



**2026**  
ANNUAL  
**CONFERENCE**  
8-10 MAY  
**ZÜRICH**  
**SWITZERLAND**

[WWW.ICC-LANGUAGES.EU/CONFERENCES](http://WWW.ICC-LANGUAGES.EU/CONFERENCES)

**Multilingualism and Migrant Integration in Adult Language Education:  
Practices, Challenges and Opportunities**

# Conference Programme



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## A Personal Welcome from ICC

On behalf of the ICC – The International Language Association, it is our great pleasure to welcome you to the 33rd Annual Conference taking place in Zürich, Switzerland, from 8 to 10 May 2026.

This international conference, organised in collaboration with Flying Teachers, an institutional member of the ICC and our primary sponsor, brings together scholars, educators, and practitioners from around the world who are dedicated to advancing language education.

This year's theme, "Multilingualism and Migrant Integration in Adult Language Education: Practices, Challenges and Opportunities," highlights a topic of growing importance in our increasingly diverse and interconnected societies. It invites us to reflect on how language education can support inclusion, empower learners, and respond to the complex realities of migration.

The conference provides a platform for the exchange of innovative ideas, the presentation of current research, and open dialogue on effective practices and emerging challenges in the field. We are confident that the discussions and insights shared here will contribute to strengthening both theory and practice in adult language education.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our distinguished speakers, contributors, and participants, as well as to all those involved in organising this event.

We wish us all an inspiring and productive conference in Zürich.

ICC Co-Chairs

Myriam Fischer and Tatjana Kovac

## A Warm Welcome from Your Swiss Host Flying Teachers

Welcome to each of you who have made your way to Zurich for the 33rd ICC annual conference. You have come from across the globe, bringing your expertise, your perspectives and a shared commitment to this year's topic: "Multilingualism and Migrant Integration in Adult Language Education: Practices, Challenges and Opportunities".

Flying Teachers is honoured to serve as co-organiser and primary sponsor. For nearly three decades, we have been dedicated to advancing language education, labour market integration and cross-cultural understanding. We provide training across more than 40 languages, work with over 1,500 teachers worldwide, and help individuals and organisations navigate an increasingly globalised world.

We have consistently supported European professional exchange because the complexities of multilingual Europe cannot be addressed alone. Progress depends on cross-border conversation, shared experience and professionals genuinely open to learning from each other.

Home to four national languages, Switzerland occupies a unique position at the heart of Europe's cultural and linguistic map. Migration, meanwhile, has run through its history for centuries. Huguenot refugees brought expertise in textiles and watchmaking; Italian labourers played a foundational role in building the infrastructure. These are just a few of the communities who, in different periods, have arrived, contributed and grown into an inseparable part of Swiss identity. New groups of migrants will shape the country's future in similarly significant ways, bringing skills, fresh perspectives and energy as integral to Swiss society as those who came before.

Gathering here, in the Swiss National Museum, a place that holds Switzerland's collective memory, to look ahead at multilingualism and migrant integration gives this conference a weight that very few other locations could match.

To each of you: thank you for being here. We hope the days ahead prove thought-provoking, inspiring and successful.

Member of the Flying Teachers Management Board

Antonio B. Adrover



## From Global Insight to Shared Practice

Building on UNESCO's Languages Matter: Global Guidance on Multilingual Education (2025), the conference examines how multilingualism shapes adult language learning and lifelong education. These questions are inseparable from pressing social and economic realities: persistent labour shortages and growing demand for upskilling have made workforce integration of migrants and refugees a European priority, and language proficiency is often the decisive step between exclusion and opportunity.

The calibre of this year's speakers reflects the seriousness of the theme. Regula Mader, Vice Director of the Swiss State Secretariat for Migration, opens proceedings with perspectives on Switzerland's integration policy. Keynote speaker Terry Lamb, Professor of Languages at the University of Westminster and President of FIPLV, addresses shifting societal attitudes towards multilingualism and inclusive lifelong education. Plenary speaker Christiane Hohenstein, Professor of Intercultural Studies at ZHAW, explores the complexities of multilingual adult education in the German-speaking Swiss context.

