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## 2007 Grantmaking activities

In its tenth financial year, GEBERT RÜF STIFTUNG invested CHF 10.4 million in its activities. CHF 9.5 million was used for direct grants for a total of 38 projects and for project-related implementation grants. 13 projects with a funding volume of < CHF 50'000 22 projects ranging from CHF 50'000 to CHF 500'000 and 3 with budgets of more than CHF 500'000 could thus be financed. However, total support provided by the Foundation came to CHF 10 million, which includes operational grantmaking activities.

Financial support cannot be granted for all projects that essentially meet our criteria: demand for grant support from GEBERT RÜF STIFTUNG increases each financial year, which is why in the final selection stage projects are eliminated as "approved but not funded".

The foundation's expenditure amounted to a total of 8.6% or CHF 0.9 million, CHF 0.5 million of which was channelled into direct project expenditure for initiating, monitoring and networking tasks. Key administrative tasks were assured with administrative costs of 3.8% or CHF 0.4 million.

GEBERT RÜF STIFTUNG publishes details of all the projects supported on its website: on the one hand this shows the focal points of the medium-term grantmaking strategy in the form of areas of activity, while on the other hand providing extensive information on each project. Details are given on project managers, the total grant amount, and individual support (percentage breakdown), as well as a project appraisal outlining the basis for decisions/support, abstracts of projects, and project status and results. All information reported, which is structured by project stages, is continuously updated.

[WWW.GRSTIFTUNG.CH](http://WWW.GRSTIFTUNG.CH)

## Board of trustees

Members: Prof. Dr. Rudolf Marty (since 2005; chairman), Prof. Dr. Peter Forstmoser (since 1997; deputy chairman), Prof. Dr. René Dändliker (since 2007), † Prof. Dr. Marie Theres Fögen (since 2006), Prof. Dr. Susan Gasser (since 2006), Prof. Dr. Jürg Schifferli (since 2007), Prof. Dr. Carl A. Zehnder (since 1998); Former members of the board of trustees: Dr. Theodor Fässler (founding chairman 1997–2004), Prof. Dr. Philipp U. Heitz (1998–2006), Prof. Dr. Piero Martinoli (2003–2006), Prof. Dr. Verena Meyer (1997–2005), Dr. Heinrich Rohrer (1997–2002), Prof. Dr. Hans-Heinrich Schmid (1997–2005)

## The foundation office

Dr. Philipp Egger, foundation manager; Dr. Pascale Vonmont, deputy foundation manager; Dr. Franziska Breuning, program manager Swiss Baltic Net; Jacqueline Grollmund, project controlling; Corinne Burkhardt, back office

## Committees

Chairman's Committee; Nominations Committee; Finance Committee; eTeach Advisory Board; Baltic Advisory Board

## External units

Accountants: Bourcart Treuhand AG, Basel  
Auditors: Copartner Revision AG  
Banking partners: UBS Global Asset Management, Zurich  
Investment Controlling: ECOFIN Investment Consulting AG, Zurich  
Foundation supervision: Swiss Federal Supervisory Board for Foundations, Berne

## Member of SwissFoundations

In its activities GEBERT RÜF STIFTUNG follows the recommendations of the Swiss Foundation Code.

2007  
english

— GEBERT RÜF STIFTUNG —  
WISSENSCHAFT.BEWEGEN

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2007

ROLE OF GEBERT RÜF STIFTUNG



■ GEBERT RÜF STIFTUNG  
■ PUBLIC SECTOR, PRIVATE FUNDERS  
■ RISK, LEGITIMIZATION REQUIREMENT

NOT SO MUCH A FIREWORK ROCKET ON THE SPACE SHUTTLE ...

Grantmaking foundations are niche players. While their quantitative impact is fairly minimal, they can make a qualitative difference. GEBERT RÜF STIFTUNG therefore does not act as a stop-gap provider to relieve the public sector, nor does it seek to augment existing large budgets. Instead, in line with the founder's vision and the purpose of the foundation it operates in the field of innovation, where it can use its limited resources to achieve a leverage effect.

FOUNDED BY AN ENTREPRENEUR

In the summer of 2007, the leading Swiss entrepreneur and philanthropist Heinrich Gebert died at the age of 90. His dedication to innovation made him a successful businessman. As an entrepreneur committed to society, he was also an active patron of the arts, social projects, and education. Convinced of the social benefits of making practical use of scientific discoveries, in 1997 he established GEBERT RÜF STIFTUNG with the aim of giving fresh impetus to Switzerland as a top location for business and quality of life through applied university projects. His vision was that a private foundation could have an impact not by promoting science – which is mainly the job of the state – but by promoting transfer-oriented scientific projects.

ACTION PHASES



... AS A LIGHTER CUBE IN THE FIREPLACE

GEBERT RÜF STIFTUNG promotes potential and opportunities by – ideally – addressing gaps in terms of content and providing start-up funding. In accordance with its entrepreneurial principles and to be in a position to continually help anew, all of its commitments are for limited periods of time. This approach to risk is possible precisely because of its freedom and independence as a private foundation. Partnerships with innovative public sector projects are particularly effective.

SCIENCE AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

A key concern of GEBERT RÜF STIFTUNG – and one which stems directly from the founder's vision and foundation's purpose – is the way in which the world of science interacts with enterprise. At the heart of its "science and entrepreneurship" activities is the promotion of fledgling knowledge-based entrepreneurs at Swiss universities who are in an early transfer phase. In this gap in the innovation chain the Foundation, together with partners from the private and public sectors, continuously initiates new projects centering on the theme of "Science Entrepreneurship": NETS in a cooperation with Create Switzerland; Venture Leaders with KTI; Venture Kick with ERNST GÖHNER STIFTUNG and OPO-Stiftung.

INTEGRATED APPROACH

Rather than restricting the theme of "Science Entrepreneurship" to activities in the area of "science and entrepreneurship", GEBERT RÜF STIFTUNG seeks to bring it to the fore in all grantmaking activities. Innovative projects of entrepreneurial junior scientists who would like to see their ideas implemented in practice are especially welcome. Targeted project management is assisted with a support agreement, controlling and monitoring. Debriefing of project managers and an evaluation of completed projects serves to develop the grantmaking strategy.