SVE MAGAZINE

ISSUE
02/2026

The Future of Pension Provision

NEWS

New options for your pension provision

Page 3

GOOD TO KNOW

Why an advance care directive is so important

Page 8

Dear Reader,

Being informed today so that you can make the right decisions tomorrow: that's what this issue is all about.

First, you will find out what amendments the Board of Trustees has decided to make – and how they will offer you greater flexibility in your pension provision.

Two experts will then take a look at the future of pension provision and highlight the issues that will be on our minds in the years to come.

We will also inform you about SVE's half-year results and explain why an advance care directive is important, so that – should the need arise – everything can be arranged in accordance with your intentions.

I wish you an enjoyable and informative read!

MARLENE CADUFF
HEAD OF COMMUNICATIONS

AHA!

2.5%

What is performance?

To ensure that its insured persons' retirement assets continue to grow, SVE invests them in shares, bonds, property and other ventures. SVE's performance shows just how successful these investments have been:

- If investments go well, their performance will be positive.
- If they develop negatively, they will perform negatively.

Strong performance enables a favourable rate of interest, thus contributing to the long-term growth of your retirement assets. SVE's performance stood at 2.5% in the first half of 2026.

GOODBYE

Melanie Ahuja

We would like to offer our heartfelt congratulations to Melanie Ahuja on successfully completing her apprenticeship as a commercial clerk (EFZ) with a vocational baccalaureate. After three years, she has left SVE to begin studying law. We would like to thank Melanie wholeheartedly for her dedication and wish her all the best for the future.

Silas Oetiker

Portfolio manager Silas Oetiker has also left SVE. Following a relocation, he decided to take up a new position closer to home due to the longer commute involved. We would like to thank Silas warmly for his valuable contribution and wish him all the best for his future.

AMENDMENTS TO THE PENSION FUND REGULATIONS AND PENSION PLANS

New options for your pension provision

From 1 January 2027, various amendments to SVE's Pension Fund Regulations and pension plans will enter into force. These amendments will provide greater flexibility and cater better to different life circumstances. You will find an overview of selected amendments below.

More flexible pension options*

Retirement pension and provision for surviving dependants

On retirement, insured persons can choose the level of their own retirement pension and the provision for surviving dependants payable to their partner in the event of their death. By default, the provision for surviving dependants amounts to 60% of the retirement pension. Anyone wishing to provide greater financial security for their partner can opt for the 100% option. The 40% option is now also available: this will result in a higher personal retirement pension and is aimed specifically at single people or those with lower insurance needs.

Retirement pension with capital protection

With the new 'Retirement pension with capital protection', insured persons can provide additional cover for their dependants even after retirement. If the insured person dies within ten years of retirement or before their 75th birthday, their remaining retirement assets will be paid out in full or in part as a lump-sum death benefit. Conversely, the monthly retirement pension will be lower.

Improved protection for surviving dependants

The lump-sum death benefit for surviving dependants is now at least CHF 100,000. This will be particularly beneficial for insured persons with lower retirement savings, such as younger insured persons or those on lower incomes.

Improvements for unmarried couples

The rules governing the duty of support for unmarried couples have been simplified and modernised.
In addition, the duration of a declared partnership may in future be counted towards the required duration of marriage.

On our website, you will find

- the letter containing detailed information on all amendments,
- the updated Cost Regulations
- and from mid-December, the new Pension Fund Regulations.

www.sve.ch/en

The new pension plans will be available on the insurance portal **mypk.sve.ch** as of mid-December. Insured persons can also use the portal to calculate their various pension options.

Most of the amendments also apply to JJS.

www.sve.ch/jjs/information

* *If your employment ends on 31 December 2026 and you retire from SVE with effect as of 1 January 2027,* you may already benefit from the new pension options, provided that you meet the one-month selection deadline.

AMENDMENTS TO THE COST REGULATIONS

Clarification regarding support for home ownership

The Cost Regulations were amended with effect as of 1 July 2026 to clarify that land registry fees are to be borne by the insured person.

The future of pension provision: "The greatest danger is believing that you can't make a difference."

People are living longer, there is only slow progress on reforms, and expectations regarding pension provision are changing. Nevertheless, the Swiss pension system is one of the most successful in the world. In this interview, two pension experts explain why Pillar 2 is often underestimated and why personal responsibility is so important.

