

# ERNST GÖHNER FOUNDATION

2014 REPORT





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## 2014 REPORT

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Zug, in April 2015

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

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# PREFACE AND A FEW FACTS & FIGURES

Switzerland is often referred to as 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 approximately 13,000 charitable foundations in Switzerland. Most of them 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.

## ERNST GÖHNER FOUNDATION

**FOUNDER** Ernst Göhner (1900–1971)

**PROFILE** Foundation with corporate and charitable purpose as well as a family foundation purpose

### CORPORATE HOLDINGS

Sectors: construction, energy, food-stuffs, logistics, industrial enterprises, watches and real estate

### AREAS OF FUNDING & SUPPORT

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

### COMBINED CHARITABLE FUNDING & SUPPORT

CHF 430 million for approximately 24,000 projects since the Foundation’s founding

### REGISTERED OFFICE / ADDRESS

Artherstrasse 19, 6300 Zug, Switzerland

### WEBSITE

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

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 CHF 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 19,500 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 less significant. The U.S. has 80,000 foundations with capital assets of CHF 600 billion.

Established in 1957, the Ernst Göhner Foundation — one of 1,000 corporate foundations in Switzerland — is one of the “old” foundations. With disbursed funding of CHF 35 million in 2014, the Foundation supported over 1,400 charitable projects, thus making for an aggregate total of disbursed funds of CHF 430 million for approximately 24,000 projects since the Foundation’s founding. According to its charter, one of the Foundation’s subsidiary purposes is that of a family foundation. As of the end of 2014 the Foundation’s family beneficiaries numbered 29.

## FOUNDATION BODIES

### FOUNDATION BOARD

Dr. Beat Walti (chairman)  
Kristian Hallström (vice-chairman until 09/01/2014)  
Dr. Franziska Widmer Müller (vice-chairman from 09/01/2014)  
Dr. Christoph Franz (member from 09/01/2014)  
Mark Furger (member)  
Prof. Dr. Thomas Gutzwiller (member)  
Dr. Rudolf W. Hug (member)  
Fritz Jörg (member)  
Isabel Kühnlein Specker (member/representative of family beneficiaries)  
Dr. Roger Schmid (member and CEO)

### 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: Dr. Rudolf W. Hug)

### EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

Dr. Roger Schmid

### OFFICE

Maria Arnold (office)  
Michaela Gasser (Environment and Social projects)  
Sonja Hägeli (Culture projects)  
Miriam Müller (accounting from 07/01/2014)  
Dr. Suzanne Schenk (Social, Education & Science projects)  
Corinne L. Sotzek (Culture projects, notably visual arts)  
Doris Stalder (Culture projects, notably music and film)  
Lucia Tellenbach (office)  
Marlise Wyder (accounting until 06/30/2014)

### AUDITORS

Ernst & Young

### REGULATORY AUTHORITY

Regulatory Board for Occupational Pension Plans and Foundations of Central Switzerland

## 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. Established in 2001 at the initiative of Switzerland's eleven largest charitable foundations, including the Ernst Göhner Foundation, it currently has over 100 members. The Ernst Göhner Foundation is represented on the executive board and in various working groups. SwissFoundations 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. The most recent revised and supplemented edition, Swiss Foundation Code 2009, published in 2008, contains a commentary section. In its Foundation Governance series SwissFoundations has also published *Switzerland — A Paradise for Foundations* (2004), *Foundations and Society* (2006), *Professional Management of Foundations* (2007), *Grant-making Foundations* (2010), *Reporting and Auditing of Grant-Making Foundations* (2011), and *Innovation — Not Stagnation* (2013).

Since 2009 SwissFoundations has published the 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 being the co-initiator of CEPS.

Cofunded by the Ernst Göhner Foundation, this interdisciplinary center opened its doors in 2008. 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. In 2014 CEPS was granted the status of an independent university institute.

# 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 owing to their long-term horizon. The Foundation's primary focus is Switzerland as a business location and SME environment. It engages in considerable diversification in its individual investment categories. 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 Foundation's overall strategy is regularly reviewed in terms of its financial management and the use of financial resources, the last review taking place in 2012. It showed that the Foundation's present strategy could be confirmed in principle. Only the Foundation's financial investments were restructured due to uncertainty pertaining to general economic trends and the performance of financial markets. The next strategy review is planned for 2015.

The Foundation has holdings in various companies through its wholly-owned subsidiary EGS Beteiligungen Ltd. Real estate investments are made by Seewarte Holding Ltd., a company wholly-owned by the Foundation. The stake in Panalpina World Transport (Holding) Ltd. and the financial investments are held directly 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, professional experience and network of connections.

At 46%, the stake in 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 latter supporting both services. The Group has a combined headcount of ca. 16,000.

Today 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's charter also explicitly provides for participating holdings in former company members of the Göhner Group. EGS Beteiligungen Ltd. re-acquired a stake in one such company in 2009, i.e. Bauwerk Parkett AG.



Air and ocean freight of Panalpina

## ENTREPRENEURIAL INITIATIVE AND CHARITABLE WORK

The Ernst Göhner Foundation's charitable work is sometimes linked to its corporate operations. By the same token, our corporate holdings 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 gifts for customers and staff and led to the realization that making a donation in the form of a relief effort would be a much more valuable contribution.

In one such effort before Christmas 2014, Panalpina chartered an MD-11 for UNICEF and flew 80 tons of life-saving supplies to Freetown, Sierra Leone, to assist in the fight against Ebola in this African country, currently the most hard hit by the virus. The supplies included protective gear, i.e. masks, caps, aprons, overalls and rubber boots, but also tents, medicine and large quantities of ready-to-use therapeutic food (multi-grain bars). In another relief effort, Panalpina flew a Boeing 747-8 jet airliner containing urgently needed UNICEF relief supplies to Bangui, the capital of the crisis-ridden Central African Republic, shortly before Christmas a year ago.

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 payment of Swiss teachers and instructors. The management members of such companies and their families depend on these schools during their assignments abroad. The last grants went to a Swiss school in Rome for refurbishing its science lab and another Swiss school in Mexico City for expanding its classroom facilities.

To strengthen 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, thus evidencing the caliber of Switzerland's vocational training system. The emphasis of the Ernst Göhner Foundation's support in 2014 was the Swiss Skills national championships conducted jointly by all trades in Bern for the first time, the event attracting upwards of 160,000 visitors and ca. 1,000 participants.

## EGS BETEILIGUNGEN LTD. THE FOUNDATION'S COMPANIES

A significant part of the Foundation's assets is invested in stakes in private and listed companies domiciled 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 corporate holdings generally extend to qualified minority stakes, although majority stakes are not discounted out of hand. 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 by the Foundation's representatives.

