

Press release of 18 March 2019

Innovation continues to move forward at Groupe Mutuel

The first season of InnoPeaks, Groupe Mutuel's open innovation platform, is coming to an end while the innovation process continues to move forward with the launch of a second season.

Martigny, 18 March 2019. The first season of InnoPeaks, dedicated to developing start-ups in the areas of Healthtech, Insurtech and Fintech, ended successfully on Friday 15 March during a Demo Day. The event was the opportunity for 11 start-ups to present their work.

The 11 start-ups that participated in the first season of InnoPeaks presented their work in Sion. Over 100 guests, among them investors, entrepreneurs, as well as the Executive Board of Groupe Mutuel and a number of start-up mentors, listened with interest to the various presentations and speeches.

Promising start-ups

Whether in the fields of health, home services, data or artificial intelligence, the different companies have grown and gained skills that now allow them to stand out beyond national borders.

This is the case for example of Helpper, a Belgian start-up that is one of the 10 new start-ups to look out for according to the European website www.eu.startups.com, and that has raised over 1 million euros in Belgium. Already in operation, this company aims to help connect people in order for them to exchange services. This could be between neighbours but also at the service of the elderly, to support them in their daily activities such as going to a medical appointment.

Another company, from Zürich, emerged as the winner of the "Pitch Day" organised by Swissnex San Francisco. Advaisor was therefore granted the possibility to benefit from significant support to investigate the American market for six months in order to develop artificial intelligence technology for better understanding emotions.

Fostering an innovation culture

In both cases, Groupe Mutuel is following with interest the development of these two companies, among others, to assess whether it will be possible to adopt some technologies in the interest of its insured members in the medium term. Beyond the technologies created by these start-ups, innovation is an opportunity to develop innovative and stimulating projects within the company itself. **"The objective is also to foster an innovation culture within the company, with the intention of benefiting, ultimately, our policyholders"**, said Paul Rabaglia, CEO of Groupe Mutuel.

The process is therefore due to continue and the second season of InnoPeaks is already underway with around 10 new start-ups expected to be housed in new premises in Sion. These premises will also accommodate Groupe Mutuel's innovation ecosystem, including intrapreneurs who are internal entrepreneurs chosen from among employees. The objective is to develop greater synergies within this innovation community and to introduce an innovation culture within the company.

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About Groupe Mutuel

980,000 individuals are insured with Groupe Mutuel for basic health insurance. In total, around 1.3 million individual customers as well as some 23,000 corporate clients have placed their trust in Groupe Mutuel. Its overall turnover exceeds CHF 5.6 billion.

In addition to compulsory health insurance (LAMal/KVG) and supplemental insurance (LCA/VVG), clients can choose from an extensive range of life insurance plans for the coverage of risks and individual pension benefits, as well as from a range of patrimony insurance solutions (legal protection, private liability insurance and households contents insurance).

In addition, Groupe Mutuel insurers are able to offer daily allowance insurance to companies, pursuant to LAMal/KVG and LCA/VVG, as well as compulsory accident insurance (LAA/UVG).

Groupe Mutuel also manages two pension funds: Groupe Mutuel Prévoyance and Mutuelle Valaisanne de Prévoyance.