

SwissCyber Initiative

Mapping the Swiss Cybersecurity Landscape

What is the SwissCyber Initiative?

Summary

The SwissCyber Initiative aims to develop a comprehensive overview of Switzerland's cybersecurity research landscape at the intersection of academia and industry, enabling strategic national and international collaboration.

Key Components

- Data collection from startups, SMEs, and private institutions
- Comparative analysis (actual vs. target)
- Strategic policy and research recommendations
- Creation of public dashboards

Goals

- Uncover blind spots in Swiss cybersecurity research
- Map strategic capabilities of startups, SMEs, and academia
- Support evidence-based policy and funding decisions

Usage

- Data-driven strategic planning
- Enhanced research-industry collaboration
- Competitive advantage in global cybersecurity
- Improved education and workforce alignment

Five Working Packages

The SwissCyber Initiative consists of:

- WP1:** ACTUAL analysis (Year 2025)
- WP2:** TARGET analysis (Year 2025-26)
- WP3:** Platform development (Year 2025-26)
- WP4:** Report (Year 2026)
- WP5:** Dissemination (Year 2025-26)

Data and Methods

- Crunchbase database, corrected for acquisitions, locations (addresses), branches, legal names, and other outliers (e.g., on funding or employees)
- Match with Pitchbook data (for the static actual analysis)
- Match with survey results on companies' information
- Match with Zefix information to correct/enhance with the company's legal status
- ARIMA-like (VARIMA) forecasts for funding, and other companies KPI's
- PE-VC methods (e.g., Cochrane 2005) for valuation and forecasts.

Advisory Board Members

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Lead Advisory Board Cybersecurity SATW; Cloud Solution Architect, Microsoft (Schweiz) GmbH

David Baschong

Lecturer at the Department of Management, Technology, and Economics, ETHZ

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Multiple Board Member

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Dr. Manuel Suter

Deputy Director, National Cyber Security Center (NCSC)

How Resilient is Switzerland in the Digital World?

Objectives

The study aims to map Switzerland's cybersecurity research landscape, bridging academia and industry to foster strategic collaboration.

Analyze & Map

- Collect data from startups, SMEs & academia
- Create public dashboards
- Conduct comparative analysis (actual vs. target)
- Develop evidence-based policy and funding recommendations

Stakeholder Benefits

- Enhance Technology Market Monitoring activities
- Build a directory of Swiss actors classified by cybersecurity domain
- Allow data-driven strategic planning
- Foster research-industry collaboration

Year 2023: Mapping Resources per Domain and University

Cybersecurity Research Landscape in Switzerland

September 2023

Martin Burkhardt, Roland Meier, Bernhard Tellenbach
Cyber Defence Campus, ammassize Science and Technology

