

Press release of 14 March 2023

Record number of start-ups applying to participate in the Tech4Eva accelerator

Basel, 14 March. Building on the success of its first two years, Tech4Eva, a unique international accelerator in Switzerland, is now entering its third season. As a result of a partnership between Groupe Mutuel and the EPFL Innovation Park, Tech4Eva has attracted 147 projects from 40 countries for 2023, an increase of 18.5% with respect to the second edition and 33.6% compared to the first edition. Like the second edition, 80% of start-ups were created by women. The kick-off of the third edition will take place in Kaiseraugst near Basel, in partnership with Roche.

Menstruation, mental health and pregnancy are the most represented topics

For this third edition, a selection committee chose 21 start-ups from 147 applications from Switzerland and elsewhere in the world. 14 Swiss start-ups applied this year and four were selected by the jury.

The three most represented topics among start-ups offering innovative solutions in women's health are

1. Menstruation and sexual health: 22% of start-ups
2. Women's mental health and well-being: 18% of start-ups
3. Pregnancy and postpartum: 15% of start-ups

The solutions envisaged to respond to these challenges are numerous but focus on three major areas:

1. Mobile application: 18%.
2. Computer software: 16%.
3. Medical devices: 14%.

These figures clearly show that in women's health too, digitalisation is at the heart of the reflections. Moreover, two Swiss projects selected perfectly reflect this reality:

- **Adira** active in pregnancy and wellbeing
Adira empowers pregnant women suffering from high blood pressure, measuring their vitals, assessing their physical and mental wellbeing to provide real-time, data-informed guidance, through their blended maternity care pathway. Adira combines the power of AI with a personal perinatal coach to fight for healthy moms and stronger babies.
- **HEALTHY-LONGER GmbH** active in mental health
HEALTHY-LONGER analyzes mental health symptoms together with the bio-chemical pathways of 21 essential neuro-biomarkers in dried urine probes for neuro-nutrient deficiencies. Based on this they provide their clients with personalized, effective and scientifically proven neuro-nutritional recommendations from foods available in most grocery shops.

Selected Swiss start-ups:

1. Adira Health - www.adira-health.com
2. WakeUp Pelvic
3. BEYOND GENOMiX - www.linkedin.com/company/beyond-genomix/
4. HEALTHY-LONGER GmbH - <https://healthy-longer.com>

Selected International start-ups: Care Mother www.caremother.in ; Egal Pads <https://padsonaroll.com> ; Hale <https://en.halecommunity.com/> ; Hillspring Diagnostics; Hyivy Health www.hyivy.com ; Intignus Biotech <https://intignusbiotech.com> ; Luma Womb www.lumawomb.com ; Malaica <https://www.malaica.com> ; Manina Medtech <https://maninamedtech.com/> ; MIM Solutions <https://www.mim-solutions.ai/> ; Natal Cares <https://www.natalcares.com> ; Neurora <https://www.neurora.com/loop> ; NuroKor Femtech <https://www.mihna.co.uk/> ; Predilife <https://www.predilife.com/> ; Ru Medical www.rumedical.co.uk ; Samphire Neuroscience <https://www.samphireneuro.com> ; The Palpa Co. www.palpa.cl ; and Zinacare <https://zinacare.co.za/>.

In 2023, 35 mentors will be present from renowned companies such as Groupe Mutuel, Roche, CSEM, Embecta, Essity, Ferring, Merck, Philips, Procter & Gamble and Terre des Hommes Foundation. Experts from these companies will support the start-ups in their development.

Promising new partnership with Roche

Roche is collaborating for the first time with the Tech4Eva accelerator by hosting the launch event at its premises in Kaiseraugst near Basel. With this partnership, Tech4Eva expands further in the German-speaking part of Switzerland and can count on a major healthcare player in Switzerland. Roche has a long history in the field and has been strongly committed to women's health and driving innovation to advance healthcare. In 2022, Roche launched its long-term initiative, XProject, which aims to identify and remove the most critical barriers so women can fully and equitably access healthcare.

