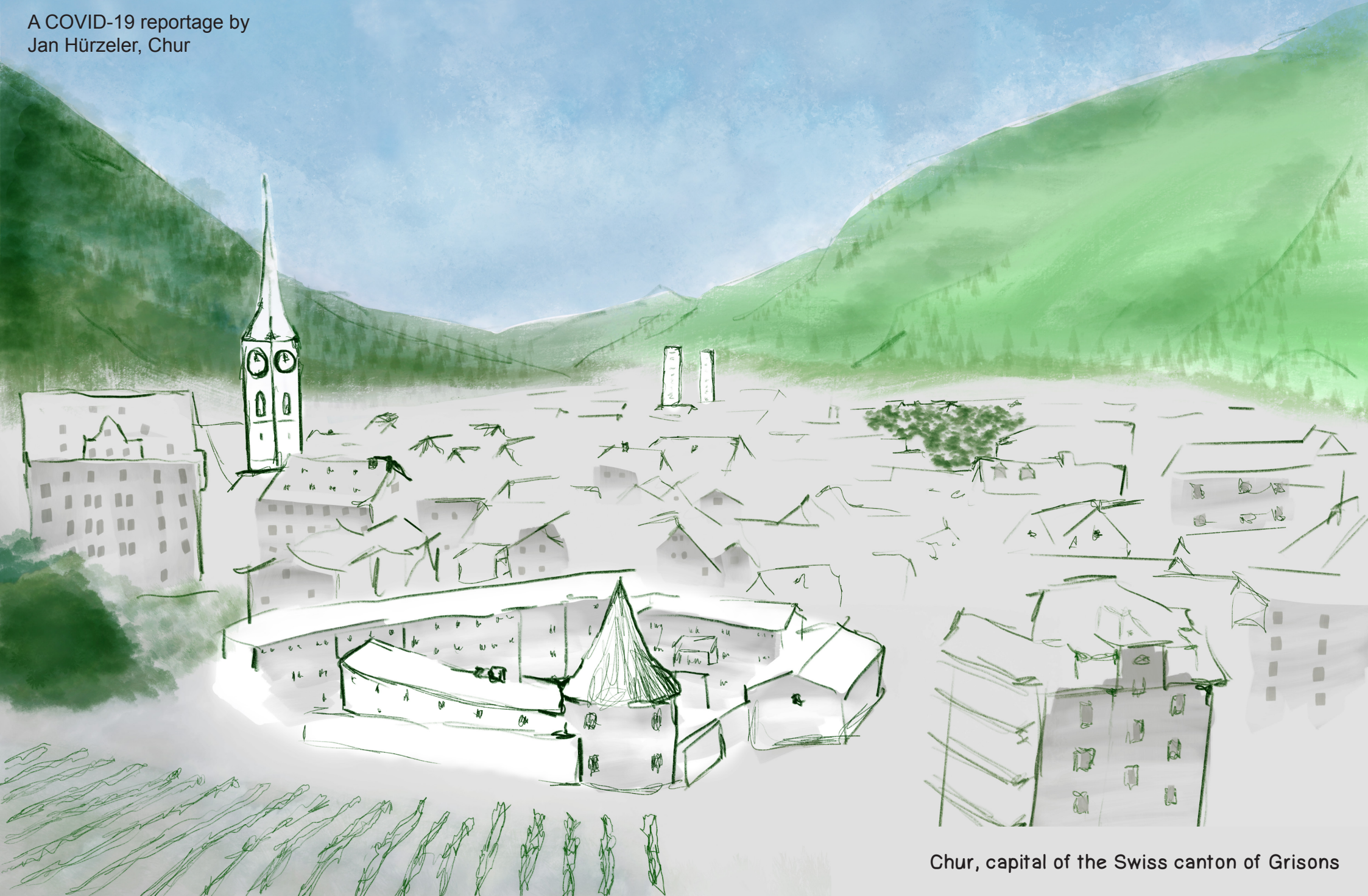


# We need to rethink how humans live with animals on this planet.

