

Dear Swiss compatriots,  
Dear friends of Switzerland!

After many months in which our lives were strongly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, we can look to the future with more optimism. Although the pandemic has not yet disappeared and further efforts are required, vaccination has contributed greatly to a more

effective fight against the disease.

At the Swiss Embassy, we were delighted to see our national football team play two UEFA EURO 2020 matches at the Olympic Stadium in June 2021, and to welcome fans who had come from Switzerland at a time when travel has become more complicated. In addition to political, economic and cultural ties, people-to-people exchanges are important for bilateral relations between countries.

It is a good sign that big events can take place again. However, the pandemic is not yet over. Therefore, this year's National Day reception will take the form of a friendly reception for members of the Swiss community only. In addition, as last year, the [website "Mission August 1st"](#) will offer a digital version of the Swiss National Day. Have a look and discover what Switzerland means to people all around the world! At the same time, I invite you to watch the [greetings](#) of the President of the Swiss Confederation, Mr Guy Parmelin.

The Swiss Embassy remains at your disposal by e-mail or by appointment. Moreover, we are looking forward to staying in touch through our Facebook page.

The whole team of the Swiss Embassy wishes you a wonderful summer and a nice celebration of the Swiss National Day!

Yours sincerely,  
Muriel Peneveyre

## Contents

[News](#)

[Swiss International Cooperation](#)

[Culture & Education](#)

[Consular Affairs](#)

[Embassy news](#)

[Facts & Figures](#)

[Useful Swiss links](#)



**Video message** – ambassador's greetings on the occasion of the Swiss National Day (1 August)

---

## News

### Swiss national football team in Baku



The Swiss national football team played two group matches of the European football championship in Baku in June 2021. After a draw against Wales (1:1) on 12 June, the Swiss team won against Turkey on 20 June (3:1), allowing them to reach the next round despite losing to Italy in Rome (0:3) between the two matches in Baku.

Following this successful start in Baku, the Swiss national team won against one of the strongest teams of the tournament, France, on 28 June in Bucharest. Switzerland's EURO dreams ended on 2 July, when the team lost to Spain in St. Petersburg.

Reaching the quarter-finals was a historic event. Congratulations to the Swiss football team!

⇒ For additional information: Ambassador Peneveyre's [interview with Report.az](#) (April 2021)

---

## Swiss International Cooperation

### Switzerland supports Art and Culture projects despite the pandemic



In the last twelve months, the Swiss Cooperation Office awarded Art and Culture projects to seven individuals and organizations despite the challenges imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. These projects cover different topics such as raising children's gender equality awareness, cultural and language education of young boys and girls in rural areas, reviving a national cultural heritage of a type of embroidery and supporting a small film festival in Ganja, the second largest city of the country. Most recently, Switzerland also supported culture projects to popularize string drawing art among young boys and girls in Ganja, as well as the production of an audio version of a popular child book by Iranian illustrator and author Reza Dalvand.

The Swiss Cooperation Office will continue supporting Art and Culture projects as part of the Swiss Cooperation Programme 2022-2025 for the South Caucasus.

---

### Swiss-funded projects handle the impact of COVID-19

The Swiss Cooperation Office financially supported projects addressing the negative consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Through the support of *United Aid for Azerbaijan (UAFA)* and *Reliable Future*, two local NGOs, child development specialists, social workers and psychologists got trained on how to reduce child stress. The projects strengthened the capabilities and resources of parents in children's lives of more than 1'200 households and raised the awareness of officials working in the area of children welfare.

The *Finance and Social Innovation Consulting (FSIC)*, a sister company of the *Azerbaijan Micro-Finance Association (AMFA)* conducted a survey on the impact of the pandemic on micro and small businesses in Azerbaijan. Based on the results of the survey, *FSIC* prepared policy recommendations on how to tackle the concerns of micro and small businesses in Azerbaijan.

The Swiss Cooperation Office has recently announced a **call for proposals** for projects on environment, climate change and gender issues, to be implemented by civil society organizations registered in Azerbaijan. For further information regarding this call for proposals please visit the [Embassy's website](#).

## Exhibition "Closely" at the Baku Museum of Modern Art



Ambassador Muriel Peneveyre attended the opening of the exhibition "Closely" by the prominent artist Sabina Shikhlinskaya, on 22 June 2021 at the Baku Museum of Modern Art.

This multimedia exhibition of contemporary art is part of a cultural project supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). "Closely" looks at the people behind the oil industry.

The exhibition was open to the public from 23 June to 27 July 2021.



## Culture & Education

### Presentation at ADA University's summer school



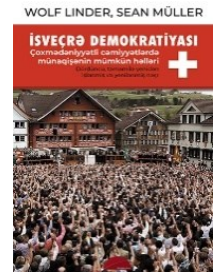
Since 2017, ADA University has been organizing summer schools for schoolchildren from Baku and other regions of Azerbaijan. On 15 July 2021, Ambassador Peneveyre gave a presentation on Switzerland, answering several interesting questions from the participants.



