



## 2021 Annual Report

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### 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 2021 the main focus of the Hirschmann Foundation's charitable activities was in the following areas:

#### A. Science and Research

##### 1. EMPA and the Pedagogical University of Lucerne: Project "Next Evolution in Sustainable Building Technologies (NEST)" 2018-2022

On its campus in Dübendorf the Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology (EMPA), an institution that is part of the Swiss Technical Universities (ETH), has built a test building (NEST) for innovative building technology that makes efficient use of resources. The Hirschmann Foundation has launched a project in partnership with the EMPA and the Pedagogical University of Lucerne to find practical ways based on this approach to transfer knowledge from the ETH into society as a whole, and to schools in particular. The virtual events that took place because of the Coronavirus pandemic proved to be a success and even more school classes were able to benefit from these thanks to NEST Virtual.

The Hirschmann Foundation allocated a total of CHF 181,000 to this project between 2018 and 2022.

##### 2. ETH Zürich Foundation

##### The "Social status of vocational training from the perspective of the companies" project 2014-2022

The Foundation provided support for the research project " Social status of vocational training from the perspective of the companies " with total funding of CHF 150,000. The project partner ETH Zürich Foundation is organising the project. A survey of companies has been carried out on a semi-experimental basis, using what is known as a 'vignette' survey. The project is on track despite a small delay. The provisional completion date is 2022.

##### 3. CSI-HSG

##### The "Lab of Tomorrow Switzerland" project 2020-2023

With the Lab of Tomorrow Switzerland, the intention is to create a platform for

Switzerland that takes account of the UN Agenda 2030. This was formulated in 2015 to help drive sustainable development and so promote the collaboration of every stakeholder in Switzerland for the purpose of implementing the 17 UN targets for sustainable development. The project is running as agreed. Between 31st May and 8th June 2021 there was a video innovation workshop with 36 people from Rwanda, other countries in East Africa and Switzerland. The main focus was on coffee growers, students and also residents of towns and villages in Rwanda.

The project is being supported by the Hirschmann Foundation with CHF 100,000 of funding.

**4. UZH alumni FAN – Fund to promote the next generation of academics**  
**Project: Establishing global framework conditions for financial markets that have an environmentally sustainable structure**  
**2020 - 2021**

This project run by Dr. Xenia Karametaxos, who is a junior researcher at the University of Zürich, is investigating how regulators of global financial markets can promote the sustainability targets set by the UN and the Paris Climate Accords. The investigation is using an interdisciplinary approach that combines law, finance, and economics.

The project requires funding totalling CHF 80,000. The Hirschmann Foundation is contributing part of this to the tune of CHF 50,000.

**5. We.Publish Foundation**  
**Project: "Start-Up Funding to Promote Scientific Journalism"**  
**2022-2023**

The We.Publish Foundation wants to promote diverse media in Switzerland using a new type of approach, to give independent providers of journalistic content publishing tools on an open-source basis and to provide the digital infrastructure this requires.

The Hirschmann Foundation is providing CHF 100,000 of funding to support this project.

**6. collaboratia helvetica association**  
**Project: "Catalyst Lab 3 – the Laboratory of the Future for Switzerland"**  
**2021-2022**

The Catalyst Lab run by the collaboratio helvetica charitable association is aimed at people who see themselves as driving change and want to use innovative solutions to implement the UN's 17 sustainable development goals in Switzerland. Collaboratio helvetica is running various workshops.

The first physical workshop took place in December 2021. The Hirschmann Foundation is covering the costs for 10 participants at CHF 10,000 each, for a total cost of CHF 100,000.

## **B. Training and Further Education**

### **7. swissuniversities**

#### **Hirschmann scholarships for students at universities of applied sciences 2008 - 2023**

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 Ms. 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 2021 54 students successfully applied for a scholarship and each received CHF 5,000, which is a total of CHF 270,000.

### **8. Verein foraus - Foreign Policy Forum**

#### **Policy Kitchen for Hirschmann scholarship holders 2020 -2023**

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. The project has been developed in partnership with the office of the Hirschmann Scholarship (Swissuniversities/Lucern University of Applied Sciences and Art) for its duration.

