

# STAGE UP 2026

## The Bernese Business Creation Competition

The Tenth Edition

An Initiative by the Entrepreneurship Center of the University of Bern



## Impressum

### Publisher

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# 1. “Never forget to STAGE UP!”

Die in den letzten Jahren sehr erfolgsverwöhnte globale Startup-Landschaft muss sich seit einiger Zeit nach der Decke strecken – nicht nur wird es zunehmend schwieriger eine überzeugende “Value Proposition” zu generieren, sondern es wird auch herausfordernd, zentrale Ressourcen wie Human- und Finanzkapital zu erlangen.

Schnelligkeit öffnet das Zeitfenster zum Erfolg, aber erst die Fähigkeit zur Skalierung sichert das langfristige Überleben und echtes Wachstum. Dabei entwickelt sich die künstliche Intelligenz (KI) zum Treiber des Erfolgs. KI ist keine Zukunftsvision, sie ist Realität, und Unternehmerinnen und Unternehmer nutzen die Möglichkeiten sehr kreativ, indem sie Dienstleistungen verbessern, Prozesse automatisieren, Erlebnisse personalisieren – einfache Lösungen für Probleme anbieten, die frühere Generationen für unlösbar gehalten hätten.

Zweifellos ist KI auch im Berner Ökosystem der mächtigste Treiber aktueller Hightech-Innovationen. Sie verändert die Spielregeln radikal: KI nimmt Gründerinnen und Gründern repetitive Aufgaben ab, analysiert komplexe Datensätze und beschleunigt den Weg zur Marktreife enorm. Es stellt sich die Frage: Welche menschlichen Kompetenzen sind noch wichtig? Unsere Erfahrungen mit **STAGE UP** verdeutlichen, dass kritisches Denken, Kommunikationsfähigkeiten oder die Fähigkeiten, Verbindungen zu schaffen weiterhin wichtige Erfolgsfaktoren darstellen. Kompetenzen, die nicht automatisierbar sind, machen den Unterschied.

Vor diesem Hintergrund haben wir bei **STAGE UP** besonders den persönlichen Austausch gestärkt. Individuelles Coaching, Workshops zu Public Speaking, Marketing, Finanzen und Recht – Themen, um zu kultivieren, was unersetzlich bleibt: die Fähigkeit von Menschen, Visionen zu entwickeln, zu inspirieren und zu mobilisieren. Unternehmerinnen und Unternehmer, die im Stande sind, die Werkzeuge von morgen zu beherrschen, schaffen Mehrwert.

*The global startup landscape has been quite successful in recent years, but for some time it has had to tighten its belt – not only is it becoming increasingly difficult to generate a compelling “value proposition”, but it is also becoming challenging to secure key resources such as human and financial capital.*

*Speed opens the window of opportunity for success, but long-term survival and growth require scaling abilities. In this context, artificial intelligence (AI) is emerging as the driver of success. AI is not a vision; it is reality, and entrepreneurs are using its possibilities very creatively by improving services, automating processes, and personalizing experiences – offering simple solutions to problems that previous generations would have considered unsolvable.*

*Undoubtedly, AI is a powerful driver of current high-tech innovations in the Bernese ecosystem. It is radically changing the rules of the game: AI relieves founders of repetitive tasks, analyzes complex data sets, and greatly accelerates the path to market readiness. This raises the question: Which human skills are still important? Our experience with **STAGE UP** indicates that critical thinking, communication skills, and the ability to build connections remain key factors for success. Skills that cannot be automated are making the difference.*

*With this in mind, we have placed a special emphasis on personal interaction in **STAGE UP**. Individual coaching, workshops on public speaking, marketing, finance, and law – topics designed to cultivate what remains irreplaceable: people’s ability to develop visions, inspire others, and mobilize them. Entrepreneurs who are capable of mastering the tools of tomorrow create added value.*

*The **STAGE UP** finalists, too, are distinguished by their instinct for seizing the right moment and their confidence in a vision. Whether it’s the winning team, GoRehab, with its innovative hand rehabilitation system; the runner-up, PolaSight,*



Auch die Finalisten von **STAGE UP** zeichnet das Gespür für den richtigen Moment und Vertrauen in eine Vision aus. Ob das Siegerteam GoRehab mit dem innovativen System zur Handrehabilitation, der Zweitplatzierte PolaSight mit optischer Gewebebeurteilung im OP oder sefit health auf dem dritten Rang mit VR-basierter Therapie: Sie alle beweisen, dass die wichtigste Schnittstelle der Gegenwart dort liegt, wo Technologie den Menschen heilt und unterstützt.

Die Umsetzung von **STAGE UP** wäre ohne ein gut entwickeltes Ökosystem nicht möglich. Wir bedanken uns bei Sponsoren, den Mitgliedern der hochkarätigen Jury sowie unseren Expertinnen und Experten. Sie alle haben wertvolles Feedback gegeben, relevante Fragen gestellt, um die besten Ideen auf die nächste Stufe zu heben. Das gemeinsame Engagement des Entrepreneurship Centers der Universität Bern, der Berner Fachhochschule BFH und der Innovationsagentur be-advanced schafft eine Plattform, auf der aus komplexen Laborideen marktfähige, skalierbare Geschäftsmodelle entstehen können.

Die vorliegende Dokumentation von **STAGE UP 2025/26** stellt Ihnen die Unternehmerinnen und Unternehmer und deren Projekte vor. Lassen Sie sich überraschen, inspirieren – und schliessen Sie sich der Überzeugung an:

*«If you want to Startup, you need to STAGE UP!»*

*with optical tissue assessment in the operating room; or sefit health in third place with VR-based therapy – they all prove that the most important intersection of our time lies where technology heals and supports people.*

*The implementation of **STAGE UP** would not be possible without a well-developed ecosystem. We would like to thank our sponsors, the members of the high-caliber jury, and our experts. They have all provided valuable feedback and asked relevant questions to help take the best ideas to the next level. The joint commitment of the Entrepreneurship Center at the University of Bern, the Bern University of Applied Sciences, and the innovation agency be-advanced creates a platform where complex lab ideas can evolve into marketable, scalable business models.*

*This documentation of **STAGE UP 2025/26** introduces you to the entrepreneurs and their projects. Let yourself be surprised and inspired – and join us in our conviction:*

*«If you want to Startup, you need to STAGE UP!»*



Prof. Dr. Artur Baldauf



Joëlle Prisi, lic. soc.



13 years for and with Bern,  
an infinite mindset

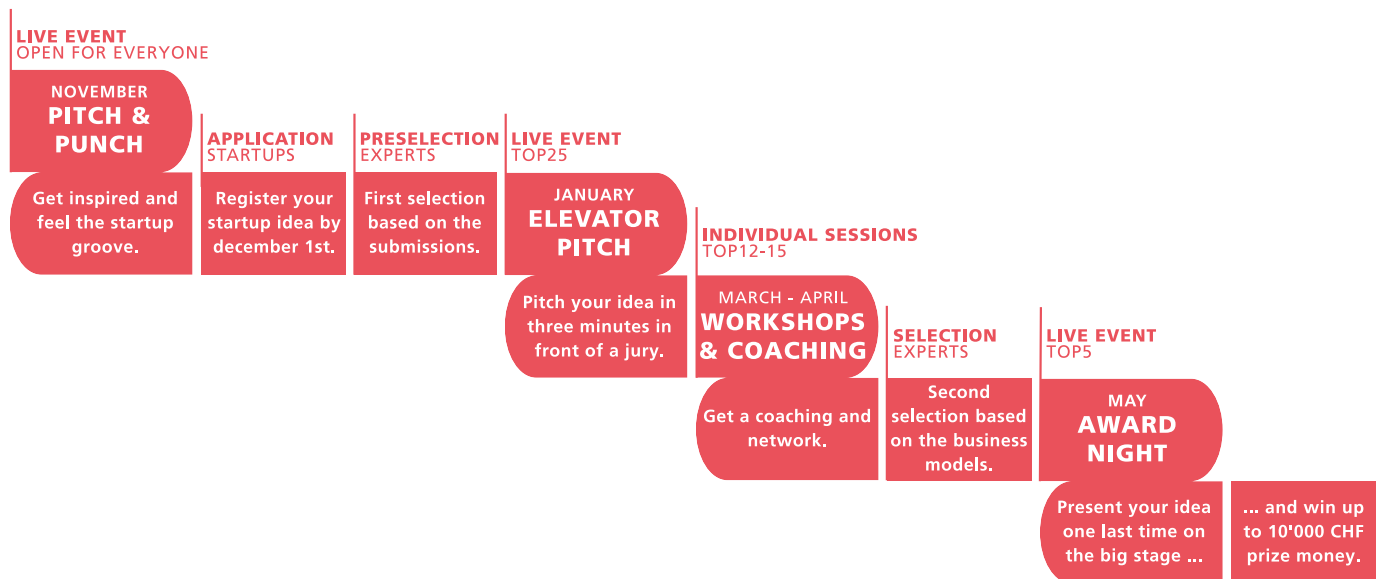
## 2. About STAGE UP

Die Hochschulen der Region Bern bieten ein grosses Innovations- und Gründungspotenzial. Viele Forschende der Universität Bern und der Fachhochschulen melden Patente an und möchten ihr Wissen unternehmerisch nutzen.

**STAGE UP**, der Berner Business Creation Wettbewerb, verbindet Wissenschaft und Wirtschaft. Ziel ist es, zentrale Akteure des regionalen Ökosystems zu vernetzen und den Ressourcenaustausch zu fördern – für mehr Wettbewerbsfähigkeit und unternehmerisches Denken in der Region, um letztlich Unternehmertum zu fordern, leben und fördern.

