

Annual report 2025



Building entrepreneurial pathways within the academic community

Entrepreneurial ventures rarely emerge by chance. They grow where talent, knowledge, opportunities and support come together. Through our education, community and incubation initiatives, we aim to create a fertile ground for new startups to take shape, identifying talent earlier, shortening the path from idea to validation, and spreading entrepreneurial thinking on campus, across laboratories and classrooms.

Over the past years, we have become a first point of contact for researchers and students interested in entrepreneurship, supporting numerous early-stage projects. At the same time, our goal is to create the conditions for more startups and spin-offs to emerge from USI, SUPSI and affiliated research partners. Alongside supporting individual teams, we are developing processes, structures and initiatives that make entrepreneurial pathways more visible, accessible and embedded within the academic environment.



From left to right:

Francesco Lurati
Director

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Entrepreneurship
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Manager

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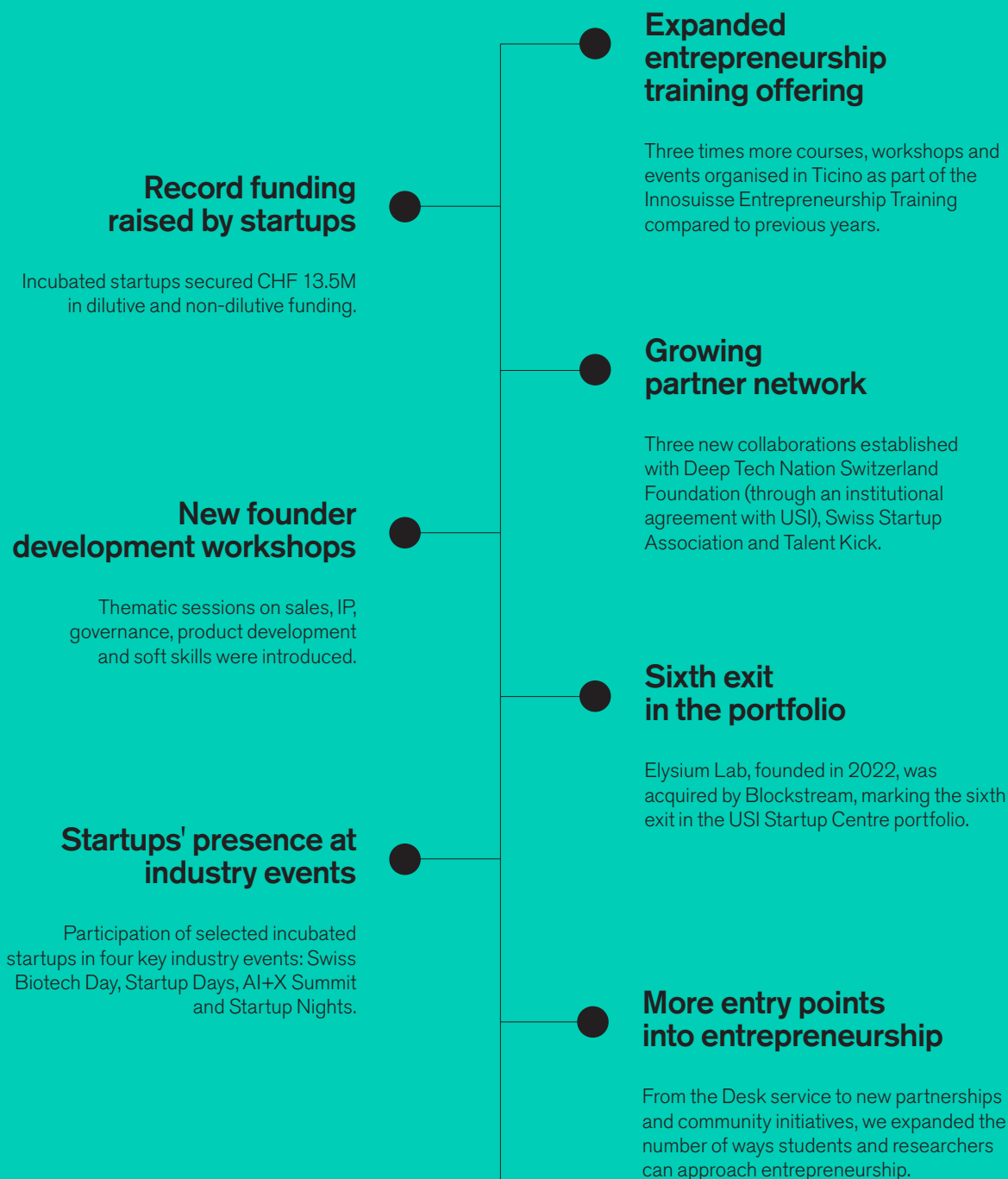
Marco Alberti
Startup Coach ICT

