

# Annual Report 2016

## Youth Parliament Swiss Abroad



Bern, December 2016

# Introduction, the President Davide

Ottawa, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Dear members,

While for ASO the year 2016 represented the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, involving big celebrations in the parliament building and honorable ceremonies, in its shadow the Youth Parliament of the Swiss Abroad (YPSA) was blowing his first candle and celebrating its first birthday.

In this past year, multiple events have taken place and many things have evolved. This short report tries to summarize most of them and show the motivation that led us across these last 12 months. For the YPSA, 2016 was a year characterized by numerous **Firsts**: First meeting with the President of the confederation, First participation to an ASO Meeting, First recognition as an official group, First competition for a new Logo, First member elected in the ASO Council, First real committee meeting with 6 people in the same room, First general assembly with more than 120 young people, First News-letter, First private bank account, First donation, First meetings in Chile, Vienna, London and countless more... Of course, not all that glitters is gold, and we had our first sad moments, including the First departure of a committee member and our First discussions. Nevertheless, considering where we were one year ago and where we are standing now, there is no argument that it has been a very successful year.



Looking back at all the achievement obliges me to turn forward and look at future, at the upcoming years, and the challenges that YPSA will have to face to grow larger, stronger and deeper. YPSA will have to reach out to new members, motivate and involve them. A worldwide social network gathering people together, giving the opportunity to share experience and information is not only the outcome of a motivated committee, but also the result of a continuous interaction and participation of all members. Next year there will be new elections and I strongly hope that these will bring new faces and new ideas to help fulfilling our common goals.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Committee for giving their time to this noble cause and being so supportive shaping the YPSA that we see today.

From me and from all the members of YPSA, we would like to thank you for being part of our first year, wishing our organization a long life and many more birthdays to come.

Long live the YPSA

**Davide Wüthrich**  
*President YPSA*

# Point-of-View, Daniel Bijsterbosch (Head of Youth Service)

Dear members, dear readers of this annual report

I have the great honour to speak out some words to a terrific project initiated by the Youth Service of the OSA in 2015. As the head of this department I am very proud of the group of young Swiss abroads taking the Challenge to create a worldwide connection of young Swiss people.



During the first active year of the motivated committee a lot of work had to be done, which needed many Skype meetings and discussions. I am very pleased to see so many achievements that have taken place in the shortness of time. After the dismissal of Nadia Leuenberger as representative for the young Swiss abroads in 2015, it is a great honour, that the OSA-Council accepted the YPSA – Youth Parliament of the Swiss Abroad as an independent Organisation and promises at least one Seat for the youth. It is very important to empower young people to perceive their rights, their responsibilities and their interests.

2016 was the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad. Also the YPSA took the advantage of this celebration to hold the general assembly for the first time in Berne. 130 young Swiss abroads participated at this event and got to know the committee and the goals of this project. The YPSA could motivate the youth to sign up for a membership. The YPSA counts 127 active members from over 35 countries and has 654 followers on facebook. Big achievements in a short period of time.

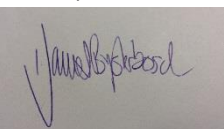
Although the goals for 2016 were very ambitious, I have to say, that the YPSA did a great job. The YPSA was presented in Italy, France, Great Britain, Australia, the Netherlands, Chile and Austria. The umbrella organisations showed a lot of respect to work the YPSA did already. Also in Chile, Italy, London and Austria there were meetings with over 150 young Swiss abroads.

I am looking forward to the future of this project. 2017 will be another intensive year and the goals are set and challenging. At the same time to the elections of the OSA council the YPSA-Committee will be re-elected and working groups on projects will be created. More meetings in different countries will be held and the introduction of an own website is on the agenda.

I would like to say many thanks to the committee, who does a wonderful job and I hope this project will obtain for the future.

Just keep moving on. The youth is our future.

Berne, in March 2017

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Daniel Bijsterbosch', written on a light-colored background.

Daniel Bijsterbosch

Head of Youth Service

# The Youth Parliament Swiss Abroad

Who we are?

We would like to introduce you our youth organization that is working closely with the Organization of the Swiss Abroad (OSA). Within Switzerland, we have witnessed a surge in youth associations, youth parliaments that aim to improve the community within a region or a city. Seeing as these projects have turned out to be huge successes, we felt that there was a need for the representation of the youth of the 5<sup>th</sup> Switzerland as well.

