

# Opportunities and challenges in the Swiss financial centre

5 September 2023 International Structured Product Forum, Lucerne August Benz, Deputy CEO

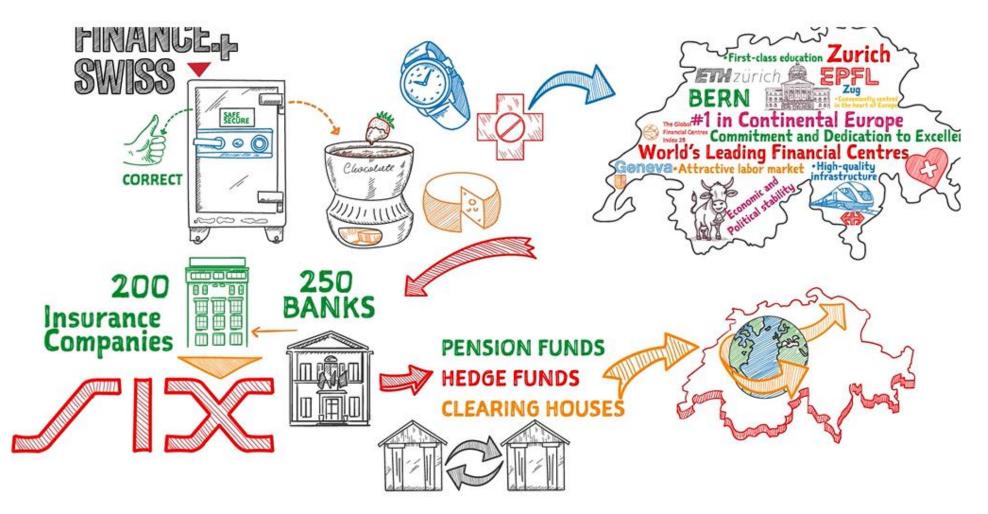
### Agenda

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The role of a modern Association	The Swiss financial market today	Current challenges	The example of Digital Finance	The example of Sustainable Finance	What role could SSPA play?

