

## THE PROJECT

The *Institute New Switzerland* is a post-migrant Think & Act Tank „under construction“. It is committed to a new beginning in the migration society that Switzerland is – one that is critical, well founded and on equal terms.

INES is a post-migrant Think & Act Tank – politically and denominational independent. The establishment of the Institute began in 2016 and will continue until the end of 2018. The initiative for INES comes out of Switzerland's migration underground. Out of a circle of people with histories of migration and exile, of People of Colour, Second@s\*<sup>1</sup>, and liberal minded accomplices. We come from all over the country and work in the fields of science, art, culture, media, education, development, law and social work.

As varied as our stories and identities are, we have all had enough of the blind spots, die hard outmoded habits and old fashioned attitudes that are so prominent in this country. We are committed to a #NewSwitzerland that does justice to its democratic aspirations both within a local and global context. It's not just about the next vote, but also about the next generations. Like many other initiatives and organisations we don't just want to scratch the surface, we want real transformation. Everyone is therefore warmly invited to collaborate in the construction of #NewSwitzerland.

Does INES have all the answers at the ready? No. But there are too many people in this country whose voices are not sufficiently heard in the strongly polarizing debates on migration and integration. This expertise needs a home. It needs a space in which to grow and learn collectively. That's why we are building an institute. INES is much more than a conventional institute. INES is also a community. INES should become a member of the family, a good friend, someone who offers hope. The name “Ines” is native to many languages. In Latin, the root of the word means holy, in Arabic, friendly. And *nomen est omen*, isn't it? INES is the beginning of a wonderful friendship.

<sup>1</sup> Translator's Note: Second@s is a term used in Switzerland to denote 2nd generation Swiss born children of 1st generation migrants. It was established by Italian and Spanish guestworkers and is now oscillating between a political self-representation and commercial labelling.

Network:	INES promotes Community Building with experts foregrounded in migration, who exchange and support the organization of a pluralistic and democratic migration society.
Innovation:	INES develops analyses, content and projects collectively in order to better understand and shape everyday diversity in a pluralistic and democratic immigration society.
Expertise:	INES provides interdisciplinary expertise on issues of participation, diversity and racism in a pluralistic and democratic migration society.
Intervention:	INES intervenes proactively in public debates and encourages processes of institutional change.

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