

Program

21 May 2026 | Kursaal, Bern

- Peer-to-Peer Exchange
- Founder's Knowhow
- Unlock Switzerland
- Collective
- Newcomers



08:45 – 08:50
Welcome to the Swiss startup days 2026 - Arianne Alcorta & Dominik Isler | Arena

08:50 – 09:30
Opening Keynote: Julian Teicke | Arena

ROOMS
Panorama 1 **Panorama 2** **Panorama 3** **Panorama 4** **Panorama 6** **Panorama 7** **UNPLUGGED STAGE Arena**

09:45 – 10:30
PMF for Politics: From Idea to Impact

09:45 – 10:30
Fundraising Negotiations in Challenging Times

09:45 – 10:30
Strategic Investments: Everything you need to know

09:45 – 10:30
Innovative Charging Technology for Cleaner Cities

09:45 – 10:30
Smart money in action - how investors add value

09:45 – 10:30
Bringing AI to the Bedside

09:45 – 10:30
Entrepreneurial Talk with Killian Wagner (VIU)

10:30 – 11:15
Break / Coffee / Marketplace

11:15 – 12:00
Turning Ideas into Value: Intellectual Property as an Underrated Factor

11:15 – 12:00
Not Medtech Nor Biotech: Making Sense of Biotechs

11:15 – 12:00
12 Startup Traps You Face After the Honeymoon

11:15 – 12:00
10 golden rules for pitching

11:15 – 12:00
Angel or not? When is a Business Angel right for your startup.

11:15 – 12:00
Entrepreneurial Talk with Christian Fischer (Bcomp)

12:00 – 13:15
Break / Lunch / Marketplace

13:15 – 13:45
Scaling as a Swiss (and European) Startup - how to overcome the death valley? | Hany Rashwan & Ophelia Snyder | Arena

13:45 – 14:00
Project Switzerland - Scale the next Global Market Leaders | Arena

14:15 – 15:00
Turning a Proof-of-Concept into Real Market Traction

14:15 – 15:00
Corporate x Startup - Reality Check: What Really Works?

14:15 – 15:00
Going Global: Real Stories from Swiss Startups

14:15 – 15:00
Project Switzerland - Scale the next Global Market Leaders

14:15 – 15:00
AI First or AI-Washed?

14:15 – 15:00
Product-Market-Fit: Framework and Founder Story

14:15 – 15:00
Entrepreneurial Talk with Leila Delarive (hoopit)

15:00 – 15:30
Break / Coffee / Marketplace

15:30 – 16:15
Biology meets Engineering - Is Bioconvergence the next 'Big Thing'

15:30 – 16:15
The art of pivoting: transforming with purpose

15:30 – 16:15
Employee Participation Schemes for Start-ups

15:30 – 16:15
Learning to Launch on the INSEL CAMPUS BERN

15:30 – 16:15
Where Algorithms Meet Reality - AI & DeepTech

15:30 – 16:15
Geopolitics of Innovation - Are we at the beginning of a major crisis?

15:30 – 16:15
Entrepreneurial Talk with Sebastian Beer-schen (RealWear)

16:30 – 16:50
Newcomers "Grande Finale" | Arena

16:50 – 18:00
Farewell-Apéro | Arena

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ROOMS
Szenario 1 **Szenario 2** **Aare 1** **Aare 2** **Aare Plenum** **Aare Foyer** **AI STAGE Foyer West**

09:45 – 10:30 Reverse Pitching #1	09:45 – 10:30 Newcomers Batch #1	09:45 – 10:30 VC Financing Rounds: A Founder's Playbook	09:45 – 10:30 An IP-first mindset that enabled a business pivot	09:45 – 10:30 Matchmaking #1	09:45 – 10:30 Matchmaking #1	09:45 – 10:30 Building Europe's Next Scaleups
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10:30 – 11:15
Break / Coffee / Marketplace

11:15 – 12:00 Reverse Pitching #2	11:15 – 12:00 Newcomers Batch #2	11:15 – 12:00 Two Startup Journeys - An Angel's View	11:15 – 12:00 Impact Catalyst - Turn capital into change	11:15 – 12:00 Matchmaking #2	11:15 – 12:00 Matchmaking #2	11:15 – 12:00 Open Source AI as a Strategic Advantage
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12:00 – 13:15
Break / Lunch / Marketplace

13:15 - 13:45
Scaling as a Swiss (and European) Startup - how to overcome the death valley? | Hany Rashwan & Ophelia Snyder | Arena

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14:15 – 15:00 Better Together: Startup-SME Success by Design	14:15 – 15:00 Newcomers Batch #3	14:15 – 15:00 Killing the Playbook: Real Talk on PMF, Un-scalable Pivots, and Building Together	14:15 – 15:00 How to get EU funding for your deep tech start-up?	14:15 – 15:00 Matchmaking #3	14:15 – 15:00 Matchmaking #3	14:15 – 15:00 From Research to Market Reality: Making AI Create
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15:00 – 16:25
SICTIC Investor Day @SUD26

15:00 – 15:30
Break / Coffee / Marketplace

15:30 – 16:15 Untold: The Founders' Rollercoaster	15:30 – 16:15 What Really Changes When You Scale?	15:30 – 16:15 How can academic founders fundraise effectively?	15:30 – 16:15 Matchmaking #4	15:30 – 16:15 Matchmaking #4	15:30 – 16:15 Funding the Future of AI
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