

VSJF-Refugees Migration 1898 - 1975

The VSJF-Refugees Migration data are an excerpt of the VSJF-database hosted at the Archives of Contemporary History, ETH Zurich. The database contains data sets of refugees which have been registered by the "Association of Swiss Jewish Refugee Aid and Welfare Organisations" (Verband Schweizerischer Jüdischer Fürsorgen, VSJF), a private organisation for the aid to Jewish refugees founded 1925 and active to the present time.

The organisation was responsible for the aid for most Jewish refugees who entered Switzerland. However, some refugees did not claim for assistance because they had savings or could take employment (after World War II) they were not registered by the VSJF. At the beginning almost all costs of the aid were borne by private donations or partner organisations. Only after World War II, Swiss public authorities started to refund a significant part of the organisation's expenses.

Based on the historical archives of the VSJF with more than 12'000 files containing about 1.5 million pages of documents, the Archives of Contemporary History gathered data on around 20'000 mostly Jewish refugees who entered Switzerland between 1898 and end of 1975. In order to protect data privacy, 390 records of refugees who entered Switzerland after 31.12.1975 as well as all the dates of birth, professions and names have been either filtered or anonymized.

For further information please contact the Archives of Contemporary History
(https://www.afz.ethz.ch/about_us/contact/ or Email: afz@history.gess.ethz.ch)

Excerpts of this data are put online as open data. The data is available under the licence CC-BY-SA-3.0 CH. It contains two tables.

Table 1: refugee data

Field (German)	English, Explanation	Example
ID	identifier of a refugee dataset	1546
Konfession	denomination	Jüdisch-mosaisch
Staatsbürgerschaft	citizenship	Staatenlos
Frühere Staatsbürgerschaft	former citizenship	Polen
Nationale Identität	national Identity	Galizien
Geburtsort	place of birth	Pskow
Geschlecht	sex	Weiblich
Einreiseort	point of entry into Switzerland	St. Margrethen
Einreise von	point from where the refugee entered Switzerland	Graz
Einreise Kanton	canton of entry into Switzerland	SG
Einreisedatum	date of entry into Switzerland	19.12.1949
Genauigkeit Einreisedatum	accuracy of date of entry into Switzerland	Genau

Ausreisestatus	state of exit	Ausgereist
Ausreise am	date of exit from of Switzerland	27.03.1950
Genauigkeit Ausreisedatum	accuracy of date of entry into Switzerland	Genau
Ausreiseort	point of exit from Switzerland	Genf
Ausreise nach	destination	Israel
Urspr. Wohnort	place of residence before escape	Wien / Oesterreich
Flucht Migrationsweg	migration route before entering Switzerland	Wien / Oesterreich; Teschen / Polen 1938; Birmingham / Grossbritannien; München / Deutschland 1946
Konzentrationslager	imprisoned in concentration camp	Nein

Table 2: Camps and homes

Field (Geman)	English, Explanation	Example
ID Flüchtling	identifier of the refugee's dataset (table 1)	1546
ID Lager	identifier of the Swiss refugee camp or home	125
Lager	name of the camp or home	Champel, GE
Lagertyp	type of camp or home	Altersheim
Liegenschaft	type of real estate of the camp or home	Hotel
Aufenthalt von	entrance date (as accurate as possible)	5.4.1944
Aufenthalt bis	exit date (as accurate as possible)	25.6.1944