The 2nd phase of the Policy Kitchen took place between January and June 2021 as an online workshop. It was on the topic of migration. The Hirschmann Foundation is extending the agreement and is contributing of CHF 150,000 in the period 2021-2023.

### **9. 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 2021 the Foundation's Board provided total funding for seven integration projects to the tune of CHF 32,200. It is also extending the agreement with the association Integration in Action. A contribution of CHF 210,000 is being provided for integration projects at vocational colleges for the years 2022 – 2024.

### **10. The Learning Factory association**

#### **Hirschmann scholarships for students at vocational colleges 2013 - 2023**

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.

Since 2013 the Hirschmann Foundation has provided grants for apprentices studying at vocational colleges with an annual contribution of CHF 96,000.

## **11. The Learning Factory association**

### **Basic vocational training with support for young people who are recent immigrants 2013 - 2023**

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 a network of contacts 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.

In the year of this report, the Foundation's Board decided to rescale the project to 6 beneficiaries and to extend the annual funding of CHF 106,000 until 2023.

## **12. LU Couture Workshop**

### **Hirschmann scholarships for the Training of Apprentices 2017 - 2022**

The Hirschmann Foundation has been funding the training of apprentices at the LU Couture 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.

The Foundation's Board is currently deciding whether to extend the collaboration.

## **13. Swiss Youth Music Competition (SJMW) Foundation**

### **Hirschmann Masterclasses 2015 - 2023**

The Swiss Youth Music Competition (SJMW) Foundation has been organising the Hirschmann Masterclass every year since 2015. The Hirschmann Foundation is helping the masterclasses run by guaranteeing to cover the costs of CHF 30,000. The project has been extended until 2023. The course is aimed at the winners of the Swiss youth music competitions with the intention of giving them new backing for their artistic work.

The 7th Hirschmann Masterclass in 2021 for contemporary chamber music with the composer Philippe Racine was held between the 29th of August and 5th September 2021 in the Senar Villa in Hertenstein on Lake Lucerne.

## **14. Swiss Youth Music Competition (SJMW) Foundation**

### **Hirschmann Masterclass Europe 2021**

The 1st Hirschmann Masterclass Europe was held between 26th September and 3rd October 2021 in Weinberg Castle near Linz in Austria. The main focus was on exploring the music of the early 20th century as well as contemporary music. There were registrations from 24 students. The Masterclass ran in collaboration with the European sister organisation prima la musica (Austria) and Jugend musiziert (Germany) as well as the European Union of Music Competitions for Youth (emcy).

The Hirschmann Foundation supported the pilot project with a total of CHF 32,000 of funding, with CHF 15,000 coming from the budget for the SJMW competitions that were not held in 2020 due to the COVID pandemic. The Foundation's Board is planning to extend the project for three more years.

### **15. KASA Swiss Humanitarian Foundation**

#### **Hirschmann scholarships for students at universities of applied sciences in Armenia 2021 - 2023**

The Hirschmann Foundation has set up a scholarship programme for Bachelor's degree students at universities of applied sciences in Erewan and Gjumri. The aim of the Hirschmann scholarships is to support students studying for their Bachelor's degrees at a state-recognised university of applied sciences in Armenia.

The partner is the KASA Swiss Humanitarian Foundation, which has links to the country's universities. The total amount being contributed to the project is CHF 126,000.

## **C. Development cooperation and social objectives**

### **16. Swisscontact**

#### **Support for small businesses in Burkina Faso 2018 - 2023**

Between 2010 and 2017 the Hirschmann Foundation sponsored a project with the title Swisscontact to promote development cooperation in Mali. With the experience obtained and the tools available, the savings and credit group model is now being rolled out in villages in Burkina Faso. The project in Burkina Faso was initially planned to run from 2018 until 2020. In the year of this report the Foundation's Board decided to carry on supporting the project until 2023.

