

How I transitioned from **Particle Physics** to **Data Science**

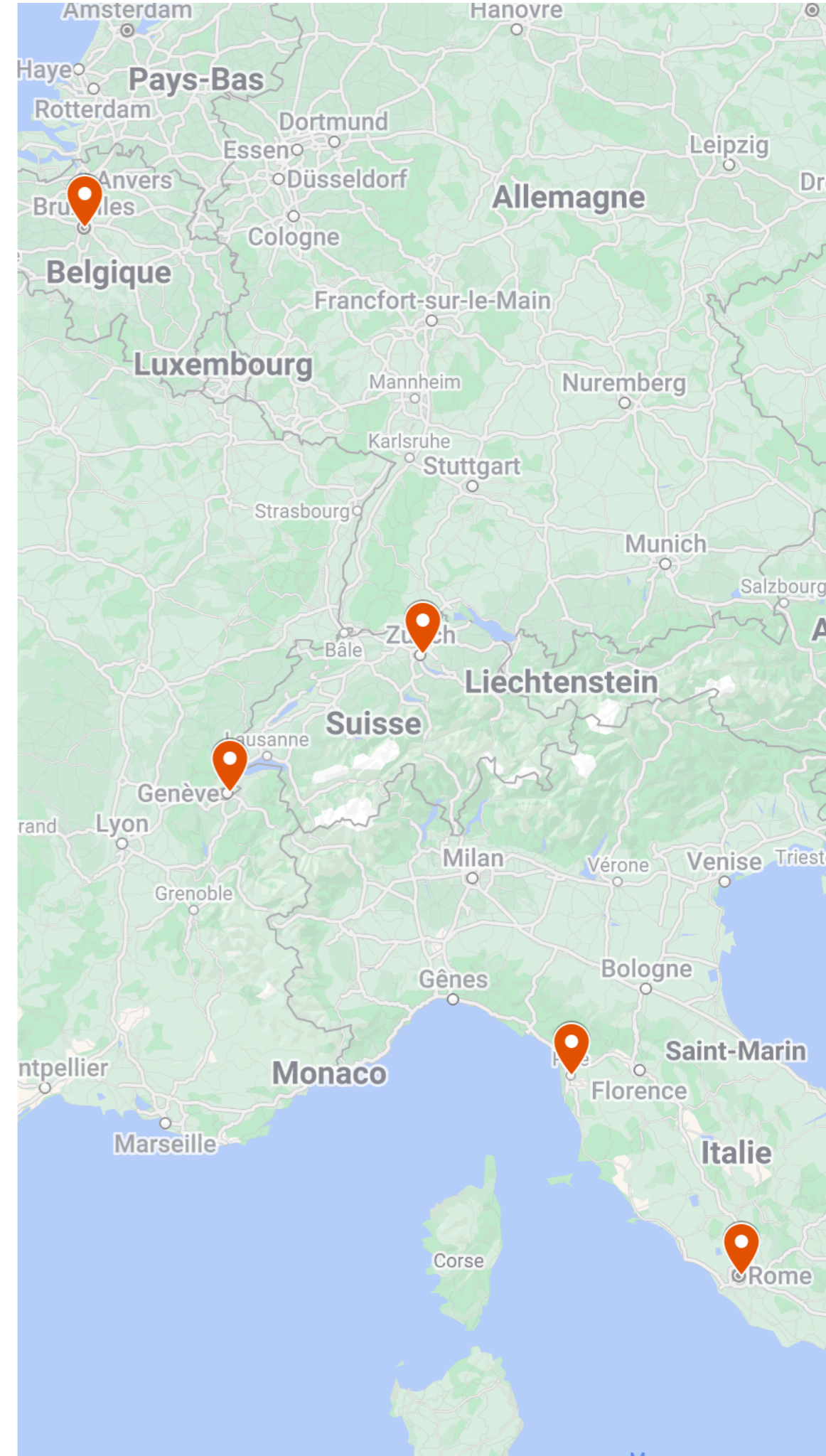
And my top 3 personal recommendations

Giorgia Rauco

