

# SWISS REVIEW

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The magazine for the Swiss Abroad  
March 2017



**Boom in professional drones –  
Swiss technology at the cutting edge**

**“Mass immigration” –  
implementation proves a real headache**

**An immediate hit –  
profile of comedy star Hazel Brugger**

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## Mass immigration – a muddled situation



The issue of immigration should have been resolved some time ago. A resolution on the implementation of the mass immigration initiative was passed by Parliament last December, well over two years after the initiative was approved by the Swiss people. Yet, opposition stirred on the benches of the National Council. Immediately after the final vote the Swiss People’s Party (SVP) parliamentary group accused Parliament

of violating the constitution – and not unjustly as little remained of the original content of its initiative. The will expressed by the Swiss people to control immigration through quotas and maximum numbers had been sidestepped. These requirements were replaced by a so-called “priority for Swiss, light version”.

The implementation of the initiative was a mission impossible from the outset. How was the will of the people to be implemented without jeopardising the free movement of persons with the EU? It was a case of to-the-letter or at least analogous implementation of the initiative versus prioritising national interests. Consultations were held with the EU. It then became clear that the European Union would not accept the planned quotas. In the meantime, the idea of a safeguard clause had been put forward based on annual ceilings for immigrants in the event of a certain threshold being exceeded. In the end, Parliament agreed on the “priority for Swiss, light version”, which is essentially just a form of priority for Swiss people who are unemployed.

“Mass immigration” will continue to be an issue in Switzerland despite the adoption of the resolution in December. The SVP has already announced a popular initiative on the free movement of persons with the EU. The “out of the cul-de-sac” initiative, which provides for the complete deletion of the article on mass immigration from the constitution, is also being put to the vote. And, as if the situation were not already complicated enough, an individual member of the Swiss Social Democratic Party (SP) recently called a referendum against the act on the mass immigration initiative, paradoxically to firmly establish it through a popular vote. He is a supporter of the act.

The situation is very muddled. What are the major obstacles? Where do the contradictions lie? What are the priorities? We try to shed light on these points in this issue’s focus article, to look back at the last three years of political trench warfare and to take stock of the situation to allow us to gain a reasonable understanding of the complex debate that Switzerland still faces on immigration.

MARKO LEHTINEN, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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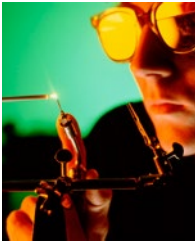
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## Focus on apprenticeships – the Swiss system proving a successful export



I am a qualified bookbinder and emigrated to the USA in the 1960s, where I bound altar bibles for the Lutheran church. After a few job changes, my career took off. I became a quality control director and then operational manager of the world's first fully automated book manufacturing facility. I was then appointed to a position at a university thanks to this pioneering work. I later travelled the world as a lecturer giving presentations and providing consultation. I was thus able to pass on the specialist knowledge I had acquired in Switzerland, which was a privilege! Even after officially retiring from the university, I am still asked to write specialist articles, to give talks and to provide consultation. I know quite a few Swiss people who have enjoyed successful careers owing to their vocational training.

WERNER REBSAMEN, PROFESSOR EMERITUS RIT, USA

The apprentice system is indeed one of the competitive advantages Switzerland has. Ingrained in the value system of the Swiss people, established many years ago, challenged but defended with pride: it's a system that I personally envy the most about Switzerland, and that our country, South Korea, needs urgently.

EUN UK AHN, SOUTH KOREA

Practice and theory: the Swiss model is highly recommendable and I really hope to see this system exported to the UK, where university graduates often fail to find appropriate professional jobs.

MR. MURPHY, ENGLAND

## Row over cross-border commuters – the controversy over priority for Swiss citizens in Ticino



“Prima i nostri” are doing the right thing in insisting that jobs should go to the Ticinese firstly and not border workers. Ticino is only a small canton and should not have to suffer the economic and congestion problems associated with the influx of (mainly) Italians, transforming poor Lugano into some kind of Italian enclave. Keep the national Swiss character of this area alive and well!

RICK JONES, ENGLAND

I am from Geneva and am familiar with the cross-border commuter “issue”. However, we have to cease blaming cross-border workers for employment problems and other issues and stop believing that restricting their numbers will provide a miracle solution. Switzerland needs well-qualified people, but also workers in the watch-making factories and shops, etc.

MARIE-DOMINIQUE FORSTER, SWITZERLAND

## Referendum result – nuclear power stations can continue to operate



Buying electricity generated by nuclear power plants abroad that are probably less well monitored than in Switzerland in order to abruptly shut down our own plants does not seem very responsible. Chernobyl never generated electricity for Switzerland, but it certainly produced pollution.

BALISTA, SWITZERLAND

## Area for the Swiss Abroad. One of the nation's most beautiful spots is in need of help



Alex Hauenstein, President of the Area for the Swiss Abroad Foundation in Brunnen, recently appealed to the Swiss Abroad for donations towards the final stage of restoration of one of Switzerland's most beautiful areas. The Area for the Swiss Abroad is the final destination on the “Swiss Path” hiking trail and has tremendous symbolic character for the Swiss Abroad. Silvia Schoch, regional editor of Swiss Review and an OSA delegate, reminded all Swiss Abroad of the current collection campaign in her report. However, how are the Swiss residing abroad supposed to make a contribution after many of the Swiss banks closed their accounts? They have been hard hit by this unpatriotic decision by many Swiss financial institutions.

VIKTOR NELL, SPAIN

# Immigration policy – a never-ending story

Parliament approved a loose implementation of the mass immigration initiative last December. Yet the issue is far from resolved.

JÜRIG MÜLLER

There were unprecedented scenes in the Swiss Parliament. The Swiss People's Party (SVP) parliamentary group held protest placards aloft bearing slogans like "Mass immigration is continuing!" and "Breach of the constitution!". These events took place on 16 December last year during the final vote on implementing the mass immigration initiative in which the SVP was defeated. The SVP's popular initiative had been approved on 9 February 2014 by 50.3% of voters. However, an astonishing political drama ensued between these two dates which did not end with the conclusion of the parliamentary process but instead led to much fiercer rows over Swiss policy on Europe.

This issue will continue to occupy Switzerland in the near future. Since the approval of the initiative, article 121a of the federal constitution has stated that Switzerland must govern immigration using quotas and maximum numbers. The new admission system should have been introduced within three years, so by 9 February this year, while protecting the interests of the whole economy and giving priority to Swiss citizens. International treaties that contravene the new provisions would be "renegotiated and amended within three years of approval by the Swiss people and cantons".

## Refusal from Brussels

Flashback – in June 2014, shortly after the approval of the mass immigration

initiative, the Federal Council presented a plan for its strict implementation with maximum numbers and quotas and put it out to consultation. In July of the same year, the national government lodged a request with the EU to amend the Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons. Brussels did not take long to respond. Catherine Ashton, the EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs, immediately informed Switzerland that the amendment request had been rejected. In February 2015, Simonetta Sommaruga, President of the Swiss Confederation, and Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission, agreed to hold "consultations" but actual negotiations were out of the question for the EU. Despite the EU's refusal, the Federal Council approved the negotiation mandate with Brussels in February 2015 and opened a consultation process for the bill on the implementation of the mass immigration initiative. Maximum numbers and quotas were no longer stipulated for EU citizens should it not be possible to amend the agreement on free movement.

The sluggish toing and froing was spiced up by a new development in October 2015. A politically independent committee submitted the popular initiative entitled "Out of the cul-de-sac". Its content is simple but radical: Article 121a should be deleted from the federal constitution.

In March 2016, the Federal Council presented the dispatch on the implementation of the constitutional

article concerning the mass immigration initiative. The national government was now focusing on a safeguard clause which could be implemented unilaterally without the approval of the EU if necessary. If immigration exceeded a certain threshold value, the Federal Council would have to define annual maximum numbers.

## "Priority for Swiss, light"

Parliament took the reins in the autumn 2016 session and a new term emerged: "Priority for Swiss, light version". After protracted wrangling, the Federal Assembly finally adopted an implementing law in December that provides for some priority to be given to the unemployed. In regions and professions with an above-average number of jobless, companies must register their vacancies with the regional job centres and invite suitable applicants for interview. The aim is that immigration from abroad will fall because vacancies will be filled by people who are registered as unemployed in Switzerland.

After much toing and froing, harsh words were exchanged in Parliament on 16 December 2016 at the aforementioned final vote. Adrian Amstutz, leader of the SVP parliamentary group, said: "Our democracy is being trampled on with today's breach of the constitution." He dubbed this a dark day for the nation. "This almost traitorous course of action by the parliamentary majority – driven by the SP but led by FDP politicians, and which the CVP parliamentary group is also helping over the line with duplicitous abstention – constitutes unprecedented contempt for democracy."

In actual fact it was the Free Democrats, especially the National Councillor Kurt Fluri and the former FDP President and current Council of States member Philipp Müller, who

took the lead and creatively forged the now existing implementing legislation concerning the mass immigration initiative. The SP did not have to do a great deal as its main interests were in line with those of the FDP – maintaining the bilateral approach, which is only possible if the agreement on freedom of movement with the EU is not affected. Amstutz was not the

## Not democracy's finest hour

The implementing law does not constitute implementation of the mass immigration initiative to the letter and is not direct democracy's finest hour either. However, this solution is not undemocratic, as the SVP claims. After all, the Swiss people have voted in favour of the bilateral

possible to continue the agreements with Switzerland.

One problem is that the initiative contains ambiguities. While the new constitutional article requires negotiations with the EU, it does not indicate what should happen if they fail or do not even take place. Negotiations clearly always require the willingness of both sides to engage.



only one to speak out. Ignazio Cassis, the leader of the FDP parliamentary group, also used strong words during the showdown in Parliament: He accused the SVP of “betraying the people” because it had led the public to believe prior to the referendum on the mass immigration initiative that the problem could be resolved simply through follow-up negotiations with the EU on the free movement of persons.

agreements five times but only once for independent controls on immigration. “We have tried to bring the various referendum decisions together under one hat and to achieve the best possible outcome within the scope of the bilateral agreements,” remarks SP President Christian Levrat in an interview with the “Bund” newspaper. EU leaders declared shortly before Christmas 2016 that it would now probably be

**A clear sign: The SVP parliamentary group accused Parliament of violating the constitution on 16 December 2016.**

Photo: Keystone

Adrian Amstutz, the leader of the SVP parliamentary group, believes it was a mistake from the outset to include the position of the EU in the implementation. In an SVP leaflet sent to all Swiss households in March 2015, he wrote that the Federal Council had effectively handed the EU a “right of veto” by adopting this approach. It made the implementation of the popular mandate dependent upon the willingness of Brussels to approve the

vital amendment to the agreement on the freedom of movement. The SVP was still insisting “on the systematic implementation of the popular mandate, even if this means accepting the termination of the agreement on free movement”.

However, the SVP took a different tone before the referendum. It declared that by approving the initiative “we are giving the Federal Council the mandate of renegotiating the free movement of persons with the EU” and “therefore the agreement on the free movement of persons will not have to be terminated”. It also said: “The initiative is neither seeking a general halt to immigration nor is it calling for the termination of the bilateral agreements with the EU.” In fact this appeared on the initiative’s official website. However, the SVP did not come up with any constructive compromise proposals during the implementation phase. Progress cannot be made without compromise, as the foreign policy think-tank foraus indicates: “The systematic implementa-

tion of the mass immigration initiative is not feasible, only various compromises are possible. A political decision is required on which objective is of greater importance – economic prosperity or autonomous control of migration.”

Christoph Blocher muddied the waters and clearly took up positions which his party later distanced themselves from, as the “Sonntagszeitung” documented in December 2016. According to the minutes of a meeting of business leaders and conservative parties, the SVP’s chief strategist was willing to refrain from maximum figures and even indicated priority for Swiss citizens could be acceptable.

