



EUROPEAN YOUTH PARLIAMENT SWITZERLAND

ANNUAL REPORT

2016

The European Youth Parliament (EYP) is a unique educational programme which brings young people from all over Europe together to discuss current topics in a parliamentary setting. Its mission is to support the development of young people into politically aware and responsible citizens by involving them in European political thinking and promoting intercultural understanding.

The EYP is a non-partisan and independent programme. Its methods are based on non-formal education and peer-to-peer learning. Thereby the programme facilitates the learn-

ing of crucial social and professional skills, and encourages independent thinking and socio-political initiative.

The EYP is a pan-European organisation which does not limit itself to the current political borders of the European Union. As a network of independent associations, EYP is currently present in 39 European countries, enabling contacts across borders and beyond frontiers. The EYP thus offers a platform for intercultural meetings, fosters mutual understanding and makes a vital contribution towards the uniting of Europe.

OVERVIEW

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Anna Zellweger
President of EYP Switzerland

Foreword

Dear reader,

2016 has been quite a year for our organisation and we look back on it with a sense of great pride and accomplishment! Marking our twenty year existence, this year brought us more than a few highlights.

We kicked the year off with a round of four Regional Sessions, taking place in Bern, Basel, Zurich and Lausanne. Implementing for the second time the new two-day concept, we were able to count a record number of official's applications from all over Europe as well as welcome over 200 new young and interested minds to our organisation. The success of these four well-organised events was mirrored to us in the number of applications for our National Selection Conference, which took place in Geneva in September.

Geneva 2016 was able to establish itself as exemplary in prestigiousness and academic quality. The organising team managed to put together an impressive program incorporating not only the theme of the session surrounding peace but also introducing the participants to city of Geneva. They manage to gather support from highly respectable institutions and managed to host various events in very impressive venues. We held an annual meeting with our teachers during the session, gathering valuable input for the further development of our organisation.

An absolute highlight of our year was, of course, the International Session hosted by EYP Switzerland in Laax in October 2016. The session was a true success in every aspect of its being and we were able to gather overwhelmingly positive feedback. The organising team managed to set entirely new standards in all aspects ranging from content to operations to atmosphere. Especially the new approaches to active participation, sustainable development and inclusivity will definitely have a long-lasting impact on our organisation. We ended the session on a high note with a Gala Dinner, overlooking both our twenty year history, as well as a spectacular view of the Swiss alps.

Besides these conferences, EYP Switzerland also offered several different events to our alumni throughout the year. We especially enjoyed our alumni weekend where our members were able to enjoy a vast array of training opportunities as well as taking part in a highly productive strategy work session, thereby actively contributing to the formation of our organisation.

Looking to the future, we were happy to announce the International Forum of Basel 2018. As part of our long-term strategy, we as EYP Switzerland aim at contributing regularly to the international level of our organization and are very excited to see the progress of this highly-anticipated next event. Furthermore, the organising progress for our 21st National Selection Conference taking place in Lausanne is up and running and is looking especially promising.

2016 has been an extremely exciting and successful year for our organisation. The support and acknowledgement we were able to gather from institutions and players of the international and political sphere was in many ways a positive confirmation towards the work we do. Passing the milestone of a twenty year existence, we were able to look back and see the fruits of our labour. However and moreover, we plan to look forward. Our organisation is developing rapidly and it is paramount that we identify the key aspects of furthering that development. I am confident that 2017 and the years to follow hold great things for our organisation and I for one, am very much looking forward to seeing what further places we can go from here.

