



2023 Annual Report

Purpose of the Foundation

The Hirschmann Foundation, which has its headquarters in Zug, has existed in its present form since 2001. Its purpose is the promotion of training and further education, the promotion of science and research and the promotion of social objectives.

The Focal Points of the Foundation's Activities

In the reporting year 2023 the main focus of the Hirschmann Foundation's charitable activities was in the following areas:

A. Science and Research

1. Competence Center for Social Innovation at the University of St. Gallen (CSI-HSG)

Lab of Tomorrow Switzerland

2020-2023

With the Lab of Tomorrow (LOT) Switzerland, the intention is to create a platform for Switzerland that takes account of the UN's Agenda 2030. This was formulated in 2015 to help drive sustainable development and so the LOT will promote the collaboration of every stakeholder in Switzerland for the purpose of implementing the UN's 17 targets for sustainable development.

The LOT Switzerland pilot project came to a successful conclusion in 2022. The LOT pilots have led to three new projects that are being carried on beyond the initial phase. The LOT pilot has been a good example of the collaboration between companies in Switzerland, scientists, and local stakeholders. In its latest sustainability report, the University of St. Gallen has highlighted the project as a positive collaboration as defined in SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals)

As far as the CSI-HSG is concerned, the lessons learnt from the pilot are absolutely central as a framework for the LOT and other similar projects. This relates both to the methodology, which includes the newly developed Partnership Catalyst, as well as to the knowledge of the process that has been developed and how the collaboration might work where there are complex arrangements of stakeholders.

The Hirschmann Foundation has contributed CHF 100,000 to the project.

2. *Agroscope (Swiss Department of Science, Training and Research)*
INSECT: Biodiversity mapping the insect population
2023 - 2025

In the last few years, several studies have reported an alarming decline in the insect population. The study should enable those responsible to draw up recommendations for effective and inexpensive ways of preserving the insect community and its ecosystems.

The INSECT Project successfully entered its second phase in 2023. The aim is to analyse the state of the insect fauna in Switzerland by taking new samples. Agroscope is running part of the project by taking new samples for the Evaluation of Environmental Initiatives Project in the area of biodiversity (EVALU). The case study will be carried out in the three regions of Nuvilly/Combremont-le-Grand, Ruswil/Buttisholz and Rafzerfeld, where the results will also be analysed for the EVALU.

The Hirschmann Foundation is providing CHF 300,000 of funding to repeat the study in the Nuvilly/Combremont-le-Grand region.

B. *Training and Further Education*

3. *swissuniversities*
Hirschmann scholarships for students at universities of applied sciences
2008 - 2026

The Foundation has been awarding Hirschmann scholarships for students at universities of applied sciences since 2008. The project's partner is swissuniversities, Chamber of Universities of Applied Sciences. Swissuniversities has appointed Alexandra Richter as the Administrator. She is Head of University Services at the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts.

The aim of the Hirschmann scholarship is to support students with above average results in their Bachelor's studies who want to study for a Master's degree at a university of applied sciences in Switzerland. When awarding scholarships, an applicant's social commitment outside of school is also taken into consideration. In 2023 54 students successfully applied for a scholarship and each received CHF 5,000, which is a total of CHF 270,000.

Current scholarship holders from various disciplines again met with representatives from the universities for a get-together in Lucerne at the beginning of December 2023.

4. *Verein foraus - Foreign Policy Forum*
Policy Kitchen for Hirschmann scholarship holders
2020 -2025

This project offers those who are awarded Hirschmann scholarships a platform for social engagement, networking, and collaboration with each other. The project partner is the think tank foraus. The foraus association has developed a structured platform for discussing the issues of the future that goes by the name of the Policy Kitchen. It is collaborating with the office of the Hirschmann Scholarships (Swissuniversities/Lucerne University of Applied Sciences) for the duration of the project.

In 2023 the scholarship holders in cohorts VI and VII worked on two interactive workshops based on the topics "the challenges for social transformation posed by AI" and also the "sharing economy".

The Hirschmann Foundation has allocated funding worth CHF 300,000 for cohorts I to VI. In the year of the report, the Foundation's Board decided to support a further three cohorts (VII to X) with CHF 150,000 of funding between 2023 and 2025.