#### A referendum called by supporters

The SVP also acted inconsistently in the aftermath of the battle. It decided against a referendum despite the party dubbing the implementing law a “breach of the constitution” and a “betrayal of the nation”. Party leader

Albert Rösti explains this position by remarking that a referendum “would simply cement the current status quo”. However, nothing is cut and dried yet. A series of major events that could set the course of policy on Europe is emerging on the horizon. Nenad Stojanovic, ironically a member of the SP rather than the SVP, has as a private individual now called a referendum against the law on the implementation of the mass immigration initiative. Stojanovic supports the controversial implementing law but wants to lend it the greater legitimacy of a referendum. This means that for the first time in Swiss history, it is the advocates rather than the opponents of a law who are calling for a referendum. He is also receiving support from other individuals and small groups who either vehemently back or vehemently reject the law. If the required number of signatures is collected and the law is adopted at the referendum, this would send a clear signal that the Swiss people wish to retain the

The mass immigration initiative has led to difficult discussions with the EU. (Pictured: Simonetta Sommaruga, President of the Swiss Confederation, and Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission, during negotiations in 2015) Photo: Keystone





## From ceilings to the three-circles model

Switzerland has long been an attractive destination for foreign workers. There were large waves of immigration even before the First World War. But it really started to pick up with the economic boom after the Second World War. Politicians responded with various instruments to channel the growing level of immigration. They initially attempted to use the *rotation principle*. Residence permits were only issued for a short period after which the guest workers had to return to their native country. Many employers were critical of the system because they continually had to introduce and train different workers. From 1963, the Federal Council attempted to introduce a *simple ceiling*. Companies could only recruit foreigners if they did not increase their workforce significantly. It had little effect as immigration continued to rise. At the same time, xenophobic movements attracted strong support.

The Swiss government now introduced the *double ceiling*. Every company had to reduce the number of foreign staff by 5% while also ensuring that the total number of employees did not increase. These measures had an impact but more foreigners arrived owing to a simplified family reunion procedure. In 1970, *quotas* were brought in. This curbed immigration but significantly more seasonal workers came to Switzerland at the same time. The *three-circles model* was then devised in 1991 but never implemented in its purest form: free movement of persons with the EU states (first circle), recruitment of highly qualified workers from other western countries, like the USA and Canada (second circle), and no immigration, as far as possible, from the rest of the world (third circle). *Free movement of persons with the EU* was then gradually implemented in 2002.

There has been one sobering constant in all the political attempts to control immigration to this day. Migratory movements have had less to do with immigration laws but have rather reflected the economic situation in Switzerland and also in the countries of origin. (JM)

free movement of persons. This is precisely the outcome the SVP fears, which is why it is refraining from calling a referendum. However, if the people were to vote against it, there would be no implementing law. The bilateral agreements would be in acute danger as Parliament would have to adopt tighter legislation which would probably be incompatible with the agreement on free movement of persons.

This agreement is now coming under direct attack from the SVP in any case. In January, the party decided to prepare a popular initiative

opposing the agreement by the middle of this year. There is talk not just of termination but of a general constitutional ban on the free movement of persons. The Campaign for an Independent and Neutral Switzerland (Auns) initially took the lead. Last December, it declared that it would soon be launching a termination initiative. Auns chief executive Werner Gartenmann told "Swiss Review" that the next steps would now be coordinated with the SVP: "We sought to create pressure in December to finally move forwards," he said. If this initiative is put forward, the people could make a clear fundamental decision over policy on Europe – either independent control of immigration and a possible break with the EU or continuation of the bilateral relations with Brussels as at present.

## Decision based on the "out of the cul-de-sac" initiative?

The "out of the cul-de-sac" initiative, which has already been submitted and would remove the mass immigration article from the constitution without substitution, would also present the opportunity for a fundamental decision to be made. However, the initiative is given little chance of success. Rejection would also increase the pressure to implement the mass immigration initiative to the letter. The Federal Council has therefore submitted two variants of a direct counterproposal for consultation. One variant provides for the implementation of the mass immigration initiative in accordance with "international treaties". The other solution seeks to leave the text of the SVP initiative in the constitution in full but to delete the three-year implementation period from the transitional provisions. This would make the control of immigration a long-term matter for the Federal Council.

It would have to knock on Brussels' door again to seek a solution, but could wait for an opportune moment. An opportunity may arise after a period of time to renegotiate the free movement of persons without fundamentally jeopardising relations with the EU. After all, the free movement of persons is also a contentious issue in several EU states. It was one of the reasons for Brexit, the UK's departure from the EU.

Switzerland will therefore have to weather further storms over policy on Europe before the immigration issue is resolved for good. In the meantime, mass immigration will continue "unchecked", according to the SVP's website. However, the influx of foreigners has been falling for three years. In 2016, the lowest level of immigration was recorded since the full free movement of persons was introduced in 2007. Net migration, which is the difference between immigrants and emigrants in the permanent resident foreign population, has been declining since 2013. Net migration gain then stood at over 81,000. In 2014, it was just under 79,000 and in 2015 around 71,500. The latest statistics on foreigners released by the State Secretariat for Migration indicate that net migration in 2016 was over 15% lower than in 2015, standing at 60,262.



## Tax policy deep in the mire

Three proposals were put to the vote on 12 February.

The rejection of Corporate Tax Reform III puts Switzerland in an awkward position.

Simplified naturalisation and the Motorways and Agglomerations Fund were approved.

JÜRIG MÜLLER

Three proposals were put to the vote, but really it was only the Corporate Tax Reform III that was contentious, and for that reason, all the more so. Those on the left dubbed the bill a “tax swindle” that would leave the cantons and communes facing tax shortfalls running into the billions, result in public service cutbacks and bleed the middle classes dry. Conservative supporters, on the other hand, warned of damage costing billions in the event of rejection. Large companies could leave Switzerland if tax privileges were abolished without offering any alternative measures. The proposal would only cause tax shortfalls in the short term but would produce higher revenues over the long haul, they said. If Switzerland continued to offer attractive tax rates, companies would continue to invest and new companies would also relocate to Switzerland.

The tax reform was required because some privileges for large companies are no longer internationally acceptable. New tax allowances were to be introduced by way of recompense for such companies. However, the Swiss Social Democratic Party (SP) believed that Parliament had unnecessarily included additional forms of tax relief in the Federal Council’s original bill, which is why it called the referendum.

### Powerful dynamic during the referendum campaign

The left emerged victorious from the bitter struggle. The bill was defeated by a surprisingly clear margin, with 59.1% opposed. This was surprising



The former Finance Minister Eveline Widmer-Schlumpf, effectively the architect of Corporate Tax Reform III, pictured at a meeting of BDP delegates, voiced criticism of the tax bill three weeks before the referendum. Photo: Keystone

because only the SP, the Greens and the trade unions had originally opposed Corporate Tax Reform III. It had received the backing of all the other political parties, the Federal Council, practically all the cantons and the major business federations. However, a dynamic that played into the hands of the left emerged during the course of the referendum campaign: large cities also joined the no camp.

A possibly decisive thunderbolt came around three weeks before the referendum from an unexpected source. Former Federal Councillor Eveline Widmer-Schlumpf, the architect of Corporate Tax Reform III to a

certain extent as the former Finance Minister, revealed her dissatisfaction with the bill in an interview. The tax package had been overloaded by Parliament, making it imbalanced, declared the Swiss Conservative Democratic Party (BDP) politician, who is highly regarded by the Swiss public. A few other conservative figures also put their heads above the parapet and criticised the bill.

Mistrust of the proposal was evident amongst the grass roots of all the parties, but the left was the clear victor in the referendum battle. SP Party President Christian Levrat remarked that the result was a “clear signal from

the people” of their dissatisfaction with the “lust for power and arrogance of the conservatives”. They were no longer willing to compromise after the election victory of the SVP and FDP in 2015.

## Maurer’s second major setback

The conservatives lost what was probably the most significant referendum of the current legislative period. It was also a painful personal defeat for Finance Minister Ueli Maurer. The SVP Federal Councillor had previously experienced a crash landing as the Defence Minister after the referendum on purchasing the Gripen fighter jet and now suffered a major setback for the second time over a key bill with Corporate Tax Reform III. Switzerland also faces a problem as it now requires more time to bring its corporate tax laws into line with international requirements.

The spectre of new OECD and EU blacklists is already appearing on the horizon – if Switzerland were placed on such a list, it would face the threat of huge economic turmoil. Hans-Ulrich Bigler, FDP National Councillor and Director of the Swiss Trade Association (SGV), spoke of dangerous legal uncertainty for companies on the evening of the referendum. Heinz Karer, CEO of Economiesuisse, even feared an exodus of companies and Federal Councillor Maurer said that the result was “not a good sign for Switzerland as a business location. Switzerland will become less attractive.”

However, there is one point on which all political players agree. Action now needs to be taken quickly if Switzerland is to avoid massive international pressure. Above all, Federal Councillor Maurer of all people now has to step up to the mark. He has to formulate a bill under enormous time pressure that is acceptable to all polit-

ical parties, the cantons, the business community, the EU and the OECD, not to mention the Swiss people. The Federal Council’s original bill can be used as a basis.

The new corporate tax reform must make the tax burden on companies competitive but at the same time also ensure solid reciprocal funding. The left-wing parties firmly believe that taxation of dividends has to increase and that a capital gains tax must be introduced. To what extent these demands will be acceptable to the business community and the conservative parties remains to be seen. The only certainty is a renewal of fierce debate which cannot be allowed to get out of hand time-wise.

## Surprise result on simplified naturalisation

The second surprise on referendum Sunday was the overwhelming support for the bill on simplified naturalisation, where 60.4% voted in favour. This will now benefit third-generation foreigners, in other words the generation whose grandparents emigrated to Switzerland. These foreign nationals are effectively Swiss without holding a Swiss passport. However, they still have to meet a whole raft of criteria even after acceptance of the bill. The fact that the proposal has now been approved after three similar attempts in 1983, 1994 and 2004 was far from a matter of course in times of fears over immigration. The outcome illustrates that the Swiss people can judge immigration policy issues in a very discerning way. The campaign run by SVP circles, which was not based on facts and which used a Burka poster to stir up animosity against foreigners who have lived in Switzerland for decades, proved ineffective.

The third proposal, on the Motorways and Agglomerations Fund, also

## Referendum results of 12 February 2017

40.9% Yes 59.1% No



Corporate Tax Reform III

60.4% Yes 39.6% No



Simplified naturalisation

62.0% Yes 38.0% No



Motorways and Agglomerations Fund

surmounted the referendum hurdle comfortably with 62% in favour. The operation, maintenance and construction of motorways and transport projects in agglomerations will now be financed by one fund. The opposition made up of left-wing parties and environmental associations had little hope of succeeding. They contended that there would be a surge in construction in view of the fact that there would be a billion Swiss francs more available for roads under the new fund while the federal coffers would lack resources. The arguments of those in favour that the road transport network had long since reached its limits and bottlenecks had to be eliminated were met with approval. The Swiss electorate voted in favour of the Railway Infrastructure Fund three years ago. The approval of the Motorways and Agglomerations Fund can be seen as a firm commitment by the Swiss people to a good transport infrastructure for roads as well.



## The Swiss energy system – major upheaval to come

No more new nuclear power stations, lower consumption and more renewable energy – on 21 May, the Swiss people will vote on the “2050 Energy Strategy” against which the Swiss People’s Party has called a referendum.

JÜRIG MÜLLER

The bill’s official title is the “2050 Energy Strategy. The First Package of Measures.” However, “package” is a massive understatement; “raft” would be a more apt description. A 47-page piece of legislation is actually being voted on. The new Energy Act alone contains 77 articles, while various pieces of legislation will also be amended, including the CO<sub>2</sub> Act, the Spatial Planning Act, the Electricity Act, the Electricity Supply Act and the Nuclear Energy Act. Parliament has chewed over the energy strategy for around three years.

