

TURNING THE FOUNDER'S INTENTION INTO STRATEGY

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE FOUNDATION

FOUNDATION	Art. 2 of the deed of foundation, 12 December 1997
MEANING	The mission statement serves as a argumentation platform to help implement the founder's normative intention into a grant-making strategy. The specific support criteria are derived from the mission statement.

1 PURPOSE OF THE FOUNDATION

It is the founder's intention and the foundation's concern to strengthen Switzerland as a business location and place to live in through the promotion of scientific projects. These can be projects in the natural sciences, humanities and the social sciences, provided they exhibit a high degree of originality with regard to subject matter and methodology, provide intellectual and practical stimulus to industry, politics, education, technology, medicine or other areas and thus promise to be of material or immaterial benefit to society.

2 POSITION WITHIN THE RESEARCH WORLD

As a private foundation with limited funds, Gebert Rüt Stiftung strives to occupy scientific niches and fill structural and procedural gaps in the world of research. The foundation does not want to relieve public grant-making or serve as a freeloading opportunity for major projects. Rather, it is positioned in an area that is particularly worthy of and in need of funding, as a link between pure research and immediate applied research. The two fields are divided by a notorious gulf in need of funding, the «valley of tears». Based on basic scientific knowledge, but before the specific development of products and services, the objective is to facilitate research with a sense of experimentation free from economic constraints and that promises useful results without having to present them in advance. Gebert Rüt Stiftung aims to grant such freedom and to help create it.

3 SCIENCE AND THE PUBLIC

Gebert Rüt Stiftung pays particular attention to its projects being visible and comprehensible to the broader public. Particularly innovative, experimental and interdisciplinary projects especially, while being of value in their own right as research, must be able to anticipate and describe possible results and impacts. The tasks and responsibilities of Gebert Rüt Stiftung are to help to mediate between science for its own sake and the need for information and understanding of the broader public.

4 INVITATION

We invite all scientists, younger ones in particular, no matter which discipline they work in, to submit an application to Gebert Rüt Stiftung, if their project idea matches the criteria listed under 1 to 3 below and if they are not pursuing a personal qualification programme. The applications are reviewed with particular consideration given to innovation and originality, the association of several people with different levels of qualification and the integration of several subject areas. Please contact the management of Gebert Rüt Stiftung for advice and hands-on help. For all initial questions, please visit grstiftung.ch.

5 INNOVATION CHAIN

Innovation can take place effectively only when an idea passes the transfer levels and is then implemented. This chain is easily broken if one funding level is not strong enough.

For pre-competitive and application-oriented projects, funding often proves to be a problem; for such projects, shortage of funds on the one hand often turns into a «death valley», as such projects are often considered overly geared to practical application for funds set up for pure research. On the other, market and social funding bodies believe them to be too far away from a finished product.

