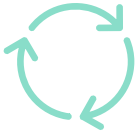




HIRSCHMANN STIFTUNG

2025 ANNUAL REPORT





THE FOUNDATION

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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AUDITORS

Audit Suisse AG, St. Gallen

SUPERVISION

Central Switzerland
Supervisory Authority for
Foundations and Pension
Schemes, Lucerne



The Hirschmann Foundation, which is based in Zug, has existed in its current form since 2001. Its purpose is to promote education and training, to support research and science and to further social causes. Alongside the Deed of Foundation that was signed on 20th November 2001, the legal framework for the work of the Hirschmann Foundation is provided by the organisational regulations, the investment guidelines, the awarding guidelines and the regulations on remuneration.

The Foundation provides about three million Swiss Francs of funding every year. When awarding funding, the Foundation Board bases its decisions on the following pillars of its funding strategy:

- The project must be in line with the foundation's purpose.
- The project must contribute to at least one of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals SDG 3, SDG 4 and SDG 8.



- We provide funding for specific priority topics In the areas of vocational training and further education, as well as scientific research:
 - ✓ Training and further education for specialists in business and culture
 - ✓ Promotion of entrepreneurship
 - ✓ Environment/climate
 - ✓ Political education/the future of democracy

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND REPORT

The financial statements and annual report were approved by the Board of Trustees on 26th March 2026. The annual report highlights selected individual projects and includes a list of every project funded during the reporting year. The images used in the report are the property of the Hirschmann Foundation.



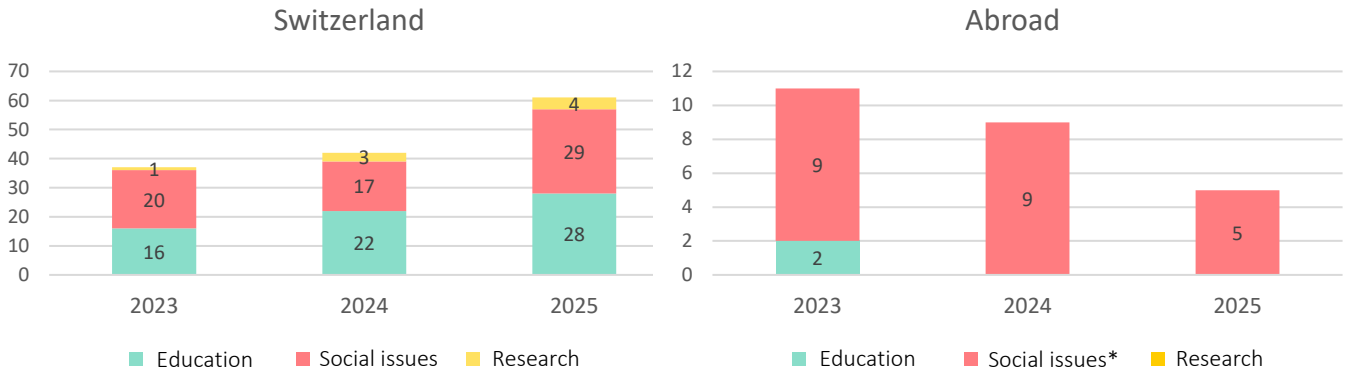
WEBSITE

The foundation provides regular updates about its projects and activities on its website www.hirschmann-stiftung.ch.

FACTS AND FIGURES

The Hirschmann Foundation awarded a total of CHF 2.8 million of funding in the financial year.

