

## EXECUTIVE REPORT 2008

### Key figures in the eleventh financial year

Total funds used: CHF 9.1 million

Direct grants CHF 8.2 million for 27 projects including implementation grants

2 projects < CHF 50,000, 22 projects between CHF 50,000 and CHF 500,000,  
3 projects > CHF 500,000

Foundation expenditure 9.8 %, of which 3.8 % administrative costs

### 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. Susan Gasser (since 2008), Christiane Langenberger (since 2008), Prof. Dr. Jürg Schifferli (since 2007), Prof. Dr. Carl A. Zehnder (since 1998)

### Office

Dr. Philipp Egger, foundation manager; Dr. Pascale Vonmont, deputy foundation manager; Dr. Franziska Breuning, programme manager Swiss Baltic Net (until June 2008); 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, Basel

Banking partners: UBS Global Asset Management, Zurich

Investment Controlling: ECOFIN Investment Consulting AG, Zurich

Foundation supervision: Swiss Federal Supervisory Board for Foundations, Berne

### Selection

The evaluation of project inputs is based on a defined grantmaking strategy following a two-level selection process. If a project proposal is approved, an invitation is extended to submit an application. Not all projects that meet the grantmaking strategy criteria can be financed. This is why as a final selection level a ranking is drawn up which leads to the exclusion of applicants as «approved but not funded».

### Transparency

The website presents the foundation's grantmaking strategy in the form of areas of activity, it openly discloses the support criteria and provides information on procedures. Every project supported is described in detail: Project managers, the total grant amount, abstract, project status and results. All information reported, which is structured by project stages, is continuously updated.

### Good governance

GEBERT RÜF STIFTUNG complies with the Swiss Foundation Code and is a member of SwissFoundations.

[www.grstiftung.ch](http://www.grstiftung.ch)

## EXECUTIVE REPORT 2008 ENGLISH

— GEBERT RÜF STIFTUNG —  
WISSENSCHAFT.BEWEGEN

**Publishing details:** The present executive report by the foundation's management is also available in German and French. The full report of the board of trustees in accordance with Swiss GAAP ARR 21 can be downloaded from the website.



## FOUNDATION PORTRAIT

**Making science effective** – GEBERT RÜF STIFTUNG aims to help applied scientific projects with major potential achieve a breakthrough. The promotion of the sciences themselves is not the foundation's objective. Its grantmaking strategy is based on time-limited areas of action and clear selection criteria.

**Promoting innovation** – GEBERT RÜF STIFTUNG finances and monitors transfer-oriented education and research projects with the inherent potential for forward-looking renewal. The foundation exploits the scope it has as an independent organization. It supports groundbreaking projects and unconventional approaches.

**Shaping the future** – GEBERT RÜF STIFTUNG is committed to start-up financing and to projects with a bridging function. It does not finance established or well-known ideas. In the spirit of risk financing, it instead provides a suitable platform for forward-pointing concepts and realizes model projects.

## TIME-LIMITED AREAS OF ACTIVITY

### The grantmaking portfolio

By bundling grantmaking projects into areas of activity, GEBERT RÜF STIFTUNG endeavours to generate new stimuli. It does not follow strictly delineated consolidated programmatic lines, but periodically redefines its focal points. As the areas of activity are time-limited, capacity for the development of new areas is constantly being freed up.

### Active areas of activity

- Science and Entrepreneurship, venture kick programme, since 2007
- Innovation at Universities of Applied Sciences, call for model projects, relaunch in 2009
- Life sciences, call for projects: Rare Diseases – New Technologies, launch in 2009
- Promotion of Eastern Europe, Academic Swiss Caucasus Net (ASCN) programme, launch in 2009

### Passive areas of activity

- Science and the Public, since 1999
- Switzerland as a top location for foundations, since 2003

### Discontinuing areas of activity

- Promotion of Eastern Europe, Swiss Baltic Net programme, since 1999
- Promotion of the sustainability of new learning technologies, start-up funding for the Centre for Innovations in Learning SCIL, since 2001

### Former areas of activity

- Emigration and remigration of highly qualified junior scientists, reBrain programme, 1999–2006

## SWISS BALTIC NET 2000 – 2008

### Encouragement of young scientists through the Swiss Baltic Exchange

For almost a decade, GEBERT RÜF STIFTUNG has been setting up and developing scientific links between the small Baltic states and Switzerland. The main focus was on providing grants for mid-level faculty. Countless connections have been established between people, universities, institutions and countries, a dense network has grown. A success story.

### A future-proof network

Since the Baltic states joined the EU on 1 May 2004, they have witnessed rapid development. The universities now receive European research grants, to which the Swiss Confederation also contributes through its grant of one billion Swiss francs for economic and social cohesion measures for the members that joined the EU in May 2004. Many of the activities of this new government-financed scientific collaboration are linked to the Swiss Baltic Net network. Mission accomplished.