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WHY THIS NEWSLETTER

“Come and go” is the International Relations and Study-abroad newsletter which aims at keeping our readers up-to-date on the latest news and events related to our activities. It is published 4 times per year and reaches approx. 4'000 readers, in particular USI students, faculty and staff, incoming students and staff from our many partner universities and other collaborators. We do hope you will enjoy reading it!



Group picture of the TU Dresden International Staff Week participants

DOUBLE INTERVIEW: CHIARA KRUESI AND DIMITRI LORINGETT, USI ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Enjoy the double interview to two USI staff members who have participated in an International staff training week at the Technische Universität Dresden from the 4th to the 8th of May: Chiara Kruesi and Dimitri Loringett.

How long have you been working at USI and what is your position?

Chiara: “I have been working at USI for 9 years now. I am the coordinator for three Master programs: **Master in Corporate Communication**, **Master in Marketing**, **Master in Management**.”

Dimitri: “I’ve been at USI since September 2006. After working as administrative assistant at the Institute of Finance, I now work part time at the Institute of Economics as programme manager for the **Master PMP** and part time at the **Media and Communications Service**, where I do content editing and media relations.”

How did you learn about the staff mobility programs?

Chiara: “The International Relations office sent an e-mail with the different options for staff mobility. In addition, I got to know this opportunity from some of my colleagues who attended a staff mobility program in the past years.”

Dimitri: “From our International Office, Ms Arianna Imberti Dosi.”

Why have you decided to take advantage of this opportunity?

Chiara: “First of all I was interested in the topics proposed: especially “needs and expectations of international incoming students” and “internationalization strategies of a higher education institution”. In addition I was very keen about going abroad for such an experience and the chance to meet new people and learn new points of view. Last but not least, the city where it took place, Dresden, is very attractive for its history.”

Dimitri: “I have wanted to participate for a few years now, because I like to meet other people from other countries and, most importantly, I wanted to learn more about how other universities work and what is their approach to common organizational issues.”

“I gathered several ideas that will certainly be useful for the initiatives we are currently working on here at USI.”



Chiara Kruesi and Dimitri Loringett proudly show their certificates of attendance

What did you learn and what would you implement in your work?

Chiara: “During the week we have seen many different aspects related to a higher education institution, especially regarding internationalization. And we had the chance to hear the strengths and weakness both from TU Dresden and from all other participants; discovering that more or less, bigger or smaller institutions, have to deal with similar issues. It was also inspiring to learn the way some problems have been solved. For the moment I just look at issues in my daily job from a different perspective and in a way, I feel more sensitive to certain aspects. But I’ll hope to implement very soon what I have learned.”

Dimitri: “I was in a specialist group that discussed corporate identity, which is a hot topic here at USI. I gathered several ideas that will certainly be useful for the initiatives we are currently working on here at USI.”

Would you recommend your colleagues to do a similar experience, and why?

Chiara: “Yes, I definitely would highly recommend everybody to do a similar experience! I have to say that the whole week has been perfectly organized and everything proposed - focus groups, visits, activities – were very interesting. Mostly also because the people involved were proud to show their work, their campus, their city! And this I found is very inspiring. Such an experience gives the chance to meet other people/colleagues to exchange ideas and information, as well as to visit a very beautiful city and learn about its culture, in a way you don’t do every day.”

Dimitri: “Absolutely! First, there is no better way to broaden one’s own perspectives by facing other people from other countries and cultures, especially in a foreign land. The idea of mobility is to share ideas and views and, I can’t deny it, to have a good time and a week off from work!”

The organising team at TU Dresden prepared a short film about the International Staff week that can be watched here: [staff week video](#).

We remind our readers that staff week offers of our partner universities are published on the dedicated section of our newsboard: [staff mobility offers](#).

FINAL TRIP TO VALLE VERZASCA

The summer has finally arrived and the academic year is at its end. The exchange students who stayed with us during this spring semester, as well as the students who already arrived in September, left right after the exam session (end of June).

However, these students will go back home with a better knowledge of Ticino, since during this academic year they had the opportunity to discover places on their own or with our organized tours.

