

EUROPEAN YOUTH FORUM

at the PESTALOZZI'S CHILDREN'S VILLAGE



Welcome to the European Youth Forum Trogen!

We are happy to see you!
 Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine and Switzerland: these are the participant countries of the EYFT. This year 144 students from these eight countries will meet at the Pestalozzi Children's Village in Trogen to discuss current social and political challenges of Europe in various workshops. Topics of the workshops will be around identity, democracy, discrimination, migration, conflict transformation and gender. A group will also be involved in the media workshop in order to run this Magazine and the Radio for the week, in order to keep you updated. Everyone is also welcome to participate in Instagram and other social networks through contributions and pictures.
 The EYFT is going to be a major event that will stay in the memory of everyone involved in the years to come.

Powerup Radio!
 We're On Air!

Everyday @ 6 PM
 Don't miss our radioshow on www.powerup.ch or download the Powerup Radio App (on iTunes or Google Play)

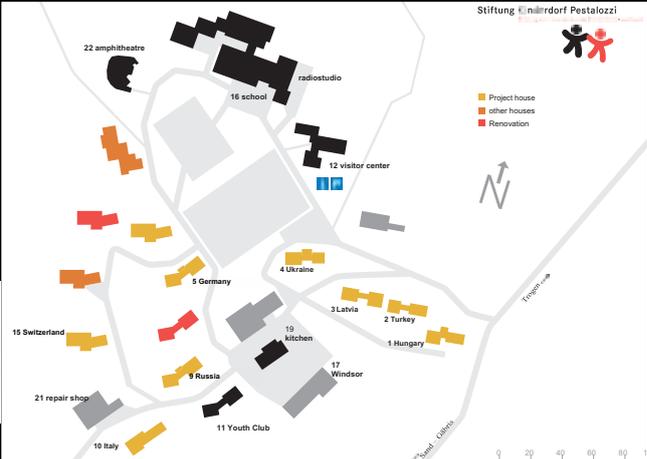
Find more information here!



Feel like being a Journalist?

Every day during the European Youth Forum we will release one newspaper and a radio program, where you can participate and organize debates, do interviews, write your daily column about one topic and so many other possibilities! Come to our editorial board tomorrow and bring your ideas and energy to **design and write the Pestalozzi News during this week!**

This is a map of the Pestalozzi Children's Village! In the Middle you can see the „Besucherzentrum“ („Visitor Center) Where you can find all the information you need and visit the PCF Museum!



Welcome to the Pestalozzi Children's Village

Head, heart and hands

After the end of the second World War, in August 1944, the journalist Walter Robert Corti and Marie Meienhofer published an article in a Swiss magazine suggesting to build a village to provide new homes for some of Europe's war orphans.

Many people, in and out Switzerland, reacted with enthusiasm to the idea and the commune of Trogen (where you are right now) offered a piece of its land to build this village. The cornerstone ceremony took place in April 28th 1946, during the **Landsgemeinde** (a local type of democracy, **see next paragraph**). To support the construction of the village, hundreds of volunteers gathered from all

over Europe.

Step by step, simple but cosy houses were built in the traditional Appenzeller style. Each house was given a special name, and the first children living there arrived from France, Austria, Poland, Germany, Italy, Hungary, Finland and Greece. The village was strongly influenced by the philosophy of the Swiss pedagogue Johan Heinrich Pestalozzi (and thereby entitled with his name). The idea was to provide the kids with an education with the „head, heart and hands“, where they could keep their own culture, learning to discover the one of the region they were living. For this reason the Pestalozzi Children Village developed strong

knowledge and experiences in the field of intercultural education and its foundation is now supporting children and their rights all over the world.

We are happy to welcome you in this amazing and meaningful place. Enjoy it!



The Pestalozzi Village during its construction in 1946

Local Curiosities

The Landsgemeinde

Switzerland has a lot of interesting living traditions. In particular, here in Appenzell (and in another region called Glarus) we have a tradition that is famous in the whole Switzerland called

“The **Landsgemeinde**”.



While most of Swiss Cantons vote by **paper ballot**, people of these two regions can still gather in the square of their capital cities (the “Landsgemeindeplatz”) once a year and vote about regional issues **raising their hands** (or their **swords!**). This tradition is called “Landsgemeinde” (which means **Cantonal Assembly**; “Canton” is the name Swiss people give to their regions) and it used to exist in many rural Cantons in Switzerland

until the past centuries. Nowadays this tradition is less strong than in the past and only the cantons of Appenzell (IR) and Glarus are still keeping it. Only the people admitted to the square can vote and in order to be admitted, people had to prove their **citizenship**. Traditionally, men could show their **sword of the Swiss army** as a proof.