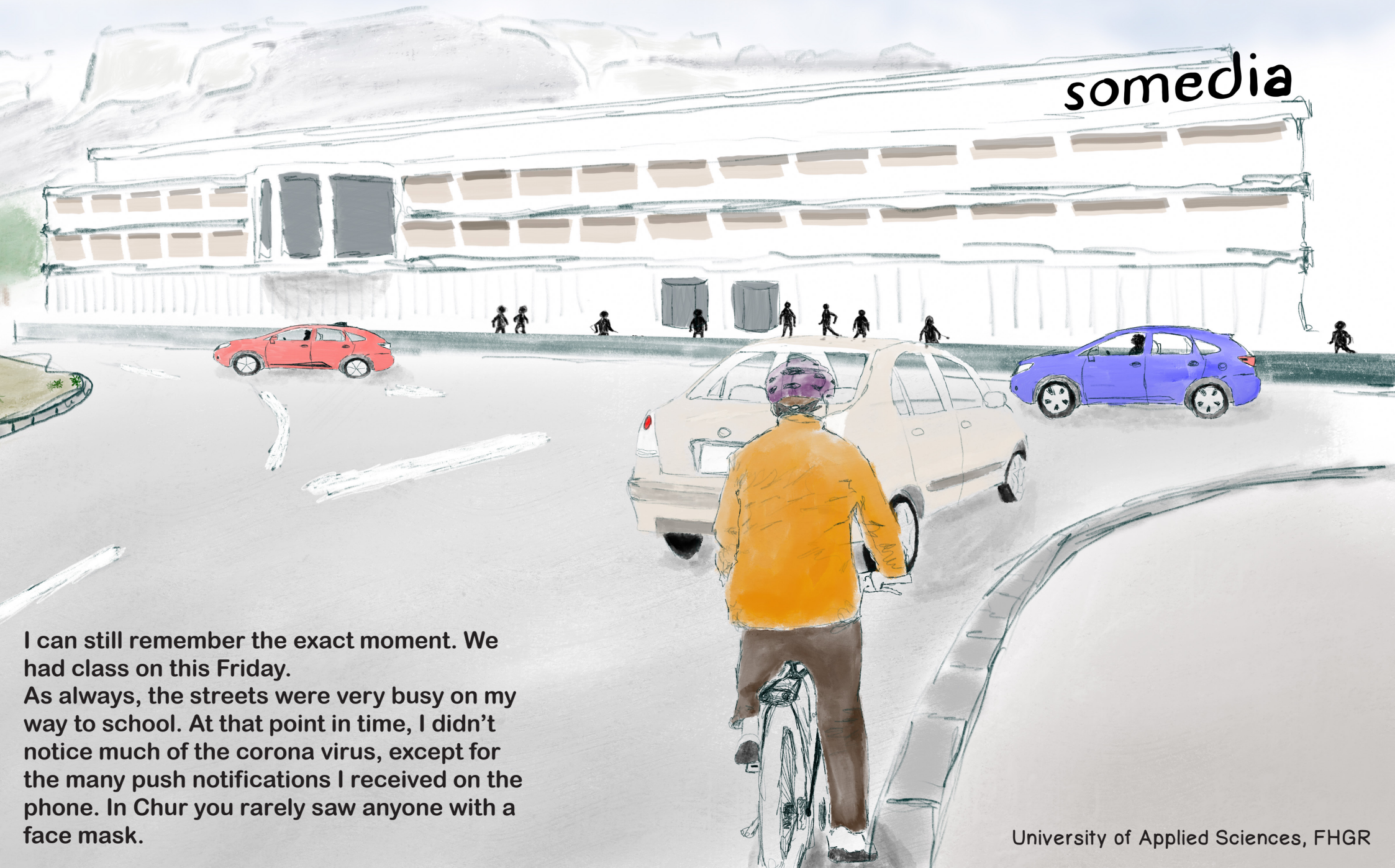
A COVID-19 reportage by  
Jan Hürzeler, Chur



