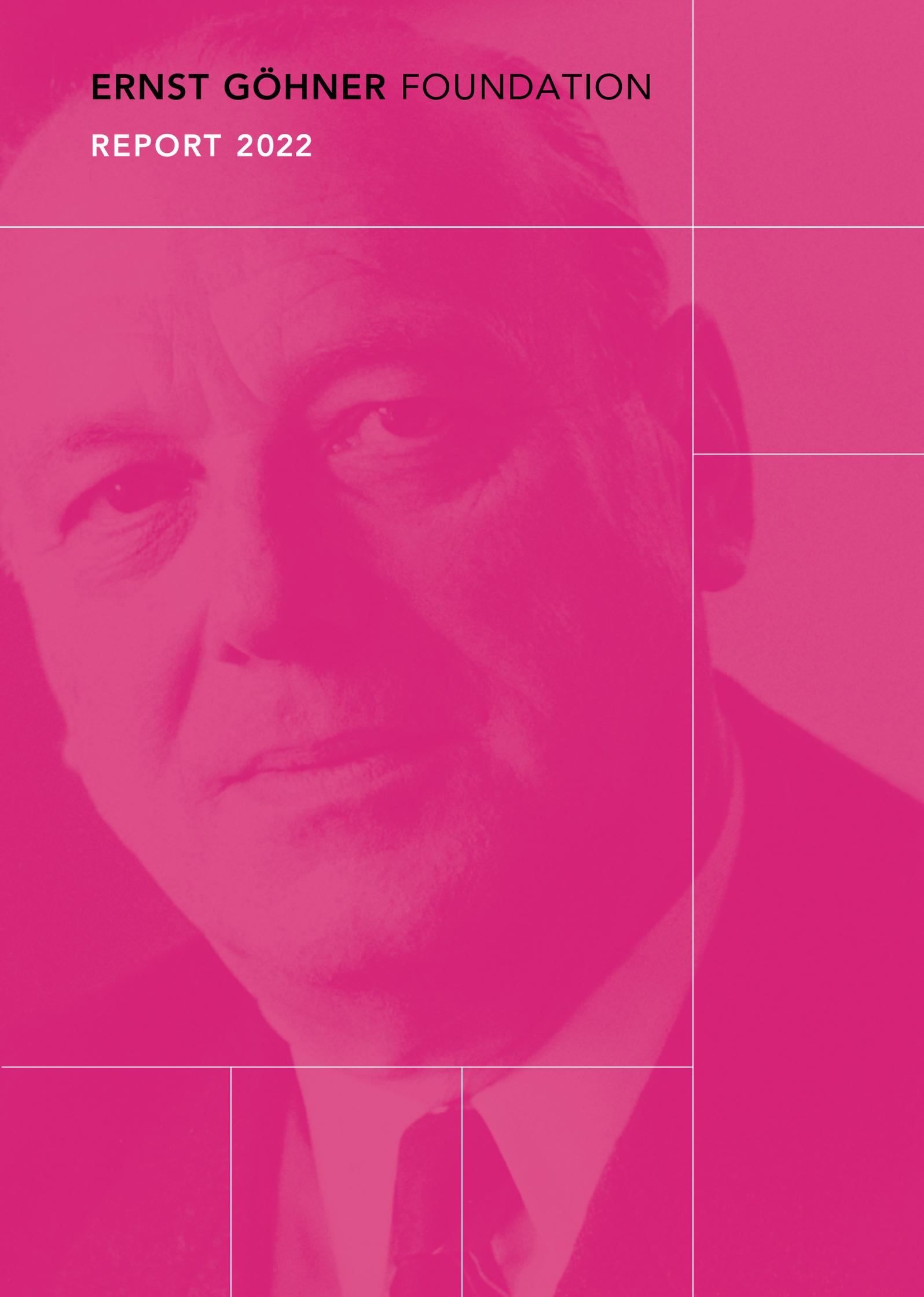


# ERNST GÖHNER FOUNDATION

REPORT 2022





**ERNST GÖHNER FOUNDATION**  
**REPORT 2022**

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Ernst Göhner Stiftung  
Artherstrasse 19  
CH-6300 Zug, Switzerland

Phone: +41 41 729 66 33 (office)

[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.

Currently there are 13,790 charitable foundations in Switzerland, of which approximately half are grant-making foundations, one-third operating foundations, and one-sixth mixed foundations. There are also an estimated 100+ corporate foundations, i.e. foundations with shareholdings of over 20% in other companies, and over 350 family foundations entered in the commercial register.

The Canton of Zurich has by far the most foundations, with a total of 2,225 charitable foundations registered there as of the end of 2022, coming in in first place before the Cantons of Bern and Vaud with 1,409 and 1,374 foundations respectively. The most new foundations were established in the Cantons of Zurich and Geneva. The highest concentration of foundations is to be found in the Cantons of Basel-City and Zug, as measured

by the number of inhabitants. The concentration in the Canton of Zug is the result of the numerous foundations established during the past couple of years in the wake of blockchain technology. According to the latest surveys, the total capital invested in charitable foundations in Switzerland is put at ca. CHF 140 billion, with annual funding disbursements estimated at CHF 2.5 to CHF 3 billion.

The designated purposes of the foundations newly established in Switzerland have shown a remarkable development, with topical societal issues like climate change and sustainability taking front and center stage in many cases. It is also notable that the share of women foundation board members has increased to 32%, in so doing significantly exceeding their share in board of directors committees in Swiss industry.

Established in 1957, the Ernst Göhner Foundation is one of Switzerland’s “old” foundations. Being a corporate foundation, it has stakes in various companies. In line with its stated philanthropic aims, the Foundation disbursed funding in 2022 of CHF 42.7 million, supporting a total of 1,363 projects and thus making for an aggregate total of CHF 700 million going to approximately 35,000 projects since its founding. The Foundation also fulfills the remit of a family foundation, and currently has 28 family beneficiaries.

## ERNST GÖHNER FOUNDATION

### FOUNDER

Ernst Göhner (1900–1971)

### FOUNDED

1957

### PURPOSE

Corporate, charitable and family foundation

### CORPORATE HOLDINGS

Sectors include: Logistics, Real Estate, Construction & Tech Industries, Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals, Media Tracking, and Medical Engineering

### AREAS OF FUNDING & SUPPORT

Education & Science, Culture, the Environment, and Social projects

### REGISTERED OFFICE / ADDRESS

Artherstrasse 19, 6300 Zug

### HOMEPAGE

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

## FOUNDATION BODIES

### FOUNDATION BOARD

Dr. Beat Walti (chair)  
Dr. Franziska Widmer Müller (vice-chair)  
Giacomo Balzarini  
Prof. Dr. Christoph Franz  
Mark Furger  
Prof. Dr. Thomas Gutzwiller  
Isabel Kühnlein Specker (representative of the family beneficiaries)  
Dr. Roger Schmid  
Peter Ulber

### COMMITTEES

#### Finance and Internal Control Committee

Chair: Dr. Beat Walti

#### DSV Committee

Chair: Peter Ulber

#### Nomination and Remuneration Committee

Chair: Prof. Dr. Thomas Gutzwiller

#### Audit Committee

Chair: Mark Furger

#### Donation Awards

Chair: Dr. Franziska Widmer Müller

#### Family Beneficiaries

Chair: Isabel Kühnlein Specker

### OFFICE

Dr. Roger Schmid (managing director)  
Daniel Hübscher (CFO)  
Dr. Suzanne Avedik (Education, Science & Social projects, until 4/2022; now: special projects)  
Michaela Gasser (Environment & Social projects)  
Sonja Hägeli (Theater, Dance, Literature, Heritage Conservation & Cultural History)  
Elvira Hammer (office, from 9/2022)  
Patricia Kopp (Education & Science, from 5/2022)  
Martha Müller (office)  
Natalie Rossi (Social projects & Film, from 5/2022)  
Katharina Schillen (Music, from 9/2022)  
Dr. Corinne Linda Sotzek (Visual Arts)  
Doris Stalder (Music & Film, until 9/2022)  
Lucia Tellenbach (office)  
Claudia Uster (accounting)  
Tanja Vogel (interdisciplinary cultural projects)

### AUDITORS

Ernst & Young AG

### REGULATORY AUTHORITY

Regulatory Board for Occupational Pension Plans and Foundations of Central Switzerland

## SWISSFOUNDATIONS

SwissFoundations, the Association of Grant-Making Foundations, is a network dedicated to the continued development of foundations in Switzerland. It was established in 2001 by eleven foundations, including the Ernst Göhner Foundation, and stands for transparency, professionalism, and the efficient, impactful use of foundation assets. The current 223 member foundations together with the associated partners of SwissFoundations invest over CHF 1 billion in charitable projects and initiatives every year. As such, SwissFoundations represents over one third of the total annually disbursed by charitable foundations in Switzerland.

