



## Annual Report 2019

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### 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 2019, the Hirschmann Foundation mainly focused on the following goals:

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

##### ***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 are 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.

##### ***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 by the end of 2021.

***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.–. In 2020, workshops will be conducted and a number of communication tools will be created (website, newsletter, brochures) in order to provide research results to potential (clinical) users.

***PSI Paul Scherrer Institute / novatlantis 2016 - 2020***

The Hirschmann Foundation supported the research project "Success Factors of Energy Accounting and Energy/CO<sub>2</sub> 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 therefore partnered with the Paul Scherrer Institute (PSI) that is responsible for the project organization. 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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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 contributes an amount of CHF 10,000.– to support the follow-up project.

***SCHR, Basic and Human Rights of the Elderly – Practical Guidelines 2017 - 2019***

The Hirschmann Foundation funded the conception and print of the practical guidelines *Basic and Human Rights of the Elderly* with an amount of CHF 78,870.–. The book was published by the Swiss Centre of Expertise in Human Rights (SCHR) in Bern, where the offering took place at the end of May 2019.

The guidelines illustrate the implications of basic rights in the daily lives of elderly people and how to protect them. They address those concerned, as well as people who are regularly in contact with the elderly, such as relatives, nursing home and hospital staff or members of communal, cantonal or federal authorities, the media and further circles of interested people.

***Academia Engelberg: Autumn Academy for Junior Researchers 2019***

The Hirschmann Foundation funded the three-day Autumn Academy 2019 with a contribution of CHF 42,000.–. The Academia Engelberg organized the event as part of the annual Engelberg Dialogues.

The event offered 20 young PhD and Postdoc students from different countries an interdisciplinary platform for science, economy, and politics. They were given the oppor-

tunity to present their ideas about “The Transparent Patient” and to have in-depth discussions with experienced experts at an open forum.

## **2. *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). Swissuniversities 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 2019, 58 students were granted a scholarship of CHF 5,000.– each.

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

Between 2008 to 2017, the Hirschmann Foundation supported over 223 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.

## **4. *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.–. The agreement is terminating by the end of 2020.

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).

## **5. 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.

## **6. 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. The regional contests (Entrada) were carried out in different Swiss locations from March 29 to March 31, 2019.

The Classics Contest was conducted for the 44<sup>th</sup> time. The finals took place at the Conservatory Lugano from May 16 to May 19, 2019. The 6<sup>th</sup> Jazz&Pop Contest was staged in Lausanne on April 6, 2019.

## **7. 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.–. The foundation board decided to continue its main sponsorship for three more years (2020 – 2022), 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. During one week, they obtained private lessons by university professors. Additional workshops and chamber music performances rounded off the program. The 5<sup>th</sup> Hirschmann Master Course took place from July 27 to August 3, 2019 at the Centre de Musique Hindemith in Blonay. The 11 participants were able to benefit from a great course week and gave proof of their abilities during the final concert.

## **8. 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 is expected to last from 2018 to 2020 and is

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.

### **9. *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.

### ***Smaller Projects***

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

- The Master Course "Piano Chamber Music" and a music festival in the canton of Ticino
- A learning, counseling and coaching program for female immigrants
- A coaching program that prepares people who are not entitled to any social security benefits for their professional reintegration
- Forest project weeks for students
- An individual coaching program for academics with a disability, involving career counseling and a course in public speaking
- A project that helps unaccompanied minor asylum seekers, giving them access to the Swiss education system/school graduation
- An emergency telephone tree for solitary elderly people
- Clown visits for children and adolescents at a hospital in Geneva
- A violence prevention project in St. Gallen
- A vocational education project in Bangladesh
- A counseling service in Lucerne for young people who are of legal age, helping them to receive education funding

**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**

In the reporting year 2019, the foundation board comprised the following members:

Dr. Eugen David, St. Gallen, President  
Carl M. Hirschmann, London U.K.  
Prof. Dr. Ursula Renold, Brugg  
Dr. Barbara Rigassi, Muri near Berne  
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 December 06, 20017; and the procurement directives, dated March 25, 2014.

The annual financial statement and the annual report 2019 were approved on March 19, 2020 by the foundation board.

In the reporting year 2019, 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 19, 2020