

KEY FIGURES IN THE 24TH FINANCIAL YEAR

Funds totalling CHF 13.9 million (2020: 15.4; 2019: 15.0) were used for the foundation's activities. CHF 12.8 million (14.3; 13.9) were channelled into direct and implementation grants for 70 (92; 80) support projects. Total foundation expenditure amounted to 7.4% (6.7; 6.9) of the funds used, of which 2.2% (2.0; 2.1) were administrative expenses and 5.2% (4.7; 4.8) were direct project expenses for the themes supported. Foundation assets as at 31. 12. 2021 amounted to CHF 110.9 million (125.4; 132.4). In the year under review, a net portfolio performance of 7.7% (5.97; 13.2) or 20.9% (4.69) share portfolio Switzerland was achieved with a passive asset allocation. Since its establishment, Gebert RUF Stiftung has financed a good 1,200 projects, providing a total of CHF 240 million in grants. The completed projects triggered additional resources of CHF 7.5 billion, corresponding to an efficiency factor of 40.

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. Roland Siegwart (since 2012, Chairman), Prof. Monika Bütler (since 2017, Deputy Chairwoman), Prof. Elgar Fleisch (since 2018), Prof. Martin Fussenegger (since 2019), Prof. Jean-Marc Piveteau (since 2018), Prof. Marcel Tanner (since 2016); **EXECUTIVE TEAM:** Dr. Pascale Vonmont (CEO / Director), Dr. Marco Vencato (Deputy Director), Jacqueline Grollimund (Project Monitoring / Controlling, Programme Coordination Digital Education), Corinne Burkhardt (Management Assistant / Back Office), Alina Huonder (till July) and Angela Zollinger (since August) (student assistants); **COMMITTEES AND ADVISORY BOARDS:** Chairman's Committee, Nomination and Finance Committees, Eastern Europe Committee, Venture Kick strategy board, First Ventures jury.

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 (ICS) is used for this purpose.

EXTERNAL UNITS

INVESTMENT CONCEPT: ECOFIN Portfolio Solutions AG, Zurich; **FUND MANAGEMENT:** Credit Suisse Funds AG, Zurich; **CUSTODIAN BANKS:** Credit Suisse (Switzerland) AG, Zurich; Rahn+Bodmer Co., Zurich; **DIRECT INVESTMENT:** Margebeli JSC, Georgia (Private Equity); **INVESTMENT CONTROLLING:** ECOFIN Investment Consulting AG; **ACCOUNTING:** Bourcart Treuhand AG, Basel; **AUDITORS:** Copartner Revision AG, Basel; **SUPERVISORY AUTHORITY:** Swiss Federal Supervisory Board for Foundations, Berne.

THE FUNDING IMPACT AS A MANDATE

The fundamental mandate of any foundation is impactful funding. How can we achieve good outcomes or even do better? With relatively sparse resources – compared to the state and private sector – foundations need to make the greatest possible contribution in the right gap to solving societal challenges.

Neither digital transformation nor the corona crisis has changed this necessity in any way, aside from an increase in the speed with which the relevance of topics and gaps shifts. As agile niche players, foundations are keen to optimize their funding strategies to enhance the impact. But how do we achieve the optimum?

THE VALUE CHAIN AS A FUNDING PRINCIPLE

What is needed is a funding gap worth closing, and an appropriate funding strategy tailored to creating optimum added value which combines sustainability and an efficient use of resources. The strategic direction of funding activities along the value chain is of key importance since values evolve along a chain. When grantmaking foundations fund projects reactively, they are usually unable to cover the entire value chain: they create momentum for activities before and after completion of the project which rely on input from other sources.



Creating a sustainable value chain relies on numerous conditions being met: Selecting projects and establishing a network of strong partners both call for a judicious approach. These also include alumni, many of whom are willing to pass on the support they received to the next generation. Anyone intending to set a «virtuous circle» of value creation in motion must bear one critical factor in mind: The philanthropy sector needs to shake off its reservations towards the private sector and become more open to strategic alliances with economic actors. This will enable grantmaking foundations to achieve coherent value chains more effectively. And this is where Gebert Rüt Stiftung comes into play with its clearly defined funding strategy.

KICK FOUNDATION AND KICKFUND AS A FUNDING CYCLE

The programmes under «Kick Foundation» and the «Kickfund», both newly launched cooperation initiatives receiving significant support from Gebert Rüt Stiftung, are a unique combination of funding and investment. The «Kick Programme» offers Switzerland’s best talents a broad-based training and funding programme for the business, technology and innovation sectors under a graded selection process from the initial idea in school, via tertiary education to growth financing. The aim of this meta orchestration is to network existing and new startup initiatives along the value chain and to accelerate

the innovation and funding processes. The lean, legally independent Kickfund is directly linked to the funding programme. The profit-oriented fund invests systematically in the Venture Kick finalists and can in turn use part of the returns to generate the pipeline. This produces a funding cycle that creates sustainable added value on a continuous basis.