



Canton of Zurich

Government Council 2020/2021



Canton Zurich is such a beautiful place to be! What makes our canton so special is the astonishing variety that exists within such a small area – with everything from the high hills of the Oberland and the picturesque vineyards of the Weinland to clean rivers and lakes and a pulsating, extremely liveable city. Canton Zurich is the economic, social and cultural heart of Switzerland. It's also an outstanding, internationally renowned centre of education.

An intact economy with healthy businesses is key to wellbeing and prosperity. The task of the Canton Zurich authorities lies in making sure the optimum framework is in place and assuring a high quality of life. This includes an excellent education system, stable legal structures, safety, security and good healthcare for members of the public, an advanced transport infrastructure, solid financial policy and a broad cultural offering. It's a great joy and honour for me and my colleagues on the Government Council to work for the benefit of Canton Zurich. This booklet describes the work our departments and Chancellery do on a daily basis to keep the canton moving forward.



Dr. Silvia Steiner
President of the Government Council of the Canton of Zurich

The Government Council is the supreme executive authority in the canton. Its seven full-time members are elected by popular majority vote every four years. The Government Council's duties include:

- Drafting laws, amendments to the constitution and legislation and spending bills for approval by the cantonal parliament or the electorate
- Managing a cantonal administration with about 33,000 staff
- Determining the interim and long-term goals of government policies
- Supervising the various authorities
- Preparing the budget
- Representing the canton within Switzerland with respect to the Confederation and other cantons
- Negotiating international and intercantonal agreements
- Ruling on administrative appeals
- Recruiting top-level administrative staff

Silvia Steiner

Dr. crim. et lic. iur.

President of the Government Council 2020/2021
Head of the Department of Education since 2015
President EDK

Party membership: Christian Democratic Party (CVP)
Place of origin: Lauerz
Date of birth: 14 March 1958
Domicile: Zurich



Professional activity

1984 Degree in law from the University of Zurich
1984–1988 Intern and court clerk
1988–1995 District prosecutor
1995–2002 High-ranking police officer, head of the criminal police, city police of Zurich
2002–2005 Head of criminal police, Zug police
2004 Doctorate at the University of Lausanne
2005–2015 State prosecutor, head of department; specialist and lead state prosecutor in the field of human trafficking

Political activity

1986–1998 Secretary of the District Schools Council in Zurich
2007–2015 Member of the Cantonal Parliament; Member of the Justice Commission, the Commission for Economy and Taxes, the Parliament Investigation Committee BVK

Department of Education

The Department of Education's role is to ensure that a varied offering of high-quality training and education is available in Canton Zurich. Our schools and institutions bring together children, young people and adults with different backgrounds and requirements to give them a sense of community and the individual support and encouragement they need. Together with the schools and local authorities, the Department of Education is responsible for the entire educational offering provided by kindergartens, primary, secondary and high schools, vocational colleges, universities and adult education establishments. The department's remit also covers child and youth welfare, grants and careers advice. The Department of Education supports the people of Canton Zurich as they embark on and progress in their working, family and social lives, creating the basis for outstanding achievements in academia, science and research.

[Office of Elementary Education](#) |
[Office of Intermediate and Vocational Training Schools](#) | [Office of Universities](#) | [Office of Youth and Careers Guidance](#) | [Educational Publishing House Zurich](#) | [School Inspection Agency](#) | [Educational Planning](#)

Walcheplatz 2, 8090 Zurich
Phone +41 43 259 23 09, zh.ch/bildungsdirektion

Jacqueline Fehr

Vice-President of the Government
Council 2020/2021
Head of the Department of Justice
and Home Affairs since 2015

Party membership: Social Democratic Party (SP)

Places of origin: Rüdlingen and Schaffhausen

Date of birth: 1 June 1963

Domicile: Winterthur



Professional activity

- 1987 Degree as a secondary school teacher, phil. I
1988–1994 Secondary and specialist subject teacher
1991–1994 Second degree course in psychology, management and political science with intermediate diploma qualification
1994–1996 General secretary, Department of School and Sport, Winterthur
1997–2002 Self-employed organisational consultant
2002–2012 Project associate
2012–2015 Owner of atelier politique, various mandates
2013–2015 Executive MPA, University of Berne