On behalf of the Board of EYP Switzerland,
Anna Zellweger



The picture was taken in February 2017

The Board of EYP Switzerland of 2016

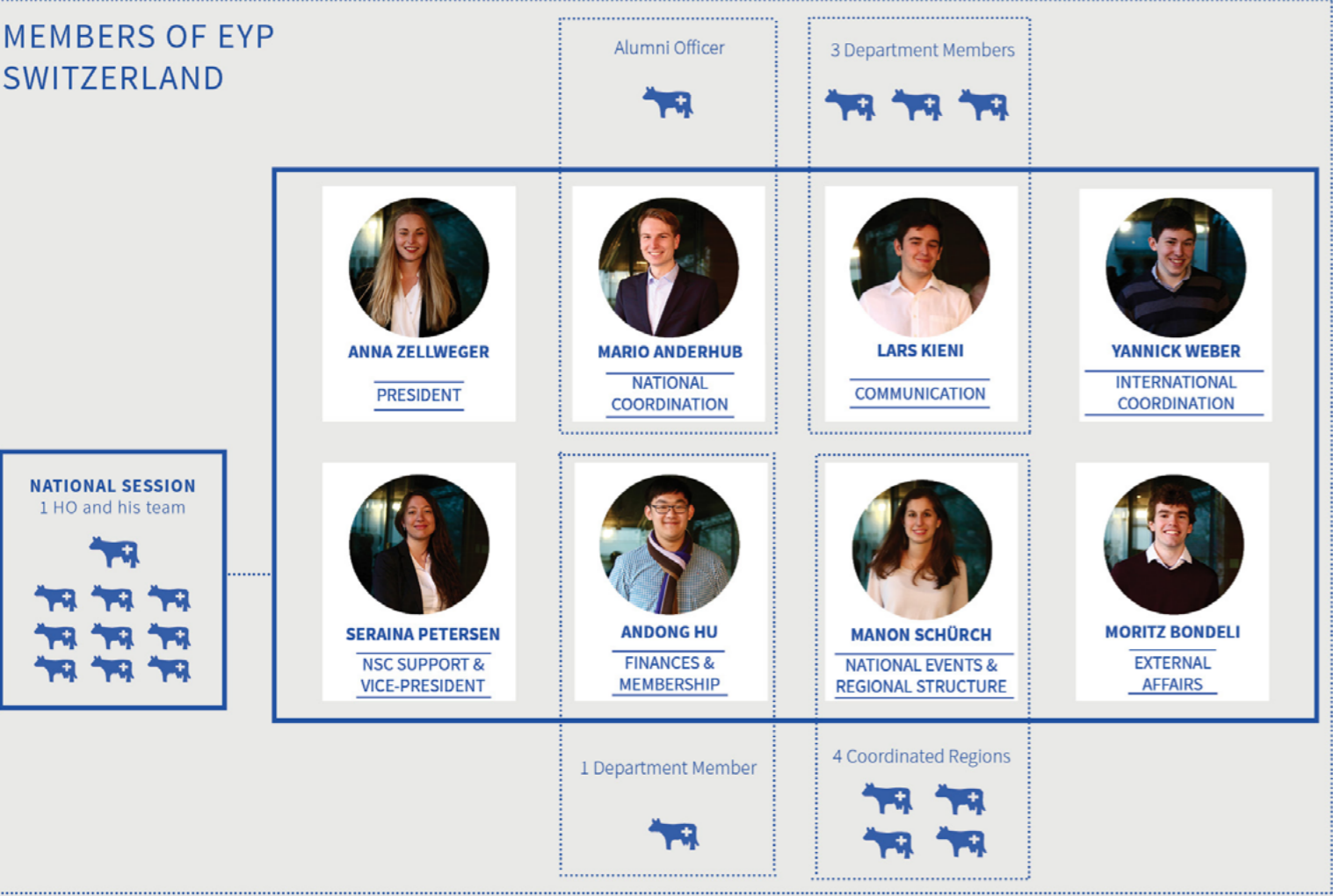
Anna Zellweger President
Seraina Petersen Vice-president and National Session Support
Mario Anderhub National Coordination
Moritz Bondeli External Affairs
Matthias Hodler Communication until October 2016, then
Lars Kieni
Andong Hu Finances & Membership
Manon Schürch National Events and Regional Structure
Yannick Weber International Coordination

Lukas Bock Auditor
Felix Kurer Auditor



STRUCTURE OF EYP
SWITZERLAND

MEMBERS OF EYP
SWITZERLAND



REPORT ON THE DIFFERENT PORTFOLIOS



Yannick Weber
Board Member on
International Coordination

International Coordination

EYP Switzerland is part of a European network, and it is the International Coordinator's task to administer our ties by taking part in the international governance of the EYP, namely by representing EYP Switzerland at the Board of National Committees (BNC, the bi-annual assembly of representatives of all 38 national committees), organising Officials selection for our sessions and sending delegations to sessions abroad.

EYP Switzerland was one of the most active National Committees on an international level this year and contributed to shaping the future development of our organisation on the European level. Amongst others, the BNC updated the Participant Welfare Policy in 2016, discussed the future of international sessions and was engaged in discussions on political neutrality in the EYP network. We've had the chance to discuss possible cooperations with a number of other NCs and share best practices with younger NCs..

At our NSC Geneva 2016, we could select 64 delegates to attend sessions abroad and represent EYP Switzerland all over Europe. Also thanks to the continuous efforts of the Alumni Officer, a total of 31 Swiss alumni went abroad as officials this year to fill 63 positions.



Seraina Petersen
Board Member on
National Session Support

National Session Support

The 20th National Selection Conference of EYP Switzerland took place this year in Switzerland's international capital, Geneva. Under the leadership of Willem Koelewijn (NL) and Head-Organised by Alex Apostolov and Tarik Lazouni (more commonly known as Tarex), the session brought together delegates from Switzerland, Belgium and Iceland. Apart from a continued partnership with the ch foundation, some of the most memorable venues included for example the Graduate Institute and the Museum of Ethnography. The session, taking place between 6 and 11 September, also paired up with some exceptional patrons and speakers, including Yves Daccord (director-general of the ICRC directorate) and Michael Møller, director-general of the UN Geneva.

