

digitalswitzerland

High-calibre panel at WEF to discuss the intersection between innovation and acceptance

Switzerland: the world's most innovative country at the intersection of technological innovation and social acceptance. How can Switzerland best exploit its potential for technological innovation? digitalswitzerland held a panel discussion on the topic during the World Economic Forum in Davos. The high-profile discussion was attended by the president of the Swiss Confederation Alain Berset, Alexander Karp, co-founder and CEO of Palantir, Philipp Rösler, former managing director of WEF and Marc Walder, CEO of Ringier and initiator of digitalswitzerland.

24 January 2018 – To kick off the World Economic Forum in Davos, digitalswitzerland invited 60 guests to its exclusive panel discussion at the Palantir pavilion in Davos. Marc Walder opened the event, followed by an introductory statement by Alexander Karp on digitization and the associated ethical challenges: 'Digitization raises moral, ethical and economic questions that can only be answered by the state.' Alexander Karp is co-founder and CEO of Palantir Technologies, a Silicon Valley company that is the market leader in data integration and analysis not only in the US but also in Europe. Palantir processes data of all formats and sizes from a wide variety of systems in such a way that customers can work faster and more efficiently. The company has become well known for its cooperation with security authorities in the fight against terrorism and is working successfully with commercial partners from a wide range of industries.

Next, president of the Swiss Confederation, Alain Berset discussed his plans for making Switzerland a place of innovation in the future. Berset commented: 'The digital transformation can increase productivity and creativity significantly. But it must be done in a spirit of social inclusion. Otherwise, there is a risk of machine riots, just as there were against mechanisation. This is the lesson we can take from the first industrial revolution and apply to the fourth industrial revolution.'

Together with Marc Walder, the three presenters then held a discussion on the topic of 'Switzerland as the most innovative country in the world: the intersection between technological innovation and social acceptance'. Marc Walder pointed to the importance of including the entire population: 'The digital revolution is progressing at an unprecedented pace, bringing about major changes in every conceivable sphere of life and work. In order to emerge victorious in this global revolution, Switzerland must get the entire population on board and discuss the many opportunities and the major challenges that will materialise.'

An exchange with audience members and an opportunity for networking completed the event.

About [digitalswitzerland](#)

digitalswitzerland is a combined initiative by business, public and academic institutions which aims to establish Switzerland as a leading international centre of digital innovation.

digitalswitzerland is already active in a wide range of fields, including knowledge transfer, education, start-up ecosystems and political frameworks. The association's members include 75 of the most prominent companies, organisations and innovative locations in Switzerland. The initiative was founded in 2015.

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