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Ausgabe 04/2024

# VISIONEN

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Oktober 2024



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# Editorial

Bonjour à tous,

Ein neues Studienjahr fängt an und somit heisse ich alle unsere lieben Erstis willkommen auf der ETH. Spass, Freunde und Alkoholprobleme erwarten euch auf unserer lustigen Uni!

Aber auch für den Fall, dass eure mentale Gesundheit hier leiden würde (falls ja, ruft Nora an unter +41795..) seid ihr mit dieser Ausgabe unseres Studentenmagazines perfekt vorbereitet. Wir besprechen die diversen Sachen, die man so im Keller eines Verrückten finden würde:



Drogen, Waffen, Pornographie, Jonas Blank, Geld, und vieles weitere erwartet euch in der bisher unhingesten Visionen der letzten 3 Ausgaben!

## **To our English readers:**

New study year, new fun! Welcome everyone, even those that can't read German, to our great university. Plenty of fun, friends and AA-meetings await you, but if ETH makes you go crazy, you'll be prepared with this newspaper!

You'll find here everything you'd expect in the cellar of an insane person: Drugs, guns, pornography, money, what more can a heart desire?

And don't despair: Despite what some haters might say, most of our articles are actually in the language of the great Jeremy Clarkson. If you nonetheless feel like there's too much German in here.. well you did come to a German-speaking country, don't you agree Laura Acinapura?

Ich wünsche allen, ausser denen die TikTok im Zug gucken ohne Kopfhörer, viel Spass beim Lesen dieser Ausgabe :D

A bientôt chez Visionen,

Benjamin Gruzman



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## This is fine

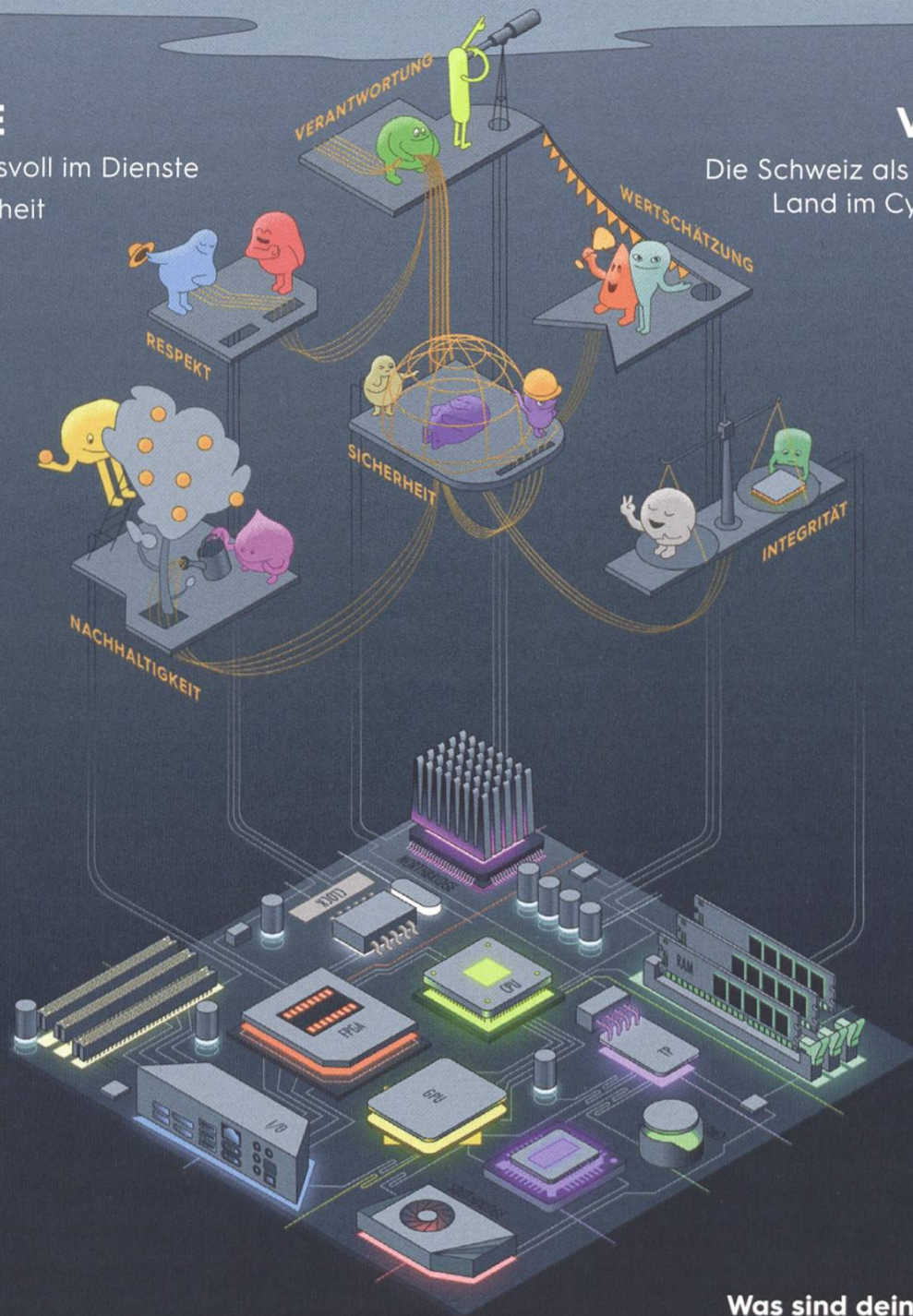
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## WERTE

Vertrauensvoll im Dienste  
der Sicherheit

## VISION

Die Schweiz als sicherstes  
Land im Cyberspace



Was sind deine Visionen?



Information Security ist deine Leidenschaft und du möchtest mit Gleichgesinnten als Entwickler:in an innovativen Sicherheitslösungen arbeiten. Bei uns kannst du einen Beitrag leisten, die Schweiz zum sichersten Land im Cyberspace zu machen. Erfahre mehr!



# Präsikolumne

JONAS - HOPEFULLY REELECTED

Dear VIS Members,

I am writing this article from the past, before the general assembly. I suppose if you read this, that means I was reelected! I am excited for this semester and for you to see the things we have planned.

First of all, I would like to welcome the new batch of ersties who joined us! Get ready for an exciting (but also exhausting) semester! This being the last semester of our anniversary year, we still have some exciting events planned, such as the Halloween Dinner, the Private Cinema, and the Christmas Concert.