In 2005 SwissFoundations published its first governance code for grant-making foundations in Europe; 2021 marked the fourth edition: *Swiss Foundation Code — Principles and Recommendations for the Establishment and Management of Grant-Making Foundations*. In 2023 the code will also be available in Italian. In its Foundation Governance series, SwissFoundations has also published other works on practical foundation work. Since 2009 SwissFoundations has also published the annual Swiss Foundation Report in association with the Center for Philanthropy Studies (CEPS) of the University of Basel and the Center for Foundation Law of the University of Zurich. The report contains current facts and figures and trends from Switzerland and abroad.

SwissFoundations is also a co-initiator of CEPS: With its interdisciplinary activities, the designated purpose of this research and continuing education center for philanthropy and foundations is to foster knowledge about philanthropy. Cofunded by the Ernst Göhner Foundation, the center opened its doors in 2008, and today has the status of an independent university institute.

The Ernst Göhner Foundation is actively engaged in the executive board and the working groups of SwissFoundations and, together with other member foundations, funds various cooperative projects like *stiftungschweiz.ch*, the digital foundation and philanthropy platform, in 2022.

# OUR INVESTMENTS

## ERNST GÖHNER FOUNDATION

Pursuant to the mission statement of its founder, 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 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 provide for stable income so as to enable the continued fulfillment of the Foundation's designated remit. In its asset management and investment activities the Foundation also takes account of sustainability aspects. Today, the Ernst Göhner Foundation group employs a staff of twenty-five.

The largest stake (just above 9%) in terms of value held by the Ernst Göhner Foundation is in DSV A/S, a publicly-listed Danish global transport and logistics service provider. The Foundation acquired this holding in the context of a merger of DSV A/S with Panalpina World Transport (Holding) Ltd. in 2019, in which it had held a 46% stake. In 2021, DSV A/S also acquired Agility Logistics, a division of the Kuwait-based Agility Group. Today, DSV A/S is one of the three largest logistics companies in the world. Panalpina was the last stake of the Ernst Göhner Foundation to be acquired by founder Ernst Göhner in 1969 for inclusion in the Foundation.

The Foundation has holdings in various other companies through its wholly-owned subsidiary EGS Beteiligungen Ltd. Real estate investments are made by Seewarte Holding Ltd., a company also wholly-owned by the Foundation. The members of the board of directors of both subsidiaries consist of foundation board members and external independent board members possessing the requisite expertise, professional experience and network of connections. The subsidiaries are presided over by a member of the foundation board.

The financial investments of the Ernst Göhner Foundation include the following asset classes: money market instruments, bonds, equities, gold, and commodities. The Foundation's strategy with regard to financial investments — in which the primary focus is on the preservation of value — takes into account the uncertainty concerning the prevailing economic climate and performance in financial markets. The financial investments are managed by asset management specialists.

The provision of venture capital for fledgling companies in continuation of the Foundation's charitable work in support of young entrepreneurs is done exclusively by way of investing in collective investment vehicles with a specific focus on Swiss startups. This also includes the Kick Fund — launched by the Ernst Göhner Foundation in tandem with the Gebert Rüb Foundation —, its purpose being to invest in promising Swiss startups early on.



Ocean and air freight of DSV A/S

## EGS BETEILIGUNGEN LTD. THE FOUNDATION'S COMPANIES

A significant portion of the Foundation's assets is invested in listed and privately-held 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 know-how in Switzerland to the extent this is possible.

The Foundation's objective is to further develop its portfolio companies through active support and advice, specifically 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 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.

### ORGANIZATION

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Prof. Dr. Thomas Gutzwiller (chair)  
Daniela Bosshardt  
Dr. Frank Gulich  
Dr. Roger Schmid  
Valentin Vogt  
Dr. Beat Walti

#### OFFICE

Dominik Sauter (managing director)  
Dr. Franz Studer (investment director)  
Urs Eberhard (CFO)  
David Kurmann (investment manager /  
head of portfolio operations)  
Julia Hall (investment manager)  
Patrick Hottinger (investment analyst,  
until 1/2022)  
Roger Niggli (investment analyst,  
from 2/2022)

#### REGISTERED OFFICE / ADDRESS

Dufourstrasse 31, 8008 Zürich

#### AUDITORS

Ernst & Young Ltd.

#### WEBSITE

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

Founded in 2009, 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. With the exception of DSV A/S, all corporate stakes are held by EGSB.

EGSB invests in established medium-sized companies in the industrial and service sector with a proven business model and track record, and strong management. For the most part, it holds minority stakes in these companies, and in some cases it is a majority shareholder. The geographical focus is on Switzerland, yet investments in Germany and Austria exhibiting a suitable relation to 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.

EGSB currently holds significant stakes in the following companies: Bauwerk Group AG, B+G Schweiz AG (Bächler + Güttinger AG), Huber+Suhner Ltd., Paros Beteiligungen AG (ARGUS DATA INSIGHTS Holding AG), Roth Gerüste Gruppe AG, Seaking (International) Inc., Sensirion Holding Ltd., Siegfried Holding Ltd., and SpineArt SA.

In addition to continuing the Foundation's dedicated work re young entrepreneurs, EGSB expanded its investment focus in 2022 and now directly finances promising (mid- and late-stage) startups in Switzerland. Plans have made to obtain a maximum of a 10% stake in such startups without having a seat on their board of directors. The first investment was made in a series D round of financing in Beekeeper Holding Inc., a mobile digital platform for sales force members.

The first company acquired by EGSB was a minority stake in Bauwerk Parkett AG (now: Bauwerk Group AG), a parquet flooring manufacturer, in 2009. Originally founded by Ernst Göhner in 1944, it was sold to Elektrowatt AG along with Ernst Göhner AG, a construction company, and other related companies of the construction sector in 1971 prior to Göhner's death. In 2013 Bauwerk Parkett AG was merged with Norway-based Boen, a parquet flooring manufacturer, followed in 2018 by the acquisition of the majority stake in the Bauwerk Group by EGSB.



Bächler + Güttinger AG — truck from the magenta-colored vehicle fleet and machinery park

To consolidate its presence in North America, the Bauwerk Group acquired Somerset Hardwood Flooring Inc. with its ca. 1,000 full-time workforce in 2022. In so doing, the company now has two new production sites in the U.S., in addition to its production facilities at its Swiss headquarters in St. Margrethen, and in Lithuania and Croatia. Thanks to this acquisition, the Bauwerk Group is now the world's leading supplier of premium parquet flooring. EGSB's stake amounts to 98%.

Other acquisitions since 2011 include a minor stake (currently over 9%) in Huber+Suhner Ltd. (publicly listed), one of the world's leading manufacturers of electrical, electronic and fiber optic components and system solutions for the transmission of data and energy (high/low frequency).

The acquisition of a stake in Sensirion Holding Ltd. took place in 2018 when the company went public. Sensirion Holding Ltd., in which EGSB has a stake of just under 10%, is one of the world's leading suppliers of digital microsensors and systems for the measurement and control of moisture, gas and liquid flow rates. Components of this kind are to be found in the respirator equipment used to aid the breathing of COVID patients.

With the acquisition of a stake in Siegfried Holding Ltd. also in 2018, which has been expanded to over 5% to date, EGSB is an anchor investor of this company, one of the world's leading developers and manufacturers of active ingredients and ready-to-use premix medications for the pharmaceuticals and life science industry. To finance the acquisition of two production sites in Spain, EGSB additionally issued two convertible loans. If the loans were converted, EGSB's stake would increase by 2.2%.