Chur, capital of the Swiss canton of Grisons

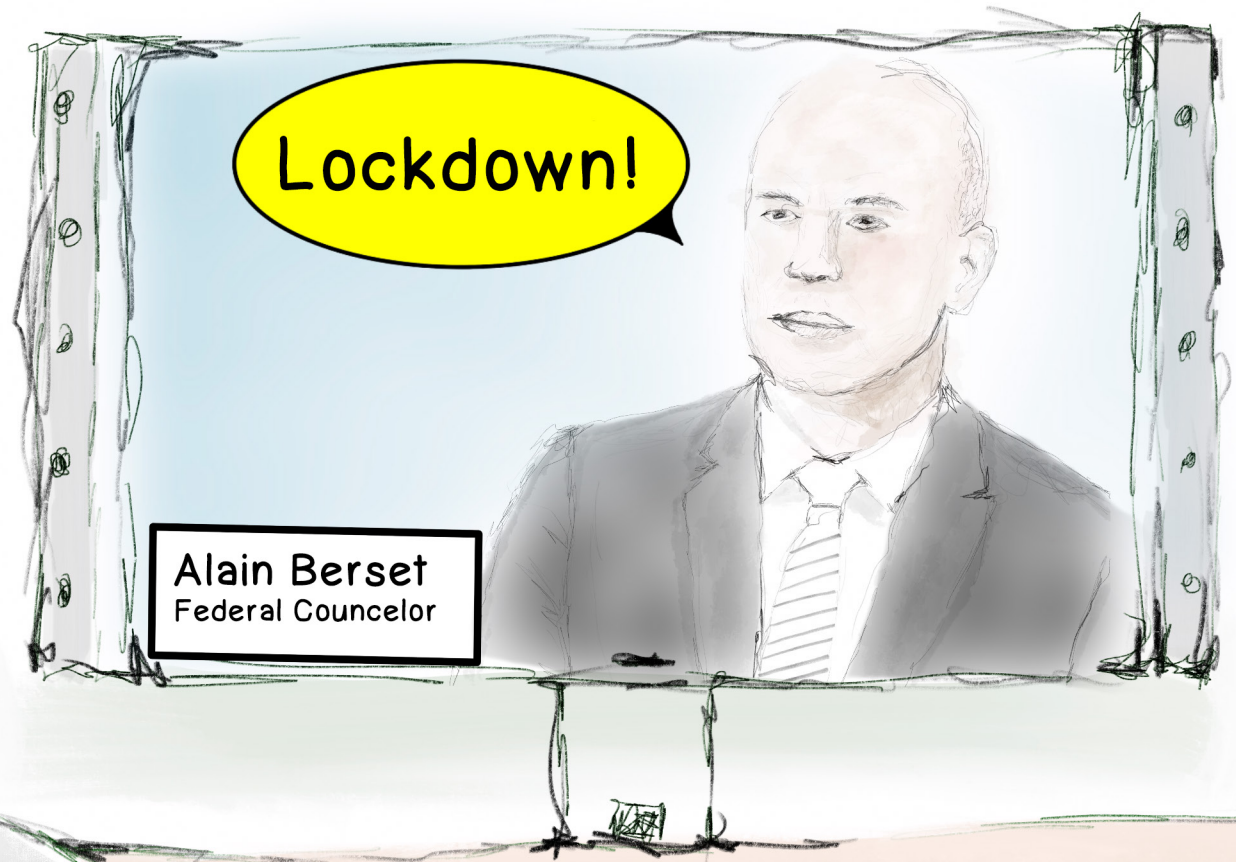


In early 2020 everything used to be the normal, the ordinary daily life as we all know it.



I can still remember the exact moment. We had class on this Friday. As always, the streets were very busy on my way to school. At that point in time, I didn't notice much of the corona virus, except for the many push notifications I received on the phone. In Chur you rarely saw anyone with a face mask.





In the afternoon was the Federal Council's media release. Alain Berset announced that the lockdown will come into effect on Monday. At the time, I couldn't really imagine what that would feel like.



The weekend passed quickly.  
Corona was never brought up in my apartment and by Monday I had almost forgotten the upcoming regulations.