### ORGANIZATION

#### FOUNDED

2009

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Prof. Dr. Thomas A. Gutzwiller (chairman)

Dr. Frank Gulich (member)

Dr. Roger Schmid (member)

Valentin Vogt (member)

Dr. Beat Walti (member)

#### STAFF

Dominik Sauter (managing director)

Dr. Franz Studer (investment director)

Urs Eberhard (senior investment manager)

David Kurman (investment consultant  
from 02/01/2014)

#### REGISTERED OFFICE / ADDRESS

Dufourstrasse 31, 8008 Zurich, Switzerland

#### AUDITORS

Ernst & Young

#### WEBSITE

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

The management of the existing portfolio and its continued enhancement are the task of EGS Beteiligungen Ltd. 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 goals.

Founded in 2009 and domiciled in Zurich, EGS Beteiligungen Ltd. is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Ernst Göhner Foundation. Through a capital increase — subscribed fully by the Foundation — EGS Beteiligungen Ltd. acquired the Foundation's corporate holdings as contributions in kind, with the exception of Panalpina World Transport (Holding) Ltd. and the 5.8% stake in Wasserwerke Zug AG. This stake in Wasserwerke Zug AG was transferred by the Foundation to EGS Beteiligungen Ltd. in 2014.

EGS Beteiligungen Ltd. 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 holdings 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 objective is to build a portfolio of holdings in approximately fifteen companies.

In 2009 EGS Beteiligungen Ltd. acquired its first four corporate holdings, including Bauwerk Parkett AG, which possesses a direct historical link to Foundation founder Ernst Göhner. Founded by Ernst Göhner in 1944 and then managed by his nephew Paul Göhner, it was sold to Elektrowatt AG in 1971.

This was followed in 2010 by the acquisition of stakes in office supplies manufacturer Biella-Neher Holding Ltd. (24%) and fashion clothing retail chain Schild AG (40%), and, in 2012, in e-bike pioneer Biketec AG (40%) and food conglomerate ORIOR Ltd. (10%). Other acquisitions since 2012 include a minor stake (3%) in Huber+Suhner Ltd., a listed company and one of the world's leading manufacturers of electronic and fiber optic components and system solutions.

2013 saw the merger of Swiss parquet flooring manufacturer Bauwerk Parkett AG with Norwegian Boen SA, the combined Bauwerk Boen Group figuring among Europe's two leading providers of wood flooring. EGS Beteiligungen Ltd. holds a 33% stake in the company.

2014 saw the completion of the sale, begun in the previous year, of fashion clothing retail chain Schild AG (40%) to The Globe Stores Ltd., owned by the Federation of Migros Cooperatives, and of industrial investment company Polygena Ltd. to its majority shareholder.

2014 also saw the acquisition of a 45% stake in Boucledor SA. Headquartered in Meyrin, Boucledor is the leading supplier of watch band clasps made of steel or precious metal (gold and platinum) for Switzerland premium watch manufacturers. In 2014 EGS Beteiligungen Ltd. also acquired a controlling interest in Biketec AG (80%).

To promote networking among its corporate holdings, an event was organized in 2014 for the fourth time to which the members of the board of directors and the executive management boards of these companies were invited. This year's get-together took place at Golf Lipperswil Ltd., in the Canton of Thurgau.

As of the end of 2014, EGS Beteiligungen Ltd. held the following significant stakes (other holdings in: BioMedInvest AG I + II, ESPROS Photonics AG, FAES AG, Golf Lipperswil Ltd., Huber+Suhner Ltd. and VP Bank Ltd.):

COMPANY	DESCRIPTION	STAKE	ACQUIRED
<b>Panalpina World Transport (Holding) Ltd.</b> 	Leading global logistics corporation with core activities air and ocean freight forwarding and complementary logistics services (listed on stock exchange)	46 %	1969
<b>Wasserwerke Zug AG</b> 	Utility company (water, power and telecoms) servicing the Zug region and surrounding areas; Switzerland's second largest cable operator (Quickline)	10 %	1988
<b>CEDES Holding AG</b> 	One of the world's leading manufacturers of light curtains and optoelectric sensors for elevators, escalators, gates and doors based on active infrared technology and intelligent image processing	40 %	2007
<b>Bauwerk Boen AG</b> 	Leading manufacturer of parquet floor coverings at the international level. Europe's number 2 provider of premium parquet flooring.	33 %	2009/2013
<b>Biella-Neher Holding Ltd.</b> 	Manufacturer of office supplies with an international focus (listed on stock exchange); market leader in Switzerland and throughout Europe in the production of folder filing supplies	24 %	2010
<b>Biketec AG</b> 	Pioneer in the development and marketing of electric bikes (Flyer); Europe's leading manufacturer of premium e-bikes	80 %	2012
<b>ORIOR Ltd.</b> 	Swiss food group (listed on stock exchange) specializing in fresh convenience food and Swiss-style deli meat specialties (including Rapelli and Ticinella)	10 %	2012
<b>SwissTech Watch Components SA</b> 	Leading supplier of watch band clasps made of steel or precious metal (gold and platinum) for the premium watch segment	45 %	2014

## A FORMER HOLDING – ELEKTROWATT AG

Elektrowatt was founded in 1895 as Elektrobank, or Bank for Electrical Enterprises, by German AEG (“Allgemeine Elektrizitäts-Gesellschaft”) in concert with the Swiss Credit Institution (later Credit Suisse). Elektrobank financed the construction and operation of electric utilities, which, back when electrification was in its infancy, were founded by major industrial enterprises on account of the tremendous amounts of capital needed and the pronounced entrepreneurial risk posed. After the First World War, Elektrobank no longer limited itself to providing funding but also engaged in the development and technical planning of power plants. This led to it establishing its own plant engineering and design department in 1920 (from 1965: incorporated as Electrowatt Engineering AG). After the Second World War, Elektrowatt was renamed “Elektro-Watt Elektrische und Industrielle Unternehmungen AG”, its name now underscoring Elektrowatt’s focus on industrial activities.

Shortly before his death in 1971, Ernst Göhner sold off his construction holdings (Ernst Göhner AG, Bauwerk AG, Ego Werke AG, Imoreg AG and Bartels-Ibus AG) to Elektrowatt. In exchange the Ernst Göhner Foundation received a ca. 20% stake in Elektrowatt. Credit Suisse was the majority shareholder. For a long time this stake was by far the Foundation’s most significant holding. Elektowatt engaged in planning and financing projects such as the Atatürk Dam in Turkey and the Leibstadt und Gösgen nuclear power stations in Switzerland, to name only a few. It also held stakes in electric utilities Kraftwerksgesellschaft Laufenburg AG, Elektrizitätsgesellschaft Laufenburg AG, Centralschweizerische Kraftwerke AG, Kraftübertragungswerke Rheinfelden AG, and Watt AG. The Elektrowatt’s industrial stakes included Cerberus AG, Staefa Control System AG, Landis & Gyr Ltd., Schaffner Elektronik AG, Kummler & Matter Ltd., and Siemens-Albis AG.