Over 100 submissions from 43 countries across five continents – of which 20 were selected – confirm that these are not regional concerns but shared, global challenges.

The programme is structured around four thematic tracks:

- **Inclusion, Integration and Participation:** removing linguistic barriers for migrants and refugees; integration programme lessons; pedagogies fostering belonging
- **Innovation, Teacher Development and Policy:** AI and digital tools in language education; teacher training; assessment and comparative policy frameworks
- **Intercultural Communication and Mediation:** building intercultural competence; mediation as a tool for inclusion; technology-supported cross-cultural practices
- **Adult Learning in Multilingual Contexts:** classroom strategies; workplace language learning; literacy and lifelong learning opportunities

## Featured Speakers and Contributions



**Regula Mader** – Opening Speaker

### Professional Background and Affiliations

Regula Mader serves as the Vice Director of the Swiss State Secretariat for Migration (SEM), where she leads the Immigration and Integration Division. A lawyer by training, she holds advanced degrees in Applied Ethics and General Management. Her career in public service is marked by significant leadership roles, including her election as Prefect in the district of Berne, her tenure as President of the National Commission for the Prevention of Torture, and her time as Director of the “House of Religions – Dialogue of Cultures” in Bern.

### Integration Policy in Context: Swiss Perspectives on Migration, Education and Multilingualism

In her opening address, Regula Mader provides an official welcome to conference delegates on behalf of Switzerland. Her presentation explores the institutional approach to integration within the Swiss context, demonstrating the critical interconnections between migration policy, education, and integration strategies. By illustrating how coherent policy structures facilitate participation and social cohesion, her contribution establishes a foundational framework for the conference, focusing on the maintenance of democratic values in increasingly diverse societies.





**Terry Lamb** – Keynote Speaker

### **Professional Background and Affiliations**

Terry Lamb is Full Professor of Languages and Interdisciplinary Pedagogy at the University of Westminster, London, where he co-directs HOMELandS, a research centre focused on migration. He serves as President of FIPLV (Fédération Internationale des Professeurs de Langues Vivantes), an NGO associated with UNESCO and the Council of Europe, and sits on the Council of Europe's Language Policy Advisory Group. He has been recognised as a Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques by the French government and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

### **Shifting Societal Attitudes towards Multilingualism and Plurilingualism: Opportunities for Inclusive Lifelong Language Education for Democratic Culture**

Professor Lamb's keynote addresses a major shift in European language education, arguing that educators are vital to the maintenance of democracy. His talk draws upon the Council of Europe's first holistic Recommendation on plurilingual and intercultural education. He argues that successful implementation of this agenda requires a fundamental shift in societal attitudes to embrace multilingualism through both formal and non-formal lifelong education. The session highlights how stakeholders and civil society partners can collaborate with educational institutions, including vocational and adult education, to challenge linguistic injustices and promote a broad agenda for social change.



**Christiane Hohenstein –**  
Plenary Speaker

### **Professional Background and Affiliations**

Christiane Hohenstein has been a Full Professor of Intercultural Studies and Linguistic Diversity at the Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW) since 2007. Specialising in Japanese and German linguistics, she holds an MA and a Dr. phil. from the University of Hamburg. Her extensive research portfolio includes contrastive pragmatics, multilingual healthcare, gender-inclusive language, and the role of Sign Language in higher education. Beyond her research, she served as the Equity and Diversity Officer at ZHAW for a decade.

### **Hidden Complexities of Inclusive Multilingual Education for Adults: Fostering Intercultural Communication and Participation**

Professor Hohenstein's plenary session examines the intricate landscape of adult education in the German-speaking region of Switzerland. She explores the intersection of Swiss diglossia (the tension between spoken dialect and standard written German) with migrant multilingualism and the use of English as a Lingua Franca. The talk highlights how adult learners navigate identity positioning and professional integration while facing diversity markers such as age, class, and linguistic heritage. Hohenstein advocates for diversity-oriented teaching materials and critical intercultural approaches – such as translanguaging and virtual reality training – to move beyond stereotyped representations and enable true participation for adult learners.

