



Education Matters!

Swiss Digital Acceleration Plan

The Uplift of CDA

Switzerland remains one of the most innovative countries in the world, ranking number 1 in the past 6 years in a row according to the Global Innovation Index. Several reasons led to this remarkable achievement. The excellent education system as well as the close cooperation between industry, academia and the political leadership helps to prepare the right conditions and

foster innovation and research. This close partnership is imminent and of absolute importance to develop new solutions and prepare new talent for the future and meet the fast-changing needs of the industry. Only if the partnership and exchange of all stakeholders is secured, the immense opportunities of digitisation can be utilized and transformed into economic growth for the country.

Current situation in Switzerland

Switzerland's unique dual education system propels the academic education as well as the vocational training on the top of international rankings. Switzerland with its 12 universities, 7 universities of applied sciences and arts and 17 universities of teacher education has a well-balanced higher education network. Especially, the two federal institutes ETH Zurich and EPFL draw international attention being consistently among the top ranked universities in the world (ETH Zurich among the top 10). In addition to an excellent higher education system, the

dual education system is unique in the world leaving opportunities to success in parallel to the academic path. At the primary and secondary level, pupils are well prepared for the dual path; however, changes and navigations in the education system are slow and possess a grave threat to the success in the future. While Switzerland is perfectly set with its education system, the 4th industrial revolution possesses an opportunity, but also a threat, at the same time, to fall behind in international comparison, if neglected.

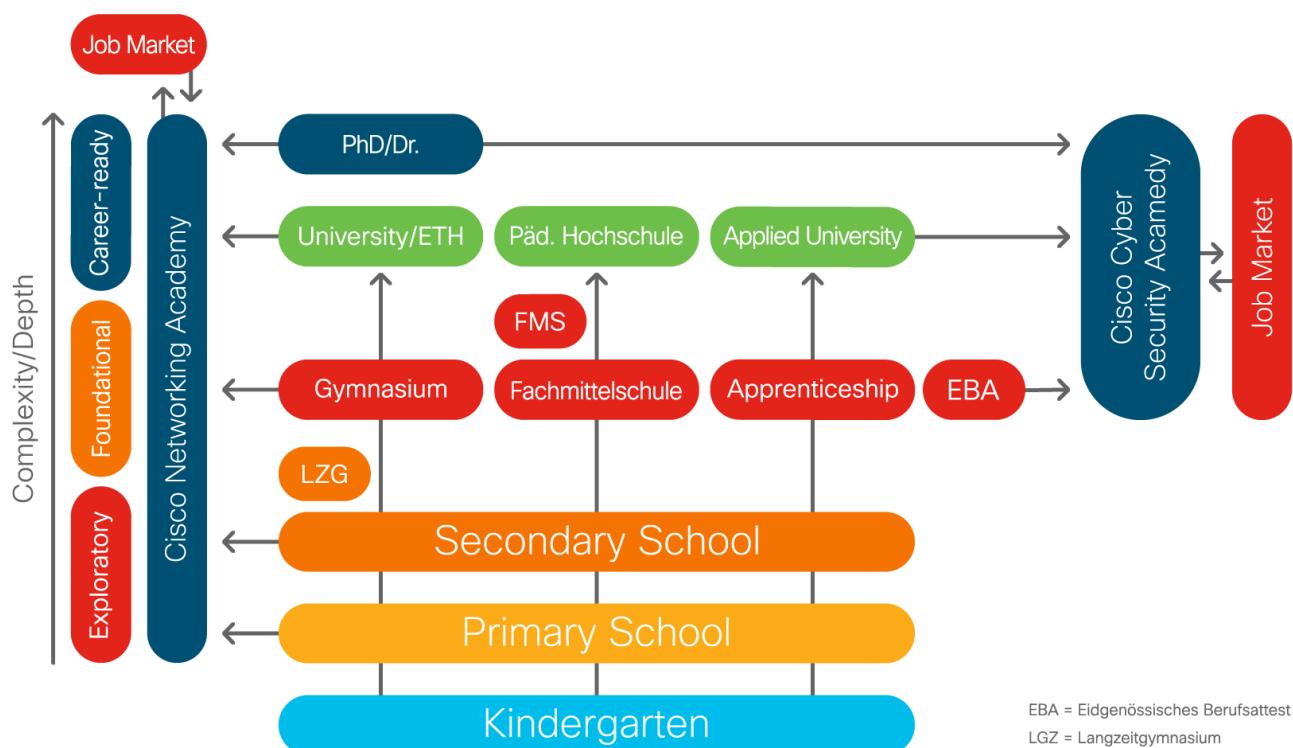


Changing education environment

To **further develop Switzerland's excellence in education, research and innovation and stay at the top**, the education system needs to adapt to the fast-changing environment. There is a paradigm shift in the way people learn and work. The traditional path to study, have a career and retire is changing to a continuous life-long learning model, a key requirement on the labor market today. Millennials, today, are looking at a professional career in a different way. Work-life balance and flexibility to work from anywhere at any time are ranked among the top proprieties in today's job searches. Further, new urbanization concepts are evolving integrating work, life and leisure in one ecosystem. The classical education institutions and models can no longer cope with the speed of change to fulfil above mentioned desires and employment market needs. Novel learning content and delivery systems needs to be developed and provided to a broad audience. The shortage of ITC professionals and domain experts makes it imminent to upskill the existing workforce to seize the digital growth opportunities. While

at the one hand it is of utmost importance to teach individuals (pupils, students, active workers) digital skills, education institutions need to be prepared on a technical level to live up to their mission to meet the changing demand of the workforce for the changing economy. To fully utilize the potential digital change is offering for the economy, educational institutions need to be equipped with the latest infrastructure and technologies to serve as the education entities of the future, keeping the learner at the centre. Finally, the entire education system needs to embrace the change and actively engage with all involved stakeholders including academia, political leadership and industry. A harmonized digital strategy which is taking global as well as local trends into account in Switzerland is necessary to capture the full potential of digitization. The developed national strategy to define action points on individual, educational institution as well as on education system level are of great importance and need to harmonize and integrate all efforts on cantonal level to not reinvent the wheel.

Entry point for Networking and Cyber Security Academy



Home is where the story begins

To fully support the education priorities of the government, Cisco has taken several aligned measures to support action points on individual, institutional and education system level.

We have setup the [Cisco CyberSecurity Academy](#) in Switzerland to close the talent gap and the extreme shortage of experts. To support every level of society and provide content and free access, **we have developed learning content and a flexible deliver approach with our social responsibility project [Networking Academy](#)** reaching close to 10 million students so far and equipping them with digital skills reaching from programming, networking, IoT, analytics to cybersecurity.

To support the new “Lehrplan 21”, we have heavily invested in developing vendor-neutral learning content for teachers, as well as for pupils ranging from age 11 to 15, to support the changing landscape in education. Finally, we deliver secure network infrastructure solutions and communication and collaboration platforms to education institution.

Digital solutions and content are ready to be implemented and prepare the Swiss education system for the future. Be part of the journey, reach out to us to learn more about our solutions and partnership models.



«Our life stages – school, work and retirement – will not survive much longer. Longevity is changing everything. Lifelong ongoing and agile learning are the way that makes a longer life a blessing and not a curse. It is as if arc of life will be extended.»



Contact

Garif Yalak, Dr. sc. ETH
Head of Healthcare & Education,
CDA Switzerland

E-mail: gyalak@cisco.com