In the mid-1990s the CS Group (previously Credit Suisse) decided to withdraw from the energy business. This resulted in Elektrowatt being split into an energy and an industrial division. In the course of this reorganization the Ernst Göhner Foundation sold off its 6% stake in Elektrowatt in 1997. This was followed by the industrial division being sold to the Siemens Group and the energy division to a Swiss-German consortium. In 1997 Electrowatt Engineering AG was acquired by the Finnish Pöyry Group, a global consulting and engineering firm, together with a Swiss investor group – including the Ernst Göhner Foundation with its 24% stake. In the two years following, the Foundation sold off its stake to the Pöyry Group.

## FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS

The proceeds from the IPO in 2005 of Panalpina World Transport (Holding) Ltd. have gradually been channeled into financial investments. The growth target of the two other investment categories — corporate holdings and real estate — is financed from free cash flow and financial investments. In so doing, the Foundation's financial investment strategy has been brought in line with the overall allocation of its assets.

During 2012/2013, the investment strategy was adapted in concert with external specialists on the basis of the proposed continued growth of Foundation's two affiliates and the uncertainty abounding with regard to general economic trends and financial markets.

Since the preservation of value takes front and center stage in the Foundation's investment strategy, risk has been further minimized by way of further diversification within the existing asset classes and by including other asset classes, hedging foreign currencies, and increasing the share of liquid assets by reducing the proportion of stock held. Investment is made only in liquid securities and with counterparties with an excellent credit rating.

The management of financial investments is done by external, specialist asset managers who are instructed and monitored by the Foundation's committee charged with this task. In administering its financial investments, the Foundation attaches particular importance to transparency and appropriateness of the cost structure.

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

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 approximately 60 investment and development 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 Nüscherstrasse 24 and Dufourstrasse 29/31; the portfolio still contains these properties.

### ORGANIZATION

#### FOUNDED

2008

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Fritz Jörg (chairman)

Giacomo Balzarini (member from 12/04/2014)

Mark Furger (member)

Reinhard Giger (member)

Kristian Hallström (member until 09/01/2014)

Dr. Roger Schmid (member)

#### STAFF

Thomas Regli (CEO)

Mirko Käppeli (CFO)

Daniel Hübscher (controlling)

Miriam Müller (accounting from 04/01/2014)

Claudia Uster (accounting)

Carla Veser (portfolio / construction management)

#### REGISTERED OFFICE / ADDRESS

Artherstrasse 19, 6300 Zug, Switzerland

#### AUDITORS

Ernst & Young

#### WEBSITE

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

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 made 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. Investment is also done in logistics properties located in southern Germany. Seewarte is withdrawing from North America via staggered sales of individual properties in keeping with the respective market situation. 2013 saw the disposal of the last property in Canada. The withdrawal process has not yet been completed in the U.S.

The diversification of the real estate portfolio in terms of retail trade properties is done by way of two partnership arrangements. Together with AXA-Winterthur, Seewarte has a 50% stake in the shopping center constructed by Ernst Göhner AG in Regensdorf at the beginning of the 1970s. Seewarte also holds a 50% stake with another partner in Vegsimmo Holding Ltd., the owner of various specialty stores in Switzerland.

A cooperative arrangement exists with the Allreal Group for the management, project development and execution of new construction and refurbishment projects, the Group acquiring the service business of former subsidiary Hammer Retex AG in 2012. This enables Seewarte to concentrate fully on its core business as a real estate investment company. During 2014, Seewarte moved forward with the expansion of its real estate property portfolio by completing several new construction and refurbishment projects. After being expanded and undergoing a facelift, the shopping center in Regensdorf celebrated a grand reopening in the 4th quarter of 2014. Work on rental apartments commenced with the property developments Riedpark Stage III in Zug (62 units) and Obermühleweid Stage II in Cham (72 units). The refurbishment of the office building on Nüscherstrasse in Zurich will be completed in the first half of 2015.

With its refurbishment projects Seewarte is not only attempting to sustainably enhance the quality of interior work and standard of amenities offered by these apartment units but also maintain the associated upward adjustments in rent at a reasonable level. Ecological concerns are also taken into consideration. Example: the refurbished residential buildings of the housing development in Greifensee — Göhner prefab structures, Minergie-certified — and the two logistics buildings in Germany are heated and cooled using geothermal heat.



Regensdorf Center, expansion and facelift, completed 2014



Panalpina Logistics Center, in Stuttgart-Kornwestheim, Germany, expansion completed in 2013



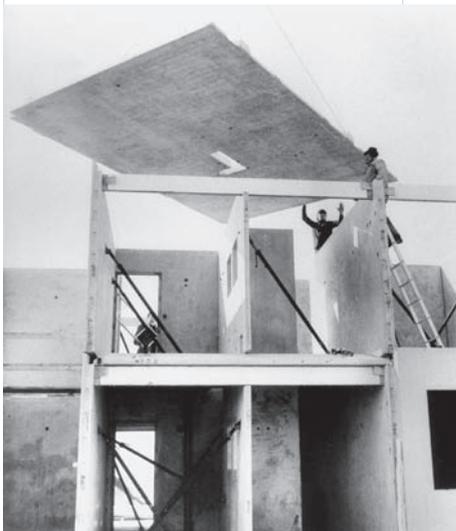
Nüscherstrasse 24, Zurich, refurb project, to be completed in 2015

## PREFAB CONSTRUCTION

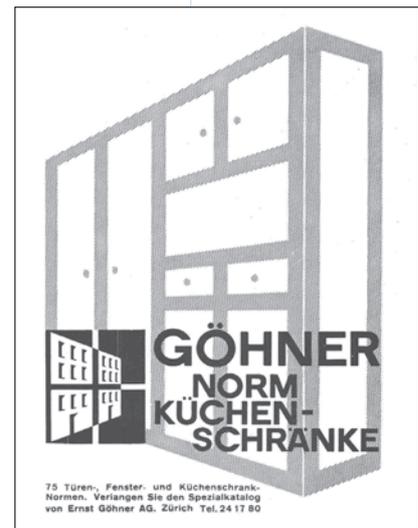
Ernst Göhner (1900–1971) was a pioneer of the Swiss construction industry. He was adept at adapting new developments engineered abroad to the contingencies of Switzerland. The key impulses provided by Göhner to the Swiss construction industry were rationalization and optimized organization. This essentially 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 the 60s and 70s has increasingly been the subject of scientific inquiry for the past couple of years. The Swiss National Scientific Foundation is currently funding a research project of the Institute for the History and Theory of Architecture of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich entitled “Machines for Living and Workers’ Palace. Mass Housing in the Welfare States and Planned Economies of the 1960s and 1970s.”, which is part of an international project. The subject of the university’s research includes the Sonnhalde residential development in Adlikon constructed by Göhner AG.