# ICC – The International Language Association

## About the ICC

The ICC is a prominent international non-government organization (NGO) dedicated to the promotion of excellence in language learning and teaching. As a network of stakeholders in the field of language education, the ICC sets high-quality standards for language curricula, assessment, and teacher training across Europe and beyond.

## EUROLTA Accreditation Scheme

One of our hallmark contributions is the EUROLTA (European Certificate in Language Teaching to Adults) accreditation scheme. This framework is characterized by the following:

- International recognition for the training and qualification of language teachers
- Specific design to ensure adult educators possess necessary pedagogical competencies
- Focus on modern, learner-centered instruction

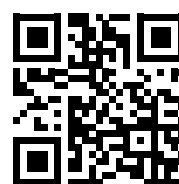
## Strategic Partnerships and Policy

The ICC's commitment to language policy is further exemplified through its membership in the Professional Network Forum (PNF) of the European Centre for Modern Languages (ECML). **As part of this network, the ICC focuses on:**

- Collaboration with the ECML, an institution of the Council of Europe
- Contribution to the development and implementation of Council of Europe language education policies
- Fostering innovation and dissemination of best practices in plurilingual and intercultural education
- Ensuring ICC initiatives remain at the forefront of European standards for linguistic diversity



Register now!



# Your Conference Journey and Timetable



## FRIDAY 08/05/2026

17:30 ICC BOARD MEETING  
Venue: **FLYING TEACHERS OFFICE**  
Löwenstrasse 20, 8001 Zürich, (3rd Floor, Room London)

19:00 WELCOME DINNER RECEPTION  
Conference Venue: **RESTAURANT-CAFÉ SPITZ**

## SATURDAY 09/05/2026

### HIRZEL AUDITORIUM

08:15–09:00 REGISTRATION

09:00–09:10 WELCOME ADDRESS  
ICC Co-Chairs: Myriam Fischer, Tatjana Kovac  
Flying Teachers: Antonio B. Adrover

09:10–09:30 OPENING ADDRESS  
**Regula Mader**, Vice Director, State Secretariat for Migration (SEM), Switzerland  
**Integration Policy in Context: Swiss Perspectives on Migration, Education and Multilingualism**  
Moderator: Damian Fäh

09:30–10:30 KEYNOTE SPEECH  
**Terry Lamb**, UK  
**Shifting Societal Attitudes towards Multilingualism and Plurilingualism: Opportunities for Inclusive Lifelong Language Education for Democratic Culture**  
Moderator: Thomas Tinnefeld

### BISTRO-FOYER

10:30–11:00 COFFEE BREAK





### HIRZEL AUDITORIUM

11:00–11:30 Talk

**Olesia Stoika**, Ukraine

**Multilingual Adult Language Education as a Mechanism of Inclusion and Social Participation: Evidence from Ukraine**

Moderator: Michael Carrier

### PIXEL AUDITORIUM

11:00–11:30 Talk

**Sharon Macilroy**, England

**Leadership Learning in Heritage Language Schools: Insights into Values, Identity and Professional Development**

Moderator: Michael Haris

11:35–12:05 Talk

**Daniel Gautsch, Bashira Omeed, Muneer Ahmed, Sahar Afrin**, Pakistan

**Pakistan in the International Dialogue on Multilingualism and Workforce Mobility**

Moderator: Damian Fäh

11:35–12:05 Workshop

**Eliza Claudia Filimon, Theodor-Radu Grumeza, Robert Florin Marcu**, Romania

**Assistive Technologies in Language Acquisition and Cultural Integration: Interdisciplinary Perspectives**

Moderator: Ridha Mejri

12:10–12:40 Talk

**Mona Pologea**, Romania

**AI Tools in Language Teaching**

Moderator: Tatjana Kovač

12:10–12:40 Workshop

**Claudine Gaibrois**, Switzerland

**Language Courses for Migrants: Beyond Seemingly Objective Skills Assessment**

Moderator: Thomas Tinnefeld

### RESTAURANT-CAFÉ SPITZ

12:40–13:40 LUNCH



### HIRZEL AUDITORIUM

13:40–14:25 PLENARY SPEECH

**Christiane Hohenstein**, Switzerland

**Hidden Complexities of Inclusive Multilingual Education for Adults: Fostering Intercultural Communication and Participation**

