



Active for  
Innovative  
Logistics

**vni**  
SWITZERLAND

**LOGISTICS  
NETWORK  
ASSOCIATION**

# INNOVATIVE. COLLABORATIVE. EFFICIENT.

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

## The VNL Switzerland is committed to future-viable logistics.

It bridges research and business. Its priorities are to impart knowledge and to implement scientific expertise, research findings and technical innovations in businesses. What is more, VNL facilitates the initiation of research projects by the industry, business and service sectors as well as the transfer of research projects into solutions for supply chains and internal logistics. This strong focus on implementing research and innovation throughout the entire value chain sets the VNL apart from other logistics organizations.



Founded in 2008, the network sees itself as an interactive community that provides its members a concrete benefit. Our goal is to make Switzerland a more competitive business location and to make logistics more cost-efficient, more customer-focused and more sustainable in every sector. The VNL guides businesses to “value chain excellence”.

The VNL Switzerland maintains close ties to numerous logistics associations, research organizations and innovation funding agencies at home and abroad. The community’s size brings its members a significant benefit. It augments internal resources and reduces risks and costs.

I would be delighted if the leading network of logistics expertise in Switzerland could welcome you as a member, too. Here’s to inspiring, fruitful collaboration!

Prof. Dr. Herbert Ruile  
President of the VNL

“We build bridges  
for progress.”



LOGISTICS  
NETWORK  
ASSOCIATION

# RELEVANT. FASTER. IMPLEMENTED.

**The future belongs to innovators.** Knowledge and technology transfer constitute the basis for process, product and service innovations and new business models for sustainable competitiveness. Innovative logistics, the backbone of a modern economy, helps advance technical progress and social change.

The VNL facilitates the development and introduction of innovations in every domain of logistics. It constitutes a unique platform where research and business connect in order to implement ideas jointly in projects. The VNL is striving to ensure that at least CHF 100 million flow into logistical innovations in the next ten years. It is thus strengthening Switzerland as a logistics location and bolstering member companies' expertise and performance.

The VNL is supported by the Swiss Innovation Agency Innosuisse, one of eleven government supported national thematic networks (NTN) in Switzerland.

## THE VNL

- facilitates research-based innovation projects
- advances digital transformation
- seeks value chain excellence
- boosts performance
- makes business more successful



“We create access to additional resources.”

## OPEN. CONNECTED. PERSONAL.

### THE VNL

- brings decision makers together
- promotes dialogue about
  - ... problems
  - ... challenges
  - ... trends
- acts as a catalyst for changes in companies



**Networking is profitable.** The VNL provides various event formats to share information, knowledge and experience actively. Companies and higher education institutions may present their solutions, find inspiration for their own challenges or network at them. Our members can actively contribute to and lead events to success by delivering presentations and/or being exhibitors.

**Swiss Logistics Innovation Day** provides a platform for leading thinkers in business, government and research. They identify future challenges in logistics, development drivers, and options for meeting industry challenges.

Strategic and operative concepts, solutions, and good practices for the entire value chain are presented and discussed critically at the **Swiss Logistics Forum.**

The logistics forum is both an idea exchange and a results-oriented networking platform.

Our **Logistics Lounges** offer an opportunity for dialogue in your own language and vicinity. Among other things, supply chain excellence and best practices are presented and discussed there.

The **Science for Industry** event presents the findings of research projects. Subsequent discussions are intended to help develop new ideas for research and business.



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“We discuss today and tomorrow’s latest issues.”

