

### KEY FIGURES IN THE 13<sup>TH</sup> FINANCIAL YEAR

Funds totalling CHF 10.0 mio. (2009: CHF 9.7 mio.) were used for the foundation's activities (cash out). CHF 9.1 mio. (CHF 8.7 mio.) were channelled into direct and implementation grants for 36 (37) support projects. Of the 36 projects, 6 (7) were < CHF 50,000, 28 (29) between CHF 50,000 and CHF 500,000 and 2 (1) > CHF 500,000. Total foundation expenditure amounted to 9.3 % (9.5 %) of the funds used, of which 3.2 % (3.4 %) were administrative expenses, 6.1% were direct project expenses for the themes supported. Foundation assets as at 31.12.10 amounted to CHF 177.3 mio. (CHF 180.5 mio.). In the year under review, a net portfolio performance of 3.6 % (14.1 %) was achieved, based on a passive asset allocation strategy.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES:** 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 2006), Christiane Langenberger (since 2008), Prof. Dr. Jürg Schifferli (since 2007), Prof. Dr. Carl A. Zehnder (since 1998)

**OFFICE:** Dr. Philipp Egger, director; Dr. Pascale Vonmont, deputy director; Jacqueline Grollmund, project controlling; Corinne Burkhardt, back office

**COMMITTEES AND ADVISORY BOARDS:** Chairman's Committee, Nominations Committee, Finance Committee, Eastern Europe Committee, "Rare Diseases" Advisory Board, "Modellprojekte Fachhochschulen" Advisory Board, "venture kick" Strategy Board

#### EXTERNAL UNITS:

Investment concept: ECOFIN Portfolio Solutions AG, Zurich  
Fund management: State Street Global Advisors (SSgA), Boston; Bank Syz AG, Zurich (for CHF bonds)  
Investment controlling: Avadis Vorsorge AG, Baden  
Accounting: Bourcart Treuhand AG, Basel  
Auditors: Copartner Revision AG, Basel  
Supervisory authority: Swiss Federal Supervisory Board for Foundations, Berne

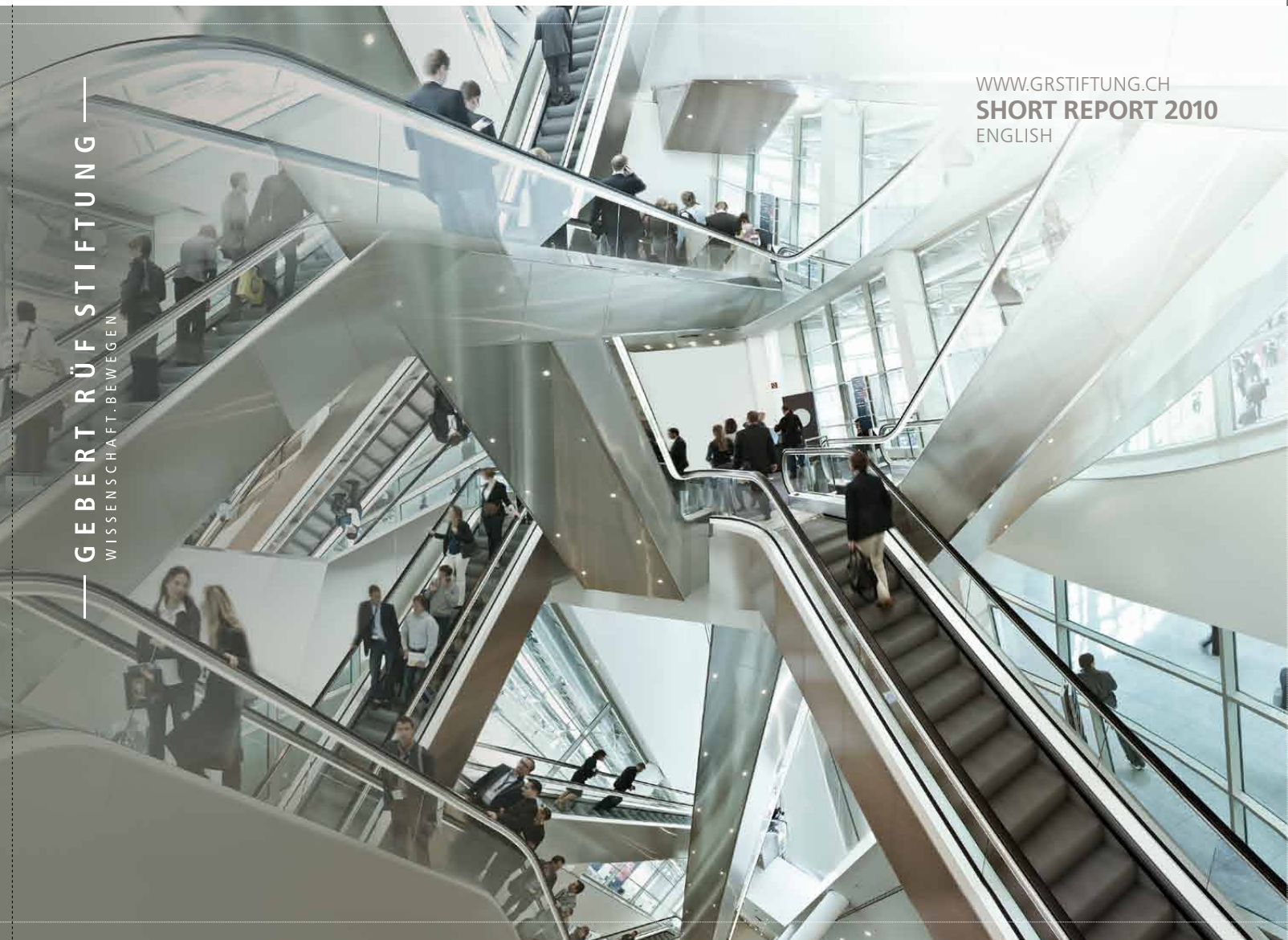
**SELECTION:** The evaluation of projects is based on a grant-making strategy; selection by the board of trustees follows a two-level process: If a project proposal is approved, an invitation is extended to submit an application. Not all projects that meet the grant-making strategy criteria can be financed. This is why, in a final step, a ranking is drawn up which in many cases leads to the exclusion of applicants as "approved but not funded".

