



Annual Report 2020

Foundation Goals

The Hirschmann Foundation is based in Zug, Switzerland, and has been operating in its present form since 2001. It aims at supporting basic and advanced education, scientific research, and the accomplishment of social goals.

Main Focus

In the reporting year 2020, the Hirschmann Foundation mainly focused on the following goals:

A. Support of Scientific Research

1. Project EMPA and University of Education Lucerne: Next Evolution in Sustainable Building Technologies (NEST) since 2018

On its premises in Duebendorf, Zurich, EMPA (the Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology and Institute of the ETH Domain) constructed a modular research and innovation building (NEST) to test innovative, resource-efficient building and energy technologies.

The Hirschmann Foundation launched a project together with EMPA and the University of Education Lucerne, which aims at transferring the knowledge that was gathered by the ETH and its NEST research into society, especially into schools.

The two project partners have been developing three workshop modules for pupils that involve modern communication tools and a visit to the NEST platform. The Hirschmann Foundation decided to fund the project with a total amount of CHF 181,000 from 2018 to 2022.

2. Project ETH Zurich Foundation since 2014

The Hirschmann Foundation supports the research project "The Swiss Vocational Education System and its Social Status from the Employers' Perspective" with a total fund of CHF 150,000. The foundation therefore partnered with the ETH Zurich Foundation that is responsible for the project organization.

In 2017, the project "The Swiss Vocational Education System and its Social Status" was successfully terminated. The follow-up project is now analyzing the social status of various educational paths from the employers' point of view. To that aim, companies are being surveyed in a quasi-experiment, a so-called vignette study. The project was launched in spring 2018 and is expected to terminate in the summer of 2022.

3. *Project Brain and Trauma Foundation since 2014*

From 2014 to 2018, the foundation supported the research project "Biomarker Oriented Diagnosis and Therapy in Case of ADHD and Comorbidity" with a total fund of CHF 500,000. The research project aimed at contributing to an objective diagnosis and therapy by applying biomarkers, in order to reduce today's risk of mistreatment.

The study was successfully compiled by the Brain and Trauma Foundation Grisons and its cooperation partners, i.a. the Psychiatric University Hospital Zurich.

The Hirschmann Foundation is also funding the follow-up project with a total contribution of CHF 70,000. A number of communication tools have been created (website, newsletter, brochures) in order to provide results to potential clinical users. The project was successfully completed with the final report on October 4, 2020.

4. *PSI Paul Scherrer Institute | novatlantis 2016 - 2020*

The Hirschmann Foundation supported the research project "Success Factors of Energy Accounting and Energy/CO₂ Balancing of Municipal Buildings" with a total fund of CHF 210,000. The project started in 2016 and was successfully terminated in the beginning of 2019.

The foundation had therefore partnered with the Paul Scherrer Institute (PSI) that is affiliated with the PSI is Novatlantis, the sustainability/energy initiative of the ETH Domain.

The project aimed at clarifying the conditions for a more efficient and CO₂ reduced use of energy in municipal buildings. Several municipalities introduced energy accounting for municipal buildings and infrastructure and tested its practicability.

The follow-up project "tools4energy.ch schweizweit!" aims at developing and advancing a trilingual platform (G/F/I) in order to spread quality-proof tools that can collect and analyze energy data. The project targets municipal administrations in Switzerland.

The foundation board will contribute an amount of CHF 10,000 to support the follow-up project, which could not be implemented as planned in 2020 due to the lack of funding. The foundation board has decided that the determined amount is pending until the March 2021 meeting.

5. *Project "Lab of Tomorrow Switzerland" by the Competence Center for Social Innovation (CSI-HSG) 2020 -2022*

The Lab of Tomorrow Switzerland is a platform for sustainable development that has been set up in line with the UN agenda 2030 and aims to ensure that all Swiss actors work together to implement the 17 UN goals for sustainable development in Switzerland.

The focus of the project lies on research and innovation workshops for relevant interest groups. The purpose is to create innovative and sustainable solutions for specific international development cooperation projects that are in compliance with the UN goals.

