



Annual Report 2011

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 2011, the Hirschmann Foundation has mainly focused on the following:

1. Support of Scientific Research

In June 2011, the Collegium Helveticum (Prof. Dr. Gerd Folkers and MSc Martin Boyer, Dr. Rainer Egloff, Dr. Priska Gisler, Dr. Beatrix Rubin) completed their scientific research project "Tracking the Human" that had been funded by the Hirschmann Foundation for three years.

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

The final publication appeared in the Edition Collegium Helveticum as one volume on June 7, 2011: **Modell Mensch. Konturierung des Menschlichen in den Wissenschaften.** Ed. Rainer Egloff, Priska Gisler and Beatrix Rubin. Edition Collegium Helveticum 7. Zurich Chronos 2011, ISBN 978-3-0340-1075-7.

On June 10, 2011, Prof. Folkers presented the final project report to the foundation board. The research team focused on the production of scientific knowledge about human bodies, beings, lives in the following four **case studies**: □

- The project about unmet medical needs approaches a human being that has been molecularly categorized and constructed by the life sciences (**Gerd Folkers** und **Martin Boyer**).

- The study about the neurosciences investigates the interplay between a scientific and a cultural understanding of the human brain (**Beatrix Rubin**).
- The research about the shifting scientific practices in the banking of biological materials focuses on the collected human and its scientific, cultural, and political body parts (**Priska Gisler**).
- The investigation of the culture and personality studies is interested in human lives that have been and are culturally conditioned (**Rainer Egloff**).

Interdisciplinary Research

The research team at the Collegium Helveticum believes that for interdisciplinary projects to be successful, a range of scientific thought styles, concepts and methodological practices contribute to knowledge about the human. Their research asks how different technologies of collecting, ordering and comparing have contributed to the idea of mankind, and where they come to their limits respectively. The interdisciplinary undertaking approaches four scientific fields from a comparative perspective. It intends to integrate the results into a comprehensive picture serving as a background for understanding scientific traditions and their social implications, chances and limits of research, tracking the human.

The foundation board intensively focused on the internal evaluation of the scientific research project in the second semester of the reporting year. The evaluation process was concluded in December 2011. The internal final report of the working team was approved at the foundation board meeting on November 28, 2011.

2. *Support of Integration Projects at Swiss Vocational Colleges since 2008*

The Foundation has been supporting integration projects at Swiss vocational colleges since 2008 by donating a yearly amount of approximately CHF 350,000.-. The foundation has therefore partnered with the Swiss conference of vocational school directors (SDK-CSD), which in turn has mandated a project group. The foundation board would like to thank all project group members, Francesco Franchini, Roberto Valaperta, Werner Roggenkemper, Claude-Alain Vuille, and Maja Zehnder for their excellent cooperation.

The Hirschmann Foundation has been supporting specific projects at Swiss vocational colleges since 2008. The goal is to overcome cultural and linguistic barriers, prejudices and mentality differences among students of various origins. In June 2010, the foundation board approved of another two-year continuation of the project that was initially limited to three years.

The funding of successful projects is still expected to be gradually taken over by the respective colleges. The foundation board and the SDK believe that a sustainable project continuation is in the interest of all vocational colleges. However, further efforts are necessary.

In 2011, the foundation board has staged 28 projects upon request of the SDK project group, providing funds of approximately CHF 315,000.–. The idea has started to establish itself more and more at Swiss vocational colleges. Projects that had been successful in former years are being repeated at the same or at different schools. The goal of all projects is to make students experience mutual respect and tolerance and teach them that these values help them in achieving a common goal with their team.

3. Hirschmann Scholarships for University of Applied Sciences Students since 2008

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

Originally, the project had been limited to three years. In December 2010, however, the foundation board decided to prolong the successful project for another two years until the end of 2012. Project partner is the KFH, the Rector's Conference of the Swiss Universities of Applied Sciences.

The Hirschmann Foundation has informed about their scholarships on their website www.hirschmann-stipendium.ch, as well as at the universities through flyers and posters. The KFH has assigned all administrative work to Peter Wieser. Ms. Prof. Wohler and her team at the University of Applied Sciences in St. Gallen are responsible for the website and the electronic mailbox. The foundation board would like to thank the KFH and everyone that has been involved for their excellent cooperation.

