# open call

INSTITUT NEUE SCHWEIZ
INSTITUT NOUVELLE SUISSE
ISTITUTO NUOVA SVIZZERA

# open call

**“In Switzerland, anyone can make it —**
**if they just work hard enough.”**
**“If you work, you’ll get ahead.”**
**“Everyone has the same opportunities here.”**
**“If you integrate, you’ll succeed here.”**

We’ve all heard these statements. They shape political debates, family histories, and personal decisions. For some, they represent a promise. For others, an illusion. For many, they are both.

With **«swiss dream»**, INES is launching a new program that explores the stories, assumptions, and ideals shaping life in Switzerland today. Together, we want to examine how ideas about merit, work, education, belonging, and the good life are constructed  and imagine what other futures might be possible.

At the heart of this program are postmigrant perspectives: the experiences of people whose lives have been shaped by migration, multiple forms of belonging, and structural inequality, and who nevertheless help shape Switzerland every day.

We ask what integration means when it is no longer understood as adapting to an imagined homogeneous society, but as a shared social process that creates new forms of citizenship, participation, and solidarity.

Through this open call, we invite diverse perspectives, experiences, and ideas. We welcome submissions from individuals, collectives, initiatives, and organizations. Personal stories, academic research, journalistic work, and artistic contributions are all equally valuable forms of knowledge.

Together, we want to ask:

- What does the «swiss dream» mean today – and who does it actually apply to?
- Which dreams have become possible, and which continue to be blocked by structural barriers?
- What does success mean in a society that celebrates diversity while reproducing inequality?
- What does security mean for people with different backgrounds, passports, and lived realities?
- What does it take to live a good life –beyond the pressure to perform and the promise of upward mobility?
- Which ideas and narratives shape how we live together –and which ones are still missing?
- The selected contributions will become part of a collective exploration of the «swiss dream». They will make postmigrant experiences visible, spark new conversations, and help imagine a more just, diverse, and solidaristic Switzerland.

Two ways to participate:

**Website Contributions INES Blog**
(published beginning October 2026)

We are looking for contributions to be published on the INES digital platform.

Possible formats:

- Essays and written piece
- Reportage and interviews
- Photography and photo series
- Illustrations and comics
- Audio and video projects
- Poetry and literary writing
- Artistic and hybrid formats

**INES Forum Contributions**
(March 5–6 2027 in Berne, save the date)

We are looking for formats that encourage dialogue, share knowledge, and open up new perspectives from culture, civil society, and academia.

Possible formats:

- Workshops
- Talks and presentations
- Panel discussions and conversations
- Readings
- Performances
- Film screenings
- Artistic interventions
- Other participatory formats

The open call is organized around four thematic areas that will shape the «swiss dream» program over the coming years. Contributions may focus on one theme or connect several of them.

- **Work and the Economy** How do labor markets, precarious employment, care work, discrimination, and economic inequality look from a post-migrant perspective? Whose promises of upward mobility are fulfilled – and whose are not? Which forms of labor remain invisible?
- **Education and Cultural Participation** How do schools, education, language, cultural institutions, and informal learning spaces shape opportunities in a postmigrant society? Which forms of knowledge and culture are recognized – and which continue to be marginalized?
- **Housing and Health** How do housing, neighborhoods, healthcare, and psychosocial well-being shape what it means to live a good life? What forms of inequality become visible in everyday life – and who is most affected?
- **Political Participation and Citizenship** How is belonging produced legally, socially, and symbolically? Who gets to participate in decision-making – and who remains excluded despite being an integral part of society? How does a postmigrant perspective reshape our understanding of citizenship?

## Multilingualism

We welcome submissions in all languages. If your submission is not in German, French, Italian or English, we kindly ask you to include a brief contextualization or description in one of these four languages.

## Selection Process

All submissions will be reviewed by the INES team together with a panel of invited experts. The selection process is guided by three principles:

- **Relevance** Contributions should engage with the «swiss dream» and address questions of belonging, work, education, integration, or postmigrant perspectives.
- **Diversity of Voices** We aim to showcase a wide range of experiences, generations, languages, social positions, and forms of expression.

- **Resonance and Impact** We are looking for contributions that open up new conversations, offer fresh perspectives, and articulate social and political questions with clarity, imagination, and impact.

For the INES Forum, we will also prioritize formats that encourage dialogue, collective learning, and new forms of public engagement.

You can submit your contribution via the online form (https://tally.so/r/b5EdJ1). Please note: submissions can only be made through this form.

Submission deadline: **September 6, 2026, 11:59 PM**
Questions: institut@nouvelle-suisse.ch

We look forward to reading your stories, analyses, questions, images, ideas, and dreams.

INES – Institute New Switzerland