### Books by Swiss authors available in Azerbaijani

This year three books by different Swiss authors were published in Azerbaijan:

Wolf Linder and Sean Muller's book "Swiss democracy" (4<sup>th</sup> edition) has been translated and published by Kitabistan publishing house in collaboration with the Swiss Embassy. It contains an in-depth analysis of some key features of Switzerland's unique political system, such as federalism and direct democracy.



Besides, two books were translated into Azerbaijani and published by Alatoran publishing house with the support of Pro Helvetia, the Swiss arts council.



The tragi-comic play "The Visit" (in German: "Der Besuch der alten Dame") was written by Swiss author and artist Friedrich Dürrenmatt in 1956. A wealthy older woman returns to her hometown after a long absence and proposes a dreadful bargain to its inhabitants.

To find out more about F. Dürrenmatt's life (1921-1990) and his works, which have been translated into more than 40 languages and have given rise to numerous film adaptations, visit the [Dürrenmatt Center's website](http://www.durrenmattcenter.ch).



"13 True Stories" ("13 Wahre Geschichten"), written by Alex Capus (born 1961), allows you to discover true short stories about interesting but forgotten historical events or characters linked to Switzerland.

---

## Consular Affairs

### Entry into Switzerland in the context of COVID-19

#### a) For foreign citizens

As of 19 July 2021, the regular entry requirements (i.e. those which were applicable before COVID-19) apply again for persons residing in Azerbaijan. => See Embassy's website, [chapter "Visa - Entry to and residence in Switzerland"](#).

Visa customers should [book a time slot online](#). They can submit their paper application with documentation and passport through a mandated third person (simple Power of Attorney), if the finger prints were captured less than 59 months ago and can be copied. In case copying is not possible, the customer will be invited to come in person to the visa section so that the finger prints can be captured again.

⇒ For further information, please consult the website of the Swiss [State Secretariat for Migration \(SEM\)](#).

Please note: if your trip includes stops in other foreign countries, it is your responsibility to check the travel restrictions in force in those countries.

#### b) For all travellers

To see what health-related measures apply when entering **Switzerland**, consult the website of the [Federal Office of Public Health](#) (FOPH) and the online [Travelcheck](#).

Please note: when returning to **Azerbaijan**, special measures related to COVID-19 also apply. They are defined by the Azerbaijani authorities. => Website of the [Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan](#).

---

## Embassy News

We are pleased to inform you of two important changes in the Consular division of the Embassy:

- **Mrs Christa Felder Raimondi**, Consul, has been heading the Consular division since October 2020. Prior to that, she held numerous positions within the Swiss diplomatic network, most recently at the Swiss Embassy in Nur-Sultan, where she was Deputy Head of Mission from 2016 to 2020.
- From September 2021, **Mr René Huber**, who is currently working with the Swiss Embassy in Pristina, will take up the position of Vice-Consul and Head of the Visa Section. Mr Huber will be the **main contact persons for Swiss citizens** in Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan, regarding *inter alia* Swiss identity documents and civil status affairs.



*Christa Felder Raimondi*

### **Important reminder for Swiss citizens:**

Please do not forget to always keep the Embassy ([baku@eda.admin.ch](mailto:baku@eda.admin.ch)) updated about any changes of addresses, e-mail addresses, phone numbers, civil status, births of children, etc. Many thanks!

## Facts & Figures



Switzerland.

# SWITZERLAND 3.0

## >90%

of all households have an internet connection.

Most-used social media and data services:

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| WhatsApp           | 74% |
| YouTube            | 64% |
| Facebook           | 60% |
| Facebook Messenger | 32% |
| Instagram          | 32% |
| LinkedIn           | 17% |



## 11.2 M

mobile phones in Switzerland: on average 1.3 per person.

## WWW.

A computer scientist from CERN, just outside Geneva, invented the World Wide Web in 1989. Today, more than 20 international organisations are involved in overseeing and managing the internet in Geneva.

## NEWS SOURCES



Online (incl. social networks)

83%



Television

62%



Print media

49%



Social networks

45%



Radio

42%

© FDFA, PRS 2019 / Sources: Federal Office of Communications (OFCOM), Reuters Institute, Federal Statistical Office (FSO) / For more, visit [aboutswitzerland.org](http://aboutswitzerland.org)

## Useful Swiss links



Swiss authorities online: [www.ch.ch](http://www.ch.ch)



Switzerland.

Discover Switzerland: [www.aboutswitzerland.ch](http://www.aboutswitzerland.ch)



HOUSE OF SWITZERLAND

House of Switzerland: [www.houseofswitzerland.org](http://www.houseofswitzerland.org)



Switzerland.  
SWITZERLAND

Switzerland Tourism: [www.myswitzerland.com](http://www.myswitzerland.com)



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

Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA): [www.aso.ch](http://www.aso.ch)

---

*... and please visit the Embassy's Facebook page to stay informed:*

<https://www.facebook.com/SwissEmbassyBaku/>

**Embassy of Switzerland in Baku**

Boyuk Qala 9, AZ-1004 Baku

Tel.: +994 12 437 38 50

Fax: +994 12 437 38 51

[www.eda.admin.ch/baku](http://www.eda.admin.ch/baku)

[baku@eda.admin.ch](mailto:baku@eda.admin.ch)

*Copyright © 2021 Embassy of Switzerland in Baku. All Rights Reserved.*