Coinciding with the end of our 20th NSC, EYP Switzerland had the pleasure to announce the host selected for the NSC 2017, which will take place in Lausanne. Head-Organised by Matthias Masini, the Core Team consists of eleven dedicated organisers diving into their work immediately, according to the renewed and early NSC timeline. Notably, the organisers have managed to bring Mr Alain Berset, federal councillor, on board, and have secured a partnership with the Youth Hostel of Lausanne, providing all participants with a comfortable bed. Our annual flagship event will once again bring together delegates from all over Switzerland between 5 and 10 September 2017.

EYP Switzerland has also further extended its management of organisational knowledge by upholding the Head-Organising summit in October, as well as by introducing a coordination mechanism between the Head-Organisers of our different sessions. Looking beyond the borders of our National Committee, we have also conducted an exchange on organising practices with the young NC of Bosnia-Herzegovina in spring 2016, as well as further encouraging the participation of international organisers in the organising processes of our sessions.



Manon Schürch
Board Member on National Events
& Regional Structure

National Events & Regional Structure

For the third time, EYP Switzerland was fortunate enough to hold its round of Regional Sessions, each lasting for two days for delegates. While Basel, Bern and Zurich have established themselves for the third time as host cities, the Romandie region was hosted by the city of Lausanne, in order to not have to collide with the National Selection Conference, this year taking place in Geneva.

Led by seven experienced Head Organisers, all four sessions were visited by a combined total of 200 delegates. Under the professional guidance of the Head Organisers of the four sessions, its organisers held up the high standard EYP Switzerland expects from its organising committees from an organisational viewpoint. The maximum number of delegates the four Regional Sessions are able to hold, was not reached, nevertheless, a record number of delegates later signed up to the NSC held in Geneva. With a record number of official applications, every session was able to offer 7-8 mostly first-time chairpersons and 2 vice-presidents a spot. For the first time, every committee at the Regional Sessions of EYP Switzerland were not co-chaired but chaired by one single chairperson. Out of the large pool of applicants, the selection panel was therefore able to select the most qualified candidates only which led to an increase in academic excellency during all sessions. Therefore, also continuing in 2017, the board decided on keeping the improved system thus securing our future first-time delegates with the best possible guidance.

For the third time, EYP Switzerland held its annual chairs' training, this year in Bern which also marked our annual general meeting (AGM) where a new board was elected. The chairs training was led by Bernard Just from Spain and enabled a valuable first insight into chairing for many of our alumni. As this year marked EYP Switzerland's 20th anniversary, the AGM was held at the Schloss Bümpliz and was attended by the president of the National Council Christa Markwalder, followed by a fancy Apéro.

Our annual summer barbecue, this year, took place in Morges for the first time. Next to a barbecue, even a whirlpool was offered.

Without a doubt, the highlight event for our alumni of the year was held at the International Session in Laax/Graubünden where almost 50 of our alumni joined the Closing Ceremony of the Session, as well as a Gala dinner held on the mountain top of the Crap Sogn Gion. We were especially pleased to see so many of our older alumni celebrating with us the 20th anniversary of EYP Switzerland, amongst them a even few former board members, many of them having been a part of our organisation from almost the beginning.

Also for the third time, we held our annual Alumni Weekend - this time in Zwischenflüh/BE - where lots of NSC Geneva delegates got the chance to reunite. Several workshops were offered to our alumni, amongst them a strategy workshop where all participants got the chance to shape the future of EYP Switzerland by working on sustainable projects and have their own say on the shape and working methods of EYP Switzerland which the board was able to thoroughly discuss at its next board meeting. The last event of the year took place in the city of Basel where EYP Switzerland celebrated its annual christmas party. The party was visited by almost 40 of our alumni which marks a successful end to a successful 20th anniversary year.



Mario Anderhub
Board Member on
National Coordination

National Coordination

The department of National Coordination comprises various responsibilities, such as outreach, delegate administration for our Regional Sessions and National Selection Conferences, alumni development, and school relations.

In 2016, the department of National Coordination underwent organisational restructuring to underline its delegate and school centred approach. The role of Alumni Officer has been transferred from International Coordination to National Coordination. This change facilitates the transition of motivated delegates to becoming active alumni on a national and international level. In addition, two new board department positions were formed. Teacher Support focuses on school and teacher relations, while Delegate Support handles session related administrative tasks and communicates with delegates. A call for the two new roles is going to open in the first quarter of 2017.

The NCS Geneva 2016 received a record number of applications from 33 different delegations. The application process was very competitive and the selection panel was intrigued by the quality of the applications received. 28 delegations were selected to attend the NSC based on predefined criteria regarding quality of the application and regional diversity.

An interesting and diverse programme was organised by local teachers from Geneva for the chaperones of the attending delegations, concluding in a teacher's workshop and feedback session. Geneva 2016 and EYP Switzerland received positive feedback, but the present teachers also suggested improvements, such as the need for more time at sessions for cultural activities and a better communication strategy concerning the room allocations for delegates.

Schools are EYP Switzerland's most important stakeholder. This has been mirrored in the revised communication and outreach strategy of EYP Switzerland.

