



Annual Report 2009

Foundation Goals

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

Four Main Goals:

In the reporting year 2009, as in previous years, the Hirschmann Foundation board decided to mainly focus on its three-year-projects.

Moreover, the Foundation started a new three-year-project in the area of development corporation.

1. *Support of Scientific Research*

The foundation has been supporting knowledge research by donating CHF 330,000 since 2008.

For this purpose, the Foundation has formed a partnership with the Collegium Helveticum, an institute at the University of Zurich and the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), which promotes the exchange between natural sciences and engineering, as well as between humanities and social sciences.

The project that is sponsored is directed by Prof. Dr. Gerd Folkers. Dr. Priska Gisler is responsible for managing the project and for project administration.

The project is concerned with the question of how mankind produces socially relevant knowledge.

In the second year, the involved researchers (Prof. Dr. Gerd Folkers and Dipl. natw. Martin Boyer, Dr. des. Rainer Egloff, Dr. Priska Gisler, Dr. Beatrix Rubin) increasingly dealt with the interdisciplinarity of their research activities. All their subprojects also focus on the biomedical development and question how biological, chemical and pharmacological disciplines interact with humanities and social sciences over time.

The reserachers worked on the basis of the theoretical groundwork of the medical scientist and biologist Ludwik Fleck (1896-1961).

In May 2009, the foundation board participated in a congress at the Collegium Helveticum, where the four researchers presented their works. In July, they met with experts of humanities and natural sciences in the Villa Garbald of the ETH and received important input related to inter- and transdisciplinarity.

They initiated their preparatory work for a project publication.

2. *Support of Integration Projects at Swiss Vocational Colleges*

The Foundation supports integration projects at Swiss vocational colleges for over three years by donating a total amount of about CHF 1 million.

The Foundation has therefore partnered with the Swiss conferece of vocational school directors (SDK-CSD).

Specific projects involving students from different ethical, cultural and/or religious backgrounds are supported. The goal is to overcome cultural and linguistic barriers, prejudices and mentalitiy differences among students of various origins.

The CDS prepared its second annual report for the foundation board in February 2010.

The CDS assigned a responsible management team to pre-select projects with the principals of the vocational training college in Rapperswil, Mr. Werner Roggenkemper, the vocational training college in Neuchâtel, Mr. Claude-Alain Vuille, and the vocational training college in Lugano, Mr. Francesco Franchini.

In 2009, the management team introduced the integration projects implemented at the various vocational colleges, in order to give an incentive to other vocational colleges to participate in the undertaking.

One of the 2009 highlights was the project "We're writing a book", conducted by the vocational college Basel. The participating adolescents were very challenged. The texts bluntly show the social conditions of the students' daily lives.

The theater play performed by the students of the SSSCI Bellinzona at their graduation came into being on the basis of the exploration of the subject „I – You – We“.

In January 2009, the website was established.

The main goal of the projects is to experience mutual respect and tolerance and thus touch the students on an emotioanl level and gain a positive impact on their daily lives.

Altogether 18 projects have been staged in 2009 at the following Swiss vocational training colleges: Basel (2), Lenzburg (1), Neuchâtel (3), Posieux (1), Liestal (2), Bern (3), Fribourg (1), Wädenswil (1), Geneva (2), Uzwil (1), Chur(1). A total of CHF 231,900.– was paid out of foundation funds in contributiouns.

There is a brief description of the projects supported in 2009 on the Hirschmann Foundation website.

3. *Hirschmann Scholarships for University of Applied Sciences Students*

Since 2008, the Foundation has been granting scholarships to university of applied sciences students providing a total amount of around CHF 300'000 yearly.

It has therefore formed a partnership with the KFH, the Rector's Conference of the Swiss Universities of Applied Sciences. The KFH involves the rectors of the eight officially recognized Swiss universities of applied sciences.

The objective being that the Hirschmann scholarship program sponsors promising students with extraordinary performances in their Bachelor's program who are about to enter a Master's program at one of the universities of applied sciences that are recognized by the KFH. Not only the applicants' performance, but also their social commitment is considered when awarding a scholarship. Applicants must be recommended by two professors of a Swiss university of applied sciences in order to be granted a scholarship.

The KFH prepared its second annual report in December 2009.

In 2009, the second year of the Hirschmann scholarship program, 123 students applied for a scholarship. The applications were submitted by students from all fields of study (such as economics, engineering, architecture, social work, art). 41 applicants qualified for a scholarship. The scholarships granted ranged from CHF 5,000.- to CHF 20,000.- and amounted to a total of CHF 290,000.-.

As in previous years, the Hirschmann Foundation informed about their scholarships on their website www.hirschmann-stipendium.ch, as well as at the universities through flyers and posters. A list of requirements for a scholarship grant can be found on the website.

The students who were granted a Hirschmann scholarship are being introduced on the Hirschmann Foundation website (www.hirschmann-stiftung.ch).

The Foundation is planning a meeting for those in receipt of a Hirschmann grant early in 2010.

4. *Start-Ups for Craftsmen and Farmers in Mali/ Africa*

At the end of the reporting year, the foundation board committed to a new project in the field of development cooperation.

Proactive small businesses in Mali (mainly in the Sikasso region) who are qualified craftsmen or farmers are given the opportunity to make a living for themselves and their families by establishing a small business. The project is based on the long-existent Swiss vocational education and training programs, which are supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

The Hirschmann Foundation has formed a partnership with Swisscontact to realize the project. Swisscontact is a Swiss non-governmental development organization, supporting the private economic and social development in chosen African and Asian countries, such as Mali by consulting, education and further education. Ulrich Stuck

from Swisscontact is the country program leader for Mali and thus holds responsible for the project realization.

The project has started at the beginning of 2010.

Information about the Foundation's Work

The Hirschmann Foundation provides information about its work on its website www.hirschmann-stiftung.ch. The website has been running since 2008.

Organization of the Foundation

In the reporting year the foundation board consisted of the following members:

Dr. Eugen David, St. Gallen, President
Joan Frey-Hirschmann, Zumikon
Dr. Gret Haller, Bern
Carl W. Hirschmann, London
Rita Hirschmann, London
Dr. Ulrich Siegrist, Lenzburg

Joan Frey-Hirschmann joined the foundation board in 2009.

Zurich, April 21 2010