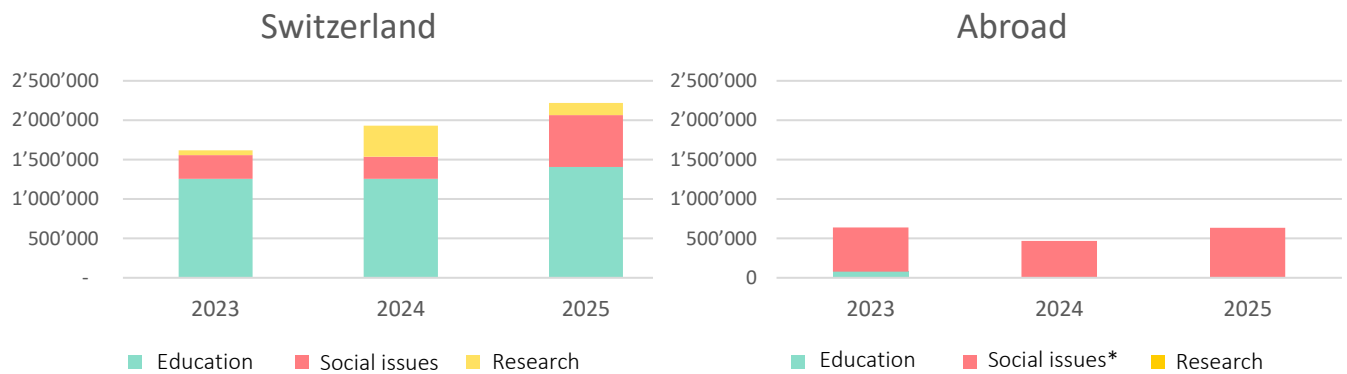
PROJECTS BY SECTOR/LOCATION



* including educational projects in the southern hemisphere

AMOUNTS BY SECTOR/LOCATION

in CHF



*including educational projects in the southern hemisphere

spheriq

In the year of the report, the Board of Trustees decided to increase the funding provided by the Hirschmann Foundation to the consortium responsible for developing the Spheriq platform (formerly StiftungSchweiz) by CHF 100,000. The Swiss online platform for voluntary work wants to harness the potential of digitisation for effective philanthropy. The platform provides essential information, digital tools and appropriate services for effective, well-connected and transparent philanthropic causes.

The Board of Trustees regards this involvement as an investment that will provide effective support for the administration of the Foundation. The applications and services provided by Spheriq will facilitate both the evaluation of projects and cooperation with other foundations.

www.spheriq.ch

YOUTH ENGAGED IN DEBATING



EDUCATION

- A: *Youth Engaged in Debating* programme in vocational colleges
- B: Debating workshop for holders of Hirschmann Scholarships



PARTNER

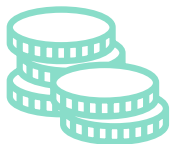
Young Enterprise Switzerland (YES)

www.yes.swiss



IMPLEMENTATION

- A: 2022/23 – 2027/28
- B: 2025/26 – 2027/28



AMOUNT OF FUNDING

- A: CHF 20,000 / project year
- B: CHF 28,000 / project year

The *Youth Engaged in Debating* programme is enhancing the critical thinking and debating skills of pupils in lower and upper secondary school. The participants tackle current social issues independently, they analyse social, economic and environmental interrelationships and develop well-founded, differentiated points of view. They learn to express their views persuasively, to respect other perspectives and to reflect critically on their own position in structured debates. The highlight of the programme is the National Competition.

FUNDING THE PROGRAMME IN VOCATIONAL COLLEGES

Thanks to funding from the Hirschmann Foundation, the “*Youth Engaged in Debating*” programme is being specifically developed for vocational colleges. In the academic year 2024/25 178 schools and colleges with a total of 1,118 pupils and 333 teachers took part in debating workshops. 26 of these were vocational colleges. The results clearly show that the debating skills of pupils attending vocational colleges are just as good as delegates from grammar schools. The BFS KV Basel enjoyed particular success, as its four delegates qualified for the National Final, and one of these got through to the final debate. One crucial achievement was the successful trial with a class of trainees with a course recruited from multiple companies. From now on, between 80 and 100 trainees will be able to attend this course at the Swiss Federal Office of Personnel each year.

The programme is being run by YES, which is a non-profit organisation that provides practical programmes in business and raising awareness of important issues for schools and colleges in Switzerland. Their aim is to connect schools and colleges with the real world.