**Monday morning:**

**Where there used to be countless cars speeding through the streets, people strolling through the city and sipping coffee in restaurants, well... Now there's just this depressing emptiness.**







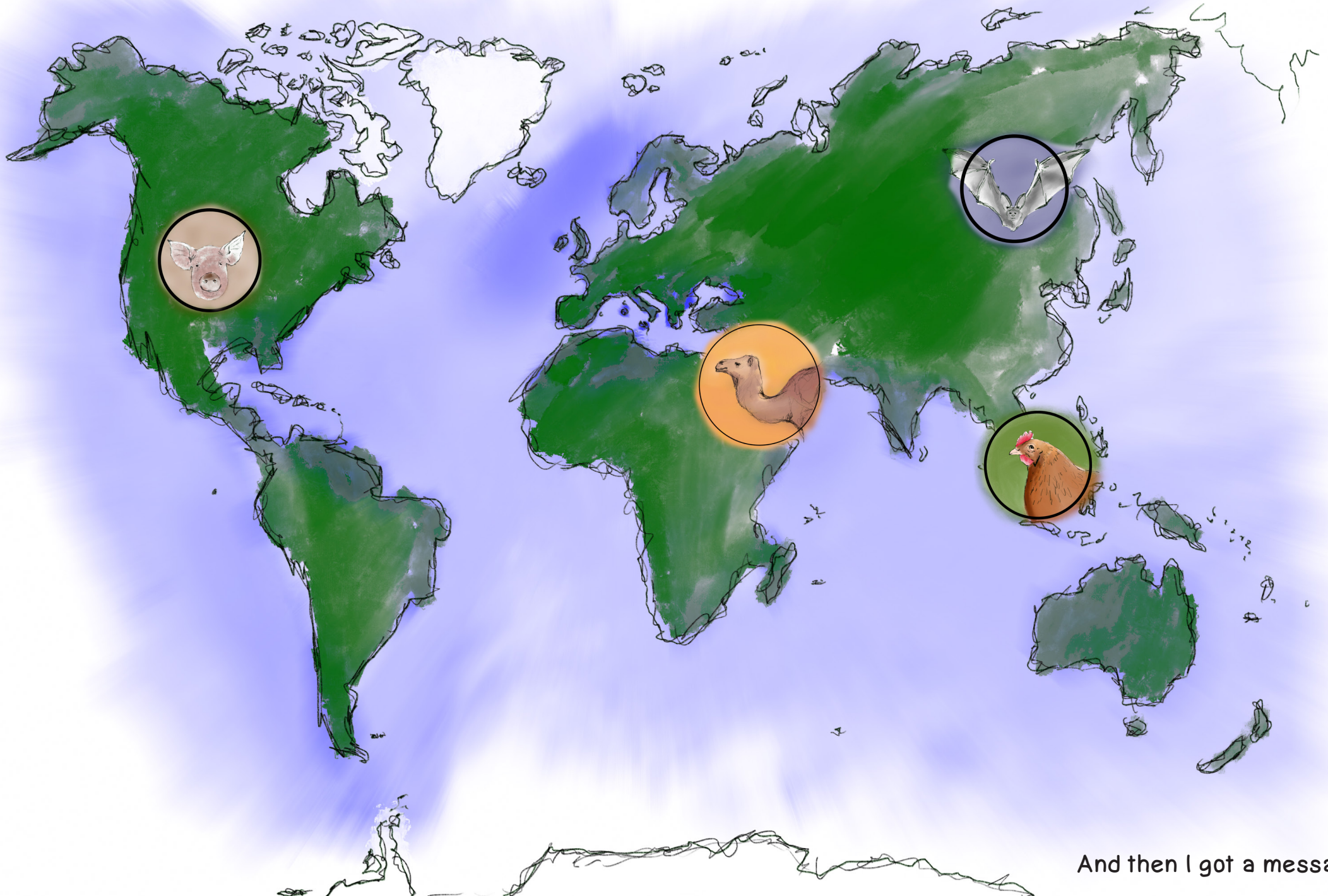
So far, I had practically not dealt with the topic, because the constant negative headlines made me feel sad over time. However, I found it very impressive that in our time it is possible to pause the whole world. I was interested in how this could have happened.

