



## Annual Report 2014

---

### 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 2014, the Hirschmann Foundation has mainly focused on the following goals:

#### **1. *Support of Scientific Research***

##### ***Projekt ETH Zurich Foundation***

In the reporting year, the foundation board has decided to support the research project "The Swiss Vocational Education System and its Social Status" for three years with an annual amount of CHF 50,000.–. The ETH Zurich Foundation is partnering with the Hirschmann Foundation and has taken over the project organization.

The project aims at determining decisive factors and their impact on the social status of vocational education. Furthermore, the importance of these factors is to be presented – on national and international level.

##### ***Project SCHR***

In the reporting year, the foundation board has decided to support the publishing of a handbook about European and federal state law regulating asylum, borders, and migration with an amount of CHF 60,000.–. The Swiss Center of Expertise in Human Rights (SCHR) is partnering with the Hirschmann Foundation and has taken over the project organization.

##### ***Project Brain and Trauma Foundation Grisons since 2013***

Between 2013 and 2016, the foundation board is supporting the research project "Biomarker oriented diagnosis and therapy in case of ADHD and comorbidity" with an annual amount of CHF 166,666.–. The Brain and Trauma Foundation Grisons is partnering with the Hirschmann Foundation and has taken over the project organization.

Diagnosis and therapy in today's ADHD treatment are heavily marked by subjective elements. The research project is aiming at contributing to an objective diagnosis and therapy in order to reduce today's risk of (medical) mistreatment through the testing of new methods of measurement and the application of biomarkers.

After the Swiss Ethics Committees had approved the project, data collection started in the beginning of April 2014. By the end of October, the data of 300 children, adolescents and adults – constituting a research group and a control group – had been collected. By the end of June 2015, a total of 500 plus 200 extra participants are to be recruited.

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

The foundation has supported 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 numerous integration 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 2014, the foundation board has staged 28 projects upon request of the SDK-CSD project group, providing funds of approximately CHF 341,300.-. The idea has increasingly started to establish itself 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.

The foundation board has decided to prolong the project one more time until the end of 2016. The efforts to permanently root the project in the vocational school system are to be continued in the coming two years with the help of financial means that are provided according to the Vocational and Professional Education and Training Act and the Aliens Act.

## **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. 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](http://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' performances, 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 2014, 213 students applied for a scholarship. 198 applications were submitted to the foundation board, 50 of which qualified for a scholarship. The scholarships range between CHF 5,000.- and CHF 10,000.-.

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

Around 100 scholarship holders participated in the third "Get-Together", which took place on October 3, 2014. The meeting at the Music Division of the Bern University of the Arts had been organized by the Hirschmann Foundation and the KFH. It offered the opportunity for members of the University and the Hirschmann Foundation to exchange thoughts and opinions with scholarship holders and to network.

As a result of the merger of the CRUS, KFH, and COHEP, the agreement between the Hirschmann Foundation and the KFH has been adapted starting January 1, 2015. The foundation's newly named agreement partner will be titled the 'New Rector's Conference of Swiss Universities' (swissuniversities).

#### **4. *Supporting Small Businesses in Mali since 2010***

The Hirschmann Foundation has been supporting the savings and micro credit project in Mali since 2010. The foundation board would like to thank their project leader, Ms. Krafft, for her professional work in Mali.

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.

The project has successfully evolved and the 2014 goals have been reached. The number of WASA groups has increased from 192 to 227. This equals a total number of 809 members, 81% of which are women. 3'340 people have been granted a credit.

At the end of November 2014, the foundation president was able to connect the dots on the occasion of a visit to Mali. Focus of the trip was the meeting with various project groups and their instructors.

#### **5. *Swiss Youth Music Contest since 2012***

The foundation board has been supporting the Swiss Youth Music Contest since 2012 with an annual amount of CHF 50,000.-. For this purpose, the Hirschmann Foundation has formed a partnership with the Swiss Youth Music Contest Foundation. In the reporting year, the foundation board has decided to fund the contests for another three years (2015 – 2017).

The Youth Music Contest offers young talented musicians the opportunity to perform publicly, and to participate in national and international contests. In the reporting year, the 'Classics' contest was conducted for the 39<sup>th</sup> time and the 'Jazz, Rock&Pop' contest was conducted for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time.

