



Press release

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Build better to live better: Switzerland launches new *Baukultur* Alliance

Federal Councillor Alain Berset will open his year as President of the Swiss Confederation in 2023 with an international conference on *Baukultur*. From 14 to 16 January, ministers of culture from more than 20 European countries will gather in Davos at the invitation of Switzerland, along with representatives of the construction and real estate industry and civil society organisations, to discuss quality and culture in building. In addition, the new Davos *Baukultur* Alliance will be launched.

European ministers adopted the Davos Declaration “Towards a high-quality *Baukultur* for Europe” at a first international conference in 2018 hosted by Switzerland. The aim is more quality and culture in building and planning. In 2021, Switzerland defined the quality criteria for *Baukultur*, which the EU is also using. The second *Baukultur* conference in 2023 will focus on implementation, which requires cooperation between politics, the private sector and civil society.

Cities, villages, houses, roads, bridges, gardens, squares, spaces, landscapes are part of *Baukultur*. Enhancing *Baukultur* is important if solutions are to be found to current challenges, such as climate change, the energy transition, inward urban development, greener settlements and population growth. The outcome is sustainable, attractive and inspiring living spaces in contrast to overdeveloped landscapes and faceless agglomerations. High-quality *Baukultur* not only adds value for society but can also be financially profitable.

There is currently no international platform for exchange and collaboration between the construction and real estate industry, governments and civil society. Switzerland aims to change that and proposes founding the Davos *Baukultur* Alliance. This new international *Baukultur* network for companies, ministries and NGOs will contribute to enhancing the quality of our settlements and landscapes. The members of the Alliance want to commit jointly to the goals of the Davos Declaration, discuss challenges and develop solutions.

Contact for further information

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Information on the Baukultur Alliance

www.davosdeclaration2018.ch

www.davosalliance2023.ch

Registration for the media

Representatives of the media wishing to interview conference participants are asked to register at: StabsstelleKommunikation@bak.admin.ch