After a short research I discovered a lot of information on the topic. The first person infected with the virus was from Wuhan, China. The Virus itself was transferred to him from a bat.

A virus, that passed from animal to human?



That seemed familiar to me. Swine flu, bird flu and MERS, which comes from camels, are well known viruses. But how does this happen?



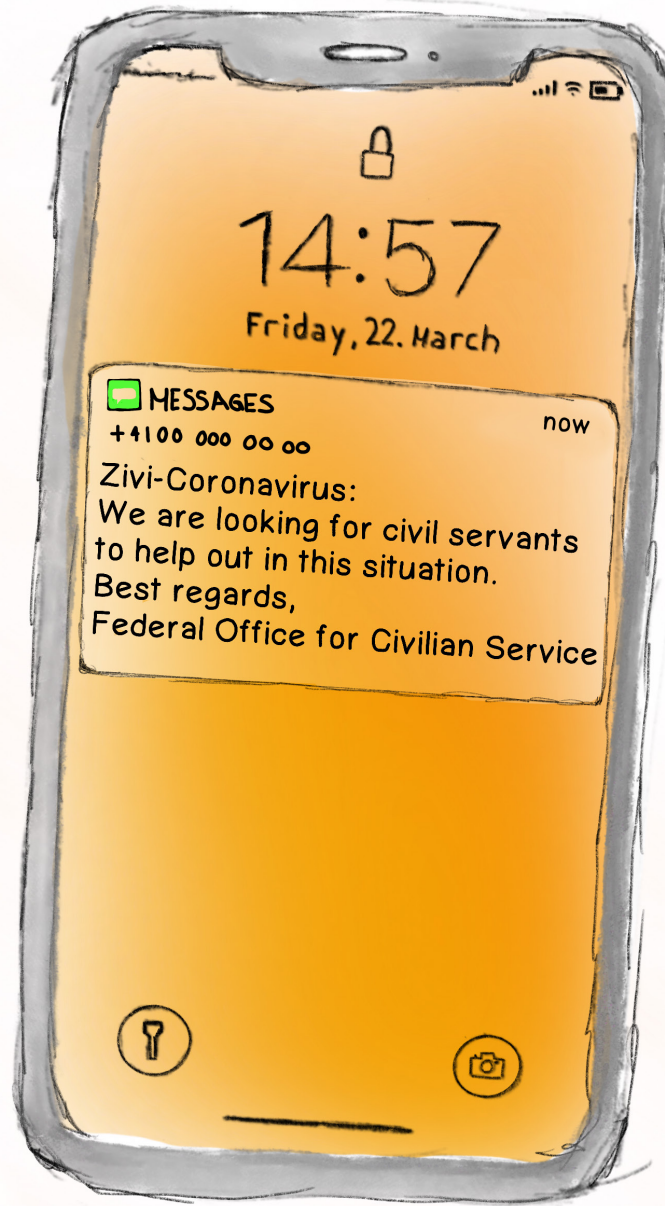
And then I got a message.



The following is my way of getting a possible answer to the question:

Messages were sent to every civilian service worker asking for help.

It didn't take long until Switzerland called in some help.



SKETCHBOOK



I was employed at a social therapy facility, that was a farm too. I worked in the garden and agriculture area, but they keep animals such as cows, pigs and chickens as well. They take good care of the animals. They have a lot more space than other farms in Switzerland.