DEBATING WORKSHOP FOR HOLDERS OF HIRSCHMANN SCHOLARSHIPS

The Hirschmann Foundation has been offering Hirschmann scholarships to university students since 2008. The aim is for the successful scholarship holders to get involved in social issues and engage with a relevant topic.

YES has been offering this framework programme since the middle of 2025. The scholarship holders analyse, understand and learn the format of *Youth Engaged in Debating*, and in doing so put what they have learnt into practice by learning to debate themselves.

COLOMBIA: SENIOR EXPERT CONTACT (SEC)



SOCIAL ISSUES

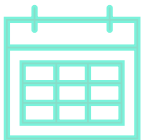
Development cooperation



PARTNER

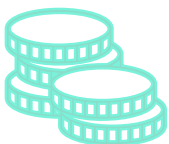
Swisscontact

www.swisscontact.org



IMPLEMENTATION

2025 - 2027



AMOUNT OF FUNDING

CHF 450,000

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are crucial for the Colombian economy: they account for around 80% of jobs and generate around 40% of the Gross Domestic Product. Despite this, their growth is hampered by low productivity and limited capacity for innovation. This is where the Senior Expert Contact (SEC) Colombia project comes in.

BESPOKE SUPPORT FOR COMPANIES WITH THE POTENTIAL FOR GROWTH

The project supports entrepreneurs and SMEs with bespoke but affordable short-term consultations provided by volunteer experts. The aim is to boost the competitiveness of companies, create new jobs and help tackle poverty. By the end of the project, it is expected that about 100 SMEs will benefit directly from the consultancy services. In addition, establishing a local pool of experts will create a sustainable support service.

A key feature of the project is the focus on the exchange of knowledge at the local and regional level. In a departure from the approach taken by previous SECs, a Colombian partner organisation is being given the skills to recruit experts independently, coordinate activities and tailor its services specifically to the needs of Colombian SMEs. Recruits are being drawn from professional networks, chambers of commerce and industry, alumni organisations, mentoring programmes and communities in the Colombian diaspora in Europe and the USA.

PROTOTYPE FOR SOUTH AMERICA

The project is being launched as a prototype for South America and has the aim of creating a regional network of experts in Latin America. 105 experts were recruited in 2025, with 66 consultations being provided. Initial reports from the SMEs involved so far show measurable increases in income as a result of the consultations.

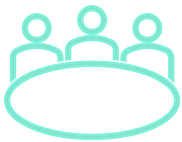
The Hirschmann Foundation has been working in partnership with Swisscontact on various projects since 2010. The non-profit development organisation is committed to sustainable economic development and to the wellbeing of every person in developing and emerging economies.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARDS



RESEARCH

Scholarships for junior researchers



PARTNER

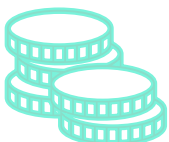
Dementia Research Switzerland –Synapsis Foundation

www.demenz-forschung.ch



IMPLEMENTATION

2025 - 2026



AMOUNT OF FUNDING

CHF 200,000

DEMENTIA RESEARCH

Neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's are some of the greatest medical challenges of our time. Their causes remain unclear to this day, as the diseases often develop unnoticed over decades and involve a wide variety of biological processes. As a result, there is no single form of dementia, but rather a wide range of clinical symptoms may be presented, for which treatment has so far focused primarily on managing symptoms. Intensive scientific research is essential to better understand the underlying mechanisms – such as inflammatory processes or disruptions to the energy supply of nerve cells – and to identify effective long-term treatments.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR JUNIOR RESEARCHERS

Dementia Research Switzerland –Synapsis Foundation is specifically committed to funding this research. A key tool is the Career Development Award, which is used to support outstanding young scientists every year. The aim is to empower the next generation of researchers and to advance innovative approaches in dementia research.

The aim of the projects being funded is:

- to gain new insights into the development of neurodegenerative diseases, such as Alzheimer's;
- to develop innovative diagnostic procedures to improve early detection; and
- to research effective treatments.

