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Embassy of Switzerland in Armenia

YEREVAN

NEWSLETTER



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WELCOME BY THE AMBASSADOR



Dear members of the Swiss community, partners and friends of Switzerland.

As we approach the end of 2025, I have the pleasure to invite you to look back together at the dynamic development of Swiss-Armenian relations throughout the year.

For the Embassy, it has been a year of transition with Ambassador Lukas Rosenkranz concluding his successful mandate in August and my arrival as the new Swiss Ambassador to Armenia. I am honored by this mission and grateful for the hospitality and vibrant community of my host country. Travelling to different regions of Armenia over the past months has provided me with precious opportunities to witness the close relations and friendship between our two countries and peoples.

At the regional level, the year has seen significant developments, which have opened a pathway to peace and stability. As underlined in high-level meetings with Armenian authorities, Switzerland supports the efforts for normalization of relations and peace among neighbors. Switzerland's regional cooperation strategy for the South Caucasus 2026-2029 provides a framework for continued cooperation on sustainable economic development, inclusive governance and climate resilience. Events with the business community and participation in the diplomatic and cultural life in Yerevan and beyond have contributed to the strengthening of bilateral relations during this year. Be it in the sweltering summer heat or on a chilly autumn evening, the Swiss community has gathered around cheese fondue for cordial exchanges and festive moments.

The team of the Swiss Embassy in Armenia looks forward to building on the strong foundations of Armenian-Swiss relations and creating new momentum – through active diplomacy, with our international cooperation projects and in the economic, scientific and cultural spheres. In 2026, we will mark the 15th anniversary of the opening of the Swiss Embassy in March 2011. Switzerland will also celebrate thirty years of adherence to the Francophonie. The Swiss presidency of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) as well as the 8th summit of the European Political Community (EPC) and the UN biodiversity summit (COP17) hosted by Armenia offer further opportunities for cooperation in 2026.

We thank everyone who has taken an interest in our activities and contributed to our initiatives this year. We hope you will enjoy reading this Newsletter and look forward to staying in touch. For more information, follow us on the following social media platforms: [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#).

On behalf of the entire team, let me wish you and your loved ones a peaceful holiday season and a happy New Year,
Warm regards,

Andrea Barbara Baumann
Ambassador of Switzerland to the Republic of Armenia

POLITICAL COOPERATION

Political cooperation remained a central pillar of Swiss–Armenian relations in 2025, reflected in an intensive programme of high-level meetings, official visits, and institutional exchanges.

High-level political dialogue

Ambassador Andrea Barbara Baumann and her predecessor, Ambassador Lukas Rosenkranz, were received by senior representatives of the Armenian Government, including the President of the Republic, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Economy, Territorial Administration and Infrastructure, Environment, Internal Affairs, Justice, and Education, Science, Culture and Sports. Discussions focused on Armenia's reform priorities, regional developments, bilateral cooperation, and Switzerland's continued support for peace, democracy, and inclusive development.



Human rights and rule of law

Switzerland maintained close dialogue with institutions responsible for the protection and promotion of human rights in Armenia. This included meetings with the Human Rights Defender of Armenia and participation in events marking Human Rights Day, which focused on ethical standards, equality, and the prevention of discrimination. These engagements reaffirmed Switzerland's human rights-based approach and its support to independent institutions and cooperation with civil society.



Security, humanitarian and disaster-response dialogue



The Embassy supported the visit of Ambassador Tobias Privitelli, Director of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), and his team to Armenia. Meetings with Armenian authorities and international partners focused on national demining capacities, coordination mechanisms, and practical avenues for cooperation in humanitarian response and security-related fields. Efforts continued in the area of the “Recovery After Floods of 2024” project by the Swiss Humanitarian Aid unit.

Dialogue with youth and future professionals



As part of Switzerland's emphasis on long-term partnership, Ambassador Baumann and her predecessor, Ambassador Rosenkranz, engaged with students and young professionals through lectures and discussions, including at joint events with the Yerevan School of Political Studies, the Leadership School and the International Law Fest. These exchanges highlighted Switzerland's diplomatic tradition, negotiation culture, and commitment to the rule of law. The organization of these events were supported by the Embassy.