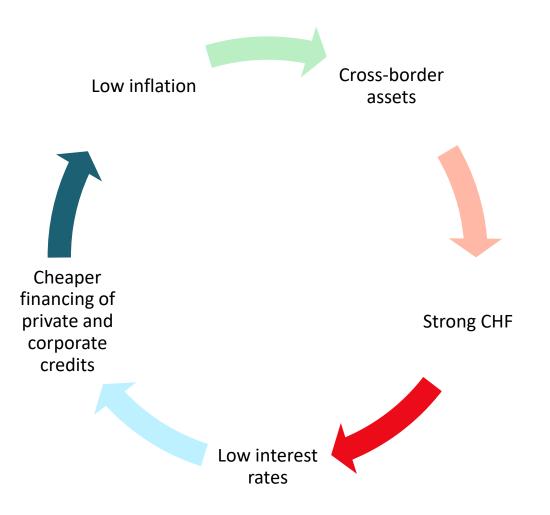


# The role of a modern Association

#### The Swiss financial market



### The role of the Swiss financial market



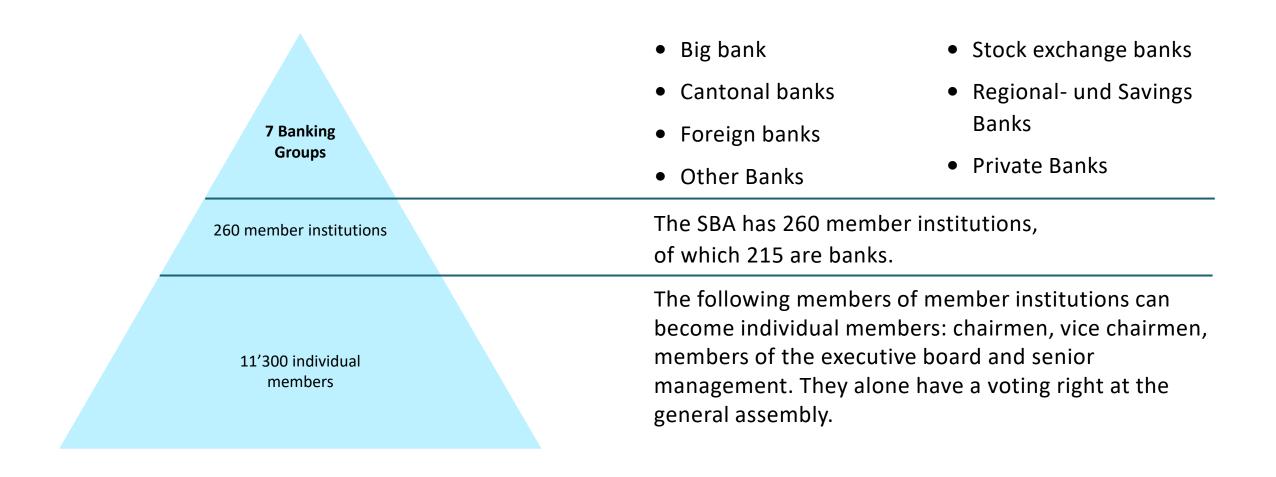
### Swiss Banking operates in a symbiotic relationship with all other industries Consequently, Swiss Banking operates in a network of partners



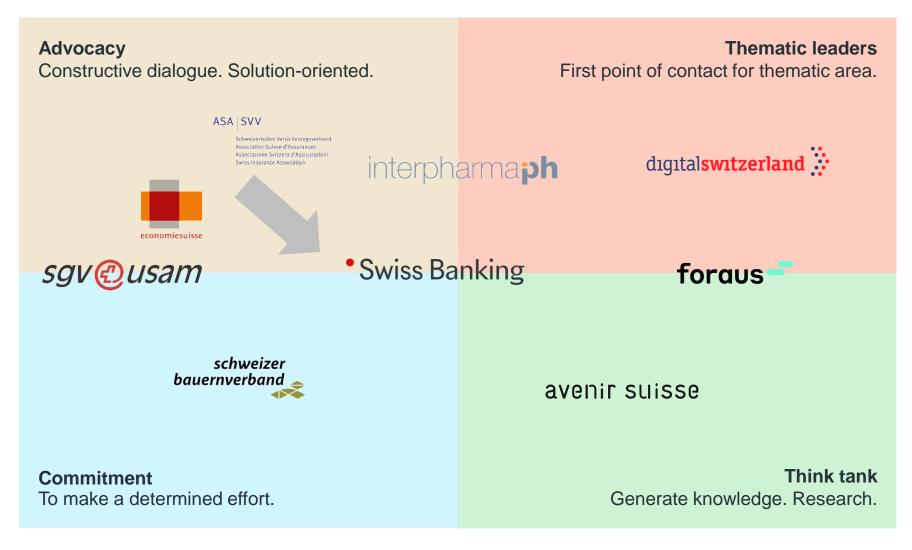
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#### **Members of the Swiss Bankers Association**



#### Forms of the association's work



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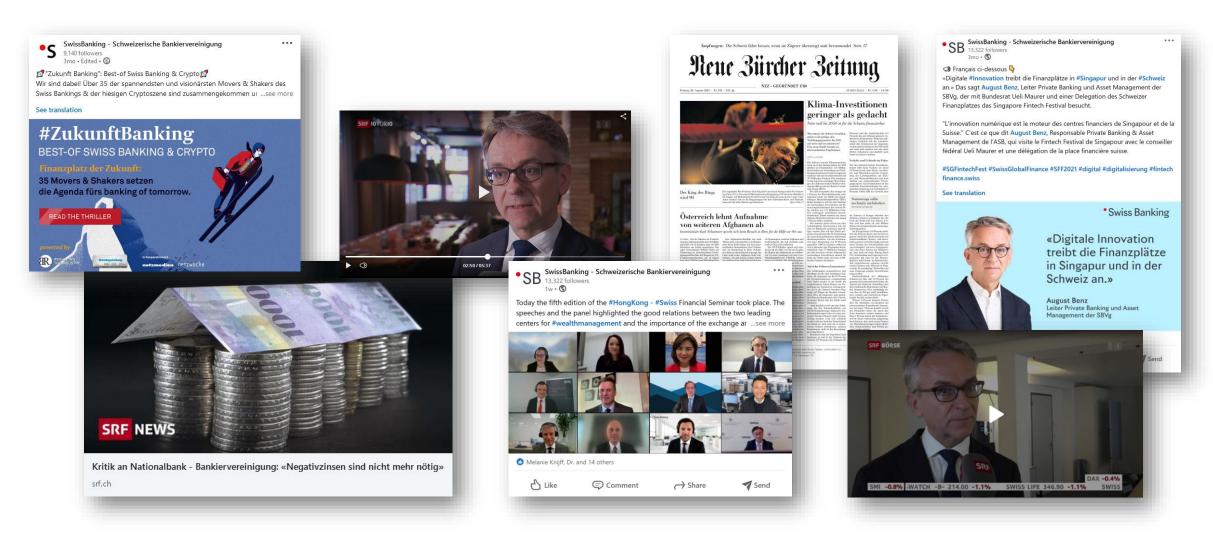
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#### **Communication examples of the Association**



