

Minutes of the 68th General Assembly

Date: Saturday, 5 April, 2025

Time: 14.15 – 16.45 h

Place: Schloss Sargans

Present: 27 Voting Members (including 5 Board Members); 12 non-voting guests

5 Board Members: Felix Mundwiler (FM, Chair), Cléo Schwerzmann (Vice-Chair), Luzia Sauer, Michael Bader, Regula Gerber

Excused: 3 Board Members: Astrid Buys, Christian Herter, Jean-Michel Delmotte

Presiding: Felix Mundwiler, Chair

Minutes: Lisa Drössler

1. Official Welcome, Opening and Approval of the Agenda

1.1. Welcome & Opening

Felix Mundwiler (FM) welcomes all present, particularly honorary members Regula Stamm, Marianne Meyer and Christine Leimgruber as well as Suzanne Weigelt as current member of the EFIL board and Hans Beck, the first AFS exchange student from Kantonsschule Sargans. He further welcomes all former members of the AFS Switzerland Board along with members, alumni and volunteers.

1.2. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda is approved by a show of hands with a clear majority (no vote count).

1.3. Determination of the quorum

With 27 voting members present, the simple majority is determined at 14 votes.

2. Election of Ballot Tellers and Keeper of the Minutes

2.1. Election of Ballot Tellers

FM proposes Benjamin Schlegel as Ballot Teller. He is approved by a show of hands with a clear majority (no vote count).

2.2. Keeper of the Minutes

FM proposes Lisa Drössler as keeper of the minutes. She is approved by a show of hands with a clear majority (no vote count).

3. Approval of the Minutes GA 2024

FM points out an error in the minutes of the General Assembly 2024: Under agenda item 8 the first two lines referring to the vote count were incorrect and are to be deleted. With this amendment the minutes of the GA 2024 are approved unanimously (27 votes).

4. Annual Report 2024

4.1. Formal Annual Report 2024

The written annual report was shared with registered participants as part of the background papers. FM provides a few additional comments.

In 2024, the organization launched a new strategy centered on "Developing Active Global Citizens" to promote its ultimate goal of peace. This strategy focuses on several key areas: Fundraising, primarily for scholarships to increase participant diversity; enhancing Education on global citizenship for schools, staff, and volunteers; strengthening Volunteering as the organization's backbone; and further developing both sending and hosting Programs. This board-approved strategy is currently being implemented.

On a program level post-COVID, student exchange numbers, particularly outbound students, are steadily recovering, although potential global issues pose a risk. Diversifying destinations is underway, partly due to challenges in the US.

Volunteering efforts are being strengthened through Regional Volunteer Coordinators, supporting local chapters. Alumni relations have also grown, with increased events contributing to community building and fundraising for scholarships. The office team was acknowledged for their work and positive environment, officially recognized as a "great place to work."

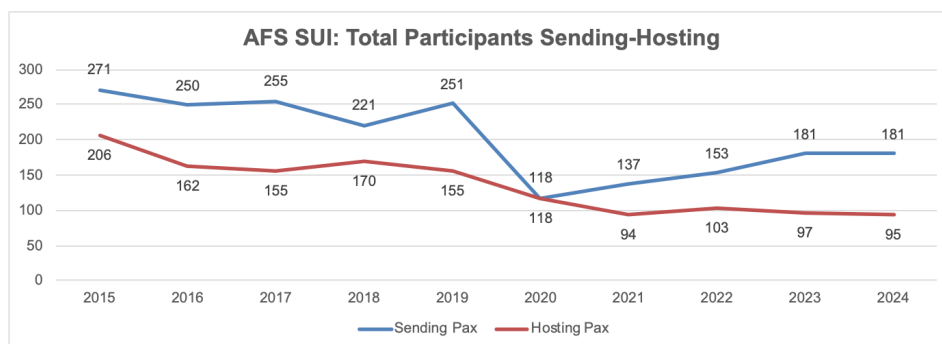
FM closes the Annual Report with a personal reflection on his term as Chair.

The Annual Report is approved unanimously (27 votes).

5. Financial Report 2024 & Report of the Auditors

The written financial report as well as the report of the auditors were shared with registered participants as part of the background papers.

Lisa Drössler steps in for Astrid Buys, who is ill, and presents this agenda point. She opens her remarks on the AFS finances with a review of program volume, which had been stable in total to the previous year.



1 Program volume development

Revenue from programs remained stable, as is to be expected with stable program numbers. The net fundraising result is below the previous year, which was AFS Switzerland's 70-year anniversary. Personnel expenses grew mostly because of the investment in the Regional Volunteer Coordinator roles but also included cost for staff training and related travel expenses. The scholarship funds is a net position of allocation and withdrawals; in 2024 the donations that were allocated to the scholarship fund (CHF 137'755) exceeded the scholarships that were paid (CHF 51'631).

