

YOUTH PARLIAMENT SWISS ABROAD

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Report

2016 / 2017



YOUTH PARLIAMENT OF THE SWISS ABROAD
AUSLANDSCHWEIZER JUGENDPARLAMENT
PARLEMENT DES JEUNES SUISSE DE L'ETRANGER
PARLAMENTO DEI GIOVANI SVIZZERI ALL'ESTERO

Acknowledgments

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Auslandschweizer-Organisation
Organisation des Suisses de l'étranger
Organizzazione degli Svizzeri all'estero
Organisaziun dals Svizzers a l'ester

The YPSA committee expresses its appreciation to the ASO/OSE organization, the team and their delegates for their valuable contribution and their support. Your cooperation has enabled us to continue our journey with strength, hope and passion.

Preliminary Report 2017/2018

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YPSA – Youth Parliament Swiss Abroad

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Content of the Report

1. Introduction
2. Elections 2017
3. Purposes
4. Achievements 2016/2017
5. Ongoing projects
6. Discussion and ideas for the future
7. Some impressions



1. Introduction

Dear Young Swiss Abroad,

As President of Youth Parliament of the Swiss Abroad, I have the pleasure to introduce this intermediate report that will guide you through the most recent events that took place since our last General Assembly in Bern.

As a young and dynamic association, a lot of things have happened in one year and we know that you might have missed some of the them on our social networks, so this report is the perfect opportunity to keep up to date with ongoing projects, achievements and discussion on future ideas. But first, let me draw your attentions on some key points

1. During the ASO meeting in Basel, the new members of the ASO Council met for the first time. Because of the efforts made in the last 2 years, we had the pleasure to have 3 representatives from YPSA and this is a HUGE achievement for us, since we were able to triple our voice.
2. At the end of summer, we held new elections, with consequent reorganization of the committee. The new members, accompanied by some old members, will take over the work carried out in the last 2 years and lead YPSA for the next 2 years. They are all aged between 16 to 29 and come from 3 continents: Europe, South America and North America.

That said, I would like to express, first of all, my gratitude towards the entire ASO/OSE Committee and their delegates which made all this possible for us. Not only with a budget aid but also with the entire project support and strategy, the ASO is for us the main platform to reach young people abroad.

On the other hand, I would like to thank our members for helping us making YPSA the association that it is today.

It was a pleasure for me, to lead this team of great and highly motivated people and all we have achieved during these last 2 years would have not been possible without them. It is my personal belief that all young organizations like YPSA need new ideas and different points of views in order to grow and improve. I am confident that all the new members and the new leadership will bring YPSA in the right direction, and I wish all of them the best of luck

Thank you,

Davide Wüthrich
YPSA President

2.Elections 2017



From the 4th until the 13th of August it has been the election of the YPSA committee 2017-2019. The election took place on Facebook, there were 14 candidates for 13 places. The member who were elected are:

Surname	Name	Country	Age	
Bartucciotto	Andrea	Italy	29	New
Braissant	Mylène	France	23	New
Caro	Vreni	Chile	17	New
D'Auria	Guido	Italy	22	
Derrer	Laura	Chile	21	
Deshusses	Elise	U.S.A.	16	New
Espinoza	Francisca	Chile	19	
Faller	Lisa	Germany	24	New
Landolina	Roberto	Italy	22	New
Lingl	Marie	France	19	
Lobato	Fatima	Spain	18	New
Siffer	Jaqueline	U.S.A.	17	
Trebbi	Edoardo	Italy	24	

From all the YPSA team, we wish new and old members all the best for the years to come.

3.Purposes



Connect

Inform

Exchange

Commit

Involve

YPSA aims to create a community and a link to Switzerland for the young Swiss between 15 and 35 who are currently living abroad or who have lived abroad for at least 10 years. By creating a platform, we hope to encourage discussion and political involvement. Furthermore, the committee aims to raise awareness about the needs of the young Swiss Abroad, to promote activities, to provide information, and organize youth conferences. We want to bring and represent the voice of young Swiss abroad with regard to the issues that concern them: through the delegates who are members of the ASO/OSE council we can make this happen. Last year, the president of YPSA, Davide Wüthrich was nominated as intern member of the ASO Council to represent the young Swiss abroad.

