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100th anniversary of the OSA

The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2016. Taking the title 'Switzerland in the World', the anniversary year will of course look back at the OSA's history but with the aim of focusing on the current and future needs of our fellow citizens worldwide. With events, books and a poster exhibition, this anniversary year will emphasise reflection, but in a celebratory spirit.



Auslandschweizer-Organisation
Organisation des Suisses de l'étranger
Organizzazione degli Svizzeri all'estero
Organisaziun dals Svizzers a l'ester

The Swiss Abroad will be honoured throughout the anniversary year, and the diversity of emigration and its contribution to Switzerland will be highlighted. As part of this, we invite you to join us from 15 to 17 April in Brunnen and from 5 to 7 August in Berne, where the centenary congress will take place. Here is the events programme:

An overview of the 100th anniversary of the OSA in 2016

2 March 2016

Official launch of the Centenary of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad

Official launch of the anniversary with a new homepage for the OSA's website www.aso.ch where you will find the events programme, links to centenary publications and a virtual exhibition that traces the history of Swiss emigration and gives a presentation of the Swiss Abroad today.

A special stamp marking '100 years of the OSA and the Swiss Abroad' produced in collaboration with Swiss Post will also be available.

15 to 17 April 2016

25 years of the Area for the Swiss Abroad in Brunnen

The Area for the Swiss Abroad was officially opened in 1991 as part of the celebrations marking the 700th anniversary of the Swiss Confederation. The site, located in Brunnen in the canton of Schwyz, symbolises the importance of the 762,000 Swiss Abroad to our nation.

While the OSA is celebrating its centenary, the Area for the Swiss Abroad is commemorating its 25th anniversary. To mark this occasion, three days of celebrations are planned. A ceremony, which will be attended by the President of the Swiss Confederation, Johann Schneider-Ammann, will officially open a permanent poster exhibition at the Area for the Swiss Abroad. For more information, visit www.aso.ch.

24 July to 4 August 2016

Trek by young people in Switzerland

Over a two-week period, 100 young Swiss Abroad – divided into four groups – will set off from the four corners of our country to discover Switzerland. They will report on their adventures on the www.swissinfo.ch website and in the SSR-SRG media channels. For more information, see www.aso.ch and www.swisscommunity.org/en/youth/leisure-offers.

5 to 7 August 2016

94th Congress of the Swiss Abroad (Berne)

Friday 5 August 2016

While the Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA) is holding its summer meeting at the Federal Palace during the morning and afternoon, events will be taking place on the Bundesplatz. The programme will include free concerts, entertainment and information stands. Speeches will be held on the Bundesplatz by Federal Councillor Didier Burkhalter, representatives of the city of Berne and the canton of Berne and the main partners in the

centenary celebrations. The meeting of the CSA and the speeches and concerts on the Bundesplatz will be broadcast live and streamed via www.aso.ch thanks to support from swissinfo and the SRG SSR.

Saturday 6 August 2016

Congress conference

The morning will be given over to visits organised for the congress participants (Federal Palace, media and production centre). In the afternoon, congress participants will meet at the Kultur Casino in Berne for a conference on 'Switzerland in the world – the development of international mobility.' The final evening will also be held at Berne's Kultur Casino.

Sunday 7 August 2016

Excursions

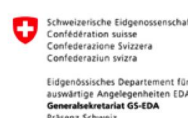
Trips to the Swiss Open-Air Museum in Ballenberg organised together with Switzerland Tourism. Congress details and registration at <http://aso.ch/en/offers/congress-of-the-swiss-abroad>.

Publications, online poster exhibition, stamp commemorating the OSA's 100th anniversary

At www.aso.ch you will find the detailed events programme, links to centenary publications, a poster exhibition and the stamp commemorating the 100th anniversary.

The OSA's centenary year promises to be an occasion full of dialogue and events. We hope many of you come to Brunnen and Berne to allow us to share these moments with you.

We wish to thank all of our anniversary partners:





94th Congress of the Swiss Abroad from 5 to 7 August 2016 in Berne

Switzerland – Part of the World: Development of International Mobility is the theme of the 94th Congress of the Swiss Abroad from 5 to 7 August 2016 in Berne. Many highlights await you during the anniversary year of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad. Further information can be found on our website at www.aso.ch.

With a congress ticket, the Swiss Abroad will also benefit from preferential conditions (75 % reduction on the official sales price) when buying a Swiss Travel Pass Flex from Swiss Travel System. The Swiss Travel Pass Flex will entitle the Swiss Abroad to unlimited use of most means of public transport in Switzerland and to reductions at cultural institutions.

Congress participants will also benefit from free admission to the Swiss National Museum where they can discover Swiss history and culture.

Further information on this year's congress (programme, online registration, accommodation in Berne, etc.) can be found at www.aso.ch > Offers > Congress of the Swiss Abroad > Congress 2016.

We hope you are able to attend.

✂

Please send me the registration documents in spring 2016 for the 94th Congress of the Swiss Abroad (5 to 7 August 2016) in Berne.

My address is:

Surname/first name: _____

Address: _____

Country/postcode/city: _____

Email: _____

It is important that you write legibly and in block capitals.

The registration documents are available in two languages:

☐ German ☐ French (Please tick the language required)

Send the completed form to:

Organisation of the Swiss Abroad, Communications & Marketing,

Alpenstrasse 26, 3006 Berne, Switzerland

Fax: +41 (0)31 356 61 01 or send an email to: communication@aso.ch

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What does educationsuisse – Education in Switzerland offer young Swiss Abroad?

