



EUROPEAN YOUTH PARLIAMENT SWITZERLAND

ANNUAL REPORT

2019

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

- 4 Foreword by the President**
- 8 Report on the different portfolios**
- 20 Our events**
- 28 Our members**



Patricia Azevedo
President of EYP Switzerland

Foreword

Dear members of EYP Switzerland,

The year of 2019 has been quite an adventure for our organisation. With this report we look back at our accomplishments. It was a year full of challenges and progress, on which we look back with great pride but from which we also take lessons into the future. In this report you will find a detailed summary of the different activities of EYP Switzerland throughout this past year.

We kicked the year off with a round of four Regional Sessions (RSs), taking place in Basel, St-Gallen, Neuchâtel and Crans-Montana. We are more than proud to witness that we were able to develop our outreach strategy during this term and reach out to new areas of Switzerland. The success and impact of these four well-organised events was shown in the number of applications for our National Selection Conference (NSC), which took place in Zürich in late August. Zürich 2019 exceeded expectations in many ways. Indeed, the NSC was a success-story in itself, not only from an organisational point of view, but also in terms of the theme implementation which was « Overcoming challenges on health and well-being ». We were greatly humbled by the amount of people who were willing to contribute to this project, which was mirrored in the high amount of applications received.

The Organising Team also managed to implement new concepts during this event, such as an earlier time for Resotyping, an afternoon filled of activities for the delegates and even a Soul Fair. They also managed to gather support from highly respectable individuals and institutions, always with a specific connection to the theme of the session.

We held an annual meeting with our teachers during the session, not only gathering valuable input for the further development of our organisation, but also a very positive feedback regarding the event itself.

Besides our flagship events, EYP Switzerland also offered several different events to our members throughout the year, including a social brunch, an AGM, a members' event during the NSC Zürich 2019, a Members & HO's Weekend and a Christmas Day. We especially enjoyed our Members' weekend during which the members were able to enjoy a vast array of training opportunities.

2019 has been an extremely exciting and successful year for our organisation. As a Board, we reviewed our vision and goals for the term, keeping in mind long term aims. We focused on many discussions, such as our policies, implementing a National Safe Person, developing our outreach and communication strategy and many more. Besides running the events of our organisation, we were able to make significant progress in the expansion of our network as well as gathering increased support from third parties for our events.

Even if we can already now see the positive impact of the changes made, I am confident that the growth of EYP Switzerland will be fostered for years to come! Indeed, we plan to look forward. I know that 2020 and the years to follow hold great things for our organisation and I am very much looking forward to seeing what further places we can go from here.

On behalf of the Board of EYP Switzerland,

Patricia Azevedo,
President of EYP Switzerland



The picture was taken in October 2019. Missing on the picture: Camille Bertholet

The Board of EYP Switzerland of 2019

Patricia Azevedo President
Eléonore Bleeker Vice-President
Jan Ruflin Communication
Nicolas Zazzali Finance and Membership
Xavier Gonzales Regional Coordination
Miriam Aitken International Coordination
Jana Bühler National Coordination
Camille Bertholet National Events & Member Coordination

Manon Schürch Auditor
Anna Zellweger Auditor

***REPORTS ON THE
DIFFERENT PORTFOLIOS***





Miriam Aitken
Board Member on
International Coordination

International Coordination

The International Coordination portfolio is in charge of EYP Switzerland's relations with the international governance structures of the EYP and the wider network. This entails the representation of EYP Switzerland at the Board of National Committee (BNC) Meetings, the management of delegate exchanges and the coordination of the academics and Official's teams at Swiss sessions.

International Governance

EYP Switzerland was represented at both bi-annual BNC Meetings, in April and November 2019 respectively. Of particular interest were the continued discussions on developing a framework to safeguard safety and dignity within EYP. Building on the decision to implement clear policies on participant welfare in regards to mental health concerns, bullying and sexual assault, the network discussed various issues to continue developing and improving the mechanisms to deal with such cases. In line with these efforts, EYP Switzerland appointed its first National Safe Person, Sezen Tezare, who acted as an Event Safe Person at the NSC Zürich 2019. In the coming year, we will continue developing and defining the role and establish a clear framework for the implementation of the network-wide policy on safeguarding safety and dignity in EYP.

A further point of interest was the abolishment of the teacher's quota on the Governing Body (GB), which works on the strategic development of the network. As of the GB elections in winter 2019, there is no requirement for a teacher to be elected.