Furthermore, we want to aid young Swiss abroad in relating to their roots. On one side focussing on the social issues of the young Swiss Abroad community and on the other, promoting awareness of political rights and responsibilities as young citizens but still remaining a non-political association.

How can you help us!

On our online platforms we will provide information about elections and referenda, but also present information on topics related to education, traditions and culture in Switzerland. We need your help in spreading around about our organization in order to enlarge the audience of young Swiss Abroad. The online platform is currently based on Facebook (under: *Youth Parliament of the Swiss Abroad - YPSA*). We are developing a website and a newsletter which are going to be released soon!

4. Achievements 2016/2017



First Meeting of YPSA in Chile

7.10.2016, Swiss Club of Santiago de Chile - Laura Derrer & Francisca Espinoza

The meeting was also attended by the ambassador of Switzerland in Chile, Edgar Dörig and the President of the Swiss Club Chile, Fernando Baeriswyl. Of 70 confirmed participants, we were able to host for this first meeting 50 participants, given the limited availability of resources and space. The meeting started with the presentation of YPSA, followed by the words from the ambassador Edgar Dörig and by the President of the Swiss Club, Fernando Baeriswyl.

The activities which followed aimed to get to know each other and also to discover what the participants knew about Switzerland (Direct democracy and sustainable development) There were reached out some questionnaires to find out which are the main interests of the young Swiss abroad in Chile and a Member form to register the participants.



General interests of the participants:

- Creating bonds between the young Swiss abroad and maintaining a permanent contact with swiss values and traditions
- Educational and scientific exchange
- Stay informed about news from Switzerland
- Discussion groups and seminars on different topics related to Switzerland (Environment, opportunities in Switzerland, culture, politics)
- Informative talks about studying in Switzerland (Scholarships)
- Recreational activities like trekking or games

CSA Oceania Presidents Conference

08.10.2016, Swiss Club Victoria, Melbourne (Australia) - Ryan Cooper

The Council for Swiss Abroad (CSA) Oceania division holds a yearly conference to discuss matters of importance to Swiss abroad living in Australia. Ryan Cooper was invited by the CSA to present a talk “Swiss Clubs from a young person’s perspective”. He had the chance to present YPSA, who we are, what we do and our aims to connect and inform the youth abroad about Switzerland. A workshop regarding the future of swiss clubs in Australia was held as well “How to improve youth engagement”.



140 Years of the arriving of the Swiss settlers in Patagonia

26 – 30.10.16 Punta Arena, Chile - Laura Derrer & Francisca Espinoza

As representors of YPSA Latinamerica, we prepared a speech with the importance of YPSA nowadays (who we are, our objectives, our achievements so far...) and our goals here in Chile and Latinamerica. The authorities of the institutions were very glad and interested about all our projects related with the Swiss Young people because nowadays the Swiss clubs are dealing with a huge decrease of participation of the Youth. So hearing about our goals and motivation, they (se comprometieron en ayudar a difundir YPSA entre los jovenes suizos a lo largo de Chile).



YPSA is known by most of the Swiss Clubs all along Chile and Argentina, which are enthusiastic in working with us for future common projects. One of them is a summer camp for all Chilean-swiss children and young people. - YPSA was present in all formal events in Punta Arenas. - We included the swiss youth of Punta Arenas: Mia Bergstrom Bobadilla, José Miguel Baeriswyl, Pablo Solar Baeriswyl, Antonio Solar Baeriswyl, Gabriel Baeriswyl, Loreto Clerc, More Vera, Anne-Sophie Dörig (from Santiago) In our last day in Punta Arenas, we participated with all the swiss institutions of Chile and Argentina at the parade in the downtown of Punta Arenas. We had our own delegation with our own Logo and walked in representation of YPSA. YPSA was recognized internationally and is going in local newspaper. YPSA will appear in the magazine for Swiss abroad in Latinamerica YPSA appeared in the newspaper of Punta Arenas.

CPJ (Congress of the Youth Parliament) by DSJ

28 - 30.10.2016 Geneva, Switzerland - Edoardo Trebbi & Najib Bourkhis

In this occasion, YPSA gets known by the CPJ. The YPSA members had a workshop about *Project-management* skills to learn how to organise a successful event for the youth parliaments. Another issue was discussed, namely the introduction of the *speed debating*, a new type of debating that will be used for the youth parliaments, and which will be probably introduced by YPSA as well.