Political activity

- 1990–1992 Member of the Communal Parliament of Winterthur
1991–1998 Member of the Cantonal Parliament
1998–2015 Member of the Swiss National Council
2008–2015 Vice-President SP Switzerland

Department of Justice and Home Affairs

The main activities of the Department of Justice and Home Affairs include the prosecution of offences in adult and juvenile courts, the penal system and the administration of prisons. In addition to all affairs related to justice, the department is responsible for relations with municipalities and religious organisations, cultural promotion, aid for victims of crimes, equality, and the integration of foreign immigrants. The State Archives also come under the aegis of the Department of Justice and Home Affairs.

[Public Prosecution Service](#) |
[Juvenile Criminal Justice](#) | [Corrections and Rehabilitation](#) | [Office of Municipalities](#) | [Commercial Registry Office](#) | [Statistical Office](#) |
[State Archives](#) | [Aid to Victims](#) |
[Office for Equality](#) | [Cultural Affairs](#) | [Cantonal Integration Office](#) | [Offices of District Prefects](#) | [Chancelleries of District Councils](#)

Ernst Stocker

Head of the Department of Finance

since 2015

Head of the Department for

Economic Affairs 2010–2015

President of the Government

Council 2015/2016

Party membership: Swiss People's

Party (SVP)

Place of origin: Wädenswil

Date of birth: 20 April 1955

Domicile: Wädenswil



Professional activity

1983 Farmer (federal master diploma)

Until 2007 ran his own farm, also training apprentices

Political activity

1987–2010 Member of the Cantonal Parliament

2003/2004 President of the Cantonal Parliament

1998–2006 Councillor of Wädenswil

2006–2010 Mayor of Wädenswil

2006–2010 Member of the Steering Committee of the Association
of Municipal Mayors of the Canton of Zurich

Department of Finance

The Department of Finance has primarily cross-cutting duties. They include planning and managing the process of preparing the canton's consolidated development and financial plan (KEF) and the annual budget and financial statements. They also entail providing internal services to other departments, such as the Office of Personnel, IT and printing (procurement). The Department of Finance is also responsible for collecting taxes and acquiring outside capital to finance the canton's commitments. Most of the Department of Finance's services benefit the population indirectly. Its direct contact with private individuals and legal entities takes place mainly via the Tax Office.

[Office of Personnel](#) | [Finance Administration](#) | [Office of Information Technology](#) | [Tax Office](#) | [Cantonal Printed Matter and Supplies Office \(kdmz\)](#)

Mario Fehr

lic. iur.

Head of the Department of Security
since 2011

President of the Government
Council 2016/2017

Party membership: Social Democratic Party (SP)

Place of origin: Adliswil

Date of birth: 13 September 1958

Domicile: Adliswil



Professional activity

- 1984 Degree in law from the University of Zurich
1984/1985 Academic assistant at the Faculty of Law of the University of Zurich
1985/1986 Intern at Zurich District Court
1986–1988 Intern at Horgen Juvenile Court
1989–1994 Educational Work Training Facility Uitikon
1992–2008 Teacher at the School for Technical Professions Zurich (TBZ)
2006–2011 President of the Swiss Society of Commercial Employees

Political activity

- 1986–1994 Member of the Communal Parliament of Adliswil
1991–2000 Member of the Cantonal Parliament
1994–2010 Councillor in Adliswil
2000–2005 Member of the Constitutional Council
1999–2011 Member of the Swiss National Council

Department of Security

The Department of Security deals with questions of public safety, social security and the promotion of sports. The Cantonal Police Force protects society, investigates crimes, guarantees traffic safety and provides administrative assistance and law enforcement as required by the authorities. The Road Traffic Office checks vehicles and tests drivers to ensure they are fit to be on the road. The Migration Office issues entry permits, residence permits and visas. The Office for Military Affairs and Civil Defence implements national legislation in the fields of military affairs and civil protection. The Cantonal Social Welfare Office shapes the social security system and coordinates asylum assistance. The Sports Office handles the canton's commitments in nonschool sport. The department is also in charge of the fire brigade and the fire safety and buildings insurance authorities.

