

REGIONAL NEWS

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Editorial

Dear readers,

It is fantastic to read about programs where startups in emerging markets such as Southern Africa are being connected with international investors, especially when the goal is to fight local unemployment. Read more about it in the article “Southern African startups heading to Switzerland for bootcamp”.

Happy reading,
Gisela Piercey



GISELA PIERCEY,
EDITOR SWISS REVIEW
SOUTHERN AFRICA

How to apply for a new Swiss passport

In order to avoid long queues at our offices, both Swiss representations in South Africa (the Regional Consular Center Southern Africa in Pretoria and the Consulate General in Cape Town) offer scheduled appointments for a passport applicant. We trust that this will enhance the quality of our service.

To apply for a new passport, applications have to be submitted on www.schweizerpass.ch. Once the application is verified, you will receive an e-mail with a link which gives you access to our calendar. A suitable date and time can then be chosen for an appointment. During the appointment, the biometrics as well as a photograph for the Passport and identity card will be taken. Children must be accompanied by both parents. This procedure can be also done during your visit in Switzerland at any Swiss passport offices. However as most of the Swiss passport offices have a waiting list, we have to contact the passport office in Switzerland before you can make an appointment.



An appointment is required to apply for a new Swiss passport.

Civil status or name change takes up to 15 weeks

We would like to remind you that it is necessary to register the civil changes (birth, marriage, divorce, death) at once after the event, in order not to have difficulties or delays in the issuing of the Swiss passport. A new passport can only be issued once the registration of the updated civil status or change of name is confirmed by the Swiss authorities. The duration of this procedure is about 12-15 weeks.

You will find information about civil matters and other consular questions of your interest on our updated web site:

<https://www.eda.admin.ch/countries/south-africa/en/home.html>

Last but not least, please inform us by mail about all changes of address, phone and e-mail

Embassy of Switzerland to South Africa
Consulate General of Switzerland
Regional Consular Center Southern Africa
southernafrica@eda.admin.ch
cap.vertretung@eda.admin.ch

Southern African startups heading to Switzerland for bootcamp

13 African startups will compete with other startups from 55 countries at the Seedstars Annual Summit in 2016. The startups will be gunning for equity investments of up to \$500,000, as well as additional prizes in cash and kind.

The 13 startups are products of the Seedstars World international startup competition for emerging markets. The startups heading to Switzerland will participate

in a three-day bootcamp with mentors from around the world. There will be an investor day where they will meet with hundreds of investors. The final ceremony will take place on March 3, 2016, where the grand Seedstars World Global Winner will be named and receive up to USD 500K in equity investment. Other sectors such as travel and space will also be rewarded with equity investments and grants.

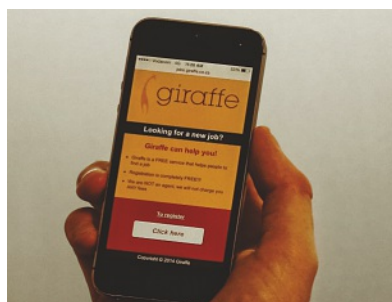
Giraffe aiming to reduce unemployment in South Africa

The selected startups from the Southern African region that will go to Switzerland are: *Giraffe (South Africa)*: Giraffe is a new mobile recruitment tool that aims to reduce unemployment in South Africa. This startup is behind a mobile platform that

helps connect employees with employers across the country. Two months after it launched in January 2015, the startup has connected 10 000 jobseekers with over 1 000 employers.

Moovi (Mozambique): Moovi is a web/mobile platform that lets anyone create relevant events within their surrounding community.

Modisar (Botswana): Modisar is a precision livestock farming app that helps to manage farm animals, farm finances and farm resources.



Giraffe is fighting unemployment in South Africa in a modern way.



Seedstars connects startups from emerging markets with investors

„Food Safari“

If you ever feel South Africa is *not* the coolest place on earth, just take a look at what these Swiss tourists experienced in their travels through the Western Cape. The video “Food Safari Cape Town – Where Food Lovers Dreams come true”



Culinary journey through Cape Town

shows Swiss travellers, Stefan Rüeg and his partner Nina's culinary inspired journey through the lifestyle, design, music and landscapes of the Mother City and surrounds. Stefan is a professional filmmaker and documented his Cape Town travels for the travel site, 'KuonisprojectElsewhere.' Check it out here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Bz1H2kOJZ0>

Welcome to the new Ambassador of Switzerland to South Africa



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

Marcie Bischof and myself as your local ASO representatives would like to express a hearty welcome to her Excellence, Helene Budliger-Artieda, who took up her position as the new Ambassador of Switzerland to South Africa and the other countries served by the Embassy in Pretoria.

We wish her and her husband Alex all the best for her tenure here in sunny South Africa and look forward to a good cooperation.

Automatic information exchange between Switzerland and South Africa.

On 26th November an Information Evening was held at the Swiss Club in Vorna Valley, where two companies, St. James Global from Cape Town and Transforma Consulting from Switzerland gave an overview of the impending automatic information exchange between fiscal authorities from both Switzerland and South Africa, starting in 2017. Copies of the presentations have been sent to all presidents of Swiss Clubs and other organisations accredited with ASO. Should you not belong to one of those entities but would still like to read them, then you can request this from aso@hbosch.com.

Marcie Bischof and myself wish all Swiss citizens living in Southern Africa a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Hans-Georg Bosch, Delegierter des Auslandschweizerrats für das südliche Afrika

SARS starting to collect data on undeclared offshore funds

The South African Revenue Services (SARS) will come down hard on South African tax evaders who hide or withhold information relating undeclared offshore funds.

From 2016, the Common Reporting Standard (CRS) will come into operation, effectively making tax evasion impossible.