First YPSA Meeting in Wien

29.10.2016, Wien Österreich - Vera Victoria Moll & Matthias Kreinz

On the 29.10.2016 was our first YPSA meeting with the young swiss abroad people in Vienna, Austria. About 20 joined our event making it a nice evening.

We presented what the idea of YPSA stands for and we were also talking about "The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad" (OSA) and about swiss politics. We had also a presentation and distributed swiss army chocolate that was given from the Swiss Embassy of Vienna.

Our achievement is the one of funding an YPSA Club in Vienna. The young swiss people were very excited and interested in the relation of YPSA and its organisation. And few people are willing to help us with YPSA Austria.



Engaging Young Swiss Adults in the Swiss Political Process

03.11.2016, Royal Society of Medicine, London – Davide Wüthrich

The event was fully organised and sponsored by FOSSUK, the UK umbrella association for Swiss living abroad. The conference took place in London on November 3rd 2016 at 18.30. The invited panel members were:

- Davide Wüthrich - President of the Youth Parliament of the Swiss Abroad
- Nick Couldry - Professor of Media, Communications and Social Theory, London School of Economics and Political Science
- Anja Wyden Guelpa, Chancelliere d'Etat de Geneve
- Moderator: François Voefray, Deputy Head of Mission at the Swiss Embassy in London

Over 60 people participated to the event, including some 40-45 young people. Davide gave a speech presenting YPSA, from its foundation in Geneva in 2015 to the present. Presenting the main achievement of these last years, the current goals and the undergoing work. He also presented the activities that are being carried out in other countries, with the final purpose of motivating British young people to engage in the creation of a local association.

The work of YPSA was presented to some 40-50 young people and a positive feedback was received from all participants. Interest during the discussion was raised. More interaction took place during the aperitif and all young people seemed very motivated to organise future events. The existence of other Swiss associations for young people in London was acknowledged and the creation of a unified platform for all these association is recommended. The support of FOSSUK for future events has been assured.

YPSA at the 135th anniversary of the Swiss Club in Catania

26.11.2016 Catania, Italy – Guido D'Auria & Edoardo Trebbi

YPSA was invited to join the Italian parliament of the Swiss abroad during its autumn meeting in Catania. The event was held at the Swiss club in Catania, celebrating its 135th anniversary.

During the meeting of UGS (Unione Giovani Svizzeri) YPSA was presented and explained to the young swiss people of Sicily. A presentation about prof. Rittmann was held during the celebration, to remember the history of this Swiss geologist who lived in this city located in the south of Italy.



Liechtenstein 2016

26.11.2016 Lichtenstein – Guido D’Auria & Najib Bourkis

The Youth Parliament of the Swiss Abroad (YPSA) is recognised by the DSJ. As a member association, YPSA takes part to the decisional meetings of the This year around 150 young people took part to the Delegates meeting representing about 33 Swiss youth parliaments. between April 1st and 2nd Najib Bourkis and Guido D’Auria represented YPSA as delegates. This year the assembly was held in Liechtenstein and organized in cooperation with *Jugendrat Liechtenstein* (youth parliament of Liechtenstein). This year several topics were discussed together as well as the approval of the accreditation of four more associations namely: *Youth Parliament of canton Bern*, *Youth Parliament of Rifferswil*, the *Assemblea Giovani Bellinzonesi* and *Conseil des Jeunes Broyards*. Furthermore, it was an important session since the board was newly elected.



Berlin

26.11.2016 Berlin, Germany – Michael Valente

YPSA in Berlin: On Friday afternoon, we joined the conference of the OSA-Council of Germany. There was a panel discussion on the topic “free movement of persons” with the ambassador of Switzerland in Germany Christine Schraner Burgener, former ambassador Tim Guldemann, Co-President of the Organisation “Operation Libero” Laura Zimmermann, former president of the OSA



Rudolf Wyder and journalist Helmut Uwer from Berlin. It was a very interesting discussion with different views on the topic.