The regional contests (Entrada) were conducted in different Swiss locations from Friday, March 28 to Sunday, March 30, 2014. The 'Classics' finals took place in Lausanne from Thursday, May 8, to Sunday, May 11, 2014. On June 28, 2014, the 'Jazz, Rock&Pop' award recipient's concert took place at the Jazzclub Moods in Zurich.

The members of the foundation board who attended the contests were pleased with the young musicians' extraordinary musical performances.

The Hirschmann Master Course is a cooperation project by the Swiss Youth Music Contest Foundation (SJMW), Arosa Kultur, and the Hirschmann-Foundation. The first course in Arosa is going to be held in August, 2015.

The course aims at providing fresh impulses to SJMW award recipients and at inspiring their artistic work. During one week, they are going to obtain private lessons by University Professors who want to pass on their mastery. Additional workshops and chamber music performances will round off the program.

## **6. *SAD Swiss Academy for Development***

The foundation board has decided to support the SAD project 'Move 4 New Horizons' for three years (2012-2014) with a yearly fund of CHF 30,000.-.

The project aims at a holistic early intervention for disadvantaged children in Nepal. Children between the age of three and five who do not attend school and are thus marginalized, as well as school children between the age of five and seven should be given easier access to elementary education through games, sports and interaction. The project is a successor of the pilot project that the SAD successfully conducted in Nepal from 2008 to 2011.

After seven years of establishing and providing extensive (further) training in support of a local partner organization, the leadership of the project will eventually be given into their hands in 2015. Thus, the project will be continued in the framework of local structures.

## **7. *Hirschmann-Scholarships for Apprentices since 2013***

The Hirschmann Foundation has been funding a scholarship program for apprentices (2013-2016). Committed apprentices are to be supported individually if they have difficulties in finding employment or finishing their apprenticeship program due to their school performance or their socio-economic background.

The foundation is therefore partnering with the foundation 'The Chance' in Rheineck, St. Gallen, that organizes the granting of scholarships amounting to a total of CHF

50,000.-, as well as with the Association 'Lernwerk' in Vogelsang, Aargau, with a total amount of 58,000.-.

The foundation board has decided to prolong the agreement with 'The Chance' for another two years (2015-2016). The agreement with the Association 'Lernwerk' is terminating by the end of 2015.

In 2014, vocational training advisors who work for 'The Chance' and 'Lernwerk' have individually supported ten apprentices each.

### ***Smaller Projects***

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

- An association that offers professional and flexible child care for children and adolescents who suffer from mental or multiple disabilities.
- A holiday camp that allows children from single-parent families, underprivileged families, extended families or children's homes to experience great and unforgettable holiday moments.
- Scholarships for musicians that allow them to participate in a Master Course.
- An association that helps young people who have social and academic difficulties in finding an apprenticeship training position.
- A children's museum that conducts workshops with school classes.
- An organization that supports young professionals and small businesses in Myanmar.
- A recovery week for blind and visually impaired children, as well as children with multiple disabilities.
- An organization that conducts aid flights to secluded areas in Southern Africa.
- A booster club that enhances employment opportunities for job-seeking, qualified immigrants and Swiss remigrants.

### **Website**

The Hirschmann Foundation provides regularly updated information about its work on its website [www.hirschmann-stiftung.ch](http://www.hirschmann-stiftung.ch).

### **Foundation Organization**

The foundation board has consisted of the following members in the reporting year:

Dr. Eugen David, St. Gallen, President  
Carl M. Hirschmann, Zurich  
Prof. Dr. Ursula Renold, Brugg  
Dr. Barbara Rigassi, Zurich  
Dr. Ulrich Siegrist, Lenzburg

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 November 12, 20014; and the procurement directives, dated March 25, 2014.

The annual financial statement and the annual report 2014 were approved on March 18, 2014 by the foundation board, after the acknowledgement of the audit report by the auditors, dated January 28, 2015.

In the reporting year 2014, the office has been managed by Ms. Martina Weber (nee Schmid), Marktgasse 20, 9000 St. Gallen. Auditors of the foundation have been Trösch Partner AG, St.Gallen. Responsible regulating authority has been the Pensions and Trusts Supervisory Authority for Central Switzerland, Lucerne.

Zürich, March 18, 2015