

800+ participants at EHL HumanX Summit 2026, Brings Together Global Leaders, Innovators and Changemakers in Lausanne



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Lausanne, June 9th, 2026 - At the intersection of human experience, innovation and leadership, the 1st Edition of the HumanX Summit by EHL welcomed 800+ participants with more than 40 sessions from keynote speeches, panels, immersive workshops, startup pitches and co-creation challenges, on 19th and 20th May at EHL Hospitality Business School in Lausanne.

A New Platform Where Human-Centric Innovation Takes Center Stage

The summit gathered leaders, entrepreneurs, academics, investors and students from more than 40 countries across 5 continents. An international lineup of **80+ diverse** speakers from hospitality, science, sport, health, academia and others. The event was supported by co-creation partner Coca-Cola HBC, with Canton de Vaud and Canon Marketing serving as main partners, alongside 26 supporters.

The EHL HumanX Summit 2026 focused on empathy, emotional intelligence, wellbeing, regeneration and experimentation as value creation in a world increasingly shaped by technology.

The summit also marked important milestones:

- The launch of the **EHL Center of Excellence for Human Intelligence and Leadership** (CHIL), whose mission is to help individuals and organizations flourish. Informed by applied research, it aims to offer practical applications at the individual, team, and organizational levels, fostering human-centric, high-performing, and sustainable workplaces.

- The release of the second edition of the **EHL Well-being Report** (available [here](#)), a practical guide for hospitality organizations, highlights a powerful insight: guest well-being and employee well-being are inseparable. The findings suggest that fostering psychologically healthy workplaces is not only essential for employee flourishing, but also a critical driver of guest satisfaction, trust, and long-term business success.
- The launch of the **EHL Ventures Growth Program**, a fresh new initiative for startups in growth stage in Switzerland and beyond. It will bring revenue-stage ventures, with human-centric innovations, from early traction to scalable, international growth, with clear market validation.
- The **Investor Track, co-hosted with SICTIC and BAS**, bringing together +70 venture capital firms, angel investors, corporate venture teams and innovation leaders. 15 selected startups pitched and engaged in curated discussions and direct exchanges with investors around what defines real investment readiness today.
- An immersive lunch experience “**Taste the Future**” showcased 14 startups highlighting new approaches to food production, sustainability and hospitality.
- **Four EHL HumanX Awards** were presented to ventures and individuals in recognition of their outstanding initiatives towards a more human future:
 - o **The HumanX Pioneer Award** honored **Fundación Gastronomía Social** from Chile for redefining gastronomy as a tool for social inclusion and community empowerment.
 - o **The HumanX Leader Award** recognized **Patrick Honauer**, serial entrepreneur (**GastroFutura, Food Networks, Sarvaguna Nepal, Kaiserhof, SGM**) whose purpose-driven leadership demonstrates how clarity, integrity and long-term thinking can transform organizations.
 - o **The Startup Investors Award** went to **ID Geneva**, selected for its strong investment readiness, disciplined execution and credible path to scale.
 - o **The Human-Centric Innovation Award** highlighted **PolaSight** for developing AI-powered tissue imaging technology, which enables rapid, non-destructive assessment during surgery, improving patients outcomes through a human-centered approach to healthcare innovation.

Discussions throughout the summit reinforced that the future is not a choice between technology and humanity, but the ability to combine both. It became very clear that as AI reshapes industries, hospitality capabilities such as empathy, care, emotional intelligence and anticipatory leadership become increasingly valuable. Leaders also emphasized the need for agility, experimentation and continuous learning to navigate an increasingly complex and non-linear world.



Building on the momentum of this inaugural edition, the HumanX Summit will return for its 2nd Edition on 11th and 12th May 2027. Save the date.

About EHL:

EHL – originally founded as Ecole hôtelière de Lausanne – is a hospitality management and business education group and recognized as the global leader in hospitality. EHL welcomes a student body of 4,000 from more than 120 nationalities across 3 campuses in Switzerland and Singapore.

Our holistic approach to education, a hallmark of the Swiss system, seamlessly integrates academic rigor with hands-on experience and a deep commitment to human connection. At EHL, we educate hearts, hands, and minds. Within our two institutions we shape confident, versatile, and resilient leaders for careers in hospitality and wider experience-driven sectors:

- **EHL Hospitality Business School**, accredited by AACSB, NECHE and consistently ranked at the top of its field, offering undergraduate, graduate, and executive programs that deliver practical leadership, strategy, and operational insights.
- **EHL School of Practical Arts**, providing vocational programs in hospitality, boasting expertise from 6 “Meilleurs Ouvriers de France” and an awarded and Michelin-starred academic restaurant.

For more than 130 years, we have been committed to leading innovation in the hospitality and services industry with a focus on emotional intelligence and business acumen. At EHL, education is more than knowledge – it's a transformative experience shared by a community of 30,000 passionate Alumni, who redefine excellence wherever they go. #EHLHospitality

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About EHL HumanX:

At its core, HumanX stands for Human Experience, Excellence and Experimentation. It's a space to explore how empathy, creativity, and human-centric thinking can shape the way we lead, work, and live. HumanX embodies the evolving story of what it means to be human in a rapidly transforming world. The “X” represents the intersections where humanity meets change and technology, where innovation meets emotion, where the past meets the future, and where new forms of connection - both digital and human - are continuously redefined. It also represents the *experience* itself: how we feel and relate in an increasingly complex environment.

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