A newsletter aimed at our active network of teachers and schools has been established. The first edition was sent out in November and featured experiences of an EYP teacher accompanying her delegation to an International Forum in Georgia, an update from the organising team of the NSC Lausanne 2017, and useful information on our upcoming Regionals 2017.

Outreach to new schools was based on a new two-staged approach. First, over 200 high schools and vocational schools received a redesigned promotion letter that introduces EYP Switzerland and our Sessions. Secondly, the Regional Coordinators got in touch with selected schools and encouraged students to register for one of the four Regional Sessions. The success of this strategy is already visible now: We've received a record number of registrations for our Regionals 2017, including many delegations from schools that never attended an EYP event before. 2017 is shaping up to becoming a very promising year of the department of National Coordination and EYP Switzerland.



Andong Hu
Board Member on Finances &
Membership

Finances & Membership

Participation fees for both the regionals and the NSC this year has been for the first time ever, paid in majority by delegations instead of individual participants. This has helped us create a better overview and granted us more control over the flow of money. Goal for next year would be to encourage more teachers from the German speaking areas to do the same.

The NSC has been, for the first time ever, given a separate bank account at Postfinance, registered as a junior account to the EYP CH, giving the HOs of the NSC freedom over their own funding while the President of EYP CH as well as the Treasurer still retaining the overview. Taking feedbacks from the HOs, there should be more than one bank card for the NSC account next year as the HOs often need to buy multiple things during the session and having one bank cards limit their flexibility.

Finally, on the membership front, a new coordinated project was started together with National Coordination and Regional Structure to merge the many existing databases scattered all around Google Drive into one containing information such as Alumni names, email, birthdate and most importantly, this database will include informations on their swiss session history. This will help our registration in the long run and it is expected to be finished by the AGM.



Lars Kieni
Board Member on Communica-
tion since October 2016

Communication

2016 marked the 20th anniversary year of EYP Switzerland, a reason to celebrate! Many alumni of earlier days as well as more recent members have compiled an anniversary brochure about our beloved organisation which we formally unveiled at the Annual General Meeting in February. The brochure is definitely worth reading as it contains unique stories about the founding of EYP Switzerland, interesting reports about milestones in our history, such as the International Sessions Bern 2000, Basel 2005 and Zurich 2013, as well as essays about our core values, such as the neutrality of EYP.

The past year also meant a lot of change for the Communication Department. After he took office in February, we soon had to see the resignation of Matthias Hodler. Following this, Lars Kieni was elected to re-join the Board at the Extraordinary General Assembly in October 2016. Remarkable was the cooperation amongst Department Members which showed big effort to keep the daily business running in transition times. Especially worth mentioning were Miriam Aitken who took care well of the monthly newsletter, as well as Jan Ruffin whose promotion videos were crucial in reaching out to current and new members, motivating them to attend various events and sessions.

In 2016, our organisation also gained much attention by the public, most notably thanks to the National Selection Conference in Geneva and the International Session in Laax. We were not only able to be covered by the media in the moment, but also were able to connect with media networks and reached out to journalism students, thus making our name known for future journalists already. We have observed a rise in the number of session participants thanks to personal contacts. This is certainly something to build upon for 2017 when we try to reach out to even more young students from all over Switzerland and Liechtenstein.



Moritz Bondeli
Board Member on External Affairs

External Affairs

There is no doubt that 2016 will go down as one of the busiest and most exciting years in the history of EYP Switzerland. The year was particularly successful with respect to our external affairs, as we were able to welcome a number of highly renowned guest speakers and patrons to our sessions, ensure high-level media exposure and secure adequate funding for all of our events.

In spring, we were honoured by the visit of Pascale Baeriswyl, recently appointed Secretary of State, as well as of the EU Ambassador to Switzerland, Richard Jones, to our Regional Sessions in Basel and Bern. At the NSC in Geneva in September, delegates were introduced to the esprit de Genève by Michael Moller (UN), Yves Daccord (ICRC) and Oliver Jütersohnke (IHEID), three world-class experts in the fields of peacebuilding and humanitarian intervention. Only one month later, Federal Councillor Didier Burkhalter paid a visit to the 83rd International Session in Laax, Graubünden, underlining the responsibility of our generation to stay engaged in the political process and to be a driving force for societal progress. The International Session in Laax also provided us with an excellent occasion to continue building our relationship with EYP alumni and to work towards creating a more engaging alumni network.

In terms of media exposure, 2016 was a success story. Our sessions achieve strong coverage by local media outlets on a regular basis, and are increasingly of interest to national media. Moreover, thanks to a long-standing partnership with ch-Stiftung and a number of other supporting institutions, our events are well funded, leaving space for organising teams to develop creative ideas on how to improve the session experiences of delegates and officials alike.

However, even as we enter the 21st year of EYP Switzerland history, there is no time to rest on our laurels. Owing to the intense work of the Laax organising team, there are a number of exciting opportunities for long term partnerships that could strengthen EYP Switzerland's financial position for years to come. Achieving more national media coverage is a paramount objective, as is bringing the most inspiring patrons, the most eloquent guest speakers and the most savvy experts to our sessions. For the next decade, it is our aim to make EYP synonymous with youth politics and civic education in Switzerland without forgetting what it is all about - building skills, confidence and friendships.