Between this and the last edition, we still had some events during the Lernphase. A notable one was the Ex-Actives BBQ, where we invited all past board members to a cozy BBQ in Alumni Pavillon.



Lots of stories were shared and insight was given. It was very interesting to see how different but also similar VIS is to the association of 10, 20, 30, and even 40 years ago! The first VIS President, Fredi Schmid even brought the original first editions of VISIONEN for us to see!

I hope you're looking forward to this semester as much as I am! Thanks to so many motivated volunteers for making VIS what it is!

Now, enjoy this slightly unhinged edition of VISIONEN! If you see me around, don't be shy, say hi!

Jonas

# Hopokolumne

With the start of a new semester, we want to extend a warm welcome to all the new Ersties who may not be familiar with VIS's HoPo and what we do. So, here's a quick introduction to HoPo and how we're here to support you. Our mission is to address your concerns, improve your experiences, and advocate for your rights within our academic community. Whether you're struggling with coursework, dealing with professor-related issues, or looking to enhance the overall quality of your education, we've got your back! Always feel free to reach out to us under [hopo@vis.ethz.ch](mailto:hopo@vis.ethz.ch).

Now, let's dive into what we're currently working on and some of our recent achievements, specifically in the areas of PAKETH, Bachelor Graduation 2024, and the BYOD policy.

**PAKETH:** We've just completed the first stage of the PAKETH project, which included our significant input on the department's draft, in accordance with the one VSETH has written. We've incorporated all the student feedback and made changes that will benefit you the most!

**Bachelor Graduation 2024:** Planning for the Bachelor Graduation 2024 is almost complete! We've locked in all of our keynote speakers, including favorites like Fourny and Steger, along with a leading figure from the industry. And, of course, there will be a celebratory apero afterward.

**BYOD (Bring Your Own Device):** The much-discussed BYOD policy has finally been implemented at ETH! In case you haven't heard, BYOD means that students are now forced to bring their own devices due to space constraints in the context of the increasing number of online exams. The requirements are quite specific: at least 16GB of RAM, an AMD R5, Intel Core i5, or Apple M1 processor, a 13-inch screen, 7-hour battery life, and more. (Check out the full specs at [ethz.ch/studierende/de/studium/byodstudium](https://ethz.ch/studierende/de/studium/byodstudium)).

ETH justifies these, at least in part, high specs by stating that the laptop you buy will last throughout your studies. However, we understand that not everyone can afford such a device. Additionally, there's a major issue for Linux users: the Safe Exam Browser, which is required for exams, currently only supports MacOS and Windows. We're pushing the department and the rectorate to find solutions ASAP. If you have any personal concerns about BYOD that haven't been addressed yet, feel free to reach out to us!

We're also actively addressing several issues in various courses that were brought to our attention during and after the exam season. These range from simple complaints about course structures to more serious concerns about grading practices. If you're facing challenges or need a strong ally to support you, don't hesitate to contact us at [hopo@vis.ethz.ch](mailto:hopo@vis.ethz.ch)!

We hope you had an amazing break and are ready for another great semester ahead! ◀◀



# The 7 types of Ersties

JOHAN - I HAVE SEEN THEM ALL

As somebody with almost 9 years of ETH (you read this right), I have seen my fair share of Ersties showing up at ETH.

Most of them annoy the hell out of me. Not just because of the many people responsible for the long lines at mensa. You mostly never see them after the first year anyway.

Some drop out and some grow out of their phase and become a normal student like everybody else. Please do not be one of the following Ersties, for your sake, and mine as well. Thank you.

## The pseudo genius

The ones bragging about what they have already learned in high school, how good their grades were and what kind of prizes they won in high school.

Better, they brag about how it only took them 1 hour to solve the whole Disk Math exercise sheet rather than 4 hours, like I used to.

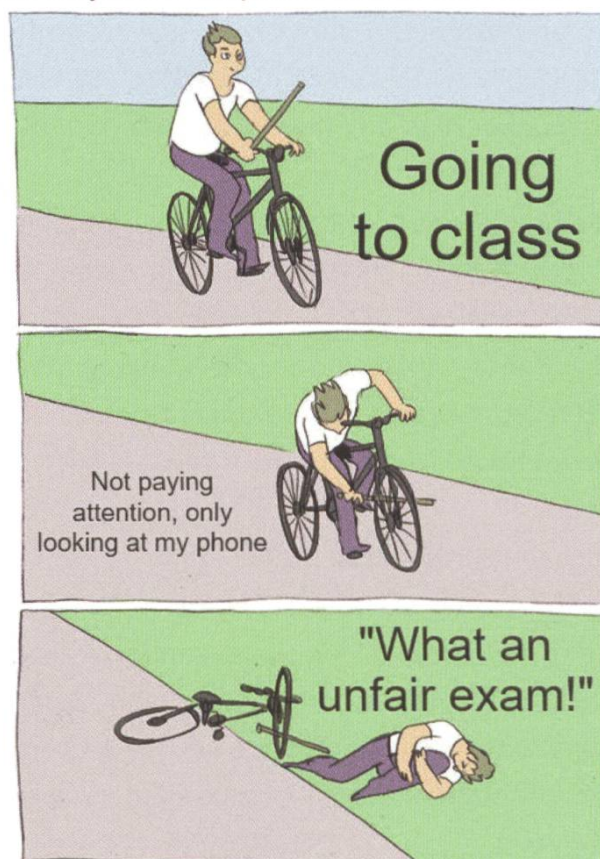
There are certainly talented people at ETH that really need only 1 hour to solve the questions, but not the braggy ones.

They usually have a 2.3 average at ETH, because they look up intermediate results to solve their homework, and are thus unable to do all the steps at an exam by themselves. I do not know why it is important to them to be seen as a very intelligent person.

Do they have self-doubts? Maybe, but they are hella annoying and only make other people feel bad, if they require more time to solve problems. Be aware of this, and go on at your own pace.

## The Victim

The people with 1000 excuses, why they cannot study, why they are not good at programming, complaining that the teaching assistants or the Professors are against them, the whole system hates them. If you come here with the attitude that you will have a bad time at ETH, then you will have a bad time. Stop making excuses, just start studying. Stop seeing the Professor as the enemy, but just as a person doing their job. If you only spend half the time studying than complaining, you would have better grades. There are certainly objective things some Professors can improve within their lecture. But this usually falls under the radar because of all the subjective complaints that do not matter.





