

PRESS RELEASE

220 partners, more than 180 activities across Switzerland: Swiss {ai} Weeks returns on 1 September

- Following its successful launch in 2025, the movement has grown to 37 cities and 220 partners; at the launch, the program already comprises over 180 events across Switzerland.
- Swiss {ai} Weeks brings experiences, perspectives and priorities from across Switzerland into the international AI debate.
- Swiss {ai} Weeks has been officially confirmed as a "Road to Geneva" pre-event partner, part of the lead-up to the Geneva AI Summit 2027, recognizing the movement's national work as a direct contribution to the international conversation ahead of the Summit.

Zurich, 1 September 2026 – Following its successful debut last year, Swiss {ai} Weeks launches its second edition today, with a significantly larger national presence, a broader network of partners and new formats for the general public.

Until 4 October, activities in 37 towns and cities across Switzerland will bring artificial intelligence to the places where its impact is felt most directly: in businesses and universities, in schools, local communities and people's everyday lives.

After a successful program in 2025, the movement this year is expanding to 220 partners and 37 cities. The program already features over 180 events at the start; further dates are being added on an ongoing basis.

That growth is also beginning to extend beyond Switzerland. As the country prepares to host the AI Summit in Geneva in 2027, Swiss {ai} Weeks is building exchanges with innovation and research ecosystems internationally, bringing Swiss perspectives on trustworthy AI into the global conversation and laying the groundwork to expand the movement's model beyond Swiss borders in future editions.

The program is structured around two key areas: initiatives for businesses looking to use AI in practical and responsible ways, and activities for the general public. Alongside 11 hackathons and new educational formats for schools and families, the 2026 program also broadens its thematic range with sessions on trustworthy AI, ethics and societal impact, and how AI is reshaping jobs, privacy and human interaction, sitting alongside events on work, public administration and digital participation. In this way, Swiss {ai} Weeks reaches significantly more people outside the traditional tech scene.

Swiss {ai} Weeks is shaped by the people and organizations that take part. Founding and returning partners include, amongst others, **finnova AG Bankware, Gebert Rüt Foundation, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Karakun AG, SRG SSR, Swisscom, Swiss Life, UBS, Var Group Suisse, Viseca, VZ VermögensZentrum** and others. Together with developers, entrepreneurs and members of the public, they help shape the programme across the various regions.

At the same time, Switzerland is seeing more AI programs, conferences and initiatives than ever before. What sets Swiss {ai} Weeks apart is not just the subject matter, but its composition: public institutions, academia, businesses, non-governmental organizations and the general public are working together as part of a national movement rather than in separate silos. As a result, the program reaches not only conference stages, but also classrooms, community centres, workplaces, hospitals and people's everyday lives. The initiative is carried out by a non-profit organizing body and a growing network of partners from academia, business, public administration and civil society.

'The wide-ranging response to the first Swiss {ai} Weeks shows us that AI is no longer just a topic for a small specialist community. In 2026, we are significantly expanding the movement with more partners, more venues and more formats that give people practical access to AI. At the same time, we are looking ahead to Geneva 2027 – because the international debate needs experiences and voices from across Switzerland,' says Katka Letzing co-founder and CEO of Kickstart Innovation and Swiss {ai} Weeks.

The second edition takes on added significance because Switzerland will be hosting the Geneva AI Summit at Palexpo on 21 and 22 June 2027. The summit, organized by DETEC Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications and the FDFA Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, will focus on prosperity and progress through AI, as well as its trustworthy, responsible and secure use. A series of pre-events to the Summit, called the **"Road to Geneva"** begins as early as 2026. Swiss {ai} Weeks will contribute perspectives and practical experience from across Switzerland to this process as the movement does not end on October 4 but runs year-round with partners, new initiatives and events

What will actually happen in 2026

Eleven hackathons with real-world challenges

The Zurich Hackathon on 24 and 25 September is the largest, giving teams 36 hours on more than ten real-world challenges set by partner organizations. The Zurich Hackathon is open to students, developers, start-ups, professionals from business and government, and anyone with an interest in AI. Other hackathons examples include the START Hack Tour in St Gallen, with a 24-hour focus on finance and technology topics, and the HPE | NVIDIA hackathon in Geneva on agent-based and physical AI, the Geneva Hackathon with challenges around workforce, health, finance and education, the Legal Hackathon in Kloten and others touching topics such as space tech, education, energy and more.

Apertus and Swiss research in practice

Apertus, the open Swiss language model, developed by EPFL, ETH Zurich and CSCS, the Swiss National Supercomputing Centre with support of the Swiss National AI Institute (SNAI), runs through the program as the technical spine for each hackathon and other events.

On 1 October, the ETH AI Centre's AI+X Summit will showcase research progress and applications in fields such as healthcare, finance and engineering. From 28 September to 3 October, the Zurich AI Festival will combine open labs, public debates, art installations and hackathons into a city-wide program. In addition Swiss {ai} Weeks will feature Apertus across its hackathons and executive activities, including events on September 17th in Zurich, October 2nd in Lugano and other locations throughout Switzerland. Citizens are being included with partners Public AI, EPFL AI Center and others across all cantons.