EUROPEAN **YOUTH** PARLIAMENT
SCHWEIZ SUISSE SVIZZERA SVIZRA
 SWITZERLAND

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"Dear young people, I encourage you to participate in the European Youth Parliament. It will give you the opportunity to shape the world of tomorrow. You will debate, listen, work on compromises and create shared values: give life to democracy. I am glad that the EYP enables you to take your responsibility for the next generations."

Didier Burkhalter
 Federal Councillor, Head of the Federal
 Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA



OUR EVENTS



- {1} The Organising Team of the NSC Geneva 2016
- {2} Our famous EYP Switzerland cow
- {3} Members at the Easter Brunch 2016
- {4} Nora Wilhelm, the Head Organiser of Laax 2016
- {5} Members at the Christmas Party 2016
- {6} Swiss Officials at EYP Austria's National Selection Conference Salzburg 2016
- {7} Members during the Annual General Meeting 2016
- {8} Teambuilding during the the Head-Organisers' summit 2016
- {9} The Core Team of the IF Basel 2018



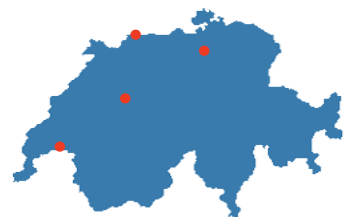
REGIONAL SESSIONS 2016

BASEL, BERN, LAUSANNE, ZURICH

Reaching out to more alumni than ever before!



260 young people
at 4 sessions
in 4 cities:
Basel, Bern, Lausanne,
Zurich



For the third time, EYP Switzerland was fortunate enough to hold its round of Regional Sessions, each lasting for two days for delegates and three for officials. While Basel, Bern and Zurich have established themselves for the third time as host cities, the Romandie region was hosted by the city of Lausanne, in order to not have to collide with the National Selection Conference, this year taking place in Geneva. The sessions were presided by Manfredi Danielis (IT) in Basel, Laure Steinville (FR) in Bern, Anthony McKee (UK) in Zurich and Oliver Stenbom (SE) in Lausanne.

Led by seven experienced Head Organisers, all four sessions were visited by a combined total of 200 delegates precisely. Under the professional guidance of the Head Organisers of the four sessions, its organisers held up the high standard EYP Switzerland expects from its organising committees from an organisational viewpoint. The sessions were led by Kate Gurevich and Allegra Margelisch in Basel, Angela von Ballmoos and Josephine Heinzelmann in Bern, Kira Wetzel and Janka Möller in Zurich and Matthias Masini in Lausanne. They have all managed to add a special something to each individual session which clearly showed their dedication and appreciation for EYP Switzerland. We would like to sincerely thank all of them and their organising committees for their outstanding and hard work.

The maximum number of delegates the four Regional Sessions are able to hold, was not reached, nevertheless, a record number of delegates later signed up to the NSC held in Geneva. With a record number of more than 100 officials applications, every session was able to offer 7-8 mostly first-time chairpersons and 2 vice-presidents a spot each, as every committee would be single chaired. There were no official journalists at any of the four sessions; however, this proved to be a fantastic opportunity for our newest and most promising alumni to take up this informal role by assisting the editors with taking pictures and videos, as well as briefly involving them in other projects. This successful outcome led to the Alumni Officer Kate Gurevich this year for the very first time presenting her officials' outreach project to the board, all selected editors and Head Organisers which involves her inviting 1-2 promising EYP alumni per session who at one time have voiced their interest in taking up a role in an EYP media team. We are certain that Kate will manage to involve many more of our alumni and integrate them into EYP Switzerland and we very much look forward to the outcome.

For the first time, every committee at the Regional Sessions of EYP Switzerland were not co-chaired but chaired by one single chairperson. Out of the large pool of applicants, the selection panel was therefore able to select the most qualified candidates only which led to an increase in academic excellence during all sessions. Therefore, also continuing in 2017, the board decided on keeping the improved system, thus securing our future first-time delegates with the best possible guidance.

