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سفارة سويسرا بمصر



Greetings

Dear Swiss Citizens
Dear partners & friends,

Welcome to this edition of the Swiss Embassy in Egypt's newsletter. I would like to start by warmly wishing you and your loved ones a joyful holiday season. May the blessings of this festive period help us overcome the challenging times we live in and strengthen our bonds with friends and family.

In this edition of the newsletter, I would like to journey back with you and highlight some of the Embassy's main activities and milestones achieved by our team throughout 2021, with the help of our valued partners and friends. As you will notice, this edition of the newsletter has a revamped format, which is intended to take you on a structured tour through our different divisions' main achievements for the year.

On my own behalf, I had the pleasure and the privilege to take up my new assignment as the Swiss Ambassador to Egypt on October 20, 2021, arriving from Colombia together with my husband Ruben. Having been interested in Egypt, its rich culture and fascinating history, since my high school years, I was looking forward to this change as well as to my new duties - consisting of further strengthening the ties between our two countries in the fields of politics, trade and investment, cooperation and climate change, culture and archeology, consular services and others. Getting to know the Swiss community in Egypt



Ambassador Yvonne
Baumann wishes you a
pleasant reading.

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will be particularly dear to my heart and I hope the pandemic will allow for many enriching encounters.

Even though our day-to-day routines appeared to be gradually returning to normal, it is undeniable that the challenges posed by the pandemic are still very present. In spite of these challenges, 2021 has been a significantly productive and fruitful year. The Embassy and its Office of International Cooperation have received two high level visits. The first one is of Swiss Minister of Finance, Federal Councilor Ueli Maurer and the second one was a joint mission for Ambassador Patricia Danzi, Director-General of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and Ambassador Dominique Paravacini, Head of the Economic Cooperation and Development of the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs. The latter was concluded by officially launching the Swiss Cooperation Programme 2021-2024 for Egypt with the Minister of International Cooperation, Rania Al Mashat. I will spare you the spoilers and let you read more about our activities.

Last, but not least, and as we cherish your inputs, your feedback and suggestions regarding the content of our newsletter is always appreciated.

The Embassy team wishes you and your loved ones happy Holidays as well as health and prosperity for the coming New Year.

Yvonne Baumann

Ambassador of Switzerland

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CONSULAR AFFAIRS

Steps to apply for a Swiss COVID certificate for foreign tourists vaccinated abroad



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Visit the National Covid certificate application platform to acquire a Swiss covid certificate

<https://www.covidcertificate-form.admin.ch/foreign>

Foreign tourists who have been vaccinated with an **EMA vaccine** can now apply for a Swiss COVID certificate via a central online platform to gain access into certain indoor spaces when they travel to Switzerland. In Egypt, where most people are vaccinated with the eligible vaccine, the following steps are required to obtain a Swiss COVID certificate:

Step 1: Retrieve your Vaccination Health Certificate in a digital format via: [Google Play](#) or [Apple App Store](#)

Step 2: Download the Swiss Covid App: [Apple App Store](#), [Google Play Store](#) or [Huawei App Gallery](#). And obtain a transfer code.

Step 3: Get your documents ready for upload (e.g. identity, proof of stay, vaccination health certificate etc.), enter your details, transfer code and follow the instructions on <https://www.covidcertificate-form.admin.ch/foreign> for Swiss COVID certificate applications. The processing time of an application can take up to 5 working days and is subject to a fee of CHF 30 for visitors to Switzerland

Online desk for Swiss nationals residing abroad



Using the FDFA's online consular services while abroad. © FDFA

Entering your personal details in the Register of the Swiss Abroad, ordering confirmations, announcing civil status matters and subscribing to publications: [The FDFA's Online desk](#) offers Swiss nationals abroad the opportunity to request services - in several languages - from the comfort of their homes and enter your data yourself, independent of time and location.

Since December 3, 2021 the online desk has a new function: After reporting a civil status event, the client now has the option of **uploading the associated civil status documents into the online desk**. This allows the Embassy to ensure that the client submits the correct original document.

If you need support send us an e-mail to cairo@eda.admin.ch.