Göhner building constructed using prefab elements in Volketswil, in 1966



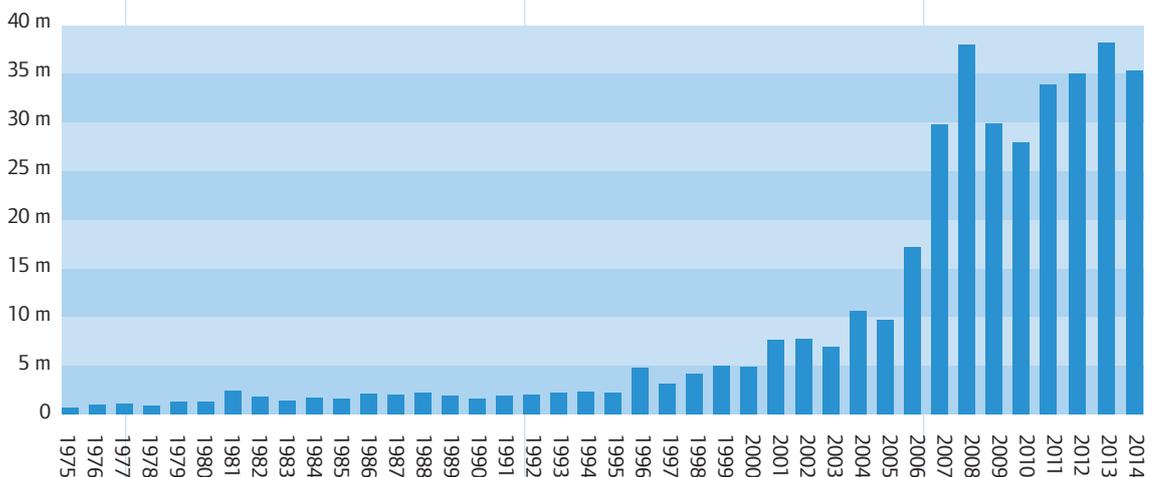
Advertisement for modular kitchens in Schweizerische Bauzeitung (a trade journal of the Swiss construction industry), 1945

# OUR CHARITABLE WORK

## OVER 1,400 PROJECTS

In 2014 the Ernst Göhner Foundation approved funding totaling CHF 35.3 million for 1,445 charitable projects. The minimum amount of disbursed funding established in the Foundation's charter has thus been exceeded many times over. Since its founding, the Ernst Göhner Foundation has supported ca. 24,000 projects with CHF 430 million in assistance. For 2015, the foundation board has appropriated the same budget as in previous years.

**Amounts of approved funding 1975–2014 (in CHF)**



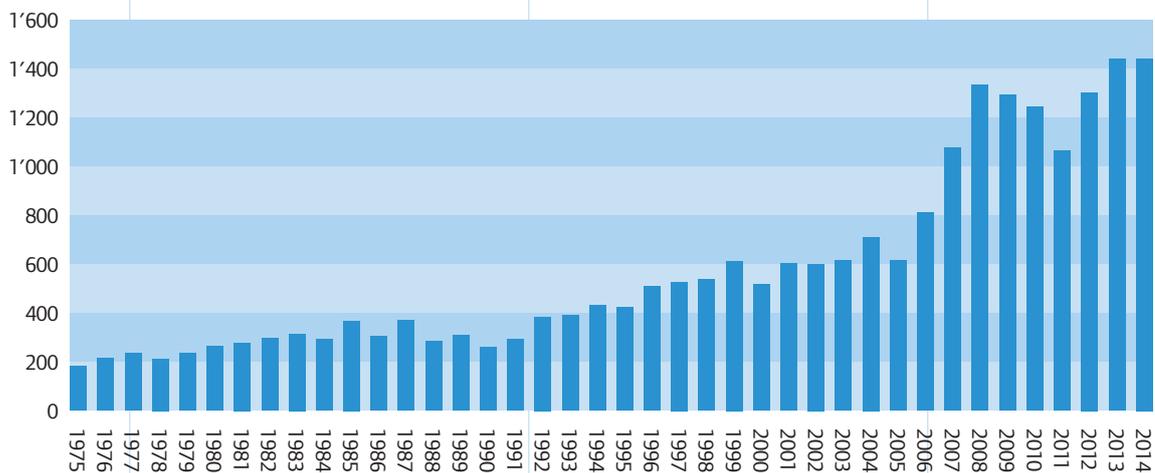
The number of projects for which funding requests are received has almost doubled over the past ten years; at 2,835 the number of requests in 2014 was the highest number ever received, the number of project proposals exceeding the previous year figure by 1%.

The highest annual growth rates recorded during the past ten years were 20% in 2006 and 15% in 2007. This development was the desirable result of the more active award 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 2014, 2,813 were reviewed, with funding being approved for 1,445 of them, the approval rate thus amounting to 51%. 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 as 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 rendered 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.

**Number of approved projects 1975–2014**

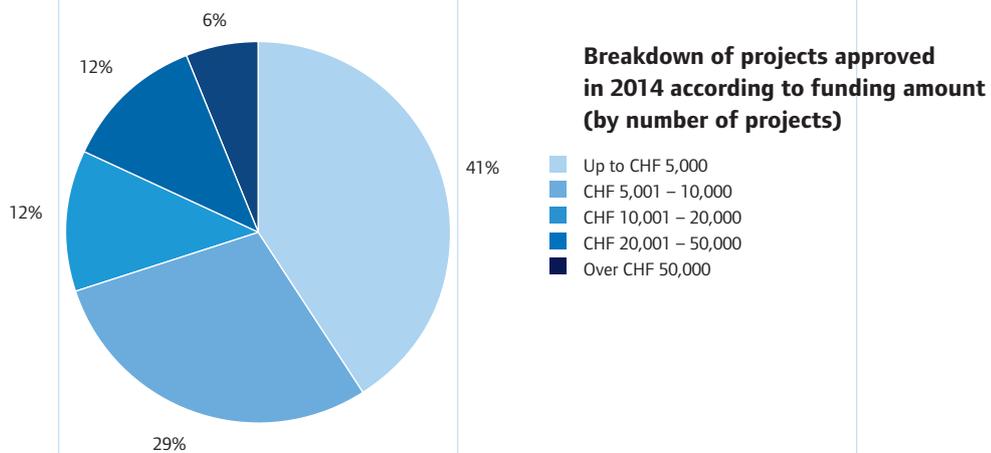


## DIVERSITY AND BREADTH OF PROJECTS AND FUNDING DISBURSED

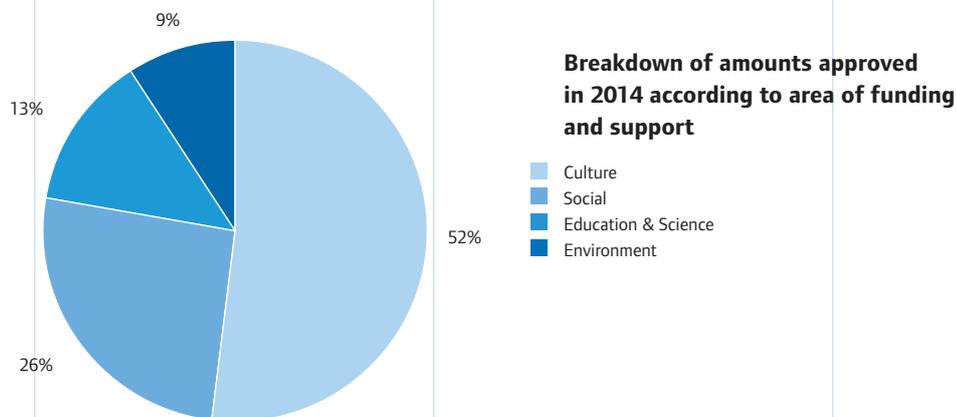
According to the precepts of its charter, the Foundation fosters diversity and breadth as a matter of principle. This is reflected not only in the broad range of various areas supported but also in the varying size of the funding amounts disbursed.

