

A Week with the GDP 2026/27



The Society of German-speaking Planetariums e.V. (GDP) with the International Planetarium Society (IPS) are thrilled to open applications for our program “A Week With the GDP” for 2027. For the first time, the Swiss colleagues of the Luzern Planetarium are joining our efforts to provide a superb exchange program for one international candidate.



The Swiss Museum of Transport (Verkehrshaus der Schweiz) is Switzerland’s most visited museum and one of the country’s leading institutions for communicating science, technology, and mobility to a broad public. Located in Lucerne, the museum brings together exhibitions covering road and rail transport, aviation and space travel, navigation, tourism, and digitalization. Its Planetarium is an integral part of this science-communication environment, while operating as a specialized immersive venue in its own right. With an 18-metre dome and 246 seats, it is the largest planetarium in Switzerland and welcomes around 100,000 visitors each year. It utilizes a Sony GTZ-380 projector system with Cosm Digistar 2026. For more information, please use the following link: <https://www.verkehrshaus.ch/en>

Marc Horat is an astrophysicist and head of the Planetarium at the Swiss Museum of Transport (Verkehrshaus der Schweiz) in Lucerne, Switzerland. He has been responsible for the planetarium since 2014, overseeing its content, quality, technical development, and day-to-day operations. With a background in physics and astrophysics from the University of Basel, Marc Horat combines scientific expertise with a strong interest in technology, science communication, and immersive media. His work covers a broad range of activities: From developing and presenting live astronomy shows to producing fulldome and 360° content, managing the planetarium’s digital infrastructure and training the operator team. A particular focus of his work is the use of real-time visualization to communicate contemporary astronomy and spaceflight events. For him, the strength of a modern planetarium lies in its ability to make complex science tangible: To combine accurate scientific content with the immersive power of the dome and the immediacy of a live experience.



Don’t miss out on a trip of a lifetime to Switzerland and learn about the incredible planetarium and cultural landscape. Applications open up on October 1st, 2026 until December 31st, 2026. For all the information and how to apply, please visit: <https://www.ips-planetarium.org/page/WeekwithGDP>

IPS professional development opportunities, titled “A Week in the United States,” and “A Week with the Society of the German-Speaking Planetariums” are modeled after a long-running and successful program called “An Astronomical Experience in Italy for an American Planetarium Operator,” also supported by the IPS. The IPS hopes that these initiatives will serve as models for other countries to follow and, as the years pass, evolve into a broader cultural and professional development exchange for planetariumians around the world.

The global association of planetarium professionals, IPS has nearly 700 members from 35 countries around the world. They represent schools, colleges and universities, museums, and public facilities of all sizes, including both fixed and portable planetariums.

The primary goal of the Society is to encourage the sharing of ideas among its members through conferences, publications, and networking. By sharing their insights and creative work, IPS members become better planetariumians.

Contacts:

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- For additional information about the IPS, contact Shannon Schmoll president@ips-planetarium.org You also are invited to learn more from our website at www.ips-planetarium.org.