

## ECA VAUD IS EQUAL-SALARY CERTIFIED FOR THE FOURTH TIME

**Vevey, 16 June, 2022** – The EQUAL-SALARY Foundation is pleased to announce that **Établissement d'assurance contre l'incendie et les éléments naturels du Canton de Vaud - ECA** has obtained the global EQUAL-SALARY certification, a symbol of excellence in terms of equal pay, for the fourth time in a row. After successfully passing the statistical analysis of its salaries, ECA Vaud underwent an internal audit entrusted to PwC proving that it applied equal pay for women and men.

The EQUAL-SALARY certification is valid for 3 years, during which, the company undergoes two monitoring audits. After 3 years, the organization needs to renew the certification process with a new salary analysis and a full on-site audit.

« *By renewing its EQUAL-SALARY certification for the fourth time, ECA is demonstrating its unwavering commitment to gender equality, which it has been doing since 2011. With the EQUAL-SALARY label, employees can be assured that they are working in a company that offers equal structure, procedures and opportunities throughout their career* », commented **Noémie Storbeck**, co-CEO of the EQUAL-SALARY Foundation.

« *This fourth consecutive award of the EQUAL-SALARY label demonstrates our institution's strong and lasting commitment to gender equality in salaries and in all human resources processes* », added **Serge Depallens**, CEO at ECA Vaud.

### Equal pay in practice

While most companies claim to pay women and men the same, the gender pay gap is still close to 20% on a worldwide level, according to ILO report published on February 2020<sup>1</sup>.

### ...and in the swiss public sector

In 2018, the median standardised gross monthly salary in the Swiss public sector as a whole was CHF 7,538 for women and CHF 8,509 for men, which represents a difference of 11.4%. (FSO report, April 2022<sup>2</sup>).

### About the EQUAL-SALARY Foundation

EQUAL-SALARY is a not-for-profit foundation established since 2010. It is the first and only certification, based on a robust and transparent methodology, that focuses on equal pay for women and men. The development of the EQUAL-SALARY certification was financially supported by the Federal Office for Gender Equality and its methodology was used as a reference by the Swiss Federal Court of High Justice.

EQUAL-SALARY is the only certification for equal pay highlighted by the European Commission in a report on Gender Pay Gap. EQUAL-SALARY is a member of EPIC (Equal Pay International Coalition) and of the UN Global Compact.

To date, the EQUAL-SALARY Foundation has completed over 120 certification procedures throughout the world. Several of the certified companies have renewed their commitment, demonstrating a strong will to promote fairness, building trust and respect for their employees.

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_dialogue/---act\\_emp/documents/publication/wcms\\_735949.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_dialogue/---act_emp/documents/publication/wcms_735949.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/fr/home/statistiques/situation-economique-sociale-population/egalite-femmes-hommes/salaires/competences-formation-position-professionnelle.assetdetail.22364136.html>

# EQUAL PAY IS A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT. LEAD BY EXAMPLE.

As an EQUAL-SALARY employer, an organization is in a better position to attract and retain talent and to prove it complies with the rules of good governance.

## About the EQUAL-SALARY certification process, a symbol of excellence

Similar to an ISO for wages, the EQUAL-SALARY certification process includes two phases. First, experts contracted by EQUAL-SALARY run statistical analysis of salary data based on a methodology developed by the University of Geneva.

Second, if the results are positive and show an overall gender pay gap under 5 percent, the process is moved further and an audit is contracted with PwC, our main auditing partner, who certifies the conformity of the process. During this phase, PwC assesses both the company's overall commitment to equal pay as well as its implementation in Human Resources processes. In order to be fully inclusive, employees are involved through a survey and interviews during the on-site audit. Only the companies having fulfilled all the requirements of the procedure get the EQUAL-SALARY certification, meaning they have reached excellence in equal pay.

The EQUAL-SALARY certification allows organizations to verify and communicate that they pay women and men fairly. It is a practical and scientific solution to achieve transparency while preserving confidentiality.

## Press contact

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