CERN Networking Event | November 21st, 2022

About Me

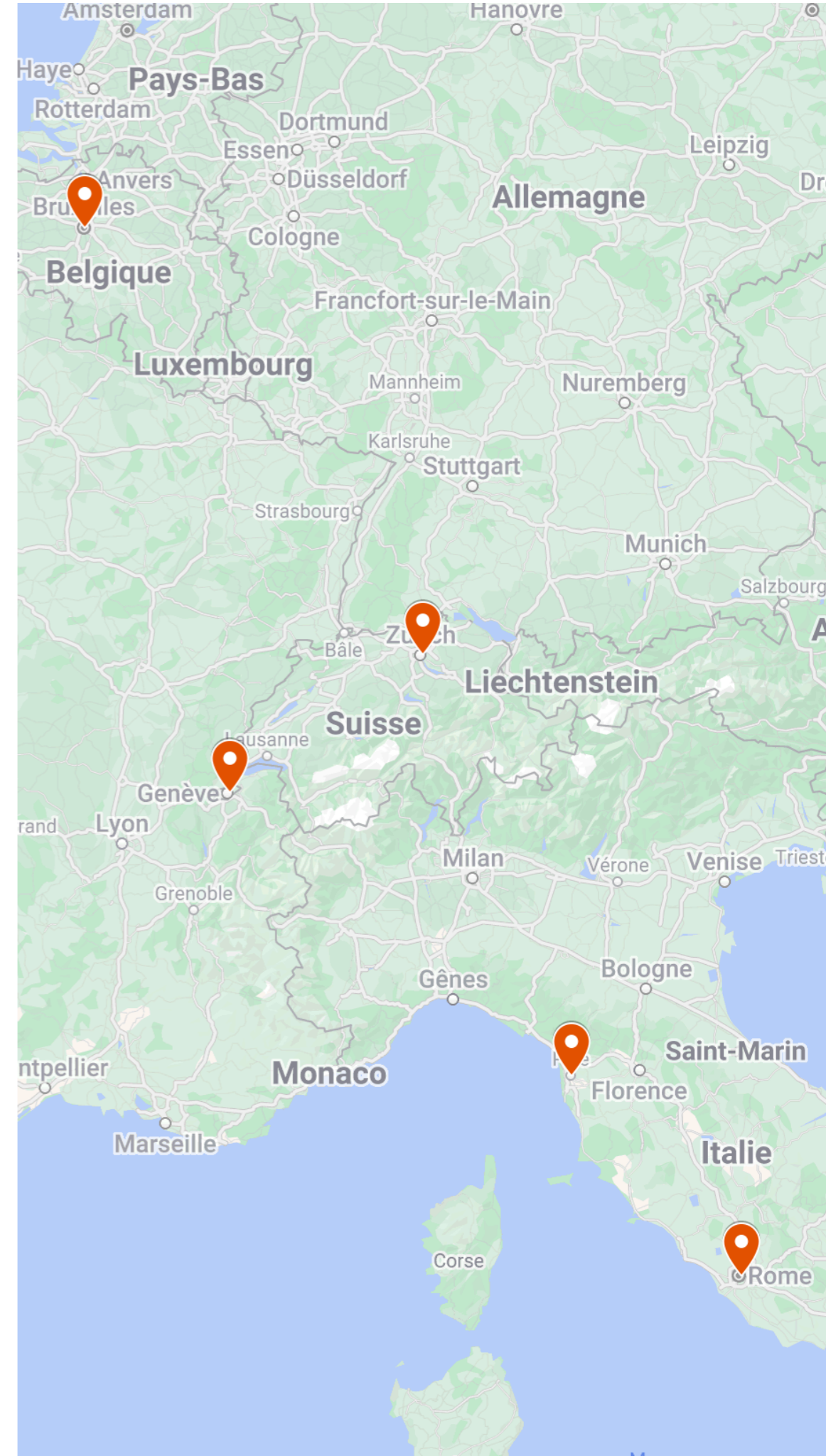
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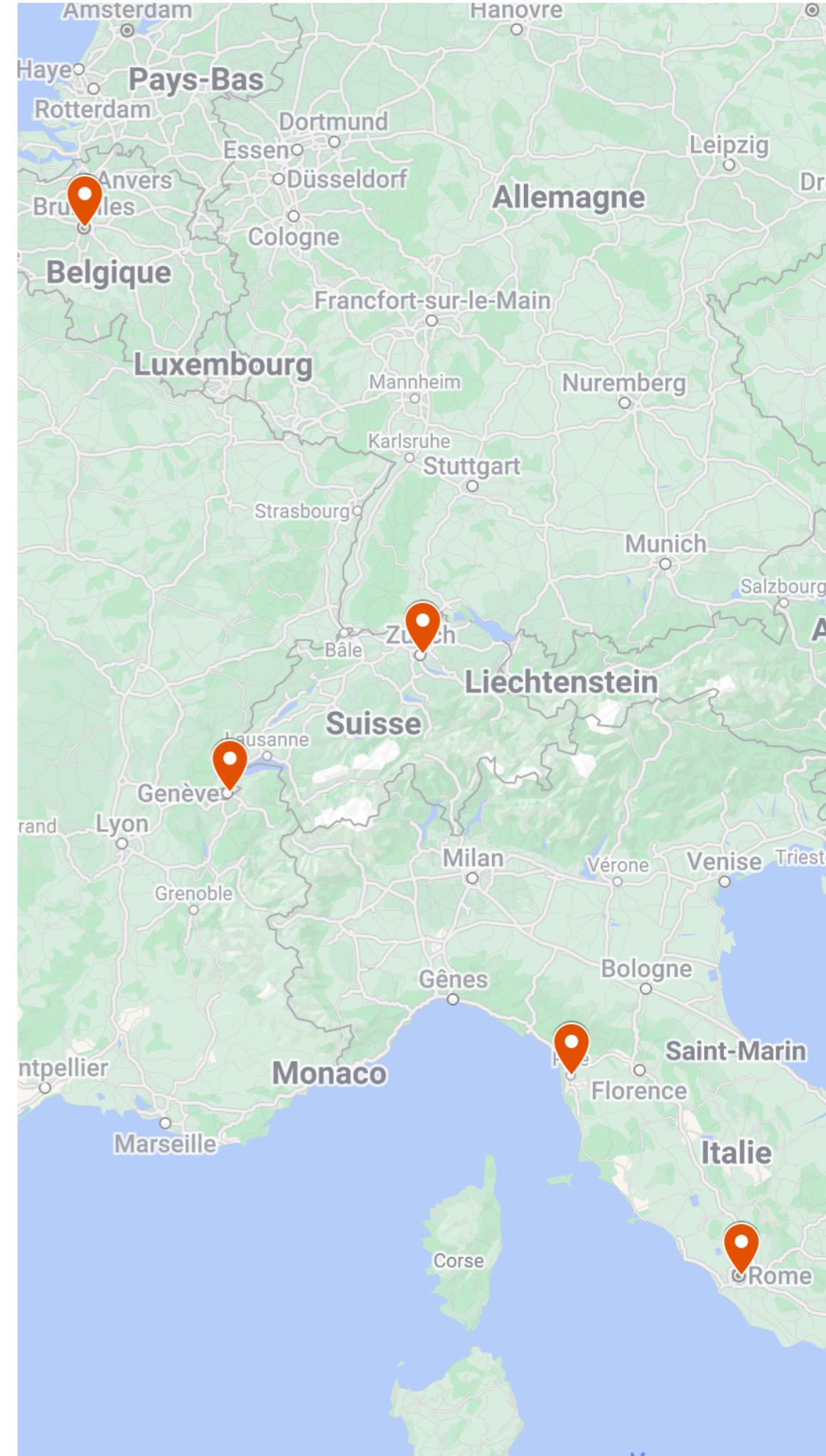


