

Let's start something new

GREGOR WEGBERG – JUST CAN'T LET GOT

The other day I updated my personal information inside the internal VIS Wiki (“VISkb”). It's hard to believe I'm already about four years an active VIS member^[1]. After basically leaving every commission and giving away all my responsibilities during the last general assembly, it's time to start something completely new. Of course under the umbrella of the VIS. I'm not done yet.

Since I did an apprenticeship and earned my own money for the first time I was overwhelmed with all the taxes and three-letter abbreviations on my wage statement, all the different insurances I payed because my mom told me so and basically all the other administrative grown up stuff. It was just overwhelming. Of course I got help from my family and they tried to explain everything to me. Even though I was really confused and paid quite big a portion of my income, I was not very interested in it at that time. After all I still earned enough for the daily pub visit. With time I grew up a bit and started to ask myself why I have to pay some of these dues. Even more importantly: was I doing it right and shouldn't I start thinking about my future? How to make sure I have some money on the side if something happens—or I just get old? I'm pretty sure to some extent you asked yourself these questions too.


As I was pretty sure I'm not the only one interested in getting these questions answered I came up with the “How To Adult” talk series. The basic idea is to select all the interesting “grown up” topics one doesn't get taught and

organise a presentation for each topic. The presentation will be held by a professional and targeted to students with none to very basic knowledge regarding the topic. Now, as I know how the VIS works I just asked the VIS board if they like the idea—they did—and asked for some operational money at the last general assembly—and got it. Now I have 1'000 Swiss Francs at my disposal and the work can start. If you have an idea it's just so easy to get the money and support you need. I love it.

To be really sure this idea isn't just a crazy brainchild of mine I did a small survey inside the VIS to get feedback. With 32 responses, my suspicion got confirmed. Of those 32 people between 20 and 25 would attend a talk, depending on the topic. No reason to stop now!

Let's talk about such a presentation in more detail. Right now, at the time of writing this article, I have some ideas but nothing is fixed. The presentation should be held by a professional, therefore I will ask companies selling related consultation and products to send someone to do the presentation. The presentation itself should last no more than a usual lecture, of

which the last five to ten minutes can be used by the lecturer for advertisement. This last part may include product advertisement or present the company as an employer. The first part of the presentation must be on topic, without any product selling, just the facts and every day recommendations for students and young adults. How to enforce this? Well, I'm going to inform the lecturer about this requirement, try to get the presentation for vetting beforehand and of course, if they don't deliver they won't be invited again. The incentive for the company is pretty clear. They get brand awareness by using their corporate identity for the slides and get time to do some advertisement. Further, it would be great if the company would sponsor an aperitif afterwards and put some more employees on the floor to answer student's questions. The last idea I'd love to see come true is a recording of the presentation. I already contacted the responsible ETH staff and they would do a recording of the presentation (slides and audio) and put it online for all students to see. However, the real deal is of course being live at the presentation itself! I hope to see you there.

So, what are the next steps? Right now I have three topics I'd like to cover in the first iteration of "How To Adult". They will introduce and explain the three pillar pension system in Switzerland. The first one being an overview and the following two will go into more detail. If possible I'd like to do more presentations, and there are enough topics to cover. However, let's just start with a smaller number and see how it goes. With the described setup and topics I'd like to cover I'm now in the process of searching one or more companies that might be interested to team up with us for this. 

Reference

[1] a VIS member that helps out in a commission or is a board member

Contact

If you have topics, general ideas, wishes or any kind of comment or questions, feel free to contact me by email: howtoadult@vis.ethz.ch.