It all began with the nuclear disaster in the Japanese city of Fukushima in 2011. In the same year, the Federal Council and Parliament made the fundamental decision to gradually withdraw from nuclear power. The international market environment has also changed rapidly, and new technologies have transformed the interaction between the various sources of energy. In the view of the government and Parliament, all of this calls for a restructuring of the entire Swiss energy system. In short, it is a matter of increasing energy efficiency while at the same time reducing consumption and promoting and expanding renewable energies.

### Withdrawal from nuclear energy

Probably the most striking and contentious part of the entire bill is the withdrawal from nuclear energy. The construction of new nuclear power plants would be prohibited. However, the existing ones would be permitted to continue operating unrestrictedly

provided they are deemed safe by the supervisory authorities. That does not go far enough for the Green Party. Through a popular initiative it called for not only a ban on new nuclear power plants but also the decommissioning of all five existing ones in Switzerland by 2029 at the latest. That was too fast-paced for the Swiss electorate, which rejected the proposal on 27 November 2016.

The goal of withdrawing from nuclear energy in the distant future nevertheless remains intact. Renewable energies are to replace it to some extent. In hydropower, Switzerland possesses a plentiful source of renewable energy with a rich tradition. Additionally, the “new” renewable energies, namely solar power, wood, biomass, wind, geothermal energy and ambient heat, are making up a growing share of our nation’s energy supply. However, just 21.4 % of energy consumed in Switzerland currently comes from renewable sources of energy. These new renewable energies would therefore be heavily promoted. Electricity production from such sources is to be increased from around three terrawatt hours at present to over 11 terrawatt hours by 2035. That would be around half as much as the Swiss nuclear power plants generate today.

More money is to be provided to promote renewable energies. The network surcharge for electricity consumers is to rise by 2.3 cents. For a family of four, that would cost around 100 Swiss francs a year, which is 44 more than at present. To better promote renewable energies, the construction of production plants in na-

ture conservation areas would also be made easier. Existing large-scale hydropower plants would be subsidised by 0.2 cents per kilowatt hour from the network surcharge.

In order to achieve the objectives, not only should renewable energies be promoted, but energy efficiency must also be increased. By 2035, energy consumption per person and year – measured against the level in 2000 – is to be cut by 43 % and electricity consumption by 13 %. The key instrument here is the existing buildings programme, which would be expanded. In future, 450 million Swiss francs could go towards this from the CO<sub>2</sub> duty instead of 300 million at present. Energy-efficient building renovations are also to be encouraged through tax incentives. Tighter regulations would apply to car importers in future, enabling more eco-friendly vehicles to be brought in. The Federal Council could also stipulate provisions for the import of intelligent measurement and control systems for end consumers.

### Leaving it to the market

This is all too much for the Swiss People’s Party (SVP), which is why it called the referendum. It believes the energy strategy is downright “disastrous” for Switzerland. Party President Albert Rösti has repeatedly said that there is no need to decide now on how the energy landscape will look in 35 years’ time. This could safely be left to the market as the most energy-efficient systems would also then prevail. He says: “Unless we fight the Energy Act, the price of electricity, petrol and oil



The “2050 Energy Strategy” is to promote renewable energies, such as wind power. In the photo: A wind farm on the Nufenen Pass

Photo: Keystone

will rise over the coming years. This will have an adverse impact on the rural community, families, small and medium-sized businesses, farms and tenants, in particular.” Röstli anticipates that the proposed measures will result in horrendous costs of around 3,200 Swiss francs per family per year. This figure is nevertheless contentious and has even been dubbed misleading because it cannot be derived from the bill that is being put to the vote.

The SVP has based its calculations on the second package of measures where a climate and energy management system is planned. Firstly, this proposal has not even been debated in Parliament yet and, secondly, it is not considered capable of securing majority support.

National Councillor Toni Brunner, Röstli’s predecessor as SVP President, warns: “If we are to abruptly relinquish almost 40 % of the electricity generated by our nuclear power plants, this has to be replaced. Achieving that with just renewable energies, such as wind and solar power, is totally unrealistic.” Brunner continues: “Wind parks transform and disfigure our landscapes, new hydropower projects are being met with resistance, and solar roofs will not make up the shortfall. Switzerland will have to make up the deficit with electricity imports, either from French nuclear plants or German coal-fired power stations. This would make us even more reliant on foreign countries and susceptible to blackmail.”

## Proponents warn of “dirty electricity” imports

Supporters of the energy strategy argue this is incorrect and, in fact, it is the other way around. Those who believe a no vote and therefore maintaining the status quo is the right course are ignoring reality, remarked Daniel Fässler, the Christian Democratic People’s Party (CVP) National Councillor, during the parliamentary debate: “Three of the five nuclear power plants will be decommissioned over the coming years in any case, with or without the energy strategy. That equates to around 14 % of current electricity production. In the event of a no vote, the shortfall in power would have to be made up with imports from the EU, increasing our reliance on other countries enormously and weakening security of supply,” explained Fässler. “Investment would not be made in Switzerland but instead in the EU to the detriment of the Swiss economy.”

Roger Nordmann, leader of the SP parliamentary group, went a step further: “The nuclear power plants are ageing and becoming prone to breakdown and faults. To go on as before would require us to plan for new nuclear power stations. Apart from the fact that this would not be desirable on safety grounds, it would not be feasible politically or legally and would be economically reckless.” If the energy strategy were to be rejected, hydropower and new renewable energies could not be enhanced and Switzerland would “become heavily dependent on the import of dirty electricity”, according to Nordmann. This would increase the cluster risk as Switzerland already depends on the fossil fuels oil and gas for 65 % of its energy supply.

# Swiss minorities come closer to realising their dreams

A country of four languages and four cultures – that’s the usual way to describe Switzerland, but it’s less than precise. Now, though, the Yeniche and the Sinti are officially listed among Switzerland’s linguistic and cultural minorities. And the Roma are becoming more visible, too.

MARC LETTAU

Suddenly tears started trickling down the cheeks of grown men, who then turned and embraced each other. These men, so visibly moved, belonged to the Yeniche and Sinti peoples and had gathered in Berne for a traditional cultural event. Federal Councillor Alain Berset had been invited to deliver the opening speech. There was an emotional reaction as soon as he uttered his first words: “Dear Yeniche people, dear Sinti people...”.

Nothing remarkable about that way of addressing them, you might think. But for the Yeniche and Sinti who were there on 15 September 2016, it was a

breakthrough: For the first time, they heard a member of the government describe them in terms less vague than the collective term “travelling people”. Berset said: “I acknowledge your demand to be known by your own name and will do all I can to ensure that the Confederation refers to you as Yeniche and Sinti in future.” The Federal Council went a step further just before the turn of the year and explained what it meant by “the promotion of the culture of the Yeniche, Sinti and Roma”. The plan of action put forward may well have been fragmentary, but its choice of words made this a significant event too. Almost casually, the federal gov-

ernment expanded Swiss cultural diversity to include – for the first time in public – not only the Yeniche and Sinti but also the Roma.

## Misunderstanding what a minority is

This step is evidence of Switzerland’s continuing efforts to counteract discrimination against minorities. This is something to which it has committed itself, having – in 1995 – ratified the Council of Europe’s Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. Nevertheless, there can – at least as far as the minorities themselves are concerned – be a world

**Their long-standing demand for recognition as a national minority is bearing fruit: Yeniche and Sinti representatives in front of the Federal Parliament building in Berne.**

Photo: Adrian Moser



of difference between signing a convention and explicitly recognising their identity. As recently as last spring, representatives of the Yeniche and Sinti complained that the authorities were failing to recognise their diversity by casually describing them as “travelling people”. The overwhelming majority have settled, but this does nothing to change their identity as Yeniche or Sinti. Now, though, the Radgenossenschaft der Landstrasse, the main umbrella organisation for minorities, some of whom are travellers but most of whom are settled, is full of praise for the Federal Council for having done something that had been long overdue.

The recognition of the minorities makes the relationship between the state authorities and the “gypsies” much less tense than it has been for hundreds of years. The process isn’t over, though. No sooner had the gesture been made than the Radgenossenschaft pointed out that a national minority didn’t really exist if it features nowhere in the teaching materials used in Swiss schools. The Federal authorities are well aware of that, and are doing all they can to drive the process of recognition and reconciliation forward. What makes reconciliation an issue is the fact that, from 1926 until the 1970s, many Yeniche and Sinti suffered at the hands of state and social institutions. Many of their children, for example, were taken away from their families and separately placed with others. The argument used in favour of this policy was that the “itinerants” were trapped in a cycle of “inherited inferiority” that had to be broken.

This aspect of the past, too, is closer to being properly addressed: a law, with the somewhat unwieldy title of “Federal Law on Compensation for Coercive Protection Measures and Foster Care Placements before 1981”, is due to enter into force on 1 April. It will make it possible for victims of coercive protection measures to receive compensa-

### One tenth live in caravans

The Yeniche are an ethnic group descended from the marginalised classes in the early modern period who developed their own traditions and their own language. What does the Yeniche language sound like today? It sounds rather like this: “De Oberflotschergaaschi holcht em Fludinaa und linst, dass loori gflotschet wird – denn zum Flotschne biharchts e Fläppe. Wer loori Fläppe biharcht, wird gschräpft.” Which translates as: “The river bailiff goes along the river to check that nobody’s fishing – because you need a licence to do that. If you don’t have a licence, you get punished.” The Sinti, in turn, are a branch of the European Roma. In Switzerland there are strong links between the Yeniche and the Sinti, known as Manouches in French-speaking Switzerland. The Sinti speak their own version of Romany, an Indo-European language. There are estimated to be around 30,000 Yeniche and Sinti, of whom around one tenth still live the travelling life. [mul]

tion payments. A fund of 300 million Swiss francs is being set up for this purpose, and the number of people potentially entitled to compensation makes clear just how deep the wounds inflicted over the course of half a century are: it is estimated at between 12,000 and 15,000 people. They have until 1 March 2018 to submit their claims.

A start may have been made on coming to terms with the past, but the “improvement of conditions for people with an itinerant way of life” and the “promotion of the culture of the Yeniche, Sinti and Roma” that the Federal Council wants to see promise to be a complicated business. For example, far from having more sites available to them, those of the minorities who are still on the road now have access to far fewer of them than they did ten years ago. Progress was promised, but so far the result has been regress. It has been the debate about the lack of sites that has made recognition of the Yeniche and Sinti as Swiss minorities a widely supported cause in majority society. Meanwhile,

the present position and prospects of the estimated 80,000 Roma living in Switzerland are much less clear. They are both the largest of the three minorities and also the least visible. Majority society has largely lost sight of the fact that the Roma in Switzerland can look back on all of 600 years of history. There is evidence from historical documents that they started to arrive there in the early fifteenth century.

### Stephan Eicher, for example

The Federal Council’s explicit recognition of the Yeniche, Sinti and Roma comes, no doubt perfectly fortuitously, at exactly the right time. It coincides with a cultural event: the first screenings of the documentary film “Unerhört Jenisch” by Karoline Arn and Martina Rieder are taking place in cinemas. One of the people featured prominently in the film is the singer Stephan Eicher, who manages to fill concert halls in both the German- and French-speaking areas. Eicher has for some time played on his image as a “gypsy” with a suspected Yeniche past. The film shows him tracing his way back to his real Yeniche roots in the Grisons region. It promises to be a mind-boggling experience for cinema audiences. Until now, Eicher’s use of French gypsy motifs and borrowings from the Bosnian gypsy musician Goran Bregović have come across as a rather forced playing with the exotic. When he finds what he’s looking for, though, it becomes clear that he’s not putting on an act, but really is thoroughly at home in this world. And what he has to say is likely to be so perfectly obvious, especially for settled Yeniche and Sinti: acknowledging your roots can overnight change something secretive, shame-ridden and concealed into something authentic.