In 2020 a first pilot project on the subject of "Food Security in East Africa" is to be carried out. The pilot project aims to achieve the following:

- Developing, piloting and implementing 3 to 5 sustainable solutions for long-term food security and eliminating malnutrition in East Africa;
- improving the local people's living situation through new solutions;
- commitment of Swiss companies and science to long-term food security in East Africa;
- increased exchange of experience and knowledge between the private and public sectors, science, and civil society;
- developing and optimizing the effect of the LOT format.
- cross-sector partnerships;
- creating the best possible framework for further LOT projects.
- The University of St.Gallen / IDEPI project partners include GIZ, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Skat Consulting and Impact Hub.

The Hirschmann Foundation has committed itself for three years and will contribute an amount of CHF 100,000.

6. *University of Bern – SCHR "Fundamental Rights of the Elderly – A Handbook" 2020-2021*

Societies all over the world are facing profound changes due to the ongoing digital transformation.

The project aims at creating a handbook about the fundamental rights in a digitized society, as the fast progressing of digitalization affects people's most central fundamental rights in many ways and areas of life.

The handbook "Fundamental Rights in the Digital Age" (working title) will serve as a graspable practice tool and provide an overview of the fundamental rights affected and the individual's options for action.

Concrete examples show where and how fundamental rights can be encroached on and how the individual and the legal system of Switzerland can react to them. The handbook presents information in a comprehensible way and does not require any legal or IT specialist knowledge, as it targets broad sections of the population.

The handbook will appear in the first half of 2021. The Hirschmann Foundation has committed itself with an amount of CHF 100,000.

B. Training and Development

7. *Hirschmann Scholarships for University of Applied Sciences Students since 2008*

Since 2008, the Hirschmann Foundation has awarded scholarships to university of applied sciences students, providing an annual amount of approximately CHF 300,000. The foundation therefore partnered with swissuniversities (chamber of universities of applied sciences).

Swiss universities assigned all administrative work to Alexandra Richter, Head of University Services, Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts.

The goal of the Hirschmann scholarship program is to sponsor promising students with extraordinary performances in their Bachelor's program and are about to enter a Master's program at one of the Swiss universities of applied sciences. Not only the applicants' performances, but also their social commitment is considered when awarding a scholarship. In 2020 a total amount of CHF 275,000 was provided to 52 scholarship recipients. 49 students received CHF 5,000 each, and 3 students received CHF 10,000 each.

On June 30, 2020, the Foundation Board decided to extend the agreement for three more years and with a contribution of CHF 900,000.

8. Support of Integration Projects at Swiss Vocational Colleges since 2008

Between 2008 to 2017, the Hirschmann Foundation supported integration projects at Swiss vocational colleges with an annual fund of approximately CHF 350,000. The goal was to overcome cultural and linguistic barriers, prejudices and mentality differences among students of various origins.

The foundation therefore partnered with the Swiss conference of vocational school directors (SDK-CSD). Since 2018, all administrative and organizational duties have been assumed by the foundation's new project partner "Association Integration in Action". The foundation funds the project with a maximum amount of CHF 10,000 per project, and a maximum total amount of CHF 100,000.- per year.

In 2019 various integration projects were carried out that required a fund of CHF 83,993. There were fewer projects in 2020, involving a total amount of CHF 48,169.50.

On June 30, 2020, the Foundation Board decided to extend the expiring agreement until December 2021 and with a further contribution of CHF 100,000.

9. Hirschmann Scholarships for Apprentices since 2013

Since 2013, the Hirschmann Foundation has sponsored a scholarship program for apprentices. The foundation therefore partnered with the Association Lernwerk that is based in Vogelsang, Argovia, as well as with the atelier LU Couture in Lucerne.

Lernwerk aims at providing individual support to committed apprentices in completing their apprenticeship if they have difficulties in finding employment or in finishing their program due to their school performance or their socio-economic background.

Since 2014, the foundation has funded the individual support of ten apprentices by vocational training advisors with an annual amount of CHF 58,000.

On June 30, 2020, the Foundation Board decided to extend the expiring agreement from 2021 to 2023 and with a contribution of CHF 192,000.

The atelier LU Couture in Lucerne trains young clothing designers. Since 2017, the Hirschmann Foundation has granted five scholarships per academic year, contributing CHF 2,000 per trainee and a total of CHF 10,000. The aim is to enable trainees to successfully finish their apprenticeship and to establish themselves as committed professionals in the world of fashion. The foundation board decided to prolong its agreement with LU Couture for three more years (2020 – 2022).

