



## Annual Report 2016

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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 2016, the Hirschmann Foundation mainly focused on the following goals:

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

##### ***Project ETH Zurich Foundation since 2014***

The foundation has supported the research project "The Swiss Vocational Education System and its Social Status" with a total fund of CHF 150,000.– (spring 2015 to 2017). The Hirschmann Foundation therefore partnered with the ETH Zurich Foundation that is responsible for 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 Brain and Trauma Foundation since 2014***

Since 2014, the foundation has supported the research project "Biomarker oriented diagnosis and therapy in case of ADHD and comorbidity" with a total fund of CHF 500,000.–. The project is expected to last until spring 2018. The Hirschmann Foundation has therefore partnered with the Brain and Trauma Foundation Grisons that is responsible for the project organization.

Diagnosis and therapy in today's ADHD treatment are heavily marked by subjective elements. The research project aims at contributing to an objective diagnosis and therapy in order to reduce today's risk of (medicinal and non-medicinal) mistreatment.

##### ***PSI Paul Scherrer Institute | novatlantis***

Since 2016, the foundation has 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 is expected to last until the summer of 2018.

The foundation has 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 aims at clarifying the conditions for a more efficient and CO<sub>2</sub> reduced use of energy in municipal buildings.

### ***Garden Organic***

The foundation is supporting the project "London – Food Poverty" with a total fund of CHF 190,000.– for two years (2016 to 2018). The foundation has therefore partnered with the Henry Doubleday Research Association (Garden Organic) that is responsible for the project organization.

Garden Organic is conducting information events and trainings in London's agglomerations, promoting a healthy diet in the specific context of urban areas. The events are held in cooperation with qualified instructors.

In a first step, the participants are made familiar with healthy foods and learn how to grow their own vegetables in a second step. Thus, they not only gain access to good-quality foods and get into touch with nature, but the cooperative tasks also offer room for social interchange.

The pilot project aims at leading people with low income to a healthy and autonomous diet and at preventing them from unhealthy eating habits that can cause obesity and alcoholism.

### ***Association foraus***

In the reporting year, the foundation board decided to support the association foraus and its think tank with a total fund of CHF 60,000. The project started in the summer of 2016 and will last for two years.

The project aims at enabling young academics to make relevant and viable recommendations on Swiss policies and to share their ideas in working papers. In order to meet this goal, foraus conducted two intensive one-day think tanks that were led by experts.

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

From 2008 to 2016, the foundation supported 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 partnered with the Swiss conference of vocational school directors (SDK-CSD), which mandated a project group. The foundation board would like to thank all project group members, Roberto Valaperta, Werner Roggenkemper, Claude-Alain Vuille, and Maja Zehnder for their excellent cooperation.

In 2016, the foundation board staged 25 projects upon request of the SDK-CSD project group, providing funds of approximately CHF 320,720.–.

The foundation board decided to terminate the agreement by the end of the reporting year. The SDK-CSD will invest the remaining funds in additional integration projects in 2017. The foundation board is still persuaded of the projects' impact and is hoping that they may be continued in a new form.

### **3. *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 has therefore partnered with swissuniversities (chamber of universities of applied sciences).

The Hirschmann Foundation provides information about the scholarship program on its website [www.hirschmann-stipendium.ch](http://www.hirschmann-stipendium.ch). 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 who 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. Applicants must be recommended by two professors of a Swiss university of applied sciences in order to be granted a scholarship.

In 2016, 56 applicants qualified for a scholarship. The Hirschmann Foundation introduces its scholarship holders on its website ([www.hirschmann-stiftung.ch](http://www.hirschmann-stiftung.ch)).

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

Since 2010, the Hirschmann Foundation has supported the savings and micro credit project in Mali. The foundation has therefore partnered with Swisscontact that is responsible for the project organization. Frank Merceret has taken over the project leadership as Maude Krafft's successor after her retirement.

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. Since it started in 2010, over 320 WASA-savings groups have formed. Approximately 80% of members are women. During this third project phase, the project's system and sustainability is being tested tested in another region with new instructors.

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

Since 2012, the foundation has supported the Swiss Youth Music Contest with an annual fund of CHF 50,000.–. The Hirschmann Foundation has therefore partnered with the Swiss Youth Music Contest Foundation (SJMW).

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 41<sup>st</sup> time. The finals took place on the island of Rheinau from May 5 to May 8, 2016.

The regional contests (Entrada) were carried out in different Swiss locations from March 18 to March 20, 2016. In the reporting year, the foundation board decided to continue supporting the regional contests for one last period until 2020.

In addition to the contests, the Hirschmann Master Course was conducted for the second time in July 2016. The Master Course is a cooperation project by the SJMW and the Hirschmann Foundation. It 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.

In the reporting year, the foundation board decided to conduct the Hirschmann Master Course for three more years with an annual fund of CHF 20,000.–.

## **6. *Hirschmann Scholarships for Apprentices since 2013***

Since 2013, the Hirschmann Foundation has sponsored a scholarship program for apprentices. The program 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.

The foundation has therefore partnered with 'The Chance', a foundation for professional practice that is based in Rheineck, St. Gallen (annual fund of CHF 50,000.–), as well as with the Association 'Lernwerk' that is based in Vogelsang, Aargau (annual fund of CHF 58,000.–).

In 2016, vocational training advisors who work for 'The Chance' and 'Lernwerk' provided individual support to ten apprentices each.

The foundation board terminated the agreement with 'The Chance' by the end of the reporting year. The agreement with 'Lernwerk' is terminating in 2018.

### ***Smaller Projects***

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

- a non-profit-organization that enables students to complete their training as clothing designers;
- a web-platform that provides information about international human rights and their implementation in Switzerland;
- a youth radio station that is run by teenage and young adult volunteers who not only take care of content-related tasks, but also of administration processes and radio engineering;
- a Swiss nonprofit foundation that conducts forest-based project weeks with students and apprentices;
- a coaching program for adolescents and young adults to preemptively counter youth unemployment;

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

The annual financial statement and the annual report 2016 were approved on April 5, 2017 by the foundation board, after the acknowledgement of the audit report by the auditors, dated February 1, 2017.

In the reporting year 2016, the office was managed by Martina Weber and Silke Chung, 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.

St. Gallen, May 3, 2017