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Jean-Jacques Cevey has passed away

Jean-Jacques Cevey, the honorary president of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA), passed away in Montreux on 11 May aged 85. Cevey presided over OSA from 1992 to 1998. He was an extremely committed president who always maintained close contact with the Swiss abroad and successfully conveyed their concerns to Swiss politicians. OSA benefited tremendously from his great political experience. Among the positions he held, Cevey was the municipal mayor of Montreux (1969–1988), president of the Vaud Free Democrats (Parti radical) and a member of the National Council from 1967 to 1991, serving as its president in 1987. He was also President of Switzerland Tourism from 1980 to 1994.

Jean-Jacques Cevey was born in 1928 in Sainte-Croix. He studied law and worked as

a journalist and editor before and after his career in politics. He was awarded an honorary doctorate from Aix-Marseille University for his wide-ranging commitments, which included cultural interests.

OSA advice

I have lived abroad with my foreign husband for many years. What requirements have to be met in order for him to apply for Swiss citizenship, and how should we proceed?

A fundamental requirement for the naturalisation of a partner is that the Swiss spouse already held Swiss citizenship when they got married. If the Swiss spouse obtained Swiss citizenship through regular naturalisation after the wedding, simplified naturalisation is not possible.

If you meet this requirement, your spouse may make an application for simplified naturalisation. In your case, as you reside abroad, the criterion is that you must have been living in a stable marital relationship for at least six years. The foreign spouse must also have a close relationship with Switzerland. They must meet certain criteria in order to fulfil the close

relationship requirement. These include regular visits to Switzerland, the nomination of referees in Switzerland and the ability to communicate in a national language or a Swiss dialect. The linguistic abilities may be demonstrated during an interview at the embassy or consulate. Irrespective of the place of residence, applicants must be integrated into Swiss life at least in spirit, comply with the Swiss rule of law and not jeopardise Switzerland's internal or external security. In the event of naturalisation, your spouse will acquire cantonal and communal citizenship at your place of origin.

Naturalisation applications must be sent to the relevant Swiss representation (embassy or consulate).

Further information can be found on the website of the Federal Office for Migration www.bfm.admin.ch > Topics > Swiss citizenship / Naturalization

Addresses of the Swiss representations abroad: www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/home/reps.html

OSA LEGAL DEPARTMENT

OSA'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.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE ORGANISATION OF THE SWISS ABROAD AND PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA), a foundation governed by private law, is a centre of expertise for safeguarding the interests of Swiss citizens living abroad. Besides the publication of "Swiss Review", it provides various services for Swiss citizens abroad in collaboration with its partner organisations.

■ **Legal advice.** Free advice on emigrating abroad and returning to Switzerland.
www.aso.ch – "Consultation" section

■ **Network.** The website SwissCommunity.org provides the opportunity to network with Swiss citizens all over the world.
www.swisscommunity.org

■ **Offers for children and young people.** Organisation of

holiday camps and language courses, etc. for young Swiss abroad seeking a better understanding of their native country.
www.sjas.ch

■ **Advice on education and training in Switzerland.** Young Swiss abroad wishing to train or study in Switzerland receive support and guidance in selecting training and

educational opportunities and making grant applications.
www.educationsuisse.ch



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The educationsuisse – Education and Training in Switzerland team: Fiona Scheidegger, Director (left in photo) and Ruth von Gunten

Embarking upon education and training

The 2014/15 academic year is soon set to begin in Switzerland. Trainees have already started work at their companies. University students will attend their first lectures in a few weeks.

Many young Swiss abroad come to their native country each year for education and training. Most are well organised beforehand. However, it is often only later that they realise that the cost of living in Swit-

erland is high and may exceed what their families can afford.

Young Swiss abroad generally have the opportunity to apply for a grant from their canton of origin. Grants are awarded on the basis of parental income and family circumstances. The grant system is run by the cantons in Switzerland. This means there are 26 different sets of grant regulations, and submission deadlines vary greatly. Trainees and students who now wish to apply for a grant should contact the relevant office immediately for information.

The Education and Training in Switzerland department at educationsuisse advises young Swiss abroad and provides assistance

DONATION FOR YOUNG SWISS ABROAD

The Swiss foundation Pro Patria will donate a significant share of its collection this year to the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad's projects for young people.

The generous donation from Pro Patria is motivation and grounds for us at OSA's Youth Service to plan new projects and offers for young people and to incorporate these into our programme. The funds from the Pro Patria collection will also enable us to assist the many young people who cannot afford to take part in the youth programmes, making it possible for them to visit their second homeland.