The acquisition of two additional stakes followed in 2019: ARGUS DATA INSIGHTS Holding AG (7.5%), a leading media tracker in Switzerland, Germany and Austria, and Seaking (International) Inc. (25%), the world's leader in cruise catering systems. Since 2020, Geneva-based SpineArt SA (27.5%), a spine implant manufacturer, also features in EGSB's portfolio.

The two stakes acquired in 2021 pertain to Roth Gerüste Gruppe AG (67%), leading Swiss provider of construction and special-purpose scaffolding, and Bern-based horticulture and landscape garden specialist Bächler + Güttinger AG (23.6%). By acquiring two further landscape garden specialists in the Canton of Solothurn and the market leader in western Switzerland in 2022, Bächler + Güttinger AG is now the largest player in this sector in Switzerland. After making these acquisitions, EGSB's share increased to 28.4%. Bächler + Güttinger's unmistakable feature is its magenta-colored vehicle fleet and machinery park.

As of the end of 2022, the Ernst Göhner Foundation and EGSB held the following significant stakes (listed according to the date of acquisition):

<p>DSV A/S</p>  <p>Global Transport and Logistics</p>	<p>Global leading provider of logistics services. Acquired: 1969/2019, stake: &lt;10%; publicly-listed.</p>
<p>Bauwerk Group AG</p> 	<p>Global leading manufacturer of premium parquet floor coverings. Acquired: 2009, stake: 98%; privately-held.</p>
<p>Huber+Suhner Ltd.</p>  <p>Excellence in Connectivity Solutions</p>	<p>Global leading manufacturer of electrical and fiber optic components and system solutions for the transmission of data and energy (high/low frequency). Acquired: 2011, stake: &lt;10%; publicly-listed.</p>
<p>Sensirion Holding Ltd.</p>  <p>THE SENSOR COMPANY</p>	<p>World-leading manufacturer of digital microsensors and systems for the measurement and control of moisture, gas and liquid flow rates. Acquired: 2018, stake: &lt;10%; publicly-listed.</p>
<p>Siegfried Holding Ltd.</p> 	<p>One of the world's largest developers and manufacturers of active chemical ingredients and ready-to-use premix medications for the pharmaceuticals and life science industry. Acquired: 2018, stake: &lt;10%; publicly-listed.</p>
<p>Paros Beteiligungen Ltd. / Argus Data Insights Holding AG</p>  <p>WISSEN ZUM ERFOGLICH</p>	<p>Leading vendor of media intelligence solutions in the DACH countries. Acquired: 2019, stake: 8%; privately-held.</p>
<p>Seaking (International) Inc.</p> 	<p>World's leader in the development, manufacture and installation of catering systems (galley installations, serving counters, bars, etc.) for cruise ships. Acquired: 2019, stake: 25%; privately-held.</p>
<p>SpineArt SA</p> 	<p>Developer and manufacturer of spinal implants. Acquired: 2020, stake: 28%; privately-held.</p>
<p>Roth Gerüste Gruppe AG</p>  <p>wenn Schönes entsteht</p>	<p>Swiss market leader for construction and special-purpose scaffolding. Acquired: 2021, stake: 67%; privately-held.</p>
<p>Bächler+Güttinger AG</p> 	<p>Largest Swiss provider of horticulture, landscape and sports grounds design &amp; construction services. Acquired: 2021, stake: 28%; privately-held.</p>

## 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 portfolio includes roughly 50 investment and development properties located in Switzerland. The name Seewarte dates back to Seewarte AG, a real estate company acquired by Ernst Göhner for the Foundation in 1959 with its two properties Nüscherstrasse 24/26 and Dufourstrasse 29/31 in Zurich; 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 made directly in residential and commercial properties in cities (and their catchment area) providing for favorable economic prospects and a good infrastructure. Management of the properties is done by service specialists.

Providing for ca. 1,300 apartment units, the emphasis of real estate investment lies in residential properties located in the economic areas of Zurich and Zug. Seewarte's real estate holdings also include a number of commercial properties and a shopping mall in Regensdorf. Constructed at the beginning of the 1970s by Ernst Göhner AG, the mall is the Seewarte Group's largest single property. With its 50-odd specialty stores, it attracts over 9,000 visitors every day, making it one of the major shopping centers in the Greater Zurich Area. To mark its grand opening on October 3, 1973, "Zänti", as it is called by the Regensdorf locals, will be celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2023.

Apart from the mall in Regensdorf, a large number of other properties have been renovated over the past couple of years. In its refurbishment projects, Seewarte not only aims to enhance the finish and quality of interior work and standard of amenities, but also maintain rental income at a reasonable level. Sustainability concerns are also taken into account. Example: the refurbished residential buildings of the Im Langacher housing development in Greifensee — a Göhner construction project dating back to 1960s, Minergie-certified.

### ORGANIZATION

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Giacomo Balzarini (chair)  
Mark Furger  
Kurt Ritz  
Dr. Roger Schmid  
Patrick Vogler

#### OFFICE

Thomas Regli (CEO)  
Daniel Hübscher (CFO)  
Markus Dammann (head of construction project management)  
Christian Eberle (construction project management)  
Alexander Stegmann (controller)  
Marco Tanghetti (portfolio/asset management)  
Claudia Uster (accounting)

#### REGISTERED OFFICE / ADDRESS

Artherstrasse 19, 6300 Zug

#### AUDITORS

Ernst & Young Ltd.

#### WEBSITE

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



Im Langacher Göhner housing development in Greifensee



Regensdorf shopping center

Apart from refurbishing existing properties, the focus is also on expanding Seewarte's real estate portfolio. The past couple of years have seen the completion of the two rental apartment complexes at Riedpark in Zug and Obermühleweid in Cham, and the multi-family residence Langwisenstrasse 14a/14b located directly on the Limmat, in Unterengstringen. This was followed in 2020 by acquiring the Gubrist site on Zürcherstrasse in Weiningen (Canton of Zurich) and the Gerichtsplatz square in Uster, and assuming the Stadthof commercial and residential redevelopment project in Arbon. Other development projects include: the Alte Post site in Brugg and the community square in Regensdorf.

After the new apartment building for the Bauherrenstrasse 9/11 residential redevelopment site in Zurich was completed approximately one year ago, other new buildings followed: the Park Schönbühl housing development and the apartment building at Streitholzstrasse 14/16, in addition to the Asylstrasse/Aubrigstrasse property in Thalwil. The Streitholzstrasse project marks the Seewarte Group's first residential construction project in wood.

The new residential and commercial buildings at Obermühleweid (3<sup>rd</sup> stage) in Cham and the Gerichtsplatz square in Uster are also under construction. In the first project the Seewarte Group is supporting the construction of low-cost housing in the Canton of Zug, in so doing contributing to creating affordable homes. In the second project, some of the units will be rented as flexible micro-apartments, which enable the floorplan to be adapted at any time by way of movable walls, thus catering to the changing housing needs of urban dwellers.

After acquiring the commercial properties at Theaterstrasse 14 and Marktgasse 17 in the center of Zurich in 2021, the Seewarte Group acquired a stake in a privately-held real estate corporation, in 2022. This company stands for the same values and pursues the same strategy as the Seewarte Group. Its portfolio largely consists of commercial properties at excellent locations primarily located in the City of Zurich.

At the core of the Seewarte Group's sustainability efforts: reduction of energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, improving the regenerative, resource-preserving circular economy, and promoting natural landscaping (native gardening) and biodiversity. Its goal for CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: achieve climate neutrality by 2040. Approximately one fourth of the Group's properties already achieve this goal today.

The construction projects are being completed in compliance with current standards, e.g. Minergie (registered quality label for new and refurbished low-energy-consumption buildings), SIA Energy Efficiency Path (SIA 2040) of the Swiss Society of Engineers and Architects, and the Swiss Sustainable Building Standard (SNBS). The new Obermühleweid residential complex in Cham, completed in 2017, was the first project of the Seewarte Group to be certified for its holistic landscape design. It received an award from the Nature & Economy Foundation for its exemplary near-natural landscaping.



