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Living and working abroad

Emigrating to a new country is no walk in the park. Moving abroad requires a great deal of preparation.

This is why the Consular Directorate of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) has set up a website **www.swissemigration.ch** that summarises the things you need to bear in mind when planning your exit from Switzerland. Students, employees and pensioners can go online to access numerous guides and country-specific dossiers as well as a dedicated checklist. The website is also a useful source of information for Swiss who already live abroad – especially those who are planning to return to Switzerland.



Emigrating

You can go online to learn about the many different steps that you need to take before and during the process of emigrating to a new country – such as liaising with your local registration authority, or handling taxes, AHV/IV, health insurance, and formalities related to entry and stay.

Resources include guides related to travel abroad, emigration, retirement abroad, learning a language and studying abroad, working and searching for jobs abroad, and much more besides. Dossiers on the EU, the USA, Thailand and 18 other countries are also available.

If you are still unable to find the information you require, you can call or email the FDFA helpline free of charge. The Swiss representations abroad can also assist you.

> www.swissemigration.ch



Networking

With the advent of online services and social networking tools, it is becoming ever easier for expatriates to maintain and strengthen links to their native country.

Useful interfaces include the websites of various federal departments of the federal administration as well as newsletters and social media sites (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) of numerous Swiss representations abroad.

The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) publishes the "Swiss Review", a website and a newsletter in addition to running the SwissCommunity.org platform. OSA brings together a network of Swiss expatriate associations that offer a variety of events and information to their members.

- > www.youngswissabroad.ch
- > www.revue.ch
- > www.aso.ch



Returning

Planning your return to Switzerland requires just as much thought as emigrating abroad. Essentially, it is the same procedure in reverse. Particularly people who have been away from their native country for many years need to be aware of this.

The "Returning to Switzerland" guide provides useful advice on looking for jobs in Switzerland and contains general information about the repatriation process.

> "Returning to Switzerland" guide
(www.eda.admin.ch > Living abroad > Publications and statistics > Returning)

You can access and consult these websites at the click of a button via the online edition of the "Swiss Review".

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Skype: helpline-eda

Travel advice

www.eda.admin.ch/reisehinweise
☎ from Switzerland +41 800 24 7 365
☎ from abroad +41 58 465 33 33
www.twitter.com/travel_edadfa

itineris

Online registration for Swiss citizens travelling abroad
www.fdfa.admin.ch/itineris



Plan well.
Travel well.

App available for free for iOS and Android

Federal and cantonal popular votes – everything in one app



Vote Info The Confederation and the cantons have launched VoteInfo – a new app that provides you with official explanatory information on federal and cantonal popular votes and allows you to keep track of results via smartphone. The popular vote of 10 February 2019 marked the app's debut.

Supplementing the voting papers that are sent to all eligible voters as well as the information that is available on federal government and cantonal websites, the new app now means that you can consult all the official explanatory information on the forthcoming issues for several weeks before each popular vote – all from a single source. The app also contains details of previous votes.

Results available from noon

But that's not all. On voting Sundays, VoteInfo will begin publishing all the results of federal and cantonal popular votes from 12 p.m. onwards (Swiss time) for every commune and canton as well as for the whole of Switzerland.

Automatic notifications

VoteInfo offers another advantage in that you can set up push notifications to appear automatically whenever the app has new content, e.g. when new explanatory information or videos are published, or when the final results are announced on voting Sunday.

The new app not only contains explanatory information and results, but it can also be adapted to your preferences. For example, it allows you to bookmark content that is specific to your own canton.

Available in four languages

The Federal Chancellery developed the VoteInfo app in partnership with the Federal Statistical Office (FSO) and Canton Zurich. The latter had previously launched its own dedicated "Züri stimmt" app, the contents of which have now been integrated into VoteInfo. Available in Switzerland's four official languages (German, French, Italian and Romansh), the app works on iOS and Android and can be downloaded from the App Store or via Google Play free of charge.

Further improvements

The federal authorities and the cantons intend to continue developing VoteInfo. For example, one future objective is to include information on communal votes.

Federal votes

The Federal Council determines voting proposals at least four months before the voting date. The following proposals will be put to the People on 19 May 2019:

- Federal Act of 28 September 2018 on Tax Reform and OASI (AHV-IV) Funding
- Federal Decree of 28 September 2018 on the Approval and Implementation of the Exchange of Notes between Switzerland and the EU on the adoption of Directive (EU) 2017/853 amending the EU Weapons Directive (Development of the Schengen acquis)

Other voting dates in 2019:

20 October, 24 November

Everything you need to know about the proposals (voting pamphlets, committees, recommendations by Parliament and the Federal Council, electronic voting, etc.) is available at www.admin.ch/votes. For information about the National Council elections of 20 October 2019, visit www.ch.ch/en/elections2019.

Popular initiatives

The following federal popular initiative had been launched by the time of going to press (deadline for the collection of signatures in brackets):

- "Stop arms exports to countries engaged in civil war (Corrective Initiative)" (11/6/2020)

The list of pending popular initiatives is available in German at www.bk.admin.ch > Politische Rechte > Volksinitiativen > Hängige Volksinitiativen

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