### The obvious student

We get it, you study now at ETH most probably Computer Science, otherwise, you would not be reading this text. Most strangers cannot tell that I study Computer Science right away. You know why? Because I am not f\*\*\*\* talking about it all the time or making math related puns, nor am I trying to postulate a conjecture based on everyday life scenarios like my sleep schedule. Take any Tram in Zürich during September to October and try spotting the first year students. It is so easy to make them out, based on how they talk. They are not the worst kind, as most of them grow out of this awkward phase eventually.

**BY LAW OF EXCLUDED MIDDLE**



### The "New Me" Person

Since they were probably not happy about their social status at their high school or something else, they need to invent a new personality. I mostly hate the ones wearing fedora hats and making this their personality. I hate hanging out with people that are not honest with themselves. It can be exhausting, which my time is not worth dealing with. Try to be yourself. We are all adults here, not teens any more. You cannot impress anyone with status or swagness.

We are all in the age of true friendships. We need people in our lives we can trust and support one another, nothing else matters.

### The party person

The kind of person that skips classes, because of the parties they need to attend to every Thursday evening. Not focusing on studies, but girls/boys and alcohol, trying to have the time of their lives. They are, after all, the peak years of your life. As somebody who will be 30 soon, I can confirm that this is not true. I think the best times of your life are between 25 and 35, as your insecurities are almost all gone, you have money, energy, and time. But party people are not all a problem. Only the ones that drag you down. Not everybody can drink as much as they do, therefore some of us fail the exams, because of them...and they pass! And if I want to stay home, they call me a weep or a chicken. Again, we need people in our lives we can trust and support one another, nothing else matters. Go have fun, but do it within reason.





### The Entrepreneur Wannabe

I remember one of my classmates in the first year, putting us all into a group chat with the message “If you mean serious business, then skip Lin Alg today and meet me at Bellevue for the best business adventure ever. We will be rich as f\*\*\*. Do you know Elon Musk? He will be nothing compared to us”. Not in those exact words, because he wrote it in German, but you get the idea. So many people dropped out of ETH because they did focus more on their Entrepreneur career over their real studies. Just be careful what you do. The Student Project house is great and all, but has the right focus. I rather have a degree than a pseudo startup with Entrepreneur in my BIO. Fun fact, this is not a real job. Another fun fact, most successful people actually have a college degree [1].

### You

You will need to put in work to pass the exams, as you are not gifted. Likewise, you will maybe even fail your first exam block. That is all alright. Do not compare yourself to others. Possibly they are a 1 in a 1000 gifted person, or just a person repeating a course. Thus, they know the answers already to questions you don't even understand yet. Go at your own pace, do your work and you will be fine. Don't feel pressured about your peers being in other extracurricular activities or going to parties. It is not worth it. You, are you, they are them. Everybody is different. Just don't be one of the annoying Ersties!



[1] [https://www.ramseysolutions.com/retirement/the-national-study-of-millionaires-research?srsltid=AfmBOOpGh50qVFncjg0mNv3aoCC9oWb39B\\_EFfb4ATM\\_uwLS6kcg\\_c\\_k](https://www.ramseysolutions.com/retirement/the-national-study-of-millionaires-research?srsltid=AfmBOOpGh50qVFncjg0mNv3aoCC9oWb39B_EFfb4ATM_uwLS6kcg_c_k)



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# How to use student discounts to your advantage

HÜSEYİN DENİZ - FORGOT TO ADD A BYLINE

Grüezi Mitenand, welcome to ETH Zurich, especially if you are an Ersti. In this article, I will give you some advice on where you, as a student, can get discounts and save money.

## Projekt Neptun

If you need a computer, tablet, or both, you should check out Projekt Neptun to get a discount. Apple also offers discounts for students through its own program called Apple Bildungsrabatt. It's best to compare the prices between the two.

## UniDays

I recommend signing up for UniDays (via the app or website), as they offer discounts on many brands for students, such as Reebok, Disney+, Adidas, Apple Music, Sennheiser, Ray-Ban, and many more. If you prefer Spotify over Apple Music, don't worry Spotify also offers discount for students.

## Newspapers

As an ETH member, you have the advantage of reading The New York Times for free. Yes, you heard that right.

If you prefer Swiss newspapers, you can also benefit from discounts on many of them, such as Neue Zürcher Zeitung (NZZ), Tagblatt, Tages-Anzeiger, and many more.

## KulturLegi

If your parents also live in Switzerland and don't earn enough money, and you receive a scholarship from your canton, you should get a KulturLegi membership. On the KulturLegi website, you can see where you can get discounts.

## Traveling

If you are a group of total four, all under 25 years old, you can use the Friends-Tageskarte Jugend. One person pays CHF 80, and the other three can travel with you for free for a day across Switzerland where the SBB Generalabonnement is valid. This brings the cost down to CHF 20 per person.

If one of your friends owns an SBB Generalabonnement, you can travel together for CHF 20 with the Tandem-Tageskarte GA Jugend, also across Switzerland where the SBB Generalabonnement is valid. This is only possible if both the GA owner and the fellow traveler are under 25 years old.

#### **PubliBike**

ETHZ offers discounted annual subscriptions for bicycles. You pay CHF 70 annually, and you can borrow a bike. The first 30 minutes of use are free (for students), and after that, it costs CHF 0.10 per minute.

#### **Club Jung**

If you like opera and are under 26, Club Jung might be useful for you. It costs CHF 20 as a one-time fee, and you can get opera tickets for CHF 18.

#### **Classical Music**

If you enjoy live orchestras, Tonhalle Zürich offers good deals on tickets. For some concerts, they sell all tickets for all categories at just CHF 20 exclusively for students. For other concerts, they offer a 50% discount.

#### **Orell Füssli – Education Card**

Orell Füssli offers an education card for students. You can benefit from a 20% discount on almost everything, free delivery, and more. However, I recommend comparing prices with Ex Libris, as their prices are often lower than Orell Füssli's.

#### **Airlines**

Some airlines offer reduced ticket prices for students. Turkish Airlines is one such airline. Therefore, I recommend checking with the airline you use most often to see if they offer discounted ticket prices for students.

#### **Bank Accounts for Students**

If you need a bank account, you can benefit from free student accounts offered by most banks in Switzerland. Be sure to compare the student offers from different banks and choose the best one for you.