After the conference, we were invited by the ambassador, to have a look into the Swiss Embassy and joined the aperitif. In the evening, we joined the boat trip on the river “Spree”. We had the Chance to talk to different and important people within the



Swiss clubs and with other youngsters who joined the trip. The next day we planned a workshop at a Swiss restaurant in Berlin. After brunch, we discussed what the needs of young Swiss abroad in Germany are, what they would like the YPSA to do for them, what they think about the Swiss clubs in Germany and more. For those who joined the most important topics were political

involvement (OSA council, political involvement during their stay outside of Switzerland, Bank-accounts (too expensive account charges), social encounters of young Swiss abroad during the year. In addition, goal of the workshop was to create a group of youngsters who would take responsibility for young Swiss abroad in Germany.

Congress of the Swiss Abroad, Basel 2017

18 – 20.08.17 Basel, Switzerland – G. D’Auria, L. Derrer, F. Espinoza, M. Valente, E. Trebbi

Organised by the Organisation of the Swiss abroad (OSA), the Congress of the Swiss Abroad is the annual meeting of the Swiss citizen living all around the world. This Congress takes place each year in a different area of Switzerland and some 400 compatriots from the whole world come each year to this event. Also the topic changes each year: «Inland- und Auslandschweizer: eine Welt!» (Swiss abroad and Swiss residents: one world!).

During this meeting, current issues are discussed on special themes in order to exchange the own experiences from the 5 continents. The Congress’s programmes also includes visits, entertainments and meeting with the authorities and local population. Between August 18th to 20th, the ASO delegates met in Basel and YPSA took part to the conference as well. In this particular occasion YPSA was granted with 3 seats reserved for young representatives of the organization. Laura Derrer and Franzisca Espinoza (both from Chile) were appointed as youth delegates of the ASO council. Furthermore, Davide Wüthrich (former YPSA president and co-founder) was replaced by Guido D’Auria (Italy) as an intern member of the council. This important success will allow a greater development of the YPSA activities and a better contact not only with the ASO, but also with the local Swiss institutions and clubs abroad.

Mulhouse

23.09.2017 Strasburg, Frankreich – Davide Wüthrich

Organized by the General Consulate in Strasbourg on September 23rd in the beautiful city of Mulhouse, this event gathered more than 50 young Swiss living in the *Grand-Ouest* of France. All aged between the age of 16 to 19, the participants had not only the chance to hear about their duties and rights as Swiss citizens, but also to discover the existence of the our Youth Parliament.

Invited by the General Consul, Davide Wüthrich had the chance to address directly the young people, presenting them the vision of YPSA, their ongoing projects and future expectations. After the presentation, the young participants had the chance to interact with the speakers and ask



questions during the workshop and the classical apèro, kindly offered by the Consulate. This also gave Davide the opportunity to recruit some new members and expand the network of YPSA a little bit more.

Overall, the event was extremely successful and highly appreciated by both the participants and the speakers. We really hope that something similar will be organized again next year.



Davide with the participants



Davide Mme la Consul Générale de Strasbourg and M le Consul

YPSA in Chile

During the last year (2016), YPSA got noticed all around the world. Also in Chile, we have reached a large amount of swiss youngster living abroad. With the help of the Swiss Embassy and the Swiss Club of Santiago de Chile, three events were organized so far.

Fact is, the youth tend to be less participative in celebrations and activities organized by Swiss clubs, which leads to inactivity in this part of the Swiss abroad community. This is why one of our objectives was reaching all the Swiss-Chilean youngster and create ties between them, in order to form a Swiss abroad community where the younger generations feel comfortable.

At the first meeting in the Swiss Club of Santiago in October 2016 we got to know each other and share our experience as Swiss abroad living in Chile. There was a general wish of continuing participating in such events and also to encourage more people to join us. Activities such as Hiking, cooking traditional Swiss food and informative talks about Switzerland were some suggestion that we collected. We could perceive that there was great interest about living, working and studying in Switzerland and also the difficulty of staying connected to Switzerland when living abroad.

Our second meeting in December 2016 was an informative talk about the group of young Chilean-Swiss scientist (ICES) and the possibility of studying in Switzerland. Romina Vogel, a young Chilean-Swiss who studied in Switzerland, represented this institution at this meeting and told the chilean community about their work. She also shared her experience as a Swiss abroad who studied in Switzerland, which was very interesting for everybody who joined the meeting and had some expectations of informations about studying or working in Switzerland.

