

# TOP 100+ WOMEN IN AI+DATA IN SWITZERLAND

An initiative of



ETH AI CENTER

GREATER  
ZÜRICH  
AREA

# Originator of the report



For ten years, it was my everyday reality: in technology meetings, I was almost always the only woman at the table. The key positions? Exclusively held by men. It didn't bother me – it was simply the normality I lived in. But today, as Country Director of a Data & AI boutique consultancy, I see a different world. The conversations I have, the projects I accompany, the conferences I attend – everywhere I meet women who are shaping the future of Data & AI in Switzerland. In startups, in corporations, in academia. And it is no longer just isolated voices, but a growing chorus.

My aha moment came last summer: I was in a meeting where only women were discussing the introduction of a new AI platform. The room was filled with expertise, focus, and forward-looking ideas. Experiencing such a constellation left a deep impression on me. From then on, I began to mentally note every woman in AI I encountered – name by name, encounter by encounter. At some point, I reached more than 100 names and realized: this is no longer a footnote. This is a movement.

Out of this realization, the present report was created. It sends a clear signal: women are no longer an exception in AI & Data – they are a driving force. They design strategies, write algorithms, lead teams, and shape the discourse. With this report, we give them the visibility they deserve and show that diversity is not just a vision, but a lived reality.

## **Daria Mühlethaler**

Country Director Switzerland  
Alexander Thamm Group

# A strong signal



Artificial intelligence is already shaping research, business, and society - all the more important, then, to highlight who is driving this development. With the list of the 100+ leading women in AI and data science, we honor researchers, founders, and executives who take responsibility, advance technologies, and lead teams.

We deliberately focused on including female decision makers on the list, highlighting women from fundamental research, startups, and large companies, while excluding, for example, representatives from consulting and operational functions. In this way, the list reflects where the Swiss AI ecosystem stands today: in research, innovation, and implementation - and shows how naturally women are helping to shape it at all levels.

The greatest challenge was not finding enough women, but narrowing the list down to just over one hundred names. That is a strong signal: women are driving forces in AI - from research to product development to the scaling of solutions.

Visibility is more than recognition. It creates role models that inspire talent. Innovation needs diversity of perspectives, experiences, and backgrounds. Only then do ideas emerge that will shape our future. This list is a beginning, not an end.

## **Melanie Gabriel**

Co-Director & COO of ETH AI Center



Why do groundbreaking innovations emerge where they do? Rarely because of technology alone - they thrive where visionary people come together and push boundaries collectively. The strongest impulses come from those who not only think along, but also lead the way: individuals in key positions who view responsible AI not as a buzzword, but as a mission.

Today, talent is the decisive location factor. International companies follow the brightest minds in the world. With this report, we shine a spotlight on a resource that is often overlooked but indispensable: women who are redefining AI leadership.

The Zurich economic region positions itself clearly at the international forefront with the Zurich AI Festival. Here, innovation, cutting-edge research, and economic strength come together at the highest level. We demonstrate that the region is not only able to keep up - but aims to stand in the international spotlight. At the same time, the festival offers a wonderful platform for networking and visibility.

The 100+ women portrayed here are building bridges to the future. Let yourself be inspired by those who are already shaping tomorrow today. I wish you inspiring conversations at the festival.

## **Sabine Müller**

Deputy Managing Director of Greater Zurich Area AG and Co-initiator of the Zurich AI Festival



# Urgent matter



This report is a strong signal: women are central forces in AI and data, shaping the future of Switzerland's innovation ecosystem. Their expertise, leadership, and creativity drive progress from research to industry & entrepreneurship and vice versa, ensuring that AI develops in ways that are both powerful and responsible. Diversity is not just a matter of fairness, but of quality and competitiveness. By making these outstanding women visible, we highlight game-changing leaders in industry, transformative leaders in government and creators of social impact and advocacy through NGOs as well as entrepreneurs trailblazing innovation. They are all role models hopefully inspiring the current and next generation.

**Daniel Naeff**

Head of Innovation & Entrepreneurship  
ETH AI Center



It was a wake-up call at this year's summer event of GZA AG. In a conversation with CEO Lukas Huber, Marc Stampfli, Country Manager of Nvidia Switzerland, stated that knowledge about AI is surprisingly low among many Swiss boards of directors. A little more would lead to significantly better decisions. Many companies underestimate the radical impact of AI on their business models. But knowledge alone is not enough. Diversity in these governing bodies is just as important. Women need to have a voice to ensure that fair and innovative solutions are created. Studies clearly demonstrate this, as summarized in this report. This report demonstrates that women are a driving force for the future in the field of AI and data. And that makes them an important location factor for Switzerland.

**Christian Lüscher**

Senior PR Manager, Greater Zurich Area AG





# Top 100+ women in AI + Data

This report reflects the situation as of August 2025. It is not a ranking, but a presentation in random order, and may contain inaccuracies or omissions.



## PD Dr. Nadine Bienefeld

Lecturer “Human & AI: Strategy, Implementation and Risk Management”  
ETH Zurich

Nadine Bienefeld is an associate lecturer at ETH Zurich and founder of the AI Value Lab, where she explores how psychology and AI intersect. Having researched human-AI collaboration at NASA Ames and led human performance teams at SWISS International Airlines, she now focuses on decision-making and trust in AI for high-risk fields like healthcare. She developed an AI Readiness and Integration Framework that goes beyond technical specs and ethics to address human-factor hurdles - from team dynamics to clinician trust - ensuring AI delivers real-world value. What fascinates her most is the paradox at the heart of her work: the deeper we integrate AI, the more essential human intuition becomes. Inspired by Professor Annie Hartley’s “AI for Good” approach, she aims to make AI elevate - not replace - human expertise.



