



Annual Report 2010

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.

Main Goals

In the reporting year 2010, the Hirschmann Foundation has mainly focused on the following:

1. *Support of Scientific Research*

The Foundation has been supporting knowledge research by donating CHF 350,000 since 2008.

For this purpose, the Foundation 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 sponsored project is directed by Prof. Dr. Gerd Folkers. Dr. Beatrix Rubin took over the project management and administration from Dr. Priska Gisler, who in turn accepted a mandate at the University of Basel.

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

In this third and last year, the involved researchers (Prof. Dr. Gerd Folkers and Dipl. natw. Martin Boyer, Dr. des. Rainer Egloff, Dr. Priska Gisler, Dr. Beatrix Rubin) have been increasingly concerned with the interdisciplinarity of their research activities and been preparing the scientific final publication to be published in spring 2011.

In September 2010, a meeting was held in order for the research team to advise the foundation board of the current project status. The latter especially stressed the need to emphasize the importance of interdisciplinary findings in various scientific disciplines in the final publication.

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

The Foundation is supporting 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 conference 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 mentality differences among students of various origins.

At the beginning of this third year of the sponsorship, the foundation board met with the SDK for an evaluation. On the basis of this evaluation meeting, the foundation board concluded that another two-year-continuation of the project is justified. A corresponding contract was signed in June 2010.

The SDK has committed to assess if and how the project can continuously be financed through the vocational colleges' ordinary budgets. The foundation board and the SDK believe that a sustainable project continuation is in the interest of all vocational colleges.

Altogether 26 projects have been staged in 2010 at the following Swiss vocational training colleges: Basel (1), Bellinzona (1), Bern (4), Bulle (1), Chur (1), Delémont (1), Fribourg (1), Genève (3), La Chaux-de-Fonds (1), Lausanne (1), Liestal (1), Locarno (1), Martigny (1), Neuchâtel (1), Rapperswil (1), Treviso (1), Uzwil (2), Wädenswil (1), Wil (1), Winterthur (1). A total of CHF 350,860.– was paid out of foundation funds in contributions; the average per project amounted to CHF 13,494.60.

A brief description of the projects supported in 2010 can be found 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.

In early 2010, the Foundation together with the KFH held a meeting at the University of Applied Sciences of Eastern Switzerland, HSR Rapperswil, for those in receipt of a Hirschmann grant. The event offered the opportunity to share experiences with other students and professors and to evaluate the project.

The foundation board concluded that the Hirschmann scholarship program fulfills all essential expectations and that a two-year-continuation of the project is justified. Hence, the foundation agreed upon a contract extension with the KFH in December 2010.

In 2010, this third year of the Hirschmann scholarship program, 188 students applied for a scholarship. The applications were submitted by students from all fields of study (such as economics, engineering, architecture, social work, art). 52 applicants qualified for a scholarship. The scholarships granted ranged from CHF 5,000.- to CHF 10,000.- and amounted to a total of CHF 310,000.-.

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).

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

In 2010, the Project Mali has been launched.

Core of the project is the establishment of local cooperative-like savings and credit organizations, similar to those successfully implemented in Kenya. The organizations bank on individual responsibility and self-help, as well as on cooperation.

Every small Mavuno group consists of 10 to 30 members (Mavuno means harvest in Swahili). These savings and credit groups gather on a regular basis for incoming and outgoing payments. Every member saves a small fixed amount weekly. Credits with fixed rates of interest and redemption conditions are given to the members from the saved sum.

Important Stages:

- Member recruitment
- Group building and management
- Processing of saving deposits and granting of credits
- Establishment of statutes
- Accounting and audit
- Introduction into business management

The establishment of savings and credit groups is conducted by the Hirschmann Foundation and its Partner Swisscontact. The project started in January 2010 and will last for three years. The Foundation commits with approximately CHF 100,000.- per year.

5. *Solar Impulse: educational program*

„Pioneer spirit and new technologies can make a change to society and render it independent from fossil energies“, says Bertrand Piccard. Solar Impulse wants to write a new chapter in the history of aviation and solar energy.

In 2011, the Hirschmann Foundation is initiating a project to inform young Swiss people about renewable energies and their future opportunities in collaboration with Solar Impulse and Bertrand Piccard. Young people will be able to actively experience the various stages of the adventure „solar plane“ online.

A syllabus will enable young people to learn everything that is interesting about the internal project Solar Impulse. Planned online projects are:

- Online meeting with Bertrand Piccard and André Borschberg, e.g. via video conferencing with school classes
- Scientific information leaflets for young people about airplanes, solar energy, renewable energies and modern technologies, climate change, the CO2 problem
- Videoclips about important Solar Impulse events
- Knowledge check tests

The Hirschmann Foundation's partner is the Fondation Solar Impulse, Lausanne.

Website

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

Organization of the Foundation

In the reporting year, Rita Hirschmann, Joan Frey-Hirschmann and Carl W. Hirschmann have resigned from the foundation board.

On July 30, 2010, Carl W. Hirschmann deceased after a short and severe illness. He was a member of the foundation from the very beginning and highly contributed to the Foundation's success thanks to his business experience.

In the reporting year, the following members have joined the foundation board:

Frau Dr. Barbara Rigassi
Herr Carl M. Hirschmann

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

Dr. Eugen David, St. Gallen, President
Dr. Gret Haller, Bern
Carl M. Hirschmann, Zurich
Dr. Barbara Rigassi, Zurich
Dr. Ulrich Siegrist, Lenzburg

Zurich, March 28 2011