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Good news for print subscribers

You won't miss anything – the next "Swiss Review" will also be available in print.

"Swiss Review" announced at the beginning of November 2019 that, as an exception, there would be just five printed editions of the magazine in 2020, and that a sixth edition would only be published online. Now the good news for all those who read the printed version of "Swiss Review": at a meeting on 12 March 2020, the Executive Board reviewed its original decision and concluded that this one-off omission of the printed edition will not go ahead after all. This is because "Swiss Review" ended 2019 in a much better financial position than expected back in August 2019. Sufficient funds are now available, meaning that we can continue providing our readers with what they want without any interruption.

Given that visitor traffic for the online edition is low, we remain focused on modernising the OSA's online presence. Through the planned merger of the current www.revue.ch, www.aso.ch and www.swisscommunity.org websites, we also aim to improve our magazine's reader-friendliness and visual appeal.

In developing our strategy for "Swiss Review", we must be conscious of the fact that our print and online readers have increasingly diverging reading habits. However, having our own online editorial team is currently

Voluntary subscriptions to bolster printed edition

Readers who particularly appreciate receiving the printed edition are able to support it with a voluntary subscription fee. Your support expressed in this way will help us to offer the "Review" on paper in the same quality for many years to come. The bank details for the transfer of voluntary subscriptions are as follows (please note: cheques cannot be cashed):

IBAN: CH97 0079 0016 1294 4609 8

Bank: Berner Kantonalbank,
Bundesplatz 8, CH-3011 Bern

BIC/SWIFT: KBBECH22

Beneficiary: BEKB Bern
Account 16.129.446.0.98
Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
Fao Mr A. Kiskery
Alpenstrasse 26, CH-3006 Bern

Reference: Support Swiss Review

Payments by PayPal: revue@aso.ch

not an option – which is why I am all the more grateful to our current "Swiss Review" editorial team for their creative and dedicated work.

I hope that our readers continue to enjoy "Swiss Review" – our most important key information resource.

REMO GYSIN, OSA PRESIDENT

Parliament of the "Fifth Switzerland" unable to sit due to the coronavirus

The Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA), referred to as the Parliament of the "Fifth Switzerland", was scheduled to sit at Berne's city hall on 14 March 2020. Unfortunately, the meeting, which had been planned in detail, had to be cancelled at short notice owing to the coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) outbreak. After Switzerland saw its first confirmed cases of the virus in February, the Federal Council banned all major events with more than 1,000 people.

Several cantons (including the canton of Berne, where the CSA was due to sit) then introduced tougher restrictions, only authorising events with fewer than 1,000 participants subject to certain conditions being met. The Executive Board and management of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) therefore saw no other option but to cancel the CSA. In their joint message to CSA delegates at the end of February, the OSA President and Director also cited their "institutional responsibility towards delegates and the public" as a reason for taking this decision.

Another decision was taken allowing CSA delegates to vote on some of the forthcoming agenda items by email. The results of this voting procedure were still outstanding at the time of going to press (MUL)

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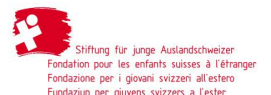


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The big readership survey

Now the ball is in your court. We would like you to tell us what you think of “Swiss Review”. Your answers will help us to deliver a magazine that meets your expectations.

What content does “Swiss Review” need to offer to ensure that it is as relevant to readers in Switzerland’s neighbouring countries as it is to those Swiss who live thousands of miles away? What topics interest the extremely diverse “Fifth Switzerland”? What should tomorrow’s “Swiss Review” look like?

Questions such as these come to the fore whenever our editorial team discuss the shape and content of the magazine. Our readers are the best people to answer them. As the publisher of “Swiss Review”, the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) is therefore conducting a comprehensive readership survey in which it hopes many people will participate. The Research Institute for the Public Sphere and Society (FÖG) – the University of Zurich’s independent body specialised in media research – has been entrusted with coordinating the survey.

Do the survey online

You can complete the readership survey conveniently online. Say what you think of the magazine in its current form, provide us with information about your own reading habits, tell us what you would like to see in future, and feel free to submit any general feedback that you may have. You can



What do our readers want? The “Swiss Review” editorial team – seen here at their latest planning session – continually ask themselves that question.

Photo: Danielle Liniger

access the survey directly via the following link:

survey2020.foeg.ch

Participation in the survey is voluntary but certainly worth a few minutes of your time. Not only will your feedback help us to improve “Swiss Review”, but you also have the chance to win a fantastic prize (see box).

We intend to publish the key findings of the survey in edition 1/2021 of “Swiss Review”.

