

Zeitschrift: Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad
Herausgeber: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
Band: 14 (1987)
Heft: 3

Vorwort: Twenty-five years of AJAS
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Front page

Part of Le Corbusier's chapel at Ronchamp (France).

Harvest in the Mittelland (photo: Peter Studer).

Imprint

Swiss Review

Magazine for the Swiss Abroad

14th year of issue

Published quarterly in German, French, Italian, English and Spanish, in about 30 regional editions

Printing: Berne, Paris, Lugano, New York, Melbourne, Wellington, Johannesburg, Buenos Aires

Total circulation: 232200

Publisher, seat of central editorial offices and advertisement administration:
Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad of the NHS
Alpenstrasse 26
CH-Berne 16, Switzerland
Telephone 031 446625
Telex 912118 asse ch
Postcheck (Swiss national giro) account:
30-6768-9

Editorial

Twenty-five years of AJAS



Vocational training in the home country? Only the young Swiss abroad or his (her) parents can answer this question; only they must decide on the course of training and assess the vocational possibilities that follow from it. Because, as everybody knows, acceptance of final examination certificates is often bound by national borders. Swiss supply of training facilities ranges from the vocational apprenticeship, through technical schools and professional training colleges, to university. These are open to all who can prove that they possess the basic educational background required for entry. Vocational guidance will help the young Swiss abroad to make the right choice.

Young people are not financially in a position to keep themselves during the training period; they depend on their parents or, according to circumstances, may be able to count on the scholarships granted by their home cantons or by private organizations. And they must learn to manage on the funds available.

Not all Swiss living abroad who want to train for a vocation have relatives to take them in and offer human support and backing; but they still need people for references, as well as centres, for getting started, to whom they can unburden their problems.

The AJAS (Association for the Training of Young Swiss Abroad) was founded 25 years ago. It has a permanent HQ, registered at the offices of the Pro Juventute organization in Zurich. It arranges contacts to vocational advisers, helps to draw up budgets, assists in the search for apprenticeship vacancies and study places, is always at hand for guidance on the raising of funds, and acts as the student's mentor throughout the training period (see article p. 9).

The AJAS seeks to attain active solidarity and to show our fellow-citizens abroad that they and we are one.

Carlo Zandralli, President of the Federal Department of Home Affairs' Commission for Questions of Swiss Schools Abroad, and President of AJAS.