The award-winning near-natural landscaping of the Obermühleweid apartment complex in Cham

# OUR CHARITABLE WORK

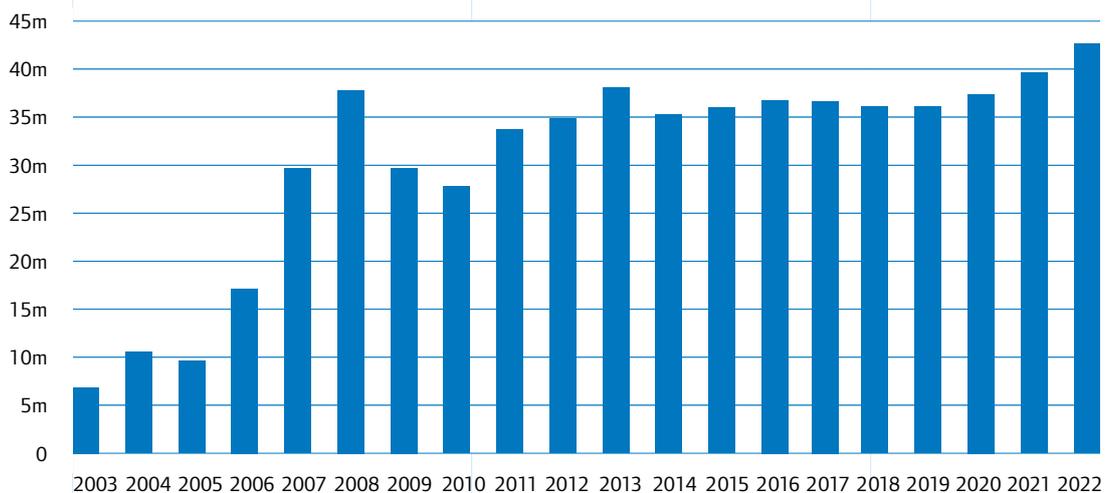
## OVER 1,300 PROJECTS

In 2022, the Ernst Göhner Foundation approved funding totaling CHF 42.7 million for 1,363 projects. The minimum amount of disbursed funding established in the Foundation's charter has thus been exceeded many times over. Since its founding in 1957, the Foundation has supported approximately 35,000 projects with just under CHF 700 million.

Immediately after the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic at the beginning of 2020, the Foundation was prompted to approve CHF 1 million off-budget for emergency relief for people and families whose livelihood was jeopardized as well as for the support of volunteer aid workers in Switzerland and the same amount for aid outside of the country. In Switzerland, this enabled vulnerable people to be helped well into 2022. Outside of Switzerland, the Foundation funded various measures to contain COVID-19 and protect particularly vulnerable people by Doctors Without Borders in Tanzania and Kenya and the International Committee of the Red Cross in Syria, Columbia and Ukraine.

Other projects closely linked to the COVID-19 crisis were approved in an expedited procedure and the funds disbursed. Funds that had been approved or already disbursed before the crisis were generously dealt with by the Foundation in an accommodating manner despite the intermittent bans on gatherings, rejections of applications and adaptations of projects in line with the practice followed by most charitable Swiss foundations and the Swiss government.

**Approved funding 2003–2022 (in CHF)**

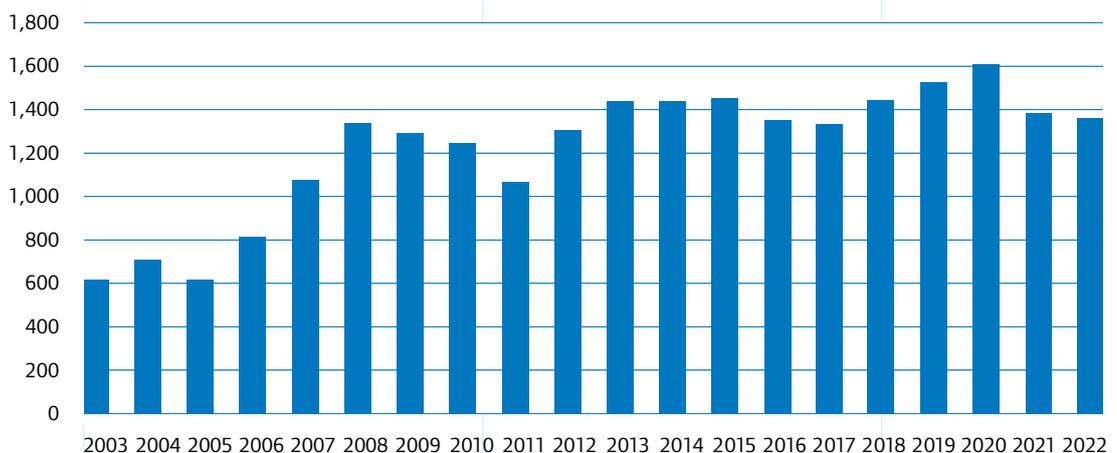


At 2,848, the number of projects for which funding requests were received in 2022 exceeded by 6% the previous-year figure, still affected by the pandemic, virtually achieving its pre-COVID level. The Foundation recorded the highest annual growth rates of 20% in 2006 and 15% in 2007. This development 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. (now: DSV A/S) in 2005 and the significantly higher budget appropriated for this purpose.

During the year under review, 2,647 project proposals were reviewed, with funding being approved for 1,363 of them, making for an approved total of CHF 42.7 million. At 52%, the approval rate is at the same level as in previous years. On its website, the Foundation provides detailed information on how to apply in addition to a link to its request form, along with checklists pertaining to the areas for which funding is approved. Many applicants seek the advance assistance of the Foundation's office in going about submitting their funding request. 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 self-sufficiency, and orientation to societal needs. Support is provided in the form of funding in consultation and collaboration with other funding organizations. 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 2003–2022**

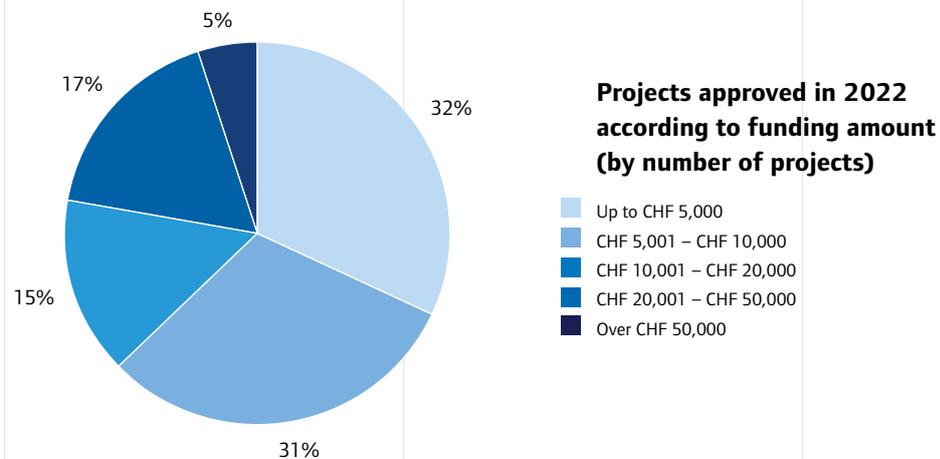


## DIVERSITY AND BREADTH OF PROJECTS AND FUNDING DISBURSED

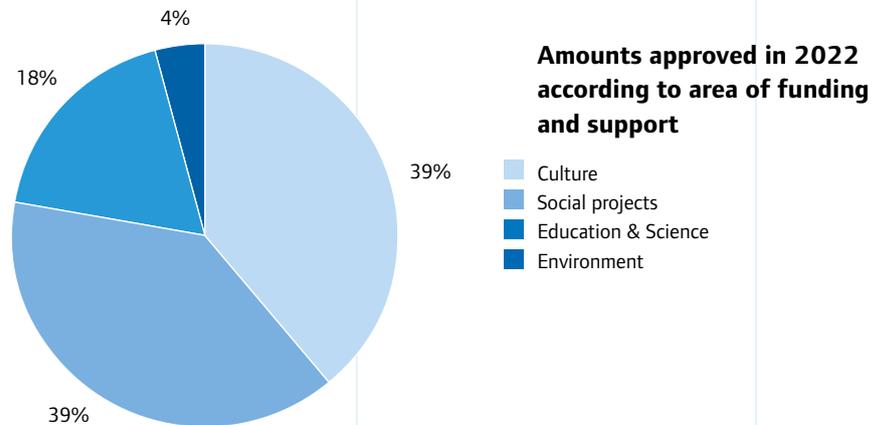
According to the precepts of its charter, the Foundation fosters diversity and breadth as a matter of principle. This is reflected not only in the broad range of various areas supported but also in the varying size of the funding amounts disbursed.