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MARC LETTAU IS AN EDITOR  
WITH “SWISS REVIEW”

# The crux of Swissness

The new Swissness Act has been in force since the start of the year. The food industry has had to modify packaging and recipes as a result.

MATTHIAS PFANDER

The pork in the mini cordon bleu comes from Switzerland, as do the cheese and ham used in it. Until now the convenience food producer Bofrost has labelled this product with a Swiss flag in its catalogue. However, that now has to stop owing to the coating. The breadcrumbs do not come from Switzerland and under the new Swissness regulations the product may no longer be advertised as Swiss. The new law stipulates that at least 80 % of the weight of ingredients in food products must come from Switzerland in order for it to be marketed as Swiss. The coating accounts for 25 % of the weight of Bofrost's mini cordon bleu.

Many Swiss companies in the food industry have been forced to change their recipes, packaging or both owing to the new legislation, including the muesli manufacturer Bio-Familia. The company would have needed to remove the Swiss cross from 110 of 130 different product packaging types owing to the new provisions. By modifying 50 recipes, it was able to leave the flag symbol on the packaging. Niklaus Iten of Bio-Familia reveals that intensive discussions took place within the company about whether to make the changes or to simply relinquish the Swiss cross in future. In the end the company decided to retain the symbol, fearing a fall in demand from abroad otherwise. "Export customers clearly indicated to us that they wouldn't buy without the Swiss cross," remarks Iten.

## Juices or French fries

The new law has also forced the food producer Hero to take action. The Swiss logo has been removed from 70 products, including pasta sold under the Napoli brand. While it is made in Switzerland, there are not sufficient supplies of durum wheat semolina here and it is therefore imported. Further examples include Nestlé removing the Swiss cross from 80 products, including the Thomy and Leisi brands. The Swiss cross has had to be taken off Ramseier juices containing exotic fruit. The logo has been removed from the French fries in Frigemo's convenience food range. Guarantees could not be provided that they consisted of 80 % Swiss potatoes. However, the herbal sweets manufacturer Ricola, which exploits its Swiss origin very heavily in marketing, is only talking about making selective modifications to recipes.

Many companies are critical of the new legislation. Hochdorf, the milk processing company, believes it focuses too one-sidedly on the origin of raw materials and too little on production in Switzerland. Daniel Bloch, CEO of Camille Bloch, which makes Ragusa chocolate, complains: "The cumbersome demands on the origin of raw materials create new obstacles for companies manufacturing in Switzerland."



Photo: Keystone

Consumer protection representative Sarah Stalder has little sympathy with such views: "Complaining now just shows that food producers are keen to cash in on the Swissness bonus but want to leave everything as it was," remarks the head of the Consumer Protection Foundation (SKS). The industry has had enough time to adapt to the changes or to apply for exemptions. The Federal Office for Agriculture also rejects the claims: "The consequences of the Swissness law are being overdramatised," says Vice-Director Dominique Kohli. He is unaware of any company forced to make job cuts as a result so far.

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## The new Swissness regulations

When can a product be marketed as Swiss?

**Natural products:** For minerals (such as salt), plants, fruit, game and fish, the place of extraction, harvest or hunting is the decisive factor. In the case of meat from the rearing of livestock, the animals must have spent most of their lives in Switzerland. With animal products, such as eggs, milk and honey, the animals must be kept in Switzerland.

**Food products:** At least 80 % of the weight must be made up of raw materials from Switzerland and the main processing stages must take place here. If an ingredient is not available in Switzerland – such as cacao or pineapple – or not to the required quality standard or in sufficient quantity, it is excluded or only partially taken into account. Low quantities of additives, such as salt, herbs and yeast, are not included. Federal government has also provisionally approved 58 exemptions, including candy sugar and protein powder.

**Industrial products:** 60 % of manufacturing costs (such as with watches) must be incurred in Switzerland and the main manufacturing stages must take place here. The costs of research and development, quality assurance and certification are also taken into account.

**Services:** With regard to services, the provider must have its administrative headquarters in Switzerland and also carry out its main activities here. (map)



# An entire world implodes in the mind of the marathon runner

A stay in New York in 1992 provided Daniel de Roulet, an author from French-speaking Switzerland, with the inspiration for two of his quirkiest novels.

He had long been one of Switzerland's most promising writers and intellectuals when Daniel de Roulet, aged 48, was awarded the New York scholarship from the canton of Berne. The son of a clergyman from French-speaking Switzerland and of the daughter of an industrialist from German-speaking Switzerland, he studied sociology in Paris and architecture in Geneva but from 1973 worked his way up to become an outstanding IT specialist in Zurich. His first two books published in German – “Die Höllenroutine” and “Zählen sie nicht auf uns” – reflect this. However, it was the book which finally made him a French-language author that took him to New York: “A nous deux, Ferdinand”, the utopia of a globally-oriented Switzerland of agricultural cooperatives.

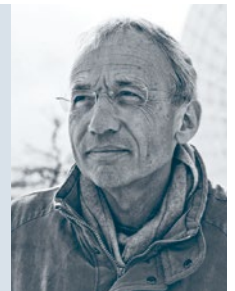
The fact that one of the two novels inspired by New York – “La ligne bleue/Die blaue Linie” from 1995 (“The Blue Line”, 2000) – focused on the New York marathon, which followed a blue line, comes as little surprise as de Roulet, who has run many marathons, sees running as the inherent counterpart to writing both rhythmically and technically. However, the novel is more than a declaration of love for the marathon. In the mind of the runner Max von der Pokk, the experiences on the New York course are intermingled with a recollection of escaping from Kaiser-augst to Olten in 1979 when the nuclear power plant information pavilion caught fire and the flight of the painter Gustave Courbet to Switzerland after he had destroyed the Vendôme column in Paris. However, that is not all as Max is also in contact by telephone with his lover Shizuko Tutsui who, with his help, wants to destroy plans for an eccentric airport terminal in Nagasaki.

“La ligne bleue” became the nucleus of the “La Simulation humaine” series of novels comprising ten books up to 2014 in which de Roulet juxtaposes the descendants of the Swiss industrialist Paul von Pokk with those of the Japanese kamikaze pilot Tsetsuo Tsutsui and in which a whole century of technical and scientific development is evoked, from the factories of the 19th century to the Fukushima disaster.

The second novel attributable to the 1992 scholarship, “Virtuellement vôtre”/“Mit virtuellen Grüßen” – published back in 1993 – is also part of this series. The setting this time

is the St. Bellevue hospital in the New York district of Harlem. Here one of the descendants of Paul von Pokk, Vladimir Work, a medical professor specialising in computer simulation, develops a method for replacing operating surgeons with the computer. Outside this El Dorado of modern medical technology, Frenesie, a homeless black woman, is sleeping in an empty room in the enormous hospital and living on stolen food. Her boyfriend, an admirer of the freedom fighter Malcolm X, eventually hacks into the hospital's computer system while she attempts to seduce the famous Professor Work in the cafeteria. Whether this is virtual or reality is a secret held by the book which depicts New York and its chasms to readers in an original, adventure-filled and futuristic way.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: “La ligne bleue”, Editions du Seuil, Paris 1995 / “Die blaue Linie”, Limmat-Verlag, Zurich 1996, “Virtuellement vôtre”, Canevas Editeur, Saint-Imier 1993 / “Mit virtuellen Grüßen”, Limmat-Verlag, Zurich 1997.



“The awareness of all these parts of himself emerges mile by mile through numerous quotes, pleonasms and déjà-vu experiences. Max does not invent anything while running. He lists all the parts of his identity and bundles together the scattered threads of his in-the-world being. His only fear, like that of all our post-modern, but fortunate heroes, is being divested of his self.”

(“Die blaue Linie”. Translated from French into German by Maria Hoffmann-Darteville, Limmat-Verlag, Zurich 1996)

CHARLES LINSMAYER IS A LITERARY SCHOLAR AND JOURNALIST

# Too quick for Switzerland

Hazel Brugger has radically changed Swiss stand-up comedy. She is now on the way to becoming a star in Germany – we join her on a road trip.

BENNO TUCHSCHMID

“Bastard!” Hazel Brugger hisses into the dictaphone. She landed in Basel-Mulhouse airport 15 minutes ago. From Munich, where she interviewed Markus Söder, the Bavarian CSU Finance Minister, for the “heute-show”. In other words, a leading German politician for the most popular late night show in Europe’s largest TV market. She now has to get to Solothurn quickly for a gig. On the motorway just after Basel a car moves into the left-hand lane without indicating. Brugger sits in the passenger seat drily recording on the dictaphone: “A VW Polo has just cut us up on the motorway. It wasn’t our fault.” Away from the motorway, nobody is currently overtaking Hazel Brugger. She is constantly moving in the fast lane somewhere between the major German TV scene and the small stage in Switzerland.

Brugger wrote an email two days earlier. She said she would be pleased to do an interview but asked whether she could be picked up at Basel-Mulhouse airport. An interview in the car would be “mega inconvenient” but “brilliant”. Brugger is now sitting in the car. In her left hand she is holding the device to record the interview and in her right hand her mobile phone to navigate. What is happening right now to her career is hard to explain. “I am just feeling the stress of scheduling.”

## Germany’s next star

Hazel Brugger, the 23-year-old daughter of a neuropsychologist who grew up in the Zurich suburb of Dielsdorf, is on the point of becoming a comedy

star in Germany. To put this into context, the last and only Swiss comedy star in Germany was Emil. Then there was Marco Rima. In short, Brugger is operating in a vacuum.

From the overtaking lane we take the Augst turn-off towards the A1. Change of lane. Brugger says into the dictaphone: “Glance over the shoulder, exemplary!”

The pace at which Brugger’s career has progressed has increased exponentially over the past year. She has been performing on the stage since the age of 17. She has been the darling of the cabaret scene for years. In 2015, she won a young journalist of the year award for her columns. She then became columnist of the year in 2016. By way of confirmation, last year she also won the “Salzburger Stier”, the Oscar in German cabaret. And, since last November, at the very latest, when she went on tour in German-speaking Switzerland with her “Hazel Brugger happens” stand-up routine, everyone beyond the cabaret scene has also been aware of what a remarkable comedic phenomenon she is.

Brugger has revolutionised the approach to stand-up in Switzerland in no time at all. Until she came along it was mainly good-looking young men who appeared on stage telling cool jokes – Colgate comedy in the style of Fabian Unteregger or Michael Elsener. Brugger’s principle is radically different. She reveals: “Stand-up only works for me when uncool people are uncool on stage.” It is the principle of coming clean based on the American ethos of this genre: painful, pitiless, self-destructive honesty.

Brugger is unique in Switzerland thus far. And in Germany, too, there



are few comparable acts, according to the most powerful man in German TV comedy. Stephan Denzer is head of the comedy and cabaret department at ZDF and therefore in charge of the trio of German comedy shows: “heute-show”, “Die Anstalt” and “Neo Magazin Royal”. In February 2016, Brugger did her first stint as a guest



reporter for the “heute-show”. She visited an election event being held by the German far-right AfD party where she took part in a verbal strength test and engaged in incessant repartee with the AfD troops. It was this appearance that opened doors for her in Germany. Brugger has since been a permanent guest.

**An immediate hit in Cologne: Hazel Brugger has caused a stir with her appearances on the “heute-show”.**

Photo: Ornella Cacace

Most recently she attended the CDU party conference in December and verbally lambasted the assembled top brass of this major German party. Denzer remarks: “Hazel Brugger is a massive hit here in Germany.” As Denzer likes to keep successful acts for himself, Brugger is to appear regularly on the “heute-show”.

## Gaining the upper hand over Jan Böhmermann

The Swiss comedian proved that she is ready for Germany last September when she gained the upper hand over the German late-night presenter Jan Böhmermann. As a guest on his hipster comedy show “Neo Magazin Royal”, she exposed a different side of Böhmermann to the audience. Böhmermann stammered and giggled. He was unable to deal with Brugger. Böhmermann said: “It’s hard being a woman on the comedy circuit, even in Germany. I don’t know if anyone has ever told you that.” Brugger replied: “I thought for a minute you were telling me that woman to woman.”

