


**INNO
VATION
SALZ
BURG**



**LIFE SCIENCES
IN SALZBURG**

A central map of Salzburg is surrounded by a grey ring. Four large orange circles are positioned around the ring, each representing a sector: Universities (top-left), Companies & Startups (top-right), University Hospitals (bottom-right), and (Non-) Academic Research Institutions (bottom-left). Numerous smaller grey circles are scattered around these sectors, each containing the name of a specific institution or company. The background features a light grey abstract shape on the right side.

SALZBURG LIFE SCIENCES ECOSYSTEM

Key areas:

- / Cancer & Immunology
- / Neurosciences
- / Regenerative Medicine

Cross-cutting-topics:

- / Rehabilitation, Prevention,
Care & Public Health
- / Digital Medicine



SALZBURG AS A RESEARCH LOCATION

Salzburg has established itself as a dynamic research location in the field of life sciences. More than **35 companies with 3,045 employees** generate an annual revenue of around **1.38 billion euros**. A dense network of universities and clinical institutions supports research excellence, ensuring short pathways between basic research, education, and application. Salzburg is

particularly strong in internationally evaluated top fields such as **cancer research and immunology, neuroscience, and regenerative medicine**. Over 2,100* young people are studying in Salzburg in a life sciences-related field (human medicine, pharmacy, nursing sciences, medical biology, bioanalytics).

The Life Sciences Masterplan provides the strategic foundation for Salzburg's continued growth. The goal is to **make universities and clinical institutions internationally leading and visible** by promoting scientific excellence and interdisciplinarity. The integration of cross-cutting topics such as digital medicine, rehabilitation, prevention, nursing, and public health also plays a key role.

From 2025 to 2027, the state and federal government will provide **15 million euros to specifically promote infrastructure, young scientific talent, and collaborations**. The centerpiece of the Masterplan is the establishment of the **Life Sciences Center Salzburg** – an inter-university cooperation model based on the three pillars of teaching, research, and innovation.



For more information scan this QR code or visit our website innovation-salzburg.at.



To read the full Life Sciences Masterplan for Salzburg scan this QR code.

* Students enrolled in the winter semester 2024

RESEARCH AND TALENT DEVELOPMENT

Salzburg is positioning itself as a dynamic hub for the life sciences. Strategic frameworks such as the **Science and Innovation Strategy WISS 2030**, the **Life Sciences Masterplan** and the **Digital Health Strategy** provide a clear direction for innovation and growth in health and biotechnology. Strong links to AI and ICT, combined with alignment to national and EU strategies, create a stable and forward-looking environment for research, development and business creation.

The region offers excellent education and training opportunities. The **University of Salzburg** provides high-quality academic programmes in the life sciences, while **Salzburg University of Applied Sciences**

focuses on applied health sciences with a strong practical orientation. The Paracelsus Medical University complements this landscape as a renowned private medical university combining cutting-edge research with top-tier medical education.

Since the introduction of the WISS strategy in 2016, Salzburg has continuously invested in science, research and innovation. This long-term commitment is reflected in sustained growth in research projects, startups, R&D expenditure and employment, firmly establishing Salzburg as a driver of progress in the life sciences.

€206 M

investments in WISS projects (78.6 million euros of that from the Province of Salzburg)

→ 216

implemented WISS projects

→ 263

R&D jobs in fulltime equivalent per year

€58 M

investments in life sciences in total, around 28% from the Province of Salzburg (54 projects)

Source: WISS implementation monitoring | Data: 2016 and 2024 | As of: 31 December 2024

BUSINESS AND STARTUPS

Salzburg is a dynamic life sciences hub with a **strong presence of medtech, biotech and pharma companies**. Applied research, clinical expertise and entrepreneurship are closely connected, enabling efficient translation from research to market.

Strengths in **medical technologies, biotechnology and pharmaceuticals** are reinforced by expertise in **digital health, bioinformatics and smart engineering**. Close collaboration between companies, universities and hospitals supports rapid validation and scalable product development.

