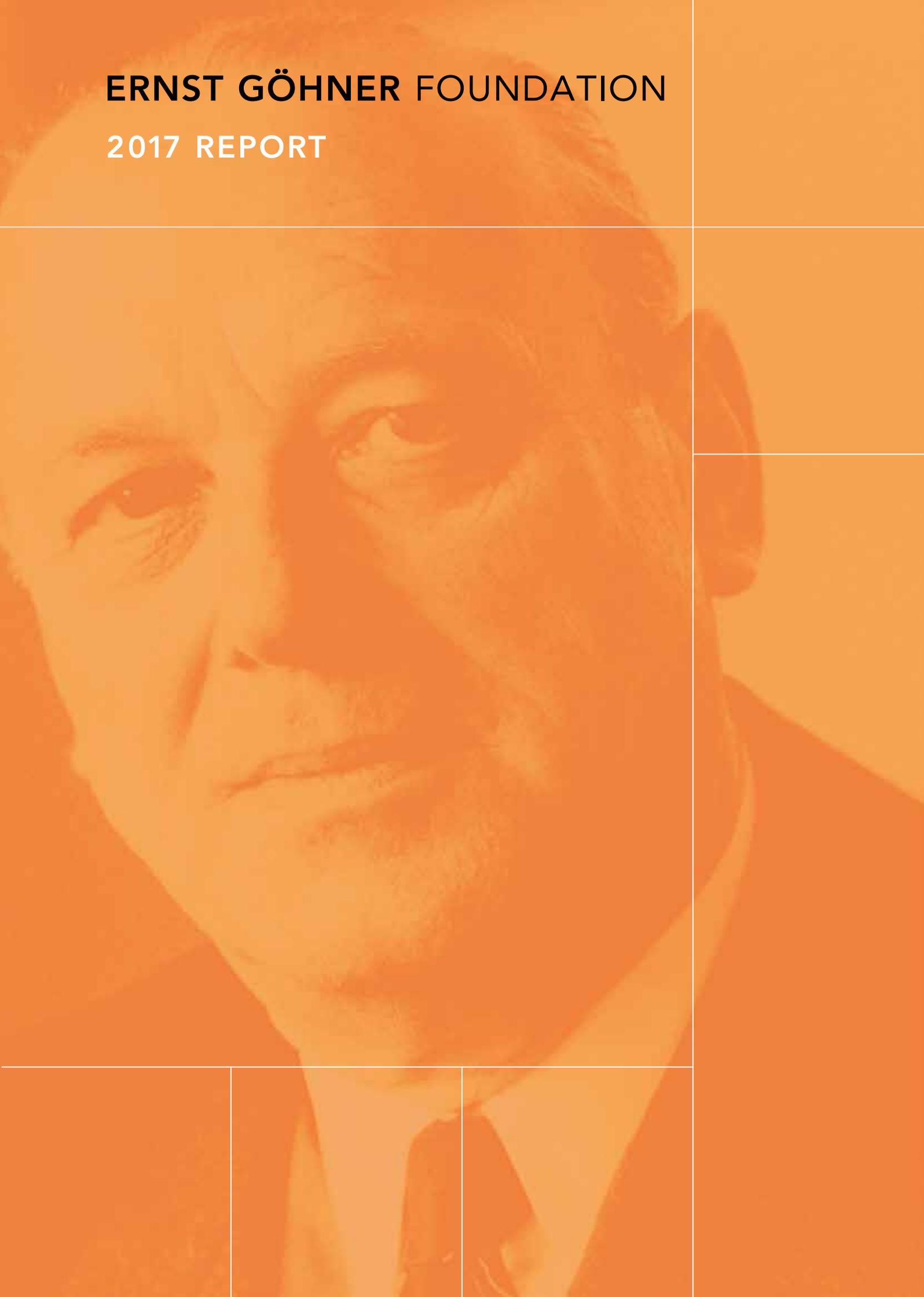


# ERNST GÖHNER FOUNDATION

2017 REPORT





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## 2017 REPORT

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Zug, in April 2018

For more information on the Foundation, please consult our website:  
[www.ernst-goehner-stiftung.ch](http://www.ernst-goehner-stiftung.ch)

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# PREFACE AND A FEW FACTS & FIGURES

Switzerland is a “paradise for foundations”, not only because of its liberal foundation laws and long foundation tradition, but also because there are 16 charitable foundations for every 10,000 inhabitants. Switzerland is also one of the world’s leaders when it comes to total capital held in foundations and the amount of funding distributed per inhabitant.

Over half of all charitable foundations in Switzerland were founded after 1990. The increasing number of new foundations being established has continued unabated during the last couple of years, despite the unfavorable economic climate. Currently, there are over 13,000 charitable foundations in Switzerland, most of which are headquartered in the Canton of Zurich. The highest growth rate can be found in the Canton of Geneva as measured by the number of inhabitants, with the Canton of Basel City exhibiting the highest concentration.

The total amount of capital invested in charitable foundations in Switzerland is estimated at CHF 70 billion, with annual funding disbursements estimated at between CHF 1.5 and 2 billion. The total volume of funding provided by the over 129,000 charitable foundations in Europe is estimated at over EUR 53 billion, with foundation capital assets in excess of EUR 452 billion. Germany — which in Europe along with Spain, Sweden, Romania and Hungary has the largest number of foundations — is estimated to have ca. 20,000 foundations, with assets totaling CHF 80 billion and disbursed funding of almost CHF 4 billion.

With 2,700 and 670 foundations respectively, the foundation sector in neighboring countries France and Austria is much smaller. The U.S. has 80,000 foundations with capital assets of CHF 600 billion.

Established in 1957, the Ernst Göhner Foundation — one of approximately 1,000 corporate foundations — is one of Switzerland’s oldest foundations. With disbursed funding in excess of CHF 36 million in 2017, the Foundation supported over 1,300 charitable projects, thus making for an aggregate total in excess of CHF 500 million for some 27,500 projects since the Foundation was founded. According to its charter, one of the tasks of the Ernst Göhner Foundation is that of a family foundation: as of the end of 2017 the Foundation’s family beneficiaries numbered 29.

## ERNST GÖHNER STIFTUNG

**FOUNDER** Ernst Göhner (1900–1971)

**FOUNDED** 1957

**PURPOSE** Corporate, charitable and family foundation

### CORPORATE HOLDINGS

Sectors: Construction, Energy, Foodstuffs, Logistics, Industrial Enterprises, and Real Estate

### AREAS OF FUNDING AND SUPPORT

Culture, Environment, Social, and Education & Science (“Social” including former employees of Göhner companies)

### REGISTERED OFFICE / ADDRESS

Artherstrasse 19, 6300 Zug, Switzerland

**WEBSITE** [www.ernst-goehner-stiftung.ch](http://www.ernst-goehner-stiftung.ch)

## FOUNDATION BODIES

### FOUNDATION BOARD

Dr. Beat Walti (chairman)  
Dr. Franziska Widmer Müller (vice-chairman)  
Giacomo Balzarini (from 11/20/2017)  
Dr. Christoph Franz  
Mark Furger  
Prof. Dr. Thomas Gutzwiller  
Fritz Jörg (until 11/20/2017)  
Isabel Kühnlein Specker  
(representative of family beneficiaries)  
Dr. Roger Schmid  
Peter Ulber

### COMMITTEES

#### **Finance and Internal Control Committee**

Chair: Dr. Beat Walti

#### **Donations**

Chair: Dr. Franziska Widmer Müller

#### **Family Beneficiaries**

Chair: Isabel Kühnlein Specker

#### **Audit Committee**

Chair: Mark Furger

#### **Nomination and Remuneration Committee**

Chair: Fritz Jörg (until 11/20/2017)

Chair: Prof. Dr. Thomas Gutzwiller

(from 11/20/2017)

### EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

Dr. Roger Schmid  
Dr. Suzanne Schenk (deputy)

### OFFICE

Maria Arnold (office)  
Michaela Gasser (Environment and Social projects)  
Sonja Hägeli (Theater, Dance, Literature, Heritage Conservation and Cultural History)  
Miriam Müller (accounting)  
Dr. Suzanne Schenk (Social, Education & Science projects)  
Dr. Corinne Linda Sotzek (Visual Arts and Music)  
Doris Stalder (Music and Film)  
Lucia Tellenbach (office)  
Tanja Vogel (interdisciplinary cultural projects)

### AUDITORS

Ernst & Young Ltd.

### REGULATORY AUTHORITY

Regulatory Board for Occupational Pension Plans and Foundations of Central Switzerland (ZBSA)

## SWISSFOUNDATIONS

SwissFoundations ([www.swissfoundations.ch](http://www.swissfoundations.ch)), the Association of Grant-Making Foundations, is a network dedicated to the continued development of foundations in Switzerland. It was founded in 2001 at the initiative of eleven foundations, including the Ernst Göhner Foundation, and stands for transparency, professionalism and the efficient use of foundation assets.