Samuele Morales
Incubator Coordinator

Key developments in 2025

Throughout 2025, we continued strengthening the different conditions that contribute to a more startup-friendly environment, expanding opportunities for researchers and students, supporting academic founders, and building stronger connections with key actors in the innovation ecosystem.

Some of the highlights below reflect the evolution of our programmes and activities, while others showcase important milestones achieved by startups within our portfolio. Together, they offer a perspective on both the foundations we are building and the results generated by the ventures we support.



Community

30

**events hosted
and co-hosted**

19 public events including those held as part of the Innosuisse Entrepreneurship Training

11 events reserved for founders and incubated startups

71

**initial project ideas
reviewed through Desk**

75% USI/SUPSI students and alumni

15% externals

10% USI/SUPSI researchers and professors

41

**invited
speakers**

Entrepreneurs

Experts

Industry professionals

Investors

Building the next generation of startups requires a community that connects talent, expertise and opportunities. By bringing together researchers, students, founders, investors and industry professionals, we help create conditions for ideas to take shape and become new ventures.



Education

339

participants engaged through the Innosuisse Entrepreneurship Training

3 editions of the Business Concept
3 workshops on pivoting and resilience and impact assessment
8 public events

445

students reached through contributions to teaching activities across 8 university courses

Startup testimonials
Project feedback
Opportunities for field projects and theses

9

thematic training sessions for startups

2 levels to cater for different phases of development
Sessions curated by startup coaches and adapted to the specific challenges of the teams

Through training opportunities, workshops and contributions to teaching activities, we bring entrepreneurship closer to researchers and students. As startups progress through different stages of development, founders can continue building entrepreneurial capabilities through thematic sessions.



Incubator

24

**startups supported
through the incubation
programme**

6 new projects accepted into the programme
25% acceptance rate

48

**researchers
engaged through
Lab-to-Market**

2 editions of the Lab-to-Market programme
(Life Sciences and ICT)

Designed specifically for PhDs and postdocs to help them
explore the commercial potential of research findings

12

**venture capital funds
participating in
Investor Meetings**

2 vertical Investor Meetings with funds
from Switzerland and Italy

48 one-to-one exchanges with incubated startups

Science-driven startups face specific challenges in the pre-seed and seed stages. Through active scouting, dedicated pathways, sector-specific expertise, and an equity-free support package, we help academic founders transform research into investment-ready startups.



Incubated startups' results in 2025

The following indicators provide a snapshot of the development of startups participating in the incubation programme across four key dimensions of venture development, including the ability to attract financial resources, protect innovation, build teams and validate market demand.

The figures are based on self-reported data collected through our annual standardised survey and reflect responses gathered in February 2026 from 22 startups regarding their activities and results in 2025. As projects are admitted to the programme on a rolling basis, participating startups may be at different stages of both project development and incubation journey. The figures therefore reflect the combined results of a diverse portfolio of ventures.

Funding

13.5M

Funding raised in CHF

Non-dilutive
5.5 M

Dilutive
8 M

IP

Number of patents

17



14
filed

3
granted

Team

60.8

Number of Full Time Equivalents (FTEs)

13% of which are women

75% of FTEs receive some form of remuneration

2.8 FTEs average team size

Revenues

1.9M

Early revenues in CHF

- from
- pilot projects
 - partnerships
 - tests with early adopters



2025

Contacts

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