The savings and credit groups (SUMAN groups) are a part of the "work and income for young adults thanks to local economic development" project. With the project to promote local economic development, Swisscontact is creating jobs and a source of income for young adults and is making a contribution to reducing poverty in seven rural communities in Burkina Faso. One part of this is being achieved by promoting existing small businesses and entrepreneurial initiatives by young adults as well as opportunities for farmers in the surrounding villages to access further training. Another focus is improving access to financial services and strengthening local structures.

### **17. The Swiss Academy for Development Foundation**

#### **Promotion of young entrepreneurs for environmentally friendly alternatives in Myanmar 2020 - 2022**

The aim of this project is to use opportunities for training and further education to enable 200 young people in the areas of Shan and Kachin in Myanmar to market agricultural produce and finished products and services in their region and beyond

more effectively. A focus is being put on environmental sustainability, especially with regard to sustainable cultivation methods and value creation chains.

The aim is to show young people that there are realistic alternative ways of earning a living that do not include the trade in opioids or emigrating to China or Thailand. In addition, young people will be shown how to access the networks that are essential for successful employment more easily, whether these are run by the state or by private companies.

The partners of the Swiss Academy for Development (SAD) in Myanmar are the local NGO Moving Forward Together (MFT, Kayamut Township, Yangon, Myanmar), which has been working there since 2013, and the Saung Sae youth group. MFT's aim is to support young people by providing training and so to contribute to peaceful coexistence in regions that have been scarred by conflict in recent years. Saung See was set up in 2015 by young adults as a local self-help initiative to promote the peace process.

The Hirschmann Foundation is supporting this project for three years with a total of CHF 80,000.

## **18. UBS Optimus Foundation**

### **The integration of Syrian refugee children into the education system in Lebanon**

#### **2021-2023**

The Hirschmann Foundation is supporting the training programme run by the UBS Optimus Foundation in Lebanon. With the aid of its contract partners, the Ana Aqra Association and the Luminos Fund, the aim is to help 470 refugee children from Syria make the transition into the normal school system in Lebanon every academic year.

Luminos finds itself in a difficult situation in Lebanon. As well as Covid-19, the programme has also been disrupted by the economic crisis and civil unrest. The Foundation's Board decided back in 2020 to continue supporting the project in 2021-2023 with CHF 300,000 of funding.

## **D. Smaller Projects**

To fulfil the Foundation's mission, the Foundation's Board decided to support numerous social and educational projects in the year of the report, including:

- Success workshop for young people who are about to start work
- Prevention project on the topic of new media, violence and bullying in schools
- Equal access for refugees into tertiary education
- Support programme for a residential home in Geneva
- Promoting careers involving the environment in vocational training
- Music master classes informed by history in practical performances in Bern
- Raising awareness of the importance of mountain forests
- Integration of refugee families
- Swiss Language Project for an inclusive society that encourages solidarity

- Textiles workshop for integration of migrants in Geneva
- Youth programme to address social issues

## **Website**

The Hirschmann Foundation's website at the address [www.hirschmann-stiftung.ch](http://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. Eugen David, St. Gallen, President  
Carl M. Hirschmann, Milan  
Raymond Loretan, Geneva  
Prof. Dr. Ursula Renold, Brugges  
Dr. Barbara Rigassi, Muri bei Bern

The legal framework for the Foundation's activities is set out in the Foundation's charter dated 20.11.2001, the organisational regulations dated 21.04.2010, the investment guidelines dated 27.05.2020 and also the awarding guidelines dated 25.03.2014.

The annual accounts and the annual report for 2021 were accepted by the Foundation's Board on 30th March 2022.

The office was administered by Ms. Susanne Jenny, [Marktgasse 20, 9000 St. Gallen] in the year of the report. The Foundation was audited by Trösch Partner AG, St. Gallen in the year of the report. The competent supervisory authority in the year of the report the Central Swiss BVG and Foundation Supervisory Authority (ZBSA), Lucerne.

Zürich, 30th March 2022

For the Foundation's Board:

Dr. Barbara Rigassi  
President of the Foundation's Board

Valentin Vogt  
Member of the Foundation's Board