Consequently in the year under review, 32% of all approved projects received funding of up to CHF 5,000, with another 46% receiving between CHF 5,000 and CHF 20,000, and 17% receiving between CHF 20,000 and CHF 50,000, and 5% receiving over CHF 50,000.

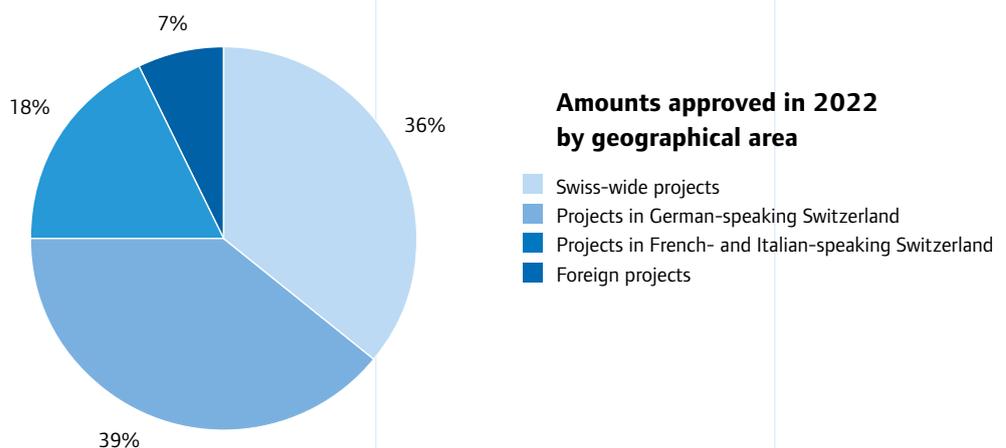
If the total amount awarded to these projects is taken as a yardstick, this results in a different picture: Of all the funding amounts approved, approx. 58% was accounted for by the group of projects receiving over CHF 50,000 and only 5% by the group of small projects receiving CHF 5,000 or less.



In 2022, 78% of the total funding disbursed went to Culture and Social projects (39% each), 18% to Education & Science projects, and 4% to Environment projects. The most significant change compared to the previous year occurred with regard to Culture projects, whose share decreased from 49% to 39%.



The Ernst Göhner Foundation is active throughout Switzerland. However, selected projects abroad with a link to Switzerland or the Foundation's entrepreneurial activities are also taken into consideration. In the past year 93% of all project funding approved was in Switzerland, compared to 7% of funding going toward projects abroad. There was a distinct focus on the German-speaking area of Switzerland (39%); 36% of the projects were linked to Switzerland as a whole. 18% of the total amount of approved funding went to the French- and Italian-speaking parts of Switzerland (13% to western Switzerland and 5% 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 Foundation's most sizable project is the Venture Kick initiative, a pre-seed money fund established in 2007: its designated purpose is to promote the transfer of scientific innovation and foster young entrepreneurs at Swiss institutions of higher learning. Venture Kick has become an integral part of the Kick Foundation established by the Ernst Göhner Foundation and Gebert Rütli Foundation. The goal of the Kick Foundation is to further fortify Switzerland's startup eco-system by clustering various philanthropic initiatives under one roof. To foster young talent at Switzerland's institutions of higher learning and other schools, the Kick Foundation offers the following programs:

Idea Kick helps grade school students to realize their ideas and projects researched by them in national competitions like *Schweizer Jugend forscht* (Swiss Youth in Science) or developed by them in connection with Young Enterprise Switzerland, offering them financing, team building and coaching support and access to businesses.

Talent Kick supports college students on the path to establishing their own company in locating and putting together interdisciplinary teams and in gaining initial experience in bootcamps, coaching sessions and workshops. Spark Kick awards the most successful Talent Kick graduates initial startup financing so they can establish a network, receive valuable input from executives, and validate their ideas in practice with potential customers and investors.

Finally, Venture Kick supports young business people with a "killer" business idea and entrepreneurial flair in developing a business plan, gaining access to investors and financing their company. Venture Kick has progressed remarkably since its launch 15 years ago: with its pool of 200+ experts, it has selected 917 projects from among the ca. 6,000 proposals received by it and disbursed almost CHF 45 million in seed funding. This has resulted in the founding of 718 startups that have succeeded in attracting additional funding from investors of CHF 6.76 billion and creating over 11,000 new jobs. In 2022, 52 of the startups funded by Venture Kick were recipients of the Top 100 Swiss Startup Award.

Executive members 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 executive development opportunity "Management of Growth in Technology Companies" offered at the Henri B. Meier Business School 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 (apart from the various grant programs and Venture Kick preseed money fund to foster fledgling startups):

### **EDUCATION & SCIENCE**

- Construction of the SQUARE Learning Center of the University of St. Gallen
- Climate pioneer fellowships of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology of Zurich
- Construction of the Agora cancer research center in Lausanne
- Construction of the CERN Science Gateway (scientific education and outreach center) in Geneva

### **CULTURE**

- Construction of new buildings housing the Cantonal Museum of Fine Art, the Elysée Museum of Photography, and the Museum of Contemporary Design and Applied Art (mudac) in Lausanne
- New annex building of the Beyeler Foundation in Riehen
- Completion of the *Doppeltür* ("Double Door") encounter center in Lengnau and Endingen

### **ENVIRONMENT**

- Construction of Lewa Savanne, a new enclosure for giraffes, rhinoceroses, zebras, ostriches, and antelopes in the Zurich Zoo
- Refurbishment of the infrastructure of the Papiliorama (tropical garden for butterflies) in Kerzers

### **SOCIAL**

- Construction of a new building of the Zurich children's hospital
- Humanitarian emergency aid for Ukraine by the International Committee of the Red Cross
- Emergency aid for people affected by the COVID-19 pandemic
- Continued development of 147.ch, an advice center for children and adolescents of Pro Juventute Switzerland
- Bornapark new construction project for adults with a sensory or mental health impairment of the Borna Cooperative in Rothrist



Olivia Reinhard at the SwissSkills competition in Bern

# PUT TO THE TEST

by Christian Schmidt (journalist and book author)

**Olivia Reinhard is a winner. Already in 2020 she took home a medal at SwissSkills — the Swiss national vocational championships — with her floral creation. Now she is facing this challenge for the second time.**

On the morning of September 7, 2022, Olivia leaves her home in Biberist earlier than usual. She proceeds to her work at Blumen Baumberger, a florist's shop located in Koppigen. But she won't be devoted to her usual floral creations underneath the giant hipped roof typical of the Emmental valley. Her boss will be taking her to Bern, to the BERNEXPO exhibition halls, to arrive at the meeting place at 7:30. Is she nervous? "Sort of." But not really.

Olivia knows the drill. She took part in SwissSkills for the first time three years ago: young people from 85 vocational trades meet to select the best among them. This year, 15 florists are stepping up to the challenge; they are among the 1,000 young professionals at BERNEXPO today. With this event, SwissSkills is seeking to make the individual vocations known to a wider public and promote the image of vocational training.

The competition kicks off at nine o'clock sharp. Olivia is given the first of four tasks — create a bouquet of field flowers on the topic of "Switzerland". SwissSkills has preselected the flowers and laid them all out. But they don't really float her boat: all flowers are pink and her favorite ones are not among them. She starts off by building a framework of grasses, supplementing it by adding other greenery, and then adds the flowers. The bouquet gets heavier and heavier. In preparing for the competition, Olivia practiced in order to cope with this weight. "When you have been working on a bouquet for an hour and it slips out of your hand at the last moment, then it's back to the drawing board and you have to start all over."

