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## Thank you!

Over 300 young Swiss abroad visit their second homeland each year to take advantage of one of the offers for young people that are provided by the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA). This is only possible thanks to the support of the benefactors, sponsors and volunteers.

OSA's Youth Service relies on the help it receives from numerous very varied organisations.

■ The offers for young people could not be funded without the support of federal government. OSA has concluded a service agreement with the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) that puts our funding on a secure footing. The Federal Social Insurance Office also provides money for select projects that relate to OSA's extra-curricular youth work. The sport camps also receive support from the "Youth and Sport" service at the Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport (DDPS).

■ The support of its long-term sponsors is invaluable to OSA. And, of course, new ones are being added all the time through targeted fundraising. Our youth projects are an attractive platform for companies, organisations and foundations because their meaningful commitment is well received by the public. Cantons and communes show

great generosity whenever young Swiss abroad visit their region.

- The volunteers who work on behalf of OSA also deserve a special mention. The youth officers of the Swiss associations abroad carry out unpaid mediation work. Most young people find out about our projects through their publicity. In Switzerland, the Youth Service receives generous discounts and special offers from many service providers, such as sports teachers, mountain guides, ski schools, tourism companies, mountain railways and transport firms.
- And we must not forget the untiring efforts of the qualified camp leaders, cooks, supervisors at the language courses and workshops and the many other friends of the Swiss abroad who receive only modest remuneration for their commitment to the projects.
- Finally, the Youth Service also relies on a network of over 300 host families in Switzerland, who provide young Swiss abroad with food and accommodation free of charge. This saves OSA over 40,000 Swiss francs a year in board and lodging costs. So, on our own behalf and on behalf of the young people, we at OSA would like to say a big thank-you to all the individuals, organisations and companies concerned. The offers for young people would not be possible without them.

Information on forthcoming offers for young people can be found at [www.aso.ch](http://www.aso.ch).



## OSA advice

### Is it possible to have more than one domicile?

Under Swiss law, nobody can have more than one domicile simultaneously. Swiss law defines domicile as the place where a person resides with the intention of settling. The intention to settle has to be based on circumstances recognisable to third parties (for example, the presence of family members or a position of employment). To determine a person's domicile, all their life circumstances are taken into account – the centre of their existence being in the place or country where most aspects of their personal, social and professional life are found. The strength of the links with this centre will prevail over links with other places or countries. This means that only the place with which a person has the strongest links can constitute a domicile.

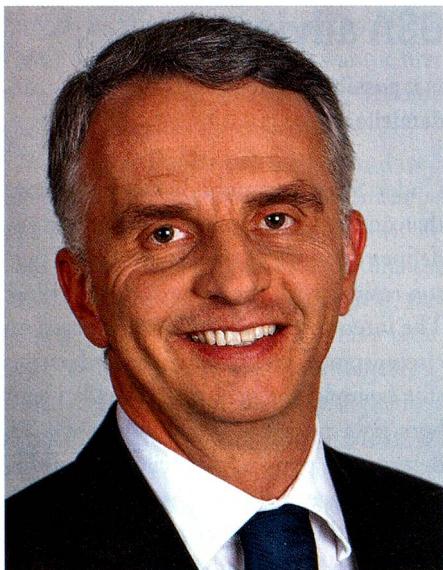
The place where documentation is submitted is not the sole determining factor. It only constitutes an indicator and is not relevant by comparison with personal relationships and interests. This is an assumption that can be overturned by evidence to the contrary.

The notion of domicile is important because it determines which authorities and courts are competent and which legislation is applicable to a person, for example with regard to liability for social insurance payments.

### NOTE ON OSA'S LEGAL DEPARTMENT

The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad's Legal Department provides general legal information on Swiss law and specifically in areas that concern the Swiss abroad. It does not provide information on foreign law and does not intervene in disputes between private parties.

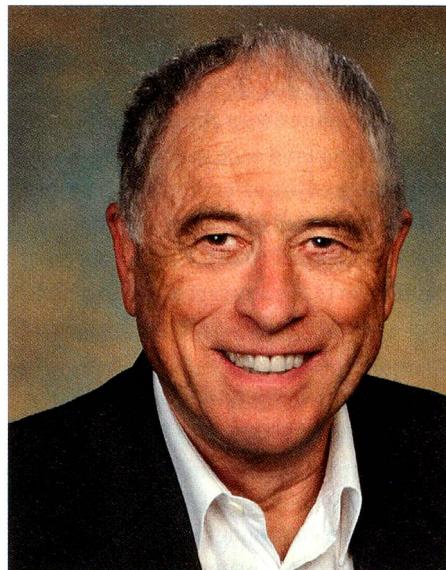
SARAH MASTANTUONI,  
Head of the Legal Department



Speakers at the Congress of the Swiss Abroad:  
Federal Councillor Didier Burkhalter



Creator of "Swatch":  
Elmar Mock



Nobel Prize winner:  
Kurt Wüthrich

## Mobility and Innovation: Switzerland in Times of International Challenges

The 90th Congress of the Swiss Abroad will address Switzerland's qualities in the areas of research and innovation and its position on the international stage - not a Swiss cliché in sight.

The congress to be held in Lausanne between 17 and 19 August 2012 will be attended by renowned experts. Registration is now open.

Switzerland needs to face up to two major challenges – international mobility and the globalisation of knowledge, as knowledge represents a major growth factor for our nation. In addition to economic issues, the Congress of the Swiss Abroad will also look at streamlining and the use of synergies. Modern Switzerland with its research engenders goodwill and trust – an important asset in light of the international criticism levelled at our country's financial conduct.

The high quality of Swiss science also promotes growth in our economy and helps the country to forge global links and play an active role on the international stage. The free circulation of knowledge and the implementation of a coherent migra-

tion policy are vital to overcoming the major challenges of the future.

At the congress in Lausanne, you will have the opportunity to meet Elmar Mock, creator of "Swatch", and Kurt Wüthrich, Nobel Prize winner for chemistry. Swiss researchers and politicians will discuss the challenges outlined above at a round-table event. Federal Councillor Didier Burkhalter, who, as head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), is an extremely important figure for the Swiss abroad, will also attend the congress.

There will be no shortage of social and cultural activities either: select delicacies from the canton of Vaud will be served on the final evening at the Le Chalet Suisse restaurant, and culture enthusiasts will be able to explore Lausanne and the local region on a guided tour of the city or a trip to Rochers-de-Naye. Detailed information and registration forms can be found on our website in German and French:

*German:*

[www.aso.ch/de/angebote/auslandschweizer-kongress/kongress-2012](http://www.aso.ch/de/angebote/auslandschweizer-kongress/kongress-2012)

*French:*

[www.aso.ch/fr/offres/congres-des-suisses-de-letranger/congres-2012](http://www.aso.ch/fr/offres/congres-des-suisses-de-letranger/congres-2012)

The registration deadline for the 90th Congress of the Swiss Abroad in Lausanne is 4 July 2012.

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