For this reason, the association *Youth Parliament of the Swiss Abroad* (YPSA) was founded on August 15th, 2015 in Geneva. In October of the same year the first elections were held and a comitee of thirteen members from all over the world was put together. The comitee members currently represent five regions, respectively: Africa, Europe, North-America, South-America and Oceania. In the future, we hope to expand our reach in order to make the comitee more representative of its



members, who reside in 22 nations across all continents.

You can find more information to each person on the official Website of the OSA and Swissinfo:

<http://aso.ch/en/politics/youth-parliament>

or

<http://www.swissinfo.ch/action/ger/40468916/search?query=Auslandschweizer+Jugendparlament&submit=Suchen>

What we do?

## ***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. This 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!

Our activities:

In order to keep track and inform about our activities, we decided to issue this annual report with the details of the organized events and the presence of YPSA worldwide. In the following pages there is a list of activities sorted in chronological order, which took place during 2016. Some of them contain a small text with some details about the activities.

### *A new logo for YPSA*

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The new logo of YPSA was developed thanks to an online challenge on social media. A great number of proposals were submitted and evaluated online on our Facebook page.

In the final round the best 10 logos were selected and evaluated by the committee. Only one and the author (Name Surname, Country) was awarded with a 100 CHF prize.

## Projects and Meetings 2016

20.03.2016 Helden, the Netherlands - Lis Zandberg

### NHA Southern Annual Meeting- Annual General Assembly of the Southern Swiss Club of the Netherlands

Annual General Assembly of the Southern Swiss Club of the Netherlands. Introduction of YPSA to Members and Council of the Schweizer Club Sueden.

*[...] "The discussion of the day was the future of Swiss clubs, as all members are aware of the ageing population of these organizations. The original purpose of these clubs was giving members who had just emigrated a little part of home in their new country. Due to globalisation and the invention and improvement of the internet and other media however, it has become easier to stay in contact with the roots, and to return when homesickness escalates, the clubs are becoming rather obsolete." [...]*

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16. April 2016 Brunnen, Switzerland – Guido D’Auria & Davide Wüthrich

### YPSA recognized as Youth Parliament from ASO



During the ASO Council held in Brunnen, our association was officially recognized by the ASO. This is a further step to develop our activities and to spread YPSA. The 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Area for the Swiss Abroad, one of the few remaining monuments of the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Swiss Confederation in 1991, was celebrated. The “Area for the Swiss Abroad” is being used as a park and attracts a vast number of visitors every year. Twenty large scale presentation boards were inaugurated in 2005 which inform

the public of the diverse Swiss diaspora and the close relations existing between our fellow countrymen all over the world to Switzerland. This place in Brunnen belongs to the over 746,000 Swiss living abroad. It symbolises their connection with their home country:

*“A point of reference of the Swiss living abroad. It symbolizes the bond of the Swiss Abroad with their home country”*

(auslandschweizerplatz.ch)

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23.04.2016 The Hague, the Netherlands - Lis Zandberg

## NHA Annual Meeting- Annual General Assembly of the Swiss Clubs of the Netherlands

Introduction of YPSA to Members and Council of the NHA, the federation of the Swiss clubs in the Netherlands. Most members of the Dutch Swiss clubs far exceed our desired age category. They were however very enthusiastic about our organization and hope we do well. They may have accidentally become part of our Facebook group. The meeting was very long and focussed on many aspects of the life of the Swiss in the Netherlands with only half an hour focus on YPSA. It was however received very positively, as many of the members were very excited that the younger generations were interested in their roots and that we are making an effort to create a network and a platform.



29.04 - 01.05 Agen, France - Davide Wüthrich & Najib Bourkhis

## UASF Annual Meeting

Our representatives participated to the day of the conference and the general assembly. From ASO also co-director Ariane Rustichelli and Board Member Irène Beutler-Fauguel participated to the event. The theme of the afternoon congress was "Swiss Agriculture".

01-03.08.2016 Penthes, Geneve - Davide Wüthrich

## Rencontre des Clubs Suisses

Our representant was invited to the conference on "Modernisation et transmission des traditions". Other panel members present: Guillermo Paez - *President Club Suisse Rosario* (Argentina), Constantin Kokkinos – *President club Suisse Athens* (Greece), Pierre-Alain Avoyer *Dubai*, Davide Wüthrich – *President YPSA*. YPSA brought its point of view on how the traditions are seen by the young people.