10. Vocational Education: Support of Refugees and Provisionally Admitted Foreigners since 2019

The Hirschmann Foundation decided on a three-year-fund (2019 to 2021) of CHF 106,000 for a project that is conducted by the Association Lernwerk: "Support of Refugees and Provisionally Admitted Foreigners".

Adolescent refugees and provisionally admitted foreigners who want to complete a vocational education program encounter numerous obstacles together with their employers. Although the public authorities are aware of these problems, they do not provide any instruments to overcome them.

The project aims at developing exemplary instruments which help to lead refugees and provisionally admitted foreigners into dual vocational education and to enter Swiss everyday working life. The foundation is mentoring five apprentices in the academic years of 2019/2020 and 2020/2021.

The Foundation Board is currently examining whether the collaboration will be extended for another three years.

11. Swiss Youth Music Contests, 2012 - 2020

Since 2012, the Hirschmann Foundation has supported the Swiss Youth Music Contest with an annual fund of CHF 50,000.–. The Hirschmann Foundation therefore partnered with the Swiss Youth Music Contest Foundation (SJMW). The foundation's financial commitment for the regional contests is terminating in 2020.

The Youth Music Contest offers young talented musicians the opportunity to perform publicly and to participate in national and international contests.

This year's entrada competitions, the Get Together as well as the finals had to be cancelled due the extraordinary situation.

Because the events had to be cancelled, the foundation board decided to credit an amount of CHF 15,000 to the Hirschmann Europe 2021 pilot project instead.

12. Hirschmann Master Course since 2015

In addition to the contests, the SJMW has conducted the annual Hirschmann Master Course since 2015. The foundation supports the Master Course with an annual fund of CHF 20,000.

Since 2020, the foundation has been the main sponsor of the project, contributing an annual amount of CHF 25,000.

The Master Course aims at providing fresh impulses to SJMW award recipients and at inspiring their artistic work. The 6th Hirschmann Master Course took place from October 10 to 16, 2020 in Bad Ragaz. The foundation therefore cooperated with Sina Samieian, the cultural representative of the Grand Resort Bad Ragaz. The focus was on early 20th century music and on contemporary music.

13. Pilot Project Hirschmann Europe 2021

In the fall of 2021, the Foundation Swiss Youth Music Contest (SJMW) will start a pilot project by organizing an internationally staffed Hirschmann master course for the first time.

Under the label Hirschmann Europe 2021, the course will be conducted in cooperation with the European sister organizations *prima la musica* (Austria) and *Jugend musiziert* (Germany) as well as with the European Union of Music Competitions for Youth (*emcy*).

If the pilot project – that will most likely be held in Austria – is successful, master courses will be carried out in Luxembourg and Germany in 2022 and 2023.

Hirschmann Europe targets young and talented musicians between the ages of 15 and 22 who aim at studying at a university and have won the chamber music finals of one of the following national competitions: *prima la musica*, *Jugend musiziert* and Swiss Youth Music Contest.

The project will involve 25 to 32 participants from three countries, 8 to 10 of them from Switzerland, 10 to 12 from Austria and 6 to 8 from Germany.

The Hirschmann Foundation is funding the pilot project with a total of CHF 32,000, CHF 15,000 of which had originally been budgeted for the SJMW 2020 competitions that could not be held due to the corona pandemic.

14. Association foraus – Forum Foreign Policy 2020 - 2021 Project: Policy Kitchen for Hirschmann scholarship holders

The project offers a structured discussion platform to all Hirschmann scholarship holders that enables them to actively contribute to social policy issues as well as to network and cooperate with each other.

The platform aims to achieve the following goals:

- Raising the scholarship holders' awareness of today's societal challenges and their individual extracurricular responsibilities;
- enhancing innovative forms of collaboration among scholarship holders for the development of new approaches to solving societal challenges;
- improving the scholarship holders' visibility in the university environment and in the public eye by communicating their commitment and proposed solutions;
- improving the network of past, present and future scholarship holders.

Foraus closely works together with the Hirschmann scholarship office (Swissuniversities / Lucerne University of Applied Sciences). The foundation is funding the project with an amount of CHF 85,000.