Brugger now has an apartment in Cologne. Germany is her natural market, not just because she speaks standard German without a trace of accent thanks to her German mother or because, in contrast to Emil, she avoids Swiss clichés but also because comedy in Germany has a different status to that in Switzerland. She says: “If you mention in Cologne that you work on the “heute-show”, it opens doors for you. In Zurich people refused to rent to me because I appeared on Giacobbo/Müller.” She then glances at her mobile and says: “Take the next exit. That was fast.” Yes, Hazel Brugger certainly moves at quite a pace.

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BENNO TUCHSCHMID IS CULTURE EDITOR  
AT THE “SCHWEIZ AM SONNTAG”

# Professional drones take off in Switzerland

The Swiss drone industry is booming. Swiss robots could help rescue victims from buildings and detect the outbreak of forest fires from the stratosphere.

STÉPHANE HERZOG

The solitary winters in the Jura contributed to the development of the clock- and watch-making industry. Today, Switzerland's culture of mechanical precision is promoting the cutting-edge technology of professional drones, robots capable of inspecting tanks, providing emergency aid and flying for months on end in the stratosphere.

These sophisticated drones, equipped with micro-technology and intended for export, occupy niche markets, in contrast to recreational flying robots, which are primarily used for capturing images and mass produced especially by the Chinese firm DJI. This is true of Flyability – a spin-off from the intelligent systems laboratory (LIS) of the EPFL (Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne), which has developed a drone designed to “tolerate collisions with



## An alliance between research and marketing

Switzerland's success in the field of flying robots is owed to the National Centre of Competence in Research (NCCR) Robotics, an organisational structure which forges links between Switzerland's leading laboratories. Led by a pioneering figure in this field, Dario Floreano, the head of the intelligent systems laboratory at the EPFL, this foundation brings together primarily the two Swiss federal institutes of technology. It has received support for 12 years from the Swiss National Science Foundation. “Dario Floreano coordinates the efforts of NCCR members and ensures they do not overlap,” explains Simon Johnson, the co-founder and CEO of OpenStratosphere (see opposite). “Through the success of the Vaud-based spin-offs in particular, the foundation has shown there is a market for these drones. This technology transfer is now set to increase. If we succeed in occupying a global niche that will open up lucrative prospects.” Revenues in the market could reach 1 billion Swiss francs within a year or two, according to the international professional association Global UTM.

obstacles in its way”, says Marc Gandillon, head of marketing.

## Surveillance of sensitive areas

Encased by a pliant and lightweight armour, Elios is the flagship product of this company based in French-speaking Switzerland, which has a 30-strong workforce. It is capable of penetrating damaged buildings in the search for victims by smashing into walls or carrying out industrial inspection tasks. The company sold a hundred units in 2016, at a cost of 25,000 Swiss francs each. Flyability has a turnover of two million Swiss francs, and is planning a 200% increase in its workforce in 2017. There is a virtuous chain in this small mar-

**Many Swiss companies are manufacturing professional drones, such as Flyability, shown here with a drone at the Swiss Robotics Industry Day 2016.**

Photo: Keystone

ket. The development of Flyability, for example, is benefiting Pix4D, another spin-off of the EPFL which produces the 3D mapping software installed in Elios.

senseFly, the pioneer in professional drone technology in Switzerland – and a company that emerged from LIS but is now owned by the French firm Parrot – is like a grandfather figure in this market. EBee, its V-shaped flying robot, focuses on land surveillance. “Over the long-term, Swiss farmers will use drones to monitor the development of crops, and drone technology will be deployed in a wide range of professional fields, such as the surveillance of sensitive areas,” predicts Marc Gandillon of Flyability.

In German-speaking Switzerland, the Federal Institute of Technology also acts as an incubator for start-ups. One example is Fotoskype, which emerged from the Flying Machine Arena laboratory. It has developed a flying drone equipped with a safety leash. Zurich is also home to Verity Studios whose miniature drones have been used in a Broadway show produced by Cirque du Soleil. Its founder, Raffaello D’Andrea, jointly set up Kiva, a drone company acquired by Amazon in 2012.

## Towards versatile robots

Flying in the lower part of uncontrolled air space – i.e. below 150 metres – drones are utilising a relatively unexploited natural space set aside for rescue helicopter operations, for example. Their ability to adapt to different spaces and terrains has improved over the years. The engineer

Stefano Mintchev heads up a team of five undergraduates and postgraduates at the EPFL. These mechanical and aerospace specialists are working on “versatile” drones capable of changing shape depending upon their environment. To enable rescue operations to be carried out, one project is focusing on flying robots which can approach victims. Another prototype is equipped with “artificial feathers and retractable wings to fly in strong winds and perform manoeuvres between buildings”. Simon Johnson, the co-founder and CEO of OpenStratosphere, explains: “Drones contain lots of moving parts. They require lightweight and reliable electronics. Switzerland’s high-precision industry meets these requirements.”

Doctor Mintchev’s team is also working on pliable drones, which can be deployed in otherwise inaccessible areas. Another idea is drones capable of attaching themselves to walls or ceilings to save energy. “In terms of innovation for flying robots, Switzerland is probably amongst the leading players worldwide,” the researcher says. The positive role played by the Federal Office of Civil Aviation (FOCA) in this development deserved praise, Mintchev said, “because the issue of flight regulations is a stumbling block for drones”.

Benoit Curdy, head of the international professional association Global UTM (for the management of unpiloted air traffic), based in Lausanne, believes that the FOCA exercises a type of diplomacy regarding drones. “This office sends representatives to international expert groups. They are listened to and that has a positive im-

## Swiss drones in the stratosphere providing “neutral” services

Hiring out fleets of “low-altitude regional satellites” (effectively drones) to governments to perform land surveillance, communication and geo-localisation services is the plan of Simon Johnson, head of OpenStratosphere, a company that has emerged at the EPFL. These ultra-light drones with huge wings will fly at an altitude of 10 to 50 km, where the air is rarefied but the wind and solar conditions are ideal, reveals the specialist. “We’re going to utilise a virgin space currently devoid of infrastructure. It will be cheaper to fly there without a pilot because safety costs are very high at that altitude. The satellite drones will fly at a speed of 100 kilometres an hour for a period of six months thanks to batteries recharged by solar panels,” says Johnson. These machines will operate at a lower altitude than satellites – which do not orbit below 200 km (at a speed of 28,000 km/h) – but higher than aeroplanes, which do not generally exceed an altitude of 14 km. All of this comes at a lower cost, and another benefit is that these flights are controlled by governments.

The commercial use of observation and communication systems is strategic by definition. “We currently control our roads and dams but, as far as space is concerned, we depend on countries with satellites, and on the US in particular, which has the GPS system. This type of drone, tested by Airbus in particular, will enable the service to become regional, and it will be authorised in the stratosphere over countries,” Simon Johnson believes. In light of this, he is convinced that “Switzerland, as a neutral country, is very well positioned to play a pioneering role in this near space industry.”

pact on Swiss industry,” he adds. One such example is a flight concept developed by the FOCA which defines the flight authorisation procedures for drones by adapting them to the context, “by differentiating, for example, between a private flight in a garden and flying over urban areas in which regulations are tight”, says Benoit Curdy.

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STÉPHANE HERZOG IS AN EDITOR  
WITH “SWISS REVIEW”



**The great battle:** Orlik (left) takes on Matthias Glarner in the final of the Swiss federal wrestling and alpine festival.

Photos: Keystone

## A new star in Swiss wrestling

Armon Orlik from Grisons is only 21 but is already one of Switzerland's top wrestlers. Who is this top performer from Maienfeld who was crowned "Wrestler of the Year 2016"?

DOMINIC WILLIMANN

You could hear a pin drop in the Estavayer arena. Some 52,000 spectators are here to watch the final bout. The most coveted title in this Swiss national sport is at stake. On one side stands Matthias Glarner from Berne and on the other Armon Orlik from Grisons. When Glarner looks for and gets the call, Orlik is lying flat on his back. Glarner celebrates. The restrained celebrations of the 2016 Swiss wrestling king are matched by the muted reaction on the terraces. Rarely has a wrestling king received less applause in recent times, which has nothing to do with the elite sportsman from Meiringen but is instead explained by his opponent.

Armon Orlik wrestled his way into the hearts of the spectators over these two days at the end of August. In the very first round he saw off Kilian Wenger, the 2010 Swiss wrestling king. He later triumphed over two other "confederates", in other words wrestlers who are at the top of the rankings for this championship event held every three years. It was not just the underdog's victories that explained the jubilant mood in the ring. It was mainly the way in which he won his bouts. When Orlik shook hands to beckon his opponent to fight, it generally only took a few seconds before the 21-year-old was wiping sawdust off his adversary's back. "I deliberately adopt an offensive fighting style," he explains. According to

Orlik, who has made rapid progress in his fledgling career, it makes sense to stick to your own routine.

Thanks to judo

The civil engineering student from Maienfeld did not begin regularly visiting the wrestling room until the age of 14. The youngest of four boys in the Orlik family, he had previously been attracted to judo like his brothers. He learned the ropes of judo in the dojo and also realised that he could go a long way if he put in the effort. "I had to repeat a technique a hundred times before mastering it," he explains. Through judo he not only developed his training work ethic but also bulked up physically. This model athlete, who is 1 metre 90 cm tall and weighs 105 kilograms, developed his agility and strength while participating in this combat sport for eight years. "The fact that I now have the powerful physique needed to take part in elite sport can largely be attributed to my background in judo," says Orlik.

His decision to finally turn away from judo seven years ago was due to his only injury to date. An elbow problem forced Orlik to reconsider his plans. Instead of pitting himself against his brothers Lucas and Flavio, the latter recently just missing out on qualification for the Olympic Games in Rio, on the judo mat, he began going to the wrestling club cellar with his brother Curdin who is two years older. He quickly established himself as one of the best performers here, too. His determination and ambition helped the alpine wrestler from the Unterlandquart wrestling club to compete at the top level in traditional Swiss wrestling trousers. As did his faith in God, he says. However, the decisive factor is something else. "I would never be where I am today without my family," remarks Orlik. "They provide me with the stability I need." His tremendous progress in such a short space of time is down to his parents. He is very grateful to his father Paul, a cantonal policeman, judo coach and former champion wrestler, and his mother Helena, the village's sacristan, for his childhood.

Armon Orlik grew up in the oldest house in Landquart. They used wood for heating and there was no television for a long time. The Orlik brothers therefore spent much of their free time outdoors.

His brother Curdin played a major part in his rise in the sawdust arena. Armon spent hours on end with him in the wrestling cellar, honed his technique with him and travelled with him to his first Swiss championship in 2013 in Burgdorf. "He drummed it into me that success would not just happen," recalls Orlik. That spurred Armon on because he wanted to be as good as Curdin. The youngest in the family of six, he drew

motivation from his elder brothers from a young age, which helped him to develop his competitive edge in sport. As the physical gap increasingly closed, little Armon suddenly became the big one. He began to enjoy success and in August 2015 the harmony in the Orlik team was put to the test for the only time to date. At the Sertig-Schwinget tournament in Davos, the final bout pitted Orlik against Orlik. Armon came out on top.

### Eight oak leaf laurels

This was the start of a journey that reached its peak so far last summer in Estavayer. Armon Orlik outshone the competition last season. He was awarded the livestock prize at six wreath ceremonies and won eight oak leaf laurels in total in 2016. He occupied first place in the annual rankings of the federal wrestling association, was voted "Wrestler of the Year" by experts and was declared "Newcomer of the Year" at the national Sports Awards evening on Swiss television after a public vote.