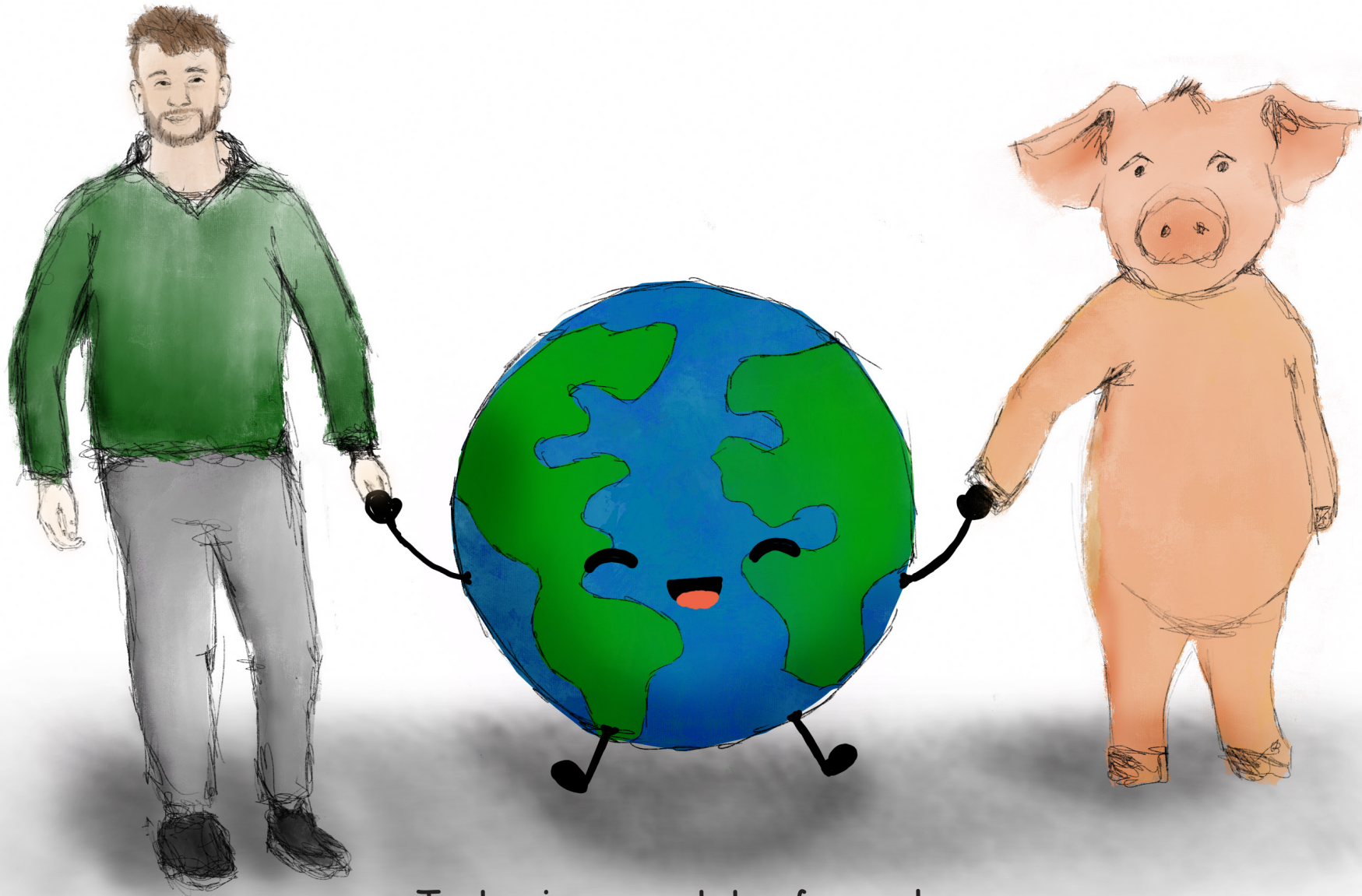
From the news and documentaries I know, that the Swiss standard is one of the best in the world, but there are worse conditions in most other places.





Is it possible to improve animal husbandry worldwide? Or to at least reduce the request on animal products, so there won't have to be overpopulated barns and enclosures? This may lead to more space for the animals and thus to decrease their chance of being the source of viruses. The possibility of a new infection through animals would be lower.

We are more connected than ever. It should be possible to strive towards a better world, together.



Today is a good day for a change.  
Today is the perfect day to start changing.