Where do you see the biggest challenges in Swiss pension provision?
Lukas Müller-Brunner: At the moment, I see three challenges. The first is rising life expectancy. For the individual, this is obviously good news. For pension provision, however, it means that, ideally, we have to finance benefits at the same level over an ever-longer lifespan. The second challenge is lower interest rates. It is no longer as easy as it used to be to achieve secure returns without assuming additional risks. The third aspect is political in nature. One sometimes gets the impression that pension fund assets could be tapped into to serve special interests. This leads to conflicting objectives.
Manuel Moser: In my view, the main issue is demographics. We are living longer and longer, while at the same time there are more pensioners for every person in work. This affects both the AHV and Pillar 2. When it comes to reforms, I often observe a certain 'sticking-plaster' approach. It would be good if we could think more long term.
LMB: I take a slightly more relaxed view. I'm not calling for a fundamental reform, but rather that we manage to make progress within the three pillars.

This includes, for example, ensuring the funding of the 13th AHV pension without constantly shifting the burden onto the next generation. On the other hand, in Pillar 2 the non-compulsory pension scheme is a major asset. It enables most pension funds to adapt their pension plans flexibly to factors such as rising life expectancy or the increase in part-time work – in the latter case, for example, by setting lower entry thresholds than those stipulated by law.
MM: I agree. That's exactly it: because the non-compulsory pension scheme exists, it's possible to deviate from the conversion rate. Still, it would be a good thing if we had a more realistic law at some point. (laughs)

> *"Our predecessors created something that ensures financial security in old age and in the event of a risk."*
> *Lukas Müller-Brunner*

How does Switzerland fare in an international comparison?
LMB: Many countries also have a three-pillar system. In Switzerland, however, we have managed to ensure that most people can actually rely on a balanced combination of benefits from all three pillars when they retire. In an international comparison, this makes us unique. Our predecessors created a system that ensures financial security in old age and provides a financial safety net in the event of personal misfortunes such as death and disability. This is sometimes taken for granted here, but is by no means the case when compared internationally.

Why is Pillar 2 often seen as complicated?
LMB: Leaving the technical jargon aside, Pillar 2 is relatively easy to understand: employers and employees save together for old age, death and disability. However, we use far too many technical terms, which tend to confuse rather than engage insured persons. What matters is not whether someone can explain what the coordination deduction or a conversion rate is. What matters is that people understand, for example, that those who work part-time today will receive a lower pension later on. If I know that, I can take action. Seen in this light, the exact formula behind it is irrelevant.
MM: People's understanding of the subject has certainly increased in recent years. But if five people from different employers are sitting around a table, they're likely to have five different pension plans and five different conversion rates. Many people are aware of the statutory conversion rate of 6.8 per cent. What is often less clear, however, is that this only represents the statutory minimum. Beyond

OUR INTERVIEW PARTNERS

DR LUKAS MÜLLER-BRUNNER
THE SYSTEMS THINKER

Director of the Swiss Pension Fund Association (ASIP). He focuses on the political, regulatory and societal framework conditions governing occupational pension provision and is committed to its further development.

MANUEL MOSER
THE PRACTITIONER

Pension fund expert at Libera AG. He advises pension funds on strategic and actuarial matters and supports their ongoing development, focusing on practical solutions for insured persons and employers.

that, pension funds can structure their benefits and plans in various ways. So, depending on what you hear, what information you receive and how well you understand the context, it's not always easy to assess your own situation correctly.

> *"The worst misconceptions are: 'It's too complicated.' – and 'I can't do anything about it anyway.'"*
>
> *Manuel Moser*

Which misconceptions do you observe most frequently?
MM: The first misconception is that pension provision is far too complicated. And the second is: 'I don't need to worry about anything – that's my employer's responsibility.' Yet there's actually a great deal you can control yourself. For example, you can often choose your contribution levels, make voluntary contributions or work for longer. I believe people often underestimate the influence they can have.
LMB: I agree. Furthermore, I've noticed that there are people who generally dismiss Pillar 2 as terribly expensive. If, on retirement, someone withdraws their accumulated assets instead of taking a pension and invests it themselves in the capital markets, this is usually three, four or five times more expensive. Many people also fear that they would lose money immediately in the event of a stock market crash. That is not true, as pension funds have various safety mechanisms in place. Pillar 2 is much more robust than is often assumed.

