



ERNST GÖHNER FOUNDATION
REPORT 2023

ERNST GÖHNER FOUNDATION

REPORT 2023

CONTACT INFORMATION

Ernst Göhner Foundation
Artherstrasse 19
CH-6300 Zug, Switzerland

Phone: +41 41 729 66 33 (office)

www.ernst-goehner-stiftung.ch

CONTENTS

PREFACE AND A FEW FACTS & FIGURES	4
OUR INVESTMENT ORGANIZATIONS	6
Ernst Göhner Foundation	6
EGS Beteiligungen Ltd.	9
Seewarte Holding Ltd.	15
OUR CHARITABLE WORK	18
Almost 1,700 projects supported	18
Our Most Significant Projects	22
“It Mustn’t Smell”	24
“Seek!”	27
A Monster in Einsiedeln	30
Observing the Heavens and the Earth	34
FROM ARTISAN GLAZIER’S TO FOUNDATION	37
BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES	39

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 ca. 14,000 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 ca. 500 family foundations.

The Canton of Zurich has by far the most charitable foundations, with a total of 2,225 foundations registered there as of the end of 2022, coming in in first place before the Cantons of Bern (1,409), Vaud (1,374) and Geneva (1,333). The highest growth rates are shown 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 achieved in the Canton of Zug is the result of the many foundations established during the past couple of years in the wake of blockchain technology. Estimates of the total capital invested in charitable foundations in Switzerland are put at ca. CHF 140 billion, with annual funding disbursements estimated at CHF 2.5 billion to CHF 3 billion.

The designated purposes of the foundations recently established in Switzerland have shown a remarkable development, with topical societal issues like climate change and sustainability in particular taking front and center stage in many cases. It is also notable that, according to the latest survey, the share of women foundation board members has increased to 32%, with women accounting for 38% at the executive board level.

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 2023 of CHF 51.4 million, supporting a total of 1,697 projects, and thus making for an aggregate total of CHF 750 million going to over 36,500 projects since its founding. The Foundation also fulfills the remit of a family foundation, and currently has 29 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, Medical Engineering, and IT

AREAS OF FUNDING & SUPPORT

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

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

Regulatory Board for Occupational Pension Plans and Foundations of Central Switzerland

FOUNDATION BODIES

FOUNDATION BOARD

Dr. Beat Walti (chair)
Dr. Franziska Widmer Müller
(vice-chair, until 3/2023)
Dr. Roger Schmid (vice-chair, from 4/2023)
Giacomo Balzarini
Prof. Dr. Christoph Franz
Mark Furger
Prof. Dr. Thomas Gutzwiller
Prof. Dr. Michael Hengartner (from 4/2023)
Dr. Monika Krüsi
Isabel Kühnlein Specker
(representative of family beneficiaries)

COMMITTEES

Finance Committee

Chair: Dr. Beat Walti

DSV Committee

Chair: Dr. Monika Krüsi

Organization and HR Committee

Chair: Prof. Dr. Thomas Gutzwiller

Audit & Risk Committee

Chair: Mark Furger

Donations

Chair: Dr. Franziska Widmer Müller (until 3/2023)
and Prof. Dr. Christoph Franz (from 4/2023)

Family Beneficiaries

Chair: Isabel Kühnlein Specker

OFFICE

Dr. Roger Schmid (CEO)
Dr. Suzanne Avedik (special projects)
Michaela Gasser (Environment & Social projects)
Sonja Hägeli (Theater, Dance, Literature,
Heritage Conservation & Cultural History)
Elvira Hammer (office)
Patricia Kopp (Education & Science)
Martha Müller (office)
Natalie Rossi (Social projects & Film)
Katharina Schillen (Music)
Dr. Corinne Linda Sotzek (Visual Arts)
Lucia Tellenbach (office)
Tanja Vogel (interdisciplinary cultural projects
and family beneficiaries)

REGISTERED OFFICE / ADDRESS / WEBSITE

Artherstrasse 19, 6300 Zug
www.ernst-goehner-stiftung.ch

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: *Swiss Foundation Code — Principles and Recommendations for the Establishment and Management of Grant-Making Foundations*. 2021 marked the fourth edition. 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.

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.

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 significantly improve basic knowledge of and the transfer of 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.

OUR INVESTMENT ORGANIZATIONS

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. 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.

The largest stake (above 8%) 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 a merger of DSV A/S with Panalpina World Transport (Holding) Ltd. in 2019, in which it had held a 46% stake. 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.



Ocean freight and overland freight forwarding of DSV A/S

The Foundation has holdings in various other companies via 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 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 various asset management specialists on a retainer basis. The provision of venture capital for fledgling companies is done exclusively by way of collective investment vehicles. This also includes Kick Fund — launched by the Ernst Göhner Foundation in tandem with the Gebert Rüt Foundation —: Its purpose is to invest in promising Swiss startups early on.

After serving for the last 28 years as CEO, Roger Schmid will be stepping down and passing the baton for operative management of the Ernst Göhner Foundation as of the end of March 2024 since he has reached retirement age. The foundation board has appointed Samuel Bon as the new CEO. As of mid-2024, Daniel Hübscher will be joining the executive board as CFO. Daniel Hübscher has worked for Seewarte AG since 2011, and has been its CFO since 2017 and also responsible for the Foundation's accounting.



Samuel Bon, designated CEO of the Ernst Göhner Foundation

Samuel Bon introduces himself as follows:

Switzerland's success model is founded primarily on the individual's sense of responsibility for the good of the community that forms the DNA of our grassroots democracy. Our prosperity has been shaped by visionary entrepreneurs and fellow countrymen like Ernst Göhner. Prosperity is much more than the creation of economic value; it is also a state of social harmony, embodying cultural diversity, stability, integration and solidarity.

In view of the globalization of the economy and a trend towards individualization and self-realization, I have observed a certain alienation between civil society, the political sphere and the business world. This poses a

threat to our notion of community. Strengthening Switzerland's work place, securing existing jobs and creating new ones, fostering social cohesion and a vibrant culture, and investing in sustainable solutions for our environment — all these things have become even more important. In keeping with the vision and foresight of its founder, the Ernst Göhner Foundation makes lasting contributions benefiting the generations of tomorrow.

I am inspired by entrepreneurship and the fostering of good causes. The Ernst Göhner Foundation possesses the institutional strength to take the lead on issues and to generate sustainable, broad-based value creation, and to set pioneering trends not only with its subsidiaries, but also through its philanthropic activities.

