

Zeitschrift: Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad
Herausgeber: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
Band: 48 (2021)
Heft: 4

Rubrik: Mailbag

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 09.12.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

Swiss multilingualism is on the rise



It pleases me to read that Switzerland is becoming more multilingual. Understanding and speaking other languages enhances one's quality of life. Every language you learn is like an extra room in the house, offering a different

angle and outlook on the world. I read material in German, English, Russian and French on a daily basis, thanks to the internet.

WALTER ZWEIFEL, WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND

You can talk about Switzerland and its four languages, but it's a shame that German isn't on the school curriculum from a young age in French-speaking Switzerland. I live in Norway, and my two children speak French with me and Finnish with their mother. Norwegian and English are taught from kindergarten.

JEAN-CLAUDE BURRI, NORWAY

I am extremely grateful about being able to switch easily between four languages – Italian, French, German and English! It has definitely widened my horizons. I don't understand Swiss-German (sorry!) and would prefer it if standard German were spoken more often on television and radio at least.

MARIA LUISA KUPKA, MUNICH, GERMANY

I have lived in Copenhagen for over 50 years, I am married to an Englishman, and we mainly speak English and Danish at home. But I have not forgotten my Bernese German. And French remains my second native tongue, which I still use at the Alliance Française in Copenhagen. We Swiss are very fortunate to be able to use all the languages we have.

MARGRITH MOODY-ZUMSTEIN, DENMARK

When people ask which Swiss language I talk, I always say the fifth language, English. So thanks for the validation! After 33 years in the U.S. I confuse myself with what is South African, British or American English. We all understand all the dialects.

ERIKA WHITE, USA

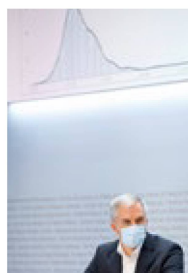
Learning a language means you can relate to the mentality and way of thinking of the people who speak it, and that is always good on a human level...

ELISABETH HOFFMANN, FRANCE

Many Swiss write in excellent German, but unfortunately few can articulate themselves fluently and correctly when they open their mouths. That's not good! We should talk in standard German to people with other languages – even if these people understand a bit of Swiss German. Should the Italian, French and Romansh speakers in German-speaking Switzerland really have to cope with all the dialects? When we travel to Italy, we expect the Italians to speak to us in proper Italian, not in some indecipherable patois.

MENA CEBOLLA-HUONDER, MALAGA, SPAIN

Why Swiss politicians considered silencing the scientists on Covid



Reading this article made me feel very uneasy. Any political decision in a democracy needs to be made transparently. For a start, the unfortunate practice of consulting behind closed doors is anything but democratic, in my view. Don't politicians have the guts to come out and explain their decisions? If they can't be open, why should they tell us what to do? This attempt to

muzzle the scientists is a case in point.

ANDREAS MÜLLER, ELLWANGEN, GERMANY

It seems basic common sense to me to listen to the scientists, especially about a problem of the scale we are currently experiencing. Politics, by definition, is about serving the people and that's how it needs to stay. That means politicians should always give due consideration to the scientific perspective regarding an issue outside their field of influence.

RALF UDO KREBS, PASTO, COLOMBIA

IMPRINT:
"Swiss Review", the magazine for the Swiss Abroad, is in its 47th year of publication and is published in German, French, English and Spanish in 14 regional editions. It has a total circulation of 431,000, including 253,000 electronic copies. Regional news appears four times a year. The ordering parties

are fully responsible for the content of advertisements and promotional inserts. This content does not necessarily represent the opinion of either the editorial office or the publisher.
EDITORS: Marc Lettau (MUL),
Editor-in-Chief: Stéphane Herzog (SH);
Theodora Peter (TP); Susanne Wenger (SWE); Consular Directorate, Innovation

and Partnerships, responsible for the "Notes from Parliament Building" section.
EDITORIAL ASSISTANT: Sandra Krebs
TRANSLATION: SwissGlobal Language Services AG; LAYOUT: Joseph Haas, Zürich; PRINT: Vogt-Schild Druck AG, 4552 Derendingen
POSTAL ADDRESS: Publisher, editorial

office, advertising: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad, Alpenstrasse 26, 3006 Berne, Tel.: +41313566110.
Account: IBAN CH97 0079 0016 1294 4609 8 / KBBECH22
Email: revue@swisscommunity.org

COPY DEADLINE for this edition:
16 June 2021

All Swiss Abroad who are registered with a Swiss representation receive the magazine free of charge.
Anyone else can subscribe to the magazine for an annual fee (Switzerland: CHF 30 / abroad: CHF 50). Subscribers are sent the magazine direct from Berne.
www.revue.ch

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please advise your local embassy or consulate. Do not write to the editorial office in Berne.

