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# Switzerland in your pocket: SwissInTouch, the app for the community of the Swiss Abroad

SwissInTouch promotes discussion and relations with Swiss official bodies and your Swiss representation abroad, is open to your needs and grants you direct and user-friendly access to important consular services and information.

More and more Swiss people are settling down abroad and are registering with embassies and general consulates. The country's representations always endeavour to address the community's concerns and share important information with them. The everyday work of Switzerland's representations abroad and various crises such as the Covid pandemic have meant that the need for a central instrument for information and communication for the community of the Swiss Abroad has become greater than ever. The information has always been available, but it used to be a matter of sourcing it from a variety of different channels, by which time it was no longer up to date anyway. This led to permanent representatives or consulates being contacted more frequently in order to obtain the necessary information.

## The FDFA has acknowledged the needs of the Swiss Abroad

The Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) has acknowledged this need and shown the political will to promote communication with the Swiss Abroad even more strongly and to use digital media. The Consular Directorate of the FDFA was commissioned to create a new digital instrument for improving efficiency.

The aim was to develop a communication and information platform that would allow regular contact with the community



of the Swiss Abroad and where official information could be obtained directly from Switzerland. The Swiss Abroad should also be able to find all the information and services relevant to them on a single platform, in a simple and straightforward manner.

## An app for the Swiss Abroad by the Swiss Abroad

In order to create the best possible product and meet all the relevant requirements, Swiss Abroad from all around the world were involved with the project. The requirements of the Swiss Abroad were documented via a series of fascinating interviews and served as a basis for the app's development. The people chosen for the task were granted regular insights into how the project was going and could test the various functions on offer. Their feedback was taken into account directly by SwissInTouch when they developed the app.

As well as providing useful functions and information, SwissInTouch is aimed at anyone interested in remaining in contact with Switzerland and keeping a little corner of their home country in their pocket at all times.

Download SwissInTouch free of charge and get access to all its handy functions!



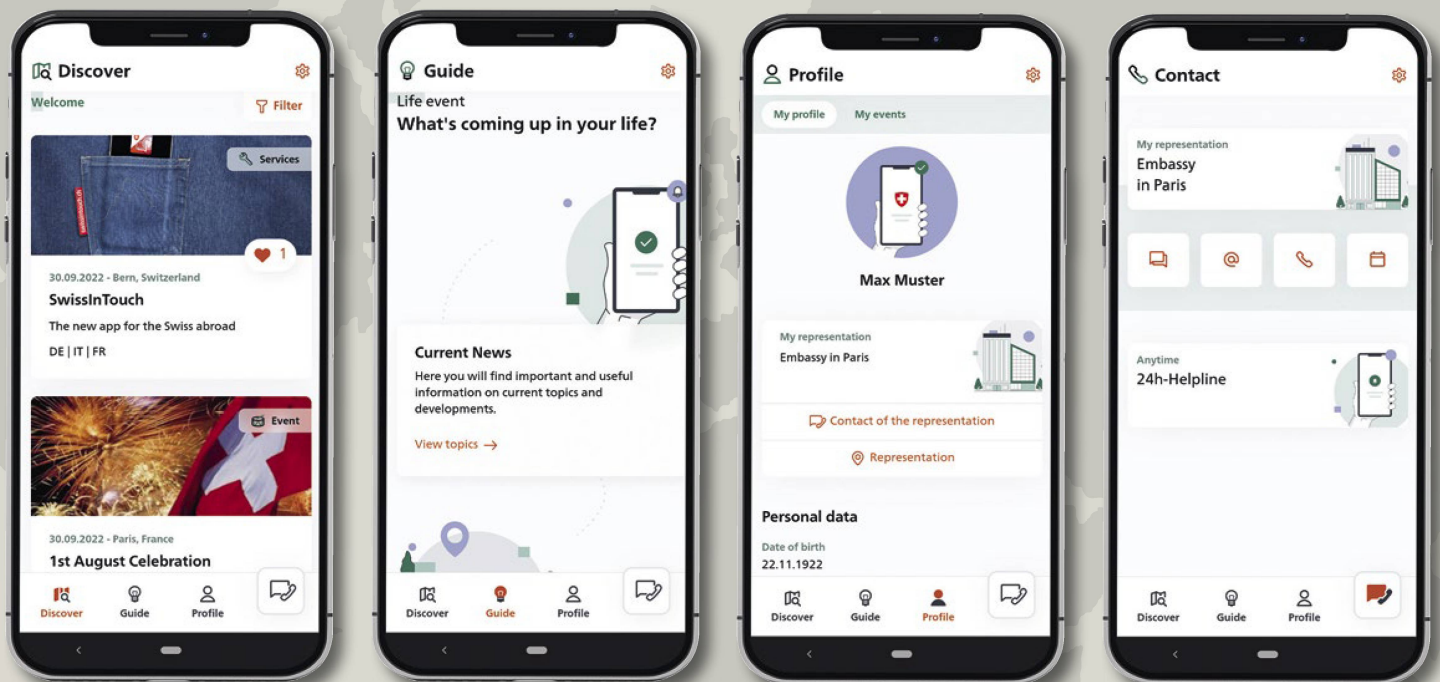
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## All functions at a glance



### Discover

Discover posts from your representation and Swiss communications. Obtain interesting information on a range of topics, take part in surveys and register for events. The SwissInTouch feed contains important information and the latest news from your representation, the Consular Directorate of the FDFA and a range of partners. It is a great way to stay informed and up to date.