5-7.08.2016 Bern, Switzerland

Marie Lingl, D'Auria Guido, Edoardo Trebbi, Najib Bourkhis, Wüthrich Davide, Kaufmann Wanja

## 100 years of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad

The event started on Friday, when we joined the 130 young people and participate to the group projects of the ASO Camps. We assisted the groups and had the chance to meet Federal Councilor Didier Burkhalter, who had a speech celebrating the 100 years of the OSA and after that the young people who participate to the camps presented their projects. On Saturday, the committee members had their meeting, and it was an opportunity to talk face to face and not only like on the Skype sessions. We had our first general assembly with 130 young Swiss abroad attending it. During the general assembly, we presented the following points:

- History of YPSA
- Presentation of the comitee members
- Brief overview of the statutes
- Purposes
- Achievements 2015/2016
- Ongoing Projects

We hosted different workshops for the young Swiss abroad as well.



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

## CSA Oceania Presidents Conference

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*".

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

## CPJ (Congress of the Youth Parliament) by DSJ (Federation of the Young Parliament)



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.

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29.10.2016, Wien Österreich - Vera Victoria Moll & Matthias Kreinz

## First YPSA Meeting in Vienna Austria

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.



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03.11.2016, Royal Society of Medicine, London – Davide Wüthrich

## Engaging Young Swiss Adults in the Swiss Political Process

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 Voeffray, 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.

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

## 140 Years of the arriving of the Swiss settlers in Patagonia

As representors of YPSA Latin America, 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 Latin America. 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 take on a

commitment to spread YPSA between young people.



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. - YPSA was present in all formal events in Punta Arenas. - We included the swiss young people of Punta Arena to our community. 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 Latin America and YPSA appeared in the newspaper of Punta Arenas.

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

## First Meeting of YPSA in Chile

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

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26.11.2016 Catania, Italy – Guido D’Auria

## YPSA and UGS at the 135<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Swiss Club in Catania

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 135<sup>th</sup> 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 the Swiss geologist who lived in this city located in the south of Italy.



# YPSA-Goals 2017...

We have set our goals for 2017 in four different areas: Communication, Structure, Events and Politics. These goals are both internal and external. The most important goals are listed down below:

## 1. COMMUNICATION

Internal:

Due to the fact that the work on the YPSA is voluntary and attending to all the meetings is difficult, we want all the members of the committee to at least participate at three of the six meetings per year. Also every member of the committee gives at least to all the subjects discussed his opinion or statement.

External:

The YPSA needs a website, on which it can present itself and give an overview of the projects which have been achieved or to inform about future projects.

The YPSA also aims to send at least two or three newsletters annually.

Communication with the OSA and also the Swiss Clubs has to be increased and improved. For that the president of the YPSA will meet the OSA-Directors regularly and contacts the umbrella organisations of the Swiss Clubs.

The YPSA will contact the Swiss Revue to discuss the possibility of publishing articles.

## 2. STRUCTURAL

The YPSA has a small budget that gives the opportunity to visit meetings of the OSA Council, Partnerorganisations (like DSJ – Dachverband Schweizerische Jugendparlamente), Swiss Clubs and to organise small events.

The YPSA-Committee creates a concept how the budget is going to be used and how the future budget is ensured.

In autumn 2017 the YPSA-Committee is going to be (re-)elected for the coming two years (2017 – 2019).

## 3. SOCIAL Events

The YPSA supports the Creation of new YPSA-Groups in 2017: Austria, Netherlands, Germany, France, UK, Chile.

The YPSA overtakes the organisation of the participation of young Swiss abroad at the federal youthsession taken place in Berne.

## 4. POLITICAL

The YPSA informs about the political work of the OSA-Council, gathers opinions on the topics, subjects and projects and represents the opinion within the OSA-Council.

The YPSA informs about elections and votations in Switzerland. The goal is too increase the interest on Swiss politics, to make the young Swiss Abroad aware of their political rights and responsibilities.

Thank you    Grazie    Merci    Dankjewel    Obrigado    Danke



**YPSA-Comitee 2015 – 2017**

Davide Wühtrich (Italy), Lis Zandberg (Netherlands), Najib Bourkhis (Tunesia), Marie Lingl (France)

Timothy Forman (Tschech Republic), Edoardo Trebbi (Italy), Jacqueline Siffer (USA)

Wanja Kaufmann (Sweden), Guido D’Auria (Italy), Ryan Cooper (Australia), Samuel Cremieux (USA)

Laura Derrer (Chile), Francisca Espinoza (Chile), Michael Valente (Canada)

# Contact

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