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New passport and identity card

In future children and young people will be able to obtain a new passport for CHF 55. The cost of an adult passport is CHF 120. An identity card for children and young people will cost CHF 30, and CHF 65 for adults.



Artistic cantonal motif on the new Swiss passport.



A combined passport and identity card will also be available to children for CHF 63 and to adults for CHF 128, excluding postage. All other costs will be billed separately.

One person – one pass

Until now, adults had the option of including their children on their passport ("child entry"). This will continue to be the case until 31 December 2002, after which children must obtain their own pass-

port. Among the reasons for this change is the fact that nowadays children and young people often travel abroad without their parents or may spend some time abroad on their own. Internationally, too, the trend is towards "one person – one pass".

Apply early


The new system will come into force on 1 January 2003. The new

passport and revised identity card will be issued from January 2003 (visually, the new identity card has changed little). Passports will now be manufactured at a central location in Switzerland.

Applications for a new passport or identity card must continue to be made to Swiss diplomatic and consular representations. The data are processed, electronically registered and forwarded to Switzer-

land, and the documents are manufactured in the respective locations. Since this procedure is relatively time-consuming (up to 40 working days or more, depending on the country and verification process), the Federal Department for Foreign Affairs recommends that Swiss residents abroad seeking new travel documents contact their representation in good time to find out about the new procedure. This way, inconvenient delays can be avoided.

The old passports will remain valid until their date of expiry (but no later than 31.12.2007). After 1 January 2003, no more applications to extend old passports will be accepted!

*Gabriela Brodbeck,
Service for the
Swiss Abroad DFA* 

Brochure on the recognition of diplomas

The agreement on free movement of persons, in force since 1 June 2002, covers the mutual recognition of diplomas, testimonials and certificates of proficiency between Switzerland and the EU. However, certain rules must be observed for individual countries.

To provide assistance to those interested, the DFA/DEA (Federal Department of Foreign Affairs/Federal Department of Economic Affairs) Integration Office has compiled a brochure with useful tips and addresses for information on the recognition of diplomas in the EU.

Because every EU country awards its own titles for the various professions, this impedes the mobility of persons seeking employment within the EU. To address this problem the European

Union has set up a system for the mutual recognition of diplomas and certificates of proficiency. Switzerland now participates in this system thanks to the agreement on free movement of persons. Moreover, the revised EFTA agreement facilitates the recognition of diplomas between Switzerland and its EFTA partners Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein.

It is now easier for Swiss nationals living abroad to have their qualifications recognised. The applicable regulations are listed in the new brochure entitled "Swiss Diplomas in the EU/EU Diplomas in Switzerland", which also contains the addresses of the main bodies in Switzerland and abroad responsible for examining applications for the recognition of diplomas.

The brochure is available in German, French, Italian and English and can be ordered from the Fed-

eral Office for Government Publications under Order Numbers 201.350d, 201.350f, 201.350i, 201.350e. Address: Bundesamt für Bundespublikationen (BBL), Vertrieb Publikationen, 3003 Berne,

or from www.bbl.admin.ch/bundespublikationen. The brochure can also be downloaded from <http://www.europa.admin.ch/pub/best/d/index.htm>.

MPC 


AHV/IV pensions to be increased

Every two years the AHV/IV pensions are adjusted in line with the wage and price index (mixed index). In 2003 benefits are to be increased by 2.4 percent.

Retirement benefits were last adjusted on 1 January 2001, when they were increased by 2.5 percent. In 2001 the price index rose by 0.3 percent and the wage index by 2.5 percent. By the end of December 2002 the price index is ex-

pected to increase by 1.0 percent and the wage index by 1.5 percent. This has prompted an adjustment to AHV/IV benefits of 2.4 percent.

The minimum retirement pension is to be increased from CHF 1030 to CHF 1055 and the maximum from CHF 2060 to CHF 2110 per month.

This increase will involve additional costs of approximately CHF 866 million. *BDK* 

Current popular initiatives

The following popular initiatives are still open for signature:

"Postal service for all"

(until 28 February 2003)
Gewerkschaft Kommunikation,
Oberdorfstrasse 32,
CH-3072 Ostermundigen

"For fairer child allowances!"

(until 30 April 2003)
Christlichnationaler Gewerkschaftsbund der Schweiz (Swiss Association of Christian Trade Unions, CNG), PO Box 5775,
CH-3001 Berne

"More control over health insurance premiums"

(until 5 August 2003)
R.A.S.: Rassemblement des assurés et des soignants, PO Box 1280,
CH-1001 Lausanne

"For modern animal welfare (Yes to animal protection!)"

