

**Zeitschrift:** Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad  
**Herausgeber:** Organisation of the Swiss Abroad  
**Band:** 51 (2024)  
**Heft:** 4: The burden on Swiss farmers : they feel powerless - and are speaking out  
  
**Rubrik:** Switzerland in figures : leaving everyone behind in a cloud of dust

### **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:** 31.01.2026

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

"Swiss Review", the magazine for the Swiss Abroad, is in its 49th year of publication and is published six times a year in German, French, English and Spanish in 13 regional editions. It has a total circulation of 431,000, including 253,000 electronic copies.

"Swiss Review"'s regional news are published 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.

All Swiss Abroad who are registered with a Swiss representation receive the magazine free of charge. Anyone else can subscribe for an annual fee (Switzerland: CHF 30 / Abroad: CHF 50).

ONLINE EDITION  
[www.revue.ch](http://www.revue.ch)

EDITORS  
Marc Lettau, Editor-in-Chief (MUL)  
Stéphane Herzog (SH)  
Theodora Peter (TP)  
Susanne Wenger (SWE)  
Paolo Bezzola (PB, FDFA representative)

FDFA OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS  
The editorial responsibility for the "Notes from the Federal Palace" section is assumed by the Consular Directorate, Innovation and Partnerships, Effingerstrasse 27, 3003 Berne, Switzerland.  
[kdip@eda.admin.ch](mailto:kdip@eda.admin.ch) | [www.eda.admin.ch](http://www.eda.admin.ch)

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT  
Nema Bliggenstorfer (NB)

TRANSLATION  
SwissGlobal Language Services AG,  
Baden

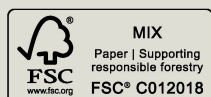
LAYOUT  
Joseph Haas, Zurich

PRINT  
Vogt-Schild Druck AG, Derendingen

PUBLISHER  
The "Swiss Review" is published by the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA). The postal address of the publisher, the editorial office and advertising department is: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad, Alpenstrasse 26, 3006 Berne.  
[revue@swisscommunity.org](mailto:revue@swisscommunity.org)  
Phone: +41 31 356 61 10  
Bank details:  
CH97 0079 0016 1294 4609 8 / KBBECH22

COPY DEADLINE FOR THIS EDITION  
10 June 2024

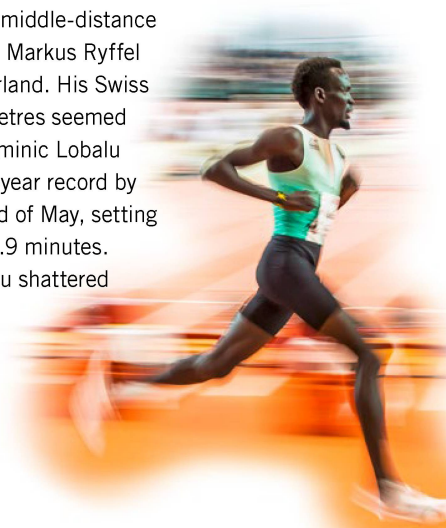
CHANGES OF ADDRESS  
Please advise your local embassy or consulate. The editorial team cannot access your address and administrative data. Thank you.



## Leaving everyone behind in a cloud of dust

# 12:50.9

The now 69-year-old middle-distance runner and Olympian Markus Ryffel is a legend in Switzerland. His Swiss record over 5,000 metres seemed unbreakable. But Dominic Lobalu bettered Ryffel's 40-year record by 16 seconds at the end of May, setting a new mark of 12:50.9 minutes. In other words: Lobalu shattered the record.



# 3,000

Only days after his feat over 5,000 metres, Lobalu, 25, also broke the Swiss 3,000-metre record. The story behind the story: Lobalu fled to Switzerland from South Sudan. "I grew up as a refugee," he says. "This is my identity. And my goal is to win a medal. For all refugees." [www.dominiclobalu.ch](http://www.dominiclobalu.ch)

# 1.39

This begs the question: do people in Switzerland have any time left for family life? Switzerland's birth rate has fallen to 1.39 children per woman, the lowest it has been for over 20 years. A developed country's population will age and decline without a birth rate of at least 2.1 – unless it is supplemented by immigrants. Like Dominic Lobalu.

Source: Federal Statistical Office

# 65,274

As Lobalu breaks records on the running track, working people in Switzerland – most in rather more sedentary occupations – are responsible for superlatives of a completely different kind. They work an average of 65,274 hours over a lifetime – completely "outperforming" their counterparts in France (55,620), Germany (53,098) and Luxembourg (51,859). Source: Eurostat, OECD

# 180,000

With or without children, cleaning and other household chores are another fact of life. There is always somewhere to wipe down or Hoover. A plume containing 180,000 tonnes of Sahara dust blew over Switzerland on 30 March 2024. Swiss skies turned an eerie orange. Cue the next question in our editorial office: whose turn is it to do the spring cleaning?

[www.revue.link/dust](http://www.revue.link/dust)

Source: SRF Meteo

# 3.7

Talking of work, Switzerland's unemployment rate of 3.7 per cent is really low. Look for work and you will normally find it. Labour shortages are the big issue at the moment, with companies struggling to find the right employees.

Source: Federal Statistical Office