



Stärkung des KI-Standorts

C-Level AI Strategy Forum – 17. Juni 2025 - Pfäffikon, SZ
Raphael von Thiessen, Programmleiter KI, Kanton Zürich



The transformative power of AI

What do these big tech executives have in common?



They made massive bets on AI.... and their companies are present in Zurich



Zurich's role in shaping the AI future

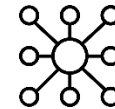
A vibrant ecosystem – so everything is great?



AI Talent Density (Top 3 in Europe)



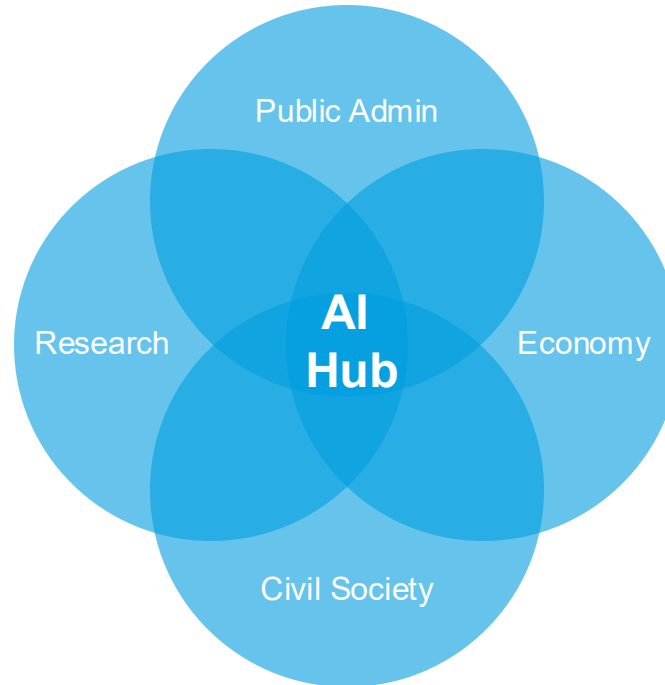
Leading AI Research Institutions



Wide Range (Startups to Big Techs)

Thriving in a global AI race

Major challenges ahead of us



Global Competition
Staying competitive in the
global AI race



Economic Impact
Transforming SMEs and
corporates for the AI age



Regulation
Difficulty of getting AI
regulation right



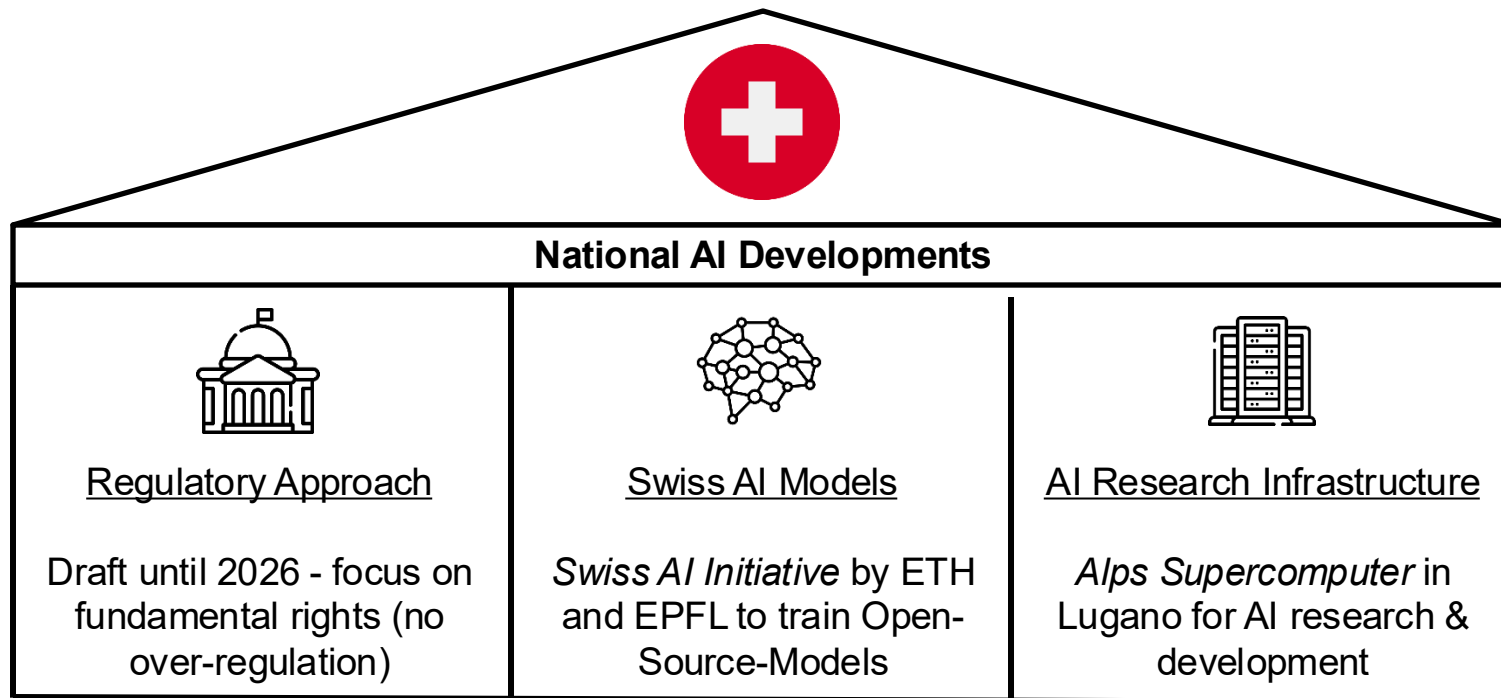
Societal aspects
Increasing AI Literacy and
societal acceptance

Environment for the AI hub

Environment for the AI hub

Switzerland as an AI nation

Crucial initiatives have been launched



Canton of Zurich: Enabling AI innovation

Innovation-Sandbox for AI launched in 2021*

AI Sandbox

Testing environment for AI use cases

From **AI software
development...**



**... to regulatory
learning**

A **Sandbox** enables **learning**
in a **controlled environment**

* The AI Sandbox is an inter-cantonal initiative in collaboration with the Zurich Metropolitan Area

Inside the AI Sandbox: Current projects

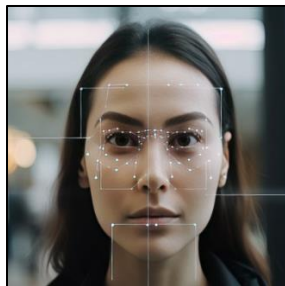
We provide regulatory clarifications and access to data sources



AI-generated
medical records



AI-diagnostics in
ophthalmology



Combating deepfakes
in identity fraud



AI for building
permit approvals



Autonomous
inspection robots

Currently 5 Sandbox use cases in the program

We share best practices with the entire AI ecosystems

What's Next: Scaling AI efforts

Outlook on cantonal activities to foster Zurich as a global AI hub

AI activities 2026 - 2029

Government Council Decision *«Stärkung des KI-Standorts»*



I. Innovation-Sandbox for AI

Testing at the intersection of AI providers and public administration



II. AI-Startup Support

Physical AI Hubs and support in scaling and internationalization



III. AI Enablement of SMEs

Knowhow transfer among SMEs and upskilling with AI competencies



IV. Societal acceptance

Understanding societal needs and increasing AI literacy





Stärkung des KI-Standorts

Kontakt:

Raphael von Thiessen
Standortförderung Kanton Zürich
Programmleiter KI
raphael.vonthiessen@vd.zh.ch