Moderator: Tatjana Kovač

## HIRZEL AUDITORIUM

14:30–15:00 Talk

**Matilde Grünhage-Monetti,**

**Silvia Miglio,** Germany

**Work-Related Second Language Development by Migrant Adults: More than a didactic issue!**

Moderator: Myriam Fischer

## PIXEL AUDITORIUM

14:30–15:00 Talk

**Svitlana Shekhavtsova,** Slovakia

**Stages of Cross-Cultural Adaptation as Life-Long Global Skills in Multilingual Contexts**

Moderator: Ridha Mejri

15:05–15:35 Talk

**Jacqueline Zammit,** Malta

**Learning Maltese for Work and Professional Integration in Malta**

Moderator: Myriam Fischer

15:05–15:35 Workshop

**Melita Cameron Wood,** Spain

**Learners as Reporters: Using journalism to support integration and language learning**

Moderator: Eliza Claudia Filimon

15:40–16:10 Talk

**Ourania Katsara,** Greece

**Digital Diplomacy as Multilingual Mediation: Enhancing Greek Engagement through Intercultural Communication Training**

15:40–16:10 Workshop

**Milica Andjelkovic,** UAE

**Serious Play: How Play-Based Pedagogy Transforms Adult Language Education**

Moderator: Ian McMaster

16:10–16:40 COFFEE BREAK

16:40–17:10 Talk

**Georgia Mouzakití,** Greece

**Language for Employment: Needs Analysis and Task-Based Materials for Refugee Learners of Greek**

Moderator: Thomas Tinnefeld

16:40–17:10 Workshop

**Marjorie Rosenberg,** Austria

**Teaching Culture in the Adult English Classroom**

Moderator: Ian McMaster

## HIRZEL AUDITORIUM

17:15–18:15

PANEL DISCUSSION: **Migrant Integration and Employability**

Coordinator and Moderator: Michael Carrier

Panellists: **Matilde Grünhage-Monetti, Ivan Al-Azm, Ian McMaster, Ridha Mejri**

## DIE CUISINE

19:30

DINNER



## SUNDAY 10/05/2026

08:15–09:15 ICC Annual General Meeting

Venue: **FLYING TEACHERS OFFICE**

Löwenstrasse 20, 8001 Zürich, (3rd Floor, Room Madrid)

### HIRZEL AUDITORIUM

10:00–10:30 Talk

**Elena Michelinì**, Italy

**Language Training for Migrant Caregivers: Interculture and Innovation in Care Work in Italy**

Moderator: Eliza Claudia Filimon

### PIXEL AUDITORIUM

10:00–10:30 Workshop

**Rolade Berthier**, France

**Adult English Language Learning in Multilingual Contexts: Respectful, Impactful, and Fun**

Moderator: Michael Haris

10:35–11:05 Talk

**Ross Bennie**, Switzerland

**Hitting the Ground Running: familiarising overseas students with the learning environment so they can focus on learning outcomes**

Moderator: Ian McMaster

10:35–11:05 Workshop

**Iryna Demchenko**, Germany

**Enhancing Adult Language Learning in Multilingual Contexts through AI-Supported Task-Based Language Teaching**

Moderator: Ridha Mejri

11:05–11:30 COFFEE BREAK

11:30–12:00 Talk

**Hrisztalina Hrisztova-Gotthardt**, Switzerland

**Making Language Tests for Integration and Naturalization Accessible: The case of the Swiss fide test**

Moderator: Damian Fäh

11:30–12:00 Workshop

**Roberta Begliomini**, Italy

**The Multilingual Bridge: Integrating CLIL and Translanguaging in High-Migration Classrooms**

Moderator: Tatjana Kovac

### HIRZEL AUDITORIUM

12:05–13:05 PANEL DISCUSSION: **Multilingualism and Adult Language Education**

Coordinator and Moderator: Thomas Tinnefeld

Panellists: **Diana Ibarra Santa Cruz** (Colombia), **Maria-Elena Gomez-Parra** (Spain), **Terry Lamb** (UK), **Kurt Kohn** (Germany)