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#### **Media attention**

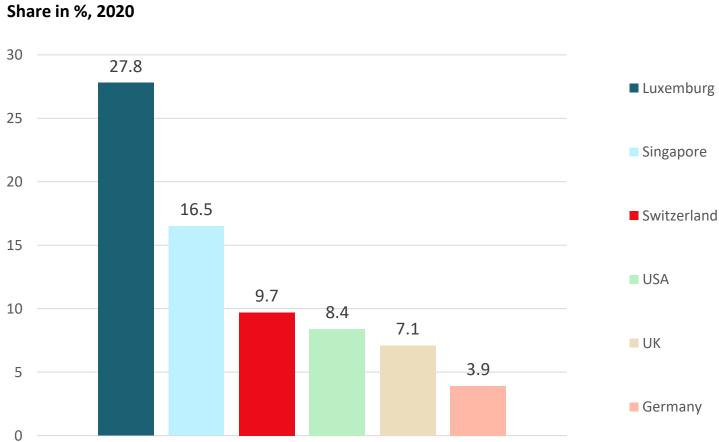




# The Swiss financial market today



#### **Financial centre's share of GDP**



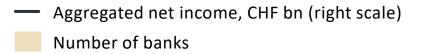
Singapore

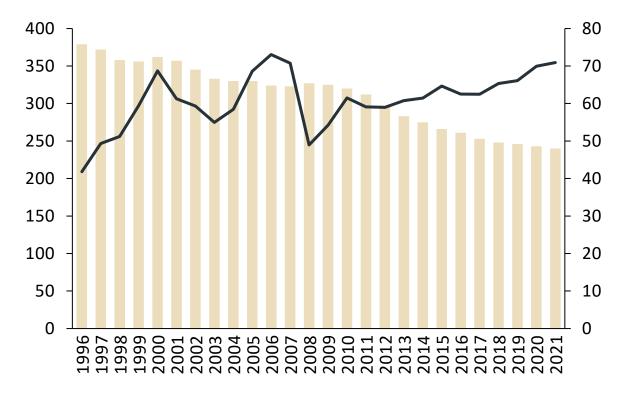
Switzerland

Germany

Source: BAK Economics

### **Technology and regulation are structurally relevant** Number of banks and net income





- Relevant is competitiveness of Switzerland and value creation
- New technologies and business models adopted (e.g. cloud, platforms)
- Financial stability with various manifestations
  - Low interest rate environment
  - Non-banks in the market
  - Cause-related measures, regulatory approach