How important are personal decisions?
MM: Very important. My advice is to get an overview as early as possible. As a young person, you can order an individual account statement from the AHV; later on, you can request a pension projection. With your pension fund, the pension statement is a good starting point. In my view, this is one of the most important documents of all. Only once it is clear what benefits can be expected from the AHV, your pension fund and private pension provision can you assess whether action needs to be taken.
LMB: Personal decisions play a key role. This starts with the choice of employer and extends to part-time work, career breaks, voluntary contributions or the choice between a lump-sum withdrawal and a pension. I don't simply get up one morning and find myself retired. Retirement is the result of many decisions I make over the course of several years. While Pillar 2 provides access to an efficient collective scheme, the amount of the pension I will eventually receive is largely influenced by personal decisions.

What are your hopes for the future of pension provision?
LMB: On the whole, we have an occupational pension scheme that works very well and makes a significant contribution to safeguarding prosperity in Switzerland. I see room for improvement, for example, in digitisation and making pension information easier to understand. At the same time, we should not assess Pillar 2 from a narrow, short-term perspective. What matters is not a single quarter or a single year, but the long-term trend over an entire working life.
MM: I would make certain technical parameters, such as the conversion rate or the reference age, more flexible and less of a political issue. And I would like people to take an interest in their pension provision, find out more, ask questions and read their insurance certificate. That is the most important first step to take.

ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH YOUR INSURANCE CERTIFICATE?

Take a look at your projected retirement pension and find out what options you have when it comes to occupational pension provision:

www.sve.ch/en#information-sheets

Encouraging half-year results

Geopolitical tensions and a challenging market environment characterised the first half of 2026. Nevertheless, SVE achieved a return of 2.5% as at 30 June 2026. The coverage ratio remains at an excellent level of 125.9%.

Resilient financial markets, despite uncertainties

The conflict in the Middle East, together with the temporary blockade of a key supply route, resulted in rising energy prices and raised renewed concerns about inflation. The stock markets reacted with falling share prices, but recovered quickly and, in some cases, reached new highs. Robust corporate profits and sustained high levels of investment in artificial intelligence provided further momentum. Towards the end of the half year, the situation on the commodities markets also eased.

Financial position remains very sound

As at 30 June 2026, SVE achieved a return of 2.5% on its total assets. The largest contribution came from equity investments, which yielded a return of 8.7% in Switzerland and 11.0% abroad. At 125.9%, the coverage ratio remained well above target. Compared with the end of the year, the coverage ratio fell slightly. This is attributable to the additional interest payments made to insured persons in May, as well as additional payments to pensioners. Without these distributions, the coverage ratio would have continued to rise.

Outlook

Prospects for the second half of the year remain fundamentally positive. However, the geopolitical situation, inflation and the monetary policy of the central banks could give rise to greater fluctuation. The markets will be buoyed up by the sound performance of many companies as well as investment in future technologies, which will remain high. At the same time, assessing individual market segments will continue to be a demanding task. Thanks to its broadly diversified investment strategy, however, SVE remains well positioned in a challenging market environment.

KEY FIGURES AS AT 30 JUNE 2026

Performance	Coverage ratio	Assets (CHF)
2.5%	125.9%	4.3 bn

TOP 4 ASSET CLASSES BY RETURN

Equity abroad	11.0%
Equity Switzerland	8.7%
Foreign currency bonds	2.6%
Real estate Switzerland, direct	2.0%

THOMAS ROHRER
HEAD OF SECURITIES INVESTMENTS, MEMBER OF SENIOR MANAGEMENT

Why an advance care directive is so important

An accident or serious illness can change your life in an instant – at any age. Who will make decisions for you then? And who will pay your bills? What many people don't realise is that, if you haven't made any arrangements, a government agency will take on this responsibility in an emergency.

With an advance care directive, you can specify who is to act on your behalf should you lose the capacity to make decisions. You appoint trusted individuals to look after your personal and financial affairs. These may be natural persons or legal entities.