As a consequence, in 2014 41% 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 12% receiving between CHF 20,000 and CHF 50,000, and 6% receiving over CHF 50,000.

If the total amount awarded to these projects is taken as a yardstick, this results in a different picture: Of all the funding amounts approved, approximately 58% was accounted for by the group of projects receiving over CHF 50,000 and only 7% by the group of small projects receiving CHF 5,000 or less.

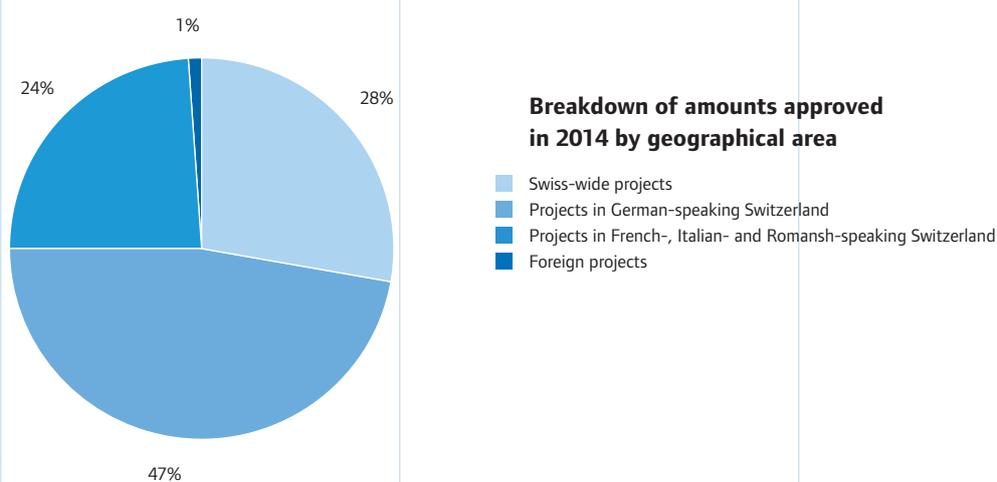


In 2014, 52% of the total funding disbursed went to Culture projects, with 13% going to Education & Science projects, 26% to Social projects, and 9% to Environment projects. The most significant change as compared to the previous year occurred with regard to Education & Science projects, whose share dropped from 26% to 13%.



The 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.

In the past year 99% of all projects approved were in Switzerland — with a distinct focus on the German-speaking area of Switzerland (47%). 28% of the projects were linked to Switzerland as a whole. 24% of the total amount of approved funding went to the French-, Italian- and Romansh-speaking parts of Switzerland (20% 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 French- and Italian-speaking Switzerland.



## OUR MOST SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS

Part of 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 being launched seven years ago the project has met with remarkable success. 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 in “kick-start camps”. Extensive use is made of these volunteer support offerings. To date, 197 such events have been organized.

Of the 1,700+ applications received to date from over 20 Swiss institutions of higher learning, 681 business ideas have been admitted to a presentation pitch before a qualified jury consisting of a pool of over 100 experts. Of this number, 350 projects have attracted funding totaling CHF 13.7 million. This has resulted in the founding of 265 new companies that have succeeded in attracting additional financing in excess of CHF 602 million and creating over 3,000 new jobs (FTEs). Of the companies placing among the 100 Top Startups in Switzerland competition, 58 were fostered by Venture Kick, of which eight startups figured among the Top Ten.

Most of the startups receiving funding were born at the Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology in Zurich (ETHZ) and Lausanne (EPFL). However, the share of those from universities of applied sciences (ca. 20%) is also notable. Most of the business ideas promoted are ICT, or Information & Communications Technology concepts. Since 2014 newly interested executives of startups that have successfully competed at Venture Kick also receive 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.

The following projects figure among the most significant initiatives promoted by the Ernst Göhner Foundation during the past few years (not including various scholarship programs):

### **EDUCATION & SCIENCE**

- The PreSeed Fund's Venture Kick project for fostering young entrepreneurs
- Expansion of the University of St. Gallen by acquiring the property at Tellstrasse 2
- Youth science lab for Technorama (Swiss Science Center), in Winterthur
- Lighthouse for the future construction of research institute EMPA's Nest project, in Dübendorf

### **CULTURE**

- Renovation and expansion of Musée d'art et d'histoire (Museum of Art and History), Geneva
- Extension of Kunsthaus Zürich (Zurich Museum of Modern Art)
- Digitalization of the recordings of the Montreux Jazz Festival by the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology of Lausanne (EPFL)
- Expansion of the Swiss National Museum in Zurich
- Construction of a new building housing the Cantonal Museum of Fine Arts in Lausanne

### **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)
- Creation 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



Refugees at an HEKS garden plot

# A GARDEN WITH HAMLI, GĀNDĀNĀ AND BACAN

by Christian Schmidt (journalist and book author)

**Everything is strange to refugees in their new home. With its New Gardens project, HEKS is helping these new immigrants at least grow food they are familiar with. But that is only one reason the project is important.**

“Actually it’s quite simple,” says Angela Losert, looking up at the sky and mustering the clouds. Will it rain or won’t it? A little rain would do the vegetable patches a world of good. Meaning Sahin, Amna, Mojgan and the others wouldn’t be forced to lug all those watering cans.

Actually it is quite simple. It takes relatively little to add a little happiness to people’s unhappy lives. And alleviate the plight of people who have escaped the killing in their home countries, countries where hunger and suffering are daily realities. With its New Gardens project, HEKS, the aid organization of the Protestant Churches of Switzerland, is making a small contribution. It has set up 31 sites located throughout Switzerland. Angela Losert heads the Bern site.

On this late summer afternoon she has driven out with her volunteer helpers to the community garden plots in the southwest area of town. They have arrived a little early so they can get an idea of what all needs doing. Does Mojgan’s special leeklike plant need cutting again? And why aren’t Sahin’s tomatoes doing well? The children could also paint the garden benches. What else is on the agenda? Right. There’s this course on bike riding, it might meet with interest. Angela Losert — by training a geographer, then engaged in development projects, followed by completing training in adult education — has a lot to do today.

And then they arrive, led by Mojgan Husseini from Afghanistan, with her daughter. When war broke out Mojgan fled to Iran, but couldn’t stay there. Now she’s in Switzerland. She says “hi” and shyly lowers her gaze. She is followed by Amna Mohamed, of Eritrea. Amna deftly grabs the right implement, calls to her daughter in a clear voice who has managed to disappear somewhere, shakes her head, and laughs out loud. Where does her good mood come from in view of the horrific events in her home country? Now Ibrahim Halil Sahin comes up the paved path. Having grown up in Turkish Kurdistan, he spent 14 years in prison on account of his political views. His hands clench up when he recounts those times.