#### **ETH IT-Shop**

ETH has its own IT-Shop where you can get licenses for a lot of software for free or at a reduced price. For example, you can get your license for Microsoft Office 365 for free. As long as you are registered at ETH, you have access to Microsoft Office 365 at no cost.



# After Graduation, I'll Have Time for This

PASCAL STREBEL - WHETHER BY IMPECCABLE OR QUESTIONABLE TIME MANAGEMENT, FOUND HIMSELF WRITING THIS ARTICLE MID-FLIGHT

You know the drill: “*Once I graduate, I’ll finally have time for **everything***”. At least, that’s what I kept telling myself while juggling exams, deadlines, part-time jobs, trips to ASVZ, and those two-beer meals at oVIS that had practically become my emotional support system. Don’t get me wrong — what might sound like a nightmare to some were actually some beautifully awesome years. I mostly loved what I was doing, even in the chaos. Life felt hectic, but it was fine. Still, I clung to the idea that post-graduation, everything would slow down. I imagined I’d finally have time to tackle all those things I’d been putting off.

Spoiler alert: *It never happens.*

Like many, I keep a long-term to-do list full of things that aren’t urgent but that I *really* want to do someday — things I thought I’d finally have time for after graduating. From baking banana bread and reading non-textbook books (you know, ones without titles like “*Computer Science XYZ for Dummies*”) all the way to archiving my personal files properly. These are the things I kept pushing aside, distracted by tasks that were either more urgent, more important, or both.

Classic Eisenhower Decision Matrix at work —

those non-urgent, (currently) non-important tasks either get delegated (which isn’t possible for most of my list) or forgotten until they somehow creep back up the priority chain.

Especially while working on my Master’s thesis, I’d often think, “*Once I submit this thing, everything will calm down. I’ll finally have time for that list*”. It’s easy to believe that graduation is the ultimate rescue mission. But post-graduation? It’s just a different kind of busy.

Let’s talk time management.

We all have it — just some of us distribute it better than others. During our time at ETH, many of us master the art of procrastination, which, let’s be honest, is just bad time management in disguise. We’d get lost in YouTube rabbit holes, scroll through social media endlessly, or debate which Netflix series to binge, only to realize that seminar presentation due tomorrow won’t write itself. And post-graduation? Well, life doesn’t stop throwing curveballs. Now, you’re not just dealing with lectures and exams; you’re facing a job market where “entry-level” somehow requires five years of experience while paying bills and pretending you know how insurance works.

And when you finally get a moment to breathe,



new tasks magically appear. Like, last week, I randomly decided to deep-clean my stove. Or, when work is slow, you suddenly convince yourself it's the perfect time to prep for interviews with the Big Three, spending your free time on case studies. Meanwhile, your expertly curated list of excuses grows: *"I'll start planning that trip next month"*, or *"I'll read that book when those side projects calm down"*.

Spoiler alert (again): *Life never calms down*. But hey, this is fine, right? You adapt. You continue pushing things off to this mythical "later" that never materializes.

It's like waiting for Hogwarts to send you a letter. By the time you realize you'll never get it, you're too deep in the cycle of responsibilities to care. And it's not that you're bad at managing your time — it's just that time manages to slip away with astonishing efficiency.

The truth is, we'll always be busy.

We'll always feel like we're running out of time because *we are*. Whether you're a student or a graduate, life's fire never fully goes out. It just changes shape and intensity. But you know what?

That's fine. The key is learning to enjoy the heat and maybe getting a better chair to sit in.



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# Eurosatory

BENJAMIN GRUZMAN – MANAGED TO SURVIVE PARIS WITHOUT GETTING BEDBUGS (HOPEFULLY)



There are many reasons to visit Paris: The food, the wine, the museums, definitely not the people, the landmarks,... and the largest global military exhibition, Eurosatory.

For some background information: Every second year, the French capital hosts this event with exclusive access only for defense professionals, where industry can show off their products from everything from pocket knives going over uniforms, explosive detectors, mortars to assault rifles, anti-ship drones and full on tanks, self-propelled artillery and helicopters.

It's attended by more than 60.000 suit- or uniform wearing defense industry representatives, soldiers, high-ranking generals, politicians,... and 3 random ETH students.

So that you won't have to make the painful journey to the larger, even more horrifying version of Romandie known as France, I'll take you on a small walkaround of this fantastic adult playground that makes any military nerd's heart skip similar to a Russian soldier's hearing the sound of a kamikaze drone.

The first impression is already outlandish: You arrive at Villepinte on the RER, and as you approach the exhibition hall the density of suits increases exponentially. You look around, read some of the nametags, until you realize that in terms of the food chain, you are plankton. "CEO of We-blow-you-up Ltd", "military officer of far-away-istan" or "representative of billion-dollar company" just casually hanging around everyone's necks, while your nametag just says "ETH Zürich"...



***VIS has resorted to more extreme measures to get enough helpers at events***



Security is also more loose than that of Versailles, with them just forcing you to take a sip from your water bottle and touching you inappropriately (and for me double-checking my badge because they don't believe I'm supposed to be here).

Once you've accepted your inferiority and moved on, to the main hall, that's where the fun begins. An entire world of joy opens to you as you are greeted by guns, guns and even more guns. For example, the first stand right by the stairs is already one very familiar to our male Swiss readers: our dear Sig presenting all the things my teammate was shooting with during his WK in November 2023 while I had to write the compiler design projects of that month alone. (No I'm not mad David, just jealous)



The awesome part is, each pistol, submachine gun, assault rifle, light machine gun and even anti-material rifle presented can be touched all over, held and posed with and most fun of all, you can feel like the NKVD by pointing them at your friends! (never do that at the shooting range please for God's sake)



Of course mere rifles are not the only things presented: One needs to bring those to the front somehow as well.

As such, the entire side of the entry hall, most of the outdoor space and many spots in the secondary halls feature vehicles ranging from lorries (huge!), APCs (made for small people), MLRS (war crimes <3) to actual MBTs and combat helicopters.

Thus, one gets to discover the Korean K2 (with all the visitors at that stand speaking Polish) as well as their enormous K239 rocket artillery with the (for me) ridiculously cute name Chunmoo.





The British have the CV90 infantry fighting vehicle where the presenters will extremely impolitely tell you to go away if you try to enter it, while the Turks brought a whole bunch of different IFVs where the presenters will very happily let you enter.