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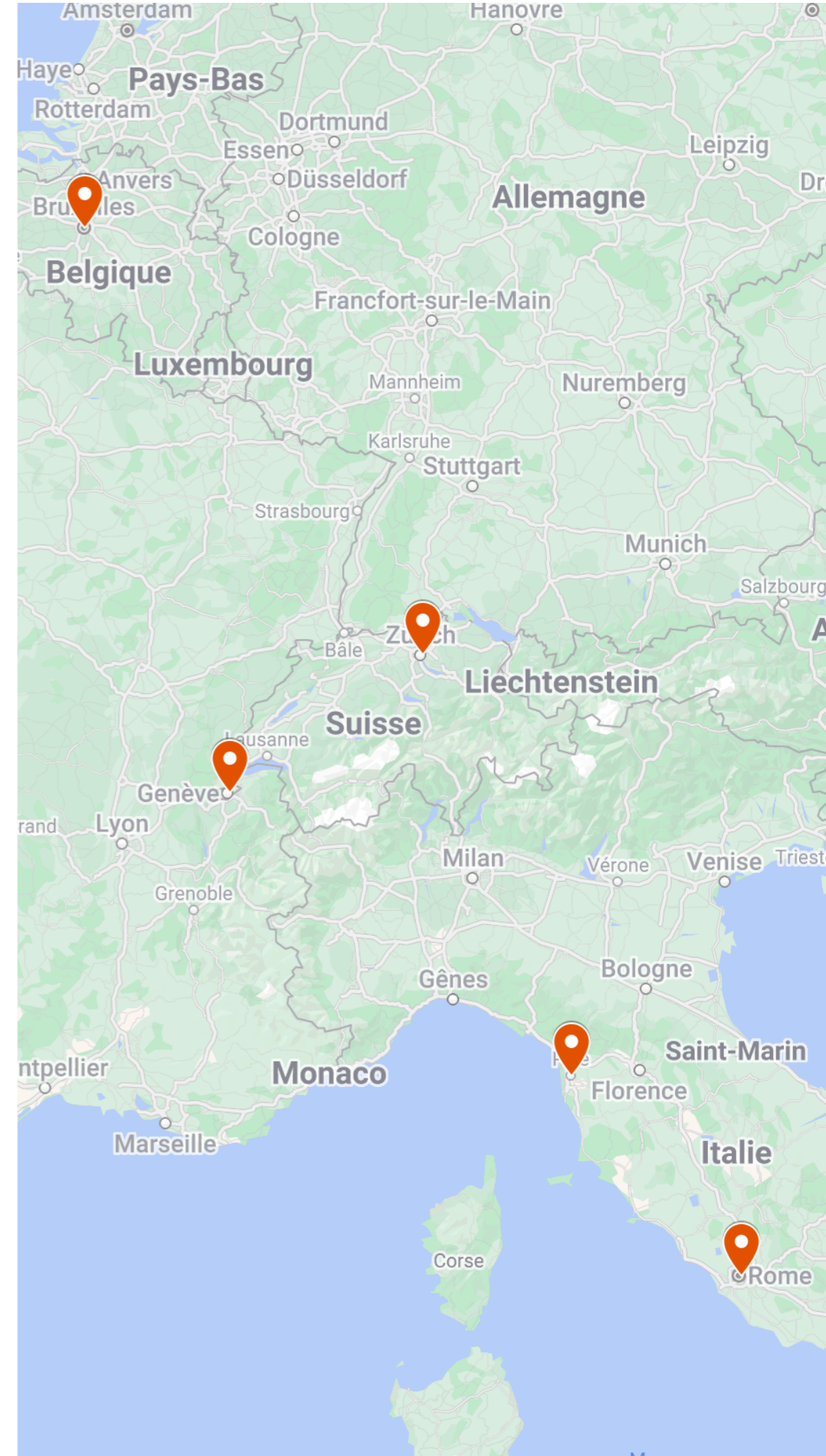
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- Personal**
- Need for more stability
 - Wanted to stay in Geneva
 - Desire for a more regular work / life balance