5. *KASA Swiss Humanitarian Foundation*
The Hirschmann scholarship for students at universities of applied sciences
in Armenia
2021 - 2023

The Hirschmann Foundation has set up a programme of scholarships for students following courses at undergraduate level at universities of applied sciences in Yerevan and Gyumri. The aim of the Hirschmann Scholarship is to support students at Bachelor level at a state-recognised Armenian university of applied sciences. The partner is KASA Swiss Humanitarian Foundation, which has a network of universities in the country.

The project's total budget of CHF 126,000 means there is the potential to provide financial support for 30 scholarship holders every year.

6. *Integration in Action Association*
Integration projects at Swiss Vocational Colleges 2008 - 2024

Between 2008 and 2017 and in partnership with the Swiss Conference of Directors of Vocational Colleges (SDK), the Foundation provided funding for integration projects at vocational colleges in Switzerland totalling around CHF 350,000 per annum. Since 2018 the association Integration in Action has been responsible for administering and supporting the integration project as the new project partner. The

aim is to break down cultural and linguistic barriers and overcome prejudices and mental barriers amongst students at vocational colleges.

In 2023 the Foundation's Board provided total funding for six integration projects to the tune of CHF 52,900.

7. *The Learning Factory association*

The Hirschmann scholarship for students at vocational colleges

Academic years 2014/2015 - 2024/2025

The Learning Factory association in the canton of Aargau provides funding for young people who find it difficult to find and then complete an apprenticeship due to their results at school or their social circumstances. The aim is to give them individual support to complete their apprenticeship through their own dedication and hard work.

The Hirschmann Foundation has set up a scholarship for at vocational colleges, with funding of CHF 99,000 each per academic year.

8. *The Learning Factory association*

Basic vocational training with support for young people who are recent immigrants

Academic years 2019/2020 – 2024/2025

In another collaboration with the Learning Factory Association, since 2019 the Hirschmann Foundation has been running a scholarship programme for young people and young adults who are recent immigrants and want to complete an EBA apprenticeship. They must live in the canton of Aargau and also have an apprenticeship there. These learners often only have a modest command of German, they have gaps in their education and have no network of contacts who can help with access to apprenticeships or any social environment in the labour market in Switzerland. The Learning Factory Association's trained teams of experienced specialists support the young people, their parents, and their employers in their vocational training as they go through their apprenticeships.

The Hirschmann Foundation is providing support worth CHF 49,500 for five apprentices per academic year.

9. *LU Fashion Workshop*

The Hirschmann scholarship for the Training of Apprentices

2017 - 2025

The Hirschmann Foundation has been funding the training of apprentices at the LU Fashion Workshop in Lucerne since 2017 with scholarships of CHF 2,000 each for five

apprentices, which is a total CHF 10,000 per training year. The aim is to help the learners complete their apprenticeship as clothes designers successfully and become dedicated and motivated professionals.

In 2023 the Hirschmann Foundation also provided CHF 52,000 of funding for the Red Carpet project for apprentices and also the anniversary show in December 2023.

10. *Swiss Youth Music Competition (SJMW) Foundation*

Hirschmann Masterclasses / Hirschmann Europe Masterclasses

2015 - 2024

The Swiss Youth Music Competition (SJMW) Foundation has been organising the national Hirschmann Masterclass every year since 2015. Since 2021 the SJMW has also been organising international Hirschmann Masterclasses in collaboration with sister organisations from across Europe using the label "Hirschmann Europe".

In 2023 both Masterclasses were integrated into one single, international event for the first time. The aim was to strengthen the cross-border nature of the project and to fix the Hirschmann Masterclasses into the landscape of funding for young musicians in Europe even more securely. With various concerts taking place as part of well-known festivals, the tour came to a successful conclusion in August 2023. The climax was the Closing Concert with the title "The Jazz Symphony" as part of the Lucerne Festival on the 10th August 2023 with the Worlds Beyond Orchestra.

The Hirschmann Masterclass is mainly aimed at outstanding winners of the first prize at the finals of the Swiss Youth Music Competition and other European youth music competitions in the category of chamber musicians aged between 17 and 25.

