

KEY FIGURES IN THE 28TH FINANCIAL YEAR

Funds totalling CHF 11.3 million (2024: 12.3; 2023: 13.2) were used for the foundation's activities. CHF 10.2 million (11.1; 12.1) were channelled into direct and implementation grants for 62 (62; 61) support projects. Total foundation expenditure amounted to 9.3 % (9.1; 8.4) of the funds used, of which 2.2 % (2.5; 2.5) were administrative expenses and 7.1 % (6.6; 5.9) were direct project expenses for the themes supported. Foundation assets as at 31.12.2025 amounted to CHF 59 million (66; 74). In the year under review, a net portfolio performance of 5.8 % (8.3; 8.4) or 16.1 % (5; 5.9) for the share portfolio Switzerland was achieved with a passive asset allocation. Since its establishment, Gebert RUF Stiftung has financed a good 1452 projects, providing a total of CHF 281.5 million in grants. The completed projects triggered additional resources of CHF 9.1 billion, corresponding to an efficiency factor of 35.

TRANSPARENCY

The website grstiftung.ch presents the foundation's policy and strategy (target domains, areas of activity), openly discloses the support criteria and provides information on procedures. The following information is given for every project supported: project managers, total funding amount, abstract, project status and results. The foundation's performance is documented by details of financial data, funding volume and investments.

MANAGEMENT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Prof. Dr. Roland Siegwart (since 2012, Chairman), Prof. Dr. Monika Bütler (since 2017, Deputy Chairwoman), Prof. Dr. Manuel Battegay (since 2024), Prof. Dr. Andrea Belliger (since 2022), Prof. Dr. Elgar Fleisch (since 2018), Prof. Dr. Martin Fussenegger (since 2019), Prof. Dr. Falko Schlottig (since 2025), Prof. Dr. Marcel Tanner (since 2016); **EXECUTIVE TEAM:** Dr. Pascale Vonmont (CEO/Director), Dr. Marco Vencato (Deputy Director), Jacqueline Grollimund (Project Support and Controlling), Corinne Burkhardt (Management Assistant/Back Office), Kaya Blum (Student Assistant); **COMMITTEES AND ADVISORY BOARDS:** Chairman's Committee, Nomination and Finance Committees, Eastern Europe Committee.

GOOD GOVERNANCE

Gebert RUF Stiftung complies with the Swiss Foundation Code, is a member of SwissFoundations and works closely with the University of Basel's CEPS (Center for Philanthropy Studies). The board of trustees carries out an annual risk assessment of all foundation activities. An internal control system is used for this purpose.

EXTERNAL UNITS

INVESTMENT CONCEPT/PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT: ECOFIN Portfolio Solutions AG, Zurich; **FUND MANAGEMENT:** UBS Asset Management Switzerland AG, Zurich; **CUSTODIAN BANKS:** UBS Schweiz AG, Zurich; Rahn+Bodmer Co., Zurich; **DIRECT INVESTMENT:** Margebeli JSC, Georgia (Private Equity); **ACCOUNTING:** Bourcart Treuhand AG, Basel; **AUDITORS:** Copartner Revision AG, Basel; **SUPERVISORY AUTHORITY:** Swiss Federal Supervisory Board for Foundations, Berne.

FUNDING INNOVATION – In 2025, the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences was awarded to three researchers who demonstrated that innovation is the key to sustainable growth and a viable economy. The message is clear: innovation is the driving force that propels societies, creates prosperity, and delivers solutions to the challenges of our time.

Yet, this idea remains largely untapped in the philanthropic sector. Many foundations successfully engage in culture, social issues, or environmental causes – undoubtedly important areas. However, only a few deliberately focus on funding innovation: across Switzerland, a mere 3 % do so.

Foundations, with their independence and long-term perspective, are ideally positioned to experiment with new ideas, take risks, and enable creative solutions – especially where markets and politics are often hesitant. Gebert Rüt Stiftung exemplifies how impactful and forward-thinking the commitment of innovation-focused foundations can be.

INNOVATION AS A MISSION – For Gebert Rüt Stiftung, innovation is not coincidental but a mission. Since 1998, the foundation has ensured that ideas do not just gather dust in drawers, but instead, transform into innovations for a sustainable future. As an agenda-setter, the foundation has initiated 24 thematic areas, demonstrating multiple times how philanthropy can leverage significant impact through risk financing.

IMPACT WITH LEVERAGE – In 1999, Gebert Rüt Stiftung launched the groundbreaking «NETS – New Entrepreneurs in Technology and Science» program, a unique entrepreneurship training at Swiss universities. In 2006, NETS was adopted by the CTI (now Innosuisse) and continues today as part of startup training programs and the independent «venture leaders» initiative. This was the first systematic effort in Switzerland to promote entrepreneurial skills within academia, laying the foundation for the foundation's subsequent entrepreneurship initiatives.

Established by Gebert Rüt Stiftung and Ernst Göhner Stiftung, Kick Foundation is now one of the most effective platforms for promoting entrepreneurial initiatives in Switzerland. With the program First Ventures it opens the way for Swiss universities of applied sciences and their students to pilot new business ideas. Its flagship initiative, Venture Kick, plays a central role in the Swiss startup ecosystem and acts as a pipeline for subsequent funding programs and investors. Moreover, the combination of support and investment through the Kickfund has created an unprecedented, sustainable value chain.

VISION WITH IMPACT – Gebert Rüt Stiftung's track record is impressive: since 1998, 1450 projects have been supported, CHF 280 million invested, 5000 individuals funded, approximately 1000 products and services developed, 900 startups founded, and more than CHF 10 billion in follow-on investments generated.



«The innovation pipeline of the Kick Foundation is a show case of how entrepreneurship and philanthropy can work together. More foundations should follow this path to further strengthen Switzerland's innovation capacity.»

Christoph Franz
Board of Trustees, Ernst Göhner Stiftung



«Innovation emerges where smart people combine knowledge and impact – this is precisely where Gebert Rüt Stiftung steps in. Its model proves that foundations can provide crucial impulses for sustainable economic development.»

Monika Bütler
Board of Trustees, Gebert Rüt Stiftung



«The Kick pipeline is one of the strongest driving forces of Swiss entrepreneurship: it accelerates innovation and turns uncertainty into investable momentum. For Versantis and Nerai Bio – as for over two-thirds of Swiss deep-tech startups – Kick's support was a decisive catalyst for early success.»

Vincent Forster
Founder Versantis and Nerai Bioscience

These figures demonstrate that foundations have an exceptional leveraging effect, particularly in the field of innovation. As a spend-down foundation, Gebert Rüt Stiftung aims to continue its contribution beyond its sunset, with the vision that by 2030, not just 3 % but 10 % of all Swiss foundations will foster innovation. How do we achieve this?

Through a collective effort of philanthropists, foundations, and entrepreneurs who believe in the potential of innovation and its added value for Switzerland – funding innovation to turn ideas into a sustainable future. Heinrich Gebert's vision has lived on since 1998 and can continue to thrive beyond Gebert Rüt Stiftung's sunset with the help of bold philanthropists.