13:05–13:15 CLOSING AND FAREWELL

ICC Co-Chairs: Myriam Fischer and Tatjana Kovac

Flying Teachers: Damian Fäh

14:00–15:30 Cultural Events and Guided Tours

14:00–15:00 **National Museum “History of Switzerland – Refugees and Migrants”**

14:30–15:30 **National Museum “History of Switzerland – Refugees and Migrants”**

14:00–15:30 **Zurich City and Business Tour**

## Social Programme: Networking, Culture and the City

The 33rd ICC conference is designed to foster connection throughout the full three days. A social programme offers participants the opportunity to exchange ideas, explore Zurich, and experience the conference venue in a different light.

The conference opens on Friday evening, 8 May, with a Welcome Reception in the historic Museum Foyer and Bistro of the Swiss National Museum. It is the ideal setting to meet fellow participants from around the world and begin the conversations that will carry through the days ahead.



Saturday evening brings the Conference Dinner at dieCuisine, a Zurich restaurant and social integration project that unites people from different backgrounds through the shared language of food. A living expression of the conference's themes, it promises a memorable evening of informal exchange. Earlier in the day, a shared Saturday lunch offers further space for dialogue across national and institutional boundaries.

To close the conference on Sunday, participants may choose between two cultural experiences: a guided tour of the Swiss National Museum on the theme of History of Switzerland – Refugees and Migrants, tracing the layered story of migration that has shaped the country, or a guided city tour of Zurich, exploring its history, architecture, and international character. Both offer a chance to encounter, beyond the lecture hall, the world the conference has been discussing.





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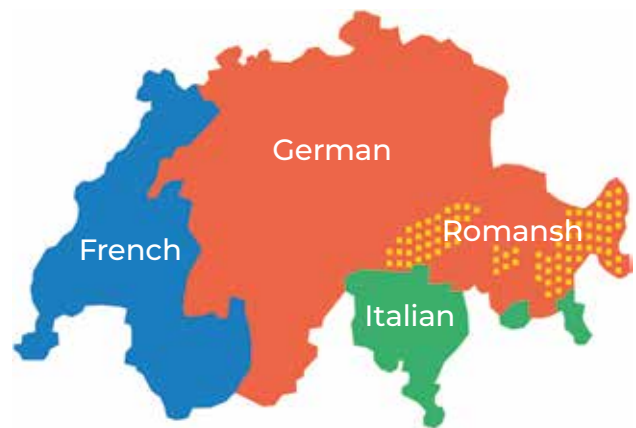


# Switzerland Insights: Multilingualism, Integration, Education

Let us introduce you to Switzerland: its linguistic diversity, migration, and education systems, and what makes its culture unique.

## Multilingualism in Switzerland

Switzerland is one of the world's most linguistically diverse countries. Four national languages (German (62%), French (23%), Italian (8%), and Romansh (under 1%) coexist within a population of fewer than nine million, shaping institutions and everyday life. Many residents also use languages such as English, Portuguese, Albanian, and Serbo-Croatian, reflecting migration and global connections. A defining feature in German-speaking regions is diglossia: Swiss German is used in everyday communication, while Standard German is reserved for writing and formal settings such as education, administration, and media.



Multilingualism is embedded in daily routines. Individuals use multiple languages and dialects across professional, social, and private contexts, switching flexibly depending on the situation.



Regarding the national languages, diversity is institutionally supported. The principle of territoriality assigns official languages to specific cantons, while the principle of personality allows citizens to communicate with federal authorities in any national language and receive a response in kind. Schools require learning at least one additional national language, and public broadcasting is provided in all four languages to ensure equal access to information.

## Integration Policy

Migration has long been a defining feature of Swiss development. Today, more than a quarter of the permanent resident population was born abroad, much of it labour-driven, making economic participation central to integration from the outset.