Finally, the coming year 2020 will see the formulation of a new EYP International Strategy. This strategic framework will set the goals and values we work for as a network. On a national level, these discussions will contribute to the strategic thinking and decision-making within EYP Switzerland.

Building on the efforts started in the portfolio last year, we have made attempts to involve the Members of EYP Switzerland in the decision-making processes on an international level. Thus, Members had the opportunity to voice their opinion concerning the GB election, which influenced the formulation of EYP Switzerland's NC vote. The efforts to continue this involvement will continue in the coming year, with the aim of further including Members' opinions in BNC decisions.

Delegate exchange

The exchange of delegates between National Committees is a central aspect of the work of the European Youth Parliament. It allows youths to participate in sessions across the continent and experience intercultural exchange, international cooperation and cross-cultural decision-making first hand. To this end, the National Selection Conference Zürich 2019 hosted delegations from Austria and Sweden. Furthermore, a record number of 98 session spots abroad were secured for Swiss delegates to be selected for. This gave the opportunity to the majority of delegates who attended the NSC Zürich to participate in a session abroad. For the coming year, we are working to maintain our relations with the broad range of National Committees to ensure a continuation of fruitful exchanges between our members.

Overall, the year 2019 was a fruitful one, seeing the beginning of the implementation of various long-term strategies, including participant welfare and Members' involvement. We seek to continue these efforts in the coming years and maintain our relations with the wider EYP network.



Nicolas Zazzali
Board Member on
Finance and Membership

Finance and Membership

One of the most important parts of this portfolio being the bookkeeping we want to make sure that we comply with the Swiss laws. Therefore, on the advice of the last Board Member responsible of finances and the auditors we contacted an external accountant and we are writing a contract with one of them to be able to start this collaboration as soon as possible.

On the subject of policies, we reworked and merged the two policies on reimbursement because they completed each other and let us have a common basis on how every reimbursement should be given. We adapted the different reimbursement to the current practice of EYP Switzerland. Regarding the implementation of new policies, a policy on the new delegates travel fund will be implemented during the next term.



Jan Ruflin
Board Member on
Communication

Communication

2019 was a year following the innovative path the Communication Department of EYP Switzerland took last year!

With the new look and the updated content, our website has become an even more important information and communication channel.

Facebook became less popular in the last year(s), therefore we also set the focus on Instagram. We currently have around 500 followers on there and we will try to reach even more people next year!

The Regional Sessions and the NSC Zürich 2019 brought even more attention to our organisation and therefore also our communication channels. We also created new promotional flyers and more materials are being planned.

Romain Prina joined the Department this year and we were very happy to have his support in several areas, such as the „good old newsletter“ or the instagram page.

Next years' task is to keep up or even enlarge the activities on the Instagram page as well as ensure the standards set in the past year overall. It is important to ensure a good internal and external communication of our National Committee and therefore also a good representation of EYP Switzerland.

Our Sessions receive a high number of applications. We are visible on several different channels and reach more than 1000 people with our newsletters. Almost 6'000 people have liked our Facebook pages.



Jana Bühler
Board Member on
National Coordination

National Coordination

This portfolio entails the tasks of delegates administration, as well as maintaining school relations and recruiting delegates for the upcoming Regional Sessions.

Given the broad variety of tasks of this portfolio, the department was joined by three Department Members; Nina Steffen, Johannes Hahn and Valérie Cafaro. Two of them were in charge of delegates recruitment, as well as the organisation of an In-School Session. The third member was in charge of supporting communication with the teachers.

Delegates administration / NSC Zürich 2019

Following the record number of over 300 delegates registered for the Regional Sessions 2019, over 150 delegates applied to the NSC Zürich 2020. The application process was not as smooth as in the previous year and a lot of applications were only completed after the deadline. There was a considerably long waiting list, but thanks to cancellations, almost everyone on the waiting list could be offered a spot at the Session.

The NSC Zürich hosted over 30 different delegations, including two international delegations from Austria and Sweden. Overall, the administration and communication with the delegates was smooth and well coordinated with the session's Delegates' Support team.

The NSC is also the most important event to maintain the teacher's network. For the second time the teachers' organised a nice cultural program for themselves. It was completed by the annual feedback session with the Board and the annual workshop, which was led by Aïcha Bouchelaghem and Mahaut Estier.

Outreach and Inclusion

For the first time in two years, EYP Switzerland was present at the Step into Action Fair, organised by Euforia in Bern last November. It was an enriching experience and we met a lot of interested students.