[Cantonal Police Force](#) | [Road Traffic Office](#) | [Migration Office](#) | [Office for Military Affairs and Civil Defence](#) | [Cantonal Social Welfare Office](#) | [Sports Office](#) | [Passport Office](#) | [Business Permits/Legalizations](#) | [Weights and Measures Offices](#)

Carmen Walker Späh

RA lic. iur.

Head of the Department for
Economic Affairs since 2015
President of the Government
Council 2019/2020

Party membership: FDP The Liberals
Places of origin: Wassen and Zurich
Date of birth: 29 January 1958
Domicile: Zurich



Professional activity

- 1983 Degree in law from the University of Zurich
1983/1984 Intern at the District Court, Pfäffikon ZH
1984/1985 Junior Associate in law firm, City of Zurich
1986–1988 Legal secretary, Building Appeal Commissions,
Canton of Zurich
1988–2000 Deputy building secretary / head of office of the building
inspection and legal service, Building Department,
City of Winterthur
1989 Admitted to the bar
2000–2015 Self-employed lawyer in Zurich

Political activity

- 2000–2005 Member of the Constitutional Council
2002–2015 Member of the Cantonal Parliament; Member of
the Commission for Planning and Building (2003–2015)
2010–2017 President of FDP.Die Liberalen Frauen Switzerland

Department for Economic Affairs

The Department for Economic Affairs promotes and develops the Canton of Zurich as an attractive place to live, work and do business. The department contributes to the high quality of life that we enjoy in our canton, with the goal of ensuring people are happy to live here. Its staff are committed to strengthening the location by providing excellent conditions for companies and employees. Directly benefiting people in the Canton of Zurich, the Department for Economic Affairs plans and organises the road, rail and water transport system, and represents the canton's interests in matters related to airports and air traffic.

Office of Transport | Office for
Economy and Labour | Zurich
Transport Authority (ZVV)

Natalie Rickli

Head of the Department of Health
since 2019

Party membership: Swiss People's Party (SVP)

Place of origin: Madiswil BE

Date of birth: 19 November 1976

Domicile: Winterthur



Professional activity

- 1995 Completed commercial apprenticeship at fenaco
- 1995–2005 Several assignments in advertising and marketing at various media companies
- 2005–2009 Site relation manager / team leader at Goldbach Group
- 2009–2017 Partner relation manager at Goldbach Group
- 2018–2019 Self-employed communications consultant,
communication@natalierickli.agency

Political activity

- 2002–2007 Member of the Communal Parliament of Winterthur (Grosser Gemeinderat)
- 2007 Member of the Cantonal Parliament
- 2007–2019 Member of the Swiss National Council; Member of the Legal Affairs Committee and the Transport and Telecommunications Committee
- 2014–2019 President of Aktion Medienfreiheit (Action for Press Freedom; Member as of 2008)

Department of Health

The population of the Canton of Zurich needs adequate and cost-efficient health care. To provide this the Department of Health issues mandates to hospitals and clinics by evaluating the financial viability, quality and effectiveness of the different forms of treatment. On the basis of demographic and technological developments the department also assesses future needs for services in Zurich's health system and promotes specialised medicine at the universitarian hospitals. As the supervisory organ the Department of Health ensures that physicians, hospitals, homes and outpatient organisations correctly fulfil their tasks, thus providing a safe and appropriate supply of drugs for the population.

[Steering of the Health Care System](#) | [Cantonal Medical Service](#) | [Cantonal Office for the Control of Medicines](#) | [Cantonal Pharmacy](#) | [Cantonal Laboratory](#) | [Veterinary Office](#)

Martin Neukom

Dr. rer. nat.