## THE BRONZE MEDAL HANGING ON THE WALL

After just under an hour she's finished, with only a few minutes to go. Satisfied? "It's OK." What doesn't she like? Well, the selection of flowers. She also doesn't really like what she has created otherwise. But it's too late for making any changes.

Olivia took part in SwissSkills three years ago — and went home with the bronze medal. The winning picture of her shows her laughing as she bites into her medal. The award hangs on the wall of her room at home.

Things look up with the second task — a bridal decoration. She opts for an extravagant solution and creates a waterfall of flowers to flow from the arm of the bride. Simply exquisite!

## **SPEED COMPETITION — AN ARRANGEMENT IN 20 MINUTES**

Then the third task. Well, she did herself out of placing among the top contestants, that's for sure. An arrangement is to be created, no higher than 55 inches. Afterwards she can't say why she didn't follow this simple instruction. "I just knew it!" She cut the first flowers too long and the others followed suit. No mystery there.

The lunch break is long over, at which Olivia grabbed a bite to eat with her competitors. "Take it easy, keep calm!" she tells herself. Now for the fourth and final task, a speed competition. She has twenty minutes to arrange the remaining flowers as she likes. Olivia opts for a creation that can be hung on the wall in a wood frame. The base is formed from a wreath made of large leaves whose center she fills with carnations, freesias and hydrangeas.

## **WORLDSKILLS 2024 IN LYON**

Then the big moment: While Olivia clears her work area, the jury examines her compositions. What she expected comes to pass: She doesn't make the final round and comes in twelfth place, meaning no tribute for her in the arena by PostFinance with thousands of guests, music and VIPs.

Frustrated? Nah. Actually, she's relieved. Winning a second medal would have paved the way to the WorldSkills competitions, the gold standard of skills excellence, taking place in Lyon in 2024. Yes, a trip to Lyon would have been appealing, but taking part in the competition would have meant spending untold hours practicing, and her work at the Baumberger garden center would have suffered. Olivia wants to avoid that. But she isn't really interested in competing any way because what she likes most is standing at her counter under the giant hipped roof with her floral creations. She likes it so much that she even does it on her days off.

The Ernst Göhner Foundation has been supporting young Swiss professionals wanting to take part in national and international career development programs since 2010. With SwissSkills the Foundation also supports Swiss vocational skills championships, which attract more than 120,000 visitors every year and are quite successful. In so doing, the Foundation actively promotes Switzerland's "dual vocational training system", so called because students learn on the job while attending classes a couple days a week. This program is unique throughout the world, a success factor of Switzerland's economy.

# A MODERN OLD TOWN

by Christian Schmidt (journalist and book author)

**When the City of Geneva issued a call for proposals for converting the former industrial shed, the Eklekto Percussion Ensemble applied. Successfully. With the new rooms for rehearsals and performances, “a new era” has dawned for Eklekto, says artistic director Alexandre Babel.**

Geneva, Avenue de Châtelaine 43. Today is the dress rehearsal. The earbud provides the beat; as soon as there is a change in instruments, an additional beeping is to be heard. Whether the 15 musicians of the Eklekto Percussion Ensemble play the triangle, plastic cup, glass bottle, metal file or a bicycle bell, they have to know the piece by heart. Also when and in what order they are to proceed from one marking on the floor to the next: there are ca. 70 of them. Which is remarkable because the piece takes a half hour to play. Composed by Australian-born Anthony Pateras, it is directed by Alexandre Babel, the winner of the Swiss Music Prize in 2021.

## FROM INDUSTRIAL SHED TO DISCO

Babel and his percussion ensemble rehearse on a floor cast by the Société genevoise d'instruments de physique (Geneva Physical Instruments Company, SIP) at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The tracks used by workers for rolling the raw materials for machine tools and instruments through the 8600 sq. ft. shed are still visible. A couple of generations later, something happened that frequently happens: economic problems. The location in the middle of town was too expensive. Meaning it had to be abandoned in 1990.

In the years following, a lightly clad audience entertained itself on the floor. Part of the shed was partitioned off and used as a nightclub. “Free admission for women until 1 a.m.” Until the fall of 2019, when Alexandre Babel received a call.

## A HALL OF THEIR OWN FOR REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES

At the other end of the phone — the director of the Geneva Conservatory of Popular Music, Dance and Theater. Alexandre Babel learns that city hall is conducting an ideas contest for repurposing the former SIP production shed on Avenue de Châtelaine. The city wants to revitalize the surrounding area and transform the former disco into a concert and theater venue.

Babel and the members of Eklekto are electrified: the ensemble has been rehearsing in a civil defense shelter for twenty years. To put it mildly: the room is low and the acoustics bad.



Alexandre Babel (front), Eklekto Percussion Ensemble, in the Les 6 Toits venue, in Geneva

Not only Eklekto and the conservatory are looking for better premises, the Geneva Chamber Orchestra and Contrechamps, an ensemble for contemporary and creative music, are as well. The four institutions join together and commission architects Frei & Stefani to develop a concept for repurposing the premises. The task is challenging because the city has imposed a number of conditions: the shed may not be altered, no changes may be made to its structure.

Frei & Stefani come up a compelling solution: they design six different cuboids of varying size made of wood that they place in the shed without joining them permanently with the building. Since these cuboids are soundproof, multiple musicians or stage performers can rehearse at the same time without disturbing one another. The erstwhile nightclub is transformed into a performance venue.

### **THE ONLY FLY IN THE OINTMENT — THE COFFEE MACHINE**

Whoever enters the hall — called “Les 6 Toits” on account of its six-pointed saw-tooth shed roof — feels like they have entered a modern old city: separated by narrow lanes, the stone squares join to form an urban mosaic. Babel believes this solution to be the primary reason why the city awarded Eklekto and the other three institutions the contract and not the competition, which included the operator of a skate park.

The grand opening of Les 6 Toits took place in May of 2022. Since then, a lot has changed for Babel and Eklekto. Not only because the ensemble is now able to rehearse in spaces with the right acoustics and in daylight. “Moving here has also impacted the quality of how we play.” So much so that Bebel speaks of “the dawning of a new era”.

Cooperation with the other three institutions generally works well. Only the coffee machine poses issues. Coffee machine? “Yes.” It used to be that only a few used the machine, now sometimes 40 use it. That causes issues similar to those in dealing with roommates who share a house. So what does that mean? “Who’s turn is it to refill the machine with coffee? And get rid of the grounds? And empty the container for the rinse water?”

The Ernst Göhner Foundation supported the conversion of the former industrial building in recognition of its significance for the Old Town quarter and the quarter’s quality of life. The Foundation provided funding for the interior finishing work — the wood cuboids and infrastructure; the City of Geneva assumed all the costs of refurbishing the building envelope.



Shukri al Rayyan and Ruth Schweikert discussing the manuscript, while Joumana Steif is busy in the kitchen

# SHUKRI AL RAYYAN IS BORN FOR THE THIRD TIME

by Christian Schmidt (journalist and book author)

**Writer Shukri al Rayyan is able to come to terms with his past in Syria in the security offered by Switzerland. The association *Weiter Schreiben* (Continue Writing) has helped him in this process.**

“Where would you like to sit? Here? Is that OK? Or there? Or is this better?” Shukri al Rayyan points to a group of armchairs arranged around a coffee table. The table is located in his apartment in Burgdorf, on it are several small plates with Syrian nibbles. It’s 11 o’clock. Ruth Schweikert can’t decide. “Sitting is extremely important in our line of work,” says al Rayyan, as if he wanted to give her some time. “If you’re not sitting comfortably, you can’t write.” Schweikert nods in complete agreement.

Hot oil sizzles in the background. Eggplant is being transformed into baba ganoush. Joumana Steif, al Rayyan’s significant other, prepares lunch for the visitor. She began early that morning, comments al Rayyan. Syrian hospitality at its finest.