*The Universities in the Bernese region offer great potential for innovation and business creation. Many researchers at the University of Bern and the Universities of Applied Sciences file patents and aim to apply their knowledge entrepreneurially.*

*STAGE UP, the Bernese Business Creation Competition, connects science and business. Its goal is to link key players in the regional ecosystem and promote resource exchanges to enhance competitiveness and entrepreneurial spirit in the region to ultimately encourage, embrace, and promote entrepreneurship.*



### Unsere Erfolgsfaktoren

- STAGE UP erreicht Zielgruppen mit hohem Gründungspotenzial und ist im Berner Startup-Ökosystem bestens vernetzt.
- STAGE UP-Teilnehmende durchlaufen einen mehrmonatigen Coachingprozess mit Workshops und Networking – der persönliche Austausch fördert dabei entscheidend ihre unternehmerische Entwicklung.
- STAGE UP richtet sich an unternehmerisch denkende Personen in der Frühphase – meist vor oder während der Unternehmensgründung.
- STAGE UP fördert unternehmerisches Denken und eröffnet den Zugang zu vielfältigen Unterstützungsangeboten im Ökosystem.

### Our success factors:

- STAGE UP reaches target groups with high entrepreneurial potential and is well connected within the Bernese startup ecosystem.
- STAGE UP participants take part in a multi-month coaching process with workshops and networking where personal exchange plays a key role in their entrepreneurial development.
- STAGE UP is targeted on entrepreneurially minded individuals in the early stage – usually before or during the formal founding of their business.
- STAGE UP promotes entrepreneurial thinking and provides access to a wide range of support opportunities within the ecosystem.

- **STAGE UP** ist ein «Berner Programm» mit überregionaler Ausstrahlung und richtet sich schweizweit an am Unternehmertum interessierte Personen.
- **STAGE UP** ist ein Non-Profit-Projekt, das komplementär zu anderen Wettbewerben wirkt und durch starke Partnerschaften nachhaltige Synergien schafft.
- **STAGE UP** stärkt die öffentliche Wahrnehmung der Partnerinstitutionen und fördert ein positives Bild von Unternehmertum.

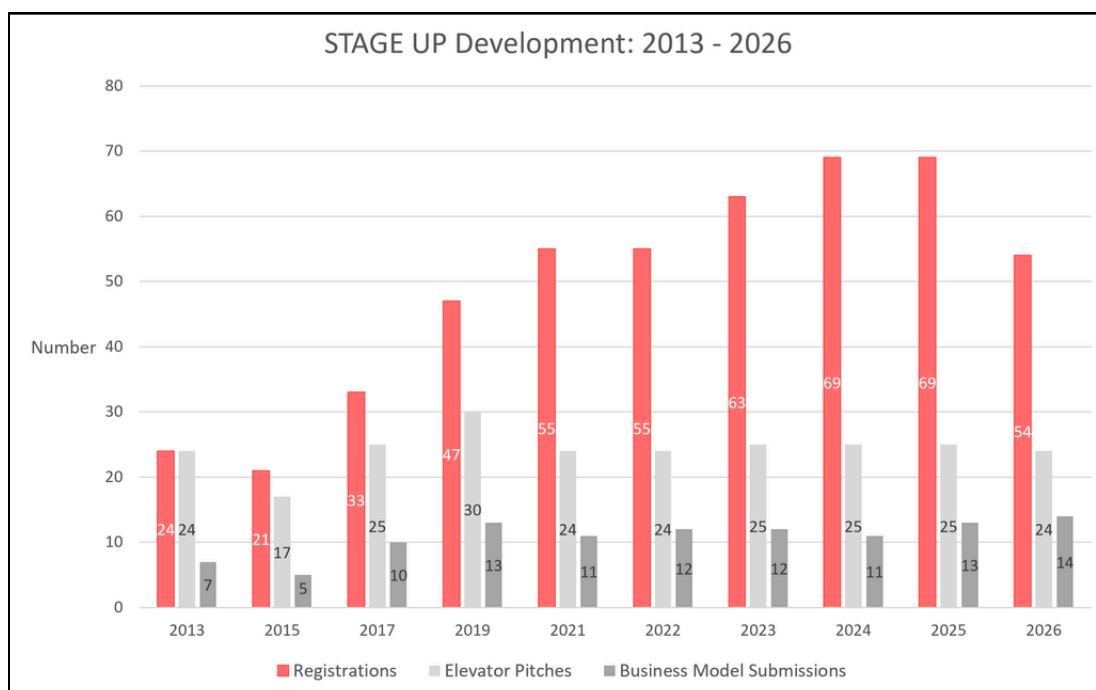
Wir konnten **STAGE UP** in den vergangenen Jahren ständig weiterentwickeln und freuen uns, dass der Wettbewerb heute anerkannt und etabliert ist. Über 65 Personen mit unterschiedlichsten Expertisen zählen bereits zum **STAGE UP**-Projektteam und prägen den Wettbewerb – sei dies als Jury-Mitglied am Elevator Pitch und der Award Night, als Expertin oder Experte in den zwei stillen Online-Selektionen, als Coach, Trainerin oder Trainer oder als «internes» Teammitglied bei der Projektkonzeption und -umsetzung.

**STAGE UP** verzeichnete in diesem Jahr 54 qualifizierte Projekteingaben (Bruttoszah ist höher). Obwohl diese Zahl gegenüber den Vorjahren leicht zurückgegangen ist, bewegt sich das Interesse weiterhin auf einem hohen Niveau. Dies unterstreicht die Relevanz des Programms für den Wirtschaftsstandort Bern und gibt uns wertvolle Impulse, unser Engagement für innovative Projekte weiter auszubauen.

- **STAGE UP** is a “Bernese program” with supraregional reach, targeting individuals across Switzerland who are interested in entrepreneurship.
- **STAGE UP** is a non-profit project that complements other competitions and creates sustainable synergies through strong partnerships.
- **STAGE UP** enhances the public image of its partner institutions and promotes a positive perception of entrepreneurship.

Over the past years, we have been able to continuously develop **STAGE UP** and are pleased that the competition is now recognized and well established. More than 65 people with diverse expertise are already part of the **STAGE UP** project team and shape the competition – whether as jury members at the Elevator Pitch and Award Night, as experts in the two silent online selections, as coaches or trainers, or as internal team members involved in project planning and implementation.

**STAGE UP** received 54 qualifying project submissions this year. Although this number has declined slightly compared to previous years, interest remains high. This underscores the program’s relevance to Bern as a business location and encourages us to further expand our commitment to innovative projects.



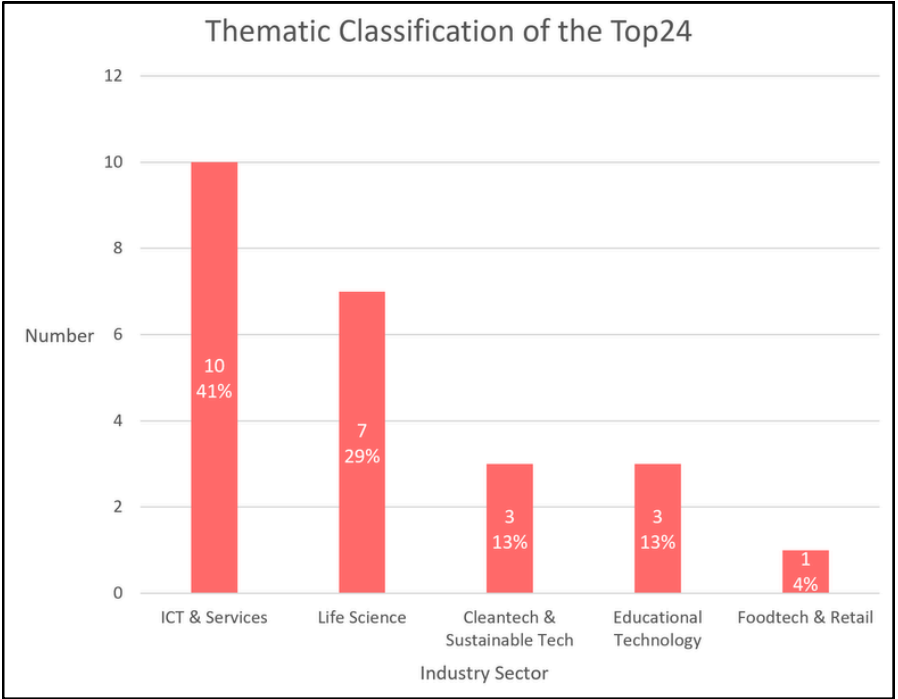
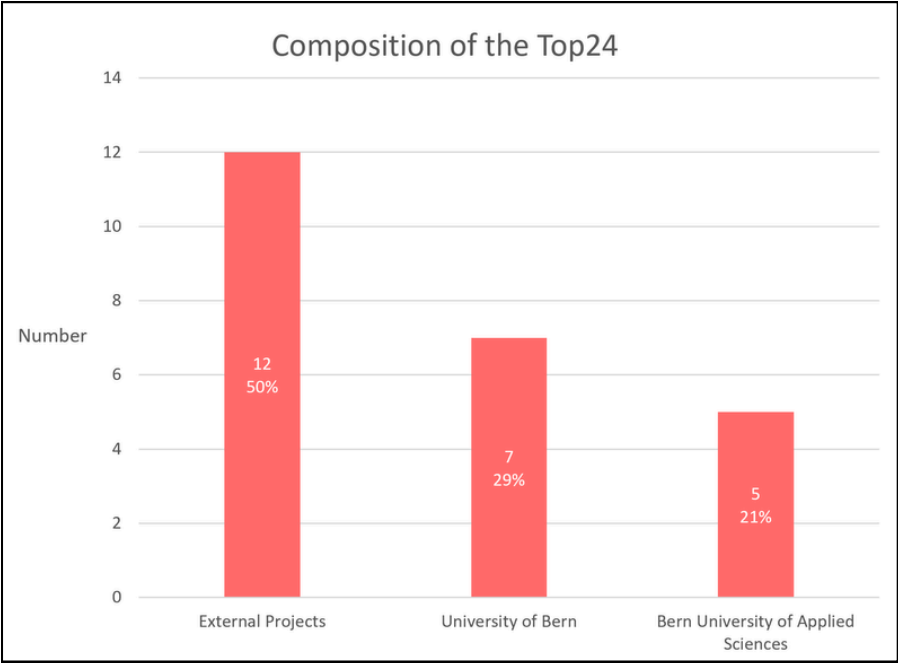


Durch forfait eines Teams nahmen am "Elevator Pitch" bei dieser Durchführung 24 Teams teil, wovon 12 (50%) als extern (nicht Universität Bern oder Berner Fachhochschule) klassifiziert wurden. Sieben stammen von der Universität Bern und fünf von der Berner Fachhochschule.