I worked in international development for over twenty years. In various positions I learned the tools needed to manage complex organizations. I am used to an interdisciplinary approach to work, and to framing and structuring it, and being the integrative force in an organization. During my sojourn in conflict areas I experienced first hand what a privilege it is to be able to grow up and live in a country like Switzerland. That fills me with gratitude, a sense of duty, and also a certain humility.

It is a great pleasure and privilege for me as the CEO to be able to preserve the Foundation's work in concert with the foundation board, the staff and our partner organizations, and to continue shaping it for future generations. I also look forward to personally meeting the founder's extended family.

I would like to extend a word of thanks to the foundation board for the trust it has placed in me and to Roger Schmid for his invaluable support. Roger Schmid is leaving me a superbly positioned and established organization. He will be an extremely tough act to follow. We all will be concerned with preserving the Foundation's continuity going forward.

PROFILE

ORIGINS

1968 Born in Zurich
At present Resident in Winterthur

EDUCATION & TRAINING

1989 Completion of college-prep high school in Zurich with a focus on science and mathematics; exchange student at high school in Hailey, Idaho (USA)

1998 Completion of MSc degree in Theology and Social ethics in Montpellier (France) and Zurich

2010 Completion of MBA at International Institute for Management Development (IMD), Lausanne

PROFESSIONAL CAREER

1999 Delegate of the ICRC

2011 CEO of Swisscontact

2021 Founder/general manager of Join-International GmbH

PERSONAL DETAILS

Married
Likes getting together with friends
Loves outings in the mountains
Is interested in photography

IS COMMITTED TO

Animal welfare and training

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 (until 3/2023)
Dr. Monika Krüsi (from 4/2023)
Dr. Roger Schmid (until 3/2023)
Valentin Vogt
Dr. Beat Walti

OFFICE

Dominik Sauter (CEO)
Dr. Franz Studer (executive board member)
David Kurmann (executive board member)
Felipe Diehm (investment manager, from 7/2023)
Urs Eberhard (CFO)
Julia Hall (investment manager)
Roger Niggli (investment analyst)

REGISTERED OFFICE / ADDRESS / WEBSITE

Dufourstrasse 31, 8008 Zurich
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 a few cases it is a majority shareholder. The geographical focus is on Switzerland, yet investments in Germany and Austria are also examined, assuming they exhibit a suitable relation to Switzerland. 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 first company acquired by EGSB was a minority stake in Bauwerk Parkett AG (now: Bauwerk Group AG), a parquet flooring manufacturer, in 2009. In 2013 Bauwerk Parkett AG was merged with the Norway-based Boen SA, a parquet flooring manufacturer, followed in 2018 by the acquisition of a majority stake in the Bauwerk Group by EGSB. To consolidate EGSB's presence in North America, EGSB acquired Somerset Hardwood Flooring Inc. in 2022. The group has production facilities at its Swiss headquarters in St. Margrethen, in Lithuania and Croatia, in addition to two production sites in Kentucky and Tennessee. The Bauwerk Group is the world's leading supplier of premium parquet flooring. EGSB's stake amounts to 98%.

PARQUET FLOORING MADE IN SWITZERLAND

Bauwerk parquet flooring is closely linked to founder Ernst Göhner, who produced the novel, mosaic wood flooring developed by master carpenter Paul Hofer already from 1936: This came to be known in Switzerland primarily as *"Klötzli-Parkett"*, or "building block parquet". Upon being founded by Ernst Göhner in 1944, Bauwerk Parkett AG moved the manufacture of this Swiss parquet classic to its production sheds. After Holka AG, another Ernst Göhner company specializing in the manufacture of wood bodies for the automotive industry, was closed down, Bauwerk took over its headquarters in St. Margrethen. Commissioning of the first parquet production lines — engineered in-house — took place in 1949. Shortly before his death in 1971, Ernst Göhner sold the company along with Ernst Göhner AG and other related companies of the construction sector to Elektrowatt AG.

Other acquisitions since 2011 include a minor stake (currently over 9%) in Huber+Suhner Ltd. (publicly listed), one of the world's leading developers and manufacturers of electrical, electronic and fiber optic components and system solutions for the transmission of data and energy (high/low frequency). The networking event of EGSB, to which the members of the board of directors and executive management of the investee companies are invited, took place in 2023 at Huber+Suhner Ltd. in Pfäffikon (ZH).

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. In the same year, EGSB also acquired a stake in Siegfried Holding Ltd., 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. With its stake of over 5%, EGSB is an anchor investor.

The acquisition of two additional stakes followed in 2019: ARGUS DATA INSIGHTS Holding AG (7.5%), a leading media tracker in Germany, Austria and Switzerland (DACH region), and Seaking (International) Inc. (25%), the world's leader in cruise catering systems. Since 2020, Geneva-based SpineArt SA (26.5%), a spine implant developer and manufacturer, also features in EGSB's portfolio, as do Roth Gerüste Gruppe AG (67%), the leading Swiss provider of construction and special-purpose scaffolding, and Bern-based horticulture and landscape garden specialist Bächler + Güttinger AG, the latter since 2021. By virtue of its acquisition of other landscape garden specialists, Bächler + Güttinger AG is Switzerland's market leader in this sector. EGSB's stake in this company, whose unmistakable hallmark is its magenta-colored vehicle and machinery park, is 36.4%.

The last two years saw the establishment of a stake in listed companies Comet Holding Ltd. (components, systems and services for the semiconductor industry) and Interroll Holding Ltd. (material handling and internal logistics solutions) of ca. 3% each and the acquisition of a qualified minority stake of 40% in DV Bern Holding AG (contract developer of software solutions and provider of IT services). The 65% stake in SERTO Group AG (developer and manufacturer of tube union systems) — whose acquisition was agreed in 2023 — was completed in 2024.

In expanding and continuing the Foundation's dedicated work re young entrepreneurs, EGSB now also directly finances (up to a maximum stake of 10%) promising late-stage startups in Switzerland. Examples include Beekeeper Holding Inc. (a mobile digital platform for sales force members), Bcomp Ltd. (manufacturer of flax-based reinforcement fabrics), and Lunaphore Technologies SA (spatial biology laboratory

diagnostics). Having been acquired by SEC-listed Bio-Techne Corp., a leading international life sciences company, Lunaphore Technologies has since been sold.



As in the case of the Ernst Göhner Foundation, there will also be a change in the operative management of EGSB as of the end of March 2024. Dominik Sauter, EGSB's CEO since its founding 15 years ago, will be turning over the position of the executive board chair to Franz Studer, who has been with EGSB since 2012. Dominik Sauter will remain available to the company on a retainer basis for specific tasks.