The positive operating result was further strengthened by a positive financial result and brought the net result to CHF 109'349.

In CHF	2024	2023
Revenue from programs	3 082 010	2 903 595
Fundraising	175 425	265 818
Program expenses	-1 330 926	-1 469 253
Personnel expenses	-1 295 484	-1 079 842
Indirect cost	-467 544	-468 902
Scholarship funds withdrawal	-86 124	-118 575
EBITDA	76 657	32 840
Depreciation	-700	-1 000
Financial expenses / Income	32 692	31 060
Net Result	109 349	62 900

2 Income Statement 2023

The positive net result strengthens the balance sheet

In CHF	31.12.2024	31.12.2023
Current assets	3 022 498	2 907 510
Non-current assets	1 019 529	992 279
Total Assets	4 042 026	3 899 989
Current liabilities	1 757 241	1 736 878
Long-term liabilities	319 130	392 930
Restricted funds (scholarships)	285 153	199 029
Equity of the association	1 680 502	1 571 153
Total Liabilities and Equity	3 899 989	3 899 989

3 Balance Sheet 2023

The Financial Report is approved unanimously (27 votes). The Audit Report is acknowledged (no approval needed).

6. Discharge of the Board

The Board is discharged unanimously (22 votes; the five Board members do not vote on the discharge).

7. Budget 2025

The full Budget Report 2025 was shared with registered participants as part of the background papers.

Lisa Drössler presents the budget, starting with the underlying hypothesis: stable program volume. The revenue from programs follows a conservative bottom-up approach. As in the previous year, the investment in the Regional Volunteer Coordinators which comes out of the reserves is shown separately, for one last time, as this is the second year of the pilot.

With this structure, the organization is looking at a balanced budget for 2025.

In CHF	2025	2024
Revenue from programs	2 928 000	3 082 010
Fundraising	179 400	175 425
Program expenses	-1 276 758	-1 330 926
Personnel expenses	-1 276 278	-1 295 484
Indirect cost	-546 104	-467 544
Scholarship funds withdrawal		-86 124
EBITDA (1)	8 260	76 657
Regional Volunteer Coordinators	-129 459	
EBITDA (2)	-121 199	76 657

4 Budget 2025

The Budget 2025 is acknowledged by the members (no approval needed).

8. Election of Board Members and of the Auditor

8.1. Candidacies

FM explains the election procedure:

- 2 Board Members are in the middle of their two-year term (2024-25) and don't need to be re-elected this year
Astrid Buys, Luzia Sauer
- 3 Board Members are stepping down as per this GA
Christian Herter, Felix Mundwiler, Michael Bader
- The candidates for the Board (2025-26 term) are the following:
incumbent: Cléo Schwerzmann, Jean-Michel Delmotte, Regula Gerber
new: Adrian Merkofer, Simon Geiser, Stephan Schad
- Candidates as Co-Chair
Cléo Schwerzmann, Regula Gerber
- Auditor OBT AG is seeking re-election for 2025 term

The three new candidates each present their motivation and answer questions from the audience. Cléo Schwerzmann and Regula Gerber lay out their considerations for a co-candidacy, underlining their intention of close collaboration with the full Board and clear focus on strategy implementation.

8.2. Election Results

All candidates for the Board were elected by clear majorities. The detailed election results can be obtained by request to the Board or National Director.

Election for Co-Chair:

- Cléo Schwerzmann and Regula Gerber are elected for one term.

Election of auditor:

- OBT AG is re-elected as auditor for 2025.

9. Farewells

The GA bid farewell to three Board members: Christian Herter (in absentia), Michael Bader and Felix Mundwiler.

10. Election Results and Honorary Members

Upon proposal by the Board, in appreciation of her long-standing and continued effort for our mission, the GA appointed Suzanne Weigelt as honorary member by acclamation.

11. Varia and Official Closing

Intermundo's Secretary General Christine Leimgruber seizes the occasion to present AFS Switzerland with the Intermundo Quality-Label for the period 2025-2030; the audit had been conducted in the first quarter of 2025.

Benjamin Schlegel proposes to re-instate the volunteer-membership which had been included in the by-laws prior to their revision in 2023. FM explains that this had been an in-depth discussion and conscious decision in 2023, due to legal and governance considerations.

Jens Poulsen encourages the Board to include more future-oriented items in the agenda of the general assembly. The Board will take this into consideration for the next year and points to the panel discussion just following the GA for this year.

The 69th General Assembly of AFS Switzerland will take place on Saturday, 18 April, 2026. The location is yet to be defined.

FM officially closes the General Assembly at 16h45.

Zurich, 10 April, 2025

GA Chairperson



Felix Mundwiler

Recording Secretary



Lisa Drössler