Furthermore, the department made an effort once again to reach out to schools in more remote regions of Switzerland. Unfortunately, this year the efforts were not as

successful as in previous years and accordingly the amount of delegates registered was with less than 200 registration significantly lower than in previous years.

One possible reason for this, is that the Regional Sessions' HOs were not as included in the process as usual. The entire promotion process still needs some improvement and better planning for the next term. This is definitely something that can be improved in the future.

On the other hand, after several delays, the travel fund for delegates will finally be implemented for the first time at the Regional Sessions 2020. The implementation of the fund is one of few inclusion initiatives, to enable delegates from weaker financial backgrounds to participate in our sessions.

In-School Session

Following last year's success, the 4th In-School Session took place at the Gymnasium Kirchenfeld in Bern end of January 2020. During one day, students got to experience teambuilding, committee work and the general assembly. The feedback from students and teachers was once again very positive. It is great to see this new session format being implemented on a regular basis in the past year.

Additional Projects

In coordination with a teacher, the concept for a teacher's training was developed. The one day training was planned and implemented by Aïcha Bouchelaghem and Mahaut Estier, using some of EYPs' common theories and methodologies. The feedback from the teachers who participated in the training in Basel in early April, was very positive.

Another project from the past that has been re-implemented by the department, is the Teachers' Newsletter. Given the overall positive feedback from teachers, it would be great to see this project further developed and implemented in the upcoming years.



Eléonore Bleeker
Board Member on Regional
Coordination (until October 2019)
and Vice-President

Regional Coordination

Following the outreach path led by the year 2018, 2019 saw EYP Switzerland further explore new areas in Neuchâtel and Crans-Montana, which both welcomed Regional Sessions for the first time. The year 2019 was also the opportunity for the organisation to reconnect with Basel and Saint-Gallen, both hosting a Regional Session after a few years of absence. This challenge took place only thanks to the determination and willingness of the Head Organisers; Rebekka Sohns, Sara Walder, Deborah Bortoletto, Julia Nettekoven, Nicola Spoletini and Audrey Caloz. Each of them led a team of 6-8 organisers, mostly fresh delegates from the NSCs Lausanne 2017 and Luzern 2018. Their mentorship and leadership experience contributed in shaping a new generation of active members and passed them on the EYP spirit.

The sessions together gathered a total number of 220 delegates, which is slightly less than the delegates hosted by the Regional Sessions 2018. As for the year 2018, it is reasonable to assume that the outreach process implies less delegates for the sessions held there. It however means that many delegates came from schools new to our organisation. This outreach in the hosting of our Regional Sessions allowed the organisation to be discovered and more established in areas where it was so far not present, such as Neuchâtel and Wallis. Moreover, EYP Switzerland's come back in Basel is confirmed with the upcoming NSC Basel 2020, which is so far mainly organised by Head Organisers and organisers having held such positions at the Regional Sessions 2019.

The academic side of the sessions was led by Presidents Lars Eirik Hovland from Norway, Sara Huseby from Norway, Yannick Léonard from Belgium and Margarita Samouridou from Cyprus. Their experience allowed the sessions to produce aca-

demically excellent resolutions as well as enriching debates. Every session also counted 2 vice-presidents and 6-8 chairpersons with a variety in terms of experience and nationality. Slightly less than half of the vice-presidents and chairpersons were members of EYP Switzerland. The Regional Sessions thus gave our members the possibility to strengthen, share and further develop their personal skills.

For the second year in a row, Media Teams were able to capture and build on the spirit of each Regional Session. Each Media Team, led by one or two Editors, was composed of four journalists, of which around a third were members of EYP Switzerland. The Editors, Teresa Sandeman from Portugal, Iraz Kücükler from Turkey and Eike Plhak from Germany, Elena Ignatiadou from Greece and Nisso Käser from Switzerland led mostly first time journalists in producing lasting memories for all participants of the session as well as bringing high-quality and varied media supports to the session.

Looking back at two years of outreach strategy, we must acknowledge that this has led to a lowering of attendance at our Regional Sessions, while not affecting the number of participants to our National Selection Conferences. This decrease should however be analysed alongside the concrete advantages that an outreach strategy provides our organisation with. New sponsors, infrastructures, schools and local visibility are assets that should from now on be nurtured to see EYP Switzerland benefit from this strategy on the long-run, which is the vision we hope to see in the upcoming years.