The Hirschmann Foundation provided CHF 52,500 of funding for the tour in 2023. The plan is to continue the successful new formula in 2024.

11. *HSG Foundation*

Artist in residence at the SQUARE at the University of St. Gallen

2022 - 2024

The HSG Learning Center was opened in spring 2022. The Hirschmann Foundation is providing funding for creative artists at the SQUARE for three years with a contribution of CHF 150,000 for the Artists in Residence project.

The aim is for the artists to participate in courses and outside and for them to be able to discuss their creativity, their works, and their creative process in a dialogue with lecturers and students. The intention is that the house will also be a venue for exhibitions and performances of their works.

12. Association Equilibre***Training and integration initiatives for refugee women******2022 - 2025***

With its JLT/KoKoTé project, the Association Equilibre (A.E.) is successfully supporting adult refugees (over the age of 26) as they make their way along the path towards determining their own lives. This provides opportunities to improve the prospects of people who would otherwise fall through the cracks of Switzerland's migration policy in terms of educational provision. This is because state bodies continue to focus their integration efforts on young adults up to the age of 26. The project places particular emphasis on refugees over the age of 26 and has also seen an increasing number of women with family responsibilities in the last two years.

The aim is for refugee women to have the chance to catch up with any training content they have missed by using an individual education plan. The intention is that by the end of the training course – wherever possible – they should have a vocational training qualification (an EBA certificate or similar), which will open the door to a job in the primary labour market.

The Hirschmann Foundation is providing total funding of CHF 213,000 to support six refugee women between 2022 and 2025.

13. IPT Foundation***Jeunes@Work programme******2022 2023***

The aim of Jeunes@Work is to enable young people with qualifications in Switzerland to enter the labour market quickly whilst also tackling youth unemployment and improving the prospects for long-term integration into the labour market. As it provides a link between the apprenticeship and a first job, Jeunes@Work helps prepare young people who have just qualified effectively to take their first steps into the labour market.

The Foundation's Board is supporting the Jeunes@work programme run by the IPT Foundation to the tune of CHF 50,000 per annum.

14. Startfeld Association – Smartfeld Training Lab***New developments for the "FuturePitch" course******2023-2025***

Smartfeld is an interdisciplinary initiative being run the Startfeld Innovation Network, the Empa, the GBS St. Gallen, the University of Applied Sciences of Eastern Switzerland (OST), the Pedagogical University of St. Gallen (PHSG) and the University

of St. Gallen. Its aim is to promote creativity and skills for the future and also to get children and young people ready to tackle the challenges of the digital age. Smartfeld wants to work closely with innovative partner schools to develop learning opportunities that focus on the SDGs and so motivate both students and current teachers to acquire and apply creativity to obtain usable technical and digital skills and support their integration into their skills toolkit in the future.

The FuturePitch course is aimed school pupils and teachers who are enthusiastic about sustainability, innovation, and product development and who want to extend their skills in these areas. The workshop is in a two-part format, during which pupils can pursue their interests with the aid of different challenge cards based on SDG topics. They can then work on their solutions in their teams back at school by creating prototypes they have developed themselves, initially in analogue form.

The Hirschmann Foundation provided CHF 100,000 of funding in 2023 for the "FuturePitch" pilot project. It has also decided to co-finance the continued development of the course being offered in 2024 and 2025 with another CHF 200,000.

C. Development cooperation and social objectives

15. Swisscontact

Support for small businesses in Burkina Faso

2018 - 2023

The Hirschmann Foundation ran Swisscontact between 2010 and 2017 to support a savings and credit group project in Mali. With the experience obtained and the tools available, the savings and credit group model was first rolled out in villages in Burkina Faso. The Hirschmann Foundation provided annual funding of CHF 150,000 for the project between 2018 and 2023.

The savings and credit groups (MaraPanga groups) in Burkina Faso are a part of the regional Swisscontact project known as "Opportunities for young people in the Sahel region". Mara Panga allows people who would otherwise have very little access to financial services to finance their own business projects using funds provided by savers in their own village. In return, the savers are paid interest in regular repayments for their savings. The saving and lending process is transparent for everyone involved.

