IGUAKO CAPITAL · Domicile factsheet

Switzerland: domicile factsheet

Nine people at Level 5, Paradeplatz Annex, Zürich, under Konstantin Aebischer-Mensah, Head of Office. The office opened in 2022.

LOCAL ENTITY	ENTITY TYPE	ROLE
IGUAKO Capital (Schweiz) AG	Aktiengesellschaft; portfolio management and family-office company supervised through a recognised supervisory organisation	Private wealth and custody relationships
SERVED FROM	**ESTABLISHED**	**CURRENCY**
Zürich	2022	Swiss franc for the company; each family is reported in the currency it chooses

Overview

Zürich is the custody office of the Private Wealth & UHNW division. The firm takes custody of nothing here: client assets in Europe are held by independent custodians, principally Seefeld Depositary, which was appointed in the year the office opened and also acts as depositary to the Luxembourg platform. Ten of the 61 family relationships are covered from this office, and US$60 million of the client portfolio under stewardship is attributed to Switzerland.

The families served here are mostly principals whose operating businesses are in pharmaceuticals and specialty materials, sectors the firm originates in on other continents. Instructions are verified against the mandate before a custodian acts on them, and a mandate is re-read with the family once a year. No member of the office may give a payment instruction and approve it, and no client asset ever appears on the balance sheet of the Swiss company.

Dmitri Halloran-Veiga, Chief Risk Officer, works from Paradeplatz Annex, and the secretariat of the Risk & Valuation Committee sits with him. Illiquid positions across every division are revalued and challenged here each quarter under the Valuation of Investments policy. The office therefore holds a client-facing function and a second-line function in one building, and the two are separated by reporting lines that run to Nassau and to George Town rather than to each other.

Switzerland covers families; it does not book them. The private-wealth booking centre is Nassau, and a family covered from Zürich has its account relationship, its reporting and its exchange of information handled from there. The 2028 European phase of Programme Latitude deepens the custody arrangements as the fund platform grows, and adds a second consolidated-reporting analyst rather than a new licence.

Why this domicile

- A concentration of custody, precious metal vaulting and consolidated reporting capacity that no other European centre matches for a family with assets in several countries.

- A supervisory framework for portfolio managers that is demanding on conduct and clear on the line between advice, management and custody.
- German, French and Italian coverage of principals who prefer to discuss their own affairs in their own language.
- A base for the Chief Risk Officer within an hour of the Luxembourg hub and the European positions the risk function reviews.

Services booked here

- Coverage of Swiss, German and Austrian principals and their family holding companies.
- Maintenance of the custody relationships through which European client assets are held.
- Consolidated reporting across custodians in the currency each family chooses.
- Group risk management under the Chief Risk Officer, with the Risk & Valuation Committee secretariat.
- Quarterly review of the valuation of illiquid positions held anywhere in the group.

Local entities

Entity	Purpose
IGUAKO Capital (Schweiz) AG	Authorised portfolio management company, employer of the Zürich team, incorporated in 2022.
IGUAKO Risk Services (Suisse) AG	Employs the group risk function and contracts the valuation specialists it uses.
Paradeplatz Reporting AG	Produces the consolidated multi-custodian reporting delivered to European families.

Regulatory approach

IGUAKO Capital (Schweiz) AG holds the authorisation this jurisdiction requires of a portfolio manager and is affiliated to a recognised supervisory organisation, which conducts its ongoing supervision and reports to the local financial services regulator. The company manages portfolios and advises; it holds no client assets, operates no client accounts and is not a bank. Its managers are assessed for fitness and propriety before appointment, it maintains the minimum capital and the professional indemnity cover the regime prescribes, and it is audited every year by an auditor licensed for regulated firms. Affiliation to a recognised ombuds office is compulsory and is in place. Any activity that would require a banking or securities licence is referred to another group entity that holds one.

Jurisdiction-specific provisions

Anti-Money Laundering Notice

A financial intermediary in this jurisdiction must identify the contracting partner, establish the beneficial owner and record the controlling person of an operating company on the forms the regime prescribes, and must repeat the exercise whenever doubt arises. Because the office serves principals whose wealth sits in operating businesses, the controlling person declaration is taken seriously rather than filed: it is tested against the corporate register, the audited accounts and the source-of-wealth narrative already on the file. Special clarification duties apply to a relationship with elevated risk, and their outcome is documented before the relationship proceeds. A report goes to the national reporting office, and the assets concerned are blocked for the period the regime imposes.

Data Protection Notice

The data-protection law of this jurisdiction requires the controller to inform the individual when data is collected, to keep a register of processing activities and to notify a breach to the federal authority as soon as possible. An individual is entitled to a copy of the data held about them free of charge, and the office answers within thirty days. No decision affecting a family is taken by a system alone, and the family is told which parts of its reporting are model-assisted, as the sixth principle of the Ethical Technology Charter requires. Data shared with a custodian is limited to what the custodian needs to hold the assets and to report on them.

Complaints Notice

Affiliation to a recognised ombuds office is a condition of doing business here, and a client is told of that route at the start of the relationship rather than at the end of an argument. The office repeats the route in its final reply, with the address of the ombuds office and the period within which a client may go there. The procedure costs the client nothing. The group standard of thirty calendar days for a final reply applies in full, and a complaint about a custodian rather than about the firm is taken up by the office with that custodian on the family behalf and tracked to a close.

Sanctions Notice

This jurisdiction gives effect to the measures it has adopted by ordinance, and a person holding assets caught by one must freeze them and report the freeze to the federal authority without delay. Screening covers the families, their controlling persons and the operating companies beneath them, and it runs against the group consolidated list as well as the local ordinances. Physical collateral vaulted with a custodian is examined for origin as well as for ownership, because provenance is the point at which a metal or a stone becomes a sanctions question. Nothing is released from a vault without two authorisations recorded in the office.

Tax Transparency Notice

The company pays tax on its profits at federal, cantonal and communal level and files the returns each of those levels requires. It holds no financial accounts, so it is not a reporting financial institution under the exchange of information regime; the custodians that hold client assets report, and the office tells each family which institution reports what, and to which jurisdiction, before the first reporting cycle. Distributions from Swiss sources bear the federal withholding tax at the statutory rate, and the office explains the refund procedure without advising on whether to use it. The firm gives no tax advice in this jurisdiction or in any other.

Client Classification Notice

The law here divides clients into private, professional and institutional, and it allows a wealthy private client to declare an opt-out from private-client protection where assets exceed the statutory threshold of CHF 2 million, or a lower amount where the client can also evidence knowledge and experience. The office records that declaration, then applies the group floor of US$5 million in net assets, which is higher and therefore governs. A family that would qualify locally but not under the group test keeps the fuller protection and is told why. Every classification is reviewed each year and on any change in the family circumstances.

Colophon