The highlight for vehicle nerds are of course the first-time reveals of future tanks, as this year both the Germans and the French presented the next development level for the Leopard and LeClerc respectively, as well as Rheinmetall flexing a new iteration of their large dildo of consequences the Panzerhaubitze 2000.



Also featured are really cool live demonstrations from French military units. On our day of visit, in a test range with difficult terrain, a French mechanized infantry battalion showed off their battle tactics for a rapid raid and an urban sweep. They first had multiple scout vehicles chasing across the muddy field, then a squad of infantry quickly disembarking from a command vehicle, supported by two (not actually) paratropped mortar teams, after which they demonstrated

the tiny reconnaissance drones fielded by the unit and finally the squad proceeded to very loudly clear a house (the western way by a precise, overwhelming insertion, the Russian way of course being leveling the entire postal code with every ranged weapon possible beforehand).



*That thing (Caesar) is currently fighting in Ukraine*



Gamers will in fact also enjoy the visit as my personal highlight of the exhibition was most definitely the VR military training games. The Norwegians brought an anti-tank simulator in which one must destroy an oddly Russian-looking moving tank with a RPG, the Austrians a driving simulator occupied by French soldiers every time we passed by it, while the Hungarians presented an awesome infantry simulator. The cool part is that not only is it VR, in each one you



actually hold a real copy of the gun and to fire, one must pull the trigger of the rifle and there are various CQB scenarios with dynamic enemies, cover usable with different stances and civilians (that you are, unlike in Arma III, not supposed to kill). I had so much fun with it that apparently the presenters of that stand took a lot of pictures for marketing purposes...



Not that that is the only time I appeared in promotional videos, as one company rep even asked me to point the grenade launcher I was holding right at him into the camera and pull the trigger.

One final remark to an obvious topic when discussing anything military: Yes, this exhibition has many controversies. On the one hand, they themselves got in trouble for inviting Israeli manufacturers which the French government quickly forbade (which to me makes no sense because one saw at the Ukrainian stands just how popular battle-tested equipment is). One could even tell on the posters because amidst the various national flags randomly there was a flag-sized white spot of nothingness (maybe it's the flag of the French army)



On the other hand, pacifists don't like the entirety of what Eurosatory stands for, however in my opinion they're just being killjoys. Have they ever tried dual-wielding two full-caliber assault rifles?

In conclusion, should you visit Eurosatory 2026? Yes, definitely. Matriculated students are the only group besides press and military professionals allowed at the exhibition, thus for many of you it is the last option of your life if you've got less than four years of study left (not even sure you can apply as a Swiss soldier if you're not in active duty at that time). Best part, while the professionals pay 50€ per day, it is completely free for us!

The only downside of Eurosatory is that you're in France.





# Something better than beer

ELEANOR WALBLER

The sun is shining, the students are rushing to their lectures, and the professors are not yet behind schedule on their curriculum, and you, dear reader, might be wondering what the student associations are up to – or rather what they were up to during the summer. Were they preparing any new events? Were they busy cleaning their offices? Preparing for the Ersti weekends? Well, why don't we take a look inside the CAB, and maybe the shenanigans of the student organizations will be revealed to you...

We will be taking a look at our big three - AMIV, VMP, and VIS. The student associations of engineers, mathematicians and computer scientists respectively.

While the students were busy studying for, and taking their exams, the student associations were indeed doing the aforementioned activities: but why don't I start by telling you where it all began, in the very beginning of Lernphase...

AMIV, a pretty big guy at ETH, has been around here long enough to know the ins and outs of CAB. The wind blew through his slightly overgrown hair as he made his way back into the byro, with a new beer in hand. His summer break was mostly occupied preparing for an event: an exclusive tour to one of Switzerland's largest power plants. Not to mention the routine Jobbörse that also has to be organized at some point...

As day after day passed, he would open beer after beer, sitting in his favorite spot of the byro, all the way in the furthest most corner. He didn't like being disturbed – especially not with such important events coming up soon.

"Hey, you got a sec?" He didn't even notice the door to the byro open to reveal VMP standing there, her stance slightly awkward, and eyes full of hope piercing through him.

"What do you want now?" AMIV replied, raising his eyebrows in annoyance. "The beer machine hasn't been filled up yet, and I'm craving some schüga so badly..."

Her hand found its way to a strand of her hair. Although she loved getting free beer, VMP hated disturbing her fellow student associations from working.

"Go bother VIS, he doesn't have anything to do right now, just like you." "What do you mean, I can't!" she retorted.

"Yes, you can." "But, he can't really refill the machine if he has no key, can he?", she replied, "he has the key to the Lager, just ask him to give you some from storage."

AMIV was getting tired of doing this, although he understood that that came with owning the beer machine. "But, that's like, not how it is supposed to work?" VMP fought back. "What, do you like, have a crush on him or something? Just do it, what the hell?" Her eyes rolled back, "fine, fine", she blurted, and concealing her reddened cheeks, made her way to oVis.



Stupid AMIV. No way she had a crush on VIS, that is not how student associations work. This isn't about crushes, this is strictly business. And her business was to get something to drink – a beer. from the Lager. Something cold - some delicious schüga on that sunny day.

She did feel awkward just asking VIS for the beer, because as much as she seemed that way, she hated being needy. Not to mention, it was hard for her to keep her composure around him, there was something about him, something not quite tangible, but present nonetheless. She couldn't put a word on it, but it was definitely not a crush.

So, gathering up the courage to knock, she was trying to think of what to say. Just asking for a beer seemed too blunt, too straight forward, too- the oVis door nearly knocked her off her feet, and definitely knocked her off her train of thought. "I am so sorry!" VIS apologized. "No, no, all good, you could not have seen me", VMP replied slightly awkwardly.

How could this happen? She didn't even have enough time to calculate what she was going to say - math students, always needing to calculate their every move... but she could just pretend she was going somewhere, it was not like it was obvious that she was going to enter after all, right? She could have just been passing by, she could have - "what did you want from oVis anyway?" her train of thought once again

interjected by VIS. "I mean...", she started, "I was just going to ask you- no, actually, I was wondering-" "You wanted some beer?"

Simple as that. Who knew?

He knew. He knew her at this point. Countless times has she showed up to oVis to take shots of Berliner Luft with him, countless times has she complimented his drink mixing skills, how his hands methodically sliced through the lemons to make her favorite drink, how they squeezed all the liquids out of the mentioned citrus. She knew he was skilled in that regard, and he always knew just what she wanted, what would satisfy her craving for that day. Today it was some cold Lager.