Thematisch dominieren Geschäftsideen aus den Bereichen ICT & Services (10 Projekte) und Life Sciences (7 Projekte). Je drei Projekte lassen sich den Kategorien Cleantech & Sustainable Tech sowie Educational Technology zuordnen. Foodtech & Retail ist mit einem Projekt vertreten.

*Due to one team's withdrawal, 24 teams participated in the "Elevator Pitch" for this edition, 12 (50%) of which were classified as external (not from the University of Bern or the Bern University of Applied Sciences), with seven related to the University of Bern and five affiliated with the University of Applied Sciences.*

*Thematically, business ideas from the ICT & Services sector (10 projects) dominate, followed by Life Sciences (7 projects). Three projects each fall into the Cleantech & Sustainable Tech and Educational Technology categories. Foodtech & Retail is represented by one project.*



# 3. Sponsors and Partners

Die Umsetzung von **STAGE UP** ist an die Generierung von Drittmitteln gebunden. Ohne Sponsoren und Partner könnte der Wettbewerb nicht angeboten werden. Wir dürfen auf die Kooperationen mit unseren langjährigen Partnern zählen. Besten Dank an unsere Sponsoren und Partner!

Ihr unterstützt uns in unterschiedlichster Weise. Jede Form der Unterstützung ist für **STAGE UP** erfolgsentscheidend. Diese erfolgt nicht nur finanziell, sondern auch durch Sachleistungen, Man- resp. Woman-Power und in kommunikativer Form.

*The implementation of **STAGE UP** relies on securing third-party funding. Without sponsors and partners, the competition could not be offered. We are grateful for the cooperation of our long-term partners. Many thanks to our sponsors and partners!*

*You support us in various ways. Every form of it is crucial to **STAGE UP**'s success. We receive support not only financially, but also through in-kind contributions, man- resp. womanpower, and communication efforts.*

## Gold Sponsors



## Silver Sponsors



## Main Partners



# 4. Network: Jury, Coaches, and Experts

Seit der Gründung von **STAGE UP** haben wir ein starkes Netzwerk aufgebaut: Erfahrene Jurorinnen und Juroren, Coaches, Expertinnen und Experten und Trainerinnen und Trainer begleiten die Teilnehmenden während des mehrmonatigen Lernprozesses.

- 8 **Coaches** haben sich um die 14 beim Elevator Pitch im Kuppelraum der Universität Bern selektierten Teams betreut.
- 36 **Expertinnen und Experten** haben in den zwei stillen Online-Selektionen jede Projekteingabe geprüft und bewertet.
- 10 **Trainerinnen und Trainer** haben sechs Workshops zu fachspezifischen Themen durchgeführt.

Last but not least bewertete unsere **siebenköpfige Jury** die Pitches und entschied über die Finalisten und Sieger.

Vielen Dank an unser **STAGE UP**-Team!

*Since its founding, **STAGE UP** has built a strong network: experienced jurors, coaches, experts, and trainers support participants throughout the multi-month learning process.*

- 8 **coaches** supported the 14 teams selected for the Elevator Pitch held in the Kuppelraum at the University of Bern.
- 36 **experts** reviewed and evaluated every project submission during the two silent online selections.
- 10 **trainers** conducted six workshops on specialized topics.

*Last but not least, our **seven jury members** assessed the pitches and decided on finalists and winning teams.*

*Many thanks to our **STAGE UP** team!*

## Jury



**Dr. Nina Hobi**  
CEO und Scientific Director  
AlveoliX



**Dr. Patrick Hofer-Noser**  
Owner & CEO  
3S Swiss Solar Solutions



**Dr. h. c. Eva Jaisli**  
Co-owner and Chair of the Board of Directors  
PB Swiss Tools



**Prof. Dr. Antje-Christin Knopf**  
Director of the sitem-insel School  
sitem-insel



**Roger Siegenthaler**  
CEO  
mb-microtec



**Philippe Stüdi**  
Founder, Owner & CEO  
SME Equity Partners



**Frank Ziemer**  
President & CEO  
Ziemer Group

## Experts



**Linda Aerne**  
Lead Startup Partnering  
VNTR by PostFinance



**Dr. Thomas Bähler**  
Founding Partner & Co-owner  
Kellerhals Carrard



**Peter Brunner**  
Head of Research and Development  
Bern University of Applied Sciences  
BFH



**Elsa Callini**  
Deputy Head, Senior Innovation &  
Startup Advisor  
Innovation Office, Bern University



**Nicolas Gasser**  
Entrepreneur



**Beni Hirt**  
CEO  
Decomplex



**Anita Jörg**  
COO & CMO  
Switzerland Innovation Park Biel-  
Bienne



**Florian Kühni**  
Head of Product Area Digital Health  
Ypsomed



**Anna-Leena Marti**  
Co-Founder  
Leadership Lighthouse



**Yacine Michaelis**  
Entrepreneurship Expert  
Bern University of Applied Sciences  
BFH



**Dr. Janine Antonov**  
Head of Research Group  
Lindenhofgruppe



**Florian Baumann**  
Innovation Manager  
VNTR by PostFinance



**Pol Budmiger**  
Owner & CEO  
Via Diversa



**Patrick Felder**  
Regional Manager, Bern South  
Berner Kantonalbank BEKB



**Dr. Guy Giuffredi**  
General Partner  
Koyo



**Sébastien Hug**  
Head  
Innovation Office, Bern University



**Boris Kaiser**  
Head of Site Supply Chain  
CSL Behring



**Julian Liniger**  
Co-Founder & CEO  
Relai



**Yann Meyer**  
Innovation Manager  
PostFinance



**Stefan Moser**  
Executive Board Member &  
Head of Market Services  
Berner Kantonalbank BEKB





**Ralf Müssig**  
Senior Project Manager  
Office of Economic Affairs,  
Canton of Bern



**Roger Neuenschwander**  
CEO  
be-advanced



**Dr. Simon Nobs**  
Business Developer  
HACO Group



**Dr. Matthias Peterhans**  
COO  
Xovis



**Dirk Raubald**  
Senior Director, Site Head  
Maintenance, Facilities & Utilities  
CSL Behring



**Emanuel Roth**  
Co-Founder & Managing Partner  
Youngpreneurs



**Beat Röthlisberger**  
CFO  
Röthlisberger Schreinerei



**Monika Sattler**  
CEO  
Sattler Consulting



**Tom Schlup**  
Partner & CFO on Demand  
FS Partners



**Prof. Dr. Philipp Sieger**  
Professor for Business Administration  
Department of Management &  
Entrepreneurship, Bern University



**Anthony Smith**  
CEO & Owner  
InnoSmith



**Fabio Studer**  
Senior Manager  
Ernst & Young EY



**Christine Weber**  
Owner & Founder  
VENTURIZE



**Philippe Wenger**  
Assurance Leader Region Midland  
Ernst & Young EY



**Yasmin Wieland**  
Project Manager  
BKW Powergrid



**Cristina Zimmermann**  
Implementation Leader Audit  
Delivery Network (ADN) Switzerland  
Ernst & Young EY

## Coaches



**Christian Brand**  
Partner & CEO  
Brand, Gallusser & Partner



**Aron Braun**  
Entrepreneur, Lecturer & Startup Trainer  
Bern University of Applied Sciences BFH  
& Innosuisse



**Pol Budmiger**  
Owner & CEO  
Via Diversa



**Dr. Urs Guggenbühl**  
CEO  
novoviam



**Thomas Meier**  
CEO  
you-can.biz



**Patrick Perler**  
Owner  
Perler Consulting



**Dr. Markus Scharnowski**  
Principal  
Gud



**Dr. Theresa Visarius**  
Vice President Business  
Development  
Immunophotonics

## Trainers



**Kathrin Enderli**  
Counsel  
Kellerhals Carrard  
Workshop: *Startup Legal Essentials*



**Marta Gehring**  
Health Tech Business Development  
and Marketing Strategist  
sbg Lifesciences  
Workshop: *Marketing Strategy Toolkit*



**Dr. Melchior Glatthard**  
Notary Public and Attorney at Law,  
Partner, Glatthard & Stählin  
Workshop: *Public Speaking*



**Michael Hilb**  
Chair  
The Board Foundation (BF)  
Workshop: *Venture Governance*



**Dr. Marcel Hofstetter**  
Startup Internationalisation  
Innosuisse  
Workshop: *Pitch Training*



**Michèle Remund**  
Partner  
Kellerhals Carrard  
Workshop: *Startup Legal Essentials / Venture Governance*



**Jürg Schwarzenbach**  
Owner  
Marcaro  
Workshop: *Venture Governance*



**Fabio Studer**  
Senior Manager  
Ernst & Young EY  
Workshop: *Financial Planning*



**Dr. Stefan Weber**  
CEO  
CAscination  
Workshop: *Venture Governance*



**Cristina Zimmermann**  
Implementation Leader Audit  
Delivery Network (ADN) Switzerland  
Ernst & Young EY  
Workshop: *Financial Planning*

## 5. The Winners: STAGE UP TOP3



Samuel Knobel & Nic Krummenacher

### GoRehab

DextEgg ist ein eiförmiges, vernetztes Gerät, welches das Training der Feinmotorik unterstützt. In Kombination mit einer App macht es die Übungen motivierender, liefert Echtzeit-Feedback und ermöglicht Therapeutinnen und Therapeuten die Fernüberwachung der Patientinnen und Patienten, wodurch die Rehabilitation zu Hause erleichtert wird.

