

**Zeitschrift:** Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad  
**Herausgeber:** Organisation of the Swiss Abroad  
**Band:** 26 (1999)  
**Heft:** 1

**Vorwort:** Editorial  
**Autor:** Schneider, Lukas M.

### **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

### **Conditions d'utilisation**

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

### **Terms of use**

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

**Download PDF:** 09.12.2025

**ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>**



## CONTENTS

<b>Forum</b>	
High-Tech Switzerland	4-7
<b>Soliswiss-Info</b>	8
<b>Official News</b>	9/10
<b>Portrait</b>	
Federal President Dreifuss	11
<b>Politics</b>	
Bilateral negotiations	12
<b>Votes</b>	
Federal referendums of 7 February 1999 and 18 April 1999	13-15
<b>Politics</b>	
Federal elections 1999	16/17
<b>Mosaic</b>	18/19
<b>Society</b>	
Switzerland's working poor	21
<b>SSA News</b>	22/23

### Cover

**The country needs dynamism: the future of Switzerland, a country low in natural resources, depends on the systematic promotion of the country's high-tech capabilities, to ensure a prosperous transition to the 21st century. (Illustration: Paul Degen)**

## IMPRESSUM

Swiss Review, the magazine for the Swiss Abroad, is in its 26th year of issue and is published in German, French, Italian, English and Spanish in more than 20 regional editions. It has a total circulation of over 320,000. Regional news appears four times a year.

**Editors:** Lukas M. Schneider (LS), Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad (Chairman); Alice Baumann (AB), Press Bureau Alice Baumann Conception, Berne; Pierre-André Tschanz (PAT), Swiss Radio International, Berne; Dario Ballanti (DB), parliamentary correspondent of Corriere del Ticino; Editor of Official News: Robert Nyffeler (NYF), Service for the Swiss Abroad, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, CH-3003 Berne. Translator: Nicolette Chisholm.

Publisher, Editorial Office, Advertising: Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad, Alpenstrasse 26, CH-3000 Berne 16; Tel: 41 31 351 6100, Fax: 41 31 351 61 50, Postal Cheque Account (Swiss National Giro): 30-6768-9. Printed by: Buri Druck AG, CH-3084 Wabern.

**Change of address:** Please advise your local Embassy or Consulate – do not write to Berne.

Internet: <http://www.revue.ch>

No. 1/99 (3.3.1999)



Society around the world is experiencing an era of profound change. The industrial age is a thing of the past, and traditional values are losing their intrinsic significance. Knowledge has become the most important production factor, and technology is developing at a dizzying pace. Over the past thirty years alone, new information technologies have led to the generation of more knowledge than ever before in the entire history of mankind. Nor is there any sign of a slowdown.

According to sociologists in the English-speaking world, the economy of the 21st century will be a "knowledge-based economy", forcing the working population to adopt an even greater degree of flexibility. Professional and spatial mobility, coupled with the willingness to accept lifelong learning, will be a fact of life.

While Switzerland is poor in natural resources, its high standard of education provides a good platform on which to play a leading role in the knowledge society of the future. But it must not lose sight of the global challenges. It is therefore essential to prepare for such challenges well in advance. Increasing the attractiveness of Switzerland as a centre of research is undoubtedly one of the most important ways of investing for the future. The USA, for example, has recognised the sign of the times and is systematically investing in public research. The land of unlimited opportunities is currently focusing closely on

the active promotion of innovation.

By international standards, Switzerland still remains one of the most research-intensive nations. Microtechnology, for instance, which boasts a long tradition in our country, is a growth industry that has the potential to significantly boost our gross domestic product. In the wake of budgetary cost-cutting measures, it would be unwise from an economic standpoint to put a stop to spending in the very area in which our future chances lie. Our capital is human capital. And to remain competitive, educational reforms are a must.

Initial steps have already been made. The amendments to the cantonal university laws, the blueprint for a reformed university subsidies law and the increased networking of educational institutions in the interests of improving efficiency are steps in the right direction. Switzerland's well-being in the next century will largely depend on its achievements in the realm of high technology. We must therefore never relax our efforts to create the optimum conditions for the establishment of new leading-edge technologies.



Lukas M. Schneider