AI, Work and Social Inclusion

In Ticino, the regional chapter of AI Salon, hosted by Linkfloyd and Acer Europe, opened the Weeks with a pre-event, bringing together with special guest Bruno Giussani, along with HR professionals, trade unions, psychologists and senior managers to discuss the impact of AI on work and everyday life. The region's program continues from there increasing the participation with over 25 events culminating in the first ever AI-only film festival in Switzerland, which brings the topic to students and a wider audience through storytelling, lessons and screenings, while a dedicated workshop for the elderly offers hands-on guidance on using AI in everyday life.

A new pilot project with Smartfeld is aimed at pupils, teachers and parents: the aim is not only for them to use AI, but also to be able to understand and critically examine it together. Education is deliberately a priority in 2026. The Swiss {ai} Weeks speak directly to pupils, teachers and parents, as the next generation should not only be able to use AI, but also understand and critically examine it. New formats help schools and families to engage with AI together, both in the classroom and at home.

Open to different levels of prior knowledge

The program spans public talks, hands-on workshops, and advanced technical sessions, offering learning opportunities for everyone, from complete beginners to experienced AI practitioners, across all age groups. Many public events are free of charge. Hackathons and certain business events have limited places and may require registration or an application.

How to take part

- Dates: 1 September to 4 October 2026.
- Locations: 37 towns and cities in German-speaking Switzerland, French-speaking Switzerland and Ticino, as well as online events.
- Access: Most public talks, workshops and dialogue events are free, but registration is required. Hackathons and some business events have limited places and may require an application.
- Program: Events are published and updated regularly at ai-weeks.ch/events.
- Partners and organizers: Organizations can get involved throughout the year via ai-weeks.ch.

Quotes from partners

Hendrik Lang, CEO, finnova AG Bankware

Shaping the future of AI takes more than technology. It takes people, fresh ideas and open collaboration. Swiss {ai} Weeks creates the space for this exchange. With our hackathon in Lenzburg, finnova is proud to contribute and bring a banking perspective to the conversation.

Dr. Pascale Vonmont, CEO, Gebert Rűf Stiftung

Artificial intelligence affects us all, and this year, Swiss {ai} Weeks brings it even closer to people's everyday lives. Beyond cities and institutions, the third sector is becoming an increasingly important part of this national effort, bringing civil society organizations, associations, and community initiatives into the conversation and helping ensure that AI is shaped with and for society. Last year showed what is possible when an entire country gets involved; this year, public institutions, academia, businesses, the third sector, and the general public are coming together as part of a truly national movement.

René Zierler, Managing Director Hewlett Packard Enterprise

Advancing AI takes more than technology. It takes people, ideas and collaboration. Swiss {ai} Weeks brings these forces together to shape AI's future in Switzerland. As partner of Swiss {ai} Weeks, Hewlett Packard Enterprise is proud to help advance AI innovation across Switzerland.

Thierry Zweifel, Head of Data & AI Business SRG

How can we unlock the potential of AI while strengthening public trust, our most precious asset? This is one of the key challenges driving our participation in the Swiss {ai} Weeks.

Christoph Aeschlimann, Group CEO, Swisscom

AI will only become a Swiss strength if we build it together — and Swiss {ai} Weeks is where that actually happens. Swisscom is proud to be part of this movement again: we bring the trusted, reliable infrastructure that Swiss AI runs on, and we bring our people into the hackathon with real challenges from our own business. Switzerland has the innovation, the expertise and the integrity to lead in AI. Let's prove it, together.

Daniele Magazzeni, Group Chief AI Officer, UBS

We are proud to partner with Swiss {ai} Weeks. Building on Switzerland's long tradition of innovation, this initiative brings together leading minds from business, technology and academia to explore how AI can create meaningful value. By working across institutions and disciplines, we can help build a culture of collaboration, openness and experimentation and ensure that AI is developed and applied in a responsible and sustainable way.