REGIONAL SESSIONS
Bern - Basel - Lausanne - Zurich

REGIONAL SESSIONS
Bern - Basel - Lausanne - Zurich

REGIONAL SESSIONS
Bern - Basel - Lausanne - Zurich

REGIONAL SESSIONS
Bern - Basel - Lausanne - Zurich



GENEVA 2016

NATIONAL SELECTION CONFERENCE



Geneva 2016
20th NSC of EYP Switzerland

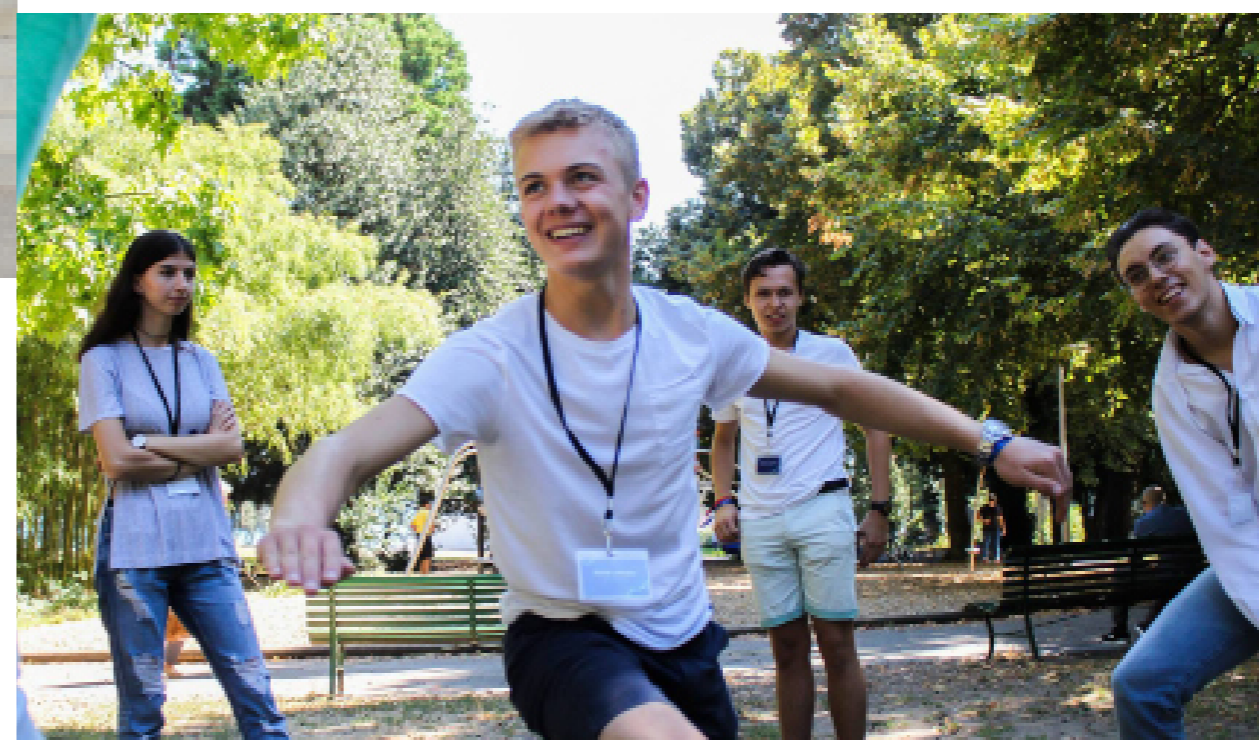
135 delegates
64 officials



Building sustainable peace in a globalised world

2016 marked the 20th anniversary of EYP Switzerland, and with that, our 20th National Selection Conference. It was held in Geneva from 6 to 11 September 2016. The two Head Organisers were Alexander Apostolov and Tarik Lazouni, from Geneva. The session was presided by Willem Koelewijn from the Netherlands. The event received the biggest amount of participants in the history of Swiss NSCs.

135 delegates, mostly from Swiss high-schools, as well as a delegation from Belgium and one from Iceland convened in “international capital of soft power” to discuss current issues revolving around the session theme, “Building sustainable peace in a globalised world”. We had the honour of receiving officials from literally the four corners of Europe, from Portugal, Finland, the UK, Armenia and many more. We hosted the different parts of the event in key locations in Geneva. First of all, the participants enjoyed the sun at the lakeside for a fun day of Teambuilding. The opening ceremony took place at the magnificent Museum of Ethnography. They discussed and debated at the André-Chavanne high-school and the University of Geneva, and finally, the General Assembly was held at the Prestigious “Maison de la Paix” of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, which played an important role in the history of the European Project. The City of Geneva also organised a reception at the City Hall to welcome the participants of Geneva 2016. The event received the support and the presence of Mr. Yves Daccord, Director-General of the ICRC and Mr. Michael Møller, Director-General of the United Nations Office in Geneva.





LOOKING BACK ON LAAX 2016

83RD INTERNATIONAL SESSION OF THE EYP

Young and Innovative Ideas for a Sustainable Future

Laax 2016

83rd International Session of the European Youth Parliament

325 participants
from 35 countries
during 10 days

head organised by Nora
Wilhelm



In October 2016, around 325 young people from all over Europe arrived in Laax (GR) to participate in the 83rd International Session of the European Youth Parliament (EYP), debating current political challenges as well as discussing the future of Europe. During the two weeks, which also marked the 20th anniversary of EYP Switzerland, our theme Young and Innovative Ideas for a Sustainable Future was incorporated in all fundamental aspects of the event. Amidst the beautiful nature and modern architecture, the participants tackled topics such as the refugee crisis, LGBTQI+ rights and the transition to renewable energy sources while under the guidance of experienced moderators and external experts.