The “Landsgemeinde” is a very old tradition, which dates back to the Middle Age and it is often considered a pillar of the **Swiss Democracy**. However, it has not always been very **inclusive**. In particular, the women's vote was granted extremely late, compared to other region in Switzerland, in Europe and



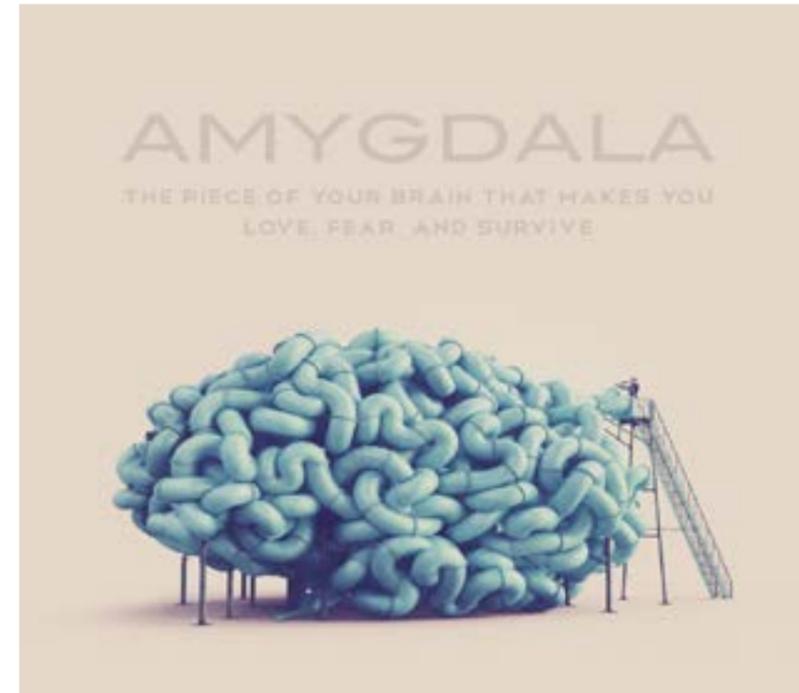
Quiz: The Women's vote in Appenzell and in Switzerland

- Can you guess in which of the following countries the women were granted vote after Switzerland?
 - Sweden
 - Azerbaijan
 - Afghanistan
- Appenzell (IR) is the last Canton in Switzerland, where women were allowed to vote, can you guess in which year?

For the solutions, look on the last page of this Newspaper!

Amygdala, Media and Survival

The Reason Why We Love and Read Bad News All the Time



Very often, we open the news and we feel overwhelmed by negative news, they seem to be everywhere. It is true, things are not exactly sweet and smooth in this world, but it is also well documented that Medias tend to focus in general more on negative than positive information.

Why is that? Why can we not have access to more balanced information?

Apparently, it is exactly what we, the public, ask for. A friend of mine works in a small media agency of the smallest corner of Switzerland and yet she keeps on claiming that they, too, are always looking for the worst local negative news, because they are the first thing that the people read and what they remember at best. **Negative news are often perceived as more urgent and important than positive news and that is why they are generally more “successful” in term of public.**

Neuroscientists call this attraction to the negative the “**negativity bias**”. Apparently, some researches claim that “human evolved to be fearful” and that during our time as “hunters and gatherers” in the human evolution, we developed an aptitude to be **alert and ready to protect ourselves from ex-**

ternal threats. In particular, we developed a part of our brain called “**amygdala**”, which filters all the information we receive. When our brain receives information saying that we are in danger, the amygdala reacts and gives higher priority to this information. That is the so-called “**negativity bias**” and possibly one of the main reason why negative news headlines attracts more the interest of the people than positive news.

This, of course, has huge consequences on the way we do journalism. It is a **vicious circle**: since we react quicker and with more interests to negative news, **the Medias offers more and more of these news.** Moreover, often neutral or positive news tend to be transformed in negative ones through catastrophic headlines.

In other terms: we get what we ask for, but even more than what we asked for!

But this is not all the responsibility of our amygdala, of course. Indeed, the Medias could furnish more accurate, neutral and even positive information, despite the demands of the public. But this is something increasingly difficult to do for a journalist.

Why is that?

As my friend of the media agency keep on saying, they are looking for “clicks”. If a web page receives more “clicks” (or a newspapers more readers), it will be **easier to survive in the Media world**. Why? Because nowadays, one of the only mean of subsistence for Medias is **to sell advertisements** (you do not believe me? Than how many times have you actually paid to read information that someone had to write down and researched? There we go).