## Prof. Dr. Eleni Chatzi

Chair of Structural Mechanics & Monitoring at ETH Zürich  
ETH Zurich



## Dr. Petra Zimmermann

Head Measurements and Data, MMB  
Federal Office for Meteorology and Climatology MeteoSwiss



## Maria Apazoglou

Head of AI Engineering  
Thomson Reuters



## Prof. Dr. Ana Klimovic

Assistant Professor in the Department of Computer Science  
ETH Zurich



## Prof. Dr. Charlotte Bunne

Assistant Professor in Computer Science and Life Sciences  
EPFL



## Alicja Basta

Head Trading Data Science  
Vontobel

# Top 100+ women in AI + Data



## **Dr. Ning Wang**

Ethicist and Group Leader  
University of Zurich

Having worked for the United Nations (UN) and the World Economic Forum (WEF) over the years, Ning is active in shaping global AI governance. Her current research examines societal acceptance of disruptive technologies like AI and robotics through an ethical lens. In particular, she explores how such technologies challenge our fundamental concepts — from whether a humanoid robot should be seen as a person or a machine to questions of accountability when autonomous systems cause harm. Leveraging participatory and anticipatory methods, she develops future-proof frameworks that help technologists and policymakers govern innovation while protecting societal values. Her mission: bridging the gap between technological progress and public trust to enable responsible AI. Inspired by global voices like Fei-Fei Li, she calls for more ethicists to engage directly with developers, policymakers, and civil society to shape a vision of technology that supports a good life in a good world.



## **Prof. Dr. Yulia Sandamirskaya**

Head of a Research Center "Cognitive computing in Life Sciences"  
ZHAW



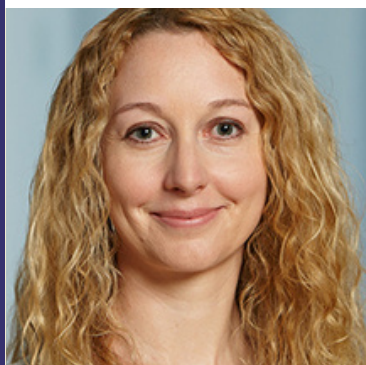
## **Prof. Dr. Niao He**

Associate Professor in the Department of Computer Science  
ETH Zürich



## **Carla Caspar**

Strategic Innovation Manager  
Inventx AG



## **Prof. Dr. Julia Vogt**

Assistant professor in Computer Science  
ETH Zurich

She is a machine learning researcher at the intersection of AI and medicine, working to bring clinical decision support from research prototypes into daily medical practice. Her projects range from methodological contributions published at top ML venues to applied collaborations with hospitals. One highlight: a freely available tool to improve the diagnosis and management of appendicitis in adolescents — developed hand-in-hand with clinicians and deployed for real-world use, directly impacting patient care. Passionate about human-centered AI, she is inspired by pioneers such as Hanna Wallach, Ulrike von Luxburg, and Mihaela van der Schaar, who show that excellence in AI research can go hand in hand with mentorship, diversity, and impact. For her, the promise of AI in medicine is clear: more accurate diagnoses, personalized treatments, and accessible healthcare for all.

# Top 100+ women in AI + Data



## **Sarah Gadd**

Chief Data Officer  
Julius Bär



## **Dr. Marina Gonzalez Vaya**

Head of New Technology, Data and AI  
Elektrizitätswerke des Kantons Zürich



## **Kathrin Hoesli**

AI in sound  
Rocket Science AG



## **Prof. Dr. Monika Ulrike Reif**

Professor for Safety Critical Systems  
ZHAW



## **Juliana Kikuti Jukowski**

Head Group Master Data Governance  
Straumann Group



## **Lisa Kondratieva**

Head AI and Digital Solutions  
ti&m



## **Dr. Yasemin Tahris**

Co-Founder / Chief Experience Officer  
flowit AG

Yasemin Tahris is a psychologist, entrepreneur, and educator who bridges organizational psychology and AI to build more inclusive, people-centered workplaces. As Co-Founder of flowit AG, she has developed AI-powered agents used daily by 40,000+ employees - many in non-desk roles - to support surveys, performance management, and leadership development. She lectures at FHNW and Kalaidos University and supervises research on the intersection of psychology and AI, translating insights into practical tools. Currently, she is piloting interactive, personalized AI agents that analyze data in real time, with promising results at the AI-psychology interface. Inspired by leaders like Fei-Fei Li and Joy Buolamwini, she champions ethical, human-centered AI that amplifies real employee voices and drives meaningful organizational change.



# Top 100+ women in AI + Data



## **Lisa Bechtold**

Head of AI Governance  
Zurich Insurance

She is one of the sharp voices shaping the future of AI. At Zurich Insurance Group, she pioneered AI governance, creating frameworks and platforms to ensure safe, transparent and reliable use of intelligent systems. Today, her focus lies on the next frontier: Agentic AI and multi-agent systems, technologies racing toward real-world deployment for highly complex tasks. Beyond the corporate sphere, she contributes to the World Economic Forum's AI Governance Alliance, where she pushes for human-centric and responsible adoption of transformative technologies. What makes her stand out is the rare mix of strategic foresight, technical credibility and ethical commitment. Equally passionate about diversity in tech, she advocates for sparking interest in STEM early - because the future of AI, she insists, must be not only innovative but inclusive.



