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. 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.

**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

**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 initial steps, a ranking is drawn up in which in many cases leads to the exclusion of applications. This is the so-called "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 CEPS (Center for Economic Policy Studies). Relaying on an internal control system (ICS), the board of trustees carries out an annual assessment of all Foundation activities.

**MANAGEMENT**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES:**

Prof. Dr. Rudolf Marty (since 2005, Chairman), Prof. Dr. Hans-Peter Siegenthaler (since 2012, Deputy Chairman), Prof. Dr. Richard Rüf (since 2011), Prof. Dr. Moritz Butkoff (since 2017), Dr. Karin Berthoud (since 2011), Prof. Dr. Jürg Schmidtli (since 2019), Prof. Dr. Riccardo Marangoni (since 2021), Dr. Marco Volgger (since 2021), Dr. Beatrice Fleischmann (since 2021), Dr. Fabian Schmid (since 2021), Dr. Christiane Möbius (Chairman’s Committee, Nomination and Finance Committees), various ad hoc committees.

**EXECUTIVE TEAM:**

Dr. Pascale Vonmont (CEO / Director), Dr. Marco Vencato (Deputy Director), Jacqueline Grollimund (Project Monitoring / Controlling), Corinne Burkhardt (Management Assistant / Back Office).

**COMMITTEES AND ADVISORY BOARDS:**

Chairman’s Committee, Nomination and Finance Committees, various ad hoc committees, Ethics in Science Committee, "Private Equity and Venture Capital" Supervisory Microbiatal jury, Publications Committee.

**EXTERNAL UNITS**

**INVESTMENT CONCEPT / STRATEGIC POOLING PARTNER:**

ECOFIN Portfolio Solutions AG, Zurich; Zürich Risk Management.

**INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT / FUND MANAGEMENT:**

GAM Investment Management (Switzerland) Ltd., Zurich; Lombard Odier Asset Management (Switzerland) AG, Zurich; Leoness Altersversicherung.

**STATE STREET GLOBAL ADVISOR (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; SUPERVISORY AUTHORITY:

Swiss Federal Supervisory Board for Foundations, Bern.

**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 business application.

ENABLERS

Grant-making foundations are enablers: They raise questions, initiate developments and so pave the way for progress and innovation. Their freedom to pursue new paths and at the same time think long-term and act for the good of society as a whole. This permits 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 decision-makers, but they do make a difference.

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 puts foundations into position to 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 decision-makers, 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.

GEBERT RÜF STIFTUNG

Setting a Science Entrepreneurship Agenda

CREATE PIPELINE

GEBERT RÜF STIFTUNG

SETTING A SCIENCE ENTREPRENEURSHIP AGENDA

FEED PIPELINE

FOUNDER’S VISION

Under the NETS programme, Gebert Rüf 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 (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.

In 2007, Gebert Rüf 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 signifi- cantly accelerated the transfer of innovation from the university research stage to actual business application.