[www.gorehab.ch](http://www.gorehab.ch)

*DextEgg is an egg-shaped connected device that helps train fine motor skills. Paired with an app, it makes exercises more engaging, provides real-time feedback, and allows therapists to remotely monitor patients, supporting home rehabilitation.*

[www.gorehab.ch](http://www.gorehab.ch)

### Team

Samuel Knobel  
Nic Krummenacher

*“STAGE UP was an incredible experience for us as founders. The combination of expert feedback, dedicated coaching, and challenging discussions helped us sharpen both our pitch and our business strategy. Beyond the competition itself, we gained valuable connections within the Bernese startup ecosystem and learned how to communicate our vision more effectively. Reaching the final and winning 1st place was a fantastic milestone. The opportunity to pitch our vision to such a large audience was truly inspiring, while the entire experience still felt personal and supportive – a unique combination that gave us momentum for the next stage of our journey.”*

~ Team GoRehab



Roi Finish, Pablo Marquez & Raphael Sznitman



## PolaSight

PolaSight bietet eine schnelle, nicht-destruktive Alternative zur herkömmlichen histologischen Untersuchung während der Operation. Einfach, kostengünstig und klinisch validiert, ermöglicht es die Aufbewahrung von Gewebeproben für weitere Analysen und deckt den steigenden Bedarf durch zunehmende Krebsfälle und den Mangel an Pathologen und Pathologinnen.

[www.polasight.com](http://www.polasight.com)

*PolaSight offers a rapid, non-destructive alternative to conventional intraoperative histology. Simple, low-cost, and clinically validated, it preserves tissue samples for further analyses and addresses growing needs due to rising cancer rates and pathologist shortages.*

[www.polasight.com](http://www.polasight.com)

### Team

Roi Finish

Pablo Marquez

Davide Scandella

Raphael Sznitman

*"Participating in **STAGE UP** was incredibly valuable for our team. The process pushed us to refine our product positioning, sharpen our understanding of our target customers, and think much more deeply about product-market fit. The feedback and questioning challenged many of our assumptions and helped us articulate our value proposition more clearly. We came away with a stronger strategy and a better understanding of where we fit in the market."*

~ Team PolaSight





3<sup>rd</sup> PLACE



Eric Leung & Elena Börlin

## sefit health

sefit health bietet eine Virtual-Reality-Therapie, die neurodivergenten Jugendlichen hilft, sensorische Überlastung zu bewältigen, soziale Integration zu fördern und ihre Lebensqualität sowie Bildungs- und Berufschancen zu verbessern.

[www.sefit.ch](http://www.sefit.ch)

*sefit health offers a virtual reality therapy to help neurodiverse adolescents manage sensory overload, support social integration, and improve their quality of life as well as educational and career opportunities.*

[www.sefit.ch](http://www.sefit.ch)

### Team

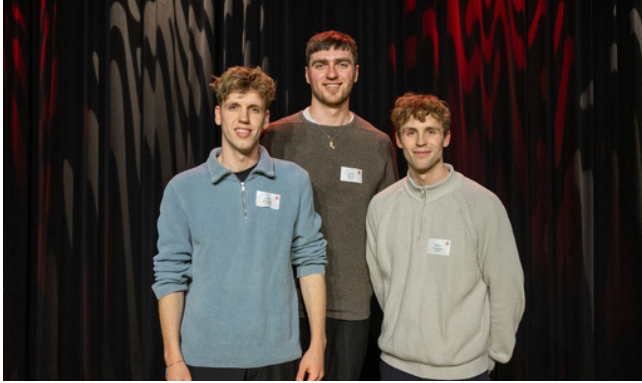
Elena Börlin

Eric Leung

*«**STAGE UP** supported us on so many aspects throughout the whole process. From pitch training to business models to regulations to new contacts, this has been an amazing journey. The prize money is one thing, but the lessons learned, the new contacts gained and the improvements for the startup strategy cannot be compared. We learnt a lot and can only recommend startups to apply to **STAGE UP**.*

*~ Team sefit health*

## 6. Team Portraits



[www.azygos.ch](http://www.azygos.ch)

### AZYGOS (Top 5)

Azygos is a digital learning platform for medical students, offering realistic OSCE cases (Objective Structured Clinical Examinations, standardized practical clinical exams) to practice history-taking, clinical examination, and clinical reasoning, individually or in teams, with ready-to-use cases.

#### Team

Lukas Arnold  
Afreed Ashraf

Agron Knepper  
Driton Knepper

### HORAO (Top 5)

HORAO develops a real-time imaging system for brain tumor surgery. Integrated into surgical microscopes, it helps surgeons distinguish healthy tissue from tumor tissue and operate more safely and precisely.

#### Team

David Hasler

Omar Rodríguez Núñez



[www.horao.eu](http://www.horao.eu)



[www.algantix.com](http://www.algantix.com)

### Algantix (Top 14)

Algantix has developed a system that detects and localizes active cell phones in prisons with 90% accuracy. It enables real-time monitoring, efficient confiscation, and a significant reduction in illegal phone use, offering a cost-effective, vandal-proof alternative to jammers through a Sensor-as-a-Service model.

#### Team

Basil Anderau

Tobias Zaugg

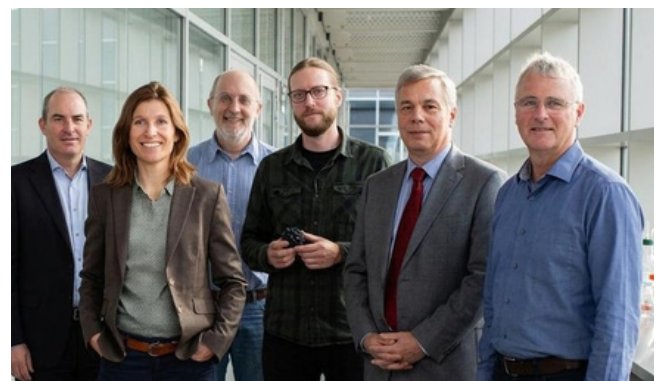
### Amela Biosciences (Top14)

Amela Biosciences develops next-generation recombinant Bioinks that are reliable and standardized, enabling human-relevant 3D cell cultures, tissue engineering, and bioprinting without animal-derived or synthetic materials.

#### Team

Richard Alldread  
Tom Edwardson  
Donald Hilvert

Sandra Nunez  
Richard Quaderer  
Oleg Werbitzky





[www.diavolobrewing.com](http://www.diavolobrewing.com)

## Diavolo (Top 14)

Diavolo creates an innovative, flavorful, and healthier beer. Tested with over 120 consumers, its MVP generated more than 300 pre-orders, confirming strong market demand.

### Team

Michele Brianza

Yannick Nagel

Martino Corti

## gapeer (Top 14)

gapeer is a community platform that supports high school graduates during their gap year, centralizing information and opportunities while connecting motivated students with companies to make the year structured and rewarding.

### Team

Jana Rotzetter

Louisa Sodige



[www.gapeer.com](http://www.gapeer.com)



[www.mariya.ai](http://www.mariya.ai)

## Mariya.ai (Top14)

Mariya.ai combines digital intelligence with human empathy to support migrants, expats, and professionals in transition, offering personalized coaching, emotional check-ins, and resources for integration, career shifts, and personal growth.

### Team

Larysa Aleksieieva

Danylo Rebi

Mariya Danuk

Olga Verbitskaya

## Nordfen (Top14)

Nordfen develops an automated solution that converts real topographic data into interactive, physically accurate 3D simulations, ready for rapid use, to support the development of autonomous systems, tactical training, and operational planning.

### Team

Philip Cherupallikattu

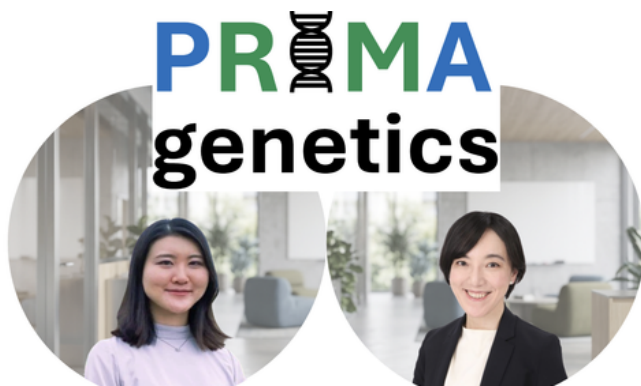
Rex Kendall

Jack Kendall



[www.nordfen.ch](http://www.nordfen.ch)





## PRIMA Genetics (Top14)

PRIMA Genetics offers a rapid genotyping platform that identifies relevant genetic variants in stroke patients at the point of care. This allows doctors to quickly choose the most effective, personalized treatments, improving patient care and reducing the risk of recurrence.

### Team

Megumi Mizoguchi

Misako Yamazaki

## SOPHIA Health (Top14)

SOPHIA Health is an AI assistant for doctors in the DACH region that automates clinical documentation and can reduce related costs by up to 30%. It analyzes patient records, generates automated reports, and processes unstructured documents, integrating seamlessly with hospital information systems.

### Team

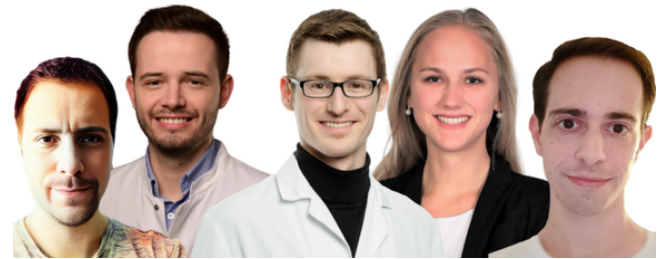
Fiona Beer

Moritz Neesen

Julian Brummer

Robert Steiner

Sebastian Brummer



[www.sophia-health.ch](http://www.sophia-health.ch)



## Windtracx (Top14)

Windtracx develops an innovative wind-assisted propulsion system for cargo ships using autonomous Aero Kite Drones, offering fuel savings, regulatory compliance, and economic benefits, targeting the maritime decarbonization market.