That is why SwissFoundations published its good governance code for grant-making foundations in Europe in 2005. 2015 marks the third, completely revised edition: *Swiss Foundation Code 2015 – Principles and Recommendations for the Establishment and Management of Grant-Making Foundations*.

In its Foundation Governance series, SwissFoundations has published a number of other works on practical foundation work and, since 2009, has also published the annual Swiss Foundation Report in association with the Center for Foundation Law of the University of Zurich and the Center for Philanthropy Studies (CEPS) of the University of Basel.

SwissFoundations is also co-initiator of CEPS, whose aim is to strengthen and develop philanthropy in Switzerland by creating the scholastic basis to this end. Cofunded by the Ernst Göhner Foundation, this interdisciplinary center opened its doors in 2008, and today has the status of an independent university institute. Apart from engaging in practice-led research, it focusses on continuing professional education, one such example being the one-week immersion course for the management of grant-making foundations.

# OUR INVESTMENTS

## STRATEGY AND ORGANIZATION

Pursuant to its charter, the Ernst Göhner Foundation is tasked with managing its assets in accordance with business principles and exercising entrepreneurial initiative.

As such, it primarily invests in companies and real estate in Switzerland owing to their long-term horizon. The Foundation also has a portfolio of financial investments and provides venture capital for startups. Taking an active approach in managing the Foundation's assets is designed to generate income that provides for optimum stability so as to enable the continued fulfillment of the Foundation's designated remit.

The stake in Panalpina World Transport (Holding) Ltd. and the financial investments are held directly by the Foundation. At ca. 46%, the stake in publicly-listed Panalpina World Transport (Holding) Ltd. continues to be the Foundation's most significant corporate holding. The Panalpina Group is one of the world's largest logistics companies with its international air and ocean freight services and contract logistics. The Group has a combined headcount of ca. 15,000. Panalpina is the last corporate holding of the Ernst Göhner Foundation to be acquired by founder Ernst Göhner for inclusion in the Foundation.

The Foundation has holdings in various other companies through its wholly-owned subsidiary EGS Beteiligungen Ltd. The Foundation's charter also explicitly provides for participating holdings in former company members of the Göhner Group. EGS Beteiligungen Ltd. has had a stake in one such company since 2009, i.e. Bauwerk Parkett AG (now: Bauwerk Boen AG). Real estate investments are made by Seewarte Holding Ltd., a company wholly-owned by the Foundation.

The members of the board of directors of both affiliates are foundation board members for the most part, and are presided over by one such member. Both bodies are augmented by external independent board members possessing the requisite expertise and network of connections.

The Foundation's overall strategy is regularly reviewed in terms of its financial management and use of financial resources, as is its organizational structure.

## ENTREPRENEURIAL INITIATIVE AND CHARITABLE WORK

The Ernst Göhner Foundation's charitable work is also sometimes linked to its corporate holdings. By the same token, our companies also frequently engage in charitable work.

The idea for a joint humanitarian effort in concert with UNICEF came about at Panalpina one year while planning the traditional Christmas cards for customers. It led to the realization that making a donation in the form of a relief effort would be a much more valuable contribution. Consequently, for the last five years this has led the company into crisis-torn regions in Africa that have dropped off the media's radar or had never caught the media's eye to begin with.

In one such effort before Christmas 2017, Panalpina chartered an air freighter on behalf of UNICEF to fly 80 tons of life-saving supplies to Entebbe, Uganda, followed by transporting these supplies by land into crisis-ridden South Sudan. In the years preceding, Panalpina delivered vital medical supplies to Freetown, Sierra Leone, to Bangui, the capital and largest city of the Central African Republic, to Bujumbura, the capital of Burundi in East Africa, and to N'Djamena, in Chad.

In view of the many Swiss companies operating at the international level, part of the Ernst Göhner Foundation's work also involves the provision of support to Swiss schools abroad in infrastructure projects or the funding of Swiss teachers and instructors. The management members of such companies and their families depend on these schools during their assignments abroad.

In strengthening Switzerland's dual model of vocational education and training, the Foundation also supports Swiss vocational competitions and the participation of young Swiss professionals in European and world championships. The Swiss delegation is able to regularly celebrate significant successes at these international events, demonstrating the caliber of Switzerland's vocational training system.

Finally, the Ernst Göhner Foundation also fulfills part of its social objective by way of its entrepreneurial remit by obtaining stakes in companies with a view to creating and maintaining jobs in Switzerland.



Air freight of Panalpina World Transport (Holding) Ltd.



Bauwerk Boen AG, St. Margrethen

## EGS BETEILIGUNGEN LTD. THE FOUNDATION'S COMPANIES

A significant part of the Foundation's assets is invested in stakes in private and listed companies headquartered in Switzerland. These holdings are maintained with a view to long-term profitable growth coupled with enhancing the value of these companies, while preserving jobs and expertise in Switzerland to the extent that this is possible.

The Foundation's objective is to further develop its portfolio companies by way of active support and advice, in particular by sitting on their boards of directors and contributing to the boards' work through the Foundation's representatives. The management of the existing portfolio and its continued expansion are the task of EGS Beteiligungen Ltd. ("EGSB"). It implements together with its sister company Seewarte Holding Ltd. — in charge of real estate investments — the corporate components of the Foundation's remit and, in so doing, creates the basis for achieving the Foundation's other goals.

Founded in 2009 and domiciled in Zurich, EGSB is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Ernst Göhner Foundation. Through a capital increase — subscribed fully by the Foundation — EGSB acquired the Foundation's corporate holdings as contributions in kind. All equity investments with the exception of Panalpina World Transport (Holding) Ltd. are held by EGS Beteiligungen Ltd.

EGSB invests in established medium-sized companies in the industrial and service sector with sales revenues in excess of CHF 50 million and a proven business model and track record, and strong, persuasive management. The geographical focus is on Switzerland yet investments in Germany and Austria exhibiting a significant value-added share in Switzerland are also examined. Growth *and* buy-out projects are financed. Other investment criteria include the companies' favorable prospects for the future, strong market position and international markets. The goal is a portfolio containing approximately ten corporate holdings.

### ORGANIZATION

#### FOUNDED 2009

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Prof. Dr. Thomas Gutzwiller (chairman)  
Dr. Frank Gulich  
Dr. Roger Schmid  
Valentin Vogt  
Dr. Beat Walti

#### STAFF

Dominik Sauter (managing director)  
Dr. Franz Studer (investment director)  
Urs Eberhard (senior investment manager)  
David Kurman (investment consultant)  
Gianluca Peduzzi (junior investment analyst)

#### REGISTERED OFFICE / ADDRESS Dufourstrasse 31, 8008 Zürich

#### AUDITORS

Ernst & Young Ltd.

#### HOMEPAGE

[www.egs-beteiligungen.ch](http://www.egs-beteiligungen.ch)

EGS Beteiligungen Ltd. acquired its first companies in 2009, including Bauwerk Parkett AG, originally established by foundation founder Ernst Göhner in 1944 and then managed by his nephew Paul Göhner, until it was sold to Elektrowatt AG in 1971. 2013 saw the merger of Swiss parquet flooring manufacturer Bauwerk Parkett AG with Norwegian Boen SA. Today, the combined "Bauwerk Boen Group" is Europe's second largest producer of wood flooring and leading manufacturer of premium parquet. At the beginning of 2018, EGSB acquired a 65% stake in this company.

In 2010, EGSB acquired stakes in office supplies manufacturer Biella-Neher Holding Ltd. (currently 26%) and, in 2012, in e-bike manufacturer Biketec AG (40%), in which EGSB acquired a controlling interest (81%) in 2014. This pioneer in the development and marketing of electric bikes (Flyer) and Europe's leading manufacturer of premium e-bikes was sold to Cologne-based Zweirad-Einkaufs-Genossenschaft (ZEG bicycle purchasing cooperative) in 2017. Through its sales and distribution network comprised of ca. 1,000 specialist retailers in Europe, new owner ZEG offers the best conditions for the continued development of Emmental-based Biketec.

Other acquisitions since 2011 include establishing a minor stake (almost 6%) in Huber+ Suhner Ltd., a listed company and one of the world's leading manufacturers of electronic and fiber optic components and system solutions. In 2012, EGSB added an equity interest in food conglomerate ORIOR Ltd. (10%) to its corporate portfolio, and in 2014 a stake of 45% in Boucledor SA, located in western Switzerland and leading supplier of watch band clasps made of steel or precious metals for Switzerland's premium watch manufacturers.

2016 saw the sale of CEDES Holding Ltd., in which EGS Beteiligungen Ltd. and the Ernst Göhner Foundation had had a 40% stake since 2007, to the Swedish ASSA ABLOY Group. This disposal was the result of the successor reorganization of CEDES' majority shareholder. Listed on the Stockholm Stock Exchange, the ASSA ABLOY Group is the global leader in door opening solutions.