This year 2017 we came together for the third time in August, in order to celebrate the 1. of August and meet new faces, but also, to start a new project: A youth association of Chilean - Swiss. We

want to establish an union of Swiss youngsters living abroad, composed of a working group that attends the needs and interests of the Swiss community in Chile. Hopefully we could reach more communities in different countries in Latin America.



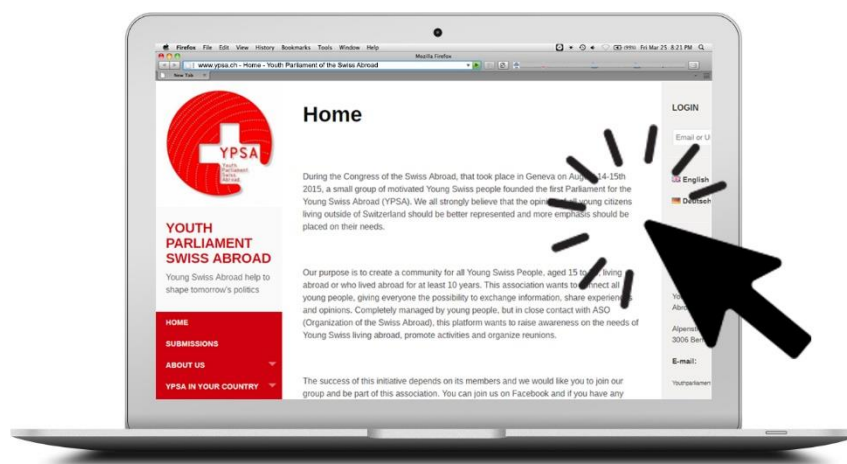
It is not easy to start projects from the bottom, but YPSA encourages all young swiss abroad to come together and stay connected to Switzerland and its culture. Staying informed about the political, cultural and social events and try to participate in every democratic instance is important for us Swiss abroad, which is why YPSA tries to facilitate it.





5. Ongoing projects

- Cooperation with the **DSJ** the national federation of the Parliament of the Youth Swiss, which supports and promotes political activities in Switzerland and involves different projects such as: **Easyvote** (easyvote.ch), **Engage** (engage.ch) and **YouthParliaments** (jugendparlamente.ch).
- International Networking at local level with the Swiss Clubs worldwide: we are working to organize events for young people worldwide in order to involve and attract more people, making them aware of our projects.
- The official **YPSA.CH** website is under construction and will be presented soon. We are very happy to share our activities and our projects and soon we will do it also via web. Keep up to date with our current projects by visiting and liking our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/YPSA.CH>).





6. Discussion and ideas for the future

We, the Youth Parliament of the Swiss Abroad, have accomplished so much in the past two years, and would like to continue this progress. In the election term of 2017-2019, the Youth Parliament of the Swiss abroad would like to place an emphasis on connection, and strengthen the bonds between our members and resources, such as Swiss Clubs, in their country of residence. We would also like to focus on helping individual countries establish their own national branch of the Youth Parliament of the Swiss Abroad. National branches would have the goal of organizing annual meetings and cultural excursions to unite the YPSA on a more individual scale. Branches of the YPSA would also be able to connect citizens with Swiss Clubs in their region. We would like to establish at least one national branch per continent by the end of the 2019 term.

We also hope to encourage more discourse on the Facebook page through monthly newsletters and informative or cultural articles, written by a different committee member each month. The newsletters could describe political developments in Switzerland and descriptions as to how these developments will affect us as young Swiss living abroad, and a comparison of Swiss events to those of our country of residence. Informative or cultural articles would also be distributed on a monthly basis, and each article would focus on the rights and obligations of Swiss citizens living abroad. For example, an informative article could be focused on how to register to vote and use Easy Vote. The newsletters will come out on the first, (1st), of every month, and each article will be published on the fifteenth, (15th), of every month. The newsletters and articles will be posted to both the Facebook page, and the website.