"Yeah, I did want some beer... AMIV told me I could just grab some from the Lager, if you gave me the key?" her eyes filled with hope once again, maybe she could get her beer, maybe VIS would be generous enough to lend her that key. He smiled at her – and what a gorgeous smile that was, she couldn't help but reciprocate. He was truly very good looking, and maybe if she had enough courage she could ask him for more than just beer, she could- "You want it?"

It was not a crush. She just wanted the beer, just like she got one from the beer machine every day. Except this time, it was from VIS and not from the beer machine. It wasn't that different





getting a beer from a person, she just had to talk to him, unlike with the beer machine. Also, unlike with the beer machine, her heart was racing. That was just her social anxiety speaking though, not the fact that she had a crush on him.

“Could I? Please?” her eyes, you couldn’t say no to them. There was something almost ethereal about them, they made her whole person seem just a tad shy of angelic, and VIS was no stranger to that spell. He couldn’t not get lost in her gaze. “Of course you can, VMP.” He took out his keys, ready to hand them to her, and as she reached out with her hand he... hesitated.

The sun rays were soft in the common room. This time of the year it was peaceful, even if there was work. This time of the year, the regular students didn’t really disturb the student associations. The couches were empty, isolated from their loud chatters.

Although the coffee machine wasn’t in use as much, the cozy scent of coffee beans still decorated the satin curtains of wind - and as a light breeze infused itself with the perfume, it blew through VMP’s hair.

The outside didn’t just bring a welcomed breeze into the building, it also brought in the faint sounds of lonely cars on the road, and an occasional chirp of the sparrows housed by the bushes of the Innenhof. and the sound most dear to VMP - his voice.

“Actually, let me go with you, I should also grab a beer for myself, if you don’t mind.”

Enthusiastically agreeing, the both of them made their way to the Lager. The journey wasn’t particularly long, it was a comfortable stroll through the hallways of CAB. The passage, although unusually empty, didn’t make VMP feel lonely.

She felt relieved, not quite sure herself why. She enjoyed spending time with VIS, and the simple walk to the Lager, although not what she initially wanted, was what she needed that day. It all made sense in her mathematician brain – not only did she find her beer, but she has also found company for herself. Company she enjoyed quite a bit, if she were honest.

It was not a crush.

VIS has opened the Lager door to reveal pallets atop pallets of beer, all stored away and waiting for their turn in the beer machine. AMIV must have stored up for the whole summer - there was not nearly enough space in the already tight as it is Lager.

Squeezing his way in, VIS reached into the far end of a pallet, grabbing 2 beers. He handed one to VMP, leaving the other in his possession. As VMP reached out to get her beer, VIS pulled it back, away from her, and above his head.



“HEY! That’s not fair!” VMP exclaimed. It was her beer after all, he did allow her to have it, why wouldn't he give it to her?

“You really want it, VMP?” VIS asked with a smile.

That smile – oh that smile. It always made VMP weak. Maybe she did have a crush on him after all? No way. Impossible. She couldn't, no – she shouldn't.

“Please, stop playing around and just give it to me!” she said, as she went closer to him, arm stretched out completely to reach for the bottle, it sadly being just a tiny bit out of her touch, even though she was centimeters away from VIS, already on her tiptoes.

“What, too short, VMP?” VIS said with a smirk, pulling it back and up just by another inch. “No, you know this isn't fair, VIS! Please give it to me, please!” her puppy eyes staring right back into his, as she still struggled to get to her goal, begging him to have mercy. “Oh, so you do want me to give it to you, VMP?” he asked teasingly. “You know this isn't what I meant when I said that...” she shyly replied.

If she was honest, she could get lost just by looking into his eyes. It was as if she were in another universe, a universe specifically crafted in a segment of her brain where just the two of them exist – away from CAB, away from the

Lager, from the beer, from any other students that could possibly disturb her perfect fairy tale, her happily ever after, a world for just her and her crush.

She shouldn't, but oh she did have a crush – she could no longer deny it.

“I know,” he said softly, running his hand through her hair. “I know.” and with that he handed her a beer. She took it in her hand – but he didn't let go. She didn't fight it. She didn't want to fight it, she couldn't under a charm as strong as his.

They just kept looking in each other's eyes, millimeters apart, their distance closing in at an agonizingly slow pace. His hand in her locks, her heart riding roller coasters. His gaze softened, and as VMP closed her eyes, she felt his lips on hers, and she felt right. She felt safe. She felt at peace and complete... ◀◀

# Programming Languages and How They Alter Your Mind for the Worse

AMANDA HUGINKISS

Since the dawn of time, humans have been doing things humanity has no business doing. Littering. Inventing math.

Trying random berries to find out which ones are safe to eat as opposed to which make getting stabbed by a "mammoth" horn seem fun.

So many things that shouldn't exist do, because people really believe that they know what they're doing, as if thousands, if not millions, of others before thought they knew what they were doing only to get burned.

This article is written for one reason: to warn the readers of one danger that has only been increasing ever since the 1960s, in a way that the students here will understand. I am of course here to warn you of the dangers of really stupid programming languages.

The four most common languages are JavaScript, Java, C++ and Python.

The four most common "drugs" are Alcohol, Coffee, Sugar and Tobacco.

It totally isn't arbitrary to compare each of these languages with each of these drugs but who cares.

Python is sugar. It has sugar. A lot of sugar. Syntactic sugar. Python no longer bothers to write `'for(int i = 0; i < n; i++)'` or whatever, instead opting for `'for i in range (0,n)'`, and it doesn't bother writing `'&&'` and `'||'`, opting instead for `'and'` and `'or'` respectively. Sure it's more human readable. But it's stupid. Sure you could shovel spoonfuls of sugar down your throat instead of eating bread and vegetables and whatever. But it's stupid.

Java is coffee. It's everywhere. Walk into an office building where there are "water cooler conversations" and you will be surrounded by it. Most of it when available in such a building is bad. Really bad. You could get a good version of it. But not here. What's worse is that coffee really does have a mind-altering effect on you. It fundamentally changes the way your body works, just ask any 28 year old with a "I will beat you with a rolled-up newspaper if I haven't had my coffee and you dare talk to me" mug. The same way that Java fundamentally changes the way your mind works, as it actually makes you think that Java's complicated syntax is not completely terrible.