### Team

Andrea Alberti

Francesco Graziano

Aldo Cattano

Michele Zoppi

Borka Hajdin



# 7. Elevator Pitch and Award Night

Beim **STAGE UP** Lernprozess dürfen wir uns jährlich auf die beiden Highlights freuen: Der Tag der 25 Elevator Pitches im Kuppelraum der Universität Bern und die krönende Award Night im Berner Bierhübeli.

Unsere Jury entscheidet an beiden Terminen live, wer sich für die Coaching-Phase qualifiziert, respektive welche Projekte die drei Podestplätze besetzen. Nach der ersten Vorselektionsrunde 2026 wurden aus den 54 Projekteingaben 25 Teams zu den Elevator Pitches am 27. Januar 2026 eingeladen.

## Elevator Pitch

Die Teams haben exakt drei Minuten, um der Jury ihre Geschäftsidee vorzustellen, so wie es hier Omar Rodríguez Núñez von „HORA0“ tut.

*Each team has exactly three minutes to present their business idea to the jury, as Omar Rodríguez Núñez from “HORA0” does here.*

*Every year we are looking forward to the two highlights of the **STAGE UP** competition: the day of the 25 Elevator Pitches in the Kuppelraum of the University of Bern and the stellar Award Night in Bern's Bierhübeli.*

*On both dates, our jury decides at a live-event who qualifies for the coaching phase and which projects are awarded the three podiums respectively. After the first pre-selection round 2026, 25 teams from the 54 project submissions were invited to the Elevator Pitches on January 27, 2026.*



Die Jury nimmt jeden Pitch unter die Lupe...

*The jury scrutinizes every pitch...*



...und bohrt dort nach, wo Konzepte noch nicht vollständig ausgereift sind.

*...and digs deeper where concepts still need further development.*

Eine kurze Verschnaufpause für die Jurymitglieder – bevor sie sich konzentriert, den verbleibenden Top-Teams des Tages widmen.

*A short break for the jury members – before they turn their full focus to the remaining top teams of the day.*



## Selection of the Top5 Teams

Die beim Elevator Pitch auserwählten Teams (14) erhalten Zugang zu individuellem Coaching von erfahrenen Expertinnen und Experten, gestellt von unserem Partner be-advanced und der Berner Fachhochschule BFH. Dabei wird darauf geachtet, die Kompetenzen der Coaches mit den jeweiligen Geschäftsideen abzugleichen, um die Teams gezielt in ihren jeweils grössten "unternehmerischen" Herausforderungen zu unterstützen.

Zudem stehen den Top14 Teams die Teilnahme an Workshops zu Themen wie Public Speaking, Rechtliches und Marketing offen. Mit dem aus dem Lernangebot erworbenen Wissen und der Beratung der Coaches entwickeln und dokumentieren die 14 Teams ihr Business Model, welches bis Mitte April 2026 eingereicht werden muss.

Unsere **STAGE UP** Expertinnen und Experten prüfen alle eingereichten Business Models und deren Bewertung führt letztlich zur Selektion der fünf finalen Teams der **STAGE UP** Award Night.

*The teams (14) selected at the Elevator Pitch will receive access to individual coaching from experienced experts provided by our partner be-advanced and Bern University of Applied Sciences. Care is taken to match the skills of the coaches with the respective business ideas in order to support the teams in their greatest "entrepreneurial" challenges.*

*The Top14 teams also have the opportunity to participate in workshops on topics such as public speaking, legal issues and marketing. With the knowledge gained from the learning opportunities and the advice of the coaches, the 14 teams will develop and document their business model, which must be submitted by mid-April 2026.*

*Our **STAGE UP** experts review all submitted business models and their evaluation ultimately leads to the selection of the five final teams for the **STAGE UP** Award Night.*

## The Finale - The STAGE UP Award Night

Die **STAGE UP** Award Night fand am Dienstag, 19. Mai 2026 im Berner Bierhübeli statt. Vor dem grossen Finale stellten sich die Teams einer Q&A-Session mit der Jury und konnten im informellen Rahmen ihren Pitch bei einer Hauptprobe letztmalig üben.



*The **STAGE UP** Award Night took place on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at the Bierhübeli in Bern. Before the "grand finale", the teams had a informal Q&A session with the jury and had the opportunity to practice their pitch for the last time during a final rehearsal.*

Die Regie ist konzentriert und bereit!

*The production team is focused and ready!*

Lea Grüter, unsere Moderatorin, betritt die Bühne und bringt den Saal zum Leben – bevor es losgeht!

*Lea Grüter, our host, takes the stage and energizes the room – before the show begins!*



Das Publikum wartet gespannt auf den Beginn der Show!

*The audience is eagerly awaiting the start of the show!*





Nach der inspirierenden Rede von Regierungsrat Christoph Ammann betritt Artur Baldauf, der Initiator des Wettbewerbs **STAGE UP**, die Bühne, um ihm für seine wertvolle Unterstützung in den vergangenen Jahren zu danken.

*After the inspiring speech by Regierungsrat Christoph Ammann, Artur Baldauf, the initiator of the **STAGE UP** competition, takes the stage to thank him for his invaluable support over the past years.*



Die Jury wird vorgestellt und nimmt auf der Bühne Platz. Kurz darauf "pitcht" das erste Team.

*The jury is introduced and takes their seats on stage. Shortly after, the first team begins their pitch.*

Lea Grüter erklärt den Ablauf: 5 Minuten Pitch von 1-3 Personen, danach 3 Minuten für Fragen der Jury. Bewertet werden Klarheit, Innovation, Markt, Machbarkeit und Team. Und dann – los geht's!

*Lea Grüter briefly explains the format: 5 minutes to pitch by 1-3 people, followed by 3 minutes of jury questions. Teams are judged on clarity, innovation, market, feasibility and team. And then – let's go!*



AZYGOS eröffnet die fünfminütigen Pitches mit anschließender Beantwortung der Fragen der Jury.

*AZYGOS starts with their five-minute pitch and responds to questions from the jury.*



Es folgen die Pitches von sefit health...

*Next, the pitches from sefit health...*



...PolaSight...

...GoRehab...



...und HORAO.

...and HORAO follow.

Während der Jurydiskussion hat uns der Mentalist Severino Negri mit seinen Vorführungen verblüfft und begeistert!

*While the jury was deliberating, mentalist Severino Negri left us speechless and amazed with his performances!*



Artur Baldauf nutzt die Vorführung des Mentalisten als Metapher, um zu veranschaulichen, dass Unternehmertum nicht mit Gewissheiten beginnt, sondern mit einer Vision – dem Mut, eine Idee in die Realität umzusetzen, auch wenn der Weg noch nicht klar ist.

*Artur Baldauf uses the mentalist's performance as a metaphor to illustrate that entrepreneurship doesn't start with certainty, but with a vision – the courage to turn an idea into reality, even when the path ahead isn't clear yet.*



Die Moderatorin fragt Nina Hobi, ob die Wahl des Gewinner-Teams schwierig war.

*The moderator asks Nina Hobi whether choosing the winning team was a difficult decision.*



... und das Gewinner-Team ist: GoRehab, welches ein Preisgeld von CHF 10'000 erhält!

*... and the winner is: Team GoRehab, who will receive a prize of CHF 10'000!*



Samuel Knobel und Nic Krummenacher freuen sich über ihren Gewinn.

*Samuel Knobel and Nic Krummenacher are delighted with their award.*

Darüber hinaus belegt PolaSight den zweiten Platz mit einem Preisgeld von CHF 5'000...

*Furthermore, PolaSight takes second place with a prize of CHF 5'000...*



...und sefit health belegen den dritten Platz mit CHF 3'000.

*...and sefit health take third place with CHF 3'000.*

Zu Hotdogs und inspirierenden Gesprächen wird angestossen und eine weitere Runde **STAGE UP** geht zu Ende.

*We all give a toast, hotdogs are served along, and inspiring conversations are held as another round of **STAGE UP** comes to an end.*





# 8. Communication and Media Relations

Im Bereich Kommunikation und Öffentlichkeitsarbeit waren wir sehr aktiv und auf verschiedenen Plattformen präsent. Unsere Teilnehmenden profitieren von erhöhter Sichtbarkeit, was den Zugang zu potenziellen Investoren und Partnern erleichtert. Auch unsere Partner und Sponsoren schätzen die durch ihr Engagement bei **STAGE UP** gewonnene Aufmerksamkeit. Die wichtigsten Schwerpunkte unserer Kommunikation im Jahr 2026 waren:

*In the area of communications and public relations, we were very active and present across various platforms. Our participants benefit from increased visibility, which facilitates access to potential investors and partners. Our partners and sponsors also value the exposure gained through their involvement with **STAGE UP**. The key focus areas of our communications in 2026 were:*

## Newsletter and Direct-Mailings

- **4 newsletters** (German/English) during the competition period (1 announcing the call for applications, 1 announcing the Top5, and 2 promoting the Award Night).

- Nearly **2,400 recipients**.

Here's the link to subscribe to the newsletter:

**[www.entrepreneurship-bern.ch/newsletter/](http://www.entrepreneurship-bern.ch/newsletter/)**

- **Direct mailings** to all staff members, professors, mid-level faculty, doctoral candidates, habilitated researchers, assistants, lecturers, and general employees of the university (approximately 7,200 recipients).