Startups benefit from tailored support through **Startup Salzburg**, the region's business incubator, which guides teams from early ideas to market entry. Since 2016, around 80 startups have received targeted funding, with 72% still active or successfully acquired, positioning Salzburg as an attractive base for life sciences companies at all stages.

€1.38 BN

turnover of life sciences companies

NEARLY

€1 BN

turnover of companies in biotech & pharma

AROUND

€400 M

turnover of companies in medtech

3,045

employees in life sciences companies

168

startups founded since 2013

Sources: Austrian Life Sciences Report 2024 & Austrian Startup Monitor 2024, Special Issue Internationalisation

SPOTLIGHTS

RESEARCH

Paracelsus 10,000 Study

Duration: since 2013

Consortium: University hospitals of SALK, Paracelsus Medical University, University of Salzburg

Lead: Prim. Univ.-Prof. Dr. Mag. Eugen Trinka (SALK)

This is **Austria's largest epidemiological study**. Between 2013 and 2020, 10,044 randomly selected Salzburg residents (average age: 55) were examined, focusing on **cardiovascular, neurological, liver and metabolic diseases** and their risk factors. The data enable researchers to analyse links between lifestyle, genetics and disease, supporting improved prevention strategies.

Prehab2Rehab

Duration: 2 years (2025 –2027)

Funding volume: ~ 2,8 million euro

Total volume: ~ 3,4 million euro

Consortium: 14 Partners (research, industry, healthcare)

Lead: Dr.-Ing. Jan Smeddinck (Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Digital Health and Prevention)

The flagship project, funded by the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG), focuses on developing **integrated, digitally supported and individually tailored care models** along the entire care pathway – before and after planned surgery.

spaXio

Duration: 4 years (2025–2029)

Funding volume: 5,2 million euro

Consortium: Clinics and companies from all over Europe and the USA

Contact Salzburg: Assoz. Prof. Dr. Dirk Schmidt-Arras (University of Salzburg)

spaXio is a European Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) **doctoral network** investigating how cancer spreads to distant organs (metastasis). The project develops spatially resolved molecular analysis methods, uses **advanced 3D tumour models**, and applies AI-based data integration to inform new treatment strategies. At its core, spaXio trains 13 doctoral researchers working across laboratory and data-driven approaches.

COMPANIES

W&H

W&H Dentalwerk Bürmoos is a globally active, **family-owned medtech company** based in Bürmoos/Salzburg, specialising in high-precision dental instruments and medical technology. With around **1,300 employees worldwide**, W&H exports to **more than 130 countries** and maintains production sites in Austria, Italy and Sweden, with a strong focus on research and development.

Biogena

Biogena is an Austrian, **family-owned health and wellbeing company** headquartered in Salzburg, specialising in **scientifically formulated premium micronutrient products**. With around **400 employees**, Biogena exports to **more than 50 countries** and operates a broad portfolio of **over 260 health products**, supported by state-of-the-art production and strong international growth.

STARTUPS

Aileen Health

Aileen Health is a life sciences startup applying **artificial intelligence and deep learning** to support **early cancer detection and treatment decisions**. Using limited patient data, the technology identifies cancer types, predicts disease progression and supports the selection of effective therapies. Aileen Health's generative AI approach can detect pathological changes at very early stages and model potential disease trajectories.

Small New World Laboratories

Next-generation biologics based on **extracellular vesicles** address key limitations of stem cell therapies, including personalisation, dosing and side effects. Small New World Laboratories develops **advanced human cell-derived biologics** that support the body's natural healing processes by reducing inflammation and fibrosis.

CONTACT

Innovation Salzburg is the innovation and business development agency for the federal state of Salzburg. It drives and supports the implementation of the Life Sciences Master Plan.

Do you need information about the research location, are you looking for cooperation partners, or specific expertise in life sciences in Salzburg? We are here to help!

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