Head of the Building Department
since 2019

Party membership: Greens

Place of origin: Rafz

Date of birth: 7 July 1986

Domicile: Winterthur



Professional activity

- 2006 Completed apprenticeship as technical draughtsman (machinery designer)
- 2009 Degree in mechatronics from the Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW)
- 2009–2011 Academic assistant at the ZHAW Institute of Computational Physics (ICP)
- 2016 Master's degree in solar energy engineering from the University of Freiburg (Germany)
- 2011–2019 Engineer and product manager at Fluxim AG
- 2019 Doctorate in Science at the University of Augsburg

Political activity

- 2008–2012 President of the Young Greens (political party) Switzerland
- 2014–2019 Member of the Cantonal Parliament; Member of the Planning and Building Committee
- 2017–2019 Member of the executive committee of the Swiss Pedestrian Association (Fussverkehr Schweiz)

Building Department

The Building Department is as diverse as the Canton of Zurich itself, both mirroring and shaping this very special living environment. Among the department's responsibilities are planning spaces to ensure that, despite such a dense population, there's room for all the things that make the quality of life in our canton what it is: living, working and recreation. This includes a commitment to intact natural landscapes, clean air and water, and to agriculture and forestry. The Building Department is also responsible for infrastructure: constructing roads, schools and hospitals. Its job is to preserve this precious built environment — and the cultural legacy of our forebears — for the generations to come.

Office of Landscape, Agriculture and Environment | Office for Spatial Development | Office of Waste, Water, Energy and Air | Office of Planning and Architecture | Real Estate Office | Office of Civil Engineering

Kathrin Arioli

Dr. iur.

Chancellor since 2018

Places of origin: Zurich and Basel

Date of birth: 16 April 1963

Domicile: Zurich



Professional activity

- 1988 Degree in law from the University of Zurich
1988–1990 Assistant at the Faculty of Law of the University of Zurich
1991 Doctorate in law at the University of Zurich
1990–1998 Research associate at the Office for the Equality of Women and Men, Canton of Zurich
1999–2011 Head of the Office for the Equality of Women and Men, Canton of Zurich
2011–2013 Secretary General at the Department of Home Affairs, Canton of Zug
2013–2017 Secretary General at the Supreme Court of the Canton of Berne