## **Kim Kordel**

Head of Digital Excellence & AI  
Swiss Post



## **Dr. Catherine Kosten**

Head of AI and Legal Tech Innovation  
Homburger



## **Janet Munro**

Head Program Innovation  
Novartis



## **Dr. Arti Pai**

Head of Robotics, Mechatronics & AI  
Hilti Group



## **Prof. Dr. Theresa Schmiedel**

Head, Institute of Business Information Technology  
ZHAW



## **Kathrin Petrow**

Head of Product Management & Data Analytics  
Goldbach Neo OOH AG

# Top 100+ women in AI + Data



## Kathrin Braunwarth

Mitglied der Geschäftsleitung, Head Data, Technology & Innovation  
AXA Schweiz

At AXA Switzerland, she has been at the forefront of the company's decade-long data and AI journey, steering it from the era of "Big Data" to today's wave of generative AI. With a strong data foundation in place, she has championed early adoption of RAG applications, VoiceAI and AI-driven communication triage, transforming customer service, claims management and software engineering. Now, she is reimagining processes with an AI-first mindset, making technology an integral driver of business value. What excites her most is working at the intersection of rapid tech acceleration and tangible impact for customers. A believer in diversity, she sees data and AI as a field where pragmatic, results-driven female leadership can thrive - and where more women are now stepping into influential roles.



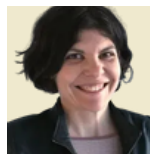
## Nadia Kohler

Head AI Lab  
Tamedia



## Dr. Anita Schmid

Head of Data Science & Business Intelligence  
Migros Supermarkt AG



## Prof. Dr. Alisa Rupenyan-Vasileva

Rieter Endowed Professorship for Industrial Artificial Intelligence  
ZHAW



## Dr. Julinda Gllavata

Head GCRG Artificial Intelligence Center of Innovation  
UBS

Julinda is a senior leader in data science with a PhD in Image Processing and a background in Computer Science. She has a proven track record of building and scaling data and AI functions across diverse industries, delivering measurable business impact through innovation and operational excellence. Recognized for her ability to combine deep technical expertise with empathetic leadership, Julinda drives impactful AI solutions while fostering inclusive, high-performing teams.

# The secret ingredient of good AI: Diversity

Women are not just a nice add-on in AI development - they are crucial for fair, trustworthy, and innovative systems. Numerous studies show: The more diverse the teams, the less bias, the better the results - and the smarter our artificial intelligence.

## **Stop bias: Diversity as a shield**

Studies show: Diverse teams are significantly more effective at identifying and correcting algorithmic biases. Gender bias, in particular, is detectable in nearly all automated decision-making systems, posing real risks for women and other minorities.

Source: Stanford Social Innovation Review (2024); Frontiers in AI (2022)

## **Better decisions thanks to diversity**

When different perspectives are lacking, poorer outcomes arise - from job decisions to healthcare. Diversity acts like an engine of innovation: It reduces groupthink, fosters creativity, and enhances the quality of decisions.

Source: UN Women (2025); TrustCloud AI (2025)

## **Preventing systemic biases**

44% of the AI systems studied exhibit gender bias, with 25% even showing multiple discrimination. The problem lies not only in the algorithms but also in the data. More women in development and training mean: fairer systems for everyone.

Source: UN Women (2025); ResearchGate (2022)

## **Inclusive governance for trustworthy AI**

Only those who have diversity at the table can design fair, transparent, and trustworthy AI. Without it, systems unconsciously reinforce old biases - with consequences for millions of users worldwide.

Source: AI and Ethics (2023); Premier Science (2025)

## **Empowerment through AI leadership**

AI-supported management tools can empower women in leadership roles - they make better decisions and actively shape change. This creates role models and attracts new talent to the industry.

Source: Frontiers in Psychology (2024)



# Top 100+ women in AI + Data



## **Dr. Margot Löwenberg**

Head of Data Analytics  
Swiss International Air Lines Ltd.

At Lufthansa Group, she is shaping how data and AI transform the passenger experience. Recently appointed head of Data Analytics within the Digital Hangar, she now drives the digital strategy across the entire customer journey — from booking to arrival — while equipping teams with advanced AI tools. Previously, she led the Data Science Delivery Team, spearheading AI projects and building a thriving internal ChatGPT community, complete with training programs to make AI adoption practical and empowering. Her passion lies in bridging technology and people, ensuring AI improves both business outcomes and employee confidence. Inspired by leaders like Mira Murati, Jaime Teevan, and Fei-Fei Li, she sees the future of AI leadership as diverse, empathetic, and grounded in responsible innovation.



## **Simone Stahel**

Head of Data, Analytics & AI  
Mettler-Toledo International, Inc



## **Katrin Schwenk**

Head of Product Data  
STOBAG AG



## **Laure Fouilloux**

Director of Data  
SMG General Marketplaces

Laure is driving AI innovation at Ricardo, where she helped the platform earn the Digital Commerce Champion 2025 award. Her team built Ricardo's AI-powered listing feature, enabling users to post second-hand items in seconds — the result of extensive preparation projects and rapid prototyping that she finds so exciting about today's AI landscape. Beyond convenience, she leverages AI to fight fraud, detecting suspicious patterns and making the marketplace safer. A tech leader with a math and IT background, she has witnessed the growing presence of women in data and AI, from data scientists to ML engineers to directors — many of whom she has hired herself. For inspiration, she looks no further than her own colleagues, whose talent and collaboration make innovation a daily reality.