The reserved, hard-working wrestler from Grisons has since enjoyed popstar status all over the country. It is not Swiss wrestling king Matthias Glarner but instead Orlik who garners the titles away from the sawdust. He is well liked by everyone. However, he is not getting carried away and remains as down-to-earth as ever. Dealing with the attention he has received is not easy. "But I have gained a lot of strength and self-belief over the last year," he reveals, including outside of the sport, for instance through his studies in Rapperswil, where he lives during the week.

With the positive experiences of last year behind him, Orlik has now embarked on the 2017 season. The wrestling year began for the man

from Grisons as the last one ended at the Niklaus-Schwinget competition in Dietikon – with a victory. At the Berchtold-Schwinget event in Zurich on 2 January, he was carried on the crowd's shoulders through the sports hall. He is therefore right on track. Orlik is hoping to find his best form by the end of August at the latest for the Unspunnenfest festival in Interlaken. He will continue to train hard until this event which is the highlight of the season.

His role models are doing the same thing. These include Martin Grab. The 37-year-old from Schwyz is not only one of the most experienced wrestlers, he is also one of the most spectacular performers owing to his offensive approach. Orlik is emulating his style. Orlik is also impressed by the strength of people like Jörg Abderhalden and Matthias Glarner. Swiss wrestling king Glarner is likewise impressed by Orlik: "Armon has outstanding physical attributes and is very accomplished technically for his age. He also wrestles with a very carefree attitude." If the native of Grisons stays fit and continues to work hard, he will be amongst the favourites again in Zug, says Glarner. Zug is in two years' time. The whole of the nation will be watching events in central Switzerland where the next king of Swiss wrestling will be crowned. It is very possible that Armon Orlik will again have a chance of emerging victorious. Should he win, he would no longer just be the king of the public's hearts. He would also be Grisons' first ever Swiss wrestling king.



The sportsman from Grisons is not just "Wrestler of the Year". He was also voted "Newcomer of the Year" in 2016 by the Swiss television audience at the national Sports Awards.



## Summer offers of the OSA's Youth Service

### Recreational offers:

Would you like to spend your summer holidays in Switzerland and discover the country with other Swiss Abroad? Then register for one of our recreational offers. A summer programme rich in variety awaits you:

<b>Discover Switzerland – Extended</b>	from 26.6. to 10.7.2017
<b>Recreational camp 1 Leysin</b>	from 8.7. to 21.7.2017
<b>Recreational camp 2 La Punt</b>	from 16.7. to 29.7.2017
<b>Recreational camp 3 Leysin</b>	from 22.7. to 4.8.2017
<b>Outdoor camp</b>	from 16.7. to 29.7.2017
<b>Adult camp in Sörenberg</b>	from 16.7. to 29.7.2017

### Educational offers:

This summer we are providing you with the opportunity to learn two of the four national languages on a beginners' course or to improve your linguistic skills on our advanced courses. We are offering the following language courses:

**German course in Zurich** (no knowledge up to A1)  
from 26.6 to 7.7.2017

**German course in Berne** (no knowledge up to A1)  
from 10.7 to 21.7.2017

**German course in Basel** (no knowledge up to A1)  
from 31.7 to 11.8.2017

**Advanced German course in Zurich** (A2 to B1)  
from 10.7 to 21.7.2017

**French course in Fribourg** (no knowledge up to A1)  
from 26.6 to 7.7.2017

**Advanced French course in Fribourg** (A2 to B1)  
from 10.7 to 21.7.2017

### Congress seminar in Basel

from 13 to 20 August 2017:

The Youth Service will organise the annual youth seminar as part of the congress from 13 to 20 August 2017. We are focussing on the topic of "The Swiss at home and abroad – one world". The emphasis will be placed on dialogue between the Swiss at home and abroad and we will look at how the perspectives of the Swiss Abroad differ from those of their compatriots at home. The programme contains elements of leisure time, culture and politics.

For further information and to register, visit [www.aso.ch](http://www.aso.ch) and [www.swisscommunity.org](http://www.swisscommunity.org) or: Youth Service of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad [youth@aso.ch](mailto:youth@aso.ch) / +41 (0) 31 356 61 00 [www.facebook.com/ASOyouth](https://www.facebook.com/ASOyouth)

## OSA survey for banks: What are the terms and conditions for Swiss Abroad?

The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) has conducted a new survey among Swiss banking institutions. The results have now been published.

It is a subject that has played on the minds of Swiss Abroad for years now: Which banks in Switzerland can I open an account with, and on what terms? To give customers living abroad an overview of this matter, last autumn the OSA conducted its second survey since 2015. Twenty-one Swiss banks participated in the survey; UBS and Credit Suisse were not among them. They had been contacted but did not wish to take part.

Meanwhile, practically all of the banking institutions surveyed announced in the survey that they would be raising fees for foreign customers from 1 January 2017. By way of justification, they refer to the entry into force of the automatic exchange of information. The banks would have had to introduce new processes in order to meet their obligations under the agreement on the automatic exchange of information. With the exception of the online bank Swissquote, the banking institutions also ask that accounts be opened in person at the counter.

Since 2008, it has become increasingly difficult for Swiss Abroad to open a bank account in Switzerland and to hold one on similar terms to people residing in Switzerland. The OSA has therefore undertaken various measures over the past few years with the aim of resolving this problem. It has intervened with the banks directly, but also with the Swiss Bankers Association, the Association of Swiss Cantonal Banks, the Swiss Banking Ombudsman, the price regulator and the Federal Department of Finance.

Since, as private enterprises, the banks are free to decide who they want to conclude a contract with, finding a solution is no easy matter. The OSA will continue to strive to do so, however.

The survey results can be found in detail on our website at: <http://aso.ch/en/consultation/living-abroad/swiss-banks>

## OSA advice

*If I remain in Switzerland for a period of time for administrative purposes after cancelling my registration here, how can I continue to receive health insurance cover when the health insurance provider has terminated my contract from the date my registration was cancelled?*

It is generally advisable not to cancel your registration with the commune of residence until the actual date of departure. If this is not possible for particular reasons, the following applies:

If Swiss citizens who have cancelled their registration remain in Switzerland and do not establish a new place of residence abroad, the health insurance provider must generally continue to provide them with insurance cover. According to the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH), the Health Insurance Ordinance stipulates that the insurance ends on the date of departure from Switzerland as registered with the relevant commune of residence.

However, the ordinance also states that it categorically ends on the day of actual departure from Switzerland or upon the death of the insured person.

Health insurance providers generally apply the date when the registration was cancelled. However, provided that Swiss citizens do not establish a new place of residence, they remain subject to Switzerland's social insurance system and may continue to hold a health insurance policy. The persons concerned have an individual responsibility to ensure seamless insurance cover, which means continuing their insurance policy if they remain in Switzerland beyond the date of cancellation of their registration. As each case has to be assessed individually in such circumstances, it is advisable to check with the health insurance provider in good time.

OSA LEGAL DEPARTMENT

OSA's Legal Department provides general legal information on Swiss law, in particular in the areas that concern the Swiss Abroad. It does not provide information on foreign law and does not intervene in disputes between private parties.



# Centenary celebrations of the Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad (FYSA): Summer camps for children aged 8 to 14

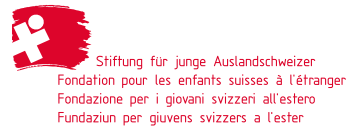
The anniversary summer of the Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad will take place from the end of June to the end of August 2017. Swiss children abroad can have a fantastic time while also discovering Switzerland and its culture at two-week summer camps together with between 30 and 50 other children from 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 spent at the camp base where the group 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, for example.

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 a few places available at our holiday camps. The exact details and the registration form can be found at [www.sjas.ch/en](http://www.sjas.ch/en) (section: 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 would like to give all Swiss children abroad the opportunity to discover Switzerland in this way on at least one occasion. We can therefore offer reduced rates in justified cases. The required form can be requested on the registration form. The FYSA office would be pleased to provide you with further information.



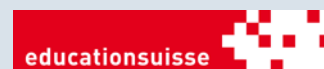
Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad (FYSA)  
Alpenstrasse 26, 3006 Berne, Switzerland  
Tel: +41 31 356 61 16, Fax: +41 31 356 61 01  
Email: [info@sjas.ch](mailto:info@sjas.ch), [www.sjas.ch](http://www.sjas.ch)

## University courses in Switzerland

Young Swiss Abroad also have the opportunity to enrol on university courses in Switzerland. However, several things must be checked beforehand. Applicants holding a baccalaureate certificate recognised by the Swiss Confederation or an equivalent foreign qualification have direct access to university study. However, not all foreign university-entry qualifications are equivalent. The admission criteria may differ greatly depending upon the country of origin and may stipulate, for example, a minimum grade, an additional examination or even an initial university degree in the country of origin. The Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities draws up guidelines on the evaluation of foreign university-entry qualifications. Detailed information can be found on the website of [www.swissuniversities.ch](http://www.swissuniversities.ch) ([www.swissuniversities.ch/en/services/admission-to-universities/countries](http://www.swissuniversities.ch/en/services/admission-to-universities/countries)). Special criteria apply to admission to medicine courses as places are limited.

Applicants must also have a good command of the language of tuition. C1 level based on the European reference framework ([www.coe.int/t/dg4/linguistic/cadre1\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/linguistic/cadre1_en.asp)) is generally required. It is therefore worthwhile obtaining a recognised language qualification while at secondary school. Candidates will find the exact guidelines on language

requirements and recognised qualifications on the websites of the respective universities. (e.g.: Federal Institute of Technology Zurich – [www.ethz.ch/en/studies/registration-application/master/application/language-requirements](http://www.ethz.ch/en/studies/registration-application/master/application/language-requirements)). There is no central admissions system in Switzerland. With the exception of medicine courses, applications should always be made to the universities, which decide on their own admissions independently. Of the 17 Swiss schools abroad, those in Bangkok, Barcelona, Bogotá, Madrid, Milan, Rome and Santiago de Chile provide the opportunity to obtain a baccalaureate certificate recognised by the Swiss Confederation. The Swiss schools in Curitiba, Lima, Mexico and Sao Paulo offer the International Baccalaureate (IB) ([www.swissuniversities.ch/en/services/admission-to-universities/international-baccalaureate](http://www.swissuniversities.ch/en/services/admission-to-universities/international-baccalaureate)). Further information about education and training in Switzerland and on the Swiss schools abroad is available at [www.educationsuisse.ch](http://www.educationsuisse.ch). Or contact us directly:



educationsuisse, Alpenstrasse 26, 3006 Berne, SWITZERLAND  
Tel. +41 31 356 61 04, [info@educationsuisse.ch](mailto:info@educationsuisse.ch)

Our employees speak German, French, English, Italian and Spanish.

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# Stronger growth in the Swiss community abroad

The 2016 statistics on the Swiss Abroad published by the FDFA in February showed 774,923 Swiss citizens were registered with the representations abroad. The Swiss community abroad boasted 21,784 more people last year, which equates to a 2.9 % increase. This percentage rate is above the constant growth of 2 % in recent years. In other words, the growth of the “Fifth Switzerland” has accelerated.

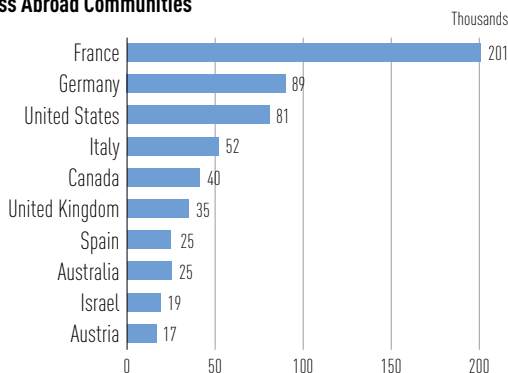
The Swiss community in every country has its own history and dynamism. In regional terms, Asia achieved the highest percentage growth at 4.3%, as was also previously the case in recent years. A slightly above-average rise of 3.1% was recorded for the Swiss communities in Europe. The growth rates in Africa, the Americas and Oceania were lower or practically the same as in the previous years, ranging from 2.1% to 2.5%.