To promote an exchange of ideas among its corporate holdings, a networking event was organized in 2017 for the seventh time to which the members of the board of directors and the executive management boards of these companies were invited. This get-together took place in Zug-based WWZ AG, with a tradition dating back to 1892, the year in which it was founded. This utility company (power, natural gas, water, and telecoms), which services the Zug region and environs, is Switzerland's second largest cable operator (Quickline).

As of the end of 2017, EGS Beteiligungen Ltd. held the following significant stakes:

<p><b>Panalpina World Transport (Holding) Ltd.</b></p> 	<p>Leading global logistics corporation with the core activities air and ocean freight forwarding and complementary logistics services (publicly listed). Acquired: 1969, stake: 46%.</p>
<p><b>WWZ AG</b></p> 	<p>Utility company (power, natural gas, water and telecoms) servicing the Zug region and environs; Switzerland's second largest cable operator (Quickline). Acquired: 1988, stake: 10%.</p>
<p><b>Bauwerk Boen AG</b></p> 	<p>Leading manufacturer of parquet flooring coverings at the international level. Europe's number 1 provider of premium parquet flooring. Acquired: 2009, stake: 33% (since beginning of 2018: 65%).</p>
<p><b>Biella-Neher Holding Ltd.</b></p> 	<p>Manufacturer of office supplies with an international focus. Market leader in Switzerland and throughout Europe in the production of folder filing supplies. Acquired: 2010, stake: 26%.</p>
<p><b>Huber+Suhner Ltd.</b></p> 	<p>One of the world's leading manufacturers of electronic and fiber optic components and system solutions (publicly listed). Acquired: 2011, stake: 6%.</p>
<p><b>ORIOR Ltd.</b></p> 	<p>Swiss food group (publicly-listed) specializing in fresh convenience food and Swiss-style deli meat specialties (including Rapelli and Ticinella). Acquired: 2012, stake: 10%.</p>
<p><b>SwissTech Watch Components SA</b></p> 	<p>Leading supplier of watch band clasps made of steel and precious metals (gold and platinum) for the premium watch segment. Acquired: 2014, stake: 45%.</p>

(Other holdings in: BioMedInvest Ltd. I + II, ESPROS Photonics Ltd., and Golf Lipperswil Ltd.)



Riverside construction site, Unterengstringen (rental apartment units)



Visualization of Riverside, Unterengstringen (rental apartment units)

## SEEWARTE HOLDING LTD. THE FOUNDATION'S REAL ESTATE PROPERTIES

The second pillar of the Foundation's investments is formed by the real estate pooled in the Seewarte Group. The Group's diversified portfolio includes over 40 properties. The name Seewarte dates back to Seewarte AG Zürich, a real estate company acquired by Ernst Göhner for the Foundation in 1959 with its two Zurich properties Nüschelerstrasse 24 and Dufourstrasse 29/31; the portfolio still contains these properties.

Engaging in long-term real estate investments and actively optimizing and further developing the properties so acquired is designed to generate constant, calculable income, and

sustained capital growth. In order to achieve an optimal earnings-to-risk ratio, investment is done in a diversified manner according to the location, utilization, size, and age of the properties. Investment is done directly in residential and commercial properties in cities (and their catchment area) providing for favorable economic prospects and a good infrastructure.

The emphasis of real estate investment lies in residential properties located in the economic areas of Zurich and Zug (ca. 1,200 apartment units). Seewarte's real estate holdings also include five commercial properties and a mall in Regensdorf. Constructed by Ernst Göhner AG at the beginning of the 1970s, the mall was expanded and refurbished in 2013/2014. Since its 100% acquisition in 2016, the mall is by far the largest individual project completed by the Seewarte Group.

Seewarte has withdrawn completely from engagements outside of Switzerland via staggered sales of individual properties in keeping with the respective market situation. 2013 saw the disposal of the last property in Canada. Both logistics real estate properties in Stuttgart and Nuremberg, Germany, were sold off in 2016, as was the last property in the U.S.

### ORGANIZATION

**FOUNDED**  
2008

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Fritz Jörg  
(chairman until 11/20/2017)  
Giacomo Balzarini  
(chairman from 11/20/2017)  
Mark Furger  
Reinhard Giger  
Dr. Roger Schmid

#### STAFF

Thomas Regli (CEO)  
Mirko Käppeli (CFO until 4/30/2017)  
Daniel Hübscher  
(CFO from 5/1/2017)  
Markus Dammann (construction  
project management from 9/1/2017)  
Miriam Müller (accounting)  
Alexander Stegmann  
(controlling from 4/1/2017)  
Claudia Uster (accounting)  
Carla Veser (portfolio / construction  
management until 5/31/2017)

#### REGISTERED OFFICE / ADDRESS

Artherstrasse 19, 6300 Zug

#### AUDITORS

Ernst & Young Ltd.

#### HOMEPAGE

[www.seewarte.ch](http://www.seewarte.ch)

After completing both office building refurbishment projects at Nüscherstrasse and Stockerstrasse in Zurich and the residential development at Pfaffensteinstrasse in Pfaffhausen, Seewarte has made considerable progress in the rejuvenation of the properties in its real estate portfolio during the past two years. In its refurbishment projects, Seewarte not only attempts to sustainably enhance the quality of interior work and standard of amenities, but also maintain the associated upward adjustments in rent at a reasonable level. Ecological concerns are also taken into consideration. The Im Langacher refurbished housing development in Greifensee is Minergie-certified, and the newly constructed Obermühleweid (stage I) residential development in Cham was awarded a prize for its exemplary near-natural landscaping.

Apart from refurbishing existing properties, the focus is also on expanding Seewarte's real estate portfolio. Last year, work was completed on the apartment complexes Riedpark (stage III) in Zug and Obermühleweid (stage II) in Cham, providing for a total of 134 rental units. Land located along the Limmat River in Unterengstringen was purchased on which 20 newly constructed residential units will be completed by the fall of 2018. Another building lot acquired in the year preceding in Brugg is being further developed under the Alte Post development plan in association with the town of Brugg. Plans call for the construction of an office building for the municipal authorities and ca. 60 rental apartment units.

Seewarte is currently planning its largest project by far which will involve the development of a residential housing complex with ca. 200 rental apartments located across from the Regensdorf mall. Being the grantor of the leasehold for the site, the municipal government supports the project and will be submitting it to the town council for approval.

## SWISS PARQUET FLOORING PAR EXCELLENCE

Premium Bauwerk parquet flooring is being laid in all apartments. This product is closely linked to Ernst Göhner, who produced the new, mosaic wood flooring developed by master carpenter Paul Hofer already from 1936. This adhesive parquet is known in Switzerland as "Klötzli-Parkett", or "building block parquet".

Upon being founded in 1944, Bauwerk Parkett AG moved the manufacture of this Swiss parquet classic to its production sheds. After Holka AG, another Ernst Göhner company specializing in the manufacture of wood bodies for the automotive industry, was closed down, Bauwerk took over its headquarters in St. Margrethen. Commissioning of the first production lines for adhesive parquet — engineered in-house — took place in 1949. Apart from St. Margrethen, production facilities are also located in Lithuania and Croatia.

## FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS

The financial investments of the Ernst Göhner Foundation consist of the following asset classes: money market instruments, bonds, commodities, including precious metals, and equities. The growth target of the two other investment categories — corporate holdings and real estate — is financed from free cash flow and financial investments. In the process, the Foundation's investment strategy has been brought into line with the overall allocation of its assets.

The Foundation's financial investment strategy was established in concert with external specialists with a view to the projected continued growth of the Foundation's two affiliates and the uncertainty concerning the prevailing economic climate and performance in financial markets. Since the preservation of value takes front and center stage in the Foundation's investment strategy, this has been taken into account in the allocation of the various asset classes and further minimization of risk by engaging in further diversification within the asset classes and hedging foreign currencies. Investment is made only in liquid securities and with counterparties with an excellent credit rating.

The Ernst Göhner Foundation also makes a small portion of its liquid assets available as venture capital for startups. Investment is made exclusively in ventures with a specific focus on Swiss startups during their growth and expansion phase. In so doing, the Foundation has closed a gap in its investment activities between supporting young entrepreneurs in its charitable work and the investments of EGS Beteiligungen Ltd. in established companies.