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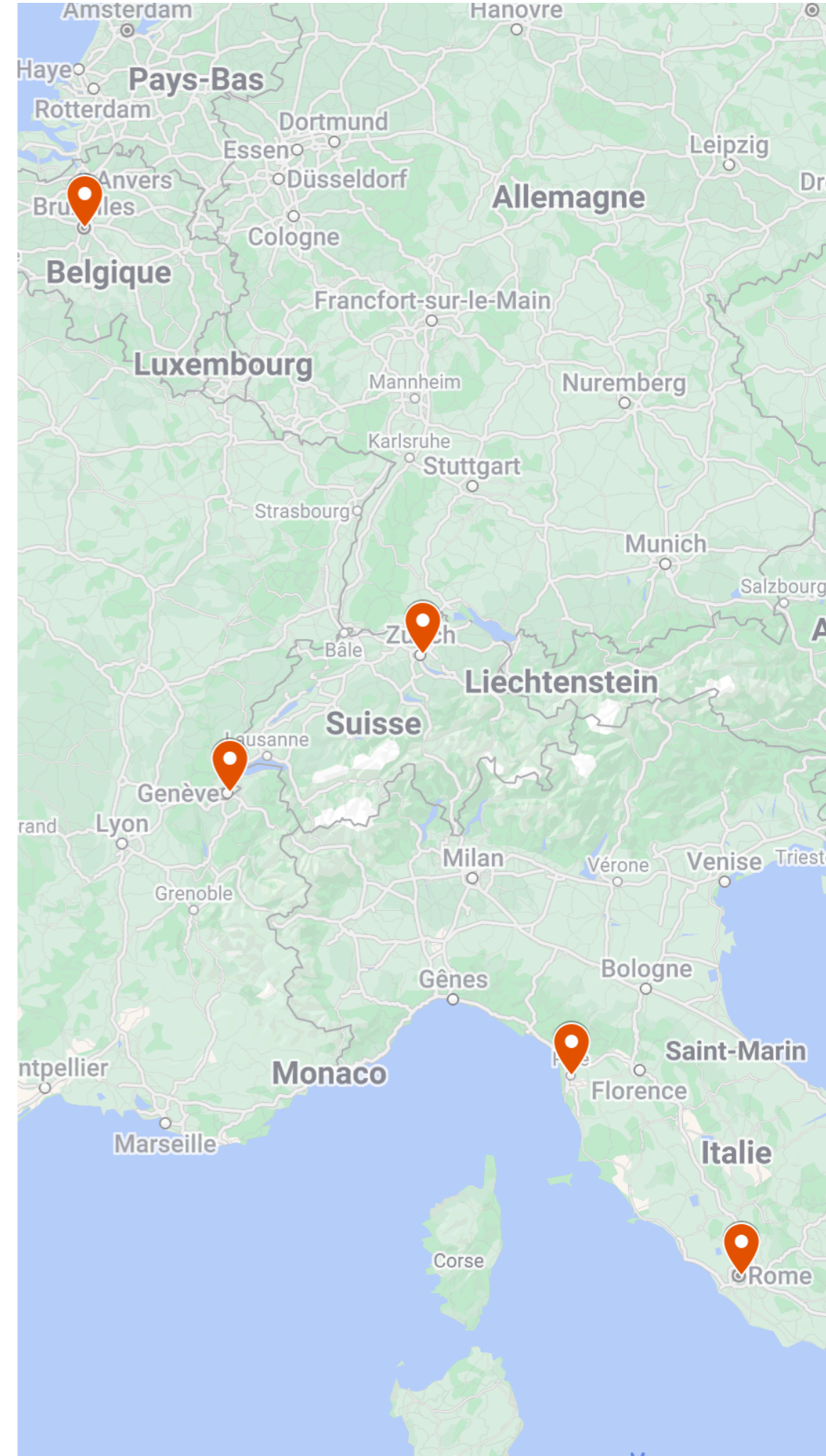
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