



Switzerland

Progress Map Switzerland

Switzerland shows particularly marked variance in its desire for progress in society, the economy and politics. The idea of expanding underground transport (also to protect the existing landscape) is met with a particularly marked willingness to see progress.

In addition to this priority issue, gender equality is another key area in which Swiss people want to see progress. Aside from the global #MeToo debate, the issues of gender equality and women's empowerment in Switzerland were also reflected last year in a nationwide women's strike and a national election in which the proportion of women elected to the national parliament reached a record high.

Finally, the Swiss also want progress in innovation and research - and are prepared to invest taxpayers' money. In Switzerland, as in almost all countries, electric mobility is one of the major progress issues and is much more popular as a climate-saving measure than the introduction of a new fuel tax.

The disappearance of independent and local media is something that is viewed particularly critically in federalist Switzerland, where political decisions are taken not only at the national level but also at the level of the cantons and municipalities. The fact that the diversity of information often comes at the price of accuracy is also viewed critically. And people would like to see a reversal of these trends.

Switzerland has a comparatively dense population, since around a quarter of its territory is considered "unproductive" by virtue of the Alps and lakes. The idea of using more natural land is therefore not met with much enthusiasm. On the contrary, Switzerland would like to dial back on any such developments.



As in many Western countries, politics in Switzerland is increasingly polarized, despite the system of consensus and concordance. Here, too, the population would like to see a return to earlier conditions and gave expression to this in the national elections in the autumn of 2019, when the more extreme parties clearly lost out. One of the issues where fights are carried out

Further information



Future prospects: a total of 64% of all Swiss citizens claim to be fully satisfied with life. That is the highest proportion of all 16 countries surveyed. Forty-four percent look to the future with some optimism – a further 37% have mixed feelings about what lies ahead. Optimism falls considerably when it comes to the outlook for the respondents' children: 77% feel there is a risk that their children will not be as well off as the respondents themselves. Opinion is also divided when it comes to old-age provision: around half of those surveyed assume they will have sufficient resources in old age, while the other half are doubtful. Compared to the other 15 countries surveyed, a record 94% feel that Switzerland should continue to be innovative despite prosperity.



Assessment past 10 years: It is in the protection of privacy where the biggest proportion of Swiss citizens sees a deterioration over the last 10 years (77%), followed by the coexistence between the national languages (59%) and social security (61%). Fifty-one percent feel that the people's participation in decision-making has deteriorated. On the other hand, the country is felt to have advanced in the area of sustainable technologies (72%) and in both urban (69%) and rural (56%) infrastructure.



Social cohesion: Compared with the other 15 countries surveyed, the proportion of Swiss who consider themselves part of the country's middle class but feel their status to be under increasing pressure is highest of all (81%). Seventy-seven percent feel that only a minority accumulates wealth while the great majority does not benefit equally from developments and 58% think the government should do more to reduce this increasing inequality – even if it means higher taxes.



Battle against climate change: A substantial proportion of citizens feel that new technologies will help solve major global problems (53%) and that this will also be the key to saving the climate (46%). Switzerland is practically united in the idea that people should return to living in harmony with nature (92%) and that the economy has been too one-sided in its focus on growth and should now focus more on sustainability (91%). While still a large majority, the proportion of people who want more intervention against pollution is slightly smaller (82%).