ECONOMIC COOPERATION

In 2025, the Embassy continued to promote Swiss–Armenian economic relations and to support structured dialogue with the Swiss business community.

Swiss Business Roundtable 2025

On 22 May, the Embassy hosted the Swiss Business Roundtable in Yerevan, bringing together representatives from Armenian public institutions, international organizations, and the private sector. Discussions addressed Armenia's economic outlook, global trade fragmentation, investment opportunities and regional economic trends, with contributions from Switzerland Global Enterprise, the IMF and business associations.



Business community exchanges

The Embassy also hosted a business breakfast and meetings with Swiss companies operating in Armenia, in close cooperation with the Switzerland-Armenia Chamber of Commerce. These exchanges provided a platform to share experiences, strengthen networks, and explore new opportunities for cooperation.



Economic Report 2024-2025

The Embassy produced its annual economic report which highlights current economic problems and challenges, provides an overview of the relevant international and regional economic agreements and ongoing negotiations, and analyses the development of foreign trade and direct investment. The report is available [here](#).

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION



2025 has been a year of progress and partnership. In close cooperation with all its partners, Switzerland advanced climate resilience, sustainable resource management, vocational education and good governance with a strong emphasis on linking policy dialogue to results on the ground.

This year also brought an important milestone: As from 2026, the new Swiss Regional Cooperation Strategy for the South Caucasus 2026–2029 will guide our cooperation in Armenia and the region. It adopts a more focused approach that supports change through targeted Swiss expertise for democracy support and public participation, climate resilience and natural resource management, including Disaster Risk Reduction and inclusive economic development.

The achievements highlighted in this newsletter show what we can accomplish together. As we look forward, our shared commitment will keep turning strategies into action, supporting a resilient and prosperous future for women and men in Armenia.

Swiss supported projects delivered significant results across all the portfolio. Thanks to the efforts of the Improvement of the Local Self Government [LSG](#) project, public participation expanded markedly, with participatory budgeting engaging more than 100,000 citizens. In the climate and environment sector, the Forest Restoration and Climate Change in Armenia [FORACCA](#) project was launched with the Forest Alliance of Armenia and Swiss scientific expertise from WSL, resulting in 260 hectares of new forest planted (over 805,000 trees), 50 hectares restored, three agroforestry pilot sites, restoration of 200 hectares of degraded pastureland, and the construction of a 1,600 m² nursery greenhouse. Skills and employment outcomes in Modernizing VET in Agriculture in Armenia [MAVETA](#) exceeded expectations, with over 1,100 beneficiaries (around 370 women and 750 men) gaining new or improved employment and 755 students enrolling in new vocational programmes.

At the same time, persistent gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) challenges were addressed through a focused workshop for Embassy staff and partners, with the aim of reinforcing inclusive approaches throughout our entire project portfolio.



A highlight of the year was the visit of Ambassador Arno Wicki, Vice Director General of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and Head of the Asia and Americas Division. Ambassador Wicki met with Armenian counterparts and visited Swiss-funded project sites under the FORACCA and the [MAVETA](#) projects. The visits showcased Switzerland's support to community-based forest restoration and climate adaptation, as well as to modern dual education models in agriculture that connect colleges with private-sector partners and equip young people with practical, employment-oriented skills.



In 2025, Switzerland also marked the closure of the Living Landscapes for Market Development in Armenia [LILA](#) project. LILA contributed to improved management of nearly 90,000 hectares of landscapes, supported nature-based economic activities such as ecotourism and wild harvesting, and increased income and employment opportunities for rural communities and small businesses.

Switzerland also continued its engagement in the EU-led Resilient Syunik Team Europe Initiative as a non-EU partner. Through projects such as [LSG](#), [SEIRA](#), and [MAVETA](#), Swiss support complements broader Team Europe efforts to strengthen skills development, local livelihoods, and institutional resilience in the Syunik region. As part of a joint visit, the MAVETA project was showcased as a concrete example of Swiss-supported advancements in vocational education and skills development within the Team Europe framework.



CULTURE AND ART

Cultural exchange remained a visible and dynamic part of Switzerland's engagement in Armenia in 2025, with a strong emphasis on the Francophonie, regional outreach and inclusive cultural initiatives.

