

SWITZERLAND

Association Montessori Switzerland

The Association Montessori Switzerland is the forum for the two regional associations, Association Montessori (Suisse) for the French and Italian speaking regions of Switzerland, and the Assoziation Montessori (Schweiz) for the German-speaking area of Switzerland.

The Board of this umbrella association is made up of a representative from each of the regional boards: co-presidents Karin Truttmann (AMSchweiz) and Philippa Romig (AMSuisse).

We have an Annual General Meeting of the two boards once a year in November. In November 2015, we were glad to be able to announce to our members the affiliation of AMSwitzerland to AMI at the AGM in Amsterdam 2015. This affiliation formalises the long-standing relationship of AMI with the Montessori associations in Switzerland.

Karin and Philippa regularly discuss how to implement the work of the Association, travelling across the country to meet either in Swiss Germany, or in Swiss Romande in the spirit of co-operation that we have built over the past years.

AMSuisse

New Montessori schools are opening in the French-speaking part of Switzerland, whilst others are expanding. The Montessori approach is becoming increasingly recognised by educational authorities, particularly in schools run by AMI diploma holders. One 0-6 school has been recognised as a 'utilité publique' (a charity), and articles are regularly published in the press describing the independence of Montessori children. All of this activity and interest has drawn new members of the Association.

Events & Activities

AMSuisse participated in The Geneva Book Fair, introducing the Montessori approach to participants through materials, film and discussion.

Dr Steven Hughes and Elina Rautasalo gave two fascinating presentations on Montessori and brain development in March at the University of Geneva, hosted by AM(S), which was open to the public.

AMSuisse continued to create supportive relationships with local schools through exchanges and visits, with the aim of helping teachers and administrators provide better Montessori education for our children. This work is much appreciated and continuously asked for by the schools.

AMSchweiz

Highlights

The Swiss German Section started the year with a highlight. In March we hosted Steven Hughes for an evening presentation in Zurich, where he spoke about “The benefits of a Montessori Education”; his speech was received enthusiastically by more than 150 interested people.

During the year the Swiss German Board met several times and held a two-day meeting in the fall together with the colleagues from AMSuisse. We realised that the handling of school recognitions has started to take up a large proportion of our time, which has replaced our discussions, instead of planning ways to promote the ideas of Montessori Pedagogy. In addition, it became clear that there school recognition requires much attention.

As the number of our members seems to fluctuate, we plan to focus on improved marketing and better public relations. Additionally, there is a team of teachers and parents that are working on a project to also create an Erdkinder School in Switzerland in the future.

Events & Activites

We are glad to announce that a third Montessori Association is being created in the Swiss Italian area, currently named ‘Ticino-Net’. Micaela Meccoci, the President, is working with us to become a member of AMSwitzerland. Hopefully, in the near future, this Section of AMSwitzerland would be called AMSvizzera.

Recognition of schools

The association is obliged to undertake school recognition and is currently exploring a new approach to what has been undertaken in the past.

AMI Training in Switzerland:

We are glad to host two AMI Primary Courses starting in July 2015, one in Lucerne (Montessori-CH) and one in Geneva (IFMM)

The IFMM continues to host AMI 3 – 6 Assistants Courses at regular intervals.

Montessori-CH is also running an AMI Elementary Course in Lucerne.

01.03.2016 / PhR, KT and JRS

Philippa Romig & Christine Urand
Co-Presidents