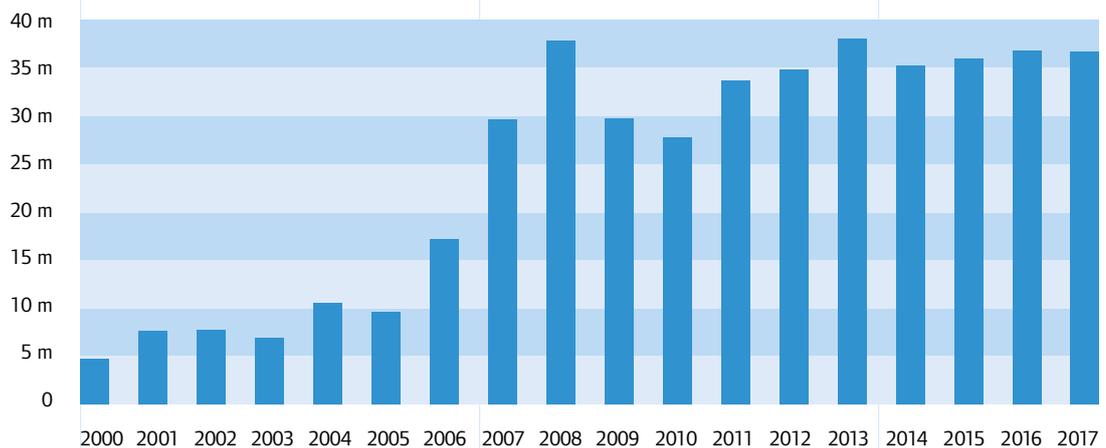
The direct management of the Foundation's financial investments and its engagement in startups is left to specialist banks and management companies that are monitored by the Foundation's committee charged with this task. In administering these investments, the Foundation attaches particular importance to the transparency and appropriateness of the cost structure.

# OUR CHARITABLE WORK

## OVER 1,300 PROJECTS

In 2017, the Ernst Göhner Foundation approved funding totaling CHF 36.7 million for 1,332 projects. The minimum amount of disbursed funding established in the Foundation's charter has thus been exceeded many times over. Since its establishment, the Foundation has supported some 27,500 projects with over CHF 500 million in assistance. For 2018, the foundation board has appropriated the same budget as in previous years.

**Approved funding 2000–2017 (in CHF)**



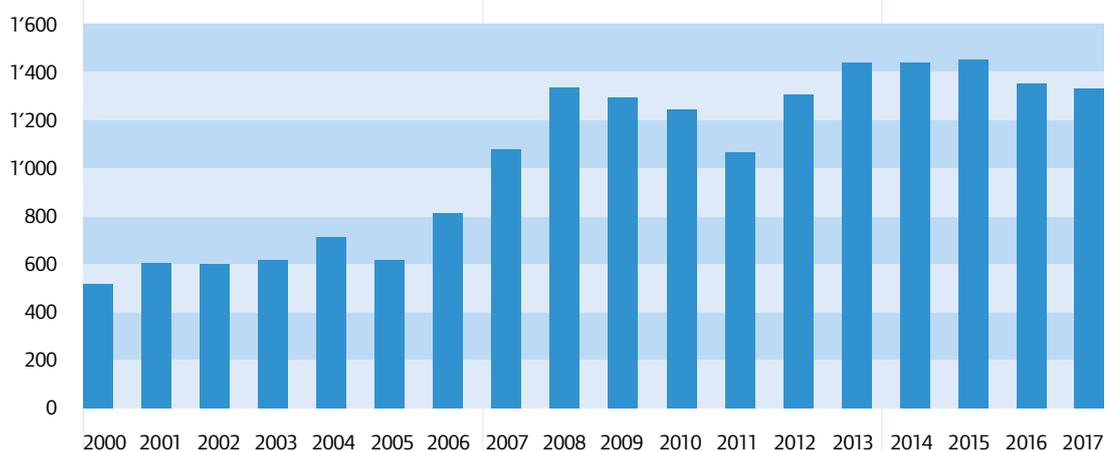
The number of projects for which funding requests are received has increased by almost 30% over the past ten years; at 2,836, the number of requests in 2017 fell below the previous-year figure (-3%) for the first time in many years.

The highest annual growth recorded during the past ten years was 15% in 2007. This development was the desirable result of the more active sponsor policy introduced by the foundation board in the wake of the IPO of Panalpina World Transport (Holding) Ltd. in 2005 and the significantly higher budget appropriated for this purpose.

Of the project proposals received during 2017, 2,809 were reviewed, with funding being approved for 1,332 of them, the approval rate thus amounting to 47%. In the years prior to 2007, the average approval rate amounted to 40%. The increase in the approval figure is not due to a more generous interpretation of the funding guidelines but rather to the advance advice provided to funding applicants and the more detailed information and checklists to be found on the Foundation's website and the request form published there. These actions have contributed to a significant increase in the quality of the applications received — also a result of the increasing professionalism of the industry in general — and a reduction in the number of patently unpromising projects.

The general criteria for the Ernst Göhner Foundation's funding and support activities are: quality, impact, sustainability, innovation and originality, and orientation to societal needs. Support is provided in the form of funding in consultation and collaboration with other partners. In so doing, the Foundation does not assume any core tasks that are exclusively the remit of public funding, but rather provides supplementary funding or renders financial assistance in cases in which public authorities can be expected to participate at a later point in time.

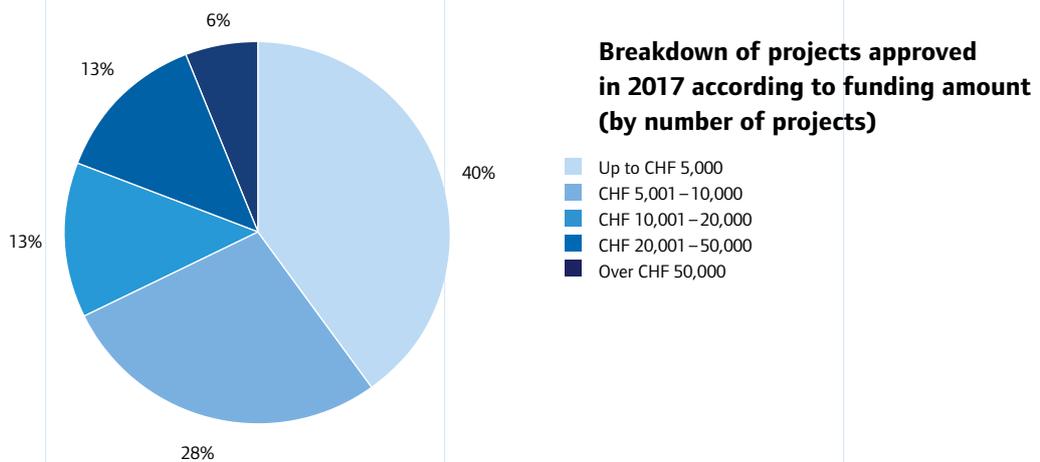
**Approved projects 2000–2017**



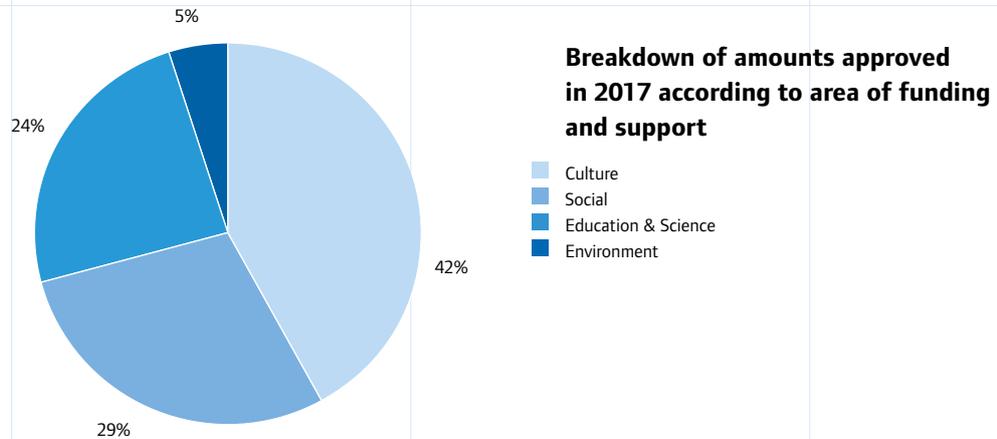
## DIVERSITY AND BREADTH OF PROJECTS AND FUNDING DISBURSED

According to the precepts of its charter, the Foundation fosters diversity and breadth as a matter of principle. This is reflected not only in the broad range of various areas supported but also in the varying size of the funding amounts disbursed.

As a consequence, in 2017 40% of all approved projects received funding of up to CHF 5,000, with another 41% receiving between CHF 5,000 and CHF 20,000, and 13% receiving between CHF 20,000 and CHF 50,000, and 6% receiving over CHF 50,000. If, however, the total amount awarded for all projects is taken as a yardstick, this results in a different picture: Of the aggregate amount, 58% was accounted for by the group of projects receiving over CHF 50,000 and only 6% by the group of small projects receiving CHF 5,000 or less.