More clicks means more money.

Therefore, we tend to see the world through a negative bias and the Media reinforce this bias, due to their own priority to survive rather than facing their responsibility to submit information. Therefore, we focus on bad news, we receive even more bad news and we are overwhelmed by bad news.

The world needs, now more than ever, positive news and has actually a LOT OF THEM. (Just a note: we are not an advocate to naively observe the world as it would be perfect, but we also think that a more balanced vision of things would be more constructive for all of us).

But positive news, now more than ever, **are extremely difficult to tell and to relate**. Therefore, we propose to the journalist coming to collaborate in the EYFT newspaper to think about it for the coming week and attempt to **create a platform to for news that give the priority to the quality of the information and to the positive potential that bears in the world around us.**

Links to explore more the topic

Some additional information on the negativity bias (Wikipedia).



Positive News is a media cooperative owned by readers and journalists world-wide. They are the world's first crowd-funded global media cooperative, focusing only on quality information, doing constructive journalism, reframing challenges into opportunities.

Solutions to the Quiz

Women's suffrage in Switzerland was granted in 1971 and in 1991 in Appenzell (IR)! Appenzell (IR) is therefore the last jurisdiction in Europe to introduce the women's vote. All the countries listed granted vote to women before Switzerland:

- **Sweden** is one of the first countries in the world giving the right to vote to women for the local election (since **1718**)
- In **Azerbaijan** women could vote in local election since **1918**, being the first Muslim-majority country to grant women's vote
- Women in **Afghanistan** could vote since **1965**

In **1941**, the United Nation recognized the right to vote to women as a universal human right and inscribed it in the Article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (see below).

Article 21 of the universal declaration of Human rights

1. Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives
2. Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country.
3. The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures

Source: United Nation (<http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/index.html>)

A Movie will soon be released on the women's vote in Appenzell! Look the trailer here!



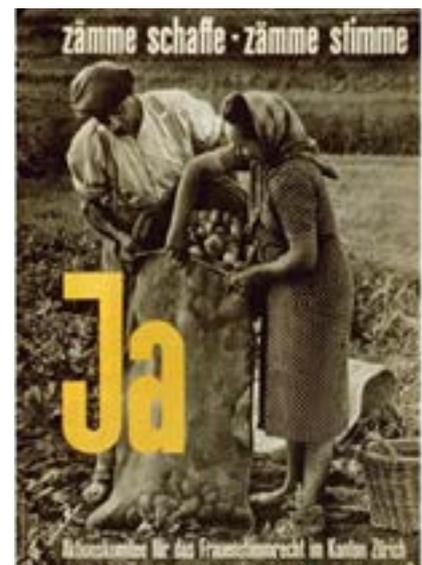
The strange story of the women's Suffrage in Switzerland (and in Appenzell IR)

Switzerland allowed the women to vote considerably late in comparison with other countries in the world. Indeed, the Swiss (men's) population initially refused to grant the women's vote in a vote of 1959 and finally accepted to inscribe it in its Constitution in 1971. Until this moment, Switzerland and Lichtenstein were the only countries in Europe where women were still not allowed to vote. Even after Switzerland officially adopted the women's right to vote in its Constitution, some cantons still did not apply it. Switzerland being a federalist state (look below, if you do not know what that means), Cantons (regions) had a certain degree of autonomy to apply this law. Some French-speaking Cantons were ahead of it, giving the right to vote to women already since 1959. However, due to constant refusal of the men population (and some women), the cantons of Appenzell AR and IR took a long time before introducing the

women's vote there. Appenzell AR (where you are right now), finally introduced it officially in 1987. However, Appenzell IR (the neighbouring Canton) still resisted. It took the intervention of the Swiss Federal Court, to force Appenzellers to respect the constitutional law in 1991 and finally grant women with their universal right to vote.

Did you say Federalism?

Federalism is a form of government, where the central (federal) government delegates a number of tasks to the regional Governments (such as for example water supply and education) as long as they do not exceed over the national constitution. That means the national Government generally do not interfere with these tasks, unless the regional governments do not respect the constitution (as it was the case of the women's vote in Appenzell IR).



Some pictures of the political campaigns about the women's vote. The one on the right says "No to the right to vote for women" (Showing a carpet-beater) and the one of the left says "Working Together, Voting Together". These posters are respectively from 1948 and 1947 (Source: Schweizerischen Sozialarchiv).