JavaScript is tobacco. Web development is so stressful that you can't help but go through two packs in one night of trying to dynamically center a div in every browser. And the syntax. Humans are not made to write JavaScript. Humans are not made to inhale smoke, even if it's organic and plant-based. I honestly think that tobacco is better for your health than JavaScript ever could be. Yes it stains your teeth, yes it gives you cancer, but at least it doesn't say that `"2" == 2` evaluates to 'true' and at least it doesn't do shit like have `'2-"2" === 0` evaluate to true. Tobacco seems almost healthy in comparison.

C++ is alcohol. Web development is stressful, but trying to get something to work in C++ without the segfault error appearing in a file that isn't even included in the library headers is a pretty understandable reason to drown the liver, brain and stomach in liters of vodka. It is said that alcohol simply kills brain cells. It does. It kills brain cells one by one. C++ on the other hand nukes brain cells.

The problem is that these are not the only programming languages. It would be fine if they were, but they're not. Just like how people have actually come to the insane conclusion that the Earth is a planet.

Like Mars. And obviously it's not a tiny leprechaun orchestra that's playing music on the radio.

There are more languages. Bad languages. PHP is crack, there is no other way to put this. Someone ingested crack and the first thing they thought of was PHP, and that's why its syntax is the way it is.

Fortran on the other hand is ancient, much like opium. It was already so caveman style in Victorian London and people have somehow gotten it into their heads that NASA used it for the "Moon landing". The Moon. The little ball of cheese.

How about this language? Haskell. They say it's Turing complete but so is Magic: the Gathering and you don't see developers writing Abstract Object Factory Singleton classes in Magic. You don't see developers doing that outside of Java anyway but who cares, Haskell is LSD, some science man found it and one time my buddy Tim took LSD and I think he actually wrote a monad that executed Bash commands. Speaking of which, Bash is one hell of a drug: using those weird magical orbs like Gandalf. That's magic. That's actually just magic.

Brainfuck on the other hand, is its own drug. I'm done.





# Vinyl: Is it just nostalgia?

WANGLEI SHEN (WASHEN) – “VINYL IS A WARM BUT TEMPORARY CAVE”

In today's information age, technology has been developing rapidly. We are surrounded by various digital products, from smartphones to virtual reality, which have brought great convenience and fun to our lives. However, in this digital age, the feeling of nostalgia has never disappeared. There is a special kind of nostalgia, that is, vinyl records. You may think it is an ancient thing, but now it might win people's hearts again.

Have you guys ever heard of vinyl records? Yep, those old-school round discs that you need a needle to put on, in order to play some music. Nowadays, music streaming services dominate the music market. Vinyl seems to be just an outdated product and only a few nostalgic people will pick up this traditional way of experiencing music. But in my view, it is not only a musical medium but also a cultural symbol that has become a unique symbol of “rebellion” (reminds me of a saying: “Fashion is just like a

circle, it goes around and around and ends up back where we were before.”)

Before we talk about how vinyl could “inspire” us (or at least me), it is necessary to know some basic facts about it. At the very beginning, people used graphite, then wormwood (bugs ewww) and at the end, polyvinyl chloride to produce vinyl records. Generally speaking, a record is first made of a relatively soft material to form a master recording, and then aluminum metal is poured on it to make a stamper. By using the stamper, record manufacturers can repeatedly press polyvinyl chloride discs into music records. Vinyl records are engraved with concave and convex grooves to record sound. As the record spins, the stylus vibrates following the shape of the grooves and converts these vibrations into analog electrical signals. These signals are then sent to the speakers and converted into sound at the end. There are different formats for vinyl, 2 major ones are LP (Long Play) and EP (Extended Play). LPs are typically 12 inches (30 cm) in diameter, spin at  $33\frac{1}{3}$  rpm, and can





hold approximately 20 to 30 minutes of audio per side. EP records are usually 7 inches (17.5 cm) in diameter and thus contain fewer tracks while spinning at a higher speed (in most cases 45 rpm).

I'm not an expert on vinyl sound quality, and many "vinyl enjoyers" believe that vinyl has a warm, natural sound. These properties might come from the analog recording and the way we play it. What's more, vinyl seems to have better audio fidelity and dynamic range to some people. Nevertheless, in my opinion, all these advantages are rather subjective, as long as we don't measure it with professional instruments. What we can't forget is that, compared to digital audio, vinyl is susceptible to noise and distortion. Scratches, dust, and damage to the record surface can cause noise or bounce and affect the sound quality. Nowadays, in films or series, vinyl are often used as a symbol to represent certain types and emotions. In film and television pieces, vinyl records are often used in scenes reproducing past eras, such as the 1950s or 1960s, to create a retro/nostalgia feel. Vinyl are also used as a symbol to shape a character's personality and fine taste. If a character is a music enthusiast, collector, or someone with a unique perspective on music, they will often display their collection of vinyl records.

But what attracts me to vinyl is not any of the points mentioned above. The digitalization of modern society has brought us unparalleled convenience, but it has also caused several problems. We are surrounded by all kinds of information, mobile phones, computers, and social media are constantly instilling information into us. In this flood of information, we gradually lose ourselves and lose touch with our inner-selves. In this fast-paced era, we seem to be caught in the vortex of time and it is difficult to extricate ourselves. The pace of life is so fast that it is difficult for us to leave time for ourselves to think and give ourselves a little quiet space.



*My favourite album is VARIETY from  
Mariya Takeuchi*





"Facing the cluttered schedule and sitting in the crowded carriage, I find it difficult to squeeze out even a moment to comfort my soul and body, weary from the constant hustle and bustle.". I may call people like me as "Refugees of the Fast-Paced Lifestyle", we are seeking for an inner peace, truth and warmth, which easily get associated with the word "nostalgia".

The first time I met vinyl records was in a Café, I was in a hurry, wanted to have a cup of coffee and went to the next place. Although vinyl is already familiar for me through the internet, seeing it in person still felt remarkable. I made the decision to have my own vinyl player and select my favorite records. Initially, its playback seemed pretty normal, but over time, I noticed a peculiar feeling, the passage of time felt slower and the lyrics began to resonate in my mind, an experience not typically experienced with streaming music. Observing the records spinning, from the texture on the vinyl I can see the flow and passing of time. Time and music are compressed into this almost 2D object. Holding those piece records in hand, I realized that I truly own that music (even if it is just a copy of the original one), transcending the mere 1s and 0s of digital data. Its physical presence allowed me to understand the difference between real and digital.