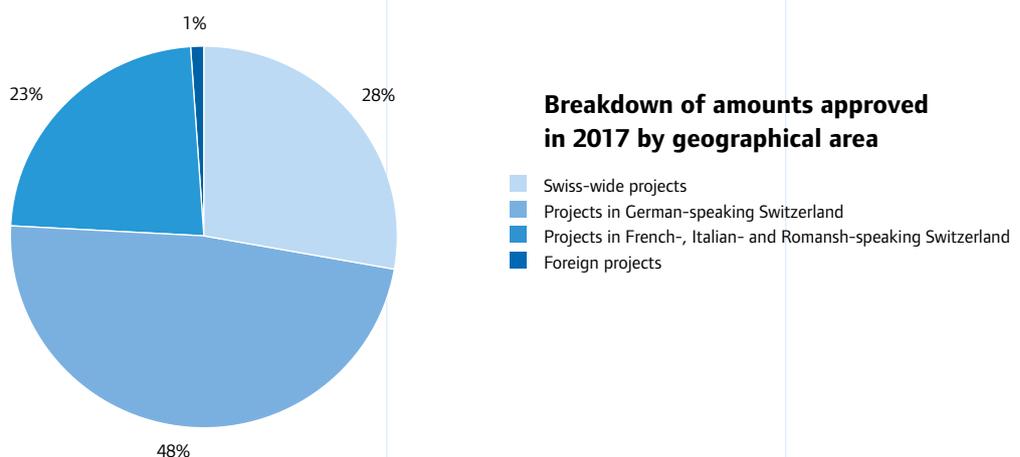


In 2017, 42% of the total funding disbursed went to Culture projects, with 29% going to Social projects, 24% to Education & Science projects, and 5% to Environment projects. The most significant change as compared to the previous year occurred with regard to Education & Science projects, whose share increased from 13% to 24%.



The Ernst Göhner Foundation is active throughout Switzerland. However, selected projects abroad with a close link to Switzerland or the Foundation's entrepreneurial activities are also taken into consideration as an exception.

Last year, 99% of all projects approved were in Switzerland — with a distinct focus on the German-speaking area of Switzerland (48%). 28% of the projects were linked to Switzerland as a whole. 23% of the total amount of approved funding went to the French-, Italian- and Romansh-speaking parts of Switzerland (19% to western Switzerland and 4% to Ticino). The regional distribution corresponds to the Ernst Göhner Foundation's mission as a charitable foundation active throughout Switzerland, with appropriate account being taken of all areas of Switzerland.



## OUR MOST SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS

The projects in which the Ernst Göhner Foundation is engaged involve innovative, creative and unconventional endeavors with a pioneering or experimental character in response to changes and newly emerging requirements of society for which no success can be guaranteed or expected in the near future, and thus experience difficulty in attracting funding. One such project of this type is Venture Kick, whose designated purpose is to promote the transfer of scientific innovation and foster young entrepreneurs at Swiss institutions of higher learning. Since its launch in 2007, the project has advanced remarkably.

The PreSeed Money Fund — set up in collaboration with other private charitable foundations with an entrepreneurial background — supports young entrepreneurs with a “killer” business idea and entrepreneurial flair in developing a business plan and financing their startups with up to CHF 130,000 and access to investors. The business plans of the candidates are further developed under expert mentoring in a competition and in “kick-start camps”. Extensive use is made of these volunteer support offerings.

Of the ca. 3,000 applications received to date from over 20 Swiss institutions of higher learning, over 1,000 business ideas have been admitted to a presentation pitch before a qualified jury consisting of a pool of over 150 experts, including EGS Beteiligungen Ltd. in the person of David Kurmann. Of this number, 530 projects have attracted funding totaling CHF 21.7 million. This has resulted in the founding of 393 new companies that have succeeded in attracting startup funding in excess of CHF 1.8 billion and creating almost 4,700 new full-time jobs. Of the fledgling companies that were distinguished in the national “100 Top Startups in Switzerland” competition in 2017, 55 were fostered by Venture Kick to kick-start their companies. Nine of these startups actually featured among the Top 10 Startups.

Executives of startups that have successfully competed at Venture Kick also benefit from a grant funded by the Ernst Göhner Foundation for taking advantage of the CPD opportunity “Management of Growth in Technology Companies” offered at the Henri B. Meier School of Entrepreneurs of the University of St. Gallen.

This private initiative celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a major event in 2017 which took place in the former printing plant of *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* (NZZ) located in Schlieren. The event featured an exhibition showcasing the startups receiving funding, a fashion show, and a concert. Upwards of 400 people were in attendance.

The following projects figure among the most significant initiatives promoted by the Ernst Göhner Foundation during the past couple of years (apart from the various grant programs and Venture Kick preseed money fund to foster fledgling startups):

### **EDUCATION & SCIENCE**

- Expansion of the University of St. Gallen by acquiring the property at Tellstrasse 2
- Construction of the Agora cancer research center in Lausanne
- Construction of the Student Project House (creative think, maker and contact space) of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich
- Construction of the “light house” for exploring the future of buildings, research institute EMPA’s NEST project, in Dübendorf

### **CULTURE**

- Expansion of Kunsthaus Zürich (Zurich Museum of Modern Art) and the Swiss National Museum in Zurich
- Digitization of the recordings of the Montreux Jazz Festival by the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology of Lausanne
- Construction of new buildings housing the Cantonal Museum of Fine Arts, the Elysée Museum of Photography, and the Museum of Contemporary Design and Applied Arts (MUDAC) in Lausanne
- Construction of a temporary concert hall for the Tonhalle Orchestra Society in Zurich

### **SOCIAL**

- “Swiss Food Bank” and “Tischlein deck dich” (an organization that collects and distributes food that has passed its sell-by date but is still safe to consume)
- Construction of the new children’s hospital by the Eleonore Foundation in Zurich
- Construction of student accommodation by the Bureau Central d’Aide Sociale (Central Social Assistance Office) in Geneva in the Le Nouveau Prieuré (The New Priory) project



Lukasz Maciejewski (Logistics Learning Program Manager) and Marc Van Inthoudt (Head of Warehousing)

# THE ICRC “BIBLE” GOES DIGITAL

by Christian Schmidt (journalist and author)

**From now on, logistics employees at the International Committee of the Red Cross will receive their training digitally. For managing a growing workload, this is a step in the right direction.**

Staying calm is essential! Lukasz Maciejewski leans back, relaxed — and even smiles, as he talks about his Herculean task. Ensuring the survival of all the starving millions we see on television every day is down to him. Lukasz, a business management graduate, is responsible for logistics training, and, therefore, for the competence of those involved in all things logistical at the ICRC. In other words, it is his job to make sure that all staff responsible for the purchasing, quality assurance, administration, and transport and distribution of relief supplies have the knowledge they need, adhere to standards, are familiar with customs regulations, comply with safety requirements, and respond correctly in emergency situations. He shoulders this responsibility even though these employees — all 3,500 of them! — are scattered all over the world, come from different cultures, speak different languages, are sometimes very well educated, and sometimes have no education at all.

How does he ensure that this huge system works properly? Maciejewski, 31, pauses briefly before replying. He is sitting in his office at the ICRC warehouse in Satigny, a futuristic building in the Red Cross colors — the shell white, the entrance red — a quick fifteen minutes from Geneva-Cointrin airport. Until now, the kind of training the ICRC logistics staff has received has been modest, to put it mildly. “If someone was going on a mission, they took a two-day training course, we handed them our totally outdated manual — from 2004 — and said, ‘Good luck!’ That was it!”

That’s all changed now. Maciejewski — whose Muslim father fled from Iraq and whose Catholic mother comes from Poland — is currently redesigning the presentation of all logistics know-how using a two-pronged approach. The first prong is the manual. The manual has been completely redesigned from beginning to end, and expanded to comply with all current standards, “which makes it twice as thick,” he says. The thickness of the manual is just a figure of speech: The new “Bible”, as the manual is known internally, will only be available as a digital copy. This has an enormous advantage. “We can make changes whenever we need to. And these changes become available immediately all over the world.” The manual has also been restricted to just one language only. Before, it was available in English, French and Spanish, but now the ICRC has settled on English only. “This is the future,” Maciejewski says, but that doesn’t mean that the local languages are ignored. “When we teach people on site how to use the manual, we still do that in their local language.”

Maciejewski is also overhauling the entire ICRC training program for logistics staff. This is the second prong of his two-pronged approach. The keyword here is e-learning. In the future, all basic logistics knowledge will be available online only. This opens up new opportunities, since “learning at the

computer enables aspiring logistics specialists to go through all their tasks item by item. They can draft real purchase agreements, fill out real customs forms, complete shipping arrangements, and track inventory levels. But in the e-learning environment, mistakes do not have consequences.”