(until 29 July 2003)
Schweizer Tierschutz STS, PO Box,
CH-4008 Basle

"Moratorium on mobile communications antennae"

(until 12 September 2003)
www.antennenmoratorium.ch
PO Box 321, CH-8029 Zurich

"Against ritual slaughter without an anaesthetic"

(until 26 September 2003)
Verein gegen Tierfabriken VgT
PO Box, CH-9501 Wil

"For a comprehensive revision of the federal constitution by the new parliament (initiative frühling)"

(until 2 October 2003)
initiative frühling, PO Box
CH-5001 Aarau

"For the abolition of obligatory health insurance"

(until 10 March 2004)
www.stoplamal.ch, PO Box 2875
1211 Geneva 2

You can download the signature form for current initiatives from <http://www.admin.ch/ch/d/pore/vi/vis10.html>

How Swiss Abroad lived in the 20th century

The Swiss Federal Archives have published a new volume on its studies and sources for the current year (Swiss Federal Archives, Studies and Sources 28, 2002).

The edition examines the 20th-century lives of Swiss nationals resident abroad and documents the fates of our compatriots in various countries and regions such as Italy, France, Russia, Germany, California, Argentina and Africa.

Among other things it contains an article by the General Secretary of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), the former Head of the Service for the Swiss Abroad and a member of staff, as well as other texts by historians on the subject of emigration. The studies analyse various aspects of the federal policy on Swiss Abroad. The titles of the studies and their authors are listed below.

Fleury Antoine
Politique étrangère et colonies suisses

Arlettaz Gérald
La Nouvelle Société Helvétique et les Suisses à l'étranger (1914–1924). Aspects de la construction d'un nationalisme de type ethnique

Thurnherr Walter/ Messerli Patricia
Auslandschweizerpolitik des Bundes nach dem Zweiten Weltkrieg

Flury-Dasen Eric
Kriegsgeschädigte Auslandschweizer in der Nachkriegszeit (1945–1961). Zwischen Schadenersatz und Hilfeleistung

Hofmann Sabine
Die Heimschaffung der Schweizer Staatsangehörigen aus Ostpreussen (1944–1948)

Fayet Jean-François/ Huber Peter
Die Russlandschweizer ohne Schutz? Die IKRK-Mission in Moskau als "verdecktes Konsulat" (1921–1938)

Cerutti Mauro
Les Suisses d'Italie à l'époque du fascisme

Leu Stéphanie
Les Suisses en Haute-Marne (1880–1939)

Schneider Lukas M.
«Les temps ne sont point roses pour les colons...». Schweizer Präsenz im Argentinien der Zwischenkriegszeit


Cheda Giorgio
Aspetti dell'emigrazione ticinese in California

Lenzin René
Schweizer im kolonialen und postkolonialen Afrika

Perrenoud Marc
Aperçu sur les Suisses de l'étranger et la décolonisation en Afrique

The edition can be ordered from:
Bundesarchiv, Archivstr. 24, 3003 Berne
(<http://www.bundesarchiv.ch>)

Verlag Paul Haupt, Falkenplatz 14.
Postfach, 3001 Berne
(<http://www.haupt.ch/>)

The price was not available at the time of going to press, but will be approximately CHF 45 or EUR 30.BDK 

Death of former Heads of the Service for the Swiss Abroad

Two former Heads of the Service for the Swiss Abroad died in September within a short period of each other: Ministers Maurice Jaccard and Max Leippert.

Minister Maurice Jaccard died on 14 September 2002. He joined the civil service in 1946 and was appointed by the Federal Council as Head of the Central Office in 1957. This department was concerned with Swiss Abroad issues and, at that time, came under the Federal

Office for Police Matters, part of the Federal Department of Justice and Police. At the same time he took over as head of the Service for the Swiss Abroad and in 1972 was appointed to the rank of Minister by the Federal Council. Under his aegis Article 45^{bis} of the Swiss Constitution was created, which provided a constitutional basis for promoting links between Swiss Abroad and their home country. Minister Jaccard is remembered by many Swiss residents abroad for his strong personality.

Minister Max Leippert, also a former Head of the Service for the Swiss Abroad, died on 26 September 2002. He came to this office on July 1982 following the retirement of Minister Jaccard, and was appointed Minister by the Federal Council. Minister Leippert remained in office until his retirement in September 1986. His tireless efforts in the interest of the Fifth Switzerland made a key contribution to a balanced policy for Swiss Abroad.

BDK 