Laax 2016 strived to reach high standards not only content-wise, but also from an organisational perspective. With the goal to foster

communication between our organisation and inspiring individuals, companies and NGOs, the session featured a “World Café” that was co-hosted by Euforia and the “Ideas, Opportunities and Impact Fair” (IOIF). Both were innovations within our organisation’s network and were met with enthusiasm by our participants and the external speakers. In addition, we did our best to educate the participants about sustainability and how to practice it in our own lives, for instance through the usage of renewable cups, setting up recycling stations, encouraging a vegetarian diet and minimising the printed output of the event. Finally, the aspect of intercultural exchange was enriched with the participants engaging with locals from the region in our three public events: the Euroconcert, Eurovillage, and Swiss Night.



The session took place under the patronage of Kathrin Amacker, Head of Communication & Public Affairs at SBB, Didier Burkhalter, Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Prof. Dr. Omid Aschari, Managing Director of the SIM-HSG as well as Thomas Vellacott, CEO of WWF Switzerland. We are also proud to have enjoyed extensive media coverage during the event, including newspapers such as the Südostschweiz and the Bündner Tagblatt. We hope that Laax 2016 increased the visibility of EYP Switzerland in the country and in particular in Graubünden, and that we will soon welcome participants from that region at our events.

In a survey carried out after the session it was described by the participants as an “inspiration to become an engaged citizen and a motivation to change the world”, and “a community that was sustainable, critical, open minded, and beautiful - one that all young leaders should try to inspire in their communities”. 96% of the participants reported that Laax 2016 strengthened them in their will to be active citizens. 94% said that it increased their awareness of the direct and long-term impact of my decisions and 92% that it broadened their understanding of sustainability. 98% said that their participation improved their knowledge and awareness of diversity in Europe.

All of this was made possible by an outstanding Organising Team, composed by national and international Organisers, who worked with heart and soul for over two years. Thanks to an innovative team structure, Organisers were given the responsibility for individual events and the freedom to design them according to their own visions. Trying our hand at such a decentralised and non-hierarchical system also showed us challenges that come with it, such as the increased communication and coordination effort. However, we are con-

vinced that it was a positive aspect and that Laax 2016 would not have been the same had we worked with more classical approaches. The attention to detail, passion and happiness of the Organisers was noted on many occasions, for instance by the International Office and the participants. We also experimented with a different fundraising strategy that turned out to be very successful and allowed us to finish the session with solid finances. In the process, we built very strong relationships with our partners, which was crucial to the implementation of our vision. For instance, we are incredibly happy to have been able to not only reimburse all Officials for their travel costs and set up a fund to which Delegates could apply, but also cover the train rides of all participants to Laax thanks to our partnership with SBB – a first in the EYP.

Looking back, we are immensely happy about the outcome that we believe was a contribution to EYP Switzerland, the whole EYP network and the life of every single person involved in the project. Even the locals and all those who supported us will hopefully keep our enthusiasm and dedication in memory. We are happy to have been able to shape a project authentic to the people behind it and execute it with integrity, implementing our values of sustainability, youth empowerment, inclusivity and innovation in all aspects of Laax 2016. I would like to thank everyone who was involved in Laax 2016 from near or far and added their spark to it – together we made magic.

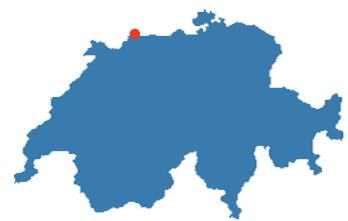
On behalf of the Organising Team,
Nora Wilhelm



LOOKING FORWARD TO BASEL 2018

1ST INTERNATIONAL FORUM OF EYP SWITZERLAND

An update on the organising of Basel 2018



230
young people

30+
countries

9
days

Youth Shaping the Future:

Implementing Innovative Infrastructure
of Today for an Economically Stable
Europe of Tomorrow

The idea to organise the first International Forum of EYP Switzerland in our hometown Basel has existed since November 2015 and has become reality in autumn 2016. We started to work on the project immediately by looking for motivated alumni that were willing to shape the project together with us.

The call for the core team closed in late November and the selected organisers came together for a first orga weekend in Basel in December. We are extremely delighted to have gathered a team of six motivated Core Team organisers with different levels of experience and various skills. The idea of the first meeting was to come together as a team, build trust and get a first insight on the vision of the project. There are five different departments with at least one organiser in every department and some organisers contributing to two departments. During the weekend, the team planned the upcoming months and also decided on the theme of the session which is "Innovation building the framework for tomorrow".

Our vision is to have a session concept which is interactive, improves cooperation between the committees, broadens the horizon of all participants even more and is of high academic quality. There have been several sessions which have adapted the usual procedure of EYP sessions and we want to build upon and learn from the experiences made by HOs and presidents of the corresponding events. Thus,

we are currently building a task force whose aim shall be to help us develop a session concept that is feasible, effective and innovative.