The objective of the Hirschmann scholarship program is to sponsor 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 2011, 144 students applied for a scholarship, many of which were excellent. 42 applicants qualified for a scholarship. The limited resources have allowed to grant scholarships ranging between CHF 5,000.- and CHF 10,000.-. The feedback from students and professors has been exclusively positive.

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

4. *Supporting Small Businesses in Mali since 2010*

The Mali savings and credit project has been in its second year. The Hirschmann Foundation's partner is Swisscontact that assigned the operative project leadership to Ulrich Stucki. The foundation board would like to thank Mr. Stucki for his professional work in Mali. The project started in January 2010 and will last three years. The foundation commits with approximately CHF 100,000.- per year.

Proactive men and women 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 their own businesses. Core of the project is the establishment of local cooperative-like savings and credit groups. The organizations bank on individual responsibility and self-help, as well as on cooperation.

The project has successfully evolved. In the reporting year, there have been 89 savings and credit groups in 39 villages of the Sikasso region in the south of Mali that

have been accompanied by 31 local instructors who had been trained by Swisscontact. Demand has been unexpectedly high.

The savings and credit groups have been able to establish a savings capital of CHF 100,000.– by the end of 2011 on the basis of their own financial means. This savings capital is made available for a short amount of time to members of the group. It is the groups themselves who determine the interest on saving deposits and on credits. As the group's own saving deposits are concerned, the personal commitment of all members and business people can be guaranteed.

Moreover, the especially trained instructors play an important role. They teach the groups how savings and credit processes work, how deposits and credits are to be kept record of, and how interest rates are being determined.

Two years after the project start, 2,089 people are now actively participating in savings and credit groups in total. The minimum monthly contribution per participant lies at CHF 1.-, the maximum contribution at CHF 4.-. Women participants constitute a majority of 73%.

Group constitutions are extraordinarily varied: there are farmers, craftsmen and shop owners in approximately 75 of the groups. There are further a milk cooperative, live-stock breeding cooperative, fishing cooperative, and a poultry cooperative.

The Hirschmann Foundation asked the SDC coordination office in Bamako/Mali for a progress report about the current status of the project. Thus, the foundation board will be able to conduct a preliminary project evaluation.

5. *Solar Impulse: educational program*

In 2011, the Hirschmann Foundation has initiated 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 and actively take part.

However, in this first project year, Solar Impulse has not been able to make available the Internet Modules to students, as originally scheduled.

The foundation board is in contact with Solar Impulse and is hoping that the current problems will be solved as soon as possible.

6. *Swiss Youth Music Contest*

The foundation board has decided to support the Swiss Youth Music Contest for three years from 2012 on with a total amount of CHF 150,000.–. For this purpose, the Hirschmann Foundation has formed a partnership with the Swiss Youth Music Contest Foundation.

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

Smaller Projects

The foundation board has decided to fund several social projects in order to meet the foundation goals, such as:

- A platform for professional re-integration
- A new systematics of the mathematics braille
- A food aid institution
- A holiday resort for disabled people

Smaller scientific research projects are concerned with publications about the Swiss prison system on the one hand, and about species protection in Switzerland on the other hand.

Website

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

Foundation Organization

As in the previous year, the foundation board has consisted of the following members in the reporting year:

Dr. Eugen David, St. Gallen, President

Dr. Gret Haller, Bern

Carl M. Hirschmann, Zurich

Dr. Barbara Rigassi, Zurich

Dr. Ulrich Siegrist, Lenzburg

Former Office Manager, Ms. Priska Manser, resigned from her position in December 2011 in order to accept new professional challenges. The foundation board would like to thank Ms. Manser for her excellent work and her great dedication to the foundation's concerns.

Since December 2011, Ms. Martina Schmid has been the New Office Manager.

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 March 26, 2009; and the procurement directives, dated April 21, 2010.

The annual financial statement and the annual report 2011 were approved on March 20, 2012 by the foundation board, after the acknowledgement of the audit report by the auditors Ernst & Young AG, Zurich, dated March 2, 2012.

In the reporting year 2011, the office has been managed by Ms. Priska Manser, Marktgasse 20, 9000 St. Gallen. Auditors of the foundation have been the Ernst & Young AG, Zurich. Responsible regulating authority has been the Pensions and Trusts Supervisory Authority for Central Switzerland, Lucerne.

Zurich, March 20 2012

On behalf of the Foundation Board:

Dr. E. David
President

Dr. U. Siegrist
Member