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**As a reliable, sustainable
and representative memory
institution, we are the global
reference point for sources
about Switzerland and form a
bridge from the past to
the future via the present.**

Damian Elsig, Director

Building bridges

Damian Elsig, Director



In 2023, the Swiss National Library made groundbreaking progress on two fronts: it developed a long-term vision from which it derived the strategic orientation from 2024. In addition, it progressed with the construction projects in Bern and Lugano. The main building in Bern is undergoing a complete renovation, whereas in Lugano the Città della Musica will be the headquarters of the Swiss National Sound Archives together with other representatives of the music scene.

The Swiss National Library can look back on an eventful year. It advanced its strategic institutional development and worked on extensive construction projects:

2036 vision

In 2023, the Management Committee of the Swiss National Library developed a long-term vision on which it based its strategic orientation from 2024. The new leitmotif *Living memory of Switzerland for everyone: address people, strengthen cooperation* captures the essence of the vision. Both aspects of living memory are fleshed out in the two action areas: *access and mediation* and *cooperative mandate fulfilment*.

The main strategic goals, which the National Library will implement incrementally by 2028 include the following:



NATBIB

Visualisation of the new National Library

- It uses the outsourcing to temporary premises while construction work is ongoing to develop and experiment with new outreach formats and design the operation in the renovated buildings.
 - It assumes a leading role in selected joint projects of national significance in dialogue with its partner institutions.
 - It commits to the Museumsquartier in Bern and Città della musica in Lugano in order to shape these new cultural and knowledge venues going forward in cooperation with its partner institutions.
- The 2036 vision sets a course for the National Library to follow over the next decade. The 2024–28 strategic goals already provided

the basis for the 2024 operational goals, which we are working hard to achieve.

Complete renovation in Bern

In January 2023, the winning project **NATBIB** by Christ & Gantenbein / Drees & Sommer plus the five other entries were presented at a public exhibition in the Kornhausforum building in Bern. The project team, comprising the Federal Office for Buildings and Logistics FOBL (contracting authority and project manager), the general planning team, the user representation National Library-Federal Office of Culture FOC and the operations team of the FOBL, worked intensively on the pre-project phase in 2023. The planning team converted the National Library's space allocation plan into a construction solution through an iterative process. An initial cost estimate will be provided by completion of the pre-project phase at the end of 2024.

During construction, the plan is to move the National Library to the *Titanic* building at Monbijoustrasse 74 in Bern. The dismantling work began in 2023 and the renovation will be completed by 2025.

The development of the Museumsquartier Bern also progressed in 2023; the project involves the amalgamation of 11 cultural and educational institutions, including the National Library. It is currently in the building phase. The individual buildings gradually converged in 2023. The museum garden in the middle of the area has become a popular meeting and recreation place. The Museumsquartier Bern is well on the way to becoming an attractive, diverse experience space for people from near and far.



Città della Musica
Visualisation

Città della Musica in Lugano

2023 was an eventful year for the Swiss National Sound Archives. The early part of the year was taken up with the move from Centro San Carlo in Lugano to the nearby Villa dei Professori.

Significant progress was made in 2023 regarding the future headquarters of the Swiss National Sound Archives: in March, Lugano City Council unanimously approved the construction of **Città della Musica** and in November an expert jury selected the winning project from the tender process initiated by the Conservatorio della Svizzera italiana for its new headquarters in the Città della Musica, which will accommodate, besides the Swiss National Sound Archives and the Conservatory, the Orchestra della Svizzera italiana, the Barocchisti, the choir, Swiss Radio and Television and other actors from the music scene.