We are very happy to announce that the University of Basel is our partner and will help us with important contacts in the city of Basel as well as in academic questions. On top, we have found two strong partners that are kind enough to host us. The Ibis Budget will be the accommodation for delegates and officials whereas the Novotel will be the accommodation for teachers. The Wirtschaftsgymnasium Basel will host us for the days of teambuilding and committee work.

During the upcoming months, we will focus on starting our fundraising process as well as our communication strategy in order to become more visible on social media networks. We will be looking into various venues and start planning the special events on the evenings. The finance department has already been working on a detailed budget.

In late spring, we are opening another call for organisers in order to complete our team. We are very excited to work even harder on this project in 2017.

Kate Gurevich & Allegra Margelisch,
the Head organisers of the session





OUR MEMBERS

WHERE WOULD EYP BE WITHOUT ITS MEMBERS?

This question highlights how much EYP in general, but also EYP Switzerland depends on the people who run this organisation, by participating as a delegate at a session, by travelling across the continent to contribute to a session or by organising a session at their own school - everything voluntarily without any monetary expectation.

EYP Switzerland celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2016 and can look back on a story of success and constant growth: Our sessions have a good image internationally, are reaching out to more students than ever through the Regional Sessions and has organised an International Session that has set new standards on an international level.

It is now that EYP Switzerland would like to express its gratitude to everybody who helps making this success story continue. It is evident that this would not be possible without teachers sending delegates, organisers, national and international officials, sponsors, patrons, and members actively working for EYP Switzerland.

Thank you!

MY YEAR IN EYP

EYP has changed my life to a large degree. I cannot comprehend how my life would be if this organisation hadn't stepped into it. If someone had told the shy delegate that I was in Fribourg almost 2 1/2 years ago that he would end up travelling as far as Latvia for the EYP, I'd have thought them crazy. The friends and opportunities EYP Switzerland has given me have been stellar. I have learnt skills and improved in areas I wouldn't have thought I'd ever get into previously.

Even now I am struggling to put the experience this year has been into appropriate words. Going from being a fresh organiser at the Regional Session Basel to organising the International Session in Laax, chairing for the first time and getting to head-organise my own Regional Session, this year has been filled with amazing successes, extraordinary people and incredible moments.

Seeing all the happiness that Laax caused and the impact the session continues to have on its participants and EYP as a whole has been deeply inspirational for me. I think that the success and changes

in EYP Laax has brought about highlight the key component of EYP, individual engagement and contribution. At the end of the International Forum in Amsterdam back in 2015, which I attended as a delegate and experienced as a wonderful event, we were told that maybe one day we would look back at the experiments trialled at the IF, see the seed of changes in EYP at large and be able to claim to have been there since their inception.

"I cannot comprehend how my life would be if this organisation hadn't stepped into it."

However, 2016 has been much more than that for me. It has given me the chance to be part of a project to bring this seed of change to fruition, to actively contribute to improving and advancing our organisation and giving back the joy it has given to me. EYP can only be such a great organisation if we step up and make it one. I am glad to have had the opportunity to do so and would encourage anyone to do the same.



Lucius Miller, from Switzerland
Regional Coordinator for Basel
Member of EYP since 2014



Willem Koelewijn, from the Netherlands

President of the National
Selection Conference Geneva 2016
Member of EYP since 2014

MY YEAR IN EYP

The 20th National Selection Conference of EYP Switzerland in Geneva was a session that was worth the title of an “anniversary session”. In my time in EYP, I have rarely, if not never, attended a session that brought so much for its participants outside of the traditional session programme. I’m convinced that the impressive line-up of external guests and great venues truly enriched delegates’ first longer experience in EYP. Besides this, and perhaps most important of all, the session was an excellent environment for doing what the EYP does best: bringing young people together to discuss issues that affect Europe and the world, which challenges them to get to know the society they live in, each other and themselves.

The Swiss NSC in 2012, held in Aarau, was my very first session as an official. That made coming back as president of the Swiss NSC four years later extra special. Being able to reflect on both experiences, I was also once again made aware of the development the EYP has been through over these

years, in terms of inclusiveness and organisational abilities. The quantity and quality of events put on by EYP Switzerland, along with the sheer number and enthusiasm of the volunteers involved in making them possible, is truly remarkable and an inspiration for the whole EYP network.

" The quantity and quality of events put on by EYP Switzerland (...) is truly remarkable and an inspiration for the whole EYP network. "

Thanks to an extremely competent team of chairs, a media team that went more than just one extra mile and a team of incredibly enthusiastic organisers, I’m sure that Geneva 2016 has inspired EYP Switzerland’s new members to get involved and sustain EYP Switzerland’s progress.



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"When I attend an event of the European Youth Parliament Switzerland, I am always impressed and inspired of the motivation and knowledge of these young and skilled people.
 That's exactly what we need to build up a European integration from the bottom and across the countries.
 Thanks to all engaged delegates of the EYP!"

Christa Markwalder
*Member of the Swiss Parliament
 former President of the National Council*

Published by

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 3013 Bern, Switzerland
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Layout

Jonas Pruditsch, Lars Kieni

Picture Editors

EYP Switzerland

supported by

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