KEY FIGURES IN THE 18TH FINANCIAL YEAR

Funds totalling CHF 13.4 million (2014: 14.9; 2013: 14.6) were used for the foundation’s activities (cash-out). CHF 12.3 million (13.8; 13.6) were channelled into direct and implementation grants for 64 (66; 66) support projects. Of these projects, 18 (18; 14) were ≤ CHF 50,000, 45 (47; 50) between CHF 50,000 and CHF 500,000 and 1 (1; 2) ≥ CHF 500,000. Total foundation expenditure amounted to 8.1% (7.4; 7.1) of the funds used, of which 2.3% (2.2; 2.1) were administrative expenses and 5.8% (5.2; 5.0) were direct project expenses for the themes supported. Foundation assets as at 31.12.15 amounted to CHF 158.9 million (175.3; 173.4). In the year under review, a net portfolio performance of -0.1% (+8.43; +8.06) was achieved with a largely passive asset allocation.

SELECTION

The evaluation of projects is based on a grant-making strategy comprising 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. Not all projects that meet the grant-making strategy criteria can be financed. This is why a final step, ranking in which many cases leads to the exclusion of applicants as “approved but not funded”.

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 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 2015, is a member of Swissfoundations and works closely with the University of Basel’s CEF (Center for Philanthropy Studies). Relying on an internal control system (ICS), the Board of Trustees carries out an annual risk assessment of all foundation activities.

MANAGEMENT

Board of Trustees: Prof. Dr. Rudolf Marty (since 2005; chairman), Prof. Dr. Peter Forstmoser (since 1986; deputy chairman), Prof. Dr. Richard Bircher (since 2017), Prof. Dr. Susan Gasser (since 2006), Dr. Katja Gemmette (since 2010), Prof. Dr. Jürg Schifferli (since 2007), Prof. Dr. Roland Siegwart (since 2012), Executive Team: Dr. Philipp Egger (CEO/Directory), Dr. Marcus Krämer (Finance Director), Jacqueline Gedulin (Project Support/Controlling), Corinne Burkhardt (Assistant/Back Office). Committees and Advisory Boards: Chairman’s Committee, Nomination and Finance Committee, Eastern Europe Committee, various ad hoc committees, “Venture-Kids” Strategy Board, “Mitbestimmung Fachhochschulen” Advisory Board.

EXTERNAL UNITS


PUBLISHING DETAILS

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 HGB can be downloaded from grstiftung.ch.
SCIENCE ENTREPRENEURSHIP
Application and implementation of science

Central pillar of support. In addition to numerous individual support projects (see project database on the website), Gebert Rüf Stiftung is the initiator and a partner of several programmes.

GRANTS FOR EASTERN EUROPE
Supporting science in transitioning countries

The foundation charter stipulates that one of the areas of activity must focus on Eastern Europe. Social scientists are currently being trained in Georgia and Armenia to serve as engines of these post-Soviet transitioning societies.

GRANT-MAKing
- Implementation and application
- No fundamentals
- Clear project identity
- No additional financing
- Competitive grant-making decisions
- 9 networked areas of activity
- Time limit on areas of activity
- 1 area of activity for pilot projects
- Making science effective

SCIENTAINMENT
Talking science to the people

The programme’s goal is to promote a low-threshold, light-hearted form of science communication to complement the established approach and so reach a wider audience of people without a scientific background.

PILOT PROJECTS
Groundbreaking individual projects

Despite the focus on grant-making clusters and areas of activity, there is a support vehicle in place for especially original, innovative, surprising and promising individual projects. This means that, time and again, small-scale beacon projects with groundbreaking qualities can be piloted.

FOUNDATION & POLICY
Legitimation of foundation activities

Gebert Rüf Stiftung champions the dynamic development of the Swiss foundation sector. The latter must actively participate in a debate on good governance and positioning if it is to remain effective and innovative.

FOUNDATION & COMPETENCE
Building up philanthropy know-how

By promoting and conveying application know-how, Gebert Rüf Stiftung aims to play a role in the advancement of Switzerland’s foundation sector.

MICROBIALS
Direct use of micro-organisms

Scheduled for launch in 2016, the call for proposals programme is designed to foster projects that address the use of micro-organisms in direct or domesticated form.

GEBERT RÜF STIFTUNG
FOUNDED: 1997 by Heinrich Gebert (†)
PURPOSE: promoting Switzerland as a place to live and do business
MISSION STATEMENT: making science effective
GRANT-MAKING CLUSTERS: 9 areas of activity
GOOD GOVERNANCE: Swiss Foundation Code
ANNUAL BUDGET: up to CHF 15 million p. a.
COMPLETE TRANSPARENCY: grstiftung.ch
GRANT-MAKING STRATEGY: valley of death
9 networked areas of activity
Time limit on areas of activity
1 area of activity for pilot projects
Making science effective

DEVELOPMENT OF SWISS FOUNDATIONS / EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES / OTHERS

GEBERT RÜF STIFTUNG
FACHHOCHSCHULEN

Strong new partnerships with the people in the field

Since 2012, Gebert Rüf Stiftung, in collaboration with the universities in Switzerland, has launched an annual call for projects in the area of social innovation. The focus is to be realigned as of 2018.

MODELLPROJEKTE

NON-ANTIBIOTIC THERAPY AGAINST BACTERIAL DISEASES / COMPOST-LIGHT LABS / ETC.

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY LAB / SCIENCE TOYS / ETC.

SCIENCE & DESIGN

Integration of design in research

The objective of the public call for proposals is to support innovative projects at Swiss universities which succeed in combining science and technology with design in a way that is both outstanding and exemplary.

NETS / VENTURE LEADERS / VENTURE KICK / STARTUP TICK / SWISS FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS / KICK FOUNDATION / ETC.

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY LAB / SCIENCE TOYS / ETC.

PILOT PROJECTS

NON-ANTIBIOTIC THERAPY AGAINST BACTERIAL DISEASES / COMPOST-LIGHT LABS / ETC.

INSOCH, DIE SOZIALFIRMA ALS GRUNDSTEIN SOZIALER INNOVATION / SENIOR LIVING LAB / LEBENSKUALITÄTSINDEX FÜR GEMEINDE / ETC.

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY LAB / SCIENCE TOYS / ETC.

ACADEMIC-SWISS.CAUCASUS.NET / INFORMAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE SOUTHERN CAUCASUS / ETC.

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