Swiss integration policy rests on a clear principle: participation requires language proficiency. Knowledge of a national language is essential for accessing employment, education, and civic life. Integration efforts are coordinated nationally by the State Secretariat for Migration (SEM).

Adult language education is a cornerstone of this framework. The fide system (formation, intégration, diversité) offers standardised, practice-oriented language training focused on real-life situations. The fide certificate has become an important integration benchmark and is, in some cantons, required for naturalisation.

Switzerland combines a strong emphasis on economic integration with broader social inclusion, supporting both economic competitiveness and cohesion in an increasingly diverse society.

## The Swiss Education System

Switzerland's education system is widely recognised for its quality, flexibility, and permeability. At upper-secondary level, it offers two main pathways: vocational education and training (VET) and academic education with possible transitions between them, ensuring lifelong learning remains possible.

This flexibility is particularly significant for migrants and adult learners, who can access vocational qualifications, higher education, and continuing professional development. Language competence is usually the first and most decisive step. The VET system combines classroom instruction with practical experience and offers tailored entry points for adult migrants. At tertiary level, universities and continuing education programmes maintain strong links to the labour market, supporting a skilled and adaptable workforce.

## Culture and Society

Despite its small size, Switzerland has a strong global presence, shaped by traditions of neutrality, federalism, and direct democracy that influence both governance and everyday life. Familiar stereotypes often hold true: trains run with exceptional punctuality, and Swiss chocolate enjoys global recognition for a reason. No wonder Switzerland also holds the record in per capita chocolate consumption worldwide.

Direct democracy is a defining feature of Swiss society. Citizens vote several times a year on issues ranging from local infrastructure to national policy. This fosters strong civic engagement, though change tends to be gradual, relying on compromise and consensus.

Switzerland has a relatively low home ownership rate, with most people renting long-term. Shared spaces and neighbourly relationships therefore play an important role in daily life. This context helps explain a broader cultural emphasis on mutual consideration. While some stereotypes about Swiss rule-obsession are exaggerated – there is, for instance, no law forbidding a shower after 10 pm – the underlying sentiments are real: quiet hours in apartment buildings are widely observed, waste disposal and recycling are regulated, and animal welfare laws are notably strict. Keeping a single guinea pig is not permitted, as social companionship is considered essential.



Swiss society may initially appear reserved and less spontaneous, but this reflects a respect of privacy and preference for predictability rather than distance. This predictability and reliability are mirrored in Switzerland's international role: neutral since 1815, it has become a key venue for diplomacy, negotiations, and international cooperation.

For those wishing to explore Switzerland's current affairs, cultural life, and history in greater depth, **swissinfo** is an excellent source of information.