[Register with the online desk](#)

VFS Global

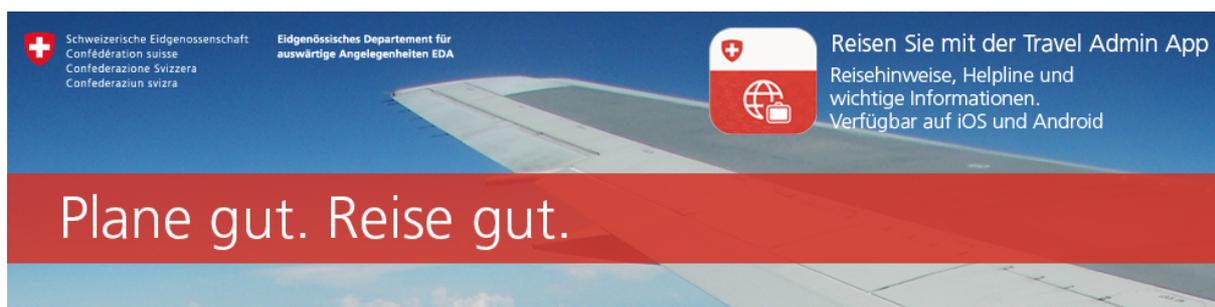
Since mid of July 2021 the Embassy resumed the cooperation with our external visa partner VFS Global for applications of a Schengen visa:

<https://visa.vfsglobal.com/egy/en/che/>

VFS Global operates a call centre that answers applicants' questions about the visa application process in Arabic and English on: +20233323019 or by e-mail during their working hours (8:30 to 16:30 Sunday to Thursday).

The address of the Visa Application Center is: 44, Office #G, Second Floor, Giza Street, Giza, Egypt.

Please visit the [VFS Global website](#) for further information on how to apply for a visa.



POLITICAL & ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Visit of Swiss Finance Minister to Egypt

On 3 & 4 July, 2021, the Swiss Finance Minister, Federal Councillor Ueli Maurer visited Egypt - accompanied by the Swiss Secretary of State for International Finance (SIF), Ms. Daniela Stoffel, as well as representatives of the Swiss financial sector, including the CEOs of Switzerland's largest banks, UBS, Crédit Suisse and Julius Bär.



Federal Councillor Ueli Maurer at the center of the photo

During his visit, Federal Councillor Maurer met with the Egyptian Minister of Finance, Mohamed Maait, as well as with the Governor of the Central Bank of Egypt, Tarek Amer. He also hosted a panel discussion on promoting sustainable financial operations in both countries. The aim of the visit was to strengthen economic relations and explore sustainable investments and finance opportunities in Egypt and Switzerland. The visit is testimony to the

importance of the Egyptian economy and financial market. It is the second visit of the SIF within two years.

Swiss Chamber of Commerce: Exploring New Opportunities

Over the last few months, the Swiss Egyptian Business Association (SEBA) Board has been managing a robust upgrade to the organization's services, administration and brand, so that in 2022 we will be able to celebrate the official launch of SwissCham to replace SEBA as the Swiss Egyptian organization powering trade, business relations and investment opportunities.



The newly-appointed Executive Director of SwissCham is Ranya Shalaby, who comes to the organization with twenty years of experience in nonprofit development, organizational management and business development consulting. As former Director of Development at the American University in Cairo (AUC), and then Executive Director of the Middle East Leadership Association (MELA), she oversaw organizational operations, membership recruitment and management as well as corporate and individual sponsorships, marketing and communications on the local and regional levels. Ranya's passion for building networks, connecting companies and individuals to opportunity, and enhancing business and community development promises to bring the organization's membership a new set of services, benefits and events in 2022, including:

- new media, resources, streamlined services and discounted business benefits;
- monthly CEO meetings, networking events, and delegation receptions;
- an online portal that will facilitate member access to information, services and membership;
- increased recruitment efforts to bring more Swiss representation into the Swisscham network.