On May 17, about thirty students jumped on a bus on a wonderful shiny day ready to discover one of the most touristic valleys of Ticino: the Valle Verzasca. The first “obligatory” stop was in Lavertezzo, where the river is surrounded by a stone ground and crowned by a beautiful double arch bridge, which is called Ponte dei Salti (Bridge of Leaps), since the most reckless visitors jump from it into the water.

The river here is also perfect for diving and for kayak practice. This place seems to have bewitched the group of students who went there, for nobody wanted to leave! The second place visited, Sonogno, had the same effect. There, they visited the Museum of Valle Verzasca, where it is possible to see how people were living in the region up to just a few decades ago. While the tour guide was explaining that the road was built as recently as 1873 and that before that people could only travel on a mule track, two adorable don-



The Verzasca river



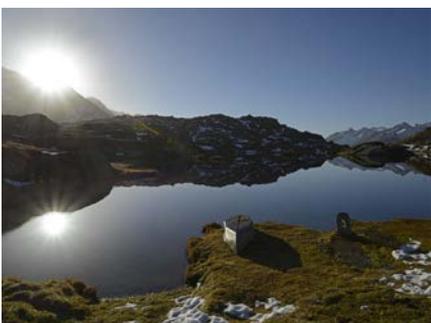
A picture with all the participants

key suddenly appeared. This showed the exchange students how this valley has kept its traditions through the times.

The next place to visit was Corippo, the smallest municipality of Switzerland, with only 12 inhabitants. All the houses are built with granite, a typical Ticinese stone. Participants had lunch at the nearby Osteria, where everyone ate polenta with “ossobuchi” or cheese. Eating there was a unique possibility for these students, since the food was genuinely Ticinese quality and the hospitality very warm. After lunch and a small walk around Corippo, the group finally reached the Verzasca Dam. The Dam, one of the biggest in Europe, is 220 meters high and is famous for bungee jumping. In fact, during the excursion, the students could watch many persons jumping... and screaming very loudly, which apparently discouraged them to try this breath-taking experience.

After the emotions of the Dam, the day trip was over... all the students said to have enjoyed it very much because it gave them the possibility to get to know better the wonderful nature of Ticino and the traditions of its inhabitants.

DISCOVER TICINO: SAN BERNARDINO AND THE SWISS NATIONAL DAY



San Bernardino Pass (courtesy of Ente Turistico Regionale del Moesano)

“Svizzera italiana” is the part of the Swiss Confederation which lies entirely south of the Alps. It is the Italian-speaking part of Switzerland and it comprises not only the whole of the Canton Ticino but also four valleys of Canton Grisons, namely Misox (Mesolcina), Calanca, Bregaglia and Poschiavo, for a total population of over 320,000 inhabitants. One of the most known holiday resorts of this region is San Bernardino, placed at the foot of the pass summit (2,065 metres above the sea level) of the same name. In winter, San Bernardino is a very popular ski resort especially among the people of Ticino and of northern Italy as it is easy to reach (one hour from Lugano by car).

However, in summertime, San Bernardino turns into a special location with a natural landscape of moving beauty and with many activities to offer that can meet the expectations of a vast public. Sport lovers can test their courage in the adventure park, go climbing in the high rope park, experience the hydro speed and other water sports (kayak, paddle boat,...) on the Isola Lake or cycle along the mountain bike track. Whereas for the foodies the Grotto is a must-do dining experience. “Grotti” were originally built to preserve wine and food and with time have become local taverns where you can enjoy regional specialities outdoors.

Besides these activities, the local tourist office prepares a rich programme of events for the period from June to October. Among them it is worthwhile to mention the San Bernardino Mountain Festival, the GreenHope Day and the celebration of the Swiss National Day.

Since 1891, the first of August is celebrated as the Swiss National Day. The date refers to the founding of Switzerland in 1291 by the three cantons of Uri, Schwyz and Unterwalden. Representatives from these three cantons swore eternal allegiance to one another, promising mutual help and assistance, against the Habsburgs, who were striving to strengthen their position at the time.

As it is the case in San Bernardino, the traditional celebration includes a framer’s brunch, solemn words spoken by a prominent politician or a cultural figure, accompanied by a concert or choir, lighting of a bonfire and firework displays.