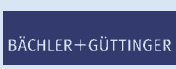







The EGSB team (from left to right): Felipe Diehm, Urs Eberhard, Roger Niggli, Julia Hall, Dominik Sauter, Dr. Franz Studer and David Kurmann

As of the end of 2023, the Ernst Göhner Foundation and EGSB held the following stakes (listed according to the date of acquisition):

ESTABLISHED COMPANIES

<p>DSV A/S</p> 	<p>World's third largest logistics provider (freight forwarder). Acquired: 1969 / 2019, stake: <10%; publicly listed.</p>
<p>Bauwerk Group AG</p> 	<p>World's leading manufacturer of premium parquet flooring. Acquired: 2009, stake: 98%; privately held.</p>
<p>Huber+Suhner Ltd.</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: <10%; publicly listed.</p>
<p>Sensirion Holding Ltd.</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: <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: >5%; publicly listed.</p>
<p>Paros Beteiligungen AG / Argus Data Insights Holding AG</p> 	<p>Leading provider of media tracking and analytics services in the DACH region. Acquired: 2019, stake: 7.5%; 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: 26.5%; privately held.</p>	
<p>Roth Gerüste Gruppe AG</p> 	<p>Swiss market leader for (special-purpose) construction scaffolding. Acquired: 2021, stake: 67%; privately held.</p>	
<p>B+G Schweiz AG / Bächler+Güttinger AG</p> 	<p>Largest Swiss provider of horticulture, landscape and sports grounds design & construction services. Acquired: 2021, stake: 28%; privately held.</p>	
<p>Comet Holding Ltd.</p> 	<p>Components, systems and services for the semiconductor industry (X-ray and RF power technologies and systems). Acquired: 2022, stake: 3%; publicly listed.</p>	
<p>Interroll Holding Ltd.</p> 	<p>Material handling and internal logistics solutions. Acquired: 2022, stake: 3%; publicly listed.</p>	
<p>DV Bern Holding AG / DV Bern AG</p> 	<p>Contract developer of software solutions and provider of IT services. Acquired: 2023, stake: 40%; privately held.</p>	
<p>STARTUPS</p>		
<p>Beekeeper Holding Inc.</p> 	<p>Mobile digital platform for sales force members. Acquired: 2022, stake: 3.5%; privately held.</p>	
<p>Bcomp AG</p> 	<p>Developer and manufacturer of flax-based reinforcement fabrics. Acquired: 2023, stake: 9.8%; 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 43 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.

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 / WEBSITE

Artherstrasse 19, 6300 Zug
www.seewarte.ch

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 10,000 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, celebrated its 50th anniversary with the locals in 2023.

Apart from the mall in Regensdorf, a large number of other properties have been renovated in the last 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.



Celebration marking the 50th anniversary of the Regensdorf shopping center

At the core of the Seewarte Group's sustainability efforts: reduction of energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, improving the regenerative, resource-preserving closed-loop economy, and promoting natural landscaping (native gardening) and biodiversity. Its goal for CO₂ 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.

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

Unterenstringen. The newly constructed buildings in Zurich of the housing development at Bauherrenstrasse 9/11, the residential redevelopment at Park Schönbühl, and the residential building at Streitholzstrasse 14/16 have been completed. The Seewarte Group also added the Theaterstrasse 14 and Marktgasse 17 properties located in the center of Zurich to its portfolio and acquired a stake in a privately-owned real estate company that 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 situated in the City of Zurich.

New construction is currently in progress for the Asylstrasse/Aubrigstrasse residential development constructed in Thalwil in the 1960s; new residential and commercial buildings at Obermühleweid (3rd stage) in Cham and the Gerichtsplatz square in Uster are also under construction. With the project in Cham, the Seewarte Group is supporting the construction of low-cost housing in the Canton of Zug and contributing to creating affordable homes. In the new construction project in Uster, 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. Other projects are on the drawing board for the properties at Dufourstrasse 29/31 and Hallenstrasse 15 in Zurich, the Stadthof commercial and residential redevelopment project in Arbon, the Gubrist site on Zürcherstrasse in Weiningen, and construction site E2 in Effretikon.

PREFAB CONSTRUCTION

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

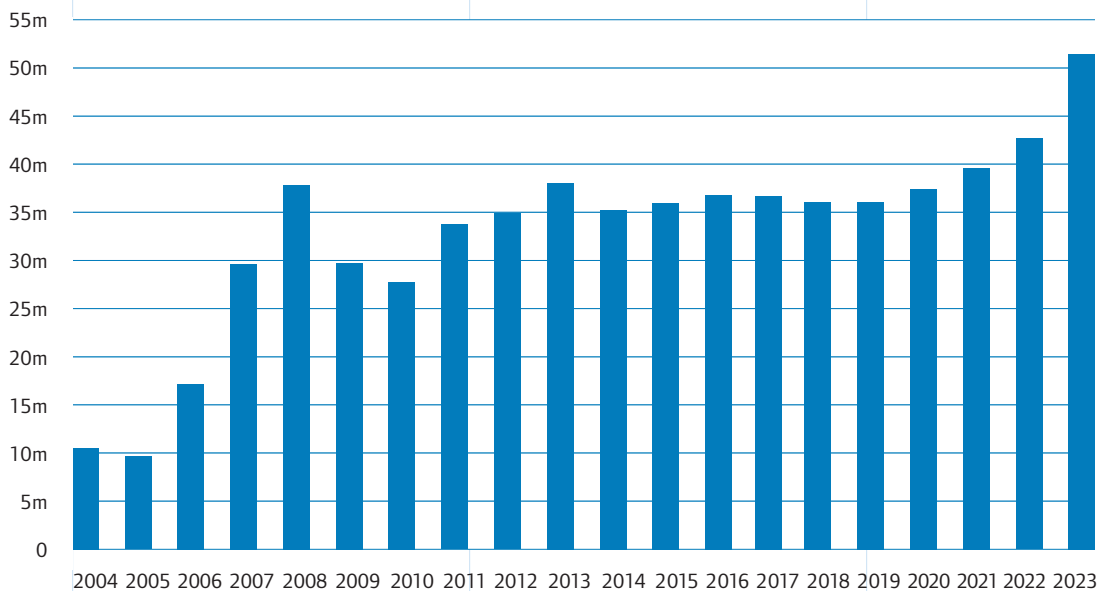
After the Second World War, Ernst Göhner co-developed with architect Gottfried Schindler (1904–1990) the SGS or Schindler Göhner System, in which the individual components are prefabricated and then assembled at the construction site. This meant that construction could be completed faster, more efficiently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

OUR CHARITABLE WORK

ALMOST 1,700 PROJECTS SUPPORTED

In 2023, the Ernst Göhner Foundation approved funding totaling CHF 51.4 million for 1,697 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 over 36,500 projects with approximately CHF 750 million. For 2024, the foundation board has appropriated a budget of CHF 55 million.