Camille Bertholet
Board Member on National
Events and Member Coordination

National Events and Member Coordination

National events

This year we organised five national events, four of which actually took place. The National Events & Alumni Coordination portfolio handles all organisational aspects of these events.

Firstly, our AGM took place in Bern on the 23rd of February and gathered approximately 20 members. Five Board Members from the Board 2018 were re-elected in their position, and we welcomed two new Board Members : Nicolas Zazzali and Miriam Aitken. The portfolio for External Affairs did not attract any application and therefore this portfolio was put aside to be reviewed by the Board. It was a successful gathering, followed by a nice brunch. The event was greatly appreciated by all members present.

Secondly, we were supposed to hold a Summer Barbecue on the 3rd of August, at the same place as last year, in Romont. However, due to the lack of participants, we had to cancel the event.

Our third members event took place during the NSC Zürich, on the 2nd of September, where the Farewell party was open for all willing members of EYP CH to join.

From the 12th-13th of October, we had our 4th event : the Alumni Week-end. Members from all over Switzerland gathered in Bern to attend various trainings. The Head Organisers of our Regional Sessions and National Session were attending a special programme, designed especially for them to be prepared for head-organising their sessions in the best conditions. We also had a particular module, “Shape your NC”, designed for members to be able to give their opinion on the National

Committee and how things work in EYP CH.

A special gathering was held on the 13th of October during the Alumni Week-end : an Extraordinary General Meeting was called, in order to elect a new Board member in Charge of Regional Coordination. We were pleased to welcome Xavier Gonzales as our new Regional Coordinator. We also noted that, having no applicant for the External Affairs Portfolio, the necessity of having this position in the Board was to be reviewed again before the AGM 2020.

Finally, the Christmas Party took place in Bern, where we all enjoyed a delicious meal and played games in the afternoon. It was the occasion for our members to reconnect with friends from different parts of Switzerland and bond with new friends.

Member Coordination

This portfolio also handles any new request to become a member of EYP Switzerland, and we had approximately twenty new requests this year that did not come from participants of our Regional Sessions. They are all advised on how to join EYP CH and get the most from the network, be it by attending the upcoming events or directly sign up for our regional sessions.

Also, we tried to push further the buddy system, a great idea that was implemented in our network in 2016 but never to its full potential. However, we did not reach our goal to enroll most of the delegates of the NSC Zürich in the Buddy System and that would be a very interesting subject to develop more for the next Board member, in order to keep the new members active.



OUR EVENTS





- {1} In-School Session Bern 2019
- {2} EYP Switzerland Members at the 6th University Selection Conference of EYP Azerbaijan
- {3} Christmas Event 2019
- {4} Members Weekend 2019
- {5} Annual General Meeting 2019
- {6} EYP Switzerland represented at the BNC Meeting in Berlin
- {7} Regional Session Neuchâtel 2019
- {8} EYP Switzerland Members in Dajit - 7th International Forum of EYP Albania
- {9} Extraordinary General Meeting 2019







REGIONAL SESSIONS 2019

BASEL, ST. GALLEN, NEUCHÂTEL, CRANS-MONTANA

Reaching out!



300 young people
at 4 Sessions
in 4 cities:
Basel, St. Gallen, Neuchâtel,
Crans-Montana

For its second year of outreach strategy, EYP Switzerland had the opportunity to host regional sessions in Basel, Saint Gallen, Neuchâtel and Crans-Montana. Reaching out to new schools and regions was a challenge for both the organising teams and the Board of EYP Switzerland.

The dedication of all officials involved in each session is to be thanked for the true success of all the Regional Sessions. EYP Switzerland was able to strengthen its presence and visibility in Basel and further explore other regions. This gave our members the opportunity to shape the next generation's perception of EYP and its spirit.

EYP Switzerland is thankful to all individuals who work tremendously every year on the Regionals Sessions and can only expect equivalent results for the upcoming events.

Eléonore Bleeker
Board Member on Regional Coordination



REGIONAL SESSIONS OF EYP SWITZERLAND 2019



BASEL 2019

2 - 3 MARCH



ST. GALLEN 2019

9 - 10 MARCH



NEUCHÂTEL 2019

23 - 24 MARCH



CRANS MONTANA 2019

29 - 30 MARCH





ZÜRICH 2019

NATIONAL SELECTION CONFERENCE



Zürich 2019
23rd NSC of EYP Switzerland
30th August - 3rd September 2019

200 participants

Re-defining the Wellbeing of a NSC

Under the theme „Overcoming challenges on mental and physical well-being," Zürich 2019 was focused on finding solutions on the improvement of each participant’s well-being. Our goal was to incorporate this theme into every aspect of the session. In order to achieve this the whole team had to rethink the way sessions should be done.