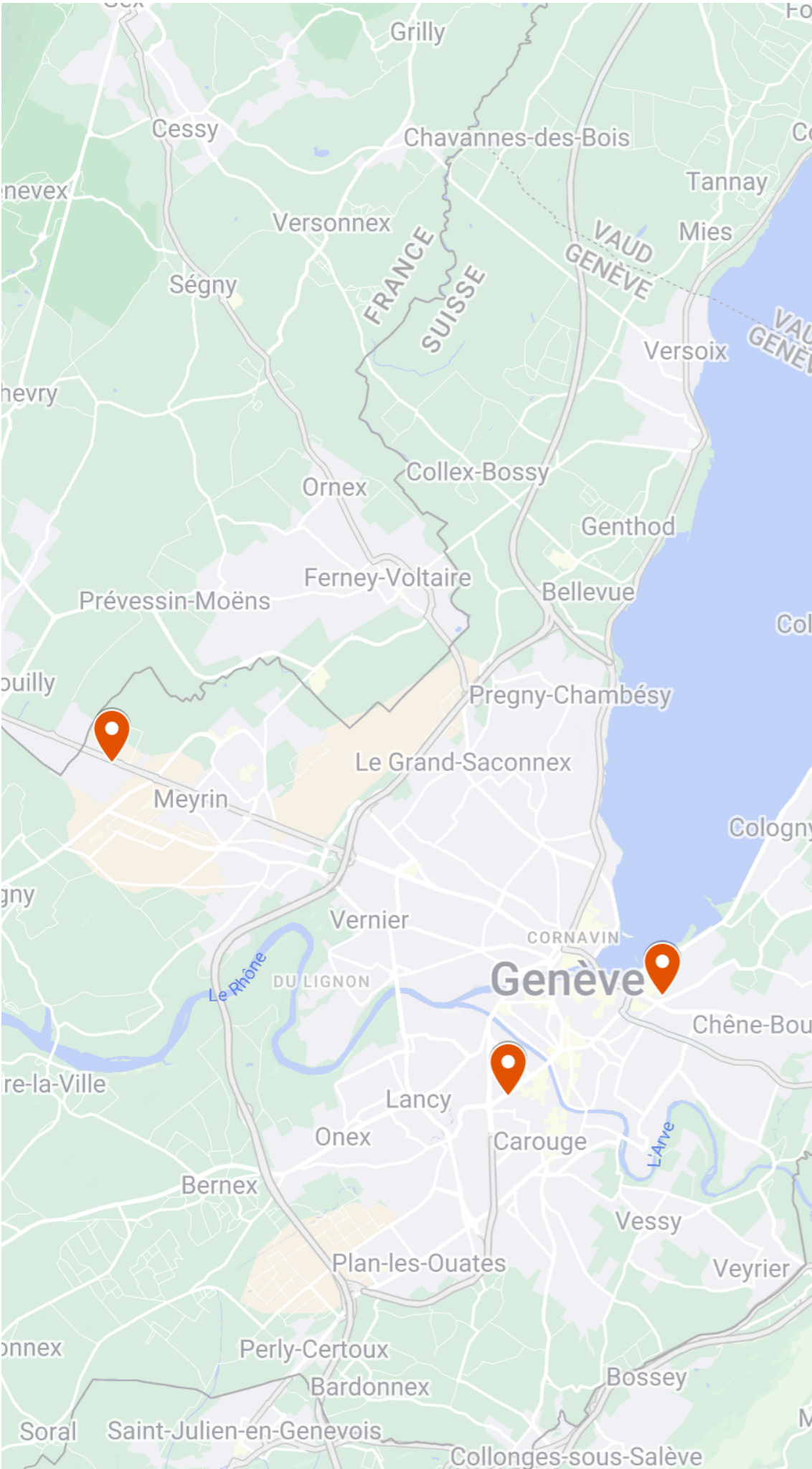
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Professional