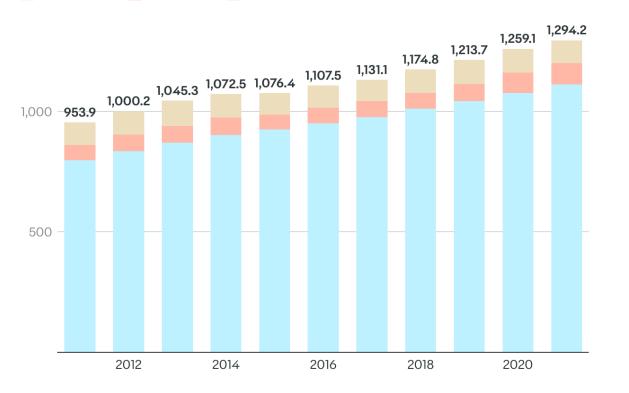
Source: SNB, SBA Banking Barometer 2022

### Lending business: Important pillar of Swiss companies Development of domestic credit volume, in CHF billion

#### **Domestic lending volume**

#### In CHF bn

Mortgage loans Secured loans Unsecured loans

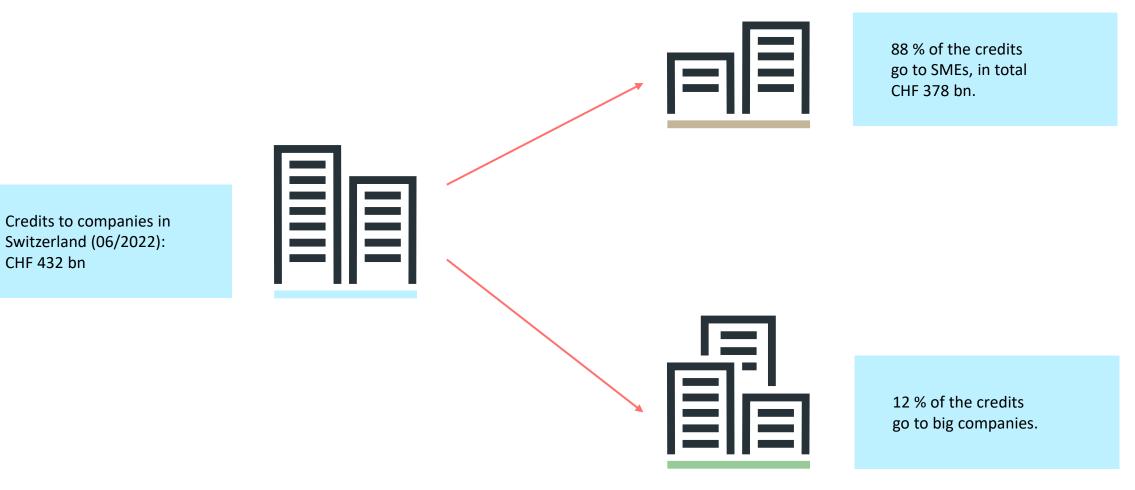


- Moderate growth in mortgage volume
- Shift to longer maturities with fixed interest rates
- SNB survey: normal lending conditions and unchanged liquidity situation for companies

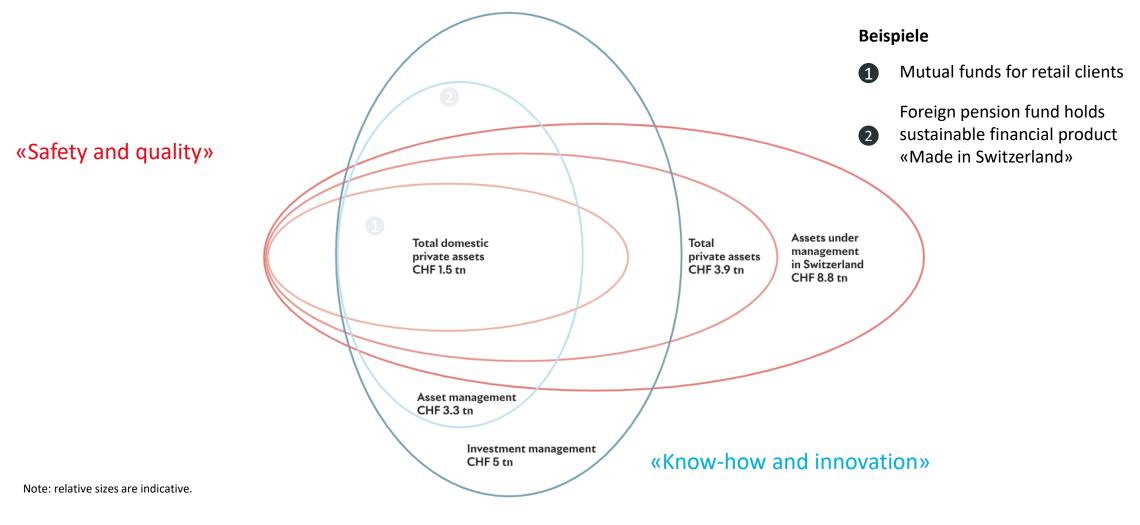
#### Source: SNB, SBA Banking Barometer 2022