# SECURE. PRECISE. TRANSDISCIPLINARY.

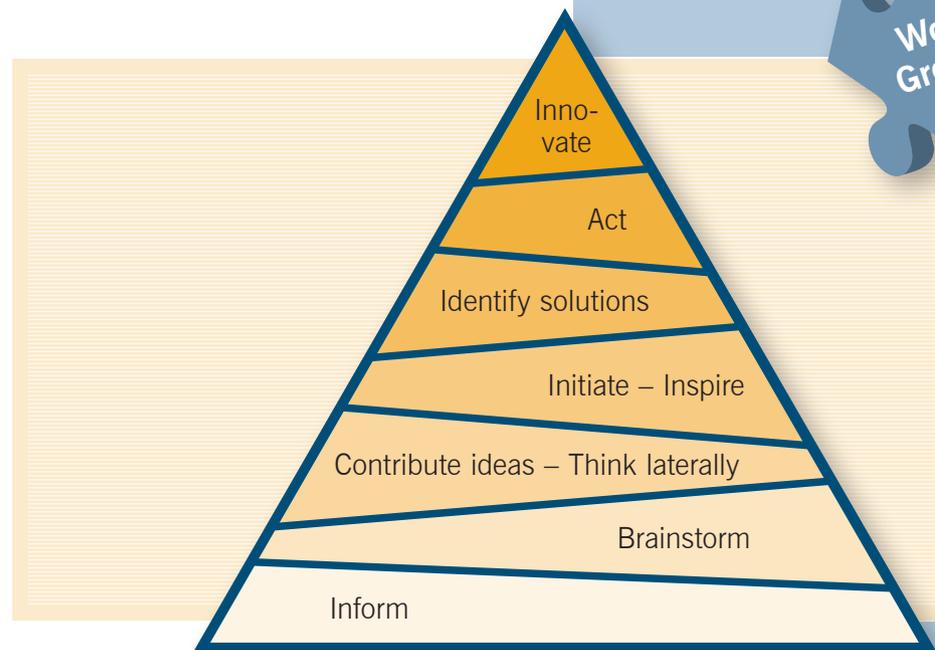
**Seek and apply solutions.** Along with events, we provide our members the opportunity to delve into pressing issues results-oriented in small groups.

Our **expert roundtables** offer their members professional dialogue as equals. Your company profits from sharing its views with representatives of other companies and coming to understand colleagues' approaches in-depth. Comparison reveals opportunities for optimization.

Our **work groups** address operative and strategic issues and challenges from procurement, production, distribution and supply chain management in interdisciplinary and cross-industry dialogue. They focus on scientific analysis, the identification of innovation capabilities, and the development of recommendations for action and feasible solutions.

## THE VNL STRATEGY

- Develop visions
- Research trends
- Find solutions
- Take advantage of collaborative partnerships
- Implement innovations
- ... in logistics applications



“We address the challenges in the industry, business and service sectors.”

## CREATIVE. DISRUPTIVE. CONCRETE.

### THE VNL

- guides
  - supports
  - advises
- ... from the idea to the project



**Think and act for (the day after) tomorrow.** Day-to-day business operations leave many companies too little time to consider medium and long-term strategies and to think about, plan for and take action for the future. They often lack the necessary resources.

The VNL provides its **Idea Studio** to help businesses capitalize on the capabilities of higher education institutions and the SLIC Swiss Logistics Innovation Centre in an organized way. We help companies concretize issues and challenges and find the right contacts at research organizations. We organize interdisciplinary, interactive creativity and innovation workshops.

The VNL fosters collaboration between research and business by **advising** concrete **projects**. It primarily sees itself as a connector of experts and logistics units, providers, research organizations and solution providers.

Innovation is a constant process that evolves beyond the realm of continuous improvement and crisis management. Concrete projects are needed, however, to boost the competitiveness or, more precisely, performance of one single company or the entire value chain. The VNL has initiated over thirty projects through its networking.



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“We conceive ideas and successful projects.”

## COLLECTIVE. INQUISITIVE. IMPLEMENTED.

**No progress without research.** The **Swiss Logistics Innovation Centre** is a neutral, nonprofit research organization founded by the VNL. It augments the work of Swiss universities and higher education institutions and is available to members as a “shared service”.

The Innovation Centre researches the impact of social, economic, technological and ecological developments on value system organization and operation. It develops innovative solutions for procurement, logistics, supply chain management, and logistics and production system interconnectivity. It pursues an interdisciplinary approach. It provides advising on the planning, completion and funding of projects. It assists with ongoing development up through marketing. The Swiss Logistics Innovation Centre is an internationally recognized center of excellence for the sustainable development and implementation of innovations for the logistics sector.

### SWISS LOGISTICS INNOVATION CENTRE

- Research
- Development
- Innovations
- Logistical applications



“We turn technology developments into applications.”

# INTERESTING. INSPIRING. PROFESSIONAL.

## COMMUNICATION

- Research news
- Sound expertise
- Critical ideas
- Best practices



**Logistics seeks the public eye.** One of the VNL's main missions is to communicate logistics and supply chain management's importance as a formative discipline for the Swiss economy. The VNL pursues a proactive communications policy on its website and social media (Xing, LinkedIn), among other things. It publishes a newsletter and a journal of its own.