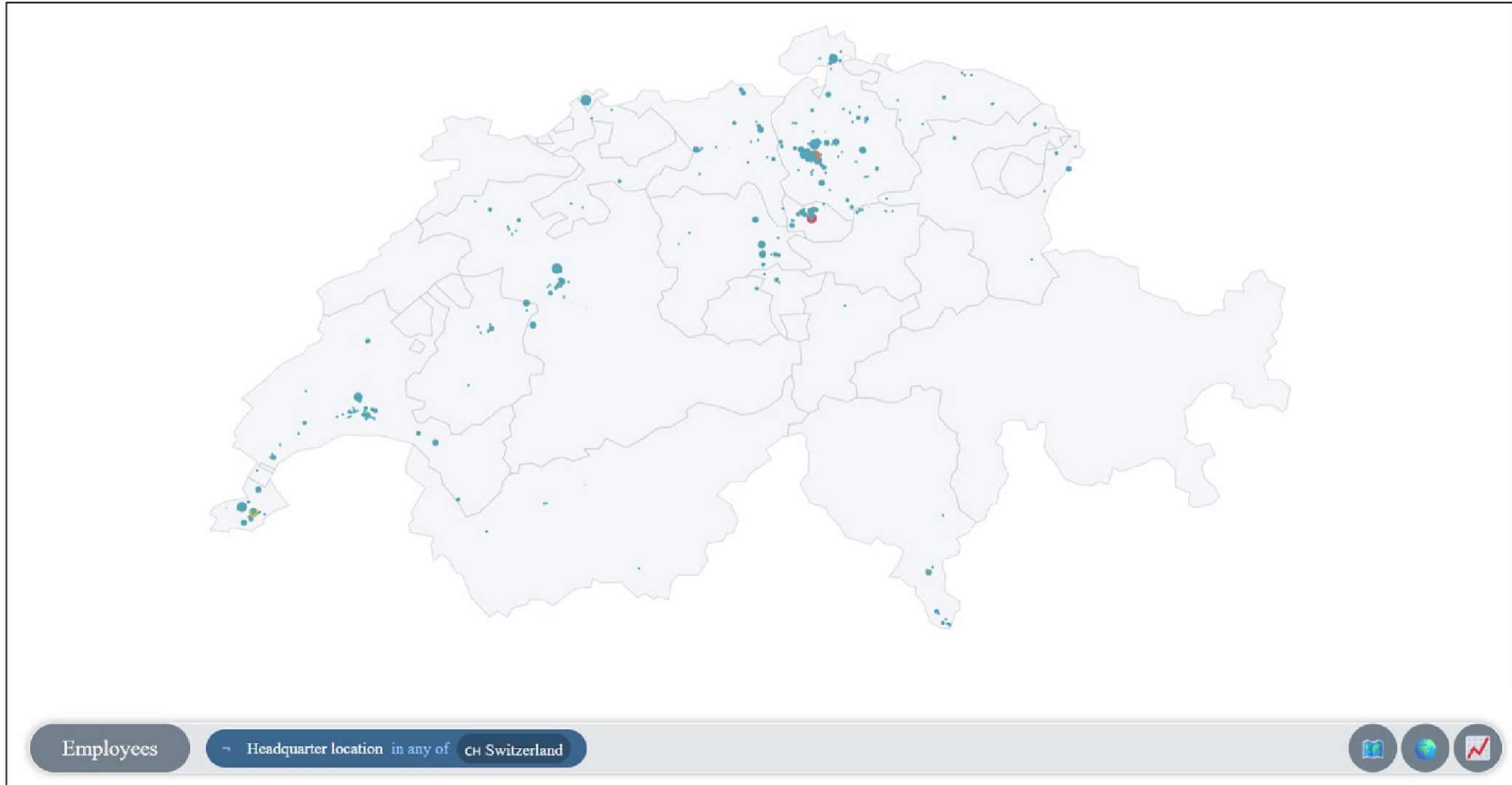


Table 3: Resources invested for each university and research domain (empty cells correspond to a value of zero).

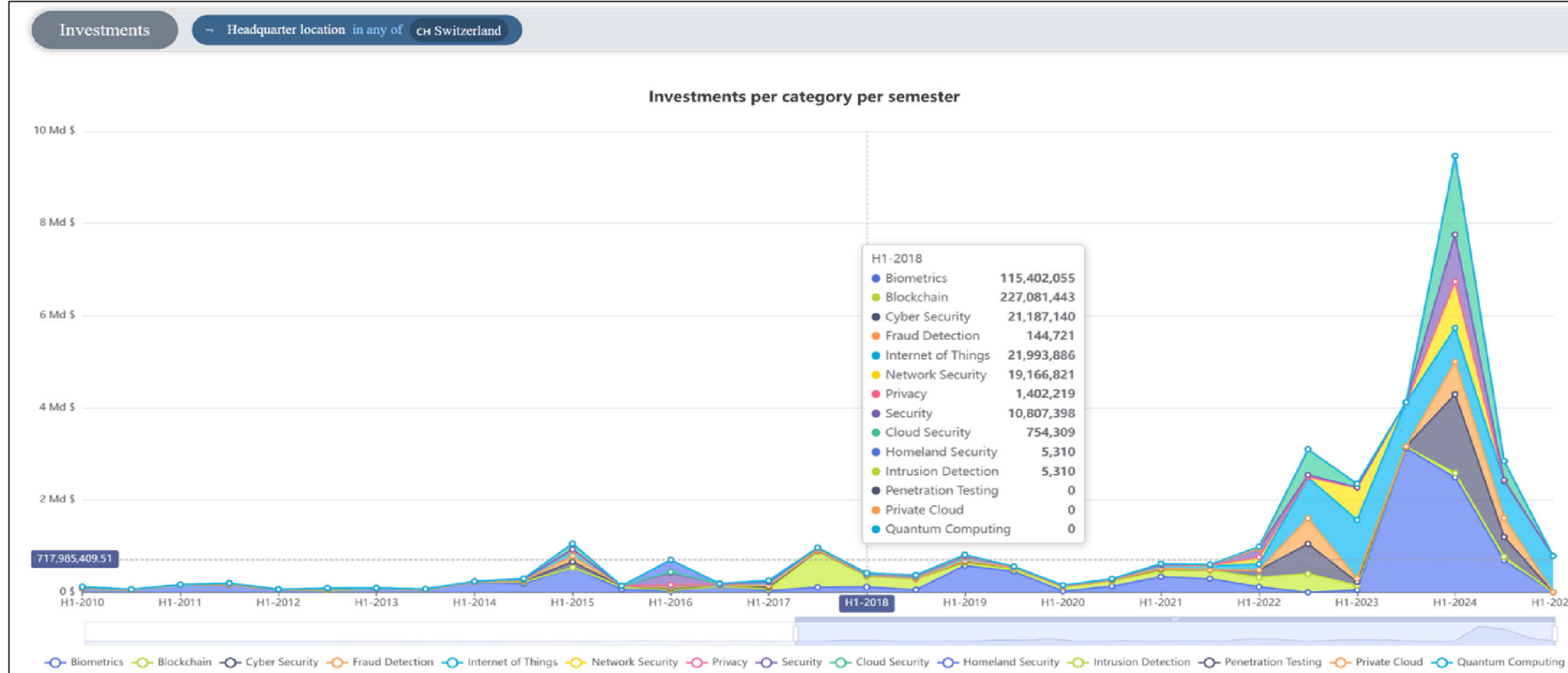
	BFH	EPFL	ETHZ	HNW	OST	PSL	SJUS	UNBS	UNIBE	UNIL	UNINE	UNSG	USI	UZH	ZHAW	Total Resources	Universities
Assurance, Audit, and Cert.			2.0													2.0	1
Cryptology	5.2	12.0	28.0			4.0						1.5	7.0			57.7	6
Data Security and Privacy	1.2	6.0	18.0					3.0		4.2			7.6			42.0	7
Education and Training			6.0	1.5			1.8							1.2		10.5	4
Human Aspects			12.0								2.4			7.6	1.2	23.2	4
Identity Management			2.0													2.0	1
Incident Handling/Forensics	4.0							1.2								5.2	2
Network and Distr. Systems	1.2	5.0	25.0	2.0		1.5		0.6	2.0		2.0			3.5		42.8	9
Security Mgmt and Govern.							1.2									1.2	1
Security Measurements			2.0													2.0	1
Software and Hardware Sec.		18.0	33.5	7.2									9.6		5.5	73.8	5
Steganography etc.																	0
Theoretical Foundations		2.0	6.0													8.0	2
Trust Mgmt. and Account.		7.0	10.0	1.2	1.1			0.6	5.0		2.0					26.9	7
Total Resources	11.6	50.0	134.5	20.4	2.6	5.5	3.0	5.4	7.0	4.2	4.0	3.9	24.2	8.8	12.2	297.3	
# Domains	4	6	8	6	2	2	2	4	2	1	2	2	3	2	4		