“Yeah, moving to digital is a pretty big deal,” says Maciejewski. He has “all 70 projects” on the go at the same time. He smiles again. In Satigny a small team supports him, and he can rely on the assistance of ICRC experts, who send him the basics to be covered in the e-learning modules. In addition, he himself travels more and more often to the trouble spots. “People right at the frontline know best what needs to be changed or redone from scratch.” In the course of his research, Maciejewski also went to Iraq, his father’s home, for the first time. This was really emotional for him. “Of course, I wanted to visit my relatives in Baghdad, but I didn’t get permission. It was too dangerous...”

One of the best sources of information for Maciejewski’s many questions is right here in the same office block, just four floors below him. That’s where you’ll find Marc Van Inthoudt, Head of Warehousing, and his several thousand pallets. With years of experience in the field and no stranger to logistical emergencies of every conceivable type, Van Inthoudt now seeks in Satigny distance and refuge from all the things he’d rather have not seen.

And so, this is the day that Maciejewski sets off to find Van Inthoudt, and we are soon standing between quietly humming forklifts picking items from the high-bay warehouse, items that have to leave for the nearby airport in the next few minutes — a pallet of painkillers for Kabul, a pallet of bandages and dressing material for South Sudan. He asks Van Inthoudt what he couldn’t find out for himself, “How many colors do we supply artificial feet in?” Van Inthoudt puts the adhesive tape with the inscription “Diplomatic Cargo” he was holding to one side, thinks about it, and says, “Two. One for Asia, and one for Africa.” Maciejewski probes further, “What about white?” “We don’t need it anymore,” says Van Inthoudt matter-of-factly, “now that the war in the former Yugoslavia has come to an end.”

Maciejewski hopes to have all logistics training and the manual available digitally by 2019. And this won’t be a moment too soon, since the number of refugees worldwide is growing and last year was the first time since 1990 that the number of starving people in the world — 815 million — rose again. The ICRC is in demand now more than ever. This trend keeps Maciejewski busy, but also encourages him, as a son of a refugee himself, in his commitment to his work.

There are only few organizations where the competence of its employees has direct life and death consequences the way it does at the ICRC. In recognition of the important role they play, the Ernst Göhner Foundation is lending support to the completely revamped logistics training program. Logistics manager Lukasz Maciejewski says, “Without the Ernst Göhner Foundation, we would have had to postpone this urgent project indefinitely.”

# WRITE YOUR BOOK

by Christian Schmidt (journalist and author)

**This is no ordinary creative writing course or software solution. From the first page to the printing stage, Edition Unik helps people — with no ambition of becoming writers — to put together their very own book.**

The noise level is reminiscent of elementary school. In a conference room on Europaallee in Zurich, fifty people have put their heads together and are having a lively discussion. The hair on their heads is gray and white, and the marks of time are etched on their faces. Meanwhile, Frerk Froböse and Janine Meyer, a good generation younger than the participants, are standing at the blackboard in front, discussing the final details of how they want to spend the afternoon of this rainy November day. Both are with the Edition Unik project and are about to explain to the students what the next steps are for making their own book. They are busy waiting for the noise to die down.

They wait in vain. Seated right in front of them are Suzanne Schrade, Franziska Eigenmann and Bruno Bieri. They are enthusiastically talking about which book title works best for them. The title is key, isn't it? Suzanne Schrade, once a manager in charge of two hundred employees, has decided on the classical *Memoirs*, while food engineer Franziska Eigenmann has plumped for *Alive and Well*, and Bruno Bieri, a stage designer for Swiss television for many years, has chosen *No Pictures*. Making their minds up about the choice of title goes on for so long that finally Frerk Froböse claps his hands together.

He needs to make himself heard, to get on with the very full syllabus. This is the third meeting between the participants and the Edition Unik team. Froböse knows that aside from the items on the syllabus, there are many other issues to discuss, and the deadline in one month's time is set in stone. That's when the manuscripts go to the printer's.

It was still summer, and warm, when the course began. Franziska Eigenmann had registered on the spur of the moment after reading about Edition Unik in a newspaper. She immediately realized that this was just what she was looking for. "Even as a child, I wanted to write a book at least once in my life." Stage designer Bieri was told about it by a friend. He likes writing stories, but wasn't sure whether he wanted to sign up. All it took was one look at the registration form, and he was sold on the idea. Businesswoman Suzanne Schrade had heard about it "somewhere", but was inspired by the idea, and from that moment on, slept with a notepad at her bedside, she says, "so that I could mull over my emotions during the night as well." Now, three months after the course started, all three say, almost in unison, "It's a great idea! It works! It really is a super all-in-one package!"

Many people would like to write a book about their life. But since most people have no experience as writers, they never do. Because they lack a structure, because they lose themselves in the writing process, because career and family take priority. Or, despite everything, when they actually do reach



L to R: Franziska Eigenmann, Suzanne Schrade, Frek Froböse, Bruno Bieri

the last line, they don't know what to do after that. Who will advise me on the revision? Who will take care of the formatting and design? And who will print it?

Edition Unik deftly solves all these problems. The "Write Your Book" course sets out a fixed timeline. The work has to be completed within 17 weeks. To give students an idea, the project is structured in clear-cut stages. The texts are entered in Edition Unik's own custom-developed software, which also automatically formats the book. Students also have the options of personal mentoring and proof-reading. Edition Unik also takes care of post-publication tasks. Two printed and bound copies of the book are included in the CHF 550 price of the project. Others can be ordered afterwards.

In the meantime, Froböse and Meyer are in the middle of explaining the next steps: "During the past few weeks, you have collected your material and entered it at the computer. Now you have to organize it, i.e., you have to assign the content to individual chapters, for example, merge three notes on the subject of "school"; say, or self-critically delete the not-so-good passages from a text that is too long. Is that clear?"

It is not at all clear. The two of them are bombarded with questions left and right, unrelated to the topic at hand, but all of them are so passionate and enthusiastic, "Can I insert photos in landscape format as well? What happens if another book has the same title as mine? Are there any templates for the blurb?"

Froböse and Meyer know the answers to all these questions. They patiently solve one problem after the other until the end of the session when the group calmly disappears into the pre-winter night, off to their next round of writing with the help of their muses at home. In a few short weeks, there will be a presentation and a small celebration, and they will have their books in their hands.

Froböse is pleased about the success. "Our project satisfies a growing need. More and more people want to look back on their lives in book form." Since its launch in 2015, Edition Unik has already published books for over two hundred people. The plan is to expand the project. "We want to make it easy for as many people as possible to have their own book," says Froböse.

Edition Unik — developed in the offices of Martin Heller, former Windows programming consultant and contributing editor and reviewer for several online IT magazines — is aimed primarily at older people who have time on their hands and a desire to work on their writing. Whether the writers make a book for themselves, for their family, or for more widespread dissemination is entirely up to them. The two facilitators offer guidance to the writers throughout the project, and help them via e-mail, telephone or in person during the course workshops. The Ernst Göhner Foundation supports the project and is helping to spread the word about the project and expand it.



Student Arthur Wuersten with resident Lucien Coiffard

# LIFE LESSONS

by Christian Schmidt (journalist and author)

**Some of the three generations living together in “Nouveau Prieuré” in Geneva are people with disabilities. Some of the people looking after them are students. This is a unique concept in action.**

When he goes to work, Arthur Wuersten moves from one world into another. He locks his chic studio apartment on the top floor of the Nouveau Prieuré, goes down one floor in the elevator, and finds himself straight away in another world, in a unit for people with multiple disabilities. His total commute takes less than a minute. He is actually doing a degree in International Relations at the University of Geneva. And to qualify for this accommodation, he had to answer a few rather personal questions. So how do the pieces of this story fit together?

Wuersten is 19, and needed to find accommodation when he began college in the fall of 2016. But he wasn't able to find anything. The only thing available was a studio apartment in the municipality of Chêne-Bougeries, on the outskirts of Geneva. Wuersten went there on the bus. He liked what he saw. The Nouveau Prieuré complex comprises three enormous blocks, all looking out onto a green quad called Place du Village. The more recently completed buildings are conspicuous, with their chessboard-patterned red-and-yellow façades.

Wuersten had applied for the studio apartment. For his application to be successful, he had to produce several glowing references. Jean-Marc Gisel called him for an interview. One side of his business card is inscribed with the words “Student Residence Director”, while the other shows the Nouveau Prieuré logo of three stylized figures dancing around a tree. One is big, the other small, and the third one is in a wheelchair.

If Wuersten lived at Nouveau Prieuré he wouldn't be able to simply attend class, come home and put his feet up in-between – Gisel made that clear to the young student. “If you want to live here, you have to actively participate in everyday life in the multi-generational building. This is non-negotiable.” He asked whether Wuersten would be prepared to do that. In real terms, this meant he would have to care for people with multiple disabilities — feed them, wash them, and help them get to bed. Wuersten would be paid of course, but the work is demanding. And the director didn't want just anybody, someone who merely wanted a job. “I expect commitment,” he said. Wuersten thought about it, weighed it up, decided it was a good idea, and said yes. Gisel invited him to do a week on a trial basis.