The adventure park (courtesy of Ente Turistico Regionale del Moesano)

More information about this destination and how to get there:

Ente Turistico Regionale del Moesano website: visit-moesano

Swiss Federal Railway System: ffs.ch

Postbus Switzerland: postauto

NEWS IN BRIEF



View of Zurich from the main building of the University

IRUS meeting at UZH

On April 24, the Spring IRUS meeting took place at the University of Zurich. As usual the meeting serves the purpose of sharing experiences, looking for common solutions, and discussing about problems related to the activities of the International Relations offices of the Swiss universities. The two main topics of the session in Zurich were the presentation of the internationalization strategy of the hosting university for the period 2014-2020 explained by Dr. Yasmine Inauen, Director of the International Relations office and the brainstorming on ways of collaboration with *swissuniversities*, which succeeded the former Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities. The next IRUS meeting will take place on November 20 and will be hosted by the University of Neuchâtel.

Meeting with the International Relations team of “Vasile Alecsandri” University of Bacau

A delegation from “Vasile Alecsandri” University of Bacau, Romania, paid a visit to USI on May 6. We had the pleasure to meet and welcome on Campus, prof. Elena Nechita, vice-rector for international relations and Ms. Silvia Leonte, in charge of the International Relations Office.

“Vasile Alecsandri” University of Bacau is a partner university of the Faculty of Informatics both in a research project (the [BLISS project](#)) and in the framework of the exchange of students. The aim of the meeting was to share useful information about the activities carried out by the two universities. We thank our colleagues for the visit.



A relaxed moment during the Goodbye Aperero

Time to say “arrivederci”

The last event organized by the International Relations office for the incoming students was a Goodbye Aperero at the Lugano Lido. Despite the rainy weather all the participants were glad to get the chance to be together again with the members of our staff. Goodbyes are always difficult, but we wish our students good luck with their studies and hope they will bring back home great memories of their stay in Ticino! In this regard, we were pleased to read the very positive feedbacks in the end of study reports. Our guests students seemed to have appreciated their stay in Lugano/Mendrisio. Based on their comments, USI is a small and young university but with a high teaching quality, a positive teacher-to-students ratio, and an efficient organization. Moreover, the landscape and the Mediterranean atmosphere are two features very much appreciated by students coming from abroad. The students also suggested few improvements that we will take into high consideration for the future.

The full collection of reports is available on our [website](#).

The Swiss Foundation housing in Paris

Swiss students and researchers spending at least three months at a higher education institution in the Paris/Ile-de-France region, could be interested in finding accommodation at the Cité internationale universitaire de Paris (CIUP). CIUP is the largest site of the region hosting foreign students and researchers with 5,800 rooms in 40 residences. Among these, the *Pavillon Suisse* or Swiss pavilion designed by Le Corbusier between 1930-31 with a capacity of 45 single rooms, each 16 square metres in area.

The admission criteria are the following:

- Swiss citizenship or holder of a Swiss C residence permit;
- to spend a mobility exchange of at least 3 months;
- to study at a minimum level of Masters' 1 (Bac + 4) or equivalent;
- to be enrolled in a public higher education establishment, with priority given to establishments in the Ile-de-France, or in a private higher education establishment, which awards diplomas recognised by the State. For further information please refer to [Fondation suisse](#).



Fabiana (left) and Arianna (right) greeting good-bye to Stéphanie



Swiss Pavilion at EXPO Milano 2015

The internship of Stéphanie Savary came to the end

Thursday, June 27 was the last day of work for our intern Stéphanie. She worked at both the International Relations and Study-abroad office at the Lugano Campus and at the Administrative Office at the Academy of Architecture in Mendrisio. The two teams would like to thank her once more for her help and support during the past eleven months and wish her all the best for her thesis defense and her future professional endeavours! This was the fourth time that our office offered a position of intern. We believe it to be a very productive and enriching experience both for the intern and for us. A fifth call was launched in the month of June and during the summer we will start a new collaboration.

Exchange students at USI will visit EXPO Milano 2015

The Universal Exhibition **EXPO Milano** will host USI at the Swiss pavilion on Saturday, September 26. The event aims at providing an important contribution towards the main theme of EXPO (Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life) and to promote the exchange of ideas within our own university. We are pleased to announce that our office decided to include the visit of EXPO in the activities for incoming exchange students. This is a unique chance to see it! The program of the day is available at [Programme for students](#).

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