Why do I consider vinyl as a kind of "rebellion"? Well, it is easy to explain because it is a way I fight against the acceleration of life's pace,

which is not the mainstream of society. Or to go further, the vinyl record is just an object that carries the attitude towards life that I want to express. During this time I realize that I, or people in general, tend to romanticize nostalgic items. However, romanticizing an era is evidence that era has distanced itself from us. In the past, people didn't have as many choices; they had to accept the inconveniences and troubles of the nostalgic items we now cherish.

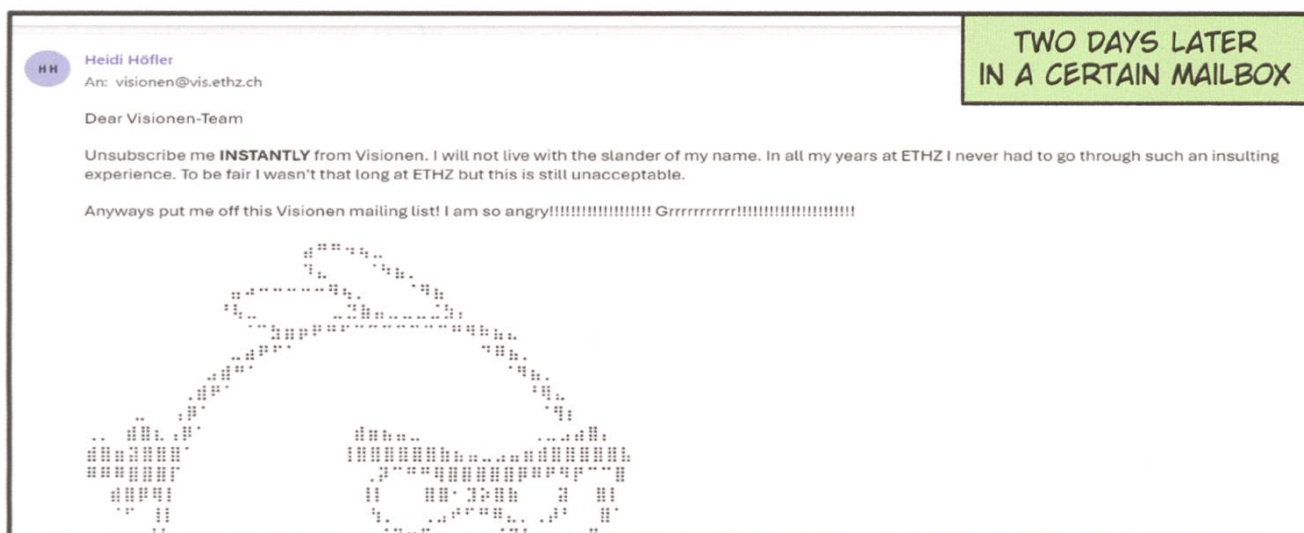
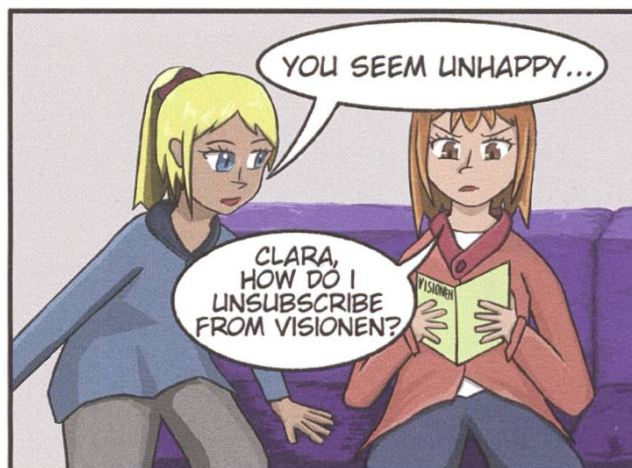
In modern times, we have many cheap and convenient substitutes that allow us to overlook their shortcomings. At best, these nostalgic items serve as a kind of entertainment for us amidst our busy lives.

They may provide a temporary refuge from the complexity of our daily tasks, but due to their limitations, they can never become the center of our lives. We can always seek refuge in 'nostalgia,' but when the time comes, we should be ready to pack our bags, continue our journey, and embrace an uncertain future.

Postscript: Recently I have learned a new word: "modernity", generally it describes how modern the society is, while the definition is evolving by the time. A quote from Wang Defeng from Fudan University: "Modernity is definitely not a commendatory term. It is a disease, the core is alienation and the compulsion of progress. We must constantly maintain progress, improvement, and efficiency. If you are not rising, you are falling; if you are not moving forward, you are moving backward."











**v.l.n.r. Oben:** Tobias Scheithauer, Nicolas Wehrli, Hannah Osswald  
**Mitte:** Wanglei Shen, Kiara Chau Garcia, Hüseyin Deniz, Selin Nayki, Benjamin Gruzman, Fiona Pichler, Mikail Gedik, Nora Dieschbourg  
**Nicht anwesend:** Fabian Ruckstuhl, Johan Stettler, Florence Kissling, Manuel Hässig, Clemens Bachmann, Mark Csurgay, Loïc Etter, Pascal Strebel, Martin Shen, Selina Turhan, Joanne Azariah

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Benjamin Gruzman  
[chefredaktion@vis.ethz.ch](mailto:chefredaktion@vis.ethz.ch)

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Cédric Giradin

### Layout

Benjamin Gruzman  
[layout@vis.ethz.ch](mailto:layout@vis.ethz.ch)

### Inserate

Nicolas Wehrli  
[inserate@vis.ethz.ch](mailto:inserate@vis.ethz.ch)

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### VISIONEN Team

Fiona Pichler  
Tobias Scheithauer  
Johan Stettler  
Florence Kissling  
Hannah Osswald  
Manuel Hässig  
Kiara Chau Garcia  
Pascal Strebel  
Fabian Ruckstuhl  
Hüseyin Deniz

Benjamin Gruzman  
Loïc Etter  
Mark Csurgay  
Nicolas Wehrli  
Clemens Bachmann  
Martin Shen  
Selin Nayki  
Selina Turhan  
Joanne Azariah  
Mikail Gedik

[visionen@vis.ethz.ch](mailto:visionen@vis.ethz.ch)

und freie Mitarbeiterinnen und Mitarbeiter

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