All in all six new immigrants ultimately arrive at the community garden, in addition to a handful of children. They greet one another effusively, there are no strangers here. How they’ve missed one another! In winter, when the New Gardens are dormant, the gardeners sometimes meet for dinner so they don’t lose contact: it’s better to be with others than alone in a foreign country, far away from home.

Each family has three garden beds. What they like growing most are things that remind them of home, often vegetables that are also common here: tomatoes, zucchini, cucumbers, pumpkin, squash, corn. But also some okra and a sole eggplant, which are in the process of shriveling up. The summer hasn't been good, and besides which it's much too cold here.

Yet some beds have high, dense greenery. For example, Amna's patch. Her favorite vegetable from home seems to grow like a weed here: Swiss chard. Or "hamli", as she calls it. And then she provides a recipe: roast a couple of onions and garlic. Add some finely chopped tomatoes and a chili pepper. Then wash and chop the hamli, toss it in the pan, add spice to taste: "Yum, yum!"

Mojgan is growing a very special variety of leek: small, tender shoots that have to be cut regularly and grow back after a short period of time. She refers to this leeklike plant as "gāndānā". It is primarily used to flavor the flatbread typical of Afghanistan. "This plant was new to me," comments Angela Losert, who has seen a lot of things in various projects during the past six years.

Sahin would prefer to use his beds to raise flowers, to contrast with the gray reality of prison. "I love colors." Yet the project staff has been able to convince him that a few tomato plants, bush green beans, some peppermint and a few chili peppers would also be a good idea. Resulting in a pretty collection of eatables on his beds. If it weren't for the leaf blight on the tomatoes. "Too wet," says Sahin, "poor bacans."

Two hours later all the beds have been freshly hoed so that oxygen can get in the soil. The weeds have been pulled, the crop waste chopped up for the compost heap. Some beds have already been cleared and prepared with green manure for the coming winter. Angela Losert's helpers have provided instructions. Now the table in the garden shed is stacked with bags filled with today's bounty.

5 o'clock, time for a well-deserved break. Since the children have painted some of the garden benches a bright yellow, the gardeners have to squeeze together on the remaining seats available. No matter, this makes it easier to talk. Spiced tea is poured up, and a part of the harvest downed immediately: where else can you get tomatoes this fresh?

Angela uses the break to talk about any problems they might be having. The typical problems refugees encounter: difficulties in dealing with authorities. Yet another form to deal with ... And what does this letter say, Angela? And where can I find a German class where I don't have to pay anything? And don't you know anybody who needs a cleaning lady? There's almost always someone who has an answer.

The HEKS New Gardens project is more than just a garden project. It is also applied integration, a self-help course, a course in international understanding. And also a place to vent. "Give them a few vegetable patches and people emerge from their dark homes," says Angela Losert. "They're able to

move about in the fresh air. And can supplement their income thanks to growing their own food.” And they’re especially pleased with being able to meet with those renting the neighboring plots over which the Swiss flag waves. “At first the neighbors were skeptical but that soon passed. A few kind words and a get-together, and strangers are no longer strangers.”

A half hour later and the break is over. Angela Losert looks up at the sky, which still hasn’t decided whether it’s going to rain. “OK, people, time to hit the watering canes!” Can after can is dipped into the large well and carried to the beds. Soon this job is also done.

“The next time we get together,” she says when taking leave of the gardeners, “I’m going to bring flower bulbs. For next spring. Will you be coming back?”

The response is unanimous.

Refugees suffer on account of being uprooted. Many of them have no work, and also have no social network. In order to facilitate their integration in Switzerland, HEKS rents garden plots and cultivates them together with the refugees. The Ernst Göhner Foundation supports the HEKS New Gardens project throughout Switzerland in recognition of its wealth of positive impacts.



In the shop of the Swiss School of Violin Making

# THE FIRST CRY

by Christian Schmidt (journalist and book author)

**“We’re trying to achieve a ‘Stradivarius standard’ with our instruments,” says Hans Rudolf Hösli, head of the Swiss School of Violin Making. But the school building has to be refurbished and expanded so this standard may have a future.**

All the sounds are there. But they are buried in these pieces of wood that will become caskets, wood flooring, soundposts ... The sounds that might someday become Bach’s Partita No. 1 in B Minor have yet to be born. But it won’t be long before they are. They are taking shape in the hands of twelve students with the aid of chisels, rasps and wood planes; some of the tools are so small you might think they had come from a dollhouse. Tiny curls of wood tumble to the floor, tiny clouds of dust rise in the light of the lamps. The only thing you hear is soft planing and scraping. Not a single machine. Musical sounds need silence in order to be born.

At last, the time has come. On Wednesday, November 12, 2014 at 4:35 p.m., Lisa Travella’s cello voices its first sound. All the students have gathered around and are waiting with bated breath. Lisa draws the bow over the strings for the first time; all she has to do is put the finishing touches to the bridge because one of the strings is not seated deep enough in its guide. Now the time has come: the body of the violin vibrates for the first time. “The first cry,” says one of Lisa’s classmates.

“Hmm,” school head Hans Rudolf Hösli gently puts a damper on the excitement. “A wolf. Don’t you hear it? The sound’s not right yet.”

Actually this is one place you’d like to learn the craft yourself. Right away. Take a seat at one of the tables in this 17th century building, with nothing but a piece of wood. Outside a bleak winter gray sky and rain beckon. Nothing would be better than creating a violin, viola or cello, perfecting a work that the world might not have asked for, but needs in view of the hectic pace of life and war, noise and hate that abound. Passionately giving in to a love in the knowledge that with a diploma from the Swiss School of Violin Making you will always have work but will never really make much money. But you will be able to hone your craft in places like “Bangkok, Vienna, Berlin, London or Hong Kong.” Hans Rudolf Hösli recounts the destinations of former students of his. “And some of them are even given a Stradivarius to recondition or repair.”

A life with little money, but deep satisfaction. That’s probably why the Swiss School of Violin Making had to tighten the admissions criteria. 40 to 50 young people apply every year for this four-year program. Yet only those whose wood crafting skills are exceptional and who already master a string instrument have any chance of being accepted. Students engage in music-making one day a week “in order to fine-tune their ears.” How else could instruments be born here that don’t carry the mark of an amateur but rather are so top-class they can be played by the Camerata Bern chamber orchestra?

Lukas Käser, a fourth year student, says he's at the School because he can transform a piece of a tree into a living instrument, he and he alone, with his own two hands. Lukas, wearing an apron, is in the varnishing shop, applying another coat to his cello using a varnish containing pigments he has made himself. Sarah Bandlow, a second year student, is sitting in the School's library and is leafing through vintage books: she's in the process of planning her first viola. It's not clear yet whether she'll draft the instrument applying the golden ratio — "based on the Stradivarius S shape" — or apply the harmonious ratio. But she's thinking she'll begin on the viola in two weeks or so, and perhaps complete it in four or five months.

