KEY FIGURES IN THE 21ST FINANCIAL YEAR

Funds totalling CHF 15.2 million (2017: 14.7; 2016: 15.5) were used for the Foundation’s activities (cash-out). CHF 14.2 million (13.7; 14.0) were channelled into direct and implementation grants for 71 (72; 63) support projects. Of these projects, 19 (25; 16) were ≤ CHF 50,000, 51 (46; 46) between CHF 50,000 and CHF 500,000 and 1 (1; 1) ≥ CHF 500,000. Total foundation expenditure amounted to 6.7 % (6.9; 9.7) of the funds used, of which 2.3 % (2.3; 2.6) were administrative expenses and 4.4 % (4.6; 7.1) were direct project expenses for the themes supported. Foundation assets as at 31.12.2018 amounted to CHF 128.2 million (149.5; 152.9). In the year under review, a net portfolio performance of -4.81 % (8.55; 3.58) was achieved with a largely passive asset allocation.

SELECTION

The evaluation of projects is based on a funding strategy which is tailored to a specific area of activity and usually comprises a two-stage process of selection by the board of trustees. If a project proposal is approved, an invitation is extended to submit a detailed application. Given the large number of very good projects, not all of them that meet the strategy requirements can be financed. There is a need to make a selection at all submission stages. The final ranking takes into account the core criteria as well as the foundation’s funding strategy.

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 movements.

MANAGEMENT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Prof. Dr. Roland Siegwart (since 2012, Chairman), Prof. Dr. Monika Bütler (since 2017, Deputy Chairman), Prof. Dr. Richard Bührer (since 2011), Dr. Katja Gentinetta (since 2013), Prof. Dr. Elgar Fleisch (since 2018), Prof. Dr. Jean-Marc Piveteau (since 2018), Prof. Dr. Jürg Schifferli (since 2007), Prof. Dr. Marcel Tanner (since 2016);

EXECUTIVE TEAM: Dr. Pascale Vonmont (CEO/Director), Dr. Marco Vencato (Deputy Director), Jacqueline Vovelle (Project Monitoring/Controlling), Corinne Bühler (Management Assistant, Office Manager, Financial Assistant, Finance Committee, Nomination and Finance Committees, external audit committees, jury, kick strategy board, First Ventures jury, Microbes jury, Publications Committee).

EXTERNAL UNITS

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VISION WITH REACH
SCIENCE ENTREPRENEURSHIP
What Heinrich Gebert vigorously accomplished as an entrepreneur was something that he also wished to achieve as a philanthropist for the business community and society: translating scientific innovation into the creation of jobs is the basis of social and economic prosperity. Staying true to this vision, he established Gebert Rüf Stiftung after the sale of the family business, Geberit. He proved equally innovative in the role of philanthropist as he was as an industrialist. In setting up the foundation, he transferred the concept of entrepreneurship to not-for-profit science funding: early-stage innovation involves considerable risks. Providing support during this phase represents an ideal gap with substantial leverage for a private funding commitment.

VISION WITH IMPACT
IMPUTS IN FUNDING GAPS
Gebert Rüf Stiftung sees it as its task to take risks and provide funding where needed to help innovations get off the ground. By supporting projects with a clear identity, the foundation aims to achieve measurable levelling up in terms of funding gaps.

VISION WITH POTENTIAL
PRIVATE ASSETS AS A CATALYST
As a philanthropist, Heinrich Gebert was a pioneer: a clearly defined purpose and focussed gap funding make Gebert Rüf Stiftung unique. The 20-year support milestone is reason for the foundation to take stock and evaluate the impact and results of its funding among all its partners in relation to the foundation’s core criteria: gap function, effectiveness, trigger.

IMPACT OF GEBERT RÜF STIFTUNG – 1998 TO 2018
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PROGRAMMES – LAUNCHING THEMES
Gebert Rüf Stiftung has successfully supported multinational research projects in the field of “Innovative Therapeutic Approaches for Rare Diseases”. The topic of “Rare Diseases” is now fully closed through the establishment of the BRIDGE programme. That allowed Gebert Rüf Stiftung to launch a new funding programme under the name “InnoBooster” in September 2018.

PRODUCTS – MAKING AN IMPACT
The pre-seed fund Venture Kick was launched in 2007 with the vision of doubling the number of spin-offs at Swiss universities, accelerating the time to market, and raising the attractiveness of these young companies to professional investors and industrial partners. Since the launch of the Venture Kick programme, funded with start-up capital from 2 foundations, 12 further cooperation partners joined. Over 600 start-ups have been established and a good 6,000 jobs created.

IMPACT WITH REACH
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