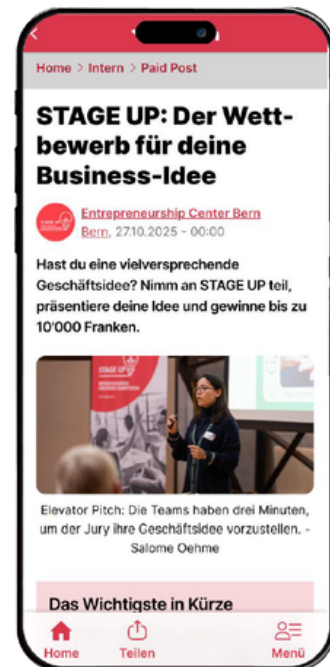
## Media Relations – Coverage in the Media

- Distribution of four press releases (Elevator Pitch announcement, Top14 announcement, Award Night announcement and winners announcement).
- Article about the competition on Nau.ch: "**STAGE UP**: Der Wettbewerb für deine Business-Idea", featured on the front page on October 27, 2025.
- Article in the online newspaper Plattform J: "Höhle der Löwen nach Berner Art kurbelt innovative Ideen an", January 29, 2026.
- Article in the online newspaper Plattform J: "Das Ei des Kolumbus auf der Bühne der Wissenschaft", May 21, 2026.

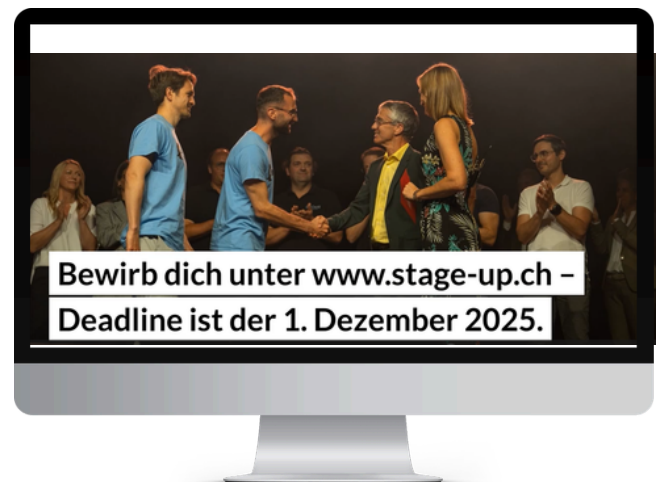


## Promotion of the Call for Projects on Nau.ch

- Article on Nau.ch to promote the competition running from October 27 to October 29, 2025.
- Within 3 days of publication, the article generated strong interest among readers, as reflected in the above-average reading time of 51 seconds across more than 2,800 unique users.



- Digital out of Home (DOOH) on Nau.ch to promote the competition with video, running from October 27 to November 7, 2025.
- High-reach communication across more than 7,800 screens located in post office branches, gas stations and public transport.



- Google Display Ads on Nau.ch to promote the competition with visual banners, running from October 20 to November 23, 2025.
- In addition, the Google Display ads generated nearly 300 clicks, representing an excellent click-through rate of 0.40%, well above average (the IAB benchmark ranges from 0.08% to 0.15%).



Section from the article on the **STAGE UP** Elevator Pitch published on Plattform J on January 29, 2026.

Stage Up 2026 - Elevator Pitch | 29. Jan. 2026

## Höhle der Löwen nach Berner Art kurbelt innovative Ideen an

Unter dem Kuppeldach der Universität Bern und den aufmerksamen Augen einer renommierten Jury stellen 25 Teams die Vision ihres Jungunternehmens vor. Doch nur die Hälfte der Geschäftsideen wird im Rahmen des Berner Business Creation Wettbewerbs den Sprung in die nächste Runde schaffen.

von Yannick Mühlemann



**Berner Business Creation Wettbewerb STAGE UP geht in die nächste Runde**  
Jungunternehmen erhalten die Gelegenheit ihre Ideen vorzustellen.

**ARTIKEL INFO**

Artikel-Nr.: 239872  
Online seit: 29.1.2026 - 12:02 Uhr  
Autor: Yannick Mühlemann



E-Mail: [redaktion@plattformj.ch](mailto:redaktion@plattformj.ch)

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**MEHR ZUM THEMA**



Stage Up 2026 | 22. Jan. 2026  
**26 Ideen, die die Welt verbessern könnten**  
Passend zum Jahr 2026 treten dieses Jahr 26 Teams beim Berner Business Creation Wettbewerb, Stage Up, an. Mit innovativen Ideen gilt es, die fachkundige Jury zu überzeugen, das Projekt ...

Section from the article on the **STAGE UP** Award Night published on Plattform J on May 21, 2026.

STAGE UP Award in Bern | 21. Mai 2026

## Das Ei des Kolumbus auf der Bühne der Wissenschaft

Mit dem DextEgg, einem Gerät zum Trainieren der Feinmotorik, gewinnt GoRehab den diesjährigen STAGE UP Award des Entrepreneurship Centers der Universität Bern. Das Start-up setzt sich stufenweise mit diversen Selektionsschritten gegen die übrigen 53 Projekte und vier Finalisten durch.

von Patrick Schmed



**Ein Blick zurück auf die Award Night im Bierhübeli**  
Die Organisatoren, die Jury und die Gewinner kommen zu Wort.

**ARTIKEL INFO**

Artikel-Nr.: 243166  
Online seit: 21.5.2026 - 06:32 Uhr  
Autor: Patrick Schmed



E-Mail: [redaktion@plattformj.ch](mailto:redaktion@plattformj.ch)

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**MEHR ZUM THEMA**



Stage Up 2026 - Elevator Pitch | 29. Jan. 2026  
**Höhle der Löwen nach Berner Art kurbelt innovative Ideen an**  
Unter dem Kuppeldach der Universität Bern und den aufmerksamen Augen einer renommierten Jury stellen 25 Teams die Vision ihres

## Communication through third parties

## Print-Marketing

## Social Media

We also received support from the central communications department of the University of Bern, as well as from the Innovation Office, be-advanced, Bern University of Applied Sciences, our partners and various influential individuals – thank you for that!

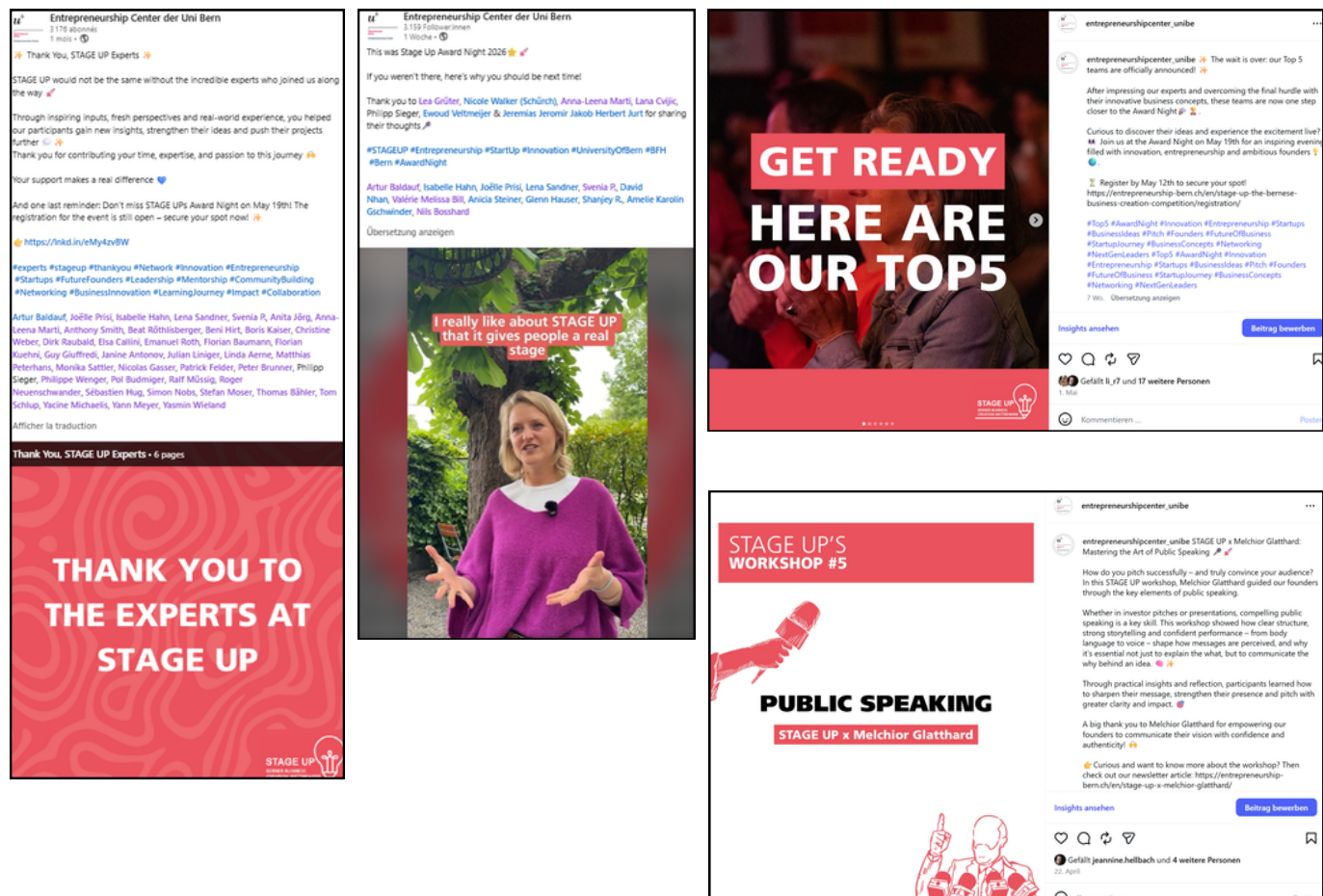
As part of our print marketing efforts, we once again used flyers and A2 posters for display within the buildings of the University of Bern this year:

- 50 Pitch&Punsch A2-posters (inspirational event) (German/English)
- 500 STAGE UP-flyers (German/English)
- 50 STAGE UP A2-posters (German/English)

Active presence as the **Entrepreneurship Center der Uni Bern** on LinkedIn and **entrepreneurshipcenter\_unibe** on Instagram:

- Over 70 posts on LinkedIn and Instagram about the STAGE UP competition during the competition period.
- LinkedIn: 3,173 followers, with a steadily growing community (in June 2025, the number was 2,763). Up to 6,788 impressions and 79 reactions per post (organic).
- Instagram: 524 followers, with an engagement rate of up to 9% per post (organic). Additional campaign for the registration opening with 34,021 views.