The CRS is a set of global standards that govern how participating tax authorities exchange information with each other about the financial assets of its taxpayers.

It was drawn up by the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD), on behalf of the G20 countries – and over 70 countries have signed up, including South Africa.

According to fiduciary specialist at AlphaWealth, Judy Snyman, under the Tax Administration Act, the penalties which SARS

may impose on tax evaders are capped at 10% for intentional tax evasion and 5% for gross negligence where a taxpayer makes a voluntary disclosure before notification of an audit.

If, however, these funds are found out after notification of an audit, the penalties increase to 75% and 50%, respectively.

“The penalties for breach of exchange control regulations imposed by the Reserve Bank are determined on a case by case basis, but these are also likely to be significantly higher once the CRS comes into operation,” Snyman said.

In September it was reported that as much as R10.8

billion leaves South African shores illicitly, through undeclared transactions.

R28 billion in HSBC Swiss bank accounts

As for South African money 'hidden' in Swiss bank accounts, the Financial Transparency Coalition revealed in October that as much as \$2 billion (R28 billion) is being held by SA citizens in HSBC Swiss bank accounts.

Most of the countries who signed up to the CRS, including South Africa, will start collecting data from 1 January 2016 with a view to making the first exchange of data in September 2017.

There are a few countries including Switzerland that will only start collecting data in 2017 with a view to making the first exchange of data in 2018. (Article: businesstech.co.za)

SARS looking for “hidden” money in Swiss bank accounts.





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IMPRESSUM

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NEXT DEADLINE
02/16 24.1.16 Distribution 05/04/2016
03/16 16.3.16 Distribution 01/06/2016
05/16 26.7.16 Distribution 07/10/2016

FOR ADDRESS CHANGES, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICIAL SWISS REPRESENTATION IN YOUR COUNTRY DIRECTLY.

SWISS CLUB IN JOHANNESBURG:

Swiss Society Helvetia, 31 Moerdyk Ave, Vorna Valley, Midrand, Chairman: Mario Valli, 082 451 8040; office: Debora Wolf, T/F 0118053039, C 0826516152, office@swissclubjhb.co.za, www.swissclubjhb.co.za, Swiss Country Club Rest. «The Courier», Wolfgang Wollauz, T/F 0118053040, C 0825610063, Tue-Sat 11-21h30 Rest./kitchen, 11-24h Bar, Sun 10-17h, T/F 011 805 3040, C 082561 0063, www.dining-out.co.za «The Courier»

Our Clubs of Society: Afro Gugge, Amicale Suisse Romande, Boccia, Skittling Club. Associated Groups: Swiss Choir, Swiss Rifle Club, Swiss Golf, G.S.N.A. Senior Swiss Circle meets every 2nd Saturday of the month for Lunch. Swiss Ladies meet every 4th Thursday of the month for lunch; Swiss Rifle Club Johannesburg: We shoot every 4th Sat of the month, from 9am.

We normally shoot two different programs, with Swiss rifles, provided by the club. Visit our Facebook site or call Daniel: 082-5699146.

SWISS CLUB IN PRETORIA:

Swiss Society Alpina, Hans-Georg Bosch, President, T 0123478310, C 0825510222, swissclub.pta@hbosch.com, Biffy van Rooyen, Secretary Facebook group: Swiss Club Alpina.

We have had our end of year function at our usual venue, the Treffpunkt of the Johannesgemeinde, Pretoria on 3rd October. There we had the opportunity to meet the new Ambassador of Switzerland to South Africa, her Excellency Helene Budliger-Artieda, who especially came to our function to meet the Swiss Community in Pretoria, some three weeks after her arrival in South Africa. We wish her all the best for her tenure here in South Africa and look forward to more

social get together's with her and her husband Alex.

SWISS CLUB IN CAPE TOWN:

Swiss Social&Sports Club, Bill Peters Road, Green Point, www.swissclub.co.za . PRESIDENT : Stefan Pflocksch, stefanp@execsonthemove.co.za T 021 715 2703, C 082 920 9351 VICE PRESIDENT: Nicky Rodrigues nicky.rodrigues@za.sabmiller.com. T 021 658 7276, C 072 218 5759 SECRETARY: Marcie Bischof mwbischof@telkomsa.net T 021 554 0176, C 082 925 2280

The club remains open every Wed and Thu for dinner. To receive the “newsflash” contact the club at catering@swissclub.co.za or on 0214348405.

Active sub-sections: Rifle Club, Cycling Club & Tennis Club. The ladies meet monthly – last Wed. Please contact info@swissclub.co.za or André Häberli, Membership & Advertising, Cell 076 933 03 04. Newsletter: www.swissclub.co.za **SWISS CLUB NATAL:** President Philippe Lanz C 082 4932673, T 031 765 1625, p.lanz@absamail.co.za

JASS EVENINGS: Westville Country Club, Link Rd, Westville (first road on the left when travelling from the Pavilion exit towards Westville). As before the Jass evening takes place every second Friday evening of the month 18.00 for dinner. 19.00 start Jassen: 12.2, 11.3.16 . OTHER EVENTS: 6.3.16: AGM For up-to-date information: www.swissclubnatal.org.za

SWISS CLUB PORT ELIZABETH:

John Diener, President, PO Box 5608, Walmer 6065, T 0413792421, johndiener@bluewin.ch; comm.member Mark Krebsler . C 0823214693, T w 0413671422; Heidi Schultes, secretary, C 0613696598.

The nearly traditional fondue

evening once again took place at Armin and Ella's on 13 November. Around forty people, members as well as non members, came together for this pleasant event and enjoyed a mix of the best Emmentaler and Gruyère. Our president and his band provided the musical entertainment with strong voice which animated us to sing or join in the singing. The evening ended on a happy note. We look forward to the next event.

SWISS CLUB EAST LONDON:

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