In 2025 the Hirschmann Foundation started funding Career Development Awards for these two junior researchers:



Dr. Marc van Oostrum, University of Basel, Bio Centre Project - "Research into specific proteins in vulnerable synapses during the progression of Alzheimer's disease."

PhD Sylvain Perriot, CHUV Lausanne, Centre for Psychiatric Neuroscience

Project - "Developing Biomarkers for Precision Medicine in Frontotemporal Dementia"



PROJECTS

The Hirschmann Foundation approved the following grants in the financial year 2025:

BILDUNG

Priority projects (total funding over CHF 100,000)

BildungsNetz Zug	Individual coaching for apprentices preparing for the Swiss Certificate of Proficiency (EFZ) in the academic years 2025/26 – 2027/28
DIE CHANCE, Stiftung für Berufspraxis in der Ostschweiz	Placement and integration of unemployed young people into vocational training, Eastern Switzerland 2025 - 2026
EDUCA SWISS Stiftung für Bildungsförderung und -finanzierung	Hirschmann Education Fund: educational support for care leavers 2025 - 2027
ETH AI Center / ETH Zürich Foundation	Swiss AI Challenge 2025 - 2027
Kick Foundation	Continuation and expansion of the nationwide "Talent Kick" programme for entrepreneurial excellence 2026 - 2028
Verein Loc.Artium	Hirschmann Masterclasses 2026 - 2028
Young Enterprise Switzerland (YES)	Debating workshop for holders of Hirschmann Scholarships at universities of applied sciences in Switzerland 2025 / 2028

Small-scale / pilot projects (total funding < CHF 100,000)

Akademie für aktuelle Musik Schweiz IG Berufsbildung Musik / WeMusic Federation	Planning and pilot phase "Apprenticeship & Music EFZ" 2025/2026
AsyLex	AsyLex Academy - Practical training in migration and asylum law 2026
Capacity	Access Fast Track 2026
Dachverband Schweizer Jugendparlamente DSJ	Youth+Engagement opportunities for further education 2025/26
dev.tv	Young Activists Summit 2025 - #YAS25
economiesuisse	Hanna Cash – Season 4 of the series of films explaining financial market topics 2025
Fondation Eduki	Eduki national competition dedicated to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2026
Institute for Global Negotiation	Global Negotiation Conference 2025
Musée Visionnaire	2025/2026 Programme – making art and culture accessible to all
Nationale Jugend Brassband der Schweiz (NJBB)	50 th edition of the NJBB summer course in July 2025
Regionales Kinderbüro von ToKJO Kinder- und Jugendfachstelle	Oberaargau Regional Children's Parliament, 2026/2027

Schultheatertage Ostschweiz c/o Theater Bilitz	Twelfth School Theatre Festival Eastern Switzerland 2026
Schweizer Kinder und Jugendchorförderung (SKJF)	10 th Swiss Choral Festival for Children and Young People 2026
SimplyScience Stiftung	SimplyNano 2 - Educational project to encourage an interest in science and technology among young people 2025/26
Stiftung Bergwaldprojekt	Forest project weeks – Youth project in the region Trin GR 2025
Stiftung myclimate	Skills for Future - Careers. Education. Protecting the Climate. 2026/27
Swiss School of Public Governance (SSPG), ETH Zürich	Scholarships for the ETH CAS in Public Governance and Administration 2025 - 2027
Swiss Science Center Technorama	MINTegration 2025 Canton of Lucerne
Università della Svizzera italiana USI	MEM Initiatives (formerly called MEM Summer Summit) 2025/26
Verein SwissSkills Bern	SwissSkills 2025
Wissenschafts-Olympiade	Science Olympiade 2024/2026: Supporting young talent in science and technology

SOCIAL ISSUES – DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Priority projects (total funding over CHF 100,000)

Stiftung BPN (Business Professionals Network)	Support for small business owners in Mongolia, extension 2026 - 2028
Swisscontact / Schweiz. Stiftung für technische Entwicklungszusammenarbeit	Colombia: SEC - bespoke support for companies with the potential for growth 2025 - 2027