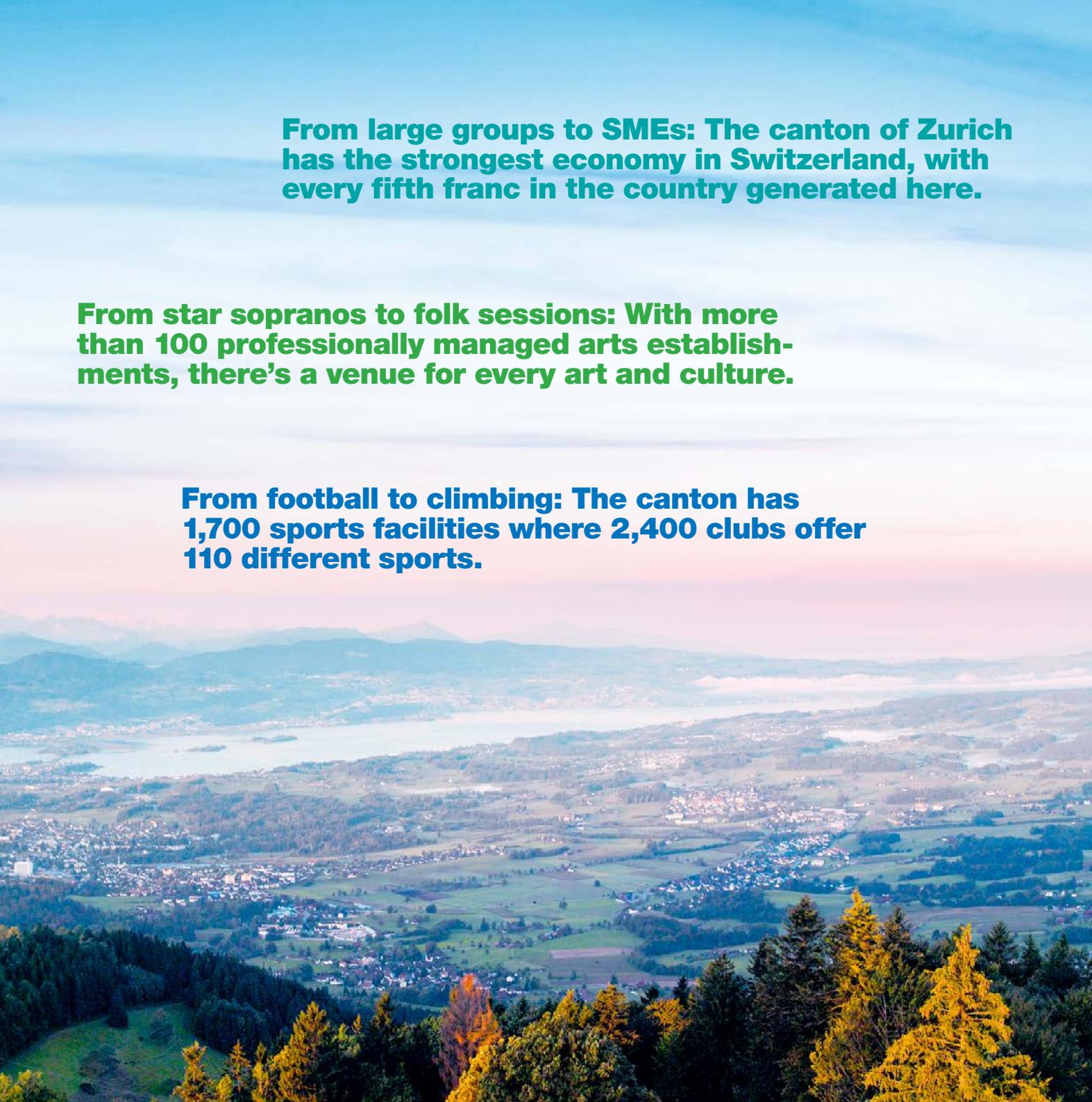
Chancellery

As the central office of the Government Council the chancellery provides services guaranteeing the smooth functioning of the Government Council as a collegial authority. Its regular tasks including preparing meetings, providing advice on legal matters and on matters of policy, strategy and performance management and organising events. In cooperation with the various departments, the chancellery is responsible for communicating to the public, and also provides general services to the administration in digitalisation, IT and postal services. The chancellery is headed by the Chancellor, who reports to the current President of the Government Council.

Government Council Communications Office | IT, Project and Process Management | Governmental Strategy and Performance Management | Office of External Affairs | E-Government | Legal Services | HR and Finance | Central Services | Events and Representation | Postal Service | Publications



