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Visions for shaping the Switzerland of the future

Green spaces in urban areas, less traffic and a greater sense of community – this scenario is the focal point of the “Swisstopia” project with which the “Haute école du paysage, d’ingénierie et d’architecture” (hepia) in Geneva won the ideas competition “tomorrow? Switzerland”



The winning team from hepia with Federal Councillor Doris Leuthard

Students from five universities of applied sciences were invited to present ideas about life in 2035 as part of this competition organised by the Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications (DETEC). The jury chaired by Federal

Councillor Doris Leuthard reached its decision at the end of October.

What will Switzerland look like 20 years from now? For once this question was not put to professional forecasters but instead to five selected universities of applied sciences from all parts of the country. The students tackled the competition task of developing ideas for the Switzerland of the future and presenting them visually in very different ways.

After intensive discussions, the jury declared the “Haute école du paysage, d’ingénierie et d’architecture de Genève” (hepia), a department of the “Haute Ecole Spécialisée de Suisse occidentale” (University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland), the winner with its competition project “Swisstopia”. In the view of the jury, the hepia entry developed solutions outstandingly well in a key future area of urban development – the populated landscape. The authors displayed courage by

accommodating the desire of some of the population to live in a productive landscape. Their entry also contained certain values. It attached greater importance to the community, while work was attributed a different status.

The entries for the competition, which was launched by Federal Councillor Leuthard in spring 2014, are of particular interest to DETEC given that, as an infrastructure department, it has major influence over the future organisation of Switzerland. The aim was for the entries to be incorporated into practical politics as far as possible.

DETEC GENERAL SECRETARIAT

Participating universities

The following universities of applied sciences took part in the “tomorrow? Switzerland” competition

- Hochschule für Technik Rapperswil (HSR), Fachhochschule Ostschweiz (FHO), Rapperswil-Jona St Gallen
- Hochschule Luzern – Design & Kunst (HSLU), Fachhochschule Zentralschweiz, Lucerne
- Hochschule für Gestaltung und Kunst (HGK), Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz (FHNW), Basel
- Haute école du paysage, d’ingénierie et d’architecture de Genève (hepia), Haute école spécialisée de Suisse occidentale (HES-SO), Geneva
- Dipartimento ambiente costruzioni e design (DACD), Scuola universitaria professionale della Svizzera italiana (SUPSI), Manno TI

More information on the competition, the participants and their projects can be found at:

<http://www.are.admin.ch/demainlasuisse/index.html?lang=de>

The law on the Swiss schools abroad entered into force on 1 January 2015

The new law gives Swiss schools abroad greater operational flexibility while also enhancing the way in which Swiss culture and education are imparted. Basic vocational education and training and new Swiss schools abroad can now also receive funding.

In addition to the proportion of Swiss pupils, the total number of students is now also taken into account when calculating federal government’s funding contribution. The minimum quota of Swiss students previously prescribed no longer applies. To enable the Swiss schools abroad to plan better, a multi-year budget in line with the dispatch on culture will apply from 2016.

Federal government today supports 17 Swiss schools abroad worldwide: 7 in Europe, 8 in Latin America and 2 in Asia. They are attended by a total of 7,200 children of whom 1,800 hold a Swiss passport.

See also: www.bak.admin.ch/schweizerschulen

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