16. UBS Optimus Foundation***The integration of Syrian refugee children into the education system in Lebanon*****2018-2023**

The Hirschmann Foundation has been supporting the training programme run by UBS Optimus Foundation in Lebanon since 2018 with CHF 100,000 of funding per year. With the aid of its contracting partners, the Ana Aqra Association and the Luminos Fund, the intention is for 470 child refugees from Syria to make the transition into the normal Lebanese school system every academic year. There are currently 1.5 million Syrian refugees living in Lebanon. This includes 250,000 children of school age who are not going to school or who have stopped attending.

17. AO Alliance Foundation***Women in T&O Surgery scholarship programme for Africa*****2024-2026**

There is a great disparity between the sexes in trauma and orthopaedic surgery. On average, only 6% of trauma and orthopaedic surgeons are women. The figures are even lower in African low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Building on its history of building surgical capacity and supporting female surgeons, the AO Alliance has developed a programme of scholarships to train women as T&O surgeons in the 14 countries that are members of the COSECSA in sub-Saharan Africa in partnership with the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA).

The Hirschmann Foundation is funding five scholarships for prospective surgeons training in the 2024-2026 cycle.

18. Klitschko Foundation***Democracy Hub in Switzerland*****2023 - 2024**

Democracy Hubs in Switzerland is an educational project that aims to promote democratic values, critical thinking, and civic engagement amongst young Ukrainians, so that democracy can be reinvigorated in Ukraine.

The Klitschko Foundation has set up this project in partnership with the Hirschmann Foundation, to empower young Ukrainians by providing them with a platform they can use to participate actively in the country's democratic process. The project includes a digital course and a week-long study visit in Switzerland. Young people aged between 14 and 16 from various regions in Ukraine can take part in the project.

The Foundation's Board has decided to support the project with a contribution of CHF

113,000 in the period covered by this report.

19. The Careleaver Switzerland Association and the Leaving Care Centre of Excellence

**Consolidation phase
2024 - 2026**

The Careleaver Switzerland Association was set up by former residents of children’s homes or young people who have been in foster care. They also known as careleavers and they continue to run the Association, which operates at a national level supporting regional networks of careleavers (which then provide the services to careleavers). With its motto “By careleavers for careleavers”, the Careleaver Switzerland Association’s mission is to support every careleaver in making the transition into independence.

The role of the Leaving Care Centre of Excellence is specifically to raise awareness of the issue in society and also to support the new association as it gets established (in terms of structures and local networks).

As part of SwissFoundations, a number of charitable foundations have joined forces to cooperate on behalf of Careleavers. The Hirschmann Foundation has also joined the consortium of foundations by providing CHF 40,000 of funding for the Careleaver Switzerland Association as well as CHF 80,000 for the Leaving Care Centre of Excellence.

D. Smaller projects

To fulfil the Foundation's mission, the Foundation's Board also decided to support the following projects in the year of the report with a one-off grant:

Research

FAN (Fund to support the next generation of academics) - UZH Alumni	Sponsorship of outstanding projects by young researchers
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Training and further education

Interkulturelles Foyer Bildung und Beruf	Integrating young women and mothers from different cultures who do not have initial training needed for the primary labour market
Pedagogical University of St. Gallen / Specialist Office for Democratic Education and Human Rights	Democracy bus - Democracy meets school
Le Laboratoire	Labo-Pro - Prevention of situations in which people become unqualified