ARIANE RUSTICHELLI, OSA DIRECTOR

MARC LETTAU, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Do you want to know who plans, writes and produces our bimonthly magazine? Find out about our editorial team at: revue.ch/redaktion

Typically Swiss prizes



At least 60 typically Swiss prizes are up for grabs in a free draw for all those who take part in our reader survey. These include exclusive Swiss-made items such as a genuine handcrafted cowbell from Glockengiesserei Berger, a Bärau-based bell foundry that has been operating since 1730, as well as a number of Appenzeller belts (“Chüeligürt”) produced by Daniel Fuchs, a craftsman known locally as a Sennensattler, and a Swiss silk scarf from leFoulard (lefoulard.shop), printed in the canton of Glarus. Other typically Swiss prizes

include knives and pocket knives from Victorinox as well as leisure products from Swiss mountain sports brand Mammüt, not to mention some exceptional cookbooks from Betty Bossy and the AT-Verlag publishing house. The total value of the prizes at the time of going to press was 3,000 Swiss francs. We have published a list of all the prizes at www.revue.ch. (MUL)

IMPRINT:

“Swiss Review”, the magazine for the Swiss Abroad, is in its 46th year of publication and is published in German, French, English and Spanish in 14 regional editions. It has a total circulation of 418,000, including 235,000 electronic copies. Regional news appears four times a year. The ordering parties

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All Swiss Abroad who are registered with a Swiss representation receive the magazine free of charge. Anyone else can subscribe to the magazine for an annual fee (Switzerland: CHF 30 / abroad: CHF 50). Subscribers are sent the magazine direct from Berne. www.revue.ch

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please advise your local embassy or consulate. Do not write to the editorial office in Berne.





“Choosing a profession or course of study is always a lengthy process.”

Educatiosuisse speaks to Francesca Kirchhofer, a vocational and career counsellor in Berne.

Francesca Kirchhofer, you work at the Career Guidance Centre (BIZ) Berne. What do you enjoy about your work?

Having the opportunity to inform, advise and support people in a wide range of life situations is very exciting. It begins with students who are contemplating what to do when they leave school. Then we have young adults who have completed an apprenticeship or upper-secondary-level school and intend to work, study or divert from their original chosen path. We also offer career guidance to adults who are thinking of doing continuing education or changing profession.

What is the biggest challenge that you face?

Firstly, the wide range of education, training and continuing education opportunities that are currently available in Switzerland. The educational landscape is continually changing. Keeping track is easier said than done. Secondly, the sheer variety of personal situations with which we are confronted. It requires a lot of empathy. Unfortunately we cannot satisfy everyone.

When is the right time to seek advice?

As soon as you feel ready to weigh up the available options. Young Swiss Abroad often complete their first school qualification in the country in which they live. If they are intending to study or train in Switzerland thereafter, we would advise them to work out in good time what they want to do and the prerequisites that they need to fulfil. One or preferably two years beforehand is a good time to start planning.



Francesca Kirchhofer,
a vocational and career counsellor in Berne.

And how many young Swiss Abroad come to you for advice?

Almost 20 were referred to us last year by educatiosuisse – a relatively small number for our staff of more than 70 here at the Career Guidance Centre in Berne.

Do you have any tips on how young people can make the right choice?

On the one hand, they should think about their own interests, strengths, motives and aspirations. On the other, they need information about what is available and routes to get there. Choosing a profession or course of study is always a lengthy process. You need to invest time in it. Gathering experience is the way to get this process moving. Experiences can be information events, conversations with professionals, or taster courses.

Do you have any particular tips for Swiss Abroad?

Thank goodness for the Internet! Our website, www.berufsberatung.ch, includes information about the Swiss education system, preparatory and integration courses, vocational education and training opportunities, fields of study, continuing education, and job-hunting. Our “Berufe-Explorer” tool and “Studenten-Interessen-Check SIC” check are two platforms that can help you work out which professions or higher education courses appeal to you the most. Our website contains photos and video clips about vocational education and training that provide an insight into the world of work.

How important are skills in the relevant language?

They are vital. At the very least, you need to have reached level B1/B2 to do vocational education and training, and level C1 for universities studies. You should try and shore up these skills in good time.

Educatiosuisse arranges personal consultations with the Career Guidance Centre BIZ-Berne. In a personal dialogue, a qualified expert will answer all individual questions.

Consultations are available in English, German, French, Italian or Spanish, and may be conducted via Skype or face-to-face in Berne (or in Biel for French speakers). One consultation costs CHF 130 (duration: approx. 60 minutes). You can enrol for a consultation via educatiosuisse.ch. (RG)

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The experiences of Swiss retirees abroad in the focus of research

Do you spend a part of your retirement in Morocco or Spain? Then Livia Tomás, researcher at the University of Neuchâtel, is interested in hearing from you.

Longer life expectancy, better and cheaper means of transportation, and enhanced communication technologies create new retirement options. Thanks to these developments, retirees may decide to travel more or to move to another country.

This phenomenon is at the centre of a research project at the University of Neuchâtel in Switzerland. The aim of this research project is to study the international mobility of retired persons. In particular, researchers want to understand what this mobility brings to retirees, which factors influence it, and what difficulties may arise.