However, the growth rate trend varies significantly within regions in some cases. It is therefore worth taking a closer look at the differences from one country to another. In Europe, the region favoured by two thirds of all Swiss Abroad, the situation is as follows: growth of 8.7% in Portugal, 8.6% in Turkey, 4.6% in the United Kingdom, 3.8% in Germany, 2.5% in France (the largest community of Swiss abroad in the world) and 1.8% in Italy. Outside Europe the Swiss communities in the following countries recorded significant growth rates: growth of 8.5% in the United Arab Emirates, 6.6% in both Morocco and Lebanon, 5.1% in Tunisia, 3.9% in Israel as well as Japan, and 3.6% in Mexico. In a notable number of countries, the figures remained at the previous year's level, such as in New Zealand, China, India, South Africa, Argentina and Brazil. However, there are also countries where the already tiny Swiss communities declined owing to war, instability or natural disasters, etc.

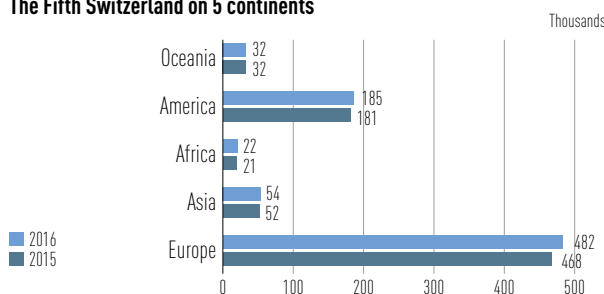
Just under three out of four Swiss Abroad hold at least one other passport in addition to their Swiss one because dual citizenship has been accepted by an increasing number of countries in recent decades. The sta-

tistics on the Swiss Abroad nevertheless indicate a slight decline of -0.1% in this area, with the figure standing at 73.5%. In view of the increased growth in the Swiss community abroad, this fact indicates that more Swiss are emigrating abroad than returning to Switzerland. The Federal Statistical Office's statistics on emigration, which are published at the end of August, will provide a more accurate picture.

Top 10 Swiss Abroad Communities



The Fifth Switzerland on 5 continents



The statistics on the Swiss Abroad on the FDFA's website: <http://www.eda.admin.ch> > Living abroad > Publications and statistics > Statistics

Readers can find out how many Swiss are living in their country of residence from the FDFA's statistics on the Swiss Abroad. They can also discover how many of their compatriots have left Switzerland or returned home. Since 2011, the Federal Statistical Office's website has contained detailed information on emigration and return migration by destination country and country of origin broken down into nationality and other demographic variables. Users can obtain the figures using interactive “data cubes” which enable them to create their own tables in line with individual requirements and to save them in different formats: Emigration / Immigration and return migration

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 E-Mail: [helpline@eda.admin.ch](mailto:helpline@eda.admin.ch)  
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## Travel advice

[www.eda.admin.ch/reisehinweise](http://www.eda.admin.ch/reisehinweise)  
 ☎ from Switzerland +41 800 24 7 365  
 ☎ from abroad +41 58 465 33 33  
[www.twitter.com/travel\\_edadfae](https://www.twitter.com/travel_edadfae)

## itineris

Online registration for Swiss citizens travelling abroad  
[www.fdfa.admin.ch/itineris](http://www.fdfa.admin.ch/itineris)



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## 90 years of statistics on the Swiss Abroad

In 1927, for the very first time, the consular service of the Federal Political Department (the FDFA's title at the time) instructed all consulates to record the number of Swiss residing abroad at the end of the year 1926 (see illustration, evaluation list). From 1930 onwards, the figures were then published regularly in the Statistical Yearbook ("yearbook archive" of the FSO). Federal government had in fact collected data on its diaspora even earlier – the 1891 to 1960 yearbooks show that emigrants were recorded according to different characteristics. However, 1926 marked a new beginning. Firstly, the statistics – in contrast to those on emigration abroad – gathered data not on migratory movement but instead on Swiss citizens residing abroad. Secondly, they recorded Swiss citizens comprehensively whereas the earlier statistics only covered those in places outside Europe. (Photo: Swiss Federal Archives)

-7-

*Schweizer im Ausland  
am Anfang u. am Ende des Jahres 1926, nach  
Konsularen, bzw. Ländern*

N. Länder Konsularbezirke	Anzahl der Schweizer			Bilf. Staats- bürgerschaft		Total Schweizer auf d. d. 1926
	am 31. d. J. 1926	am 31. d. J. 1926	am 31. d. J. 1926	ausw. d. Schweiz	inw. d. Schweiz	
<i>Algerien</i>				4	4	8
<i>Belgien: Brüssel</i>	3237	1737	1139	3736	100	3736
<i>Belgien: Antwerpen</i>	675	206	114	717	250	967
<i>Belgien: Brügge</i>				160	160	160
<i>Belgien: Lüttich</i>	113	60	7	168	0	168
<i>Dänemark: Kopenhagen</i>	291	28	14	285	45	290
<i>Dänemark: Kopenhagen</i>	551	17	93	485	20	515
<i>Deutschland: Berlin</i>	2712	77	48	2791	3300	6091
<i>Frankreich: Paris</i>	3678	191	243	3826	28	3854
<i>Frankreich: London</i>	1469	26	61	1494	41	1544
<i>Frankreich: Düsseldorf</i>	4685	383	270	4797	110	4907
<i>Frankreich: Elbing</i>	965	573	71	1277	620	2047
<i>Frankreich: Frankfurt</i>	3453	326	310	3479	250	3729
<i>Frankreich: Hamburg</i>	2026	248	391	1873	100	2073
<i>Frankreich: Köln</i>	2666	163	343	2416	200	2616
<i>Frankreich: Leipzig</i>	3573	357	345	3595	251	3846
<i>Frankreich: Mannheim</i>	3004	211	64	3159	6000	7159
<i>Frankreich: München</i>	3660	673	120	3623	40	3663
<i>Frankreich: Nürnberg</i>	750	67	48	767	40	807

In the period after 1926 the statistics on the Swiss Abroad had to deal with "teething problems". It appears that some shortcomings were glossed over using estimates. The increasing number of people holding dual citizenship amongst the diaspora raised the question of how this factor should be taken into account. The following solutions were found: from 1951, the Statistical Yearbooks simply stated that persons holding multiple citizenship were not included; then in 1974 they began listing them separately alongside "solely Swiss citizens".

The FDFA's current statistics on the Swiss Abroad and the FSO's migration statistics can be viewed on the FDFA website.

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## The 2017 Federal Council photograph

The full Federal Council in 2017 (from top right to bottom left): President of the Swiss Confederation Doris Leuthard, Federal Councillor Alain Berset (Vice-President), Federal Councillor Ueli Maurer, Federal Councillor Didier Burkhalter, Federal Councillor Simonetta Sommaruga, Federal Councillor Johann N. Schneider-Ammann, Federal Councillor Guy Parmelin, Federal Chancellor Walter Thurnherr



© Federal Chancellery

At [www.admin.ch](http://www.admin.ch) (by searching for "Federal Council photograph 2017") you can find out more about the Federal Council photograph. The press release on the photo was published on 31 December 2016.

## Federal referenda

Voting proposals are determined by the Federal Council at least four months before the voting date. The following three proposals will be put to the vote on 21 May 2017:

- Energy Act of 30 September (EnA)

Further voting dates 2017: 24 September, 26 November

All information on the proposals (voting pamphlets, committees, recommendations of Parliament and the Federal Council, electronic voting, etc.) can be found at [www.admin.ch/votes](http://www.admin.ch/votes).

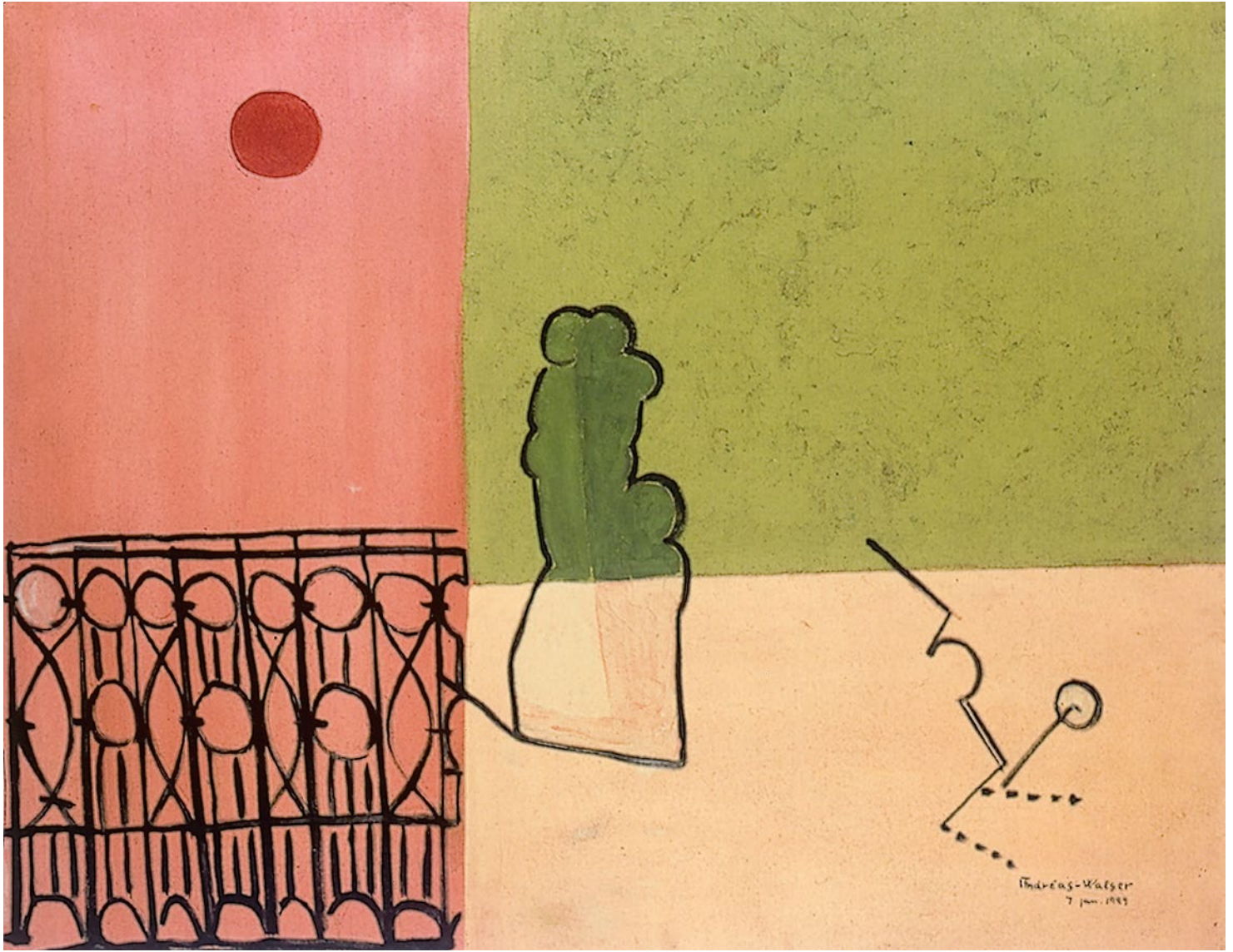
## Popular initiatives

The following new federal popular initiatives had been launched at the time of going to press (deadline for the collection of signatures in brackets):

- "For better nursing care (Nursing Care Initiative)" (17.07.2018)

The list of pending popular initiatives can be found at [www.bk.admin.ch](http://www.bk.admin.ch) under Aktuell > Wahlen und Abstimmungen > Hängige Volksinitiativen.