The journal **LOGISTICS INNOVATION** publishes information on product, process and organization innovations twice a year. It reveals how “first movers” operate and encourages “followers” to emulate them. LOGISTICS INNOVATION is inspiring and identifies avenues to innovative logistics. Its readers are executives and decision makers in the value chain: senior managers, unit managers, supply chain managers, procurement managers, production managers and logistics managers, development managers, project managers and all employees that contribute to the development of their company's logistics.

The VNL additionally communicates in other print media and online as well. What is more, it has a partnership with the journal schweizLogistik and collaborates closely with the VNL Austria and its publications. Our goal is to heighten awareness of innovative logistics projects among professionals and executives as well as government and the public.



LOGISTICS  
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ASSOCIATION

“We nurture expertise  
through knowledge.”

# COMPETITIVE. VISIBLE. STRONG.

**Reaching goals more effectively together.** The VNL Switzerland is part of an international community of visionaries and drivers of innovation in the logistics sector, who are ardent about advanced logistics and innovative supply chain management.

The VNL Switzerland collaborates with different international bodies, including the **“Alliance for Logistics Innovation through Collaboration in Europe” (ALICE)**. The **VNL Austria**, the network of logistics excellence in Austria, was instrumental in launching the VNL Switzerland.

Members of the VNL Switzerland profit from the growing international community’s cumulative knowledge. Economies of scale additionally bring cost advantages for development of the Fourth Industrial Revolution’s technological opportunities and innovations.

The VNL supports young researchers and assists with the market entry of innovative young companies and technology startups, for instance, with the **Logistics Technology and Innovation Park (TIP)** at Logistics & Distribution in Zürich.



## MAJOR PARTNERS

### Innosuisse

Swiss Innovation Agency  
[www.innosuisse.ch](http://www.innosuisse.ch)

### VNL Austria

Network of Logistics Excellence in Austria  
[www.vnl.at](http://www.vnl.at)

### European Technology Platform ALICE

Alliance for Logistics Innovation through Collaboration in Europe  
[www.etp-logistics.eu](http://www.etp-logistics.eu)



“We are your springboard into the next era.”



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Innosuisse – Swiss Innovation Agency

# CONNECTED. INSPIRING. MOVING.

## THE VNL

- connects business and research
- communicates knowledge
- promotes experience sharing
- identifies technological opportunities
- turns research into innovation
- fosters innovations in logistics

Procurement, planning, production, distribution, supply chain management (SCM) **executives and experts meet in the VNL** with representatives of logistics technology providers, shippers and logistics providers, infrastructure providers, software houses, and research and academic organizations. Their goal is to keep developing logistics for the future.

The VNL brings to life Henry Ford's saying:

**Coming together is a beginning;  
keeping together is progress;  
working together is success.**

The VNL offers organizational and personal memberships. These facilitate intensive sharing of experience and knowledge, scientific project support and much more. Membership opens doors to other networks at home and abroad.



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“Membership pays!”

# APPLICATION

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Organization

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Contact

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Position

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Address

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Phone

Fax

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Email

Sector

Logistics clients

Consulting and IT

Educational and research organizations

Logistics systems providers

Integrated logistics providers

Shipping, handling, warehousing and logistics providers

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Date

Seal/Signature

Send your application for membership to [office@vnl.ch](mailto:office@vnl.ch)

or Verein Netzwerk Logistik Schweiz e.V.

Technoparkstrasse 1, 8005 Zürich

I am/we are applying for full membership in the Verein Netzwerk Logistik Schweiz.

I/we have read the statutes.

## Membership categories/fees

**Large companies** CHF 2000  
(> 250 employees)

**SMEs** CHF 1000  
(50 to 250 employees)

**Individuals and small companies** CHF 500  
(< 50 employees)

**Students\* and startup\*\*** CHF 50

**Associations/collectives** free

Membership dues are to be paid immediately upon joining and thereafter at the start of every year. You may cancel your membership at any time. Upon cancellation, your membership will expire on the on the last day of the year.

\* Applies to graduates of a higher education institution (with a bachelor's degree or higher for the period of one year)

\*\* Up to two years after founding