Francophonie 2025

Switzerland actively contributed to the two-month Francophonie celebrations through a series of events across Armenia. Highlights included the official launch in Artashat, Swiss film screenings, concerts by Swiss musicians and joint events with partner embassies and universities, including the Francophonie Night at the Université Française en Arménie (UFAR).



Music and performing arts

Swiss-supported concerts and performances took place both in Yerevan and in the regions. A key highlight was the “Echo des Alpes” concert at the Kapan International Music Festival, bringing together Swiss, Armenian and international musicians and reinforcing Switzerland's commitment to cultural life beyond the capital.



Visual arts and inclusion

The Embassy supported contemporary exhibitions and inclusive art initiatives, including the Fifth International Print Biennale and the multidisciplinary exhibition “After Silence” at the Jermuk Gallery, which brought contemporary art to the regions and transformed a former cultural space into a platform for dialogue. Inclusive initiatives such as “Armenia in Braille” further demonstrated how culture can promote accessibility and social inclusion, particularly for children with visual impairments.



SWISS NATIONAL DAY



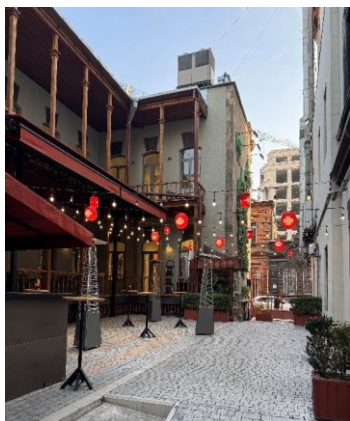
On 1 August, the Embassy of Switzerland in Armenia celebrated Swiss National Day together with members of the Swiss community. The celebration also marked a farewell to Ambassador Lukas Rosenkranz, who concluded his tenure in Armenia in 2025. The Embassy and guests expressed their sincere appreciation for his commitment and dedicated service in strengthening Swiss–Armenian relations over the past years.



CONSULAR MATTERS

Greetings from the Swiss Consulate in Tbilisi

Dear Swiss Community Members,



It was a pleasure to meet you in person and have some interesting talks on the Fondue evening on 20 November 2025 at the Embassy in Yerevan. I hope you enjoyed a cozy evening of melted cheese, good company, and a touch of Swiss flair!

As a consulate with a regional character, I greatly appreciate the exchange with the small but exquisite Swiss community in Armenia. You are, of course, welcome to contact me at any time with consular matters, and I always look forward to meeting with you during my visits to Armenia.

If you are planning a trip to Switzerland and your accompanying persons require a Schengen visa, please note that citizens and official residents of Armenia can lodge their visa application with the Embassy of Poland in Yerevan (visa in representation of Switzerland). However, citizens and official residents of Armenia can also launch their visa application directly at the Swiss Embassy in Tbilisi. Applicants are requested to make an appointment online at www.swiss-visa.ch or to contact us by email (tbilisi.visa@eda.admin.ch). More information about the visa procedure can be found [here](#) on our webpage.

I look forward to assisting you with consular services (e.g. registration, identity documents, civil status, change of address, etc.) (tbilisi.consularaffairs@eda.admin.ch / Phone: +995 322 75 30 01) and remain at your disposal in case of any questions.

I wish you all a peaceful holiday season and a good start into the new year!

Sandro Wittwer
Head of Consular Services
Embassy of Switzerland in Georgia

Renewal of Swiss Passports and ID cards

I would like to point out that you can renew your Swiss identity documents at the Swiss Embassy in Tbilisi. As we do not have the technical equipment to register biometric data in Yerevan, you have the possibility to perform this task not only in Tbilisi or Baku, but also during your next stay in Switzerland. It is recommended to renew a passport six months prior to its expiry date. To initiate the order, please fill out an online application on www.schweizerpass.ch. Should you wish to register your biometric data in any other Swiss Embassy or at a cantonal passport office in Switzerland, please indicate this under 'comments'. The Embassy will then forward your passport application to the relevant Embassy or cantonal passport authority and will inform you by email about the further steps and how to make an appointment.