Approved funding 2004–2023 (in CHF)

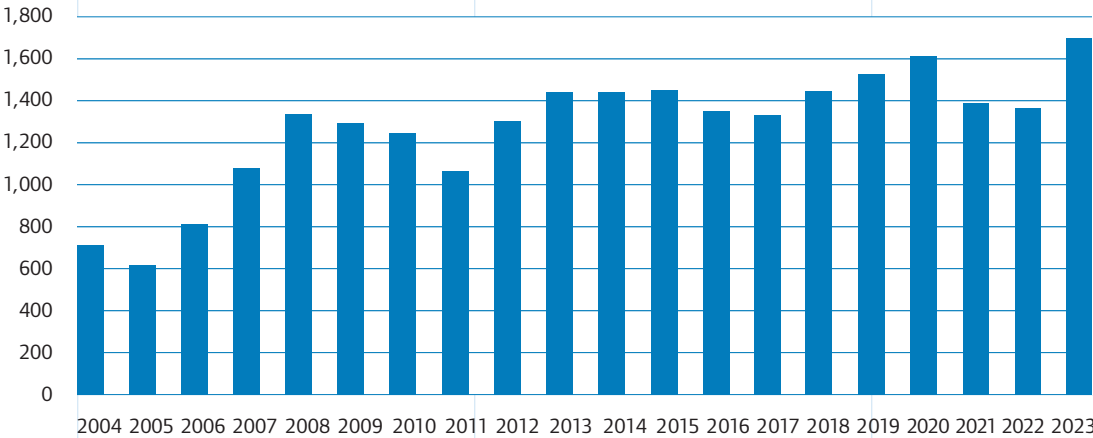


In 2020 and 2021 — heavily affected by the Covid-19 pandemic —, the number of applications received declined by 10% and 2% respectively compared to the previous year, whereas the number of applications received in 2022 increased by 6%, and by 13% to 3,228 in 2023. The Foundation recorded the highest 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 increased budget appropriated for this purpose.

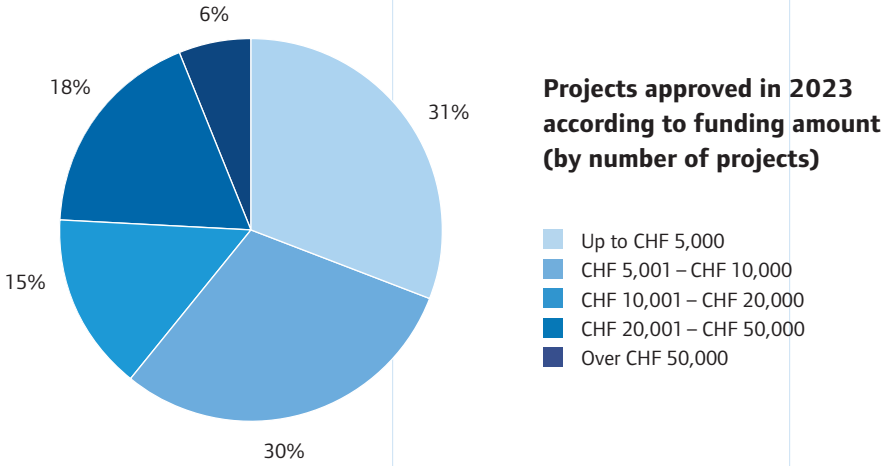
During the year under review, 2,993 project proposals were reviewed, with funding being approved for 1,697 of them, making for an approved total of CHF 51.4 million. At 57%, the approval rate is slightly higher compared to previous years. On its website, the Foundation provides detailed information on 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 also seek the advance assistance of the Foundation’s office in going about submitting their funding proposal. These actions have contributed to a significant increase in the quality of the applications received — also a result of the professionalism of the industry in general — while reducing 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 coordination 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.

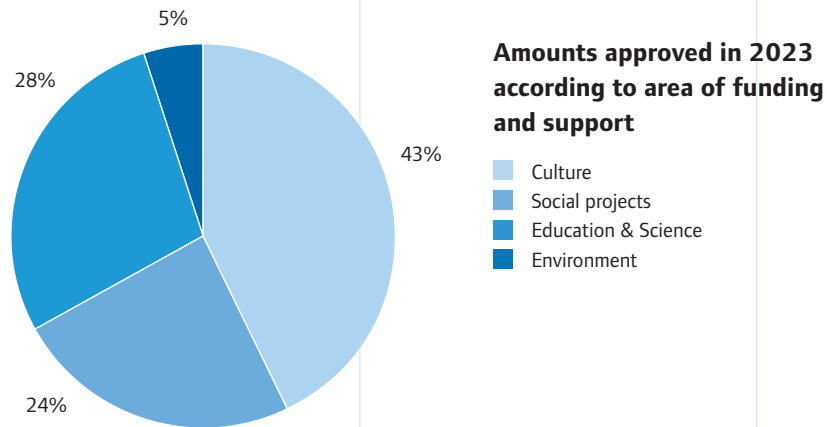
Approved projects 2004–2023



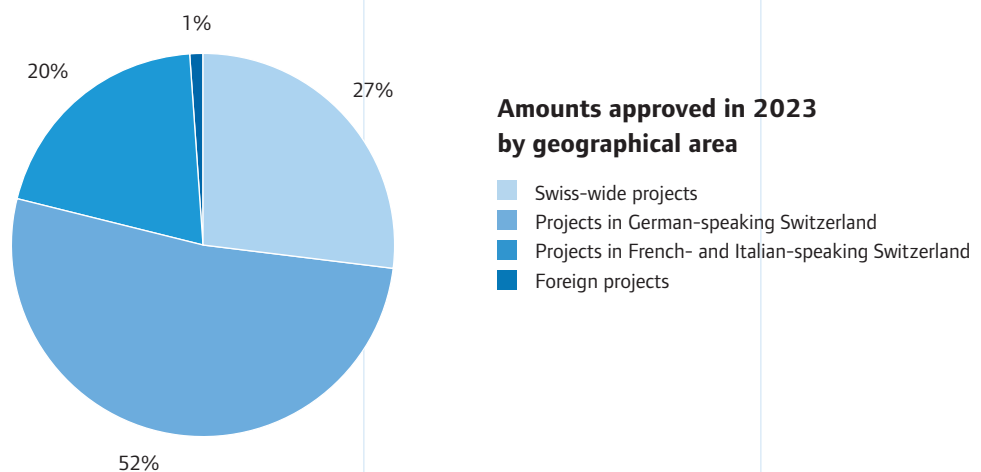
According to the precepts of its charter, the Foundation fosters diversity and breadth as a matter of principle. This is reflected not only in the broad range of various areas supported but also in the varying size of the funding amounts disbursed. Consequently in the year under review, 31% of all approved projects received funding of up to CHF 5,000, with another 45% receiving between CHF 5,000 and CHF 20,000, and 18% 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, approx. 56% was accounted for by the group of projects receiving over CHF 50,000 and only 4% by the group of small projects receiving CHF 5,000 or less.