- Slowly losing motivation
- Wanted to work on more tangible and *real-life* projects, and with shorter time scales
- Realised that tech skills are appreciated in industry



My life after CERN



- **Pictet Banque & Cie SA (2019 - 2022)**

1. Graduate Data Analyst
2. Data Analyst

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- **Expedia Group (2022 - current)**

- Data Scientist II

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At CERN we built an articulated and rich set of skills, that can be applied to a diverse set of roles and industries

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ML Scientist



Data / BI Analyst



Data Engineer



Project Manager

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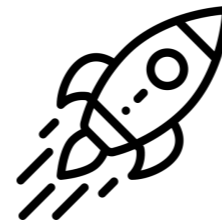
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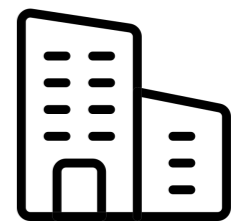
Banks



Start Ups



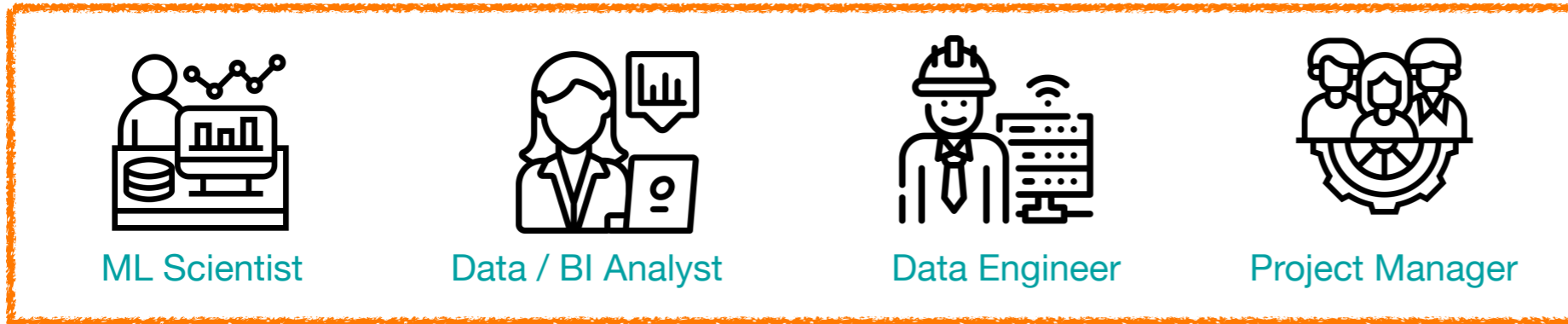
Consulting Firms



Other companies

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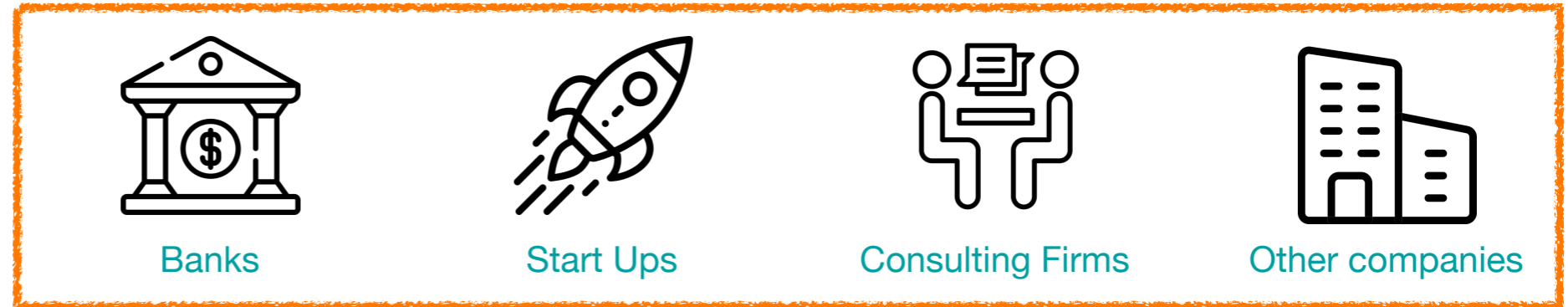