At the Nouveau Prieuré site, there was originally a rest home, built after the Second World War by the Geneva-based Bureau Central d'Aide Sociale (BCAS), or social services. When it became evident that the building no longer complied with today's standards, the BCAS made a radical decision. Diane Devaux, BCAS head, said, “We decided to put an entirely new concept into place. The idea

was to construct three newbuilds for occupancy by multiple generations living together, including people with disabilities. At the same time, we sought to actively promote this new concept.”

Since the fall of 2016, the concept has been a reality. The site is now shared by 144 people of retirement age, 24 people with multiple disabilities, 24 students, and 64 children in a childcare section. “We accommodate people from age four months to 104 years old,” says Diane Devaux.

We saw the *Vivre ensemble!* — Live together! — motto of the center in action one fall afternoon in 2017. In the large foyer, there is a general area for mid-afternoon snacks. The apple juice, fruit, cake and cookies are all ready. At exactly four o’clock, a group of laughing children trot up from daycare; retirees stream from the elevator of the assisted living section, and a group of fellow residents with multiple disabilities join them.

Arthur Wuersten is there too. He pushes André Wunder’s wheelchair to one of the tables, making sure that he has a good view of things. At the same time, he holds Alexia Valli’s hand. When he whispers something in her ear, she laughs. It doesn’t take long for the groups to mingle. The children play between the wheelchairs or sit with the retired folk and let them tell their stories. The mood is relaxed and cheerful.

Arthur Wuersten has been working in the Nouveau Prieuré for over a year now, sometimes early in the morning, sometimes in the evening or on weekends, and clocks up to 70 hours a month, “depending on how much I can do after I’ve hit the books,” he says. In fact, the work is not that easy, and it’s sometimes stressful, both physically and mentally. “But as a counterbalance to having my nose crammed in a book, it’s good for me. And I am learning a lot of life skills.”

Diane Devaux and Jean-Marc Gisel are happy at how smoothly the day-to-day at Nouveau Prieuré works. Devaux comments: “When the project was in the development stage, BCAS looked at about twenty different institutions, most of them outside of Switzerland, for inspiration. We looked at various multi-generational projects, however small, which also included people with disabilities. In that sense, our concept is unique.”

One year after its opening, Nouveau Prieuré is full to capacity – down to the very last room.

Founded in 1867 by wealthy Geneva families, the BCAS Foundation assists destitute young people and adults. It also runs two assisted living homes. With the third project, the “Nouveau Prieuré”, BCAS is taking the development of the now widespread multi-generational idea one step further by involving people with disabilities, and students as part-time care-givers. The Ernst Göhner Foundation sees this as a trend-setting combination, which is why it supported the construction of student accommodation.

# PROFESSOR RUBIN'S PRIDE AND JOY

by Christian Schmidt (journalist and author)

**A schoolroom in the great outdoors: A new center was opened on Lake Geneva for the re-naturalization and management of water bodies. The "Maison de la Rivière" is an example of what personal passion makes possible.**

Three hundred meters from the shores of Lake Geneva, an arm of water separates a world of roads and industrial buildings from a landscape that would have enchanted Carl Spitzweg, the painter. There are huge beech trees, whose branches overhang the small, shimmering green river. The water is motionless; in it, a motionless heron, surrounded by fall leaves which have settled motionless on the surface: it is as if time has stood still.

On the banks of this small river — the Boiron — is a lone building, from which comes a pale light. It is eight o'clock in the morning, and we have an appointment, but there is no response when I ring the bell. Once, twice.

Only after I call out does the door open. Jean-François Rubin, Professor of Aquatic Ecology and Director of the Maison de la Rivière, apologizes for not answering; he was simply engrossed. Rubin is the "father" of this house, and, as he says, he is also its "child". This dual role is quite a lot of work. He is on the job "250 per cent". But he wants to make it clear right away that "lots of good fairies" help him.

He immediately announces that once again, there will be a lot of activity today. Students from the region's universities need to be supervised, since they are working on water conservation research projects. Graduates of a commercial school will learn from water samples how pollution affects biodiversity. A group of children will celebrate a birthday here, not with a cake, but with magnifying glasses. They will be detectives and will have to solve a crime by following the clues they find in nature.

With a cup of tea in his hand, the father of the house leads the way. "We are the national competence center for the re-naturalization and management of water bodies," he says. His pride is obvious. "We are one of a kind." Although other centers combine research and teaching, it is only here in Tolochenaz that the two elements are complemented by a third: the cultural heritage of the region. "We can't recognize changes in the environment unless we put them in their regional and historical context."

And so he starts his tour, focusing on this third element. The Maison de la Rivière has 3,300 square feet of animal exhibits and historic items on display – everything from mammoths' teeth to Roman milestones. The exhibition also includes one of the "world's largest touchscreens", which is a fun way to experience how the fish have to fight to reach their spawning grounds these days. High tech



Alicia Egger, who has a Master's degree in biology from the University of Neuchâtel, with a class.

comes home to roost, so to speak. We continue to the large classroom with its long rows of microscopes. The graduates from the commercial school will soon be working here.

Now Rubin is standing in the classroom. “Ah, Aurélie, come here and explain what you do,” says Rubin to one of the students. Aurélie Rubin comes and says, “I’m studying brown trout parasites. Since climate change is making the water warmer, they are better able to multiply. The question now is, how can the temperature of water bodies be reduced?” Good question. So how can it be done? Aurélie replies, “One possibility is to plant trees along the banks of streams. Their shade prevents the water from getting too warm.”

“By the way,” says Rubin, as he moves on, “it is no accident that that student has the same last name as mine: Aurélie is my daughter. Interest in the water world is in our blood.” He laughs, as he remembers his own youth. Even as a child he had several aquariums of his own, and occasionally succeeded in putting his parent’s home under water. We follow him down a passageway which runs along the front of the building and leads underground: its walls are made of glass, which gives an all-round view of the rich underwater life of the Boiron river. This is the heart of the facility. “Since the complex opened in May 2015, around 20,000 people have toured it.”

Suddenly, it’s noisy. The commercial school graduates have arrived. They are standing in the Boiron with their boots on. “It’s like the Camel Trophy,” comments one of the young men as he collects samples with a scoop. Suddenly, there is a loud screeching: a spider has landed on someone’s naked shoulder. “This is probably the first time you are experiencing Mother Nature up close and personal,” the teacher teases. Two of the Maison de la Rivière guides help students to determine what aquatic life has been discovered. “No, this little critter is not a tick, it’s a mosquito larva. Ticks don’t live in water.”

Jean-François Rubin is used to the fact that not many young people or adults know much about nature. That’s precisely why he founded the Maison de la Rivière. “We use nature as a schoolroom.” Rubin glances briefly at his watch, and says goodbye. In addition to his 250 per cent input here, he teaches at HEPIA (*Haute École du paysage, d’ingénierie et d’architecture de Genève* – the Landscape Design, Engineering and Architecture University) in Geneva. The what? Rubin is taken aback by the question. “It’s quite simple: we deal with the ecology and engineering of aquatic systems.”

Originally used for military purposes, this building on the banks of the Boiron was rebuilt and extended between 2010 and 2015. The Ernst Göhner Foundation is confident that a forward-looking interface between research and practice is being created here. And that the public’s understanding of the environment is being fostered, which is why it contributed to the construction costs.

# FROM ARTISAN GLAZER'S TO FOUNDATION

*"... All of us build the future. Building something is constructive in the broadest sense of the word. And since we seek to preserve the continuity of our work and our places of work, that is why I am establishing my own foundation."* These are the words used by Ernst Göhner to describe his vision in the film *Ein Beispiel* ("An Example") produced in 1970 on his life and work.

On June 15, 1957, Ernst Göhner established the family foundation Aabach Oberrisch, named after his estate "Aabach" in Risch on Lake Zug, where he had lived since 1950. In 1960 the Foundation, to which founder Ernst Göhner contributed a significant parcel of stock of Ernst Göhner AG, was entered in the commercial register under the new name of "Aaborn Foundation", and thus was put under the oversight of the Canton of Zug. In 1969 the Foundation was renamed "Ernst Göhner Foundation".

Shortly before his death at the end of 1971, Ernst Göhner sold the core parts of his group of companies to Elektrowatt AG. The Foundation's charter was revised at the same time. In it the founder explicitly established the entrepreneurial character of his foundation. To this day the stake in Panalpina World Transport (Holding) Ltd. acquired by Ernst Göhner at the end of the 1960s — subsequently expanded by the Foundation — and

the comprehensive real estate portfolio are the essential sources of funding for the grants made by the Ernst Göhner Foundation.