### Significance of banks for the Swiss economy

The example of corporate credits



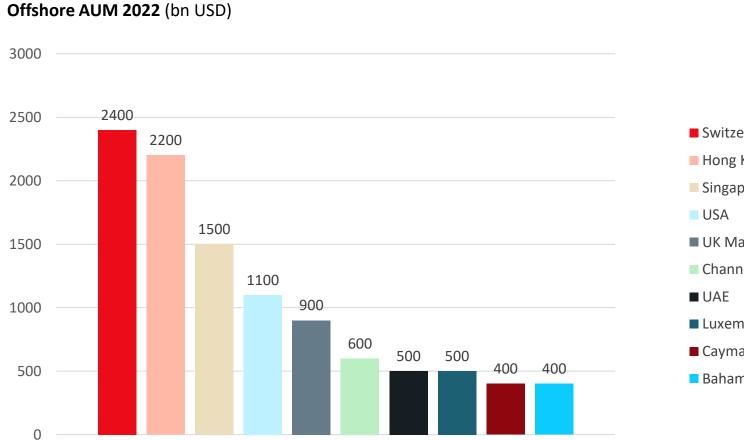
#### The Swiss financial centre is closely networked and thus unique worldwide



Source: Swiss National Bank, Boston Consulting Group, Institute for Financial Services Zug, Asset Management Association Switzerland, SBA *The role of SBA in ever changing financial markets – August Benz* 

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#### The most important cross-border financial centres



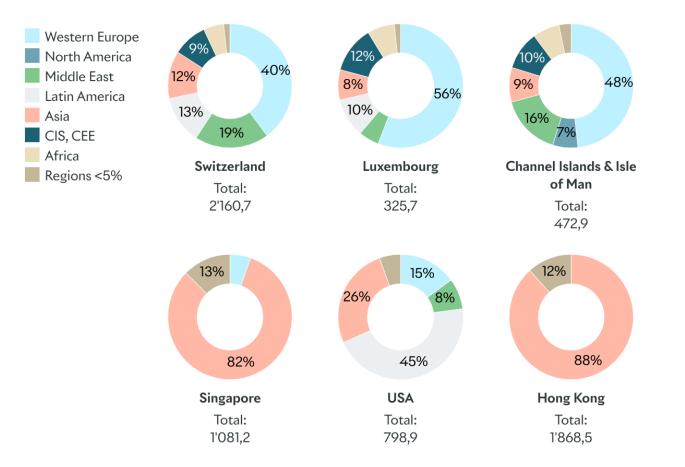
#### Switzerland

- Hong Kong
- Singapore
- UK Mainland
- Channel Islands & Isle of Man
- Luxembourg
- Cayman Islands
- Bahamas

#### Source: BCG Opportunities and challenges in the Swiss financial centre – August Benz Sensitivity: C2 Internal

### The origin of assets in cross-border business

2020, Shares of the world regions in percent, total in CHF bn



Note: World regions with <5% share are combined into one group for each financial centre.

#### Source: SBA Banking Barometer 2021, BCG

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## Current challenges

#### **Credit Suisse takeover**

#### Regulatory discussions around the CS takeover by UBS



### **Current challenges** Priorities of the SBA 2022 – 1/2







- Sustainable Finance: The Swiss financial centre intends to position itself as a world-leading location for sustainable finance. To this end, the SBA is committed to promoting market-driven frameworks and is currently focusing on embedding relevant self-regulatory structures.
- **Digital transformation:** The SBA supports an innovative, competitive and resilient financial centre that creates scope for technological advances and enables innovative business models. To achieve this, it requires robust **system of cyber defences**. The SBA is also committed to enhancing the financial centre's status as a location for the production and trading of **digital assets**. **Artificial intelligence** will play an increasingly important role.
- Financial market regulation: The SBA supports proportionate and competitive implementation of the international Basel III final standards and the revised deposit insurance scheme.
- **Regulation:** The SBA favours a robust **anti-money laundering** regime that takes international requirements into account. Looking ahead to the revision of the **Financial Market Infrastructure Act** (FinMIA), the SBA advocates efficient and internationally recognised regulation.