In 2023, 43% of the total funding disbursed went to Culture projects, with 28% going to Education & Science projects, 24% to Social projects, and 5% to Environment projects.



The Ernst Göhner Foundation is active throughout Switzerland. However, selected projects outside of Switzerland with an appropriate link to Switzerland or the Foundation's entrepreneurial activities are also taken into consideration. In the past year 99% of all project funding approved was in Switzerland, compared to 1% of funding going toward projects outside of Switzerland. There was a distinct focus on the German-speaking area of Switzerland (52%); 27% of the projects were linked to Switzerland as a whole. 20% of the total amount of approved funding went to the French- and Italian-speaking parts of Switzerland (14% to western Switzerland and 6% 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. Today, Venture Kick is a component of the Kick Foundation, whose designated purpose is fortifying the Swiss startup ecosystem by way of various philanthropic initiatives. 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. *Talent Kick* supports college students on their path to establishing their own company. *Spark Kick* provides startup financing to the most successful graduates.

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. Apart from the Ernst Göhner Foundation, the following foundations, companies and private individuals are involved in this program by providing financing and ideas: the Gebert Rüt Foundation, Hauser Foundation, Pro Techno Foundation, Alcea Foundation, ESA BIC Switzerland, Swisscom, André Hoffmann, Hansjörg Wyss and Martin Haefner.

To date Venture Kick has received approximately 6,900 proposals, of which over 1,000 projects have been selected and CHF 52 million seed funding has been disbursed. These projects have resulted in the founding of almost 800 startups that have succeeded in attracting additional funding of CHF 8 billion and creating over 13,000 new full-time jobs. In 2023, 64 of the startups funded by Venture Kick were recipients of the Top 100 Swiss Startup Award.

In addition, the Kick Fund — brought to life by the Gebert Rüt Foundation and the Ernst Göhner Foundation — enables startups that have won the Venture Kick competition to acquire additional funding for the early-stage phase. During the first closing that took place in 2023, various Swiss investors contributed a total of CHF 71 million.

Executive members of startups that have successfully competed at Venture Kick can 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 couple of years (apart from various grant programs and the Venture Kick pre-seed money fund to foster fledgling startups):

EDUCATION & SCIENCE

- Construction of the SQUARE Learning Center of the University of St. Gallen
- Construction of the Center for Students & Entrepreneurs at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology of Zurich
- Refurbishment of the Limmat Building for the Impact Hub in Zurich
- Climate Pioneer Fellowships of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology of Zurich and Entrepreneur Fellowships for a Sustainable Society of the Innovation Hub of the University of Zurich

CULTURE

- Construction of new buildings housing the Cantonal Museum of Fine Art (MCBA), the Elysée Museum of Photography, and the Museum of Contemporary Design and Applied Art (mudac) in Lausanne
- Annex building of the Beyeler Foundation in Riehen
- Completion of the *Doppeltür* ("Double Door") encounter center in Lengnau and Endingen
- Refurbishment and expansion of the Fashion and Textile Museum of St. Gallen

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
- Refurbishment of the center of competence for St. Bernards of the Barry Foundation for St. Bernard Dogs in Martigny

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
- Continued development of 147.ch, an advice and aid 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



Mirja Fiorentino at a workshop with kids

“IT MUSTN’T SMELL”

by Christian Schmidt (journalist and book author)

OFFCUT Zurich repurposes what the consumer society condemns as useless trash. Like the load of discarded exhibition material recently delivered by four semitrailers. “Everything was snapped up,” says Silvan Kuhl, cofounder of OFFCUT.

The noisy evening rush hour traffic whizzes past Badenerstrasse 757 in Zurich, but this doesn’t faze the gang at OFFCUT. Sitting around a wood table at the curb, they are adept at spreading their own “beer o’clock” mood. It is anything but quitting time at OFFCUT, in the process of kicking off its fifth anniversary celebration. Originally founded in Basel, OFFCUT has been present in Zurich since 2018. As its name implies, its calling is to save all material heading for the scrapheap in our overflowing throwaway society, material that otherwise ends up in a shredder or an incinerator.

“So how large is your sales area?” This question is put to Mirja Fiorentino, one of OFFCUT Zurich’s founders. “Over 4,000 sq. ft.,” she shouts above the din and adds: “Actually we could use twice the space.” Mirja, a set designer by training, says that as if she herself were surprised. Are we really so stupid that we declare large quantities of high-quality material to be useless although the quality of that material hasn’t changed one iota? She purses her lips, “That’s definitely the case.” This attitude really bothered her in her previous work as a production designer. “You build a set, then there are twenty or perhaps only five performances, and when the final curtain falls everything ends up on a garbage heap.”

When Mirja and her merry colleagues began their escapades as Robin Hoods of the consumer world five years ago they first had to find a new location. It wasn’t easy but they got lucky. The SBB leased them premises over 3,000 sq. ft. in size on a temporary basis at an acceptable rate. The volunteer team more or less toiled around the clock and were surprised to see how quickly their idea caught on: Not only were the rooms virtually immediately crammed full from top to bottom, customers came and shelled out for the stuff, so much so that the gang could soon pay themselves an hourly wage of CHF 10.00.

OFFCUT has since been relocated to Badenerstrasse. The rooms are almost twice the size and the gang’s hourly wage has increased to CHF 26.00.

We go inside. The concentrated opposite of a Jelmoli, Jumbo or Apple Store begins behind an inconspicuous double door. No sophisticated lighting, no stylish packaging, no new airiness with lounge chairs. Hard facts are to be found here: row after row under glaring neon lights, crammed full with everything that has fallen through the cracks of capitalism. Virtually anything is accepted as long as it satisfies one basic requirement: “It mustn’t smell.”