We will continue to use our Facebook page to create a more dynamic network, and in addition to our newsletters and articles create more contests to promote member involvement. We would also like to create a “correspondence program” that pairs two members of the YPSA from different countries, and enable them to compare what it means to be Swiss in their countries of residence, and gain a lifelong friend. There will also be an establishment of a “Culture Club” where YPSA members can opt to subscribe to monthly works of Swiss culture, and have a Skype meeting discussing the work that was picked for the month. We hope that this will continue our initiative of exposure to Swiss culture. While our Facebook page is a useful platform, we would like to continue our progress on the website. With the website, we hope to include an easy format that will provide information pertaining to the Youth Parliament of the Swiss Abroad, a list of committee members with their contact, a section on the rights and obligations of Swiss citizens, and an archive of articles and newsletters.

We hope to continue with the work that has been established over the past two years, and implement new ideas that will help improve the YPSA. We will emphasize the establishment of branches of the YPSA in new countries, monthly newsletters and articles, a correspondence program, a culture club, and a user-friendly website. All of these new programs are with the hope of creating new bonds and interactions between members on our site, further uniting the Youth Parliament of the Swiss Abroad.

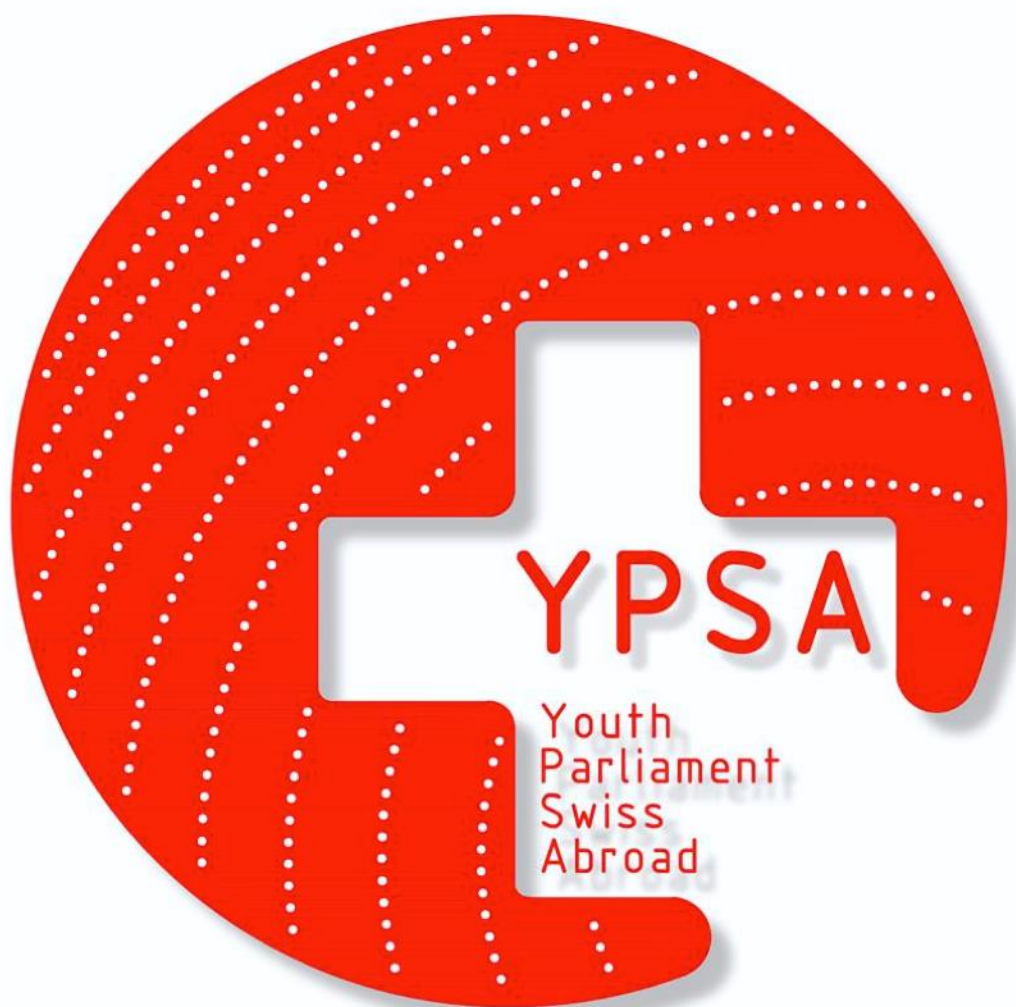
7. Some impressions



In the following pages you will find a selection of pictures from our events.







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