

SSA news

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The Swiss Abroad Training Law

Support for dedicated parents

Questions of education and training have high priority with the Swiss Abroad. The Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad (SSA) and a federal law can provide extra help.

Education is one of the most important components in the SSA's range of services. Two of its associated institutions deal with it exclusively: the Committee for Swiss Schools Abroad and AJAS (see box). The latter receives a federal subsidy on the basis of the

Swiss Abroad Training Law of October 9, 1987.

The Law aims to "strengthen the ties of young Swiss Abroad with the homeland, facilitate entry into schools and vocational training in Switzerland and at the same time promote Switzer-

land's cultural presence abroad within this context".

It works mainly in two areas:

- Swiss schools abroad (see Swiss Review 5/94);
- Education outside Swiss schools.

The second of these includes providing advice for young Swiss Abroad wishing to complete their education in Switzerland and supporting Swiss communities dedicated to the education of Swiss children abroad. In particular, Article 10 of the Law provides for partial financing of Swiss teachers in foreign schools.

In such cases the initiative has to come from the local Swiss community, which must be prepared to take at least 50% of the cost on its own back. In the 1992/3 school year, 15 teachers in 10 different places were financed in this way. Since new Swiss schools are unlikely to be set up in the near future, mainly for financial reasons, Article 10 of the Law provides committed parents' associations with a logical alternative.

Heads of Swiss schools abroad are available to share their experience and know-

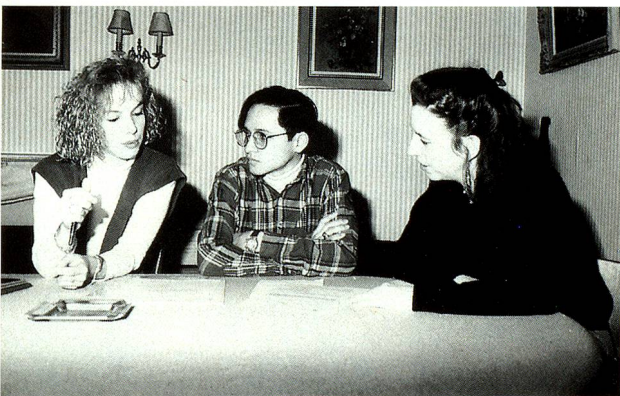
Thank you, Pro Patria

The Pro Patria national day collection – until 1991 the main source of finance for the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad – continues to support Swiss Abroad institutions. In 1993, it provided Swiss schools abroad with Sfr. 800,000, and in 1994 a substantial donation was made to the Museum of the Swiss Abroad in Geneva. The OSA thanks Pro Patria for its commitment to the Fifth Switzerland.

CSSA and AJAS

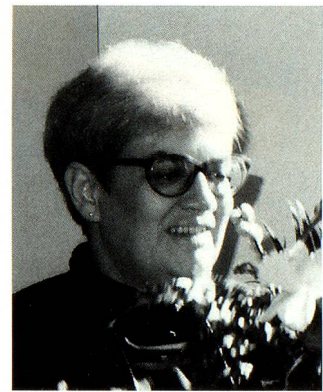
In the service of education

Katrin Wyss has worked at the Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad for 22 years; for more than ten she has been head of the Committee for Swiss Schools Abroad (CSSA) and may without any exaggeration be described as the good fairy of the schools. The CSSA supports the 16 recognised Swiss schools in administrative terms and looks after Switzerland's interests, which can be rather a costly business, particularly in these difficult financial times.



Eveline Hartung (left) and Caroline Perrin advising a young Swiss Abroad wishing to complete his education in Switzerland.

The Association for the Training of Young Swiss Abroad, better known by its old name of AJAS, has been providing educational and professional advice for over three decades. Every year its head, Caroline Perren, and Eveline Hartung give advice and otherwise assist about 1,000 young people wishing to complete their education in Switzerland. AJAS is the only distance vocational information centre in Switzerland and is available to Swiss Abroad as a jumping-off point for everything connected with the Swiss training and education system. AJAS also represents the interests of the Fifth Switzerland in all training matters. For further information, please contact: AJAS, Alpenstrasse 26, CH-3000 Berne 16



Katrin Wyss, head of the Committee for Swiss Schools Abroad. (Photos: SSA)

how. The SSA can also help. Please send queries to:
*Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad
Alpenstrasse 26
CH-3000 Berne 16*

OSA Friends' Association

New life members

Gertrud Knorr, Germany
Verena Lüttel, Germany
Margrit Lyster, Great Britain
Otto Oppliger, Germany
François Porret, Zaire
Albert et Elisabeth Schoop, Switzerland
Paul Thévenaz, Ukraine
Jean-Dominique Virchaux, Venezuela
David von Wyss, Switzerland.

The SSA Easter ski camp

Sun and fun!

The Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad's Easter ski and snowboard camp promises great fun in the snow in spring temperatures. It takes place on April 14-23, 1995, in Grimentz, Valais. Registration:

SSA – Youth Service
Alpenstrasse 26
CH-3000 Berne 16