



Press Release

Francophonie Festival: Switzerland Celebrates 30 Years in the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF)

Dublin, 4 March 2026: This year marks the 30th anniversary of Switzerland's accession to the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF). The Embassy of Switzerland in Ireland celebrates this milestone through active participation in the various cultural, educational and literary events taking place throughout March across Ireland in the framework of the Francophonie Festival. The program of this 2026 edition of the festival was launched today at the Residence of France in Dublin with Minister for Education & Youth Hildegarde Naughton, TD, in the presence of Ambassadors and members of the cultural and diplomatic community.

Swiss Contributions to the Francophonie Festival

The Embassy of Switzerland has invited Swiss author and journalist **Rinny Gremaud** to participate in **the Franco-Irish Literary Festival** on March 20th in Dublin. Of South Korean origin and raised in Switzerland, Gremaud embodies the diversity that characterizes Switzerland. She will present her latest book **Generator** where she is exploring her relationship with a father that she has never met, exploring themes of identity, memory and society.

In addition, the Embassy supports the Cork French Film Festival with the screening on March 8th of the animated film **Mary Anning, chasseuse de fossiles** by Swiss director Marcel Barelli. The film portrays the inspiring story of the young paleontologist who defied gender norms to revolutionize science through her fossil discoveries in the 19th century.

Francophonie Ambassadors' Literary Award 2026

The Swiss Ambassador to Ireland, Jenny Piaget, hosted in February the Jury of the Francophonie Ambassadors' Literary Award, which recognizes outstanding works of Irish literature recently translated into French.

Following careful deliberation, the jury selected **The Boy from the Sea** by **Garrett Carr** (*Le garçon venu de la mer* (Éditions Gallmeister, August 2025), translated by Pierre Bondil, as the winner of the 2026 Award. The novel about family relations in a remoted fishermen village in Donegal was recognised for its evocative storytelling and emotional depth. The award not only celebrates the vitality of contemporary Irish literature but also emphasizes the essential role played by translators in fostering dialogue within the Francophone world.

Promoting Dialogue and Multilingualism

Beyond these flagship events, the Swiss Ambassador will participate in several outreach initiatives organised as part of the Francophonie Festival, including visits to schools and discussions with students.

L'Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF)

The *Organisation internationale de la Francophonie* (OIF) brings together 93 member and observer states and governments. It provides a space for multilateral cooperation based on universal values and common interests such as linguistic and cultural diversity, democracy, human rights and sustainable development.

By actively contributing to the Francophonie Festival in Ireland, Switzerland reaffirms its role as an engaged member of the OIF and its strong belief that **cultural diversity, cooperation and dialogue are key drivers of peace, stability and mutual understanding.**

The Francophonie Festival in Ireland is organised with the generous contributions of the Embassies of following countries: Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Egypt, Estonia, France, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Moldova, Morocco, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic, Switzerland, Ukraine and United Arab Emirates and Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs; Alliance Française Network in Ireland and many Irish cultural partners.

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Full programme: <https://ie.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/francophonie-festival-2026>