The researcher Livia Tomás is currently looking for retired people who would like to share their experience in an individual interview. More specifically: “I am looking for retirees who have spent most of their adult life in Switzerland and who are now living for at least three months per year in Morocco or Spain. If your profile fits this description and you are interested in such an interview, I would be delighted to hear your story!” You can find the contact details of Livia Tomás at the end of this article. There is also a flyer available, which can be shared and forwarded to potentially interested people. You can download it here: ogy.de/flyer-en

Later this year, Swiss Abroad aged over 55 will also be surveyed all over the world as part of the same research project. The – voluntary – participation in this survey is central for the research project, says Tomás: “We would be delighted to receive many reactions and answers.”

This research project is conducted by the University of Neuchâtel and the School of Social Work of Geneva within the framework of the nccr – on the move, a National Centre of Competence in Research devoted to studying questions of migration and mobility. It



Livia Tomás, a researcher at the University of Neuchâtel

is funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation. Further information can be found online: ogy.de/nccr

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Back in Switzerland – and well insured

Question: Can I take out Swiss health insurance if I move back to Switzerland for good, and, if so, are pre-existing medical conditions covered?

Answer: Yes, you can take out basic insurance as soon as your place of domicile is situated in Switzerland again. Health insurance is mandatory for everyone living in Switzerland. Health insurers are therefore also obliged to provide basic insurance to anyone who resides in Switzerland, regardless of age or state of health. Furthermore, you are free to choose your health insurer (from the list of authorised insurers). The law governs which services are covered by basic insurance.

Health insurers cannot, therefore, refuse basic insurance to Swiss who have returned to Switzerland after living abroad, nor are they permitted to impose any restrictions (e.g. due to pre-existing medical conditions). You must take out health insurance within three months of taking up residence in Switzerland. Cover will then apply retroactively from the date you arrived in the country.

Certain people are exempt from the obligation to take out insurance in Switzerland. These include retired persons who draw a pension from an EU country and do not receive a Swiss pension, as well as anyone who is in Switzerland for education or training purposes and has insurance cover equivalent to basic Swiss cover.

Health insurance is taken out individually for each family member (adults and children). All insured persons pay a premium which can vary depending on the health insurance scheme, but the basic insurance services are the same for everyone. It is therefore worth comparing premiums. The Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH) provides a comparison of premiums online: www.priminfo.ch.

OSA LEGAL SERVICE

The OSA's Legal Service provides general legal information on Swiss law, particularly in areas which concern the Swiss abroad. It does not provide information on foreign law or intervene in disputes between private parties.



Winter camps for children and teenagers

We will not be offering any winter camps for children and teenagers over the next two winter seasons (2020–21 and 2021–22). This is mainly down to the current leap year and consequently shorter holiday season for our volunteer camp leaders as well as our decision not to offer any camps of a duration of less than ten days. We intend to start hosting winter camps again in the 2022–23 winter season.

YOUTH SERVICE OF THE ORGANISATION OF THE SWISS ABROAD (OSA)
FOUNDATION FOR YOUNG SWISS ABROAD (FYSA)

JUSKILA 2021 is taking place

Even though the Youth Service and the FYSA have put their own winter camps temporarily on hold, our co-operation with the popular JUSKILA Swiss Ski youth ski camp continues. The next JUSKILA is scheduled for 2 to 8 January 2021 in Lenk in the Bernese Oberland. Some 600 teenagers aged 13 to 14 will take part, including 25 teenagers from the “Fifth Switzerland”.

Those wishing to attend JUSKILA must be able to speak at least one of Switzerland’s three national languages – German, French or Italian. Lots will be drawn to allocate places at the prices shown below, which cover winter sports coaching, food and accommodation. Parents are responsible for organising and paying for their children’s outward and re-

turn journey. Children born in 2006 and 2007 are eligible to take part in the draw. We will announce who has won a place on the camp at the end of September.

Costs

Train tickets for travel within Switzerland; food; accommodation; ski pass; winter sports coaching **CHF 120.–**

Hire of winter sports gear, skis, poles and ski boots **CHF 50.–**

Or: Hire of snowboard and snowboard boots **CHF 150.–**

Information:

Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad (FYSA),
Tel. +41 31 356 61 16, Fax +41 31 356 61 01,
Email: info@sjas.ch, www.sjas.ch

Registration form for the draw – JUSKILA Lenk (2 to 8 January 2021)

Please fill it out in legible block letters.

Girl Boy

First name: _____

Surname: _____

Street: _____

Postcode, City: _____

Country: _____

Date of birth: _____

Child’s language: German French Italian

Type of sport Alpine skiing Snowboarding

Just tick one box! After the draw, it will no longer be possible to change sport.

Legal guardian’s name: _____

Municipality of origin in Switzerland (See passport/ID): _____

Parents’ email: _____

Parents’ telephone number: _____

Guardian’s signature: _____

Child’s signature: _____

Please send in the registration form with a copy of the Swiss passport of one parent or of the child by 15 September 2020 (date of receipt) to: Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad (FYSA), Alpenstrasse 26, 3006 Bern, SWITZERLAND