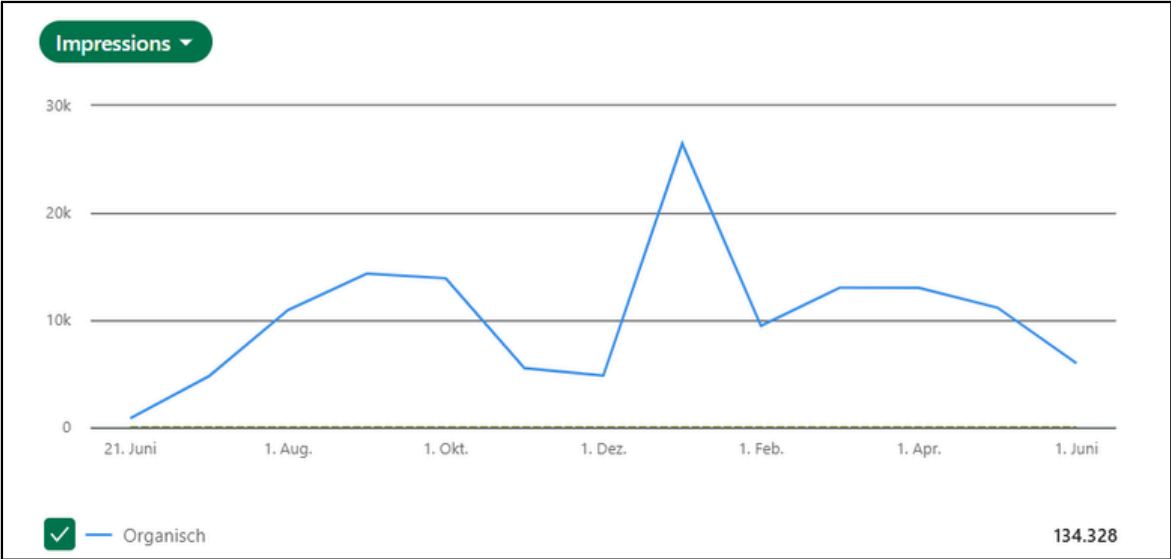
Example of LinkedIn and Instagram posts:





Unsere Posts zum Elevator Pitch (27. Januar 2026), der Bekanntgabe der Top14 (29. Januar 2026) und der Award Night (19. Mai 2026) sowie unsere *Meet our Experts* Series haben mit Abstand am meisten Engagement auf LinkedIn erzielt. Der Beitrag zur Bekanntgabe der Top5 konnte dies sogar noch übertreffen und mit einer Engagement Rate von 90.3% 838 Klicks erzeugen. Ebenso hatten wir hohe Visibilität mit dem Post über die Award Night mit über 2'000 Impressionen.

*Our posts about the Elevator Pitch (January 27, 2026), the announcement of the Top 14 (January 29, 2026), and the Award Night (May 19, 2026), as well as our "Meet Our Experts" series, generated by far the most engagement on LinkedIn. The post announcing the Top 5 even surpassed that, generating 838 clicks with an engagement rate of 90.3%. We also achieved high visibility with the post about the Award Night, which garnered over 2,000 impressions.*



| Anzeigenperformance ?           |            |                 |
|---------------------------------|------------|-----------------|
| Zielgruppe: Alle Follower:innen |            |                 |
| 1.144                           | 297        | 22,4 %          |
| Impressions                     | Engagement | Engagement Rate |
| 256                             | 18.8 %     | 38              |
| Klicks                          | Klickrate  | Reaktionen      |
| 1                               | 2          |                 |
| Kommentare                      | Reposts    |                 |
| Zum Post vom 23. September      |            |                 |



# 9. Our Legacy: Award Winning Startups

## AWARD NIGHT 2013-2014

1. Place

### SwissShrimp

SwissShrimp offers fresh, antibiotic-free, and sustainably farmed shrimp in Switzerland – produced using eco-friendly energy from the nearby Riburg saltworks.

#### Team

David Misteli

Raffael Weber

Michael Siragusa

Thomas Tschirren

SWISSSHRIMP+



No longer active

2. Place

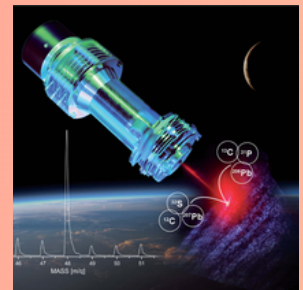
### lonight

lonight is a compact laser that precisely analyzes the chemical composition of solids and, thanks to its small size, is versatile enough for a wide range of everyday applications.

#### Team

Mario Gruber

Andreas Riedo



No longer active

## AWARD NIGHT 2015-2016

1. Place

### Caldooo

Caldooo has developed innovative food vending machines that provide fresh, healthy, and hot meals at any time.

#### Team

Marco Luzzatto



No longer active

2. Place

### AME

AME used 3D printing technology to manufacture optical lenses and relied on innovative manufacturing processes. Combined with modern design, AME offered high-performance lens solutions.

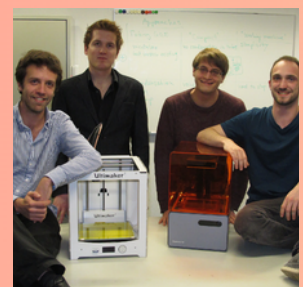
#### Team

Philippe Raisin

Leandro von Werra

Florian Reinhard

Adrian Ryser



No longer active

3. Place

## Skigibel

Skigibel has developed a winter sports device that combines the features of a sled and skis in a single product made of aluminum and chrome steel, with built-in shock absorbers.

### Team

Bettina Aeschlimann  
Dario Aeschlimann  
Florian Scheidegger

Christoph Seiler



Still active

## AWARD NIGHT 2017-2018

1. Place

## Teachy

Teachy (formerly SOS Nachhilfe GmbH) offers innovative tutoring that is interactive, personalized, and location-independent. Using modern and digital methods, Teachy provides flexible learning support.

### Team

Beat Schlumpf  
Christian von Olnhausen



Still active

2. Place

## Mein Baumhaus

Mein Baumhaus has designed and built custom treehouses for private individuals. Thanks to a special securing method using three steel cables, the treehouse can be secured without screws.

### Team

Luc Jaggi  
Florian Jampen



No longer active

## AWARD NIGHT 2019

1. Place

## PeriVision

PeriVision has developed software that simplifies the diagnosis of glaucoma by making diagnostic testing more accessible and available regardless of location.

### Team

Serife Kucur  
Jan Stapelfeldt  
Raphael Sznitman



www.perivision.com



Still active

2. Place

## Urodea

Urodea has developed a non-invasive medical device that helps women and men with underactive bladder syndrome (UAB) empty their bladders.

### Team

Francesco Clavica  
Dominik Obrist



Still active

3. Place

## Relai

Relai has developed an app for investing in cryptocurrencies that makes it easy to get started with digital investments through simple, automated, and secure investment strategies.

### Team

Bernd Lapp  
Julian Liniger  
Stefan Ponne

**Relai**

[www.relai.app](http://www.relai.app)



Still active

## AWARD NIGHT 2021

1. Place

## SARA - The Safe Robotic Arm

SARA is a flexible robotic arm that attaches to wheelchairs and can be operated by people with tetraplegia. The lightweight, quiet arm provides assistance with daily activities for people with limited mobility.

### Team

|                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Ivo Herzig           | Aril Sethi            |
| Gabriel Kreuzer      | Bratislaw Svetozaevic |
| Lukas Lichtensteiger | Alexander Züst        |



[www.sara.ethz.ch](http://www.sara.ethz.ch)



Still active

2. Place

## SmartBreed

SmartBreed has developed a grasshopper processing unit that can efficiently convert grasshoppers into high-quality protein.

### Team

Christoph Bertschi  
Adrian Bertschi  
Patrik Bertschi

**SmartBreed**

[www.smartbreed.ch](http://www.smartbreed.ch)



Still active

3. Place

## BOUM

BOUM has developed an environmentally friendly, all-in-one system that guarantees optimal plant growth by combining modern technology with biological principles.

### Team

|              |                |
|--------------|----------------|
| Ludwig Auer  | Afsoon Ibrahim |
| Nina Ballif  | Sarah Wiedmer  |
| Matthias Erb |                |

**BOUM**

[www.boum.garden](http://www.boum.garden)



Still active

## AWARD NIGHT 2022

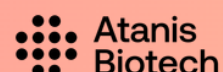
1. Place

## ATANIS Biotech

ATANIS Biotech has developed a novel diagnostic test method that enables more accurate and efficient detection of allergies.

### Team

|                          |              |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Alexander Eggel          | Noemi Zbären |
| Jean-Pierre Kinet        |              |
| Rosa Robin van Brummelen |              |



[www.atanis-biotech.com](http://www.atanis-biotech.com)



Still active



2. Place

## Capt'n Greenfin

Capt'n Greenfin replaces conventional plastic lures with eco-friendly and biodegradable fishing lures.

### Team

Serge Bart

Olivia Bolliger

Jonas Urwyler

Damian Urwyler



CAPT'N  
GREENFIN

[www.captngreenfin.com](http://www.captngreenfin.com)



Still active

3. Place

## sensAwear

sensAwear enables the integration of near-infrared spectroscopy into any garment to monitor blood oxygenation in human tissue.

### Team

Tarcisi Cantieni

Oliver da Sila-Kress

Ursula Wolf

sensowear

[www.sensawear.ch](http://www.sensawear.ch)



Still active

## AWARD NIGHT 2023

1. Place

## Enzoxa

Enzoxa is a pharmaceutical project aimed at developing a new treatment for Helicobacter pylori – a bacterial pathogen that infects about half of the world's population.

