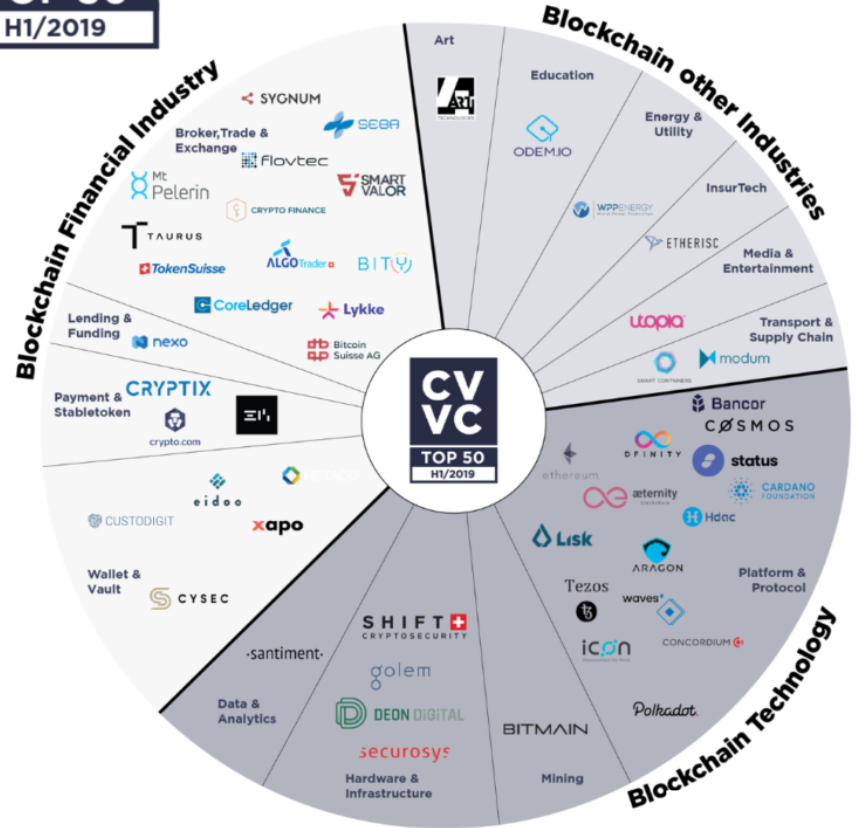
**840**  
companies active in  
blockchain

Number of startups per Canton.  
Only Cantons with 20+ registered companies are named.

Source: [CV Maps](#)

# Crypto Valley Ecosystem Top 50

**TOP 50  
H1/2019**





# Switzerland as Crypto Nation. When, how and why?



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**Zug  
the heart of  
Crypto Valley**





## Unique History: Crypto Valley

Over the past years, numerous startups settled in the area around Zug, Switzerland, and created a unique ecosystem known as

### **'Crypto Valley'**

- + 2015: Ethereum Foundation
- + 2016: Bitcoin for payment in Zug
- + 2018: FINMA token regulation



## Crypto Valley by Numbers



*Europe's fastest-growing tech hub*



**6**

**Unicorns**

Ethereum  
Cardano  
Dfinity  
Polkadot  
Bitmain  
Cosmos

**\$40bn**

Total valuation  
of companies

**4,400**

Employees in  
Crypto Valley



## Why is Switzerland so attractive for blockchain innovations?

- a) Progressive and supportive political system
- b) Supportive private sector and economy incentives
- c) Attractive to tech talent



**SWITZERLAND  
GLOBAL  
ENTERPRISE**

enabling new business

[s-ge.com](https://s-ge.com)

## Progressive and Supportive Political System



## Business-Friendly Regulation

Regulatory frameworks in Switzerland and Liechtenstein are among the world's most **innovative & business-friendly** settings.

Switzerland is developing a comprehensive legal framework for DLT/blockchain businesses, achieved by **adapting existing laws**.

The **most advanced regulatory framework** for digital financial assets and cryptocurrencies in the world.

Ongoing discussions to improve the framework conditions for Blockchain/DLT at a federal level in Switzerland





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## Swiss Government Says It's 'Swiftly' Developing Digital Currency Rules

July 11, 2017 by Bits n Coins

## The Swiss Blockchain Federation

**Public-private partnership** bringing together actors from the blockchain sector, business, science, society and politics

- + One Stop Shop
- + Initiation of projects
- + Umbrella organization
- + Financially supported by over 70 members, the **State Secretariat of Education, Research and Innovation (SERI)** and some Cantons

## History

### Formation

---

In December 2017  
as a project under  
the patronage of  
federal councilors  
Johann N.  
Schneider-Ammann  
and Ueli Maurer

### Launch

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50 representatives  
of universities,  
Blockchain  
companies,  
industry, legal  
practices, cantonal  
government and  
federal  
gouvernement