### **Current challenges** Priorities of the SBA 2022 – 2/2









- **Taxation:** The SBA favours a tax regime that supports Switzerland's attractiveness to business, and is committed to internationally competitive implementation of the **OECD taxation project** in the country.
- Market access: The SBA is committed to improving Swiss banks' access to core markets in Europe and beyond, communicating the value added by open markets, and strengthening the financial centre's reputation as an important export industry.
- Financial market infrastructure: The SBA supports a first-class operating environment for payment services and, along with relevant players, is focusing on the opportunities opened up by digital money.
- **Training:** The SBA fosters an environment conducive to **lifelong learning**, new forms of working, and the skills of the future.



# The example of Sustainable Finance

### **Sustainability in banking operations versus banking activities** The responsibility of each institution vs. the business model of the banks

#### **Banking operations**

 As service providers, financial service providers pay attention to their operational sustainability. In doing so, they are no different from other companies and their activities in the area of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

#### **Banking activities**

 The three business areas of investments, loans and financing, and capital markets and issuance are the focus of Sustainable Finance, supported by specific risk assessment



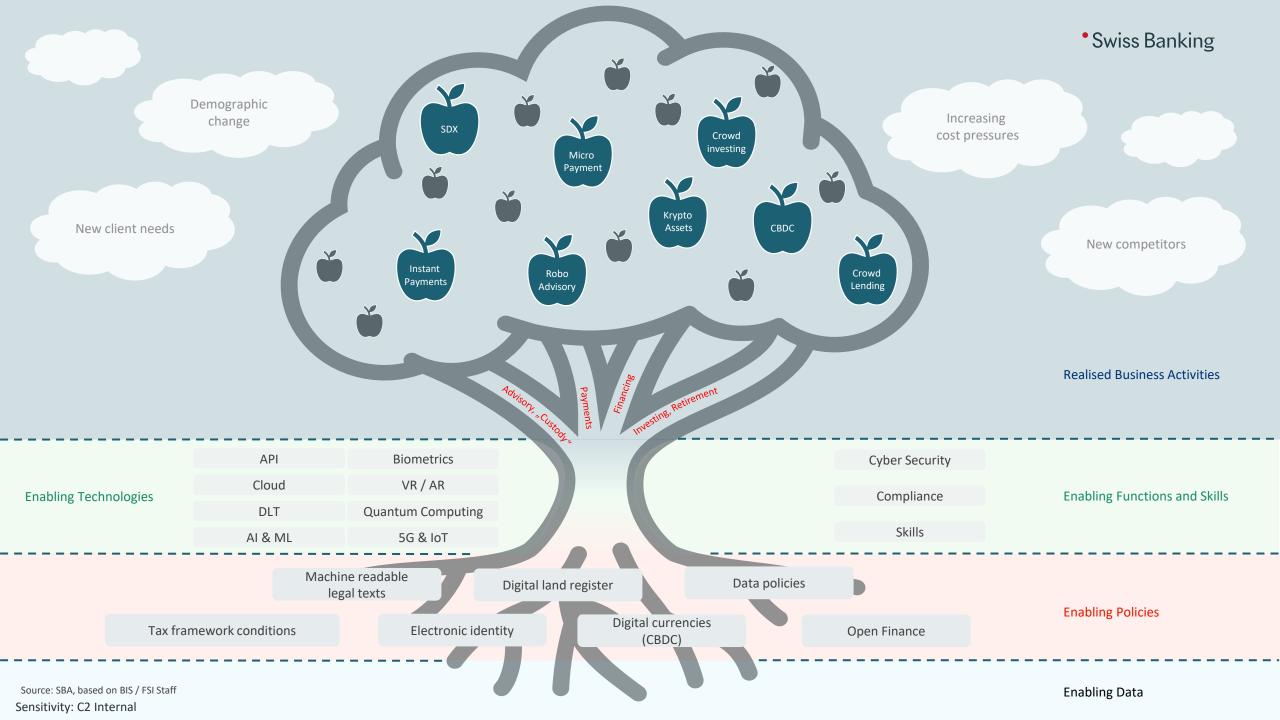
Source: SBA, based on Osterwalder / Pigneur, 2010: «Business Model Generation»