On the one hand, the advance care directive covers what is known as 'personal care'. This sets out, for example, where and how you will be accommodated and looked after should you require care, or how your daily life will be organised. 'Financial care' is also part of the advance care directive. This includes paying bills, such as for rent or health insurance, managing insurance policies or subscriptions, and disposing of assets such as property or investments. "An advance care directive is essentially a kind of personal contingency plan. It allows you to specify in advance who is authorised to act on your behalf in place of the KESB," explains Martin Huber.

"Many people assume that their relatives are automatically entitled to make decisions. That is a misconception."

Martin Huber

If there is no advance care directive, the statutory provision applies: the Child and Adult Protection Authority (KESB) appoints a guardian. "In such cases, it is no longer the person concerned who makes the decision; instead, the KESB determines who will assume this responsibility," says Huber.

GOOD TO KNOW: Even spouses and family members are now only allowed to make a very limited number of decisions on your behalf.

"Particularly when it comes to banking matters or contractual issues, even close relatives can quickly come up against legal obstacles; this is where the guardian and the KESB come in."

Why it's worth making arrangements early

An advance care directive strengthens your autonomy: you decide who will look after your interests.

“Clearly worded instructions prevent uncertainty and significantly ease the burden on families,” emphasises Huber, adding: “Conflicts often arise when it is unclear who is authorised to make decisions. This can be avoided with an advance care directive.”

Facts & figures

» Only 19% of 40- to 64-year-olds in Switzerland have drawn up an advance care directive.
» Among 18- to 39-year-olds, that figure is only 5%.
» Approximately 159,000 people in Switzerland are subject to a protective measure imposed by the KESB.

Sources: Pro Senectute Switzerland / gfs-zürich 2023;
2024 statistics of the Conference for Child and Adult Protection

MARTIN HUBER
LICENSED NOTARY PUBLIC
AND MANAGING DIRECTOR
OF HUX AG IN ANDELFINGEN AND WINTERTHUR

Martin Huber has decades of experience in property and inheritance law, corporate law as well as land registry and real estate law. He also lectures at SVE’s annual Retirement on the Horizon conference series.

Who should consider an advance care directive

In short: all adults of sound mind. “Many people put off dealing with this issue because they associate it with old age. Yet a loss of mental capacity can affect anyone at any time,” says Martin Huber. “I recommend that younger people at least sort out the most important points.”

How to draw up an advance care directive

To be valid, an advance care directive must either be handwritten or notarised. “Formal errors can render an advance care directive invalid in an emergency,” explains Martin Huber. It is important that the appointed representatives be clearly identified and their responsibilities unambiguously described. Regular reviews will ensure that the arrangements remain appropriate to your current circumstances.

Problems often arise when the advance care directive is incompletely worded or fails to take important situations into account. If only individual tasks are covered, the KESB is once again responsible for all areas not listed. Difficulties can also arise if it is unclear who is authorised to sign documents legally. Even if several authorised persons are appointed to carry out the same tasks, this can lead to disagreements later on. Family tensions are also possible – if, for example, only one of several children who are at odds with one another is appointed as the person in charge.

Particular caution is required when spouses appoint each other as representatives. If one person becomes incapable of making decisions and the other is subsequently also unable to take on the role, or if they are deemed unsuitable by the KESB, there will be no authorised representative in the absence of an alternative appointee and responsibility will revert to the KESB.

GOOD TO KNOW: You do not have to draw up your advance care directive on your own. Support is available from notaries, banks and organisations such as Pro Senectute, the Swiss Red Cross or specialist law firms and trust companies.

“Depending on the situation, a template may be sufficient. In more complex cases, however, it’s a good idea to seek specialist advice.”

Where should you keep your advance care directive?

Keep the original in a secure but easily accessible place. For example, at home in a labelled folder or with someone you trust. Let the appointed persons know where it is kept. “An advance care directive is only of any use if it can be found when it matters most,” emphasises Huber.

You can also have the advance care directive registered with the civil registry office in your place of residence. “Registration ensures that the Child and Adult Protection Authority is made aware of the advance care directive,” says Martin Huber. For a fee of around 150 Swiss francs, the advance care directive can also be filed directly with the Child and Adult Protection Authority.