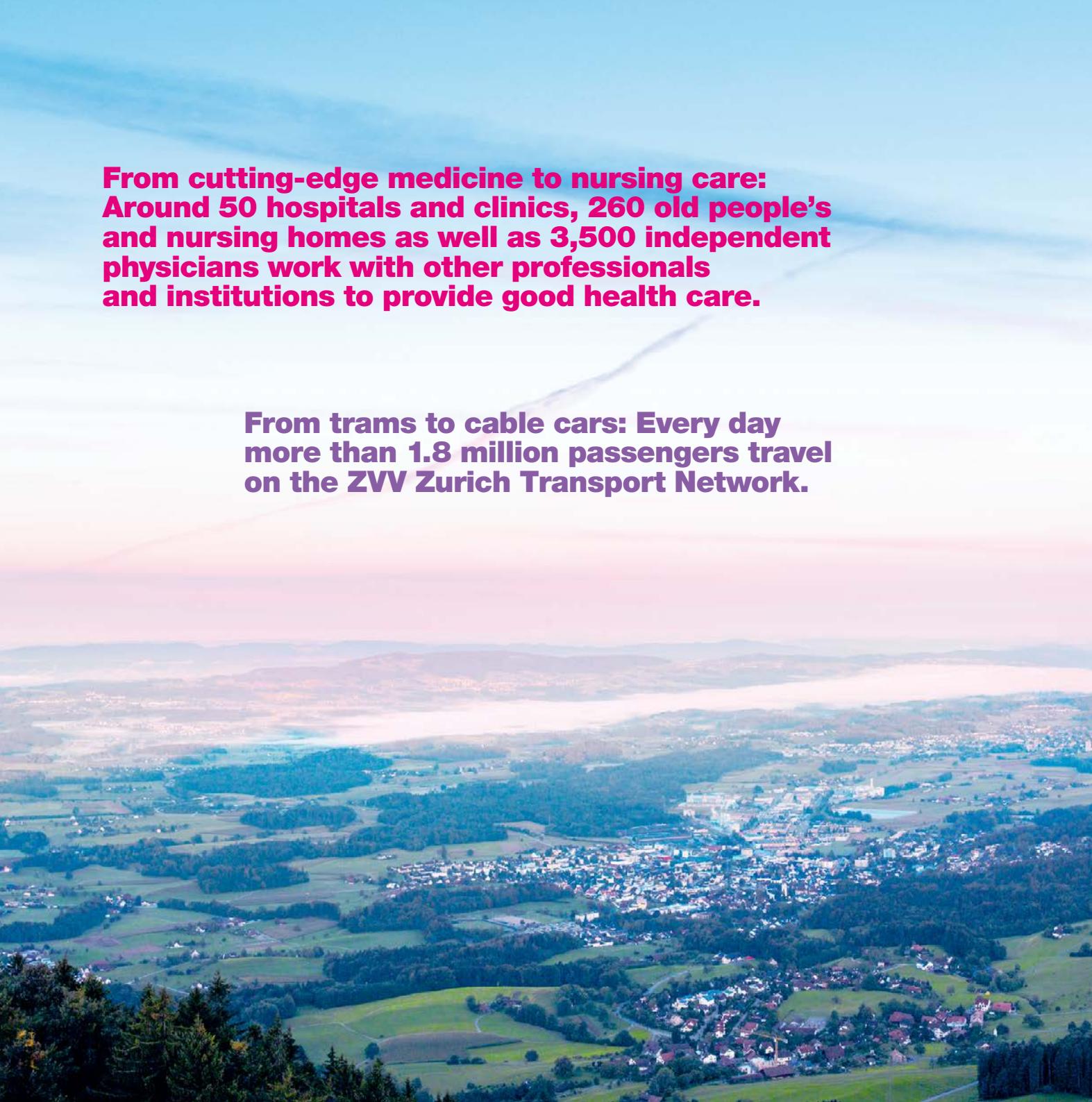


The background image shows a panoramic view of a Swiss valley. In the foreground, there are several tall evergreen trees with some yellow autumn foliage. Beyond them, the valley opens up to a large, light blue lake. On the far side of the lake, there are more trees and some buildings. In the distance, a range of mountains is visible under a clear blue sky.

From large groups to SMEs: The canton of Zurich has the strongest economy in Switzerland, with every fifth franc in the country generated here.

From star sopranos to folk sessions: With more than 100 professionally managed arts establishments, there's a venue for every art and culture.

From football to climbing: The canton has 1,700 sports facilities where 2,400 clubs offer 110 different sports.



**From cutting-edge medicine to nursing care:
Around 50 hospitals and clinics, 260 old people's
and nursing homes as well as 3,500 independent
physicians work with other professionals
and institutions to provide good health care.**

**From trams to cable cars: Every day
more than 1.8 million passengers travel
on the ZVV Zurich Transport Network.**

From kindergarten to university: Every day around 300,000 children, young people and adults attend an educational institution and some 50,000 study at a university or university of applied sciences.

From foresters to road workers: The most populous canton in Switzerland is around one-third covered by trees and has a network of nearly 1,500 km of cantonal roads.