This connection between Roche's XProject and Tech4Eva, initiated by the EPFL Innovation Park and Groupe Mutuel, will create great synergies to support start-ups active in advancing women's health.

Strengthen collaborations and synergies

This third edition of Tech4Eva is launched today, with a physical and virtual event bringing together several hundred people from the worlds of innovation, medicine, entrepreneurship and business. This event highlights the importance of partnerships, collaboration and the use of data to improve women's health. Valerie Hepp, Digital & Personalised Healthcare Partnering, and Luca La Porta, Product Line Lead Personalised Healthcare & Real-World Data Ecosystems at Roche will share their experiences. *"Women's health has to be of key focus for all stakeholders across healthcare. We will only be able to achieve sustainable improvements in women's health by strengthening our collaborations and synergies with the entire ecosystem "*, said Valerie Hepp.

WHO Innovation Hub Head Louise Agersnap will talk about how scaling innovations can accelerate impact in public health. While the panel will discuss how to bring tech solutions forward and optimize prevention for cancer. Dr. Marija Plodinec, CEO of ARTIDIS, will talk about her company's journey to optimize cancer treatment. A disease, especially breast and cervical cancer, which still causes a lot of suffering among women while Dr. Hossam Hadhoud, Health System Partner at Roche will present a collaboration case in the same sector. On this subject, Jérôme Mariétoz, Director of Health and Individual Insurance at Groupe Mutuel, said: *"We need to change mentalities and break the taboos. Today, too many subjects specific to women's health are still neglected by the players. A collective awareness must be raised"*.

In this context, the EPFL Innovation Park and Groupe Mutuel intends to encourage the development of start-ups whose objective is to improve response to the needs and specificities of women's health. With the support of third party funding, a new Tech4Eva "Global South" cohort is being added this year to the main cohort to improve women's general health condition in emerging countries. *"We call for the contribution of NGOs, philanthropic foundations and impact funds to join the Tech4Eva cause in order*

to encourage local entrepreneurship and adapt new technologies developed in western countries to the needs of Global South regions”, said Lan Zuo Gillet, Co-founder and Program Director of Tech4Eva.

EPFL Innovation Park - Groupe Mutuel, a win-win partnership

The selected start-ups will benefit from one of the best health ecosystems in Europe. They will have access to international collaborations and investors thanks to the extensive network of the EPFL Innovation Park. They will also have access to a dynamic market, with one of the leading health insurance companies in Switzerland. The EPFL Innovation Park and Groupe Mutuel are pleased to continue this collaboration to improve women's health.

For more information on Tech4Eva: www.tech4eva.ch



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About Groupe Mutuel

With over 2,900 employees throughout Switzerland, Groupe Mutuel is at the service of 1.3 million private customers and 27,000 companies. As the only comprehensive insurer in Switzerland, Groupe Mutuel is the reference partner in the field of health and retirement benefits for private and corporate customers. Its turnover exceeds CHF 5.3 billion. Thanks to tailored solutions, whether in basic insurance (LAMal/KVG) or supplemental insurance (LCA/VVG), it is the third largest health insurer in Switzerland. Groupe Mutuel also offers an extensive range of products in individual retirement benefits and patrimony insurance. Based in Martigny, the insurer provides companies of all sizes solutions with loss of earnings in the event of illness, accident insurance (LAA/UVG) and occupational pension plans (LPP/BVG). In the field of corporate health insurance, Groupe Mutuel ranks fifth nationwide.

About the EPFL Innovation Park

The EPFL Innovation Park supports disruptive innovation and technology transfer from EPFL and other regional academic partners. It provides flexible office space, training, acceleration and coaching services to 250 high-tech companies: start-ups, SMEs and R&D centers of large corporations. With its partners and a dynamic community of venture capitalists, experts and service providers, the Innovation Park is positioned as the leading entrepreneurship hub in Western Switzerland.