

digitalswitzerland

Press release

WEF 2019. Crypto and governance: Switzerland as a leading hub on digitalization

digitalswitzerland and Credit Suisse hosted a top-flight panel discussion during the World Economic Forum in Davos. Ueli Maurer, President of the Swiss Confederation, Thomas Jordan, Chairman of the Governing Board Swiss National Bank, Jörg Gasser, State Secretariat SFI, Sebastian Thrun, Chairman and Co-Founder Udacity and CEO Kitty Hawk Corporation, Katie Yang, the winner of the Credit Suisse Research Institute Academy Challenge 2018 and Marc Walder, CEO Ringier and founder of digitalswitzerland discussed the potential of digital money and the challenges and opportunities for Switzerland to remain competitive in a digitalized world. The panel was moderated by Philipp Rösler, former Managing Director WEF.

23 January 2019 –digitalswitzerland invited 120 guests to an exclusive panel discussion at the World Economic Forum in Davos, hosted by Credit Suisse at its Pavilion. The objective of the event was to discuss and explore the opportunities and challenges of the digitization of money, the role of politics, regulators and central banks in the digital era as well as Switzerland's positioning in the age of the 4th Industrial Revolution. In his opening remarks **Urs Rohner**, Chairman Credit Suisse Group, welcomed the guests and said: «The awareness of the digital evolution has increased over the last years, yet the transformation goes far beyond technological aspects.» For **Ueli Maurer**, the President of the Swiss Confederation, it is clear that we are only at the beginning: “We don't want to hinder innovation, but from the legislator's point of view we want to take certain risks. For Switzerland as a business location it will be crucial to be among the fastest.”

Thomas Jordan, Chairman of the Governing Board, Swiss National Bank, stressed the importance of having regulated processes and clear rules in order to minimise uncertainty for the financial sector. As regards the role of central banks in dealing with cryptocurrencies, he stated: “Cryptocurrencies are more like an asset than a currency; the probability of them becoming a currency is, in my view, relatively low. I do not believe that central banks' influence is waning.”

The Swiss model and the collaboration between science, business and the administration is unique in Europe, according to **Marc Walder**, CEO of Ringier and founder of digitalswitzerland. His assessment: “Switzerland is ranked 5th in the IMD World Digital Competitiveness Ranking, Germany is 18, France 26, and Italy is 42. What we do in Switzerland is good, but we will not achieve our ambitions without Europe. Europe needs to be a stronger cluster.” At the end of the discussion, he asked for more rules in the cyberspace and suggested that Switzerland is in a perfect position to host the Digital Geneva Convention.

Thomas Gottstein, CEO Credit Suisse Switzerland, addressed the closing remarks. An exchange with audience members and an opportunity for networking completed the event.

About [digitalswitzerland](#)

digitalswitzerland is a combined initiative by business, public, educational and academic institutions which aims to establish Switzerland as a leading international centre of digital innovation. digitalswitzerland is active in a wide range of fields, including knowledge transfer, education, start-up ecosystems and political frameworks. The association's members include over 130 of the most prominent companies, organisations and innovative locations in Switzerland. The initiative was founded in 2015.

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