Musée Visionnaire	Discovering, learning, trying out – Outreach at the Visionary Museum
FIFDH Festival International du film et forum sur les droits humains	Educational Programme for Lessons at Secondary Schools 2023
ETH Zürich Foundation	8 scholarships for participants from the Ukrainian Education System at the ETH-CEMETS 2023
Acker Switzerland	Educational programme <i>Gemüse Ackerdemie</i> (Learning about Vegetables out in the Field): For a generation, that knows what it eats!
Chindernetz Canton of Schwyz	Organisation and coordination of the Children's Parliament in Schwyz
Neuchâtel Red Cross	Training as a healthcare assistant (AS) Swiss Red Cross (CRS)
Foundation for the Papal Swiss Guard in the Vatican	Apprenticeships 'Specialist in Security and Surveillance'
One Young World Switzerland	National Congress 2024
Loopings by the Neustarter-Stiftung	"Resources-Springboard for changing careers"
Swiss School of Public Governance (SSPG), ETH Zürich	Scholarships for the ETH CAS in Public Governance and Administration
<i>Development cooperation</i>	
Burkina Women's Education Fund (Geneva) c/o Kofi Annan Foundation	Changing Women's Lives in Burkina Faso
Skat Foundation	Nepal: Promoting Social Entrepreneurship for Safe Drinking Water
Noma-Hilfe-Schweiz	Training, education, raising awareness and informing people about the early detection of noma
BPN Foundation (Business Professionals Network)	Supporting 23 small businesses in Mongolia / creating 160 new jobs
Klitschko Foundation	Democracy Hubs
AO Alliance Foundation	Women in T&O Surgery Scholarship Program for Africa (2024-2026)
SANNI Foundation	Education and future prospects for children in Yangon, Myanmar / vocational training programmes
CANSEARCH Foundation	INDALL STUDY (India and ALL cases of acute lymphoblastic leukaemia)
<i>Social programmes</i>	
Verein Höhenzug (Mountain Range Association) - Office for Education and Social Affairs	Glarnerland Children's Building Site_ Wild World (Pop-up playground in the middle of summer)
Association Super Licorne	Integration projects for asylum seekers in Geneva

Oberwallis for children in our world	Holidays for families with children who are very seriously ill
Make-A-Wish Foundation of Switzerland and Liechtenstein	Granting wishes for children with serious illnesses
Aida Education + Meeting Others	Early support for children aged 2 – 4 who speak a foreign language
Swiss Multiple Sclerosis Society	MS group visits
Zürich University Children's Hospital - Eleonore Foundation	The Bravery Book – a diary for children with chronic illnesses in the whole of Switzerland
akj - Church youth work office / Catholic Congregation of St.Gallen	Respect Camp
Aladdin Foundation	Holiday weeks for families with children who have impairments
Kinderzirkus Robinson	Robinson Ensemble Tour 2023 with the title "Fairy Tales"
Cuisine Lab	Service training for young asylum seekers (aged 18-25)
Yojoa - Youth Job Accelerator	Extended programme to help young refugees integrate into the workplace
Die Dargebotene Hand Ostschweiz und FL - Tel 143	Work placement in " short-term counselling with a focus on finding solutions" at Tel 143
rollaid Association	rollaid Project Workshop–Integration in the workplace, humanitarian assistance and recycling 2024
Nationales Sekretariat Schweizerisches Arbeiterhilfswerk (SAH)	SAH-Holiday Camp for Children and Young People 2024
MAZAY Association	Café Mazay: Friendship & Integration
CIOMAL Foundation	Camboge project - Socio-economic rehabilitation / Educational grants
Comic theatre of the GHG Sonnenhalde Tandem	In-house production on tour 2024

Website

The Hirschmann Foundation's website at the address www.hirschmann-stiftung.ch has information about its current activities.

How the Foundation is Organised

The Foundation's Board was made up of the following members in the year of this report:

Dr. Barbara Rigassi, Muri bei Bern, President

Carl M. Hirschmann, Küsnacht

Raymond Loretan, Geneva

Prof. Dr. Ursula Renold, Brugges

Valentin Vogt, Hombrechtikon

The legal framework for the Foundation's activities is set out in the Foundation's charter dated 20th November 2001, the organisational regulations dated 07th March 2023, the investment guidelines dated 04th July 2024, the awarding guidelines dated 07th March 2023 and also the compensation regulations dated 16th March 2016.

The annual accounts and the annual report for 2021 were accepted by the Foundation's Board on 21st March 2024.

The office was administered in the year of the report by Martina Weber [c/o Fondation des Fondateurs, Breitingenstrasse 35, 8002 Zürich]. The Foundation was audited in the year of the report by Audit Suisse AG, St. Gallen. The competent supervisory authority in the year of the report was the Central Swiss BVG and Foundation Supervisory Authority (ZBSA), Lucerne.

Zürich, 21st March 2024