Build together with our Partners

Acer Europe, Canton of Ticino, City of Bellinzona, City of Lugano, ElevenLabs, Fondazione Agire, IBSA Foundation for scientific research, IDSIA (USI-SUPSI), Impact Hub Geneva, Impact Hub Ticino, Impact Hub Zurich, Kraftwerk, LaraCopilot, Linkfloyd, Lugano Convention and Exhibition, Lugano Living Lab, MediaTI - Gruppo Corriere del Ticino, Merge Film Festival, Open AI, Organizzazione Cristiano-Sociale Ticinese (OCST), Panter, Picflow, Public AI, Smartfeld, START Global, Supertext, Swisscom Ventures, SwissDevJobs, Ticino Convention Bureau, CM Infomaniak, ITU, SUSE, UNICC, XpertIA, AI Bridge, AI for exoplanets, AI Open House Collective, AI Suisse, AIRIES AI, ALLPS, ALPINNO GmbH, Alterland, Altscale, Amaze Labs, amaze.ai, Antegris, ARABESQUE, ARGUS DATA INSIGHTS, Artifact, Association AI Swiss, avidia.ai, Axians, b2venture, bbv, BEGASOFT, Berg Digital, Bern University of Applied Sciences, Biography Library, Blackdot AG, boldrouter, Botalist, BRIGHTSIDE AI, BWO Systems AG, Camunda, CH Open, Claudia Kramer, CleverAI, CM Informatik AG, Connect AI, CSCS, CSP AG Competence Solutions Projects, Cudos AG, Cuemarc, CV Summit, Dagerà Lifestyle Innovation Hub, DARE Campus, Day One, Deep Impact, Dieci AG, Digital & AI Community, Digital Dignity Association, Digital Leverage, Digital Shift, Digital Winterthur, Dreamleap, Drupal Switzerland, Eden-Well, Energy Data Hack Days, Deep Tech Nation, Energy Data Innovation Hub, EncoSphera, EPFL AI Center, EPFL AI Team, EPFL Innovation Park, ETH AI Center, ETH Entrepreneur Club, ETH Robotics Club, Feinheit, Festland, FHNW, Föderation der Unternehmen der Westschweiz Genf, French Tech Switzerland, GALLUS MEDIA, GDG Cloud Zürich, Groupe Mutuel, GenAI 360 Switzerland, GenAI Zürich, GenerazionePiù, Geneva Innovation Movement Association, Graduate Institute Geneva, Graduate School of Applied Technology & Management, GTM Advantage, Hochschule Luzern, Hugging Face, humane-ai.io, Humanoid Robotics Association Switzerland, Hundertmark GmbH, HWZ, ICRC, ICT4Peace Foundation, IIA Switzerland, Impact Hub Bern, Impact Hub Switzerland, IMT AG, Incratec, Indo-Swiss Business Association Lausanne,

Inetum, infinity.swiss, Innovation Zurich, INNOVAUD, innoverse.ai, Innovista Management GmbH, inovio, inpeek AG, Jurilo, Kanton St.Gallen, Kanton Waadt, Ketl, {her} KeySemantics, KI Edu Media, KI Power Swiss, Kickstart Innovation, KI Impact – Verband für künstliche Intelligenz, KMUmeetKI, Knipsbox, Knovas, Konversational, Ladies Drive, LegalPass, LerNetz, LEXR, Lexify SA, Liip, Limbi GmbH, Makubri Technologies Sàrl, MAZ, Mazzantini & Associati SA, Merantix Capital, MNTY, Moneycab, Monticone Consulting, Muséum d'histoire naturelle de Neuchâtel, MV Global Advisory, Neural Concept, novu campus, Old Bulls Innovation, Open-X Sagl, OSDsi - Organizzazione Svizzera Direzione lavori, Oxford Artificial Intelligence Society, Panoramai, PDF Tools, QuadIntegral GmbH, Quantum Analytics AG, Redalpine, Rockstar Recruiting, rready, RT Consulting, Sagapao, SAIROP, SAPIENTROQ, Schubkraft Lernmedien GmbH, Schweizerische Aktuarvereinigung, Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft, Science et Cité, SICTIC, SMSchool, Solutas GmbH, Stadt Genf, Standortförderung Kanton Bern, Startfeld, START Foundation, SwissWho, MIT Alumni Club, Stiftung Natur und Umwelt, StiftungSchweiz, StratEdge, Swico, Swiss Future Institute AG, Swiss Institute for Decoding Innovation, Swiss Legaltech Association, Swiss Made Software, Swiss Youth IGF, SwissCognitive, Swissentis, SwissFinTechLadies, SwissNLP, SwissVC, Switech, Switzerland AI Community, Switzerland Global Enterprise, Switzerland Innovation Park Central, Switzerland Innovation Park Ost, Syntezia Sàrl, TD Synnex, Team Extension, Techgarage, TechLegion Verain, Technopark Luzern, TCS, TrustValley, THE Port association, Ticyweb SA, TSC, Twelve Balloons, UBS, Unic, USI Executive MBA, Venture Architect Studio, Verein Energy Data Innovation Hub (EDIH), Wellness at work ai pte ltd, wirtun, Women in AI, WORKSPACE & MORE, XR Solution, Young AI Leaders Zurich, Z83, ZHAW, Zug Tech Circle and others.

About Swiss {ai} Weeks

Swiss {ai} Weeks is a platform and nationwide movement that brings together developers, entrepreneurs, and citizens to help shape the future of AI through hands-on collaboration, open exchange, and a strong commitment to ethical and trustworthy AI.

Useful links:

- [Media Kit](#) with material available for unrestricted use and a selection of pictures
- [Photo & Video Gallery](#) of 2025 events

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