“Hi guys,” says Silvan Kuhl and gathers the guests of the celebration around him. No one wants to miss out on his guided tour of this “consumer world of the other kind.” Like his colleague Mirja, Silvan, too, is a set designer. And he, too, is angry on account of all the things that end up on the trash heap although they are in mint condition.

Next to the entrance is a long rack with fabrics. Silvan explains: “Fabric is very important to us, not only because such large quantities are involved. A large amount of CO₂ is released into the atmosphere during its manufacture, also during transportation. By saving the bolts from their demise in an incinerator we’re not only saving the fabric but also ensure that a large amount of CO₂ pollution wasn’t created in vain at the end of the day.” The people at OFFCUT think in terms of cycles, interconnectedness — a pleasant discovery.

The crowd surrounding Silvan moves along to the next section. We now reach the wood? ... department. Curtain rods? Hardware? Hard to say. “We want people to come here and touch things,” says Silvan. “So much of what we experience in real life is of a tactile nature, but that is being forgotten in our digital world, so we are reintroducing it.”

Now to the next row of shelves. Silvan first has to see where he is. “OK, here we have high-quality art paper, leather cutoffs in premium quality, an army of knitting needles, 1950s lamp trimming, wine crates filled with thumbtacks, and a scoop for measuring stuff...”

A half hour later the tour is over, Silvan and Mirja return to the wood table outside in the traffic din. Mirja says it’s extremely important for her that kids learn to treat materials respectfully. That’s why she offers visual arts courses and workshops at various locations throughout the city. Her target group is young people between the ages of four and sixteen. If the courses take place on OFFCUT’s premises, work is also done using materials to be found there. The kids comb through the racks and shelves for anything that inspires them. In the process they learn to understand there is no difference between waste and art, they are made of the same materials. “They also learn to think holistically, in terms of interconnectedness. If we succeed in instilling these ideas in them, we have achieved one of the most important goals affecting the future of our planet,” Mirja adds.

Cognizant of the crucial importance of sustainability, closed-loop economy and recycling, the Ernst Göhner Foundation supports OFFCUT, and also the Utopia Association in Sion in establishing its “archipelago”. In an area measuring 55,000 sq. ft., Utopia is creating a “resource hub” where set design material from culture events is available for reuse, along with a supervised workshop and a tool library, including event rooms to raise the awareness of people for sustainability, a circular economy and environmental protection.

"SEEK!"

by Christian Schmidt (journalist and book author)

Life and death issues are at stake when people are missing or buried. That's when the teams of REDOG, the Swiss Association of Search & Rescue Dogs, are called in. This volunteer work demands top-notch performance on the part of canine handler and dog alike.

Scene: A thinly wooded area in the Canton of Basel Country. Barking echoes through the trees from time to time, sometimes coming from one direction and then another. Eveline Stauber can take a short break until the next team needs to pass inspection. "There's nothing I like doing more," she says. And looks up at the sky, as if she wanted to thank Heaven for this luck. Stauber is in charge of training the "terrain search" teams of the REDOG regional chapter of Basel, comprised of search-and-rescue dogs. Founded 52 years ago, REDOG has grown from a small pioneering group to a nation-wide key search-and-rescue (SAR) organization.

One of the routine training sessions is taking place today, seven canine handlers have come. Stauber observes the teams at work, coaches them and give tips. There's nothing she likes better than meeting with her colleagues in the fresh outdoors, working with dogs while also engaging in humanitarian work. Like everybody else she wears a T-shirt bearing the REDOG alert number 0844 441 144. Her work is purely volunteer and unpaid like that of the other REDOG members. "No one makes a living from this work, but you live for it."

The next team arrives, Tanja Edel with Skye. The three-year-old border collie has successfully completed the first suitability tests and is now being prepared for her final exam. Skye sits there panting, her hind legs trembling. She's excited because she knows what's coming: Her task will be to track people in the woods.

"OK, you can begin", says Eveline Stauber. Tanja Edel tells Skye to heel, extends her arm in the direction that Skye is to track, and then gives the command: "Seek!". Like greased lightning Skye scampers off and disappears in the underbrush. For a time moving branches show where Skye is, then only her bell can be heard.

For Skye, trailing is a game at the end of which she expects a reward. "Whether they are doing nose work practicing man trailing or are tracking someone who is actually missing makes no difference to them," says Eveline Stauber. Yet in a contingency the emotional strain for handlers and canines alike is extreme. "When we're alerted, we never know what we'll find. The only thing we know is someone is in distress somewhere." Like the autistic person who wandered off from his care environment. Search teams and the police spent all day and night trying to find him, REDOG was his last hope. And literally came to his rescue: He had slid down a ravine and lay sprawled in the undergrowth, slightly injured and suffering from hypothermia.



Trainer Eveline Stauber observing a dog handler with his search dog

Skye found the first person, and is letting everybody know by her barking. Tanja Edel praises her with “Good girl, good girl!”, but then sends her off again in the direction where she thinks another person is to be found. Soon Skye has completed her task, is praised, and is rewarded with her favorite toy — a ball.

Eveline Stauber is satisfied: “That went well.”

The next team is now ready to be coached by Eveline Stauber: Katharina Ender with Meiyo, a dark golden retriever from Nova Scotia. At three years old, Meiyo is still somewhat rambunctious and easily distracted, which is why Eveline Stauber decides to follow simplified rules compared to those applied to Skye. When Meiyo finds someone he is not expected to react by barking: He receives a piece of salami from the “findee” and then has to return directly to Katharina Ender. With his nose to the ground, Meiyo darts through the woods. “Yessss! Good boy!”, calls Katharina Ender.

“All dogs are suitable for this work; those with short muzzles are less suited to trailing work in a terrain,” says Eveline Stauber. “The mucous membrane area in dogs with a long muzzle is larger.” Meaning they have better “equipment” to locate the most minute of scent traces. Depending on the breed, the nasal mucous membranes of a dog measure 12 to 23 sq. in. in area, compared to only 0.5 to 0.8 sq. in. in a human being.

After Eveline Stauber has worked with all the teams, she concludes by bringing out her own dog, a four-month-old golden retriever. Merlin, still a playful puppy, is to be prepared for his work as a search-and-rescue dog in the distant future. His task: go to a person a few yards away from Eveline Stauber upon being given a hand gesture and a command. That goes pretty well. “It will be a long time before Merlin can be used for SAR missions.”

The basic training of an SAR dog takes two to four years. Then, the dogs have to repeatedly prove they are up to the task, i.e. they are subjected to routine intensive training. “We’re always at it,” says Eveline Stauber, “during the week, on weekends, whatever the weather.” Only then are the dogs able to perform at peak level, as expected of them: searching for missing persons in a difficult terrain at a moment’s notice. Their ability to perform — combined with that of their handlers — make the difference between life and death.