ML Scientist Data / BI Analyst Data Engineer Project Manager

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+ Location
+ Mission

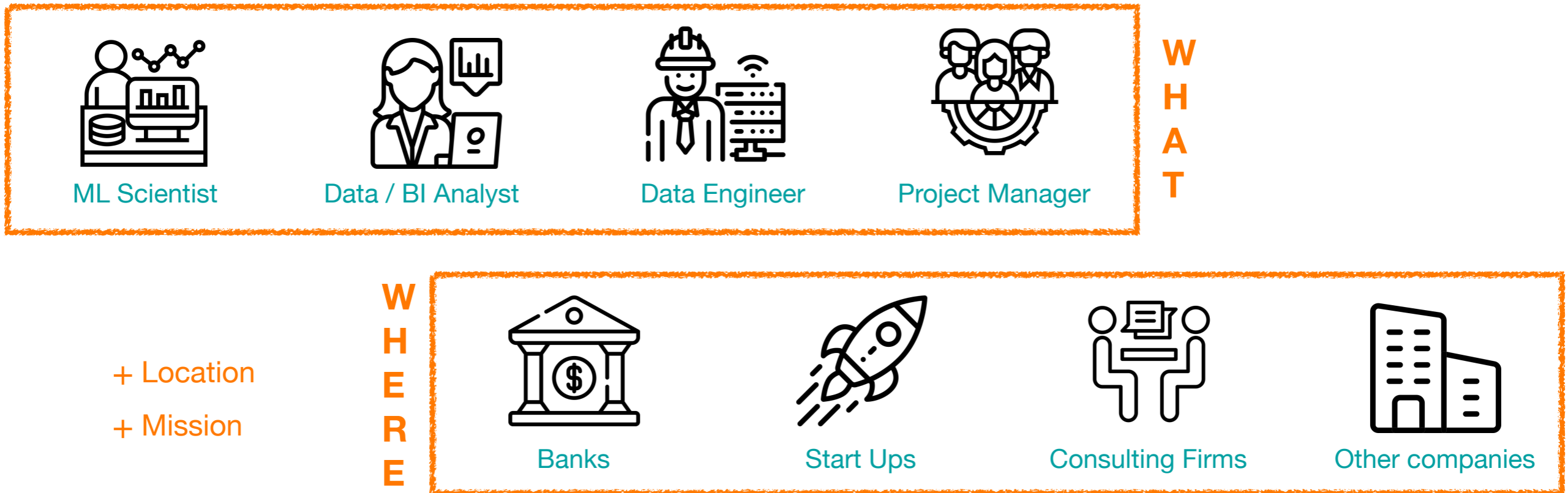
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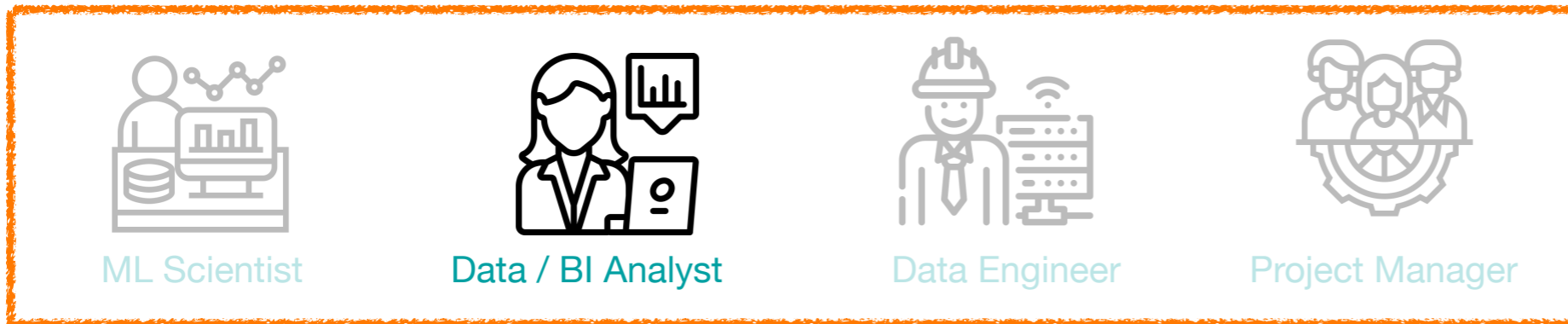
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- What needed skills do I already have, and which ones should I improve?
- Which companies are out there? (**tip**: read about companies reviews on [Glassdoor](#))
- Do I know someone working there or on similar roles / in similar companies?

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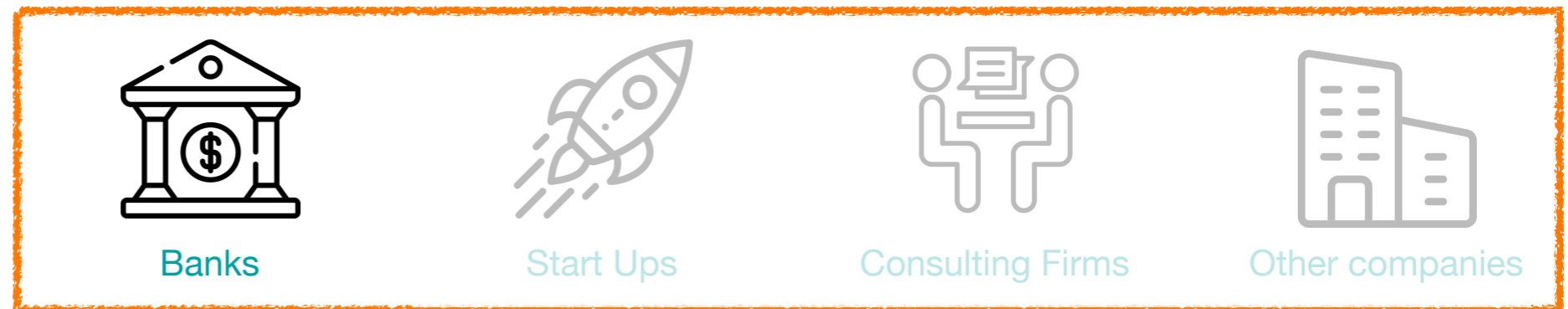


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Banks Start Ups Consulting Firms Other companies