Looking back on the session, an overload of amazing moments come to mind, however, we have a few highlights. From an organisational point we focused on giving our organisers as many possibilities as possible. Therefore, every event had its own Head-Organiser and this was an incredible success as every single HO out did themselves. Our main event was the Soul Fair which was created for this session specifically. The combination of a Euroconcert, a Swiss-Village and a TED Talk event proved to be a big success and gave us the opportunity to give the delegates one more evening off.

When working with a group of incredibly professional people one can focus on the small and memorable moments. For us one of these moments was the opening ceremony where next to the amazing venue the Fraumünster, an organist played a piece which was incredibly moving. This made us think of the incredible work that went into so many similar surreal moments.

When we started organising this session now over 1.5 years ago, it was the vision of two people but we are incredibly happy that it didn't stay this way. Everyone who participated had an impact and created a unique experience which we are very grateful for.

Thank you very much!

Mia van der Merwe and Stanislaw Zytinski
Head-Organisers of Zürich 2019





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 can look back on a history 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 we are setting 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

Hello there, my name is Johannes. I am 20 years old and I study law at the University of Basel. My year in EYP was full of new and exciting experiences. In March, I chaired for the first time at the Swiss Regional Session in Neuchâtel. It was a challenging experience to step into the role of an official. However, it was at the same time very enriching to learn more about the informal-learning and conflict-management methods used by the EYP. These have not only helped me in my EYP-journey, but in my daily life as well.

In summer, I was selected as a Board Department Member on National Coordination. In this role I learned a lot about what goes on behind the scenes to make an EYP-Event happen. Thanks to the Board Member on National Coordination,

Jana Bühler, I was able to gain experience in reaching out to schools and other partners of the EYP CH.

This was a very beneficial experience for my work as a core-organiser of the 24th National Selection Conference of EYP CH (Basel 2020). Being responsible for the fundraising applications with large foundations, it has proven vital to be in regular contact with our partners to prepare the sponsorship-applications for the NSC Basel.

"My year in EYP was full of new and exciting experiences."

In 2020, I am looking forward to making the NSC Basel 2020 a great success together with the rest of the amazing organizing team.



Johannes Hahn, from Switzerland

*Organiser at the NSC Basel 2020,
Member of the National Coordination Department*

Member of EYP Switzerland since 2017



Lisa Söll, from Switzerland
Head-Organiser of the RS Geneva 2020
Member of EYP Switzerland since 2018

MY YEAR IN EYP

Looking back onto 2019 I only realise now how much EYP has changed me and how many things I was able to experience thanks to this organisation. My year started with the International Session in Yerevan, Armenia. Meeting so many young and inspiring people from all around Europe in such a unique and culture rich country was life changing and the main push for me to continue with EYP as an official. Being an organiser at the Regional Session in Neuchâtel was my first insight into being one. The session was a blast and the time flew by. From the Regionals I went on to being an organiser at the National Selection Conference in Zurich. This session taught me many organisational skills I am not only able to use within EYP but also in everyday life.

Organising and bringing a session to life is something that is very exhausting but it gives way more back to you than what you gave when you see all of the happy delegates. This is why I decided to head-organise a Regional Session in Geneva with a friend of mine in 2020. Never the less I missed the

academic part of the sessions as an organiser so I decided to start chairing. I had my first chairing experience in Tallinn, Estonia and I could not have chosen a better session. The team was great, my delegates were active, and the organisation was exceptional. After this session I immediately applied to the next one and about eight weeks later I chaired my next session in Kayseri, Turkey.

"Looking back onto 2019 I only realise now how much EYP has changed me and how many things I was able to experience thanks to this organisation."

Over all, I cannot express how grateful I am for all these wonderful people I met throughout this journey and I look forward to another year full of new and challenging experiences EYP will bring to me.



"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*



"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

*former Federal Councillor, former Head of
the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs*

Published by

European Youth Parliament Switzerland
Rabbentalstrasse 69
3013 Bern, Switzerland

info@eyp.ch

www.eyp.ch

Layout

Jonas Pruditsch, Lars Kieni, Jan Ruffin

Picture Editors

EYP Switzerland

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



www.eyp.ch