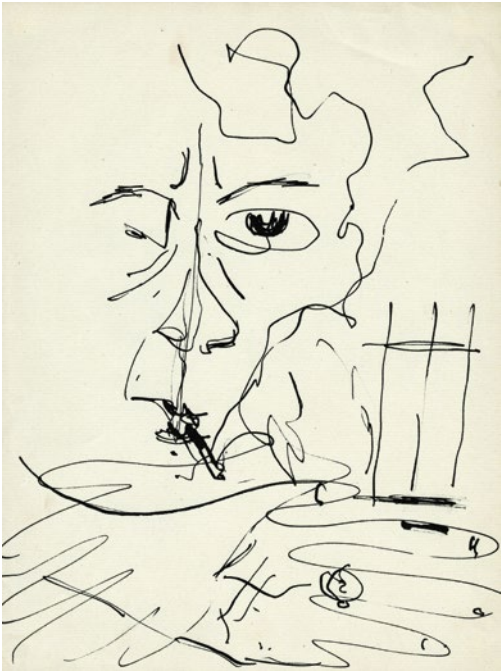


“Nature morte – Statue à la fenêtre” (Still life – Statue at the window)

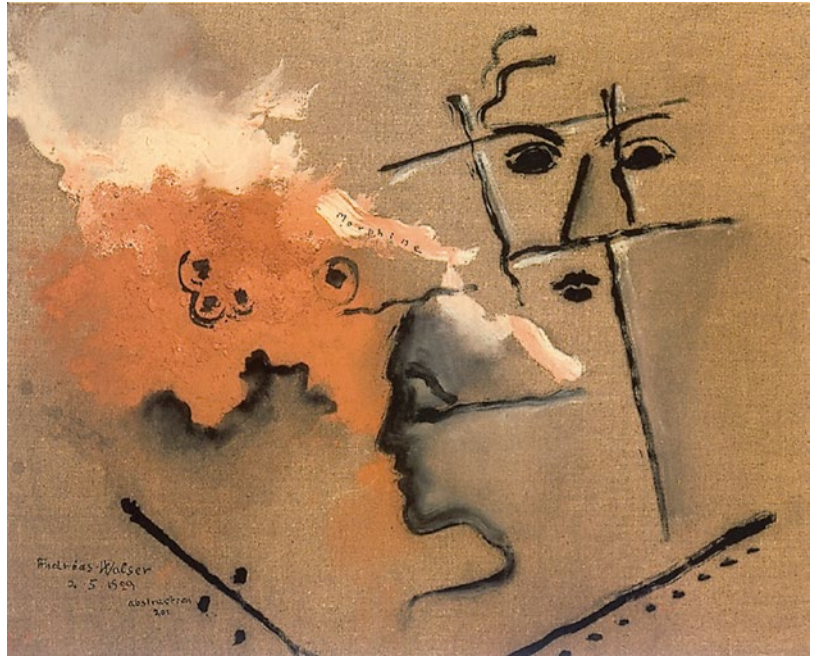
## The lost son from Chur

He was a fascinating figure whose life was cut short. Andreas Walser was an artist from Grisons who forged early friendships with the people who inspired him – Pablo Picasso, Jean Cocteau and Klaus Mann – and established himself on the international scene. Walser died in 1930 at the age of just 22. The Museum of Fine Arts in Chur is now dedicating an exhibition to him, complemented by concerts, performances and readings. <sup>LEH</sup>

Andreas Walser: “Und jetzt – gehe ich”. Grisons Museum of Fine Arts in Chur, exhibition runs until 16 July 2017. [www.buendner-kunstmuseum.ch](http://www.buendner-kunstmuseum.ch)



“Raucher vor Balkon” (Smoker in front of the balcony)



“16. Abstraktion 201 rouge - 2 têtes (morphine)” (16th abstraction 201 red - 2 heads (morphine))



Untitled (male figure with opium pipe)



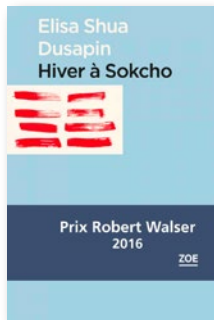
“Skelett vor Berglandschaft” (Skeleton in front of mountain landscape)



Andreas Walser, pictured here after 1924, moved early from Chur to Paris.

Photo from the Kirchner Archive, Wichtrach/Berne, Courtesy of the Kirchner Museum Davos

## Winter in South Korea



ELISA SHUA DUSAPIN:  
"Hiver à Sokcho",  
Édition Zoé 2016,  
144 pages; CHF 22

"He arrived lost in a woollen coat. Dropping his suitcase at my feet, he took off his hat. A Western face. Dark eyes." These are the first lines of Elisa Dusapin's novel "Hiver à Sokcho", which immediately carries the reader off to distant lands. Who is this man who strays into a South Korean seaside resort in the middle of winter?

The novel is set in the harbour town of Sokcho near to the border with North Korea. The young first-person narrator has returned to her place of birth after studying at university and is working in a small hotel there.

Kerrand, a French comic illustrator, is staying there, looking for inspiration for a new story. They get to know each other – albeit for different reasons – and go on joint trips together to the border between South and North Korea, or walk through the wintry city, where everything seems to stand still, waiting.

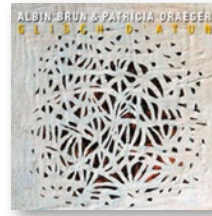
The story keeps the reader on tenterhooks until the very last page. Questions spring up. Does the protagonist see in Kerrand, a man almost twice her age, the French father she never knew or a new lover? How can she loosen the ties to her mother, a fishmonger with a rare licence to prepare the potentially highly poisonous fugu fish? The narrator would like to travel to France, be independent and find herself. Can Kerrand's drawings help her?

The author outlines the tedious life in the seaside town in just a few words. She sketches her figures in the same way that the comic illustrator paints his figures with flowing brushstrokes. She skilfully weaves in current topics, such as the Korean conflict and the cosmetic surgery that many young Koreans undergo in order to look more Western. The language is clear and almost note-like, with short sentences. Her rich, carefully selected vocabulary is stunning. A small masterpiece – told in a wonderfully gentle manner.

Elisa Shua Dusapin, born in 1992 to a South Korean mother and a French father, grew up in Paris and Porrentruy in the Swiss canton of Jura and graduated from the Swiss Literature Institute in Biel in 2014. In 2016, she was awarded the Robert Walser Prize, which is presented to a first novel every year alternately in German or French. "Hiver à Sokcho" is her first novel. It has already been translated into Korean and will soon appear in Spanish. A German edition is not in the pipeline as yet.

RUTH VON GUNTEN

## Near and far – with home somewhere in-between



ALBIN BRUN &  
PATRICIA DRAEGER:  
"Glisch d'Atun" ("Ship of  
Fools")

Longing and levity meld into folk music that transcends borders on the album entitled "Glisch d'Atun": it is the work of Albin Brun and Patricia Draeger, who have brought out their first duo album after working together for many years. The music has its essence in the swinging harmony and melodious depth of the *schwyzerörglerli* (Swiss diatonic folk accordion) and accordion. The sound lends a homely feel while also evoking distance and openness. Nevertheless, a term such as "new folk music" fails to do justice to this album that is as deep as it is playful. Albin Brun: "We are trying to create our very own folk music.

It is not restricted to a specific area, but is somewhere between near and far."

Albin Brun (*schwyzerörglerli*, soprano saxophone, duduk) and Patricia Draeger (accordion) have always been inspired by the most varied of repertoires ranging from world music and jazz to folk. They packed their musical rucksacks and went on tour to countries such as Russia, Egypt, Qatar, Namibia, South Korea, Italy and Austria, where they honed their skills, gained experience and exchanged with different cultures. They now play in several bands, one example of which is the Kazalpin project with three singers from Belarus. But both of them also play and compose music for theatrical projects, documentaries and radio plays. They played in a quartet with Theater Stockdunkel at Expo.02 as well. Draeger is a former member of Heiri Känzig's Tien Shan Express and has worked with Mongolian and Egyptian musicians.

You can feel how the music conjures up a multi-faceted world that is artfully magnified and expanded by the duo's origin and experience. The ten pieces featured on "Glisch d'Atun" comprise wonderful melodies, song-like themes and masterful performances. The influences of folk music go far beyond alpine idioms. One major improvisation is that the pieces transcend the usual norms, in some phrases buoying the emotional side of folk music with an injection of jazz.

Albin Brun and Patricia Draeger have a blindly intuitive trust in each other when it comes to music. Together they achieve a special emotional quality permeated by longing or melancholy that touches so many people.

PIRMIN BOSSART

# Bernhard Russi & Matthias Hüppi



They were a well-oiled team, but also a tight-knit unit. Matthias Hüppi and Bernhard Russi spent decades travelling together from one ski resort to the next. They shared hotels, cars and flights. They ate breakfast together and spent more time with one another than some married couples. By the end the sports presenter Matthias Hüppi and the high-profile expert Bernhard Russi had forged a deep friendship.

When the pair commentated on ski racing on Swiss television, they demonstrated great professionalism but also tremendous respect for one another. Hüppi had no issue with the fact that Russi was still a bit more of an expert than he was. When it came to the technical details, he gladly handed over to the former skiing ace and Olympic champion. Conversely, it was clearly Hüppi who guided the programme and steered the discussion.

Some people said they in fact were like an old married couple. But Hüppi and Russi quarrelled far too little for that, including off-air apparently. They did not interrupt and rarely contradicted one another. Despite all the emotion, they appeared composed, pleasant-natured and moderate – very Swiss. A touch more punch in the discussion occasionally would probably not have hurt.

However, the dream team made their final appearance in February. After 31 years Matthias Hüppi and Bernhard Russi provided commentary together for the last time at the home Ski World Championships in St. Moritz. An era came to an end. However, the two darlings of TV will still appear individually for a little while longer. Matthias Hüppi, who is now 58 years old, will present “Sportpanorama” and certain live events. Bernhard Russi, who is eleven years older, will continue to contribute as a TV expert at major events.

MARKO LEHTINEN

## Fall in the number of asylum applications

A total of 27,207 people applied for asylum in Switzerland in 2016. That is almost a third less or 12,316 fewer applications than in the previous year. The State Secretariat for Migration is estimating an even lower figure for this year. The decline is primarily attributable to the closure of the Balkans route in March 2016. By comparison, the number of applications in Europe overall remained steady last year at 1.3 million. This also means that the proportion accounted for by Switzerland of all applications made in Europe has also fallen. While the Swiss share stood at 8.2% in 2012, it fell to around 2% last year.

## Extract from the criminal records database for Ticino

The National Council’s Political Institutions Committee (PIC) has approved a cantonal initiative from the canton of Ticino. This states that the authorities should be able to systematically request an extract from the criminal records database, without justification, from EU citizens applying for a residence or cross-border commuter permit in Switzerland. The canton of Ticino has been using this procedure for two years and has now sought legitimacy for it. The PIC voted narrowly in favour by 13 to 11. Its Council of States sister committee will now draw up a draft bill.

## Free trade after Brexit

Johann Schneider-Ammann, Minister for Economic Affairs, wants to conclude a free trade agreement with the UK as soon as possible after Brexit. In an interview with “Sonntagsblick”, Schneider-Ammann said that not a day should go by without a new agreement entering into force after the UK’s departure from the EU. The Federal Councillor indicated that Liam Fox, the UK’s Secretary of State for International Trade, had assured him at the WEF in Davos that he was extremely keen on an agreement with Switzerland.

## Literature prize for Charles Linsmayer

Charles Linsmayer, a journalist and literary scholar from Zurich, has received a “special award for promoting literature” at the 2017 Swiss Literature Awards. This Federal Office of Culture prize endowed with 40,000 Swiss francs acknowledges the efforts of a person or institution in promoting literature in Switzerland. The award was presented for the third time. Linsmayer also writes a regular literature series for “Swiss Review”.



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**YOU** **BACK.**



Iragna, Ticino, © Per Kasch

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