Apart from REDOG, the Ernst Göhner Foundation also supports organizations that train dogs for people with special needs, e.g. the Association for Guide Dogs and Mobility Assistance with its registered office in Liestal, or the Geneva-based Arthanis Foundation. In addition to training guide dogs for the blind, VBM also trains service dogs for people with an autism spectrum disorder. The Arthanis Foundation specializes in training assistance and therapy dogs. These dogs enable their owners to lead more independent lives and foster their social integration.



Actor Irene Eichenberger with two kids on the stage of the JULL Youth Literature Lab

A MONSTER IN EINSIEDELN

by Barbara Geiser (journalist and book author)

Lower-track school kids write a novel with the help of a Swiss author and organize public readings: The Schoolhouse Novel project does everybody proud.

Kayla hits the keys of the Naumann Ideal antique typewriter as if her life depended on it. She is so absorbed that teacher Jan Camenzind has to remind her: “Kayla, one sentence only!” Lea, Vanessa and Noemi have already turned in the texts they wrote on their laptops and are lounging in cushy armchairs. The two vintage Hermes typewriters in the next room are also silent: Silvan and Nick had been at work on them. Ismet and Muyasar wrote their texts in the large room with the blue wall; they also wrote on a laptop. The eight students of the lower-track class from Einsiedeln are guests in the JULL Youth Literature Lab in Zurich. This is their second-to-last meeting with author Sandra Hughes, the writing coach guiding the class. The goal — to write a novel together.

The Schoolhouse Novel project was founded by Zurich author Richard Reich in 2005 and developed further in tandem with Gerda Wurzenberger, a German studies researcher and arts & culture manager. Its goal is to provide young people who are assessed in school as having poor language skills a relaxed, uncomplicated approach to writing. They are to experience that writing can be fun and that their voice is heard, thus reinforcing their sense of self-esteem. 200 novels have been created to date throughout Switzerland, more than 70 Swiss authors have mentored projects. Since 2010, schoolhouse novels have also made their appearance in Germany and Austria; the first projects have been completed in France.

The Einsiedeln class is in the home stretch: During the preceding get-togethers they all thought up a character — a man with two bodies, a police detective, a kid with criminal energy and another one with a sick mother, a flying ghost, a monster, and two girls who hear everything that people say. They have completed the development of a skeleton of a story together with Sandra Hughes. Now all they need is an ending, not to mention a title. The blue wall in the writing room is full of suggestions.

After each of the total of eight meetings Sandra Hughes collects the texts and gets to work. She wants the kids to let their imagination run wild. Spelling? Not important: “Ms. Sandra” will take care of that. Yet her main task is to weave the individual, extremely different texts into a whole narrative. She uses everything the class writes — that’s important to her. How does she do it? “I’m the voice off-screen, the storyteller,” she explains. This enables her to interlace the individual texts together. The former art teacher, who wrote her first novel at the age of forty, loves working with the kids. And they are fully on board.

NERVOUS AND PROUD

Change of scenery. Sparrows chirp on the grass meadow in front of the JULL Youth Literature Lab, the roar of cars zooming by can be heard. Eight kids form a circle together with actor Irene Eichenberger. They pat their arms and legs, their chests and their faces. Make faces, repeat sound sequences: “Balalala, balalale, balalali...” Some giggle, others remain cool; they’re not used to this. Yet Irene Eichenberger tells them to concentrate: They’re preparing for their first performance before a live audience.

This is how the second, crucial part of the project begins. The schoolhouse novel has been written, gently edited and printed; the class then rehearses to present excerpts from their work in a public reading. The reading always takes place where the kids live, at a cultural venue, if available, never in their school. Yet before the reading can take place, the kids have to practice performing and reading before an audience. That’s why Irene Eichenberger is there.

She switches with the class from the meadow to the JULL stage room. There she distributes pages from the beginning of the novel, calls the first four kids to the front, onto the stage. It takes a minute or two for them to settle down and listen to her: “Stand up straight. Adjust the mike, take your time. And you in the audience: Listen. Show respect when others read.” Ismet starts off. He reads fluently and quickly, his eyes fixed on the page in front of him. “Fantastic! Now try it again, slow down a little and look at the audience, if you can.” Ismet *can*, looking up from his page four times. Irene praises him, he smiles sheepishly.

Vanessa reads the next sentence, then it’s Muyasar’s turn: He has to convey to the audience that a monster is on the prowl in Einsiedeln. “What does a monster do?” asks Irene. For Ismet that’s clear: He does his best T-rex roar. The other three are hesitant about making funny noises at the microphone. But they are 100% focused when it comes to reading their texts. They all practice the title together: “Warning!” But they’re still hesitant, don’t sound so threatening.

Performing before an audience is a core element of the Schoolhouse Novel project. The fact that their texts have been printed in a book makes the kids feel proud. Many of them are immigrants or the children of immigrants, from families who don’t attach much importance to education. When they perform their own texts, they see they are being heard, that the audience takes them seriously, breaks into an applause. These are key moments for kids who experience little in the way of positive feedback. A clear-cut rule applies so that everyone can join in the experience — all have to read on stage.

Another group is now on the stage in the JULL Youth Literature Lab. Noemi assumes the role of the police detective who tells Ben’s mother on the phone that her son is involved in a bank holdup. Of course, his mom doesn’t believe it one second. Kayla reads the dialogue of the mother. On her first attempt she simply reads it aloud. But she quickly notices that something is not quite right

in the story, and asks if she can do it differently. She's obviously having fun in her role. The group comes to life. Nick and Silvan play Ben and his friend Tim, who are fleeing from the police detective. They are to practice being out of breath at the microphone. But then they are overcome by their nervousness, and Kayla can't stop laughing.

Irene Eichenberger has to step in so the group quiets down and concentrates. Kayla slips outside to calm herself. When she returns both groups go on stage for the last round. They slowly seem to realize that they have to be serious. Their excitement is perceptible and they can hardly control themselves. A lot of what was ironed out during the rehearsal has been forgotten. But the kids remind one another: They're a team and are eagerly looking forward to the reading.

But before they can do that, they have to finish their novel. Once they've achieved that they'll be proud of themselves. And they'll be accompanied by this pride as they will by their stage fright when they step on stage to perform for their audience.