**TRANSPARENCY:** The website [www.grstiftung.ch](http://www.grstiftung.ch) presents the foundation's grant-making 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 2009, is a member of SwissFoundations and works closely with the University of Basel's CEPS (Centre for Philanthropy Studies).

**IMPRESSUM:** The present short report by the foundation's management is also available in german and french. The full annual report of the board of trustees in accordance with Swiss GAAP ARR can be downloaded from [www.grstiftung.ch](http://www.grstiftung.ch) as of May 2011.

**LAYOUT AND DESIGN:** a+ Büro für Konzept und Gestaltung, Basel





#### IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PURPOSE ARTICLE

The basis of all foundation activities is the will of its founder Heinrich Gebert (1917–2007): “The purpose of the foundation is to enhance Switzerland as a commercial center and as a place to live by supporting projects for education, teaching and research, in all specialties and areas of knowledge.” The complete purpose article can be read in the foundation’s charter of December 12, 1997.

#### Foundation strategy

Implementation of the purpose article requires interpretation and application to relevant circumstances. This poses a challenge: remaining faithful to the historical will of the founder, while keeping his vision alive and current. GEBERT RÜF STIFTUNG works with periodically reviewable support criteria and within time-limited areas of activity.

#### Foundation activity

In its grant-making work GEBERT RÜF STIFTUNG does not simply wish to hand out money. Rather, the budgets available for the areas of activity create a fundament: After selection, grant-making projects are monitored and networked throughout all phases and beyond completion; the impact of these projects underpins implementation of the purpose article.

#### Grant-making portfolio

Active areas of activity: venture kick, BREF, Rare Diseases, ASCN, pilot projects; Passive areas of activity: Bildung Schweiz, Wissenschaft und Öffentlichkeit, Stiftung Schweiz; Discontinuing areas of activity: eTeach, Swiss Baltic Net; Closed areas of activity: reBrain, NETS.



**VENTURE KICK:** Science Entrepreneurship – Launched in 2007, this initiative for the promotion of promising business ideas at Swiss universities and universities of applied science is supported by 5 foundations. The goal is to double the number of spin-offs by accelerating the founding processes and by making the startups attractive for investors. A successful model. With capital of CHF 5.45 mio. to date, 151 projects have been supported, 105 companies established, 937 jobs created, investments of CHF 103.5 mio. triggered.  
[www.venturekick.ch](http://www.venturekick.ch)



**RARE DISEASES:** New Approaches – Rare diseases are underresearched. With its flagship programme designed to fill this gap in the life sciences sector, the foundation aims to support innovative researchers who are developing and clinically implementing new technologies or methods for the characterisation, diagnosis or treatment of rare diseases. Of the 48 applications submitted in response to the 2010 annual call, 5 projects were financed with a total volume of CHF 2 mio.



**PILOT PROJECTS:** Even if the grant-making portfolio is based on thematic areas of activity, scope is also to be provided to promote particularly innovative ideas outside these areas. For this reason GEBERT RÜF STIFTUNG makes around 30 % of its funds available for pilot projects. In principle, promising projects from all disciplines and from a very wide range of contexts are welcome, but they must satisfy the support criteria especially closely.



**BREF:** Brückenschläge mit Erfolg – Universities of applied science are an obvious choice of R&D partners for small and medium-sized businesses: but all too frequently finding the way to one another proves difficult or just does not happen. In collaboration with the “Rectors’ Conference of the Swiss Universities of Applied Sciences (KFH)”, since 2009 some CHF 1.5 mio. has been spent annually on conducting model projects and disseminating their results. The best projects are selected under annual calls for submissions. In the year under review 5 out of 56 applications were selected.



**ASCN:** Academic Swiss Caucasus Net – in accordance with its purpose article, GEBERT RÜF STIFTUNG is committed to supporting Eastern Europe. In partnership with the University of Fribourg under a programme launched in 2009 to promote the social sciences and humanities in the South Caucasus, a key contribution is being made to the process of democratization in Georgia and Armenia, both societies in a state of transition. The programme focuses on the promotion of young scientists. Young people are changing the world.  
[www.ascn.ch](http://www.ascn.ch)