Staff at educationsuisse answer around 1,000 queries a year from young people and their parents or relatives who are interested in education or training in Switzerland. The questions are very wide-ranging and concern matters such as the search for apprenticeship places, university requirements and the related recognition of foreign school-leaving qualifications, linguistic knowledge, grants, accommodation options and insurance issues.

Leaving the country where they have grown up to move to Switzerland for their education presents a major challenge for young Swiss people abroad. They sometimes no longer have any ties with their homeland and have to get used to a completely new environment, different customs and new people. A long way from their family, this is not always easy.

The Springboard project, which educationsuisse launched last year in cooperation with the OSA's Youth Service, helps young people aged 18 and over to put their educational plans into practice in Switzerland. They receive support with planning and choosing educational options and with funding and getting started with their education or training. For three to six months at the start of their education or training (apprenticeship or course of study in Switzerland) the young Swiss Abroad can live with a host family who will provide a room and meals for 500 Swiss francs a month. The aim of this is to facilitate integration into the new environment in Switzerland as quickly as possible.

For further information or questions about the Springboard project, please contact Ruth von Gunten (info@educationsuisse.ch).

The website www.educationsuisse.ch provides information about education and training in Switzerland. The staff at educationsuisse – Education in Switzerland would be pleased to provide you with further information.

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www.revue.ch

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Youth Service offers

■ Anniversary camps (22.7 to 7.8.2016)

4 camps, 2 weeks, 1 experience: Four sensational anniversary camps will take place at the same time this summer, all with the same destination – Berne. Starting from four points of departure the groups will each take a different route to the capital. Everyone will meet up in Berne and party on the Bundesplatz.

■ Culture, history & politics (starting point: French-speaking Switzerland)

We will discover Switzerland's diversity from French-speaking Switzerland. Castles, lakes, vineyards and much more besides will be explored until we finally reach Berne. This camp does not just have a lot to offer culturally; we will also find out a great deal about Swiss politics and its unique characteristics. There is something for everyone wishing to enjoy a camp offering a diverse range of activities.

■ Sightseeing challenge (starting point: Basel)

We will get to know Switzerland from its international side – on the journey from Basel to Berne we will visit various cities and look at what makes them special. Various challenges await you during the camp.

■ Sports & leisure (starting point: Grisons)

The emphasis here is placed on hiking, climbing, mountain biking and action with like-minded people. We will set out from Engadine and explore exciting Swiss regions on the way to Berne.

■ Outdoor & adventure (starting point: Ticino)

We are getting ready for an unforgettable experience in Ticino. Travelling on foot, by bicycle and in canoes, and sleeping under the stars – a wonderful adventure awaits.

Educational offers

German language courses in Zurich,
11.7 to 22.7.2016 / 8.8 to 19.8.2016

French language course in Biel,
11.7 to 22.7.2016

Switzerland as an educational centre:
Visit educational establishments and take advantage of contact with students and individual advice on education

Springboard: Support with planning and starting education and training in Switzerland

Election of the Council of the Swiss Abroad – Recommendations

The Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA) will be re-elected in 2017. At its meeting in August 2015, the CSA adopted a number of recommendations for the attention of the Swiss societies abroad with the aim of increasing the CSA's electoral base and thereby achieving better representation.

These recommendations are as follows:

- All Swiss Abroad registered on an electoral roll are authorised to take part in the election of the CSA
- Candidates must be nominated by a minimum number of voters.
- Candidatures should, where possible, be published in the regional section of 'Swiss Review' and in "Gazzetta Svizzera"
- Where they exist, umbrella organisations have the authority and responsibility for conducting the elections

These are recommendations and not requirements. The Swiss societies abroad and their umbrella organisations are free to follow them or not. Voters and candidates must hold Swiss nationality and be domiciled abroad. While the CSA is aware that there are still unresolved issues that need to be addressed, it hopes these recommendations will provide impetus in ensuring the CSA is more representative.

Further information can be found at www.aso.ch and www.swisscommunity.org.

Summer camps for children aged 8 to 14

From the end of June until the end of August, Swiss children abroad can have a fantastic time while also discovering Switzerland and its culture at two-week summer camps together with 30 to 50 other children from all over the world.

Attractions are visited, lakes, mountains, rivers and landscapes are discovered on short hikes and cities are explored at the camps run by the Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad. Some days are also spent at the camp base where we enjoy games, sporting activities and various workshops.

Participants also have the opportunity to gain fascinating insights into Switzerland. We look at the Swiss languages, Swiss songs, Swiss recipes and typically Swiss games and sports.

The interaction with participants from other countries and the exchange across linguistic, cultural and national boundaries present a unique opportunity to make new friends and enjoy some unforgettable moments.

There are still places available at our holiday camps. The exact details and the registration form can be found at www.sjas.ch/en/camps. We would also be pleased to send you our information brochure with an overview of the offers available by post on request.

The Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad wishes to give all Swiss children abroad the opportunity to discover Switzerland in this way on at least one occasion. We can offer reduced rates in justified cases. The form required can be requested on the registration form. We would be pleased to provide you with further information.



Stiftung für junge Auslandschweizer
Fondation pour les enfants suisses à l'étranger
Fondazione per i giovani svizzeri all'estero
Fundaziun per giuven svizzers a l'ester

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