Apart from the Schoolhouse Novel project, the Ernst Göhner Foundation also supports another cultural writing project, the Edition Unik project. This project enables older people to write their own book, under guidance and adhering to a strict timetable. The book is then published in a print run of a few copies. The authors can write about anything they like, but most of them devote themselves to writing down their personal history, their recollections.



Astronomer Thomas Schildknecht adjusting the telescope

OBSERVING THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH

by Barbara Geiser (journalist and book author)

Not far from Bern, the Space Eye looks deep into the cosmos. The Observatory for Space and the Environment combines stargazing with the transfer of knowledge — unique throughout Switzerland.

The foothills of the Bernese Alps punctuate the Gantrisch Nature Park. Here, at an altitude of 3,000 ft., it smells of freshly plowed earth, grass and cows. In a meadow there is a squat concrete tower with a small white dome — the Space Eye observatory. If viewed from a bird's eye perspective it looks like an eye, whose pupil is formed by a dome with the telescope. The building was designed by Mario Botta. The major part of the Space Eye — its exhibition rooms and a state-of-the-art planetarium — lies hidden beneath in the ground.

For Thomas Schildknecht, astronomer and vice-chair of the Space Eye board of trustees, the view into the heavens is an everyday experience and also his passion. He first takes us up to the roof, to the heart of the facility, the telescope. "The Space Eye is out of the ordinary because we are able to combine the sensual experience of observing at the telescope with the transfer of knowledge in our exhibition," says Schildknecht, his matter-of-fact scientific tone infused with enthusiasm.

The dome is open, we're standing in the blazing sun. Yet this area is one of Switzerland's designated dark sky areas; a blanket of fog can frequently be seen below in winter. Schildknecht removes the cover from the telescope. A round mirror over 40 inches in diameter comes into view. The Space Eye is currently the largest and best public reflecting telescope in Switzerland. Its images are so good that it can also be used for astronomical research. That's by design, says Schildknecht, who is also the deputy director of the Institute for Astronomy of the University of Bern: "This is line with the foundation's designated purpose — that researchers also be able to use the telescope."

KNOWLEDGE FROM OUTER SPACE

We take the elevator to the spacious exhibition area at the lower level. After looking through the telescope, this area shifts the visitor's focus to space travel and sustainability. What does man do in space? What do we know today, what issues face us in the future? Where are we dependent on data from outer space in our day-to-day lives? Answers to these and other questions are provided to adults and kids at various stations — interactively, and easy to follow. Schildknecht: "We want to pique the interest of kids for the STEM disciplines." The Space Eye collaborates with various institutions of higher learning and companies in the private sector in order to be able to present current research findings.

Why is sustainability an issue? Schildknecht explains: "If you are involved with space and the Universe, there comes a time when you return your gaze to Earth. And ask yourself how observations

of space can contribute to our understanding of the Earth and the need to deal with our world in a more circumspect manner.” Approximately half of the data used in climate research comes from space. At one of the stations he projects various charts onto a physical map of the Bernese Oberland of central Switzerland, all based on satellite data: traffic routes, agriculture, temperature, noise, also the glaciers with their projected development — the renderings are impressive and thought-provoking.

Schildknecht also cares deeply about sustainability — on Earth and in space. His research area is space debris. “I’m interested in how we can prevent it and what we can do with all the debris that’s already up there.” He offers a striking example: “If a four-inch piece of a Velcro fastener floating around in orbit hits a satellite, it has the force of a hand grenade.” Result: More hazardous debris is created. One of the numerous screens in the exhibition shows just how much junk is in orbit around the Earth. The Earth disappears behind all the dots representing individual pieces of space junk, the image looks threatening.

THROUGH SPACE AND TIME

We conclude our tour by proceeding to the 80-seat planetarium. The following can be projected onto its dome: the entire night sky, time travel into space, aerial images of the Earth, and images of distant heavenly bodies. We are immediately surrounded on all sides. “Yet the Space Eye is able to do more,” says Schildknecht, visibly proud: “We not only prepare our visitors for stargazing adventures, we also project directly what can be seen through our telescope on the roof. We are arguably the only planetarium that is able to project its own live images. We can guide the telescope from here below using a tablet. If we have cloudy conditions, we can also show live images of other observatories, e.g. the 10,000+ ft. high Gornergrat, across from the Matterhorn.”

There is a bright day outside so Schildknecht shows a high-def image of a globular cluster in the constellation of Hercules. “We took this image using our telescope. We can show it to visitors and make a printout of it and give it to them as a souvenir.” His exuberance is perceptible ... and contagious.

The Ernst Göhner Foundation supports projects that make scientific findings accessible to the public at large and inspire it. Apart from the Space Eye, there is also the Science Gateway, the new CERN education and outreach center in Meyrin. In multimedia exhibits, lab workshops, science shows and public events, research issues and findings relating to the smallest building blocks of matter are presented in a hands-on, fun manner.

FROM ARTISAN GLAZIER'S TO FOUNDATION

The Göhner Company 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 at Hallenstrasse 15/17 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 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.



Advertisement for the carpenter's shop/window factory of Ernst Göhner, 1925

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 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". The words used by Ernst Göhner to describe his vision of the foundation created by him occur in the film *Ein Beispiel* ("An Example", the Life and Achievements of Ernst Göhner) produced on the occasion of his 70th birthday: "... All of us build the future. Building something is constructive in the broadest sense of the word. And since we seek to preserve the continuity of our work and our places of work, that is why I am establishing my own foundation."

Shortly before his death at the end of 1971, Ernst Göhner sold 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.

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. In 2023, forty people took part in the Lake Constance cruise on the *MS Säntis*.

Grants to the family members are made under the legal framework provided for Swiss 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.

Most of the family beneficiaries live in Switzerland, the others reside in the U.S. The oldest family members are nephews and the youngest are already great great grand nieces and nephews of founder Ernst Göhner. During the annual summer gathering, family beneficiaries toured the exhibitions of the Bührle Collection in the extension wing of Kunsthaus Zürich (Zurich Museum of Modern Art), funded by the Ernst Göhner

Foundation, and the Merzbacher Collection at the Seewarte-owned property at Theaterstrasse 14 in the center of Zurich, from whose roof-top terrace there is a magnificent view of Bellevue and the Sechseläutenplatz town square, the Opera House and Lake Zurich. The Christmas event took place in Haus zum Rüden, the heritage guildhall of the Constaffel Society, in Zurich.

The Foundation's headquarters are housed in the Stadlin Villa in Zug, a listed heritage property constructed in 1895. During the traditional August 1st 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, Zug

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 later 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.
Death of Ernst Göhner on November 24, 1971.

PUBLISHING INFORMATION

Content and copy:	