### Goal

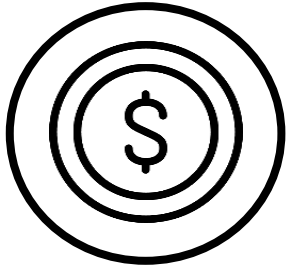
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Building bridges  
between the  
«Crypto Valley»  
and the federal  
authorities in  
Bern

## Goals of the Swiss Blockchain Federation



## Expert Groups



**Token Economy /  
Token Offering**



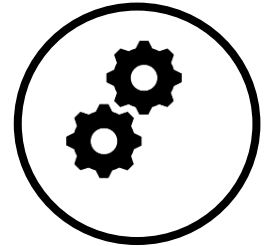
**Banking**



**Cybersecurity**



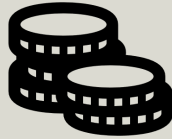
**Industry /  
Value Chain**



**Regulation**

## Supportive Private Sector and Economy

## Economic Strength & Sound Policies



Swiss Franc:  
Strong and stable  
currency



Very high rate of  
labor productivity



World's highest **GDP**  
per capita



## Friendly Business Environment

### Attractive conditions:

- + Excellent domestic & global business networks
- + Flexible labor laws
- + Low bureaucracy
- + Sophisticated & respected legal system
- + Low corruption
- + Availability of investment capital
- + Low corporate & personal taxes
- + High service levels



State authorities are open & easily accessible for developing improved regulations





## Financial Industry as the Main Driver

- + Switzerland is a **leading global financial hub**.
- + The strong development of the financial cluster is underlined by an active involvement of agile **Swiss private banks**
- + Infrastructure, settlement, and securities operations using crypto technologies are **tested and vetted** by SDX.



## First Two Crypto Banks Globally



SEBA Bank AG



Sygnum Bank AG

The introduction of crypto banks signifies a maturing industry and further opportunities for the development of companies based in Crypto Valley.

**Attractive to tech talent**



## World-Class Talent

- + #1 in the world for ease of attracting & retaining world-class talent
- + High-quality education system: ETHZ and EPFL, UZH Blockchain Center, UniBas Centre for Innovative Finance, practice-oriented Universities of Applied Science,
- + Most R&D investments per capita and many Nobel laureates
- + Although wage levels are high, it does not necessarily translate into higher labor costs, since productivity levels are exceptionally high

**The Swiss work systematically, accurately, are innovative and self-starters.**



## Blockchain Ecosystem



**Banks**

Traditional banking sector vs. private banks



**VC firms**

Dramatic increase in funding over the past several years



**Blockchain  
Solution  
Providers**

Early-stage technology requires experts for implementation  
Startups, corporates & government develop applications together



**Universities**

Symbiotic relationship with a growing industry



**Law firms**

Regulatory framework in CH & FL provides unique clarity

## Recent Embassy blockchain initiatives.



**May 2019: Swiss Blockchain Federation / Crypto Valley Venture Capital Roadshow in South Africa**





## Jun 2019: Swiss Blockchain Hackathon

More than **200 hackers from 19 countries** participated in the hackathon in Zurich, producing blockchain innovations for sectors such as finance, logistics and agriculture.



Source:  
[Trust Square](https://www.trustsquare.ch/)



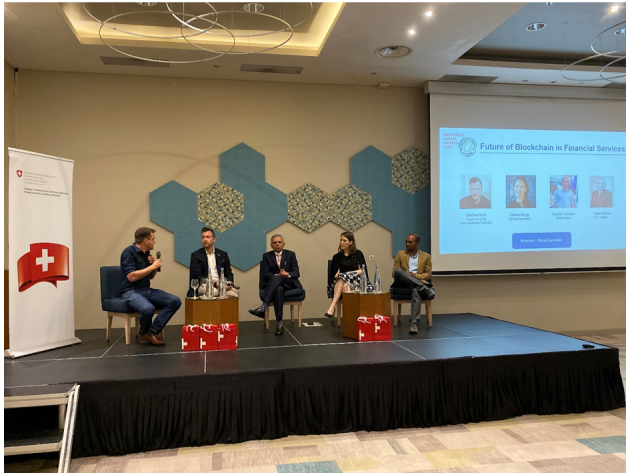




## Sep 2019: South African Innovation Mission to Switzerland

**Swiss-sponsored** delegation of South African decision-makers from business, government, academia and civil society to showcase Switzerland with a focus on research and innovation





## What's next?

### Deepening blockchain collaborations in Africa with a focus on Mauritius and South Africa

- + In-depth discussions between the DSI and the Swiss Embassy on where to place the focus on blockchain collaboration.
- + **MAY** Swiss Lounge, business delegation and University of Zurich Blockchain Competence Centre at the Africa Fintech Festival.
- + **SEP** University of Basel Centre for Innovative Finance ecosystem visit to South Africa and Mauritius.
- + **SEP** South African National Blockchain Alliance academic delegation to Switzerland.



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