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www.swissworld.org

Your Gateway to Switzerland



with grant applications. Fiona Scheidegger and Ruth von Gunten would be pleased to provide you with further information.

educationsuisse

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Young Swiss abroad vote

The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) encourages young people to take part in political life in Switzerland and prepares them for exercising their political rights. We are supported in our efforts by Didier Burkhalter, the President of the Swiss Confederation.

OSA is organising two events over the coming months which will enable young Swiss abroad to gain an insight into Switzerland's political system and actively participate in

We have not yet secured all the funding we need for all our projects. We are relying on further donations, especially for the activities for young people in the anniversary year - OSA will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2016.

We wish to express our sincerest gratitude to the Pro Patria foundation, and hope we will be able to implement all our projects thanks to further donations.

Please send donations, mentioning "programmes for young people", to:
 Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
 Berner Kantonalbank, Bundesplatz 8, 3001 Berne
 Account no.: 16.129.446.0.98
 IBAN: CH71 0900 0000 3000 6768 9
 SWIFT: KBBECH 22
 Or: Post office account: 30-6768-9
 BIC: POFICHBE
 IBAN: CH97 0079 0016 1294 4609 8
 Or via PayPal at:
www.swisscommunity.org/en/about/support-us



it. Swiss President Didier Burkhalter has announced that he will be visiting the young people.

Seminar on the age-of-majority celebrations for Swiss abroad:

17.10. – 23.10.2014

Swiss abroad born in 1995 and 1996 are invited to take part in a political seminar organised by OSA in Berne to coincide with the celebrations for reaching the age of majority. Participants will be welcomed in Berne on 17 October by OSA and their host families. The young citizens will then receive an introduction to Switzerland's political system. They will be informed about how they can exercise their political rights in Switzerland. The young people will also be prepared for the age-of-majority festivities organised by the city of Berne at the Federal Palace.



Seminar on the Federal Youth Session:

10.11. – 16.11.2014

Over 200 youngsters gain an insight into Swiss political procedures each year at the Youth Session. This allows them to find out about political processes and ways of participating in political decision-making without any obligation. This makes it easier for them to engage in further political activity or to undertake civic commitments.

Youth Session places are reserved for Swiss abroad aged 14 to 21. OSA will explain the procedures and issues to participants in the days leading up to the session. The young politicians will then actively participate in the Youth Session from Thursday to Sunday.

OSA has inserted a new section featuring political offers for young people at www.swisscommunity.org. We hope any young people interested will visit us at the community website.

JUSKILA camp at Lenk free of charge

The ski camp for children will take place from 2 to 9 January 2015. Twenty Swiss children living abroad, 13 and 14 years old, can attend free of charge.

Every year the Swiss-Ski association organises a ski camp at Lenk for 600 Swiss children born in 2000 and 2001, including twenty Swiss children living abroad. To take part in the Juskila trip, Swiss children living abroad must be able to communicate in at least one of the three Swiss national languages (German, French or Italian). The places for Swiss abroad are decided by a draw. Those who win a place do not have to pay for the camp itself (winter sports coaching, food and accommodation). Parents will be responsible for organising and financing travel to and from the camp. Applicants will be informed of the outcome of the draw at the end of October.

Sign up for the draw now, using the registration form below.

Winter camp for 8 to 14-year-olds

Whether they are skiers or snowboarders, beginners or at an advanced level, Swiss children living abroad aged 8 to 14 will have a great time at our winter camp.

Winter camp Lantsch (Grisons)

Date: Saturday, 27 December 2014 to Monday, 5 January 2015

No. of participants: 48

Cost: CHF 900 (contribution to the camp)
Ski or snowboard hire: approx. CHF 150

Registration deadline: 30 October 2014

Registration

Precise details on the winter camps and the registration form will be available from 15 September 2014 at www.sjas.ch. Reduced contribution rates are available in exceptional cases. The application form can be requested via the registration form. We are also happy to post you our information brochure on request.

For more information:

Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad (FYSA)
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info@sjas.ch, www.sjas.ch

REGISTRATION FORM FOR THE DRAW FOR JUSKILA (2 TO 9 JAN. 2015)

Please complete in clear print.

First name:

Surname:

No., street:

Town/city, postcode:

Country:

Date of birth:

Female

Male

Telephone:

Commune of origin in Switzerland (see Passport/ID):

Name of parent(s)/guardian(s):

Email address and phone no. of parent(s)/guardian(s):

Type of sport

Alpine skiing

Cross-country skiing

Snowboarding

Please only tick one box. The type of sport cannot be changed after the draw.

Language of child

German

French

Italian

Signature of parent(s)/guardian(s):

Signature of child:

Please send the form, together with a copy of the Swiss passport of a parent or the child, by 15 Oct. 2014 (date of receipt) to: Foundation for Young Swiss abroad, Alpenstrasse 26, 3006 Berne, SWITZERLAND.