Keeping the Swiss civil status register up to date

All civil status events that mark a person's life, from birth to death, are recorded in the Swiss civil status register. Swiss abroad, their spouses and children must report all civil status events, declarations and decisions to the Swiss representation responsible for their place of residence. Various civil status documents are therefore required. Detailed information can be found on our [website](#).

Invitation to subscribe to the SwissCommunity newsletter



On behalf of SwissCommunity, we would like to invite you to subscribe to the SwissCommunity newsletter as Swiss citizen living abroad. The SwissCommunity newsletter is sent out around ten times a year. It is dedicated to topics that directly affect the Swiss abroad. It contains the following information:

- **Important news for the Swiss abroad:** Information on AHV, health insurance, military service, e-voting and [webinars](#).
- **Tips and tricks for living abroad:** practical recommendations that make [everyday life](#) easier for Swiss nationals living abroad or make it easier for them to return to Switzerland.
- Insights into **Swiss communities abroad:** on the activities of the [online platform](#).
- **Young Swiss abroad:** Information on [summer- and winter camps and other activities](#) that enable young people to stay connected to Switzerland.

By registering to the newsletter, you maintain and ensure a strong and solidary connection to Switzerland and will always stay informed. You can read the latest newsletter and subscribe to the newsletter [here](#) or on the website www.swisscommunity.org.

Puzzle Interview displaying the Swiss Abroad

On behalf of the "Swiss Review" we invite you to take part in this [Puzzle Interview](#)! The purpose of their series "Fifth Switzerland Puzzle" is to make Swiss people living abroad visible in all their incredible diversity. It has been online since this summer and has grown quite a bit. However, there is not yet any representation of the Swiss living in Georgia or Armenia. All pieces will be published in the "Swiss Review". Individual pieces, text and picture, will also be published on the social media channels of the Organization of the Swiss Abroad.

Switzerland in your pocket



SwissInTouch is an engaging, modern information and communication platform designed especially for Swiss citizens abroad. The app complements existing channels such as the social media pages of the representations and the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), its websites and the FDFA Helpline, which is open year round 24/7 to answer your queries. You no longer have to log on to different platforms or consult different communication channels to get the information you need.

Recommendation for Swiss citizen in case of a crisis

We invite you to follow the elementary emergency recommendations "[Preparedness measures and what to do in a crisis situation](#)" which we consider to be a general measure of reasonable preparedness. If a crisis should occur, the Embassy would contact and inform you. Make sure to let the Embassy of Switzerland in Georgia

([through the online-desk](#)) know about any changes of address, e-mail-address, phone numbers and, if that is the case, inform us of your final departure from Georgia.

Your Civic Rights: voting and electing as a Swiss abroad

On 30 November 2025, the Swiss people have voted on the Federal Popular Initiative 'For a civically engaged Switzerland ([Civic Duty Initiative](#))' and the Federal Popular Initiative 'For a social climate policy – financed fairly through taxation ([Initiative for a Future](#))'. Both initiatives were rejected.

[Popular initiatives](#) do not originate from Parliament or the government, but from the people. They are a cornerstone of direct democracy that allows the citizens to make amendments to the Federal Constitution. To start an initiative, a committee (individuals or parties) must collect within 18 months 100'000 valid signatures of Swiss citizens.

If you are a Swiss citizen abroad, you can sign initiatives and vote at federal level. Dual nationality has no effect on your voting rights. If you wish to do so, you must be registered on the electoral roll of your last commune of residence or, if you have never lived in Switzerland, in your place of origin.

If you are not yet registered to vote or haven't received the quarterly voting materials by post, you can fill in the [form to apply to exercise political rights](#) either online or at the Embassy.

Job vacancy at the Consular Section of the Embassy



The consular team is looking to hire a Visa- and Consular Officer by March 2026. Are you experienced in managing administrative tasks and like to provide excellent customer service? Is communication in various languages your strength? Applications of all nationalities are welcome. Applications from candidates with Swiss citizenship or the citizenship of a member state of the Schengen area will be advantageous. A valid residence- and work permit in Georgia is a prerequisite for all non-Georgian candidates. We encourage you to check out the vacancy note on [our website](#). Deadline to apply is the 31.12.2025.

CONTACT

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