Ruth Schweikert drove up this morning from Zurich to see Shukri al Rayyan — as she does every few weeks. There’s a lot to discuss, things that can’t be delved into during the usual Zoom call or in an email. It’s not possible for al Rayyan to go to Zurich and visit Schweikert for once: he can’t afford the trip. Like al Rayyan, Schweikert is also a writer. She is a recipient of the Solothurn Literature Prize, the Zurich Art Prize, the Swiss Literature Prize and the Schiller Prize awarded by Zürcher Kantonalbank. When the two get together they work on their joint project, based on an idea by al Rayyan. They are still in the process of completing the preliminary work, the outcome is uncertain.

This collaborative relationship was enabled by *Weiter Schreiben* (Continue Writing), an initiative launched in Germany in 2017 and now active in Switzerland since 2020. *Weiter Schreiben* supports authors forced into exile in rebuilding their lives. The goal is not being perceived as refugees but rather as professional writers. Their native tongues have become a type of fifth national language (after German, French, Italian and Romansh).

Shukri al Rayyan was born in Damascus in 1962. An engineer by training, he began writing, first short stories and scripts, then ultimately a novel trilogy. Yet dictator Bashar al-Assad’s and his army of spies left him little room to live and breathe. That’s why al Rayyan calls the outbreak of the revolution in 2011 his second birth. A new era dawned, freedom instead of dictatorship.

Yet everything changed. “My homeland no longer exists, and it never will again,” says al Rayyan. In 2014 he fled to Switzerland with his wife and two children.

The first couple of years were difficult. Used to writing in his native tongue, he had no opportunity here in Switzerland to publish. He couldn't afford to have his pieces translated, and his new home was only willing to foot the costs for a couple of hours of German classes. At 54, he was too old to find work.

"I was in a bad place," says al Rayyan. Until the day he was born for the third time.

A call from *Weiter Schreiben* enabled this transformation. Al Rayyan suddenly saw he was surrounded by colleagues who gave him access to the national literature scene. Everything changed. *Weiter Schreiben* provides advice, enables contacts to others to be established, and organizes appearances and performances. Al Rayyan also has access to a network of German-speaking writers and translators who are committed to aiding their colleagues living in exile. They do it free of charge. Teams are comprised of two authors — like Shukri al Rayyan and Ruth Schweikert — working in tandem. They work together as equal partners.

It is this collaboration with *Weiter Schreiben* and Ruth Schweikert that enables al Rayyan to say, "I can now swim again in my own waters. My life has meaning again."

Schweikert and al Rayyan have been working in concert since the beginning of 2022. "We not only work together, we have also become good friends," adds Schweikert. The goal: a film based on an idea of al Rayyan. Currently, a 70-page treatment exists. Much too long for an exposé, Schweikert informs her writing partner. That's why she has drastically shortened it during the past couple of days. So that the main storyline becomes recognizable, without all the "static". What the film is about is still a secret, but suffice it to say: it takes place in the Zurich Old Town and in the Idlib refugee camp in northern Syria. A child is at the center of the story. Traumatized by reality, the child seeks to intervene in events through his imagination in order to spare his family from being jailed, tortured and killed. The child loves the world of books and seeks out the help of famous writers like William Shakespeare and Jane Austen. The result is to be an amalgam of the stark reality of war, Greek tragedy and child-like fantasy.

New aromas emanate from the kitchen. Joumana Steif has opened the oven door and checked the vegetable au gratin casserole. She, too, is a screenwriter, al Rayyan comments. And has a degree in Arabic Literature and Education. But since she is unable to find work, she concentrates on her talent as a jewelry designer instead.

The choice of armchair has been long decided, the small talk done, and the first cup of ginger tea sipped. "I suggest we begin reviewing the synopsis," says Ruth Schweikert.

She reads it aloud sentence by sentence; al Rayyan listens, cradles his head, and raises his hand from time to time. "I'd like to add something; I think you have oversimplified things. The world has to understand what is happening in Syria." "OK," says Schweikert, continues reading, interrupts

herself a few sentences later and explains why she combined the head of security of the Idlib camp and the commandant into a single figure. Too complicated. Al Rayyan accepts her reasoning. A few minutes later Schweikert stops again to explain why she would like to have the role of a male figure created by al Rayyan played by a woman. Otherwise there is an overabundance of men, and that bothers her. A brief discussion ensues on the matter of which god one of the protagonists curses. Is it the god the protagonist believes in or the god the enemy believes in?

An hour later the review of the synopsis still hasn't been completed, and Joumana calls them to lunch. "I'm really grateful to Ruth for everything," says al Rayyan, as he rises. "She is such a seasoned screenwriter: she has the necessary distance and sense of the big picture. I don't — I just know too much."

In pursuing its goal of integration, the Ernst Göhner Foundation not only supports the *Weiter Schreiben* initiative but also the Looren literary translator residence Translation House and its event series "Texts without Border". Authors and translators alike who live in Switzerland and don't write in one of Switzerland's official languages have a platform for publicly presenting their works for the first time — also in German.



Latif Qasemi and a coworker installing solar panels

# “BAMA PETE THE PLIERS, WOULDYA?”

by Christian Schmidt (journalist and book author)

**One need alleviates another: Refugees Go Solar+ helps refugees find work in the solar energy industry, while helping to slow down climate change at the same time.**

This small glimmer of hope has been in existence since the fall of 2022. And not a minute too soon: in a time in which *Homo sapiens* proves with unprecedented clarity that they are no longer able to do much more than destroy the planet and wage war against one another.

The path to this glimmer of hope leads through the no-nonsense stairwell of a commercial building, then up a telescoping ladder onto the flat roof. Then, all of a sudden, blinding sunlight.

Latif Qasemi walks around the roof looking for something. He has run out of clamps. Latif, 26, chiseled features, short beard, screws up his face. Perhaps a couple are lying around somewhere. Latif needs the clamps to secure the remaining solar panels to the roof. The 250 panels being mounted by Latif and his colleague were hoisted onto the roof a week ago by a crane with a long boom. Work is to be completed today, at least theoretically. Yet without clamps ... Latif reaches for the phone.

## SOLAR ENERGY BOOM

Latif fled to Switzerland from Afghanistan as a teenager. Although Latif was in safety, the long and grueling period of waiting for a ruling on his asylum application began. It wasn't until Latif had received permit F, temporary admission as a refugee, that he was allowed to work. The first series of odd jobs followed, always poorly paid.

Then one day his local social services department contacted him. Would he be interested in a new job? Installing photovoltaic modules? “I didn't have a clue what that was about,” says Latif today. The only thing he understood was that the work was clean. So he signed up.

Behind the search for manpower was the Refugees Go Solar+ program, established in 2019 by the non-profit organizations Solafrica and Root & Branch, funded by parent organization Swissolar, the Swiss Solar Energy Professionals Association. Along with various partners from the private sector and social services, and the regional job centers. The underlying idea: Photovoltaics has experienced a boom in Switzerland for several years now. This boom is currently being ramped up by two factors: a resolution adopted by the Swiss Parliament in the fall of 2022 mandating that new large buildings equip their roofs with solar panels. And, lest we forget, the war in Ukraine, which has precipitated a fear of power shortages. Upshot: The solar industry lacks several thousand skilled workers.

## OPPORTUNITY TO LAND A PERMANENT JOB

Solafrica and Root & Branch recognized this situation and established their own program shortly after. Refugees with the requisite manual skills receive an introductory course on photovoltaics, including the basics of an employee's rights and obligations and a primer on occupational safety and health. This is followed by a two-month placement with a partner company. If the placement goes well, participants have the opportunity to land a permanent job.

Like Latif. He has been working for Sunconnect since 2020. His boss Dieter Baumann says: "I saw early on that Latif is an excellent, quick worker. He is motivated and eager to learn." Baumann perceives the Refugees Go Solar+ idea to be an unqualified success: "I find this to be an outstanding form of integration." Three young men from Afghanistan now work for Sunconnect.

The success of Refugees Go Solar+ has enabled the project to be developed further. The following has been planned: establish an association of solar energy companies with the goal of significantly increasing the number of trainee positions for refugees, while professionalizing training at the same time. So that participants are able to follow up by completing the proposed apprenticeship training program as solar energy engineers.

Back to the roof. The clamps have since arrived from storage. Latif and his colleague Ali Qandola continue work, securing one module after another in the prepared mounts. While doing this, they converse in a mixture of Swiss dialect and their native tongue Dari. "OK — bama pete the pliers, wouldya? Thanks."