The students are fascinated by their work. That's why they don't go home in the evening after classes. The ebony inlay work in the front plate is almost done, but not quite. And Lisa Travella's cello still has a wolf: an overly pronounced sympathetic artificial overtone at F. She now has to find the place on the body that's causing this in order to affix metal springs that dampen the vibration.

The students don't stop until they're satisfied, perhaps watch a movie together in the music room upstairs, or sit at the table next to the large fireplace in which goat sausages were once hung to dry but now is adorned with a number of decommissioned violins — just for fun, mind you. Not until then do they go out into the night to their studios or apartments shared with roommates. To update their status on Facebook so their friends know what music they still like apart from the music they make themselves: Janis Joplin, Knackeboul, Ignat Ibraminov, EELI, the Trio Rafale ...

The Swiss School of Violin Making has needed refurbishing and expanding for years. First and foremost to create badly needed space in the instrument restoration department, an increasingly important activity of the School, but also to comply with current occupational health & safety and fire regulations. Plus which, the library, archives and wood storage also need expanding. The Ernst Göhner Foundation is supporting this construction project so that this unique Swiss institution has a future.

# A NEVER-ENDING CYCLE

by Christian Schmidt (journalist and book author)

**The alpine economy of the future is underway in Schweibenalp. That means: growing kiwis and peaches at an altitude of 3600 ft. Total sustainability — thanks to a walipini.**

What's going on here? No cows on this alp, no alpine cabin, but an oversized guesthouse, or a sanatorium of yesteryear? And what are the teepees and yurts doing here? But hardly any meadows or pastures to speak of. Instead rows and rows of beds like brown waves lapping across the landscape. Some featuring vegetables, others perennials, and yet others herbs. And between them bobbing straw hats reminiscent of a 19th century scene: people at work. Lots of young fruit trees also grow here. One thing is noticeable: no machinery noise. Only the whispering of the wind, and laughter. Some greenhouses are also visible, half-buried and with a back wall made of large rocks. But why?

And what is that? A botanical garden? No. Schweibenalp, perched high overlooking Lake Brienz, looks too strange for that. An organic farm? No, not that either. There are no livestock or barns, but too many people. Next to the straw hats there is a group of school kids romping around. So, it's a working farm and village? No, not that either. People are not only working here because they enjoy it, they are working hard. To prove to themselves and the rest of the world that agriculture is a lot much than just agriculture.

Agriculture in Schweibenalp is permaculture. As the word implies, "permaculture" is an amalgamation of "permanent" and "agriculture". Australian Bill Mollison founded the principle, receiving the "Alternative Nobel Prize" (otherwise known as the Right Livelihood Award) in 1981 for his efforts.

Permaculture can also be translated in a different way, and Sarah Daum will be doing that some four times today, with the same enthusiasm every time: "We link man and nature in a new way." The living and working community in Schweibenalp is the opposite of industrial agriculture as we know it. The goal isn't exploitation and short-term maximization of the bottom line but rather permanence and sustainability. The earth is coaxed into bringing forth a bounty using its own resources, be they natural fertilizers or natural energy sources. There are no toxins, no industrial chemicals are used. The goal is to promote a never-ending cycle. "We're planning the agriculture of tomorrow utilizing the knowledge of our ancestors."

Sarah Daum belongs to the 30-strong team of Schweibenalp. She is a geocology specialist, an environmental scientist. She also conducts seminars in Schweibenalp: the goal is not to tuck the knowledge gained about the advantages of permaculture away in some scientific journals but rather to share it with as many people as possible.

How permaculture works is not really understandable without expert knowledge on the subject. And so Sarah Daum guides us through Schweibenalp. Schweibenalp covers 50 acres, and each and every



Permaculture garden in Schweibenalp

square foot of it is fascinating. “That’s a dry stream bed,” says Sarah Daum and points to a channel lined with rocks next to the footpath. Dry stream bed? “Yes, rainwater collects there. It flows into the next pond and feeds it.” And this water is used in turn to irrigate the beds.

We continue on, passing an elevated bed with corn, next to it the desiccating green of a small potato field. Every few feet a fruit tree or berry shrub. “We’ve planted 250. Our goal is to create an edible landscape.” At the foot of the trees are a couple of farmyard ducks foraging for snails in the grass. “Here you see our herb terraces,” explains Sarah Daum and points to some things that otherwise only thrive in a Mediterranean climate. “We’re 3600 ft. above sea level. The herbs are used primarily to produce syrup and tea, but also for home remedies and healing.” Sarah Daum calls a couple of the straw hats over: volunteer helpers are hidden underneath. She explains how oregano helps with abdominal pain: “Place the herbs on a hot brick, then set your feet on them.”

The lush growth surrounding us is not only the product of the excellent sunlight falling on it but also the energy concept employed in Schweibenalp: stones are used everywhere, where needed. During the day they store the warmth of the sun, at night they give off the heat they have collected. Sort of a natural hot water bottle you might say. “That’s also how our new walipini works.” Walipini? “Our underground greenhouse. A principle from the Andes. The earth-sheltered greenhouse is buried about three feet in the ground. Boulders are used for constructing the back wall.” Thanks to the higher temperature in summer it lasts well into winter. Kiwis and peaches thrive here.

Along the way to the perennial nursery she points to another mystery. There are also sun traps in Schweibenalp: wind-sheltered areas, surrounded by hedges. Less wind means better growth. But of course here, too, the windbreak is more than just a windbreak: “It’s edible.” The hedges are made of cornel cherries, sea buckthorn and rosehips.

What is too ripe to be harvested is used for feeding the seminar participants, or delivered to the neighboring Giessbach Hotel, or sold at the market in Lucerne. Although it was established only four years ago the permaculture in Schweibenalp is already well-known far beyond the local area. Several thousand visitors come every year.

After three hours we’ve seen everything. Or almost everything. On the way back we pass two mini-huts standing out in the open in the landscape. The symbols on their doors make everything clear: they’re toilets, or better said compost toilets. The excrement is collected, processed into fertilizer and then returned to the plants. We, too, use the alpine toilets. So that the cycle can continue.

The Schweibenalp Alpine Permaculture project was established in 2011. Based on the concept of a living and working community incorporating research and education, the project initiators are making a multifaceted, natural land-use model come to life. The Ernst Göhner Foundation is supporting this initiative, convinced that a promising agricultural concept will take hold in the Alps.

# FROM ARTISAN GLASS SHOP TO FOUNDATION

*"... All of us build the future. Building something is constructive in the broadest sense of the term. 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 and expanded later on by the Foundation and the comprehensive real estate portfolio are the essential sources of the grants made by the Ernst Göhner Foundation.



Ernst Göhner and his wife Amelia  
at a company event in 1952



Stadlin Villa, in Zug

In 2008 the Foundation moved to its new quarters in Zug in the almost 120-year-old historical Stadlin Villa. It acquired the villa from the City of Zug and restored it in an elegant manner in line with the villa's cultural heritage. The history of the Stadlin Villa and its owners, and its restoration are documented in a brochure published in 2009. During the traditional August 1st Open House Day organized by the City of Zug, the public has the opportunity to tour the restored villa and its gardens.