# Top 100+ women in AI + Data



## **Nina Habicht**

Founder & CEO  
Dreamleap



## **Neha Tharani**

Vice President – Data Engineering  
Swiss Re



## **Susan Tillmann**

Head Data Science & Advanced AI  
Takeda Pharmaceuticals International AG



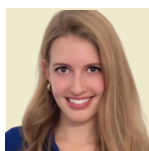
## **Dr. Irina Koitz**

Director of Data Strategy and Intelligence  
Johnson Controls



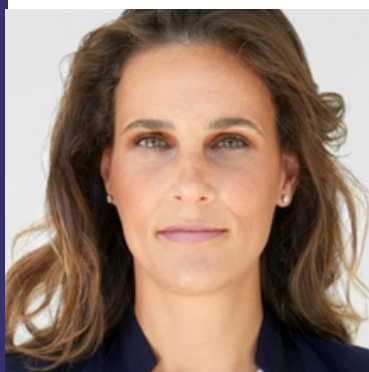
## **Chiara Debenedetti**

Global Head of Data and Analytics  
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)



## **Paulina Grnarova**

Co-Founder, CEO  
DeepJudge



## **Petra Ehmann**

Group Chief Innovation and AI Officer  
Ringier AG

Petra is a board member, executive, and former Group Chief Innovation & AI Officer at Ringier, known for building bridges between cutting-edge technology and business impact. Over the past 15 years, she has shaped the future of digital transformation at global companies, launched multi-million-dollar products at Google, and now focuses on scaling high-impact AI use cases while upskilling 90% of employees through mandatory AI training modules. Recognized as one of Switzerland's Top 100 Digital Shapers and a member of the World Economic Forum's Young Global Leaders, Petra believes the next 12–18 months offer a unique window for new business models built on AI. She draws inspiration from pioneers like Rana el Kaliouby, co-founder of Affectiva, and champions technology not as an end in itself, but as a catalyst for reinvention and growth.



Melanie Gabriel  
Co-Director & COO of ETH AI Center

# Visibility, diversity, impact

**The selection of the 100+ leading women in AI and Data follows clear criteria: leadership, project responsibility, and technological contributions – deliberately focused on industry, startups, and academia. The result shows: women shape the entire AI ecosystem, from fundamental research to corporate leadership.**

## **How was the list of 100+ leading women in AI & Data compiled, and what sets apart the women who made it onto the list?**

We consistently listed women who have a decisive impact: leadership and project responsibility, team management, and contributions to the further development of technology. The focus was deliberately on industry, startups, and academia; we excluded consulting, for example — otherwise there would have been even more names. A small curation team carefully researched every nomination. The biggest challenge was not finding enough women, but limiting the list to just over 100. And that's exactly what gives hope: there are many more. That's why I'm calling on readers: if you're missing names, please let us know. This list is a starting point, not an endpoint.

## **Why is it important to make women in AI visible? What impact do you expect such rankings to have on the industry and on emerging talent?**

Visibility creates role models that inspire—especially for emerging talent. But it's not just about women; it's about diversity in general: perspectives, backgrounds, experiences. Anyone who takes innovation seriously must make diversity visible – only then does the power arise to open up new fields with new solutions.

## **The list includes researchers, founders, and corporate leaders. What does this breadth reveal about the Swiss AI ecosystem?**

The list shows that AI is no longer a niche topic but permeates every level of research, society, and the economy – from basic research to international tech corporations. And it's inspiring to see that women shape this entire spectrum just as naturally as their male colleagues.

## **Which areas of focus are the women on the list working on, and what does that say about the development of AI?**

The list reflects the diversity of the entire AI ecosystem: research, infrastructure, applications, and leadership. Women are represented in all these areas: they develop technologies, scale solutions, take responsibility, and actively shape the future of our society. Such diversity of expertise and perspectives creates the foundation for innovation that is impactful and future-proof.

## **When we look again at the leading minds in AI five years from now: what would you like to see by then in terms of diversity and leadership roles?**

My wish is that diversity is not seen as a "category," but as lived normality. That we naturally have diverse teams—by gender, origin, social background, etc.—and that it is clear: innovation emerges where different perspectives meet. And that the next generation of talent has even more role models showing them: "That could be my path too."



# Top 100+ women in AI + Data



## Angelika Pauer

Group Head of Strategy & Innovation Data & Business Intelligence (DBI)  
Zurich Insurance



## Iryna Renevey

Head of Central Data  
Swiss Marketplace Group



## Dr. Leonie Korn

CO-Founder, CPTO  
UpLeap by breathe medical AG

She is turning AI into a life-saving tool for medical professionals worldwide. As the founder of UpLeap, she is building an adaptive micro-learning platform that delivers scenario-based training to clinicians — whether in a Swiss hospital, a bustling South African ER, or a rural Zambian clinic. By combining local guidelines, user input, and training data, UpLeap generates realistic cases that reflect each setting's realities, improving clinical preparedness and turning everyday learning into actionable workforce insights. Already piloted in South Africa, Zambia, Kenya, and Switzerland, the platform proves that one system can scale across vastly different healthcare environments. Passionate about ethical and empathetic AI, she advocates for women to not only be present but to actively shape the field, ensuring technology remains human-centered and inclusive.



## Maria-Grazia Giuffreda

Associate Director for the User Program & Strategic Roadmaps  
CSCS



## Claire Corish

Managing Director, Head of Data Analytics and AI for GWM  
S&I and P&C Technology, UBS



## Anke Lünstedt

Team Lead Data Analytics  
NZZ Neue Zürcher Zeitung

# Top 100+ women in AI + Data



## **Marlene Brakhane**

Co-Founder & COO  
Netfabric.ai

As COO and Co-Founder of NetFabric, an ETH Zurich spin-off, she is making AI practical for network operations. By combining AI with expert-guided models, NetFabric delivers reliable, noise-free insights that network operators can trust — a breakthrough in a field often plagued by false positives. A mathematician with an MBA and a background in investment banking, she has spent nearly a decade helping startups grow, scale, and exit successfully. Before NetFabric, she was an early team member at DeepCode.ai, whose AI-powered code analysis technology was acquired by Snyk and became the backbone of Snyk Code, now generating over \$100M in ARR. Her passion lies in turning AI innovation into trusted, scalable products that solve real operational challenges.