The finished roof with the panels demonstrates one thing: Since we have finally understood that we can at least slow down climate collapse, refugees like Latif have a shot at a decent living and a future in security. The one need alleviates the other.

Cognizant and convinced of the necessity of integrating people who are hard to place, the Ernst Göhner Foundation supports Refugees Go Solar+. In addition to Association ÉquiLibre, headquartered in Altdorf and committed to helping people help themselves for sustained integration and a self-determined life without being dependent on welfare. The association is dedicated to helping refugees and enabling access to training and work. The focus is on women and older persons. The goal: job placements or training followed by a permanent job with the Uri-based JLT Company, which produces bags for a pop-up store in Zurich.

# FROM ARTISAN GLAZIER'S TO FOUNDATION

In 1957 Ernst Göhner established the family foundation Aabach Oberrisch, named after his estate Aabach, located 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 amended at the same time. In it founder Göhner explicitly established the entrepreneurial character of his foundation. To this day, the stake in Panalpina World Transport (Holding) Ltd. (now: DSV A/S), acquired by Göhner at the end of the 1960s — and expanded later on by the Foundation —, the other corporate holdings, and the real estate portfolio are the key sources of funding for the grants made by the Ernst Göhner Foundation.

The Foundation's headquarters are housed in the Stadlin Villa in Zug, a listed heritage property constructed in 1895. 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.



Villa Stadlin, headquarters of the Ernst Göhner Foundation in Zug

## THE (COMPANY) FAMILY

The Göhner business was originally founded in 1890 by Gottlieb Göhner, Ernst Göhner's father. After his father's death, Ernst Göhner took over the glazier's shop in Zurich in 1920 and expanded the family-run business to become a significant corporate group, with various members of the family working there. From 1931, Ernst Göhner's childhood friend and brother-in-law, Viktor Kühnlein-Göhner, was one of the inner circle of managers who oversaw the transformation of the then glazing company into the Göhner Group. Kühnlein was general manager of Tür- und Fensterfabrik TUFA AG (a door and window manufacturer located in Altstätten) during the 1940s. And Paul Göhner, Ernst Göhner's nephew, was managing director of Bauwerk AG.

In the Foundation's charter, Ernst Göhner also provided for gifts to over 400 employees of outstanding merit of the companies of the Göhner Group for whom the Göhner-Meritas Foundation, an employer-funded trust, was established in 1972 to supplement their occupational retirement and disability benefits. 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.

Grants to the family members are made under the legal framework provided for family foundations. They are largely based on a lifecycle model providing for defined needs and situations. Support of education and occupational/professional training takes front

and center stage, as do financing of owner-occupied residential property and providing financial aid in difficult times in the beneficiaries' lives. The oldest family members are nephews and the youngest are already great great grand nieces and nephews of founder Ernst Göhner.

Ernst Göhner perceived the year in which his father glazier's shop was established and the assumption by him 30 years later to be a suitable occasion to host a company and family celebration every 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in order to look back on what had been achieved. The Ernst Göhner Foundation resumed this tradition and, in 2022, made up for the Göhner 1890–2020 event that had to be postponed on account of the pandemic, the event taking place in the Zurich Convention Center.



Ernst Göhner at the Göhner Anniversary Celebration 1890–1960 on October 28, 1960, in the Zurich Convention Center

## A GÖHNER BUILDING: THE HALEN HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN HERRENSCHWANDEN

Ernst Göhner came into contact with the young architects of Atelier 5, a Bern architectural collective, via the architect firm of Häfeli/Moser/Steiger in 1956: Atelier 5 was unable to finance its proposed Halen development in Herrenschwanden because the modern concrete row houses of single-family homes were difficult to sell. After brief negotiations, Ernst Göhner became the financing principal and builder-owner.



Halen housing development, in Herrenschwanden, 2022

After brief negotiations, Ernst Göhner became the financing principal and builder-owner.

Built from 1958 to 1961, the development is located a couple of miles north of Bern, in a forest clearing. With this project, Atelier 5 sought to buck the trend of urban sprawl caused by many free-standing single-family homes. The design — 74 residential units and five studios, grouped in five rows perched on a hillside — was inspired by Le Corbusier. The backbone of the development for ca. 220 residents is the traffic-free arcade-lined narrow street that widens in the middle

to a village square. The square contains a number of multi-purpose buildings, a jointly run general store, and a day care center. A swimming pool and sports grounds, both located above the development at the edge of the woods, supplement the complex. Halen's appearance is characterized by park areas on account of it being a designated traffic-free area.

The houses designed by Atelier 5 feature a strict arrangement with interior and exterior spaces flowing into one other. Two types of residential units were created: with a width of 13+ and 16.5 feet on three levels. Since each unit only has two load-bearing concrete outer walls, this housing type can be adapted internally to the individual needs of occupants as they change over time. Each unit can be accessed by a lockup patio on the entry side, the interior being open to the south by virtue of a large window facade. The adjoining gardens are protected from being overlooked by privacy walls. Despite the compact building style, a living space is created that provides for a place to retreat in the private indoor and outdoor area. Today, Halen stands as a milestone of architecture and is protected by virtue of its historic building status.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

- 1890 Founding of the artisan glazier's shop in Zurich by Gottlieb Göhner (1863–1920), the father of Ernst Göhner. 1906: Purchase of the residential building at Hallenstrasse 15/17 with attached glazier's shop in Zurich.
- 1900 Ernst Göhner born as the second youngest of six children on February 28, 1900.
- 1920 After his father's death, Göhner takes over the shop with a workforce of six. 1935: The sole proprietorship is transformed into Ernst Göhner AG.
- 1925/32 Acquisition of TUFA AG (Türen- und Fensterfabrik AG), today: EgoKiefer AG (member of the Arbonia-Forster Group since 2004; sale of window business to the Danish DOVISTA Group in 2021).
- 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 way of 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 1951: significant stake in Auto Union GmbH, sold to Daimler-Benz AG (Stuttgart, Germany) in 1958.
- 1944 Founding of Bauwerk AG, today: Bauwerk Group AG (parquet flooring).
- 1950 Founding of Reederei Zürich AG with the Federation of Migros Cooperatives. Sale of stake (50%) some years later to Migros.
- 1962 Acquisition of interest in Alpina-Reederei AG (maritime shipping) in concert with Oerlikon-Bührle & Co. (25% stake each). Stakes later increased to 49% each. 1988: sale to German Harmstorf Shipping Group.
- Beginning of the 1960s Acquisition of German companies Bartels-Werke GmbH (wood working) and Ibus-Werke GmbH (manufacture of wood panels).
- 1969 Acquisition of 40% stake in Panalpina World Transport (Holding) Ltd., acquired by DSV A/S in 2019.
- 1971 Sale of Ernst Göhner AG, Ego Werke AG, Bauwerk AG, Bartels-Werke GmbH and Ibus-Werke GmbH to Elektrowatt AG.

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Marc **TRIBELHORN**: *“Blick zurück: Die Marxisten von der ETH. Eine Gruppe Architekten sorgt 1972 mit einem klassenkämpferischen Pamphlet über die Bauwirtschaft für einen Skandal”* (“Looking Back: The Marxists of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH). A Group of Architects Makes for a Scandal in 1972 by Penning a Pamphlet on the Class Struggle in the Construction Industry”), in: *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, Dec 10, 2018, p. 11, and Marius **HUBER**: *“Die Mutter aller Zürcher Wohnbaudebatten”* (“The Mother of All Zurich Residential Construction Debates”), in: *Tages-Anzeiger*, Dec 12, 2018, p. 18
- Andreas **FAESSLER**: *“Des Mäzens Grab und sein Pendant”* (“The Patron’s Gravesite and its Counterpart”), in: *Zuger Zeitung*, Dec 13, 2017, p. 28
- Dorothee **VÖGELI**: *“Man grüsst sich wieder. Das Regensdorfer Problemquartier Sonnhalde erwacht zu neuem Leben”* [“People are greeting each another again. The problem Regensdorf district Sonnhalde is coming back to life”], und 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*, 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), Meilen, Switzerland, 1989/2000

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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

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