Every year the Stadlin Villa is toured by students of the "Haus der Farbe". The "Haus der Farbe" 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 Color and Materials module of this program is taught by Marius Fontana of the renowned restoration firm of fontana & fontana, which was also involved in restoring the villa.

Marius Fontana likes to refer to the Stadlin Villa as a "miniature Dolder Grand" and showpiece of 19th century decorative painting. The highlights of his tour of the villa include the original stenciled ceiling paintings and the reconstructed silkscreen wallpapers.

## THE (COMPANY) FAMILY

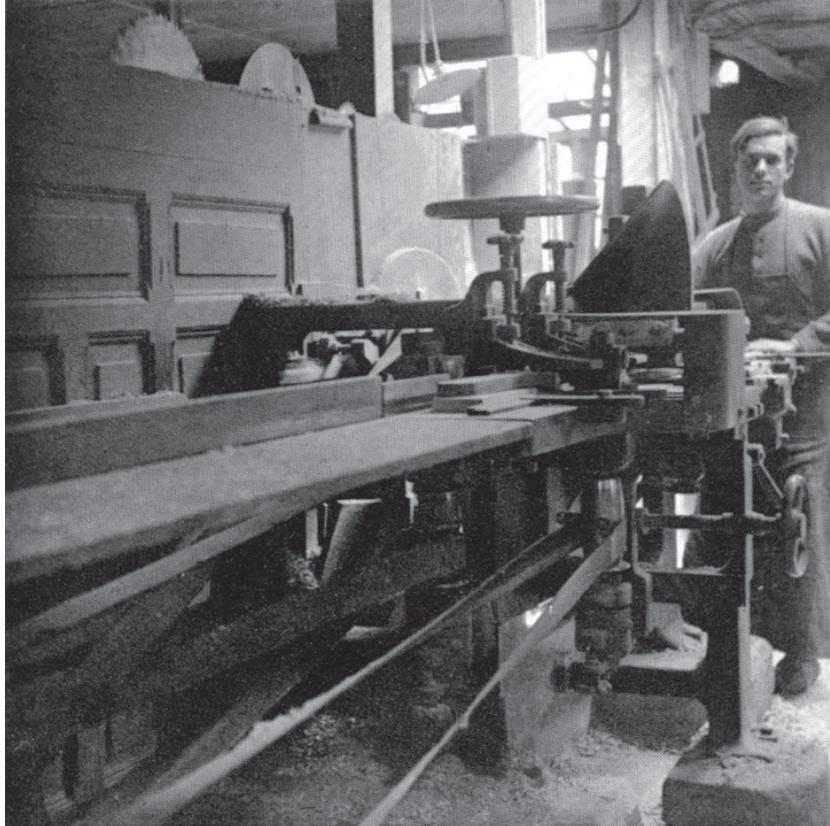
The Göhner Company was founded in 1890 by Gottlieb Göhner, the father of Ernst Göhner, as a family-run business. Later on, various members of the family worked at Ernst Göhner AG, Tufa AG and Bauwerk AG. From 1931 Ernst Göhner's childhood friend and brother-in-law Viktor Kühnlein-Göhner was one of the inner circle of employees who oversaw the transformation of the then glass 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 — established three major employee welfare foundations already in the 1940s. He 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, an employee of many years of Ernst Göhner AG and associate of the Ernst Göhner Foundation).

In the Foundation's charter Ernst Göhner also provided for gifts to deserving employees of the companies of the Göhner Group and family members. For employees of outstanding merit Ernst Göhner had the Göhner-Meritas Foundation, an employer-funded trust with over 400 beneficiaries, established in 1972 to supplement occupational retirement and disability benefits. This foundation made its final disbursements in 2007.



Invoice issued by Gottlieb Göhner, 1890s



Ernst Göhner  
in the artisan  
glass shop, 1920s

The beneficiaries of the Göhner-Meritas Foundation 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. The last outing was to La Petite Gilberte in Courgenay, a restaurant steeped in history, elevated to cult status by Anne-Marie Blanc in the 1941 film *Gilberte de Courgenay*. The trip was made with the vintage Churchill Red Arrow train. This train was specially built for the National Exhibition in 1939, its name harking back to its most popular passenger.

Gifts to the current total of 29 family members are made under the legal framework provided for family foundations. Support of education and occupational/professional training takes front and center stage upon one's entry into working life and in difficult circumstances. Most of the family beneficiaries live in Switzerland, the others reside in the U.S. The youngest family members are already great grand nieces and nephews of founder Ernst Göhner.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

1890	Founding of the artisan glass shop in Zurich-Seefeld by Gottlieb Göhner (1863–1920), the father of Ernst Göhner.
1900/20	1900: Ernst Göhner born as the second youngest of six children. 1920: assumption of shop after his father's death. Subsequently, transformation of sole proprietorship 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 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) 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 Car Union GmbH in Germany. From 1950/51: significant holding in Car Union GmbH, which was sold to Daimler AG, of Stuttgart, Germany, in 1958.
1944	Founding of Bauwerk AG in St. Margrethen (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 Bühle & Co. (25% share 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.

## PUBLICATIONS

Selection of books, articles and films on the life and work of Ernst Göhner, produced in part in association with the Ernst Göhner Foundation:

- Fabian **FURTER** and Patrick **SCHOECK-RITSCHARD**: *Zwischen Konsumtempel und Dorfplatz. Eine Geschichte des Shoppingcenters in der Schweiz* ("Between Consumer Temple and Village Square. A Story of the Shopping Center in Switzerland"), Verlag hier+jetzt, Baden, Switzerland, 2014
- Peter **STEIGER** and Hansruedi **MEIER**: "Die Sonnhalde in Adlikon – Entstehungsgeschichte einer Siedlung in Plattenbauweise aus den 70er-Jahren und Ausblick auf das Quartierleben und die Erhaltung der Wohnqualität" ("Sonnhalde in Adlikon — How a Prefabricated Concrete Slab Housing Development Came About during the 1970s and Outlook on the Life in the Community and Preservation of Quality of Life"), Heimatkundliche Vereinigung Furttal (publisher), Mitteilungsheft no. 43, self-published, Regensdorf, Switzerland, 2013
- Fabian **FURTER** and Patrick **SCHOECK-RITSCHARD**: *Göhner wohnen. Wachstumseuphorie und Plattenbau*, ("Göhner Living. Growth Mania and Industrialized Building."), Verlag hier+jetzt, Baden, Switzerland 2013
- Reto **NUSSBAUMER** et al.: *Villa Stadlin* (brochure on the current seat of the Foundation), Ernst Göhner Stiftung (self-published), Zug, Switzerland, 2009
- **ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE ERNST GÖHNER FOUNDATION**: volumes 2006–2013, self-published, Zug, Switzerland
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