

Digitalswitzerland merges with ICTswitzerland

Support

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The new umbrella organisation – under the name digitalswitzerland – plans to do even more to establish Switzerland as a leading digital research and innovation location. The organisation will continue to promote the startup ecosystem.

Following the signing of the letter of intent to merge, the members of the umbrella organisation ICTswitzerland and the digitalswitzerland location initiative have now confirmed the proposed merger at their respective general assemblies. As a location initiative, digitalswitzerland has been committed to establishing Switzerland as a leading international digital innovation hub. ICTswitzerland has represented selected and overarching digitisation issues connected to the general public, the government and industry with a special focus being given to cyber security and to the education and training of ICT specialists.

Merging under the name digitalswitzerland, the new 220-member organisation will combine both strategies and aims to become the most relevant umbrella organisation in digital Switzerland. The merger will enable the comprehensive integration of all sectors and public administration within the digital economy. Ivo Furrer will remain President of digitalswitzerland; the current President of ICTswitzerland, National Councilor Marcel Dobler, will be Vice-President.

The umbrella organisation aims to develop selected skills and topics that can credibly position and strengthen Switzerland as a leading location for digital research and innovation. The focus will be on developing and implementing measures that will increase the number of MINT professionals at all levels of the education system, with the aim of meeting the demand for skilled professionals.



The expansion of the digital ecosystem through cross-sectoral collaboration in order to facilitate continual innovation will also be emphasised. In addition, the organisation will increase its engagement to improve the cyber resilience of the federal government, the economy, and the general public and will also ensure that ethical standards are maintained in the digital world.

Dialogue with the Swiss public will be intensified thanks to Swiss Digital Days, which are held annually throughout the country. The organisation will continue to promote the startup ecosystem so that young entrepreneurs receive optimal support in terms of growth and scaling.

On the political stage, it will advocate the digital issues and concerns of digitalswitzerland members. A first joint commitment concerns the rapid introduction of the federally approved and verified E-ID.

Offices in Zurich and Bern

The merger was decided on 2 October and is expected to be completed by the end of 2020. The umbrella organisation will have offices in three cities: Lausanne, Bern and Zurich. Nicolas Bürer will assume overall responsibility for digitalswitzerland. Andreas W. Kaelin will be Deputy Managing Director and Head of the Bern office. He will be responsible for representing political interests, as well as for the cyber security and ICT vocational training dossiers. Sébastien Kulling will continue as Head of the Lausanne office while also serving as Deputy Managing Director. He is responsible for all members and activities in the Suisse Romandie. (Press release / SK)