The Foundation's seat is housed in the Stadlin Villa, a listed heritage property constructed in 1895 and located in Zug. The villa was restored in 2007/2008 in an elegant manner, in line with its cultural heritage. During the traditional August 1<sup>st</sup> Open House Day organized by the City of Zug, the public has the opportunity to tour the villa and its gardens.

Every year the Stadlin Villa is toured by students of the "Haus der Farbe", which offers an in-service program over six semesters at Zurich's School of Color and Design, the program being completed with the Swiss federal diploma in Color and Design. The highlights of the tours include the original stenciled ceiling paintings and the reconstructed silkscreen wallpapers.



Staircase, Stadlin Villa, Zug

## PREFAB CONSTRUCTION

Ernst Göhner (1900–1971) was a pioneer of the Swiss construction industry. He was adept at adapting new developments engineered abroad to the exigencies of Switzerland. The key impulses provided by Göhner to the Swiss construction industry were rationalization and optimized organization. This essentially led to two innovations: the execution of complex construction projects by general contractors and standardized prefab building elements.

After the Second World War, Göhner co-developed with architect Gottfried Schindler (1904–1990) the SGS or Schindler Göhner System, in which the individual components are prefabricated and then assembled at the construction site. This meant that construction could be completed faster, more efficiently and economically, thus providing for relief in the overheated market created by the housing scarcity of the 1960s and 1970s. The prefab construction of this period has increasingly become the subject of scientific inquiry for the past couple of years.



Construction of Adlikon-West, 1972



Trapezoid high-rise located in Zurich's Schmieede-Wiedikon area, featuring an innovative drive-thru teller

## A GÖHNER BUILDING: THE HIGH-RISE TRAPEZOID BUILDING IN ZURICH'S SCHMIEDE-WIEDIKON

In 1957/1958, Ernst Göhner AG constructed for Uto Grundstücke AG an eleven-story residential high-rise housing 55 apartments and a shopping arcade on the ground floor in Schmieede-Wiedikon, across from police precinct 3.

The renowned Zurich architect Werner Stücheli (1916–1983) positioned the building on the triangular site between Birmensdorferstrasse and Kehlhofstrasse. With its oblique end walls, the building's trapezoidal layout follows the line created by the two streets. In the interior, the shape leads to a fan-like arrangement of apartments, from which there is an attractive view of the city and the mountains.

The elongated shopping arcade is connected by way of a continuous canopy. The recessed oblique storefronts create a widening of the pavement in the area around the tram stop so that a small square is created.

The then Union Bank of Switzerland set up a branch in the front area of the pavilion. In covering its grand opening in 1959, daily *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* was enthused by the light-flooded client lobby and Switzerland's first drive-thru teller.

## THE (COMPANY) FAMILY

The Göhner Company was founded in 1890 by Gottlieb Göhner, the father of Ernst Göhner, as a family-run business. Later on, various members of the family worked at Ernst Göhner AG, Tufa AG, or Bauwerk AG. From 1931, Ernst Göhner's childhood friend and brother-in-law Viktor Kühnlein-Göhner was one of the inner circle of employees who oversaw the transformation of the then glazing company into the Göhner Group. Viktor Kühnlein was general manager of Tür- und Fensterfabrik TUFA AG (a door and window manufacturer located in Altstätten) during the 1940s. And Paul Göhner, one of Ernst Göhner's nephews, was managing director of Bauwerk AG (in St. Margrethen).

For his workforce Ernst Göhner — by then a self-styled industrialist — had established three major employee welfare foundations already in the 1940s. Göhner is purported to have said the following in this context: "I don't want to stand in front of my people with empty hands should times get rough" (quoted from *Erinnerungen an 25 Jahre Ernst Göhner AG 1946–1971* ("Memories from 25 Years at Ernst Göhner AG 1946–1971") (typescript) by Gaudenz Tschärner, a long-time employee of at Ernst Göhner).



In the Foundation's charter Ernst Göhner also provided for gifts to deserving employees of the companies of the Göhner Group and family members. The Göhner-Meritas Foundation, an employer-funded trust with over 400 beneficiaries, was established in 1972 for employees of outstanding merit to supplement their occupational retirement and disability benefits. This foundation made its final disbursements in 2007. Its beneficiaries and the retired employees of Göhner Merkur AG get together every two years at the invitation of the Ernst Göhner Foundation for a day's outing.

Ernst Göhner and his (future) wife  
Dr Amelia Burkhard, 1917



Ernst Göhner and Dr Amelia Göhner-Burkhard at the first Christmas party of the Ernst Göhner AG, the 1940s

Gifts to the current 29 family members are made under the legal framework provided for family foundations. In 2017 the foundation board adopted new regulations that are based on a lifecycle model with defined needs and provide for grants or benefits to family beneficiaries in keeping with these needs. Support of education and occupational/professional training takes front and center stage, as do financing of owner-occupied residential property, and the provision of financial aid in difficult times in the beneficiaries' lives.

Most of the family beneficiaries live in Switzerland, the others reside in the U.S. The eldest family members are nephews and the youngest family members already great grand nieces and nephews of founder Ernst Göhner. The annual get-together of the family beneficiaries included taking in a tour of the mall in Regensdorf owned by the Seewarte Group and attending a concert of the Zurich Chamber Orchestra at the Zurich Tonhalle.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

1890	Founding of the artisan glazer's shop in Zurich-Seefeld by Gottlieb Göhner (1863–1920), the father of Ernst Göhner.
1900	February 28, 1900: Ernst Göhner born as the second youngest of six children.
1920	Ernst takes over the shop after his father's death. The sole proprietorship is later transformed into Ernst Göhner AG.
1925/32	Acquisition of TUFA AG (Türen- und Fensterfabrik AG) in Altstätten (from 1962: Ego Werke AG; today: EgoKiefer AG, member of the Arbonia-Forster Group since 2004).
1934	Founding of Holzkarosserien AG (abbreviated: Holka AG). Sale to Th. Willy AG in 1966.
1940	Assumption of general agency for DKW (Auto Union GmbH) in Switzerland and, from 1954, in South Africa by United Car and Diesel Distributors, which subsequently also assumed agency for Daimler-Benz.  After World War II: aid in rebuilding Auto Union GmbH in Germany. From 1950/1951: significant holding in Auto Union GmbH, sold to Daimler AG (Stuttgart, Germany) in 1958.
1944	Founding of Bauwerk AG in St. Margrethen (wood working/parquet flooring).
1950	Founding of Reederei Zürich AG with Gottlieb Duttweiler and the Federation of Migros Cooperatives. Sale of holding some years later to Migros.
1962	Acquisition of holding in Alpina-Reederei AG of Basel (maritime shipping) with Oerlikon-Bührle & Co. (25% stake each). Increase of holding to 49% each. 1988: sale to German Harmstorf Shipping Group.
Beginning of the 1960s	Acquisition of German companies Bartels-Werke GmbH in Langenberg (wood working) and Ibus-Werke GmbH in Lüneburg (manufacture of wood panels).
1969	Acquisition of 40% stake in Panalpina World Transport (Holding) Ltd.
1971	Sale of Ernst Göhner AG, Ego Werke AG, Bauwerk AG, Bartels-Werke GmbH and Ibus-Werke GmbH to Elektrowatt AG.  Death of Ernst Göhner on November 24, 1971.

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- Dorothee **VÖGELI**: “Man grüsst sich wieder. Das Regensdorfer Problemquartier Sonnhalde erwacht zu neuem Leben” [“People are greeting each another again. Problem child Regensdorf district Sonnhalde is coming back to life”] and Fabian **FURTER**: “Das gebaute Manifest. Der Fachausschuss Wohnen und sein vergessenes Architektur-Handbuch” [“The constructed manifest. The Expert Committee on Residential Construction and its long-forgotten architecture manual.”] both published in: *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, issue no. 247, Oct 22–23, 2016, p. 20 ff.
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- Sigmund **WIDMER**: Ernst Göhner (1900–1971). *Bauen in Norm* (“Ernst Göhner (1900–1971). Building in Standards”), Verein für wirtschaftshistorische Studien (Association for Historical Research in Economics) (publisher), volume 49 in the series *Schweizer Pioniere der Wirtschaft und Technik* (Swiss Pioneers of Business and Technology), self-published, Meilen, Switzerland, 1989/2000 (reprint)
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- **Ein Beispiel** (“An Example”) (the life and work of Ernst Göhner — on the occasion of Ernst Göhner’s 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, film commissioned by Ernst Göhner AG), directed by: Stanislav Bor, Condor-Film AG, Zurich, Switzerland, 1970
- Franz **FASSBIND**: *Göhner 1890–1960*, brochure on the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ernst Göhner AG (publisher), the company started by Ernst Göhner’s father, self-published, Zurich, Switzerland, 1960