Year 2025: Dashboard Design and Visualizations

- The dashboard aims to present in a clear and efficient way, graphical representations of the cybersecurity ecosystem data that proxy for the R&D intensity in Switzerland
- Organized in two main views. The top one is a world or Swiss map that enables the user to select a dataset among investments, acquisitions, employees, and firm history
- Any of this view can then be filtered by time, country or canton, size, etc.
- The dataset is currently sourced from Crunchbase, with future enhancements to include data from Zefix (Swiss Commercial Register) and the results of the study survey
- The final dashboard will be free and publicly available without restrictions
- Each visualization, whether a map or a chart, is optimized for maximum clarity based on the selected dataset
- The dashboard balances an intuitive interface with powerful and accurate data visualization



Dashboard top page - Employees view. Number of employees for cybersecurity firms from all categories with headquarters located in Switzerland as of first half 2025.



Dashboard bottom page - Investment view. Investment for cybersecurity firms from all categories with headquarters located in Switzerland. Period: H1 2010 - H1 2025 | Frequency: Semiannual | Scale: Linear

Year 2025-2026: Survey and Final Report Design

Mapping the Industrial R&D Landscape

The survey aims to enrich and complete our current Crunchbase dataset by validating existing data, filling information gaps, and identifying unlisted companies.

Data Collection

Collect cybersecurity experts, industry stakeholders, and investors knowledge

Enhance our Crunchbase dataset with missing information and organization

Extract more information about their size, activity, challenges, and views

Final Report

The final report will present a comprehensive gap analysis of Switzerland's cybersecurity landscape, contrasting national needs with available resources such as funding, skilled personnel, and fundamental research.

This assessment will be based on proprietary datasets (including Crunchbase and Pitchbook) and stakeholder survey results. The report will also feature medium-term forecasts derived from aggregated survey data and time series models, complete with confidence intervals, and will be validated by a panel of cybersecurity experts to ensure accuracy and relevance.

Collaboration between Government and Academic Actors

Funding Institution



Project Lead



Communication



Research Partner



Event Participation and Presentations



Trust Finance Forum Geneva
April 6, 2025



Tech4Trust Award Lausanne
June 5, 2025



Cyber Alp Retreat Davos
June 20, 2025

Contact

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Events and Milestones

- March 21, 2025:** Kick-off meeting with stakeholders (HES-SO, CYD Campus, SATW, and SERI) at the EPFL CYD Campus
- June 4, 2025:** First advisory board meeting
- June 20, 2025:** First external presentation of the project at the CyberAlp Retreat, Davos
- October 28, 2025:** Swiss AI Village, Bern
- October 29, 2025:** CYD Campus Conference, Bern
- December 2, 2025:** Trust Valley Day, Geneva
- December 11, 2025:** SwissCyber Initiative Community Event, HES-SO Valais-Wallis, Sion
- December, 2026:** Final event with all stakeholders