



### The Engagement of ‘Service social international – Suisse’ (SSI)

In drawing on their network of partners from 120 countries around the world, the ‘Service social international – Suisse’ defends the individual rights of children, families and migrants and assists them from a professional as well as a social and legal perspective.

In a globalized world where populations are becoming ever more mobile, the protection of children should be organized at an international level. The SSI intervenes across borders to guarantee the application of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child wherever it is not being respected and endeavors to establish efficient communication between the different governments.

**Rolf Widmer, Winner of the Hans Erni Prize**  
In 2017, the Hans Erni Foundation in Lucerne, Switzerland, awarded its prize for exceptional social engagement to Rolf Widmer, the longtime president of SSI. At that time, an exhibition had also been organized in Lucerne, part of which we now have the pleasure of showing in Geneva. Rolf Widmer is using the money he received for this prize to accompany young migrants and give them individual support in the program ‘formation-perspectives.ch’.

### The Engagement of the Hotel Management School of Geneva

The Hotel Management School of Geneva (EHG) is a school for future executives that offers a dual education consisting of both theory (classroom work) and practice (apprenticeships). It is considered as one of the top ten schools of hotel management in Europe.

The School’s mission is to make every effort to transform students into high-level professionals who are capable of assuming positions of responsibility in the hotel, restaurant and service industries. For this reason, they design and deliver an extensive education that is continuously adapted to the ever-more specialized needs of these professions.

The EHG is also working to help other countries that would like to develop their tourist industries and train their youth to work in the related institutions. For this reason, the EHG opened the Hotel Management School of Casablanca and the Hotel Management School of Grand-Bassam in the Ivory Coast and is working on projects in Tunisia, Thailand, and Albania.

### Exhibition at the Hotel Management School of Geneva

**Address**  
12, Avenue de la Paix, CH – 1202 Genève

**Opening Hours**  
Monday to Friday, 0830 h – 1630 h  
Closed on Saturdays and Sundays

**Access**  
16 minutes from the Geneva train station with Bus F, 20, and 8 (bus stop: Appia)

**Free Admission**

**Informations**  
Do you need any further information ?

Please contact us:  
SSI – Service social international  
+41 22 731 67 00  
info@ssi-suisse.org

Hotel Management School of Geneva  
+41 22 919 24 24  
a.regus@ehg.ch

Exhibition

## Invest in Education – Prepare for the Future

**From November 7, 2019 to April 2020**  
**The Hotel Management School of Geneva**

An exhibition about the global engagement of ‘Service social international – Suisse’ and that of the Hotel Management School of Geneva, two institutions that are investing to provide better professional prospects for youth in Switzerland and around the world.



With the support of the lottery in the Swiss Romandie region.





**“Education is a fundamental right, but for many adolescents, it is not yet a reality. Our mission is to accompany them until they become independent!”**

*Rolf Widmer, the longtime president of SSI.*

We believe that all youth have the right to thrive and develop their personal and professional skills and to create opportunities and future prospects for themselves.

In order to do this, they need access to education and training and the ability to benefit from both personal and financial support. The more opportunities that a young individual has to develop his/her interests and talents, the greater the chances are that they will be able to integrate themselves, both professionally and socially, in Switzerland and elsewhere in the world.

Not every youth is fortunate enough to have someone who accompanies them on their professional journey and supports them after they have passed 18 years old.

## Exhibition

Through the use of short video clips, the exhibition “Invest in Education – Prepare for the Future” at the Hotel Management School of Geneva tells the story of children and adolescents who come from the most diverse countries.

It illustrates the engagement of Rolf Widmer in multiple projects between the Swiss Canton of Appenzell and Eastern Europe as well as between Geneva and Western Africa.

The exhibition links the global engagement of ‘Service social international – Suisse’ to that of the Hotel Management School of Geneva, two institutions that are investing to provide better professional prospects for youth.

This exhibition on transnational social work will take place until April 2020.

It is intended as a platform for visitors who would like to become actively involved in this domain. It also applies to people who would like to reflect on the question of non-discriminatory access for youth to education, training and employment within the framework of the 30-year anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

## Stories about Young People

There are various situations that can plunge children and adolescents into a state of insecurity. Often, the triggers are poverty, war, running away from home, or the death or sickness of one’s parents. The exhibition tells of such stories, some of which have taken place in Switzerland, others in Eastern Europe.

The scenarios experienced in Western Africa show and describe how an innovative social project is giving back courage and future prospects to children and adolescents alike.

The exhibition also dares to look back to the 1990s, when Switzerland welcomed a number of refugees from the war that was ravaging South-eastern Europe. Fresh approaches regarding the management and integration of the people concerned thus spread from Zurich.

This brings us to the discussion of Rolf Widmer’s impassioned engagement for the fundamental rights of the individual, particularly those of children and adolescents, “the weakest elements in our society, but also the most important”.

*Quote by Rolf Widmer*

## Invest in Education – Prepare for the Future

Education represents a major investment for the future. But young people who find themselves in a difficult situation are often unable to benefit from the support needed to gain access to education and training and to develop their future prospects.

### The Right to Education

Article 28 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child stipulates that every child has the right to go to school and to learn what is important for his/her personal and professional development.