## **Ayisha Piotti**

Managing Partner  
RegHorizon



## **Laura Rodríguez Gómez**

Head Data & Tools, Digital Finance  
Novartis



## **Fabienne Zwingli**

Head Risk Data & Analytics  
Raiffeisen Schweiz

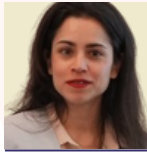


## **Prof. Dr. Anna Zeiter**

Chief Privacy Officer  
Ebay

At eBay, she is helping shape the future of AI at the intersection of rapid technological progress and emerging regulation. Working at “ultra-speed,” she drives the development of new AI use cases while keeping a close eye on evolving global frameworks. A major milestone this year was eBay’s signing of the EU Commission’s AI Pact, a voluntary commitment to implement parts of the EU AI Act ahead of schedule — demonstrating the company’s proactive stance on responsible AI. She celebrates the fact that AI is a field of equal opportunity, with women taking on influential roles worldwide, and draws inspiration from leaders like Lisa Bechtold and Alexandra Ebert who are driving innovation with purpose.

# Top 100+ women in AI + Data



## **Eleni Verteouri**

Founder  
Financier Labs



## **Isabelle Lois**

Vice-Chair of UN CSTD, Senior Policy Advisor  
Swiss Federal Office of Communications



## **Prof. Dr. April Wang**

Assistant Professor in the Department of Computer Science  
ETH Zurich



## **Prof. Dr. Valentina Boeva**

Assistant Professor of Computational Cancer Genomics  
ETH Zurich



## **Eva Joho-Blättler**

Head of Data Management  
Department of Clinical Research, University of Berne



## **Dr. Agata Ferretti**

AI Alliance Lead for Europe  
AI Alliance / IBM Research



## **Katharina Frey**

Executive Director  
ICAIN

Katharina Frey is redefining how nations, researchers and innovators work together to make AI serve the common good. As Executive Director of ICAIN, the Swiss-global network embedded at ETH Zurich, she connects computing power, data and expertise to tackle challenges in health, climate, agriculture and education. A former diplomat, Frey brings a global cooperation mindset into the academic world, building platforms that bridge science, policy and society. She helped launch a pioneering international red-teaming network for AI safety and continues to advocate for transdisciplinary, inclusive collaboration as the key to responsible AI. Passionate about visibility for women in AI, she champions diverse leadership and celebrates those shaping the field — from pioneers like Fei-Fei Li to her peers across ICAIN's global network — as role models for a more human-centered future of AI.

# Top 100+ women in AI + Data



## **Christine Choirat**

Head of Section “Data Science & AI”  
Swiss Federal Statistical Office

After moving from academia to government five years ago, she now leads mission-driven innovation focused on solving real public sector challenges with solutions that are rigorous, lawful, and ethical. She heads the team behind Lomas, Switzerland's first open-source platform for confidential data analysis, enabling privacy-preserving research on sensitive data at a national scale. Passionate about equitable technology, she calls for more women to shape both AI strategy and technology so that it works for everyone. She draws inspiration from leaders like Francesca Dominici, who applies AI to pressing health and climate issues, and Mercè Crosas, a pioneer of data architecture and FAIR principles — both of whom shaped her own approach to responsible AI innovation.



## **Julie Yost-Zihlmann**

CITO Head Data Curation & Reporting | Director  
Swiss Re Corporate Solutions



## **Denise Wipfli**

Head of Reporting & Data Analytics — Technical Center Non Life  
Generali



## **Dr. Maartje van den Dungen – Meijs**

Global Head Consumer Data, Audiences & Profiling  
Philip Morris International



## **Ashwini Sondur**

Head Enterprise Data, Global Informatics  
F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd



## **Lea Seiler**

Head of Digital Data & Analytics  
SBB CFF FFS



## **Ana-Maria Manda**

Head AI Adoption Services Center  
SAP

# Greater Zurich Area: Driving the AI revolution

Switzerland is emerging as a powerful AI hub, based on its excellence in precision mechanics and advanced industries. With world-class universities and the leading position in global innovation rankings, Switzerland, and especially the Greater Zurich Area, is a champion in artificial intelligence.



## **Excellence in innovation & research**

Switzerland has been the global innovation leader for over a decade. Home to top universities and AI research institutes, the Greater Zurich Area in particular is a leading hub for AI research and development across a variety of fields and use cases.



## **Thriving AI ecosystem**

The Greater Zurich Area boasts a vibrant tech landscape with top-notch infrastructure and exceptional talent, which has attracted industry giants like Google, Meta, Microsoft, IBM, NVIDIA, and OpenAI to establish AI labs in the region.



## **Launchpad for success**

The collaborative environment in Greater Zurich enables dynamic partnerships and high levels of innovative output. The robust network of peer companies and AI-friendly regulation provide the perfect conditions for advancing AI initiatives.

## **Greater Zurich Area makes the top 5 in...**



- #1 Switzerland is the world's leading talent hub<sup>1</sup>**
- #2 Zurich has second highest AI talent density in Europe<sup>2</sup>**
- #3 in AI Intensity (AI capacity relative to population)<sup>3</sup>**
- #4 in AI research and development<sup>3</sup>**
- #5 Switzerland is in the top 5 countries in Europe by AI VC funding<sup>2</sup>**

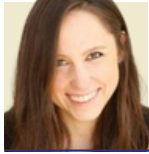
<sup>1</sup> World Talent Ranking 2025, IMD

<sup>2</sup> AI Europe Report 2024, dealroom.co

<sup>3</sup> Global AI Index 2023, Tortoise Media



# Top 100+ women in AI + Data



## **Pelin Anli Bedirhanoglu**

Director of Productmanagement Size&Fit  
Zalando



## **Dr. Simone Auer**

Deputy Head of Economic Data Science  
Swiss National Bank



## **Dr. Kerstin Johansson Baker**

Head of Competence Network for AI (CNAI)  
Swiss Federal Statistical Office



## **Dr. Nora C. Toussaint**

Lead Health & Biomedical, Head of Biomedical Data Science  
Swiss Data Science Center



## **Dr. Anne Jorstad**

Head of Data Team  
Swiss National Science Foundation Bern



## **Vanessa Viellieber**

Head of Data & Advanced Analytics  
AMAG Group

As Head of Data & Advanced Analytics at a leading automotive company, she is helping steer the industry's transformation into a truly data-driven enterprise. Her work spans predictive maintenance, intelligent supply chain optimization, customer behavior modeling, and generative AI for engineering — all aimed at delivering measurable value and enabling sustainable mobility solutions. One of her key achievements has been building a cross-functional AI governance framework to ensure that data is used ethically, transparently, and with impact. She has also scaled a high-performing data science team, embedding a culture where data is a strategic asset. Inspired by leaders like Fei-Fei Li and Cynthia Rudin, she champions interpretable, human-centered AI and believes diverse perspectives are key to building trustworthy, transformative systems.



## **Sascha Schoenenberger**

Head Information & Data Protection / Governance  
Zurich Insurance Company Ltd

# Top 100+ women in AI + Data



## **Afke Schouten**

Founder  
AI Bridge



## **Prof. Dr. Menna El-Assady**

Assistant Professor at the Department of Computer Science  
ETH Zurich



## **Stavroula Skylaki**

VP, AI platform  
Thomson Reuters

She is on a mission to democratize AI—and with over 22,000 users now leveraging Thomson Reuters' Enterprise AI Platform, she's succeeding. As the platform's leader, she empowers everyone from legal professionals to journalists to build and evaluate AI solutions, fostering a culture where innovation thrives far beyond the data science team. Her journey spans more than a decade, from advancing AI methodologies in stem cell research to pioneering NLP applications just as Transformers transformed the field. She bridges academia and industry, forging partnerships with Swiss universities to bring cutting-edge research into practice and mentoring young female talent to grow the next generation of AI leaders. Inspired by Fei-Fei Li and Daphne Koller, she champions human-centered, inclusive AI that is not just powerful but purposeful.



## **Alexandra Stieger-Federer**

Head of Customer Analytics & Data Management  
Sanitas Krankenversicherung



## **Fatima Taki**

Head of AI Center of Excellence  
G+D Netcetera



## **Cornelia Gramich**

Head of Data Services  
Swiss Life Asset Managers

# Top 100+ women in AI + Data



## **Prof. Dr. Effy Vayena**

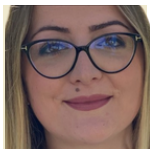
Professor of Bioethics and Associate Vice President for Digital Transformation & Governance  
ETH Zurich

She is a leading authority on the ethics and governance of digitalization and artificial intelligence in health, with a particular focus on translating scientific innovation into responsible policy. She will assume office as Vice President for Knowledge Transfer and Corporate Relations at ETH Zurich in 2026. After earning her PhD in Medical History at the University of Minnesota and completing her habilitation at the University of Zurich, she worked at the World Health Organization before founding ETH's Health Ethics and Policy Lab. Vayena co-chairs the WHO expert advisory group on AI in health ethics and governance, serves on the World Economic Forum's Global Risks Advisory Board, and advises governments and international institutions worldwide. Her work ensures that digital innovation in healthcare remains ethical, trustworthy, and human-centered.



## **Penny Schiffer**

Co-founder & Principal AI Architect  
Raized.ai



## **Ivana Bogojevic**

Head of Global Data Management  
GF Piping Systems Schweiz



## **Marie Tran**

Head of Data Science and Engineering  
Swiss Marketplace Group



## **Simone Thompson**

Co-CEO, Co-Founder  
CLIMADA Technologies



## **Elena Maran**

Chief AI Risk Officer  
Modulos AG



## **Dr. Sina Wulfmeyer**

Chief Data Officer  
Unique AI

# Top 100+ Women in AI + Data



## Ludmila Kalt

Head of Data

20 Minuten

At 20 Minuten, she is harnessing AI to transform both journalism and product development. For her, the most exciting shift is that AI removes technical bottlenecks, automating tasks like coding so teams can focus on generating insights and driving innovation. In the newsroom, AI enables more precise article categorization, allowing deeper statistical analysis and new correlations to be uncovered. On the product side, it powers personalization, delivering more relevant reader experiences. She sees women increasingly shaping AI strategies in fields that directly affect society, from media to healthcare, ensuring technology remains inclusive and meaningful. Personally, she is inspired by her colleague Selena Calleri, whose work as AI Ambassador and Prompt Engineer helps embed AI knowledge and culture across the organization.



## Françoise Monnerat

Talent Development Head - AI, Data & Analytics Hub

UBS



## Bianca Ruffieux

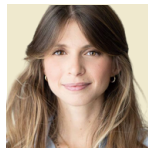
Head Data Management

Julius Baer



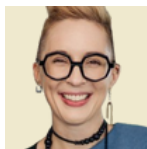
## Prof. Dr. Melanie Zeilinger

Associate Professor at the Department of Mechanical and Process Engineering  
ETH Zurich



## Prof. Dr. Giorgia Ramponi

Assistant Professor, Autonomous Learning and Predictive  
Intelligence Lab, University of Zurich



## Prof. Dr. Mary-Anne Hartley

Adjunct Professor, Director

LiGHT-EPFL



## Carla Bünger

Co-Founder & Vice-Chairwoman of the Board

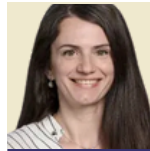
Phoenix Technologies AG

# Top 100+ women in AI + Data



## **Dr. Sheryl Muller**

Head of Data Science  
A.J. JACOBUS



## **Prof. Dr. Jasmina Bogojeska**

Professor for AI and Machine Learning  
ZHAW



## **Neslihan Mete**

Global Head Enterprise Data & Analytics  
Philip Morris International



## **Daniela Keller**

Chief Data Officer  
Credaris AG



## **Prof. Dr. Siyu Tang**

Assistant Professor of Computer Science  
ETH Zürich



## **Nathalie Lavanchy-Prack**

Head AI Strategy & Projects  
Helvetia Versicherungen Schweiz



## **Ruchika Sachdeva**

Global Head of Data, Insights & AI  
Coca-Cola HBC

Ruchika is an AI leader at CCH, where she places artificial intelligence at the heart of business strategy to create lasting competitive advantage. She collaborates across the organization to enable three frontiers: transforming customer experience through hyper-personalized commercial execution, empowering employees with digital assistants and AI tools, and enabling intelligent operations with digital twins, smart factories, and connected workers. Passionate about the transformative power of AI, she sees the technology not only as a driver of growth but as a revolution in the way people live and work. Encouraged by the increasing presence of women in C-suite and board roles in data and AI, she is inspired by trailblazers like Sol Rashidi and Elizabeth Theophille, who are shaping the industry with vision and expertise.



# A leading hub for AI talent

Switzerland and the Greater Zurich Area have continuously led global talent rankings for AI talent density. The Greater Zurich Area is a hub for deeptech talent, especially in the AI sector.

## #2

**Zurich ranks 2nd in Europe for AI engineer density**

Zurich ranks 3rd in Europe for the number of AI engineers<sup>1</sup> and 2nd for AI engineer density<sup>2</sup>, significantly surpassing the US and China in per capita AI expertise among software engineers.

<sup>1</sup> Sequoia Atlas, 2023

<sup>2</sup> AI Europe Report 2024, dealroom.co

## Greater Zurich's talent hub attracts big tech for cutting-edge R&D

Switzerland is recognized for its deep talent pool, particularly in tech. Almost 6% of its employment base are ICT specialists, 1.5 times the European average<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Eurostat, 2022

## 7/10

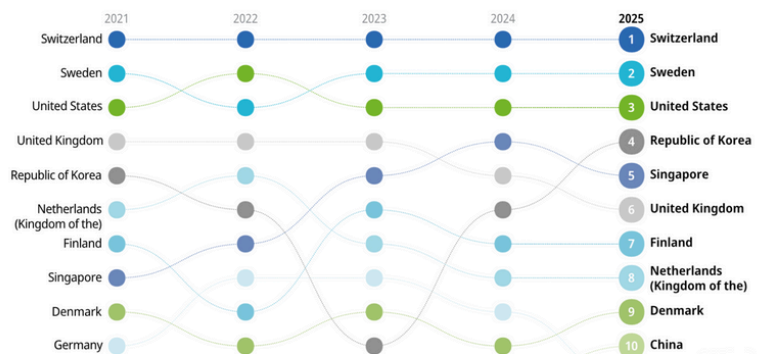
**7 out of 10 globally leading AI companies<sup>1</sup> are located in Greater Zurich: Microsoft, Alphabet, Nvidia, Meta, IBM, Adobe, and Palantir**

<sup>1</sup> U.S. News, 2024

## Global Talent Ranking: Switzerland leads since over a decade

The world-class universities and research institutions in the Greater Zurich Area not only attract brilliant minds from all over the world but also produce a significant amount of highly-skilled talent, making the region a hotspot for AI innovation.

Switzerland also offers a high quality of life and excellent working conditions, which play a crucial role in attracting and retaining talent, ensuring that top professionals choose to stay here and continue to contribute to the local AI ecosystem.



World Talent Ranking, IMD 2025

# Top 100+ Women in AI + Data



## **Fruzsina Homolka**

Chief Data Officer  
SRG SSR

As Chief Data Officer in public service media, she champions a vision where data empowers people — not just systems. Her mission is to ensure data is collected, understood, and used ethically, driving personalization, accessibility, and sustainable innovation in broadcasting. With a career rooted in sustainability and transparency, she has led data strategies, contributed to European media innovation, and been recognized for advancing sustainable development. She collaborates across disciplines to build secure, responsible, and future-ready data ecosystems, convinced that putting people at the center of digital transformation strengthens trust, inclusion, and democracy. For her, technology aligned with human values is not just about better systems, but about a better society.



## **Laure Willemin**

Chief Technology and Information Officer  
cablex AG



## **Nathalie Buser**

Head Data Management & Statistics  
Lindenhofgruppe AG



## **Laura Tocmacov**

Co-Founder & CEO  
ImpactAI Foundation

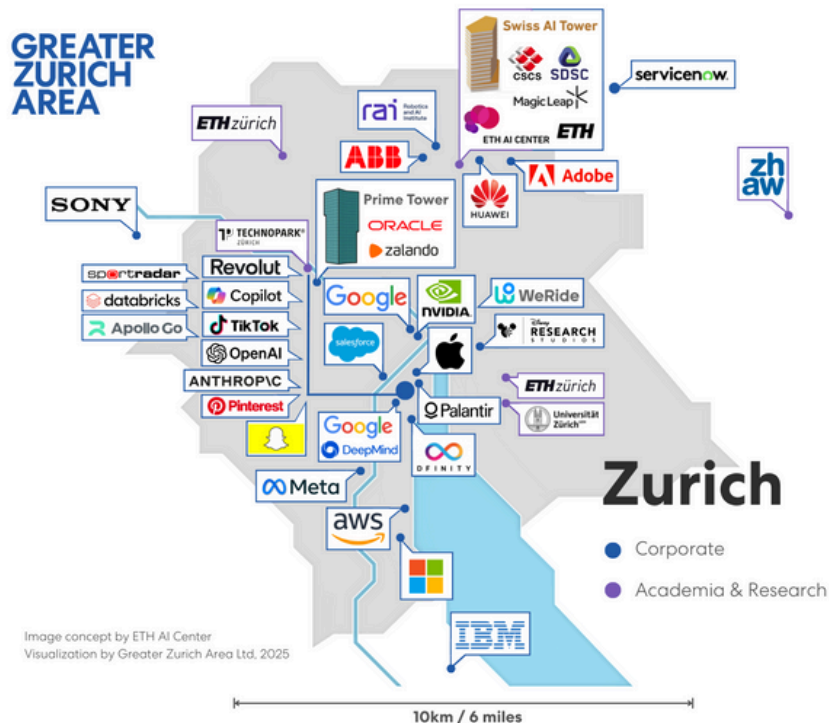


## **Angela Carpintieri**

Head Analytics & Transformation  
Julius Bär

As the driving force behind Bank Julius Baer's AI strategy, Angela is redefining how wealth managers harness artificial intelligence. She leads developments that enhance decision-making and operational efficiency, particularly in risk management, while also overseeing the bank's AI governance and risk framework to ensure safe and trustworthy use. At the intersection of innovation and responsibility, she pushes for a truly data-driven organization and builds bridges to academia through research collaborations with the ETH AI Center. Her work positions Julius Baer at the forefront of AI in finance, advancing both the bank's competitive edge and the wider conversation on the ethical use of AI in highly regulated industries.

# The women behind Zurich's AI spotlight



**Stefanie Guyer**

Marketing & Communications Manager  
Greater Zurich Area AG



**Dr. Helga Rietz**

Head of Communications  
ETH AI Center

When the team of Greater Zurich Area AG (GZA) met with the OpenAI team earlier this year, the topic was the Big Tech Map. It has been the talk of the town internationally for months – companies even add themselves to the map and share it on social media. Behind the map are Stefanie Guyer, Marketing & Communications Manager at Greater Zurich Area AG, and Helga Rietz, Head of Communications at the ETH AI Center.

Helga created the first version of the map together with visual artist Lucy Kägi in 2022, while building the AI Center's communications strategy. A physicist turned science writer and former science editor at Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Helga combines her scientific training and journalistic expertise to shape conversations on AI, both as a strategist at ETH AI Center and as a frequent speaker, panelist, and moderator in Switzerland and abroad.

Since joining GZA in 2022, Stefanie has been successfully combining strategic storytelling with a deep understanding of innovation ecosystems. She has expanded the Zurich Big Tech Map into a global reference point and shaped the narrative around Zurich's AI hub. The map went viral, has been updated more than 15 times as new players arrived, and is now widely cited in reports, presentations, and pitches – including by Google and Pinterest. It has firmly placed Greater Zurich on the world stage as a Big Tech and AI powerhouse. The project's international traction led Stefanie and the GZA team to partner again with the ETH AI Center to create a new map featuring more than 200 companies and detailed insights about Zurich's AI ecosystem - to be released very soon.

# About the organizations

**GREATER  
ZURICH  
AREA**

## **Greater Zurich Area Ltd.**

As the official investment promotion agency of the Zurich economic region, Greater Zurich Area AG (GZA) supports international companies looking to expand into Switzerland by offering free, tailor-made services to help evaluate locations, navigate taxes and regulations, and connect with key partners across the Greater Zurich region.

**westhive**

## **Special Thanks to Westhive**

We would like to extend our special thanks to Westhive for their support.

## **Innovation Ecosystem**

In an ecosystem, participants interact with each other and their environment. Westhive fosters this by connecting companies, startups, research, education, and service providers - creating a unique network where ideas grow, business models are tested, and all members benefit from collaboration.

## **Impressum**

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**ETH AI CENTER**

## **ETH AI Center**

The ETH AI Center is ETH Zurich's central hub for artificial intelligence. We bring together researchers of AI foundations, applications, and implications across all departments. We foster research excellence, industry innovation, and AI entrepreneurship to promote trustworthy, accessible, and inclusive AI systems. As an interface between science, industry, and society, we create an environment where pioneering AI solutions can emerge and thrive.

Since its inception in 2020, the ETH AI Center has become a driving force in shaping Greater Zurich's AI ecosystem. We have mentored aspiring founders through our Entrepreneurs in Residence program, seen our fellows take up leading roles in academia and industry worldwide, grown a network of more than 60 affiliated startups across fields from robotics and AI safety to medical technologies and generative AI, and launched initiatives such as AI House Davos, the Zurich AI Festival, the AI Challenge for Teenagers, ICAIN, AI Launchpad, and the Swiss AI Initiative—which most recently released a fully open and transparent large language model as national infrastructure.