### Guide

The 'Guide' section provides support during emigration and immigration, as well as a host of other life situations. Regardless of your current stage of life, this section of the app can provide country-specific information for various situations. To make it easier to find this information, categories such as daily life, family, retirement or emergencies have been created that will lead you directly to the right information, so you do not waste any time.

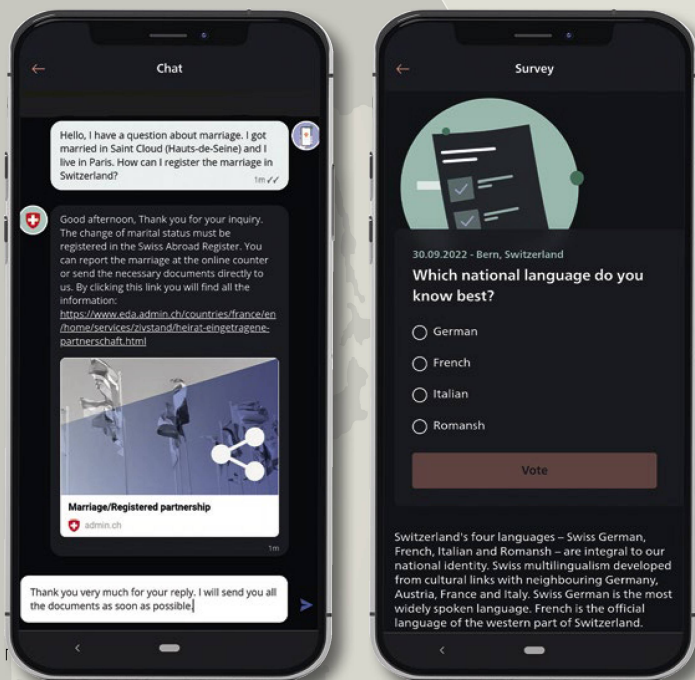
### Profile

In the 'Profile' section, you can manage your upcoming events and keep an eye on things. One single login grants you full access to all functions and services from the app. You can edit your personal details and also select your local representation, to ensure that you get the right information in your feed. In addition to choosing your representation, you can also add any other representations that interest you.

### Contact

Keep an eye on things and contact your representation using your preferred means of communication. You can view the full range of contact options at a glance and choose whether you prefer to communicate with your representation by telephone, by email or by chat. If you need to make an appointment with your representation, there is also the option of requesting one.

## All functions at a glance (continues from page 33)



### Chat

If you have any queries or concerns, you can contact your representation directly and easily via the chat function.

This function lets you submit your questions and concerns quickly and with a minimum of fuss, even outside the representation's opening hours. The representation's staff will get back to you as soon as possible and will be pleased to advise you.

### Survey

Your opinion is important to us! You can take part in surveys on a variety of topics and make your voice heard. We need your help to ensure that the needs of the Swiss Abroad continue to be heard. We are here to listen to your concerns, and guarantee that any participation will be completely anonymous.

## Federal votes

The Federal Council determines voting proposals at least four months before the voting date.

The Federal Council has decided not to hold a federal popular vote on 12 March 2023. The next voting date is 18 June 2023.

Everything you need to know about voting proposals (voting pamphlets, committees, recommendations by Parliament and the Federal Council etc.) is available at [www.admin.ch/votes](http://www.admin.ch/votes) or via the Federal Chancellery's VoteInfo app.



## Popular initiatives

The following federal popular initiatives have already been launched at the time of going to press (deadline for the collection of signatures in brackets):

- Federal Popular Initiative "For a socially-just climate policy – financed through fair taxation (Initiative for a Future)" (16.02.2024)
- Federal Popular Initiative "Electricity for everyone at all times (Stop the blackout)" (01.03.2024)
- Federal Popular Initiative "For a fair energy and climate policy: investing in prosperity, jobs and the environment (Climate Fund Initiative)" (06.03.2024)
- Federal Popular Initiative "Protection from mobile phone radiation (Safer Phone Initiative)" (13.03.2024)
- Federal Popular Initiative "Yes to fair OASI pensions for married couples – to finally end discrimination against marriage!" (27.03.2024)
- "Yes to fair federal taxes for married couples – to finally end discrimination against marriage!" (27.03.2024)

The list of pending popular initiatives is available in German, French and Italian at [www.bk.admin.ch](http://www.bk.admin.ch) > Politische Rechte > Volksinitiativen > Hängige Volksinitiativen



## Consular services

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[www.fdfa.admin.ch](http://www.fdfa.admin.ch)

Dubai (2022)