Small-scale / pilot projects (total funding < CHF 100,000)

Burkina Women's Education Fund (Genève)	Master's study for two women in Burkina Faso 2025 - 2027
Buy Food with Plastic	Buy Food with Plastic Nicaragua 2025
SANNI Foundation	Vocational training programme for young people in Yangon, Myanmar 2025

SOCIAL ISSUES

Small-scale / pilot projects (total funding < CHF 100,000)

Association Europe-Charmilles	My future – Integration into the workforce through sport and art 2026
Association Super Licorne	Integration projects for asylum seekers in Geneva 2025/2026
Bevel ON Association	Capacity Building Program for Refugees 2025
Dachverband Budgetberatung Schweiz	“Young People and Money – for a healthy approach to finances“programme 2026

demenzworld	Dementia world – continuation of the "demenzmeets" social franchising project 2025/26
DIMA - Verein für Sprache und Integration	Funding for sign language interpreters for hearing-impaired migrants with no disability benefits 2026
Fondazione MATER	Refettorio Geneva: restaurant with free food for people in vulnerable situations 2026
Il Pane Verein	Bread is Gold, social integration and vocational qualifications for migrants 2025
inclusivevents	Conversation Starters – training sessions by inclusivevents 2026
Kinderprojekt Arche Kreuzlingen	Help with homework 2026
Kinderzirkus Robinson	Robinson Ensemble Children's Circus Tour 2025
Le Laboratoire	Labo-Pro, personalised support for job seekers who have lost their qualifications 2025 - 2027
Make-A-Wish Foundation Switzerland & Lichtenstein	Granting the individual wishes of children with serious illnesses 2026 - 2028
myAbility Social Enterprise GmbH	Circle of Leaders with Disabilities 2025/26
Nationales Sekretariat Schweizerisches Arbeiterhilfswerk (SAH)	SAH holiday camp for children and young people 2025
Pro Pallium – Schweizer Palliativstiftung für Kinder und junge Erwachsene	Education and raising awareness – expanding the training provided by Pro Pallium 2026
prointegration - Verein zur Förderung der beruflichen Integration sozial benachteiligter Menschen	JobConnect 2026
Schweizer Paraplegiker-Stiftung	ParaSchool (keeping a place at school) 2026 - 2028
Schweizerische Multiple Sklerose Gesellschaft	MS group holidays 2025
Schweizerisches Rotes Kreuz (SRK) Kanton Zürich	Swiss Red Cross (SRK) support for apprentices 2025 - 2027
sichtbar GEHÖRLOSE	Adult education for the hearing impaired 2026
Social Fabric Association	Social Fabric – Social Inspiration! Anniversary activities 2025/26
SOS Ticino	Coaching Transfair 2 (CT2) 2026 - vocational integration into the world of work for young adults
Stiftung Alterszentrum im Brüel Aesch-Pfeffingen	Setting up a VR-based learning trail and a learning hub for learners who need additional support 2026 - 2029
TOSAM Stiftung	Work for All: supported employment in the secondary labour market 2026/2027
Universitäts-Kinderspital Zürich - Eleonorenstiftung	Case-by-case assistance for families in need at the Zurich Children's Hospital 2025
Verein rollaid	A new start in Bern-Bümpliz 2025
Verein SEET - Support Education, Empower Together	SEET mentoring programme 2026

RESEARCH

Small-scale / pilot projects (total funding < CHF 100,000)

FAN (Fonds zur Förderung des akademischen Nachwuchses) - UZH Alumni	Research project by Dr. Viktoriya Gurash: The risk of international fragmentation in regulating the climate 2026
FAN (Fonds zur Förderung des akademischen Nachwuchses) - UZH Alumni	Research project by Dr. Baiba Renerte: What makes a company tick? Behavioural economic perspectives on integrity and culture 2026
Glion Colloquium Association,	Glion Colloquium 2025: Trust and Truth – How they impact the complex Relationships between Science and Society
Toolpoint for Lab Science	Lab Sciences Award for outstanding Bachelor's theses 2026 - 2028
