Tax Incentives for Innovative Startups

An overview of the Cantonal measures

20.10.2025

Divisione dell'economia

Eligibility criteria

In order to be considered innovative, startups **must** meet these **two** criteria:

1

Be legally registered as a company or cooperative

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2

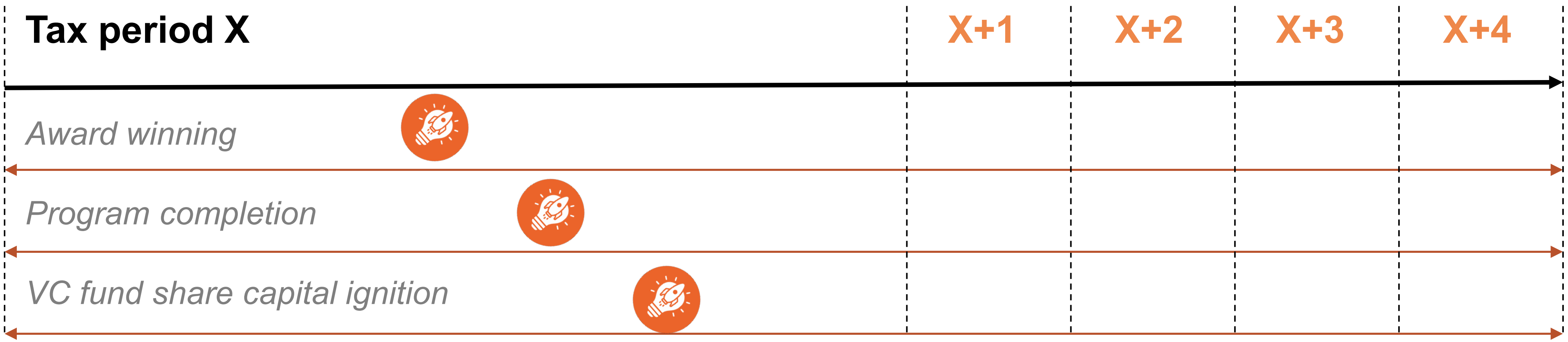
Meet at least one of the requirements listed in art. 5a par. 1 of the Cantonal Tax Regulation

Period of eligibility

The tax incentive is granted for the **five tax periods** following:

- the win of one of the prizes according to the art. 5a par. 1 of the Ticino Cantonal Tax Regulation (Regulation);
- the completion of one of the programs according to the art. 5a of the Regulation;
- an investment as shareholder by a venture capital (VC fund) according to the art. 5a of the Regulation.

The year in which the conditions are met counts as the **first period**.



Three measures

FOR INVESTORS

1

Separate taxation at 1% tax rate on the amount invested by an individual in an innovative startup. See art. 37c LT.

FOR
INNOVATIVE STARTUPS

2

Gift tax exemption

(art. 155 cpv. 4 LT)

FOR
INNOVATIVE STARTUPS

3

Reduced capital tax at 0.01‰

(art. 87 cpv. 1bis LT)

1 Separate taxation at 1% tax rate on the amount invested by an individual in an innovative startup

Investment
CHF 50’000

Startup
(eligible according to the Cantonal tax Regulation criteria)

Investor
Taxable income
CHF 300’000

Taxation example for investors

Investment
CHF 50’000
> separated taxation at a **1% rate**

Taxable income without investment
CHF 250’000
> ordinary taxation at **CHF 300’000 rate**

Criteria for the separated taxation at 1%

- Total **minimum** investment **CHF 50’000**
- Maximum tax privilege granted on **80% of taxable income of investor (individual)**, in any case **not exceeding CHF 800’000** per fiscal year

Investor / Investment	Taxable income CHF 300’000	Taxable income CHF 300’000	Taxable income 1’250’000
Startup A	CHF 20’000	CHF 20’000	
Startup B	CHF 30’000	CHF 20’000	CHF 850’000
Total	**CHF 50’000**	**CHF 40’000**	**CHF 850’000**

Min. CHF 50’000	✓	✗	✓
80% taxable income	CHF 240’000	CHF 240’000	CHF 1’000’000
Separeted taxation	**Yes**	**No**	**Yes**
Amount	**CHF 50’000**		**CHF 800’000**

2

Gift tax exemption

Donation

CHF 300'000

Third Party

Startup

(eligible according to the Cantonal tax Regulation criteria)

Gift tax exemption

for startups

3

Capital tax at 0.01‰

Startup

(eligible according to the Cantonal tax Regulation criteria)

Example of taxation for startups

Taxable capital CHF 1’000’000

> privileged tax rate **0,01‰**

Capital tax CHF 10

Procedure

The tax incentive is granted only if **an innovative startup certificate** is attached to the tax declaration. This is valid only when the registered office is in the Canton of Ticino.
The certificate must be requested at the **Ufficio dell'amministrazione e del controlling**, by providing the following information:

1. The certificate issued by the **VC fund, the program or award organizers**, attesting that the requirements listed at art. 5a par. 1 are fulfilled, as well as the date.

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2. VC fund, program or award organizers **contact information** (contact person, phone, email, etc.).

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3. Excerpt of the **Registry of commerce of the Canton of Ticino** certifying that the corporation or cooperative has its registered office in the Canton of Ticino.