For more information or to sign up for membership in Swisscham reach out to ranya.shalaby@seba.org.eg

COOPERATION

Swiss
Cooperation Programme
Egypt
2021-2024



Launch of Cooperation Programme 2021-2024

After more than 40 years of successful and fruitful cooperation between Switzerland and Egypt, we are pleased to announce the launch of Switzerland's Cooperation Programme for Egypt 2021-2024. The launch was hosted by H.E. Dr. Rania Al Mashat, Egypt's Minister of International Cooperation in the presence of Ambassador Patricia Danzi, Director-General of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Ambassador Dominique Paravicini, Head of the Economic Cooperation and Development Division at the State Secretariat for Economic Cooperation (SECO), Ambassador Yvonne Baumann and Dr. Valérie Liechti. We look forward to solidifying an already robust cooperation partnership between the two countries.



Greenish Clubs

2021 showed us vividly how climate change and environmental degradation can significantly affect our lives. As part of our commitment to the environment, the Embassy supported the establishment of environmental clubs in schools and universities across Egypt. The clubs engaged youth of different ages to learn more about the environment and to formulate and implement their own environmental initiatives. The Greenish Festival in October 2021 culminated the project. Panels with experts discussed topics such as sustainable fashion, ecotourism and the role of youth in shaping sustainability. We participated in the discussion on climate policy and presented Switzerland's efforts to support Egypt's transition to a green economy. The Greenish Clubs award ceremony for the most creative initiatives rounded off the day.



High Level visit to promote cooperation

Ambassador Patricia Danzi, Director-General of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and Ambassador Dominique Paravacini, Head of Economic Cooperation and Development of the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) visited Egypt on a joint mission between 31 October and 4 November 2021. The aim of the trip was to launch the 2021-24 cooperation programme and to gain a direct insight into Switzerland's wide-ranging engagement in Egypt. The delegation visited Swiss-funded projects in Cairo as well as in Luxor and Qena, and held talks with government representatives, project partners and UN and civil society organizations. In Luxor and Qena - where the delegation met with the respective Governors -, the trip focused on the area of "Green Growth and Urban Development", including waste management. Other topics were governance, human rights, protection of vulnerable people and migration.



Child-Friendly Justice in Egypt

Switzerland collaborates with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) working towards a Child-Friendly Justice System in Egypt. In November, high level representatives of the key stakeholders of the "Child Justice System" in Egypt met for a policy dialogue event with the participation of the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Social Solidarity, the National Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development, the Public Prosecution Office; along with high level officials and peers from OECD & SDC. They exchanged good practices to help improve governance and coordination mechanisms among national stakeholders.

CULTURE

Settimana della Lingua Italiana, "Atlas" Movie screening



In the context of the annual celebration of the week of the Italian language, the Embassy, in collaboration with the Italian Cultural Institute, organized a movie screening. The film *Atlas*, by the Ticino director Niccolò Castelli, tells the story of a young woman with a passion for high mountain climbing until she abruptly loses her friends during a trip to Morocco.

Cairo International Art District/ Forever is Now



As one of the sponsors, Switzerland participated in the *Cairo International Art District* in Down Town and in the *Forever is Now* International Contemporary Art Exhibition at the Giza Plateau. The events were both organized by *Art D'Égypte*, a privately owned Egyptian firm to support the Egyptian arts and culture scene and included contributions from national and international artists alike. The *Forever is Now* exhibition enjoyed great media coverage and was extended by ten days due to the large number of visitors

The Humans of Tunis village: Urban development



With the support of the Embassy of Switzerland, *U for Urban Impact* was able to develop part of Tunis Village in the governorate of Fayoum. With the help of the local community, *U for Urban Impact* has ameliorated parts of the village's streets by creating public spaces and hanging shading elements. The project is also a homage to the late Evelyne Porret, who moved to Tunis in 1984 where she established a pottery school for children and young adults, helping them to acquire a hand craft with which they could earn a living

New Arrivals



Elisabeth Gilgen

Ms. Gilgen, previously posted in Beirut, has joined our team in April 2021 in the capacity of Deputy Head of Mission and Head of the diplomatic team.



Anna Gubler

In July 2021, Ms. Gubler was transferred to Cairo from The Hague, in her capacity as Head of the Consular Affairs section.



Sofia Esposito

Ms. Sofia Esposito joined in May 2021, from Islamabad, in the capacity of Consular Services attachée.



Anna-Lucia Graff

In June 2021, Ms. Anna Lucia Graff started her one year internship with us preparing for her career in international cooperation.

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