### Team

Siegfried Hapfelmeier

Pierre Mateo

Matheus Notter

Christelle Robert

ENZOXA



Still active

2. Place

## Inverto Earth

Inverto Earth automates mangrove restoration more quickly and cost-effectively than alternative options by using customized technology in combination with drones.

### Team

Cameron Dowd

Jürg Germann



[www.inverto.earth](http://www.inverto.earth)



Still active

3. Place

## CALDRE

CALDRE has developed a treatment for cholestasis that targets a protein in the blood-bile barrier. The resulting inhibition thins the bile and relieves the liver of cytotoxic stress.

### Team

Felix Baier

Teresa De Enrique Schmidt

Nicolas Melin

Deborah Stroka



CALDRE

[www.caldre.ch](http://www.caldre.ch)



Still active



## AWARD NIGHT 2024

1. Place

### TightValve

TightValve is an innovative surgical device for aortic valve repair. The device allows for intraoperative measurement to determine whether a repaired valve closes tightly.

#### Team

Pascal Buchs  
Silje Ekroll Jahren  
Emmanuel Zimmer



Still active

2. Place

### Pathy

Pathy simplifies image analysis in histopathology. Its Software-as-a-Service platform offers AI-powered digital staining solutions that enable pre-screening in urgent biopsy analyses.

#### Team

Oussama Ben Ghorbel  
Aous Khadhraoui  
Nhi Luong

Rina Mehmeti



[www.pathy.ai](http://www.pathy.ai)



Still active

3. Place

### KIDEMIS

KIDEMIS produces a fish and animal feed ingredient based on fermented mycoprotein, which is used as an alternative to fish meal and soy.

#### Team

Constantin Marakhov  
Sean Wassermann



[www.kidemis.com](http://www.kidemis.com)



Still active

## AWARD NIGHT 2025

1. Place

### Beyond Diagnostics

Beyond Diagnostics aims to revolutionize diabetes treatment by developing a point-of-care test for insulin efficacy, allowing for more precise dosing during treatment.

#### Team

Stefanie Dobitz  
Ema Grabenweger  
Maren Schinz



[www.beyond-diagnostics.com](http://www.beyond-diagnostics.com)



Still active

2. Place

### GoNina

1/3 of food goes to waste, driving 10% of global GHG emissions. GoNina uses AI to predict restaurant, bakery and retail demand with 90% accuracy - and sells surplus to consumers at a discount, cutting both waste and costs.

#### Team

Matthieu Ochsner  
Ferdinand von Hagen  
Aline Rudin



[www.gonina.com](http://www.gonina.com)



Still active

### 3. Place

## wearefreemovers

wearefreemovers is the first one-stop-shop platform for free movers, connecting independent study abroad students with universities and service providers to unlock a new era of international mobility.

### Team

Andrea Pellini

Fabio Pellini

wearefreemovers

[www.wearefreemovers.com](http://www.wearefreemovers.com)



Still active

## Facts

- Die ausgezeichneten Ideen in der ersten Phase des Wettbewerbs 2013-2018 (also die am längsten "getesteten") weisen eine durchschnittliche Quote von 28,6 % auf (2 von 7 noch aktiv).
- Seit 2019 sind 100 % der Preisträger noch aktiv (18 von 18).
- The winning ideas from the first phase of the competition (2013–2018) - i.e., those that have been "tested" the longest - show an average rate of 28.6% (2 out of 7 still active).*
- Since 2019, 100% of winners are still active (18 out of 18).*

## Success Stories

- Relai:** Relai wurde 2020 gegründet und hat sich zu einer der führenden europäischen Plattformen für Bitcoin-Investments entwickelt. Das Unternehmen hat ein Handelsvolumen von über 1 Milliarde US-Dollar erreicht, zählt mehr als 500.000 App-Downloads und hat rund 20 Millionen US-Dollar eingeworben, um seine Expansion in Europa voranzutreiben.
- ATANIS Biotech:** Als Spin-off der Universität Bern gewann ATANIS Biotech 2025 die FARE Innovation Award Diagnostic Challenge und erhielt 2 Millionen US-Dollar, um die Markteinführung seines innovativen Allergiediagnostiktests FAST-PASE® zu beschleunigen.
- PeriVision:** Als Gewinner des EIT Health Wild Card-Programms erhielt PeriVision eine Förderung von 1,5 Millionen Euro und konnte anschliessend 2,4 Millionen CHF einwerben, um die Markteinführung seiner VisionOne™-Plattform zu beschleunigen.
- Relai: Founded in 2020, Relai has become one of Europe's leading Bitcoin investment platforms. The company has surpassed USD 1 billion in trading volume, exceeded 500,000 app downloads, and has raised nearly USD 20 million to support its expansion across Europe.*
- ATANIS Biotech: As a spin-off from the University of Bern, ATANIS Biotech won the 2025 FARE Innovation Award Diagnostic Challenge, receiving USD 2 million to accelerate the commercialization of its innovative FAST-PASE® allergy diagnostic test.*
- PeriVision: As the winner of the EIT Health Wild Card program, PeriVision received EUR 1.5 million in funding and subsequently raised CHF 2.4 million to accelerate the commercialization of its VisionOne™ platform.*

# 10. The STAGE UP Team



**Prof. Dr. Artur Baldauf**  
Director of the Department of  
Business Management and  
Entrepreneurship, Initiator of  
the **STAGE UP** competition



**Joëlle Prisi, lic. soc.**  
Project Manager **STAGE UP**



**Valérie Bill**  
Junior Assistant CAS



**Nils Bosshard**  
Junior Assistant in Research  
and Teaching



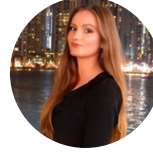
**Dr. Isabelle Hahn**  
Project Manager Innosuisse



**Glenn Hauser**  
PhD Candidate and Research  
Assistant



**Joëlle Hofer**  
Postdoctoral Researcher



**Amelie Gschwinder**  
PhD Candidate and Research  
Assistant



**Franz Kölliker**  
IT Support



**Dr. Fabian Mändli**  
Postdoctoral Researcher



**David Nhan**  
Junior Assistant IT



**Svenia Ponniah**  
Junior Assistant **STAGE UP**



**Lea Raemy**  
PhD Candidate and Research  
Assistant



**Shanjey Rajakumar**  
PhD Candidate and Research  
Assistant



**Lena Sandner**  
Junior Assistant Innosuisse



**Prof. Dr. Philipp Sieger**  
Professor for Business  
Administration



**Anicia Steiner**  
Project Manager CAS



# 11. The Entrepreneurship Center, University Bern



In the area of continuing education, we are developing university-level courses. What knowledge and skills are needed to successfully navigate the rapid changes in entrepreneurship? Our executive programs address this challenge with innovative course concepts: a CAS in Entrepreneurship and a CAS in Corporate Strategy. These programs are aimed equally at people who want to develop entrepreneurial skills within existing organizations and at entrepreneurs themselves.

For more information about the CAS, please visit:

[www.entrepreneurship-bern.ch/weiterbildung](http://www.entrepreneurship-bern.ch/weiterbildung)

Supporting emerging entrepreneurs both within and beyond universities and universities of applied sciences during the initial phase of business development – often even before a company is founded – is a central priority for us.

That's why, in collaboration with public and private partners, we organize the Bernese Business Creation Competition **STAGE UP**, which also showcases the innovative strength of our universities and the region as a whole.

For more information about the program, please visit:

[www.stage-up.ch](http://www.stage-up.ch)



On behalf of Innosuisse, we offer the start-up training modules BUSINESS IDEAS (Module 1) and BUSINESS CONCEPT (Module 2).

These programs are aimed at advanced students, researchers, and other university members who have ideas and the intention to found a knowledge- or technology-based company. The courses foster entrepreneurial thinking and action, and provide theoretical and practical preparation for starting and managing a business.

Since 2025, there has been the new Module 2+. It gives aspiring entrepreneurs the chance to learn more about pivoting and resilience. There is also a co-founder matchmaking event that takes place every other year in Bern.

For more information about the program, please visit:

[www.entrepreneurship-training.ch](http://www.entrepreneurship-training.ch)

The staff of the Entrepreneurship Center are actively involved as organizers, partners, guest speakers, or coaches in various events, courses, workshops, and other formats. The Center's own events aim to inspire participants to pursue entrepreneurship and to foster networking among individuals within and outside the University of Bern who share an interest in entrepreneurship.

[www.entrepreneurship-bern.ch](http://www.entrepreneurship-bern.ch)



# ...to the next round: STAGE UP 2027

Auf ins 14. Jahr **STAGE UP** in 2027 – mit Altbewährtem und spannenden Neuerungen – stay tuned!

## Save the Dates:

- **Bewerbungszeitraum - 01. September bis 01. Dezember 2026**
- **Elevator Pitch - 26. Januar 2027**
- **Award Night - 25. Mai 2027**

Mehr Informationen zum Wettbewerb **STAGE UP** finden Sie auf unserer Webseite:

[www.entrepreneurship-bern.ch/stage-up](http://www.entrepreneurship-bern.ch/stage-up)

Fragen, Anmerkungen oder Inputs?

Wir freuen uns auf den Austausch mit Ihnen:

[stageup.imu@unibe.ch](mailto:stageup.imu@unibe.ch)

*Heading into the 14th year of **STAGE UP** in 2027 – with tried-and-true elements and exciting new features – stay tuned!*

## Save the Dates:

- **Application period - September 1 to December 1, 2026**
- **Elevator Pitch - January 26, 2027**
- **Award Night - May 25, 2027**

*You will find more information about the **STAGE UP** competition on our website:*

[www.entrepreneurship-bern.ch/stage-up](http://www.entrepreneurship-bern.ch/stage-up)

*Questions, comments or feedback?*

*We look forward to hearing from you:*

[stageup.imu@unibe.ch](mailto:stageup.imu@unibe.ch)



August 2026

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