"Just do it – while you still can"

Claudio Bottega has been a portfolio manager at SVE for seven years and follows the financial markets avidly. In this interview, he explains why the stock market fascinates him, why he swears by the power of compound interest, and why health and relationships are more important than any amount of wealth.

How many cups of coffee do you have during your working day?
There's already a cup of coffee in front of me. I had my first one at home when I got up. And this is now my third one at the office. I'll probably have another two or three. I'd say six or seven cups in total. But I only ever drink espressos – and always black.

What is your role at SVE, and what fascinates you about it?
I'm a portfolio manager in the Securities Investments team. Our job is to implement the investment strategy defined by the Board of Trustees as successfully as possible, which isn't always easy. The stock market is incredibly dynamic. Every day brings new news, and share prices go up and down. At times, it's very fast-paced and you never know exactly what the day will bring. That's the beauty of it.

What advice would you give to young people on the subject of financial planning?
My top tip is to start getting to grips with your own finances as early as possible. At some point, I started keeping a strict budget and recording all my expenses in an app. The earlier you start saving and investing, the greater the impact of compound interest.

What can't you do without in your free time?
I really enjoy watching football. I have a season ticket for FC Winterthur and have been a big AC Milan fan since I was a child. I also have a season ticket there with my brother. We regularly travel to Milan for a weekend to watch a match. I also really enjoy cooking and go to the gym regularly.

What three things do you consider important for a fulfilling life in old age?
Financial independence, certainly. But I'd put it on a par with health. If you're not well, physically or mentally, all the money in the world is of no use to you. And the third is a fulfilling social environment.

And what would you do if you were to retire tomorrow?
I'm lucky enough to be able to do a lot of the things I'd like to do straight away. Life has taught me that there are some things you should just do while you still can. And not always say: "I'll do that later."

FEEDBACK

How has the new *SVE Magazine* been received?

We asked this question in our first issue. The feedback has been encouraging: all participants in our survey rated the first issue as ‘very good’ or ‘good’. Readers particularly appreciated the clear layout, easily comprehensible articles and appropriate length. Many respondents read the magazine from cover to cover and prefer the printed edition.

Thank you very much for your valuable feedback. Technorama vouchers were raffled off among all respondents.

SAVE ON TAX

Make your voluntary contribution now

By making a voluntary contribution to the pension fund, you can benefit from tax advantages while strengthening your retirement provision. **Simulate the effect of your contributions on our insurance portal and submit your application online no later than 15 December 2026.**

To the insurance portal:
https://mypk.sve.ch

SUDOKU

Brain-teaser

	1	6		9	8	7	2	
	9	8		5	7			1
7		2	6					4
1	2					5	4	
5	8		7	1				
	4	9		2		1		
	6	5	9					
9	3	1		4	6			
		4			3			

Solution:
www.sve.ch/sudoku

STUDY

Encouraging results in VZ’s pension fund rating

SVE has been included in the VZ VermögensZentrum’s pension fund rating in 2026 for the first time. We are particularly pleased that we achieved first place for the coverage ratio and the interest rates on retirement assets in the three-year comparison, as well as second place for the proportion of compulsory retirement savings.

sve | SMARTER PENSION SOLUTIONS

IMPRINT

SVE Magazine is the publication of the Sulzer Pension Fund.

Publisher SVE, Winterthur
Editor-in-Chief Marlene Caduff
Photographs photoworkers.ch, iStock, Lea Reutimann
English translation Manuscript Language Services, Zürich
French translation Nicole Viaud Communication, Ennetbaden
Proofreading CityTEXT GmbH, Winterthur
Design Tollkirsch AG, Winterthur
Printing Printimo, Optimo Service AG, Winterthur
Published three times a year in German, English and French
Total print run approx. 9,000 copies
Next issue December 2026

Cover photo, from left Lukas Müller-Brunner, Manuel Moser

Sulzer Vorsorgeeinrichtung
Zürcherstrasse 12
8400 Winterthur

Phone +41 52 262 43 00
info@sve.ch
www.sve.ch

MINI-SURVEY

Have you already drawn up an advance care directive?
Take part in our survey.
The results will be published in the next issue.

www.sve.ch/en/feedback