

KEY FIGURES IN THE 20TH FINANCIAL YEAR

Funds totalling CHF 14.7 million (2016: 15.5; 2015: 13.4) were used for the Foundation's activities (cash-out). CHF 13.7 million (14.0; 12.3) were channelled into direct and implementation grants for 72 (63; 64) support projects. Of these projects, 25 (16; 18) were ≤ CHF 50,000, 46 (46; 45) between CHF 50,000 and CHF 500,000 and 1 (1; 1) ≥ CHF 500,000. Total foundation expenditure amounted to 6.9% (9.7; 8.1) of the funds used, of which 2.3% (2.6; 2.3) were administrative expenses and 4.6% (7.1; 5.8) were direct project expenses for the themes supported. Foundation assets as at 31.12.2017 amounted to CHF 149.5 million (152.9; 158.9). In the year under review, a net portfolio performance of 8.55% (3.58; -0.12) was achieved with a largely passive asset allocation.

SELECTION The evaluation of projects is based on a grant-making strategy which is tailored to a specific area of activity and 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. 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 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 RUF Stiftung complies with the Swiss Foundation Code 2015, is a member of SwissFoundations and works closely with the University of Basel's CEPS (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.

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 ARR 21 can be downloaded. Zurich/Basel, March 2018

MANAGEMENT BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Prof. Dr. Rudolf Marty (since 2005, Chairman), Prof. Dr. Roland Siegwart (since 2012, Deputy Chairman), Prof. Dr. Richard Bühler (since 2011), Prof. Dr. Monika Büttler (since 2017), Dr. Katja Gentinetta (since 2013), 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 Grollmund (Project Monitoring / Controlling), Corinne Burkhardt (Management Assistant / Back Office); COMMITTEES AND ADVISORY BOARDS: Chairman's Committee, Nomination and Finance Committees, various ad hoc committees, Venture Kick strategy board, "Modellprojekte Fachhochschulen" advisory board, Microbiols jury, Publications Committee.

EXTERNAL UNITS INVESTMENT CONCEPT/STRATEGIC POOLING PARTNER: ECOFIN Portfolio Solutions AG, Zurich; FUND MANAGEMENT: GAM Investment Management (Switzerland) Ltd. Zurich; Lombard Odier Asset Management (Switzerland) SA, Zurich/Petit Lancy; ASSET MANAGEMENT / FUND MANAGEMENT: State Street Global Advisors (SSgA), Boston (global equities and bonds); Syz Asset Management SA, Zurich (CHF bonds); Rogge Global Plc, London (global corporate bonds); CUSTODIAN BANKS: State Street Bank GmbH, Munich, Zurich Branch; Banque Lombard Odier & Cie SA, Geneva; 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, Bern.

CIVIL SOCIETY ACTORS

Foundations are an expression of social responsibility being lived out. They are established to promote the well-being of society. As not-for-profit civil society actors, foundations make a vital contribution by building bridges between state and market and closing gaps in funding relevant to the advancement of society.

IMPULSE GENERATORS

Founders are as a rule successful entrepreneurs who carry pivotal impulses from their own entrepreneurial life over into foundation activities. This allows foundations to act as impulse generators, creative forges and workshops for the future. Model projects are push-started to give effective impetus to diverse areas in education, science or society.

ENABLERS

Grant-making foundations are enablers: They raise questions, initiate developments and so pave the way for progress and innovation. Their independence permits them to penetrate niches, even in the face of high risks. This can sometimes also mean venturing into untried and unpopular territory. Unlike other actors, foundations can respond with greater agility. Speedboats on the oceans of challenge, they can be well on the way to new destinations before the giant tankers have even begun their journey. By promoting people and ideas, they set projects in motion that have a lasting impact.

GEBERT RÜF STIFTUNG SETTING A SCIENCE ENTREPRENEURSHIP AGENDA

At the centre of Gebert Rüt Stiftung's grant-making policy is science entrepreneurship, a legacy left by Heinrich Gebert, himself a successful entrepreneur. He was convinced that education, research and innovation – if harnessed to serve entrepreneurial ends – play a crucial part in promoting "Switzerland as a top location for business and as a place to live" (purpose article). In implementing the founder's vision, Gebert Rüt Stiftung has put this topic on the agenda in the form of different initiatives, thus enhancing Switzerland as a business location in the long term.

1999 CREATE PIPELINE

NETS – New Entrepreneurs in Technology and Science
→ Business training for science entrepreneurs at universities
→ Launch of a Swiss-wide training programme at all universities by the CTI in 2006

Under the NETS programme, Gebert Rüt Stiftung initiated a unique entrepreneurship training programme for science entrepreneurs at Swiss universities in 1999. The programme was carried out with partners in Switzerland (Create Switzerland) and the US (swissnex and Babson College, Boston). Adopted by the CTI in 2006, NETS is currently still part of the start-up training provided by CTI/Innosuisse and the independent venture leaders programme.

2007 FEED PIPELINE

VENTURE KICK
→ Pre-seed fund for the rapid market-driven implementation of promising business ideas from universities
→ Acceleration and professionalization of the innovation transfer

In 2007, Gebert Rüt Stiftung and Ernst Göhner Stiftung launched the pre-seed fund Venture Kick as a successor programme to NETS. Venture Kick placed turning research work into promising business ideas at the centre of its grant-making strategy – to address a major gap in the transfer of innovation. Innovators are accompanied through a structured, three-phase process from business plan to commercial realization. Venture Kick significantly accelerated the transfer of innovation from the university research stage to actual business application.

2017 GROW PIPELINE

FIRST VENTURES
→ Bringing promising business ideas from bachelor's and master's theses at universities of applied sciences to the market
→ Championing science entrepreneurship at universities of applied sciences

Under the First Ventures programme, as of 2018 Gebert Rüt Stiftung will be providing funds for talented university of applied sciences students whose bachelor's or master's thesis work involves developing project ideas with entrepreneurial potential which they pursue further by establishing a start-up. Start-up financing gives them an opportunity to translate their ideas into new products and services. The goal is to promote a culture of entrepreneurship among students and strengthen business potential at universities of applied sciences.

CATALYSTS

Foundations have the freedom to pursue new paths and at the same time think long-term and act for the good of society as a whole. This prompts foundations to seek solutions which transcend individual interests. They may only contribute a fraction of the financial resources allocated by government and business, but foundations are active in areas where no other actor has (yet) become engaged. Their support allows new approaches to be tested on a small scale and, if successful, rapidly dimensioned up. From this perspective, foundations are not decisive, but they do make a difference.

ENGINES OF CHANGE

Foundations put tomorrow's topics and cross-cutting issues on the agenda and address them effectively. They play a pioneering role in transfer processes, which occasionally requires them to swim against the current and behave anticyclically. Beyond market logic, foundations thus help to shape social and technological change.

They do so using examples and concrete models. They exert influence by initiating cooperative ventures independently of political and economic cycles and implementing enduring solutions together with partners in

the private and public sectors. This calls for the early involvement of stakeholders, clear concerted action and staying power. Shared success is all the more effective.