C. Development Cooperation and Social Aims

15. Supporting Small Businesses in Burkina Faso, 2018 – 2020

Between 2010 to 2017, the Hirschmann Foundation and its partner Swisscontact supported a development cooperation project in Mali. According to the Malian model, savings and credit groups (SUMAN groups) have been established in several villages of Burkina Faso. The project in Burkina Faso lasted from 2018 to 2020; the foundation board decided to continue its support until 2023.

The saving and credit groups (SUMAN groups) are part of the project "Employment and Income for Young Adults Through Local Economic Promotion".

By creating employment and income for young adults, Swisscontact contributes to reduce poverty in seven rural areas of Burkina Faso. On the one hand, the project supports existing small businesses, business initiatives, and trainings for farmers in the surrounding villages. On the other hand, it provides access to financial services and strengthens local structures.

16. Supporting Young Entrepreneurs for Ecological Alternatives in Myanmar 2020-2022

200 young people from Northern Myanmar (Shan and Kachin) are trained in marketing the agricultural and processed products as well as services they want to offer in their regions and beyond. Thereby, a focus is placed on ecological sustainability, especially with regard to cultivation methods and value chains.

The participants learn how to generate income alternatively to opioid trade and emigration to China or Thailand. In addition, the project facilitates access to public and private networks that are necessary for successful employment.

The local NGO Moving Forward Together (MFT, Kayamut Township, Yangon, Myanmar) and the youth group Saung Sae have been partners of the Swiss Academy for Development (SAD) since 2013.

MFT aims to support young people through training and to make a contribution to peaceful coexistence in the former conflict regions. Saung Sae was founded by young adults in 2015 and is a local self-help initiative to promote the peace process.

The Hirschmann Foundation will support the project for three years with a total of CHF 80,000.

17. Syrian Refugee Children in Lebanon, Integration into the School System, 2018 – 2020

The foundation decided on a three-year-fund of CHF 100,000 per year, in order to support

an educational program that is conducted by the UBS Optimus Foundation in Lebanon.

Lebanon is currently hosting 1.5 million displaced Syrians, including 250,000 out-of-school-children. With its partners, the Ana Aqra Association and the Luminos Fonds, the UBS Optimus Foundation aims at integrating 470 Syrian refugee children per academic year into the regular Lebanese school system.

During eight weeks, Lebanese teachers teach small groups of children the basic skills of reading, writing and mathematics on elementary school level. In the March 2021 meeting, the foundation board will discuss the extension of the project for a further 3 years with a fund of CHF 300,000.

Smaller Projects

In order to meet the foundation goals, the Hirschmann Foundation board decided to fund several social and educational projects, such as:

- creating equal opportunities for refugees to access tertiary education
- integrating young women without initial training into the labor market
- jobs in the low-wage sector
- a leisure program for children with disabilities
- two concert productions for the 25th anniversary of the Swiss Youth Jazz Orchestra
- a vocational training project in Bangladesh
- the purchase of new clothing for the National Youth Brass Band
- the support of the symposium "En Route - youth for democracy"
- music lessons for Syrian refugees in Lebanon
- program for work integration and mentoring "en suisse" in the region of Biel/Bienne

Website

The Hirschmann Foundation provides regularly updated information about its work on its website www.hirschmann-stiftung.ch.

Foundation Organization

In the reporting year 2020, the foundation board comprised the following members:

Dr. Eugen David, St. Gallen, President
Carl M. Hirschmann, Milan
Prof. Dr. Ursula Renold, Brugg
Dr. Barbara Rigassi, Muri near Berne
Dr. Ulrich Siegrist, Lenzburg (until the end of August, 2020)
Raymond Loretan, Geneva (from 1 November, 2020)

The foundation's legal framework consists of the deed of foundation, dated November 20, 2001; the organizational regulations, dated April 21, 2010; the asset regulations, dated May 27, 20020; and the procurement directives, dated March 25, 2014.

The annual financial statement and the annual report 2020 were approved on March 4, 2021 by the foundation board.

In the reporting year 2020, the office was managed by Martina Weber, Marktgasse 20, 9000 St. Gallen. Auditors of the foundation were Trösch Partner AG, St.Gallen. The responsible regulating authority was the Pensions and Trusts Supervisory Authority for Central Switzerland, Lucerne.

Zurich, March 4, 2021

For the Foundation Board:

Dr. E. David
President

Dr. B. Rigassi
Member of the Foundation Board