## Venue Highlight: The Swiss National Museum

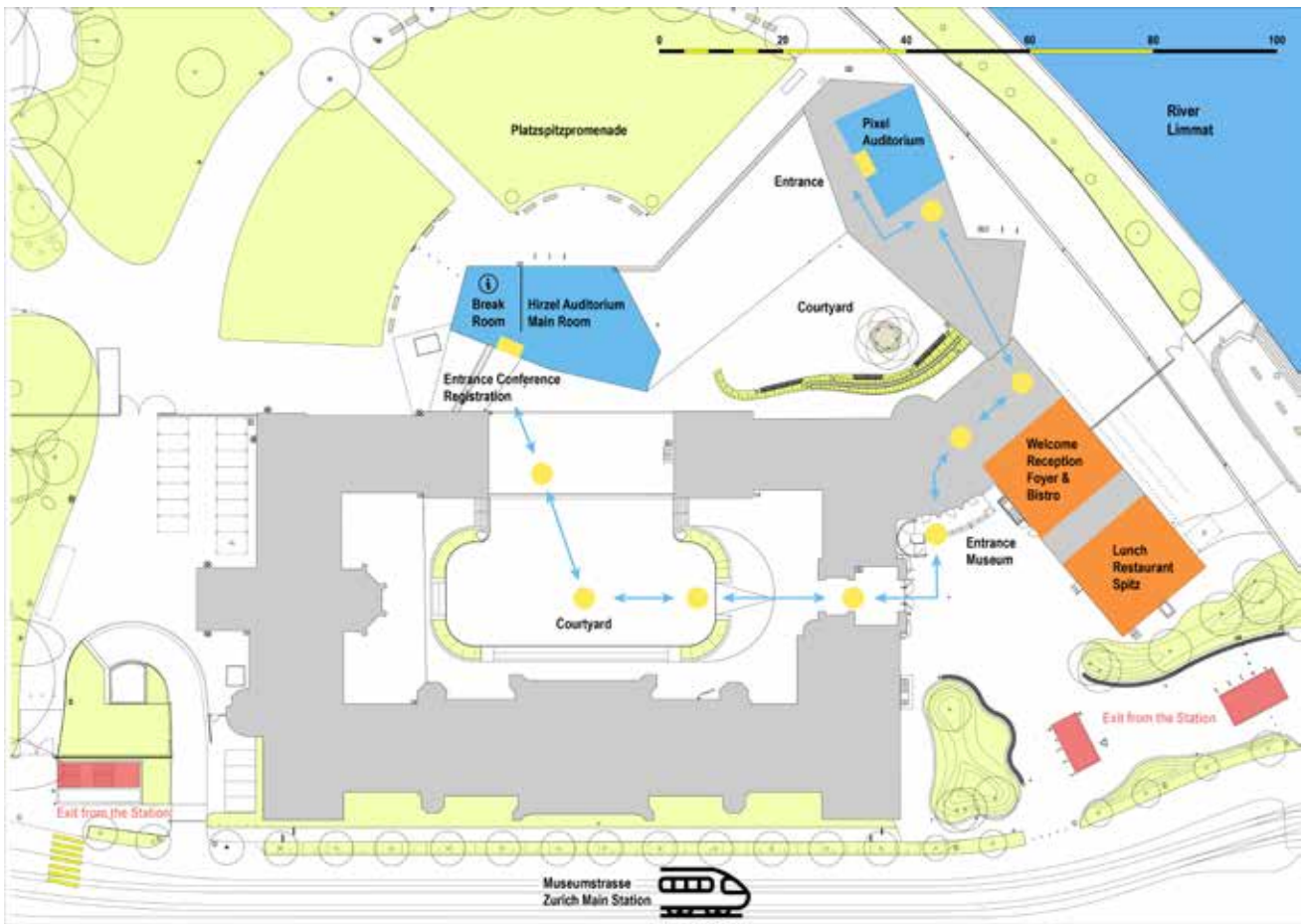


The conference takes place at the Landesmuseum Zürich, one of Switzerland's most significant cultural and historical institutions. Swiss history has been defined by the movement of people and the coexistence of different communities, making the museum a fitting venue for an international conference on integration, participation, and multilingualism in adult education.

Temporary exhibitions address historical, cultural, and social topics in depth – recent examples include explorations of techno culture as a form of Swiss living heritage and a newly inaugurated archaeology wing covering 250,000 years of human settlement. Each is accompanied by a dedicated programme of lectures, panel discussions, workshops, guided focus sessions, and readings. The museum's broader offer encompasses expert-led and school guided tours, family workshops with hands-on activities, late-night openings, and the recurring History Talks format. A family exhibition allows younger visitors to explore the past through immersive themed environments, and the inner courtyard, freely accessible year-round, serves as an event space for concerts, light installations, and large-scale public gatherings. The sessions will take place in the modern conference rooms of the museum's acclaimed extension by Basel architecture firm Christ & Gantenbein, which brings together historic fabric and contemporary design in a dialogue between past and present.



## Practical Information and Venue Map



During the conference, we will be pleased to welcome you at our information points located in the Main Auditorium and the Break Room, where our team will be available throughout the event to assist you with any questions you may have.



Complimentary Wi-Fi access is available throughout the entire Swiss National Museum.

All photo © Swiss National Museum, Zurich Tourism, Restaurant Spitz, Restaurant dieCuisine