



Innovation FORUM LAUSANNE

Annual report 2015



ÉCOLE POLYTECHNIQUE
FÉDÉRALE DE LAUSANNE
an EPFL association



Cabinet Privé
de Conseils s.a.
public relations & public affairs



CARRARD & ASSOCIÉS



Alba IT
Your software consultant and developer

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ANWÄLTE | ATTORNEYS AT LAW





Summary

During 2015, the first year of existence, [Innovation Forum Lausanne \(IFL\)](#) organized four events, allowing more than 700 people from different generations and with diverse profiles to engage with each other: academics, investors, industry representatives, entrepreneurs and policy makers. Furthermore, IFL has established long-term relationships with multiple generous partners and has been invited to numerous local conferences and symposiums, which has increased IFL's visibility and opened many opportunities for the future of our association. With this year's activity report, [we would especially like to express our gratitude to everyone who was involved in making 2015 a successful kick-off year.](#)

For the next year, we are planning to further diversifying our activities, exploring new topics, and increasing our network. Besides organizing our signature events – such as a big conference around the topic of nutrition and eHealth - we will generate real world impact by deploying our first Think Tank projects. Furthermore, we will strengthen our ties with the Innovation Forum branches worldwide, [ensuring global impact of our activities.](#)

Content

- Event summaries.....page 3
- Speakers at IFL events.....page 5
- Partners of IFL.....page 6
- Advisory board of IFL.....page 7
- Events attended by IFL.....page 7
- IFL in the news.....page 8
- Financial summary.....page 9





Event summaries

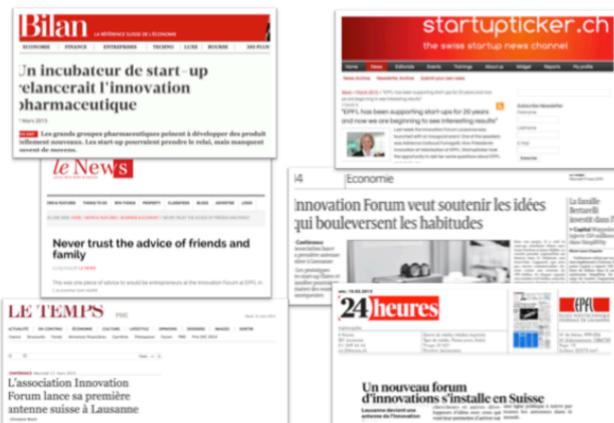
1) Inaugural conference: Disruptive Innovation for a sustainable future

| Date | Venue | # Participants | Inaugural Partners |
|------------|-------------------|----------------|--|
| March 10th | Rolex Forum, EPFL | 450 | Cabinet Privé de Conseils, Venture Lab, Novartis Carrard & Associés, BioRN, Kellerhals, AlbalT |

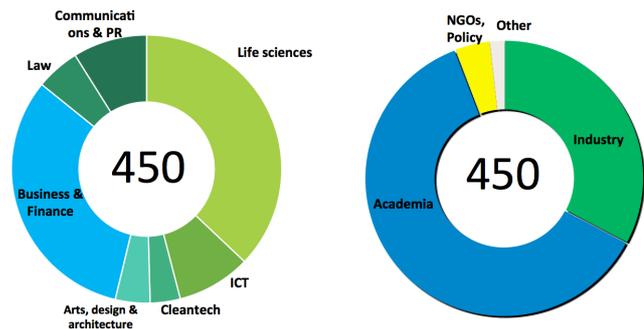
IFL presented itself and revealed its mission: to unlock the potential of scientific entrepreneurship by offering a neutral platform that enables cross-fertilization across disciplines, cultures, and generations.

The event was attended by leading representatives of the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), IMD Business School, University of Lausanne, entrepreneurs and CEOs of various start-ups. Keynotes and coffee breaks were scheduled in order to provide the best possibility to participants for networking. The event received extensive media coverage.

Extensive media coverage



450 highly diverse participants



2) Innovation through science hacking

| Date | Venue | # Participants | Event Partners |
|------------|---------------------------|----------------|---|
| April 28th | Hackuarium, at UniverCité | 60 | Inaugural partners, NexTrends, UniverCité, SV postdocs association Life Scieces |

A diverse mix of science hackers, students, entrepreneurs, and interested people from the broad public met to learn how alternative approaches of science hacking can contribute to innovation. Multiple inspiring speakers showcased their projects in the stimulating atmosphere of Hackuarium at UniverCité.

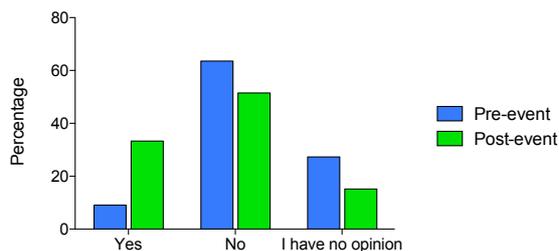


3) Science and technology policy: from tax revenues to innovation and successful start-ups

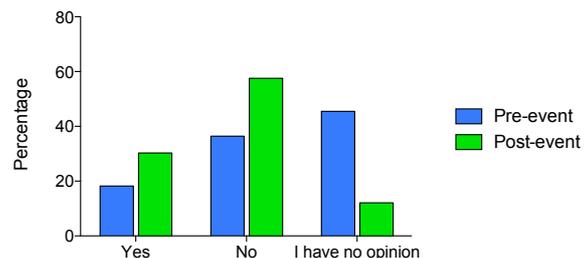
| Date | Venue | # Participants | Event Partners |
|----------|-----------------------------------|----------------|---|
| May 13th | SwissTech Convention Center, EPFL | 115 | Inaugural partners, IFJ-Startup support, Salons des Technologies et des Innovations de Lausanne |

The round table offered the opportunity for entrepreneurs of start-ups to meet policy makers and experts in the field of business development. Participants discussed on the possible measures needed to speed up innovation processes in Switzerland. The audience was asked to participate actively by connecting to an e-voting system with their mobile phones, enabling them to submit their opinions on questions that were discussed during the panel. The main purposes of this event were to raise awareness about Innovation Policy, and to quantify changes in participant's opinions throughout the panel session. As one can see in the graphs below, the event actively contributed in shaping opinions, tipping the balance in Yes vs. No answers, and guiding people from having no opinion into shaping opinions.

All types of startups have the same chance of getting support from cantonal or federal innovation initiatives.



Do the current legal frameworks encourage investors to put money into startups or not?



4) StartInnov - transforming ideas into companies

| Date | Venue | # Participants | Event Partners |
|-----------|--------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| June 20th | UniverCité, Renens | 16 | Inaugural partners, StartInnov |

The one-day workshop led through discussions, simulations and elevator pitches, all orchestrated by the highly experienced coaches from StartInnov. The event offered the unique opportunity to students and prospective entrepreneurs to learn about the key stages involved in the process of creating a new company. During the day, the participants, divided into small interdisciplinary groups, brainstormed ideas and developed different projects. In the end, a jury composed of investors and entrepreneurs selected a winning team amongst three very diverse projects from within the hospitality, med tech, and home construction spaces.



Speakers at IFL events

We would like to thank our all our inspiring speakers who shared their knowledge and experience with our audience, for free!

1) Inaugural conference: Disruptive Innovation for a sustainable future

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |
| Dr. Adrienne Corboud Fumagalli Vice President of Innovation and Technology Transfer, EPFL | Carlos Ruiz Co-Founder, CEO & Chairman of Flatev | Dr. Christian Tidona CEO of BioRN Cluster and BioMed X Innovation Center | Dr. Sachiko Hirose Co-founder of biodesign.cc |
|  |  |  |  |
| Prof. Jeffrey Petty Director of of eMBA at HEC/Unil | Yann Cotte CEO of Nanolive | Prof. Georges Haour Professor Emeritus of Technology & Innovation Management at IMD | Bhupinder Bhullar Project manager at Novartis |

2) Innovation through Science Hacking

| | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
|  |  |  |  |
| Luc Henry Co-founder and director of Hackuarium | Urs Gaudenz Director of GaudiLabs | Sam Sulaimanov Mission Lead and Association President of Project "Octanis" | Sachiko Hirose Co-founder of biodesign.cc |

3) Science and technology policy: from tax revenues to innovation and successful start-ups

| | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |
| Gaéтан de Rassenfosse Assistant Professor of Innovation and IP Policy at EPFL | Beatrice Ferrari Scientific advisor at the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) | Jane Royston Member of the Federal Commission for Innovation (CTI) , Business woman of the year | Alexandre Grutman Founder & CEO of Inno-Fuel , an advisory firm for innovation strategies |
|  |  |  | |
| Antonio Gambardella Director of Fongit , Switzerland's first startup incubator | Jennifer Brant Director of Innovation Insights , innovation and technology diffusion | Justin Picard Co-founder and CEO of ScanTrust , a startup that prevents counterfeiting | |





Partners of IFL

We would like to thank our visionary partners for their unconditional support in building IFL during the first year of existence. It is only thanks to their generous support that IFL was able to provide free high quality events, training, and networking opportunities to our members and community.

- **Cabinet Privé de Conseils (CPC)**

Cabinet Privé de Conseils (CPC) is a Swiss-based firm that specializes in providing clients with consulting services in public relations, public affairs and business intelligence. It has a particular expertise in life sciences.

- **Novartis**

Novartis is a global healthcare company based in Switzerland that provides solutions to address the evolving needs of patients worldwide.

- **Carrard & Associés ***

We are a firm of independent attorneys founded in Lausanne in 1885 and currently specializing in business law and sports law. We have a high profile both in our home country and abroad, and owe our reputation to the highly personalized services we provide and our culture of trust and loyalty towards our clients, both within Switzerland and internationally.

- **Kellerhals, Attorneys at law ***

Being lawyers with a pragmatic and business-minded approach to the issues, we understand the pressures and opportunities facing individuals and companies in the current market. At Kellerhals we combine our technical expertise with considerable practical knowledge to help our clients create and sustain value, resolve issues and fulfil their objectives.

- **Venturelab**

Venturelab focuses as a private initiative on the best startup talents with the ambition and the potential to grow internationally. Together with successful founders, key academic and industry partners we set up an accelerator to support the next startup generation. World-class startups. Swiss made.

- **Alba IT**

Plusieurs années d'expérience dans le web et les applications mobiles font d'Alba IT un partenaire de choix pour le développement de vos solutions logicielles à la pointe de la technologie. Nous sommes une équipe jeune et dynamique, et c'est avec passion que nous nous réjouissons de pouvoir vous offrir un service de qualité répondant à vos besoins.

- **BioRN**

The Biotech Cluster Rhine-Neckar (BioRN) is formed by about 80 companies from the field of red biotechnology develop drugs, technology platforms and diagnostics. Globally acting healthcare companies as well as internationally renowned research institutes are also part of this cluster.

- **MOO**

We love great design and believe it can work wonders for every business. That's why we make it simple to create beautiful, expertly crafted business stationery and promotional materials that'll help you start conversations, open doors and strengthen relationships.

**as of September 1st 2015, Kellerhals and Carrard & Associés merged into "Kellerhals Carrard". This is establishing them as the fifth largest Swiss law firm, with more than 120 lawyers serving entire Switzerland. Congratulations!*



CARRARD & ASSOCIÉS





Advisory board

We would like to thank our highly skilled advisory board whose members kindly offered part of their valuable time to discuss with us, ensuring that our activities covered the needs and interests of the different players involved in the innovation ecosystem.

Dr. Thomas Bähler



Industry and policy

Dr. Thomas Bähler is an experienced business lawyer, particularly noted for his work with start-up and technology enterprises, and as a member of several Boards of Directors. He is a co-founder of the Swiss Economic Forum, Switzerland's leading annual meeting of entrepreneurs committed to innovation and excellence in business, and is a juror for the Swiss Economic Award.

Nick Miles, MBA



Industry, finance and startups

Extensive track record in communications and investor relations in Europe and USA for both public and private companies. Specialist expertise in Swiss life sciences since 1998

Dr. Lorenzo Massa



Academia

Assistant Professor (Strategy), Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU), Research Scientist, Chair of Chair of Corporate Strategy & Innovation (CSI) at EPFL and visiting professor at the University of Bologna . Holds a Ph.D in Management from IESE Business School and graduate degrees with distinctions in Mechanical Engineering from the Dublin Institute of Technology (B.Eng.) and the University of Genoa (M.Sc. Eng.). He focuses on research at the nexus between Business Model design, Innovation and Sustainability.

Charlotte Tengelin, MBA



Industry and startups

Head of Marketing and Business Development of a startup company in Geneva. Has 9 years of experience from working internationally with strategic business development, e-commerce and marketing management in global retail and distribution.

Dr. Gaétan de Rassenfosse



Academia and policy

Assistant Professor Tenure Track, Holder of the Chair of Innovation and IP Policy, College of Management of Technology (CDM), EPFL. Holds a PhD in Economics, followed by 4 years of experience as research fellow in Australia. Is extensively engaged with government on innovation policy issues.

Dr. Bhupinder Bhullar



Industry and academia

Project leader at the Novartis Institute for Biomedical Research (NIBR), with a focus on oncology and infectious diseases, including previous experience in neuroscience and respiratory research.

Events attended by IFL

- Invited presentation of IFL at the **Experts Network Dinner**, Geneva, March 3rd 2015.
- Representing IFL at the **Swiss Biotech Day 2015**, Basel, April 14th 2015 (find a summary on www.inno-lausanne.ch).
- Representing IFL at the **Second Innovation Leaders Conference**, Cambridge (UK), April 16th & 17th 2015.
- Invited presentation of IFL at the **20th SICTIC Innovation Day**, Debiopharm, Lausanne, May 11th 2015.
- Invited guest at the **Roundtable at the World Trade Organization on the role of intellectual property in financing innovation**, WTO Centre William Rappard in Geneva, June 9th 2015 (find a summary on www.inno-lausanne.ch).
- Invited guests at the **dinner meeting** organized by the **Business Angels Switzerland (BAS)**, Hotel Bristol, Geneva, 19th August 2015.
- Invited presentation of IFL at the **Swiss Biotech Innovation Day**, Zug, August 19th 2015.



IFL in the news

Quote (Le News, March 11th): *"Innovation" that increasingly over-used and tired word is one much bandied around by those who observe from behind the safety of their corporate desks, academic podia and political soap boxes. Last night the word won back its true energy and meaning at the launch at EPFL of the Innovation Forum's Lausanne branch – the first in Switzerland".*



We would especially like to thank Nick Miles and Xavier Cornut from our PR partner Cabinet Privé de Conseils (CPC) for their valuable work, which led to the publication of the following news:

- July 2015 edition: *In vivo magazine (CHUV Lausanne)* published an interview of Manuel Fankhauser to present Innovation Forum Lausanne.
- June 12th 2015: [Le Temps](#) published an article about the Swiss start-ups looking for partners and funding in Cambridge in collaboration with the Innovation Forum.
- May 11th 2015: Innovation Forum Lausanne presented itself at the [20th Investor Day](#) of the Swiss Information and Communications Technology Investor Club (SICTIC). The event and our presentation was reported by *L'AGEFI*.
- March 27th 2015, a dispatch from [AWP finance news](#) about innovation in the pharmaceutical industry, featuring two speakers from our inaugural event and the president of Innovation Forum Lausanne, was published by [Romandie.com](#), [Le Temps](#) and the business magazine [Bilan](#).
- March 17th 2015: [Startupticker.ch](#) released an interview of Adrienne Corboud Fumagalli, Vice-President for Innovation and Technology Transfer of the EPFL, who delivered the opening talk of our inaugural event.
- March 13th 2015: [School of Life Sciences](#) of the EPFL published a news article (in French) about the inaugural conference of Innovation Forum Lausanne and the fact that several of its committee members (including its president) are PhD students in life sciences at the EPFL.
- March 11th 2015, [Le News](#), the local Swiss news in English, published an article about our inaugural conference.
- March 11th 2015: the [Swiss Biotech Association](#) published an article reporting the inaugural event of the Lausanne branch of the Innovation Forum.
- March 11th 2015: [Le Temps](#) published an article about our inaugural conference, featuring the start-ups [Flatev](#) and [Nanolive](#).
- March 10th 2015: [World Radio Switzerland \(WRS\)](#) aired a 7-minute interview with our president Manuel Fankhauser.
- March 10th 2015: both [24 heures](#) and [La tribune de Genève](#) published an interview of Manuel Fankhauser about the creation of our association and our inaugural conference.
- March 10th 2015: First press releases thanks to our public relations partner, [Cabinet privé de conseils \(CPC\)](#).
- March 3rd 2015: [BioAlps](#) listed our inaugural conference on their event page.
- February 18th 2015: [Flash](#), the newspaper of the EPFL, published an article to explain the Innovation Forum concept and announce the creation of the Lausanne branch.
- February 17th 2015: [Startupticker.ch](#) published an article to present the Innovation Forum Lausanne and to advertise our inaugural conference "Disruptive Innovation for a Sustainable Future".

Please find the links to all the articles on our website: www.inno-lausanne.ch/news



Financial summary