Data Scientist / Analyst in a Bank

- What needed skills do I already have, and which ones should I improve?
 - *Ok with Python and French, but took a Finance course and did several SQL exercises online. A Tableau class would have been beneficial too.*
- Which companies are out there? (**tip**: read about companies reviews on [Glassdoor](#))
 - *Pictet Banque & Cie SA had a interesting Graduate Program!*
- Do I know someone working there or on similar roles / in similar companies?
 - *Reached out to someone in my network that was working in a Swiss bank*

2. Get prepared and do your research

Build an effective and concise CV (and cover letter)



- From 10 to 1 page(s) long Curriculum, translating from academic vocabulary to business
- Add visuals and job description key words
- Have a baseline version, to be readapted depending on the role

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- Online learning platform, such as Coursera, Udemy
- EPFL Extension School (Applied Data Science: Machine Learning)
- AWS, Scrum, etc.

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Train for interviews



- Exercise for technical interviews (theory, live coding, case studies, etc.) and for HR calls (**tip:** salary expectations on [Salarium](#), or others)
- Think of concrete examples to prove your soft-skills
- Learn about the company vision and culture

3. Be patient, it may be a tough and long process

Looking for a job can sometimes be frustrating and takes time and patience. But we have all been there, and eventually you'll get that one acceptance letter that will matter more than all the rejections!

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REALITY

After careful consideration of your application, we have concluded that we cannot proceed with your candidacy at this time. We will certainly be in touch should the right opportunity come up.

We regret to inform you that at this point in time, an offer has been extended to another candidate and the position is now being closed.

With the big amount of applications that we received we are overwhelmed with the interest for this position. As the one candidate has been hired we've made the decision to not move forward at this time.

Dear candidate,

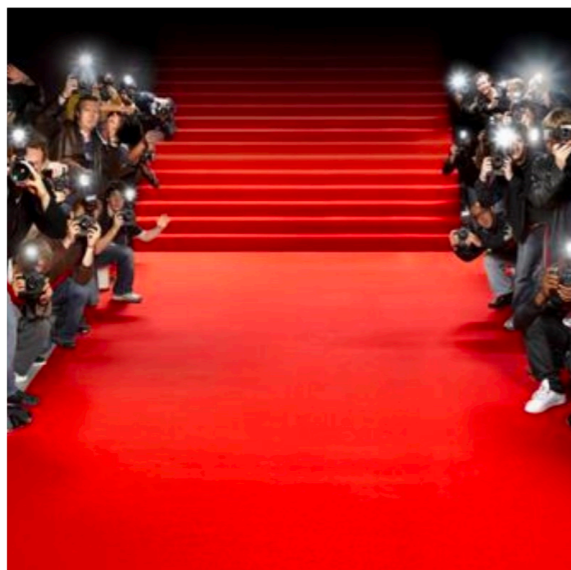
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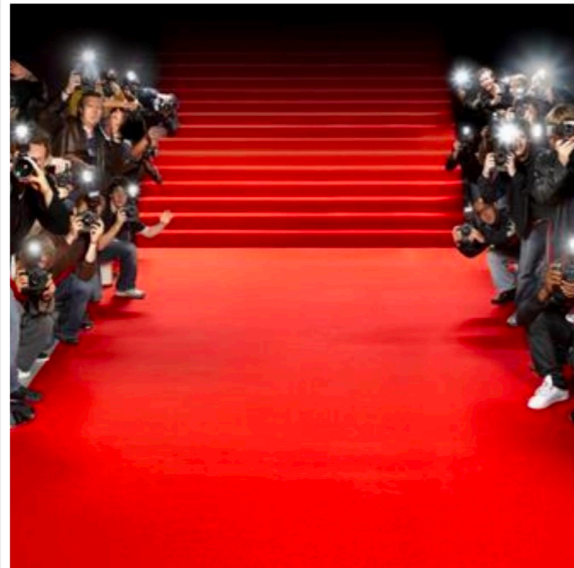
My Journey

- Something between 50 and 100 applications sent in ~ 9 months
- A lot of rejections emails, and often no rejection message at all (even worse!)
- Many calls with HR and recruiters, and somewhere around 5 in-person tech/biz interviews
- ... eventually 1 offer !

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My learnings

- Sometimes it is not easy to explain to non-technical recruiters what our potential could be, so be sure to translate your work at CERN in something that has a clear business impact
- Focus on what you have to offer rather than what you achieved in the past
- By now there are people that actually studied at Uni Data Science and/or Project Management, so try to build some competitive advantage

Bonus tips and conclusions

4. Don't feel guilty (you are not really joining the dark side!), and be excited for what is coming next
5. If you are thinking about doing it, start asap! Timing and age matter.

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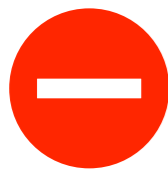
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- More responsibilities
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- New people network, with diverse backgrounds

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Good Luck and Stay Connected!

Giorgia Rauco

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 <https://www.linkedin.com/in/giorgiarauco/>