### Sustainable Finance regulations and initiatives in Switzerland

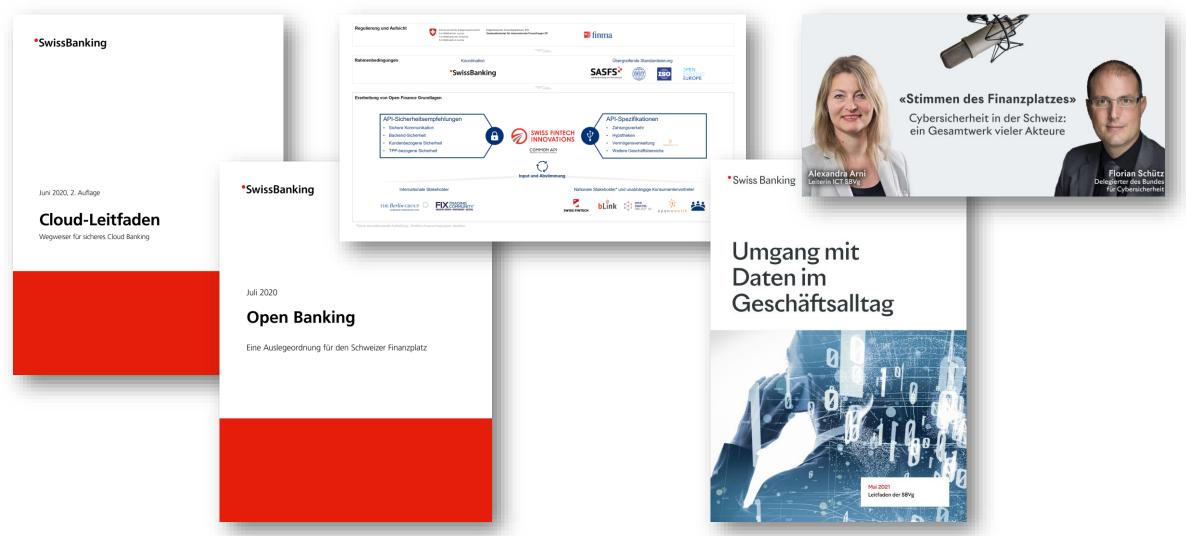
Swiss Framework	Financial market regulation and supervision	Cooperation between the Confederation and the sector	Sector initiatives
Ratification of the Paris Agreement	Financial Services Act (FIDLEG)	Swiss Climate Scores	SBA
• Net-zero-target 2050	• 2016/01 FINMA Circular "Disclosure Banks":	PACTA climate compatibility tests	Guidelines for mortgage providers on
Revised CO2 Act	Disclosure requirements in the area of		promoting energy efficiency
Federal Act on Climate Protection Targets	climate-related financial risks		• Guidelines for financial service providers of
(KIG)	• FINMA supervisory notice 05/2021:		the inclusion of ESG preferences and ESG
Ordinance on Reporting on Climate Issues	Prevention of greenwashing		risks in investment advice and asset
	• FINMA supervisory notice 01/2023:		management
	Developments in the area of climate risk		AMAS
	management		• Self-regulation on transparency and
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# The example of Digital Finance



#### What does this mean in practice?



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# What role could SSPA play?

#### SSPA and how it could support the Swiss financial market





Institutionalise the interactions between the two associations and others

Supporting the self-regulation of SBA and AMAS in Sustainable Finance

Supporting the promotion efforts of the Swiss financial market abroad

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#### Kontakt

#### August Benz

Deputy CEO, Head Private Banking & Asset Management august.benz@sba.ch +41 58 330 6227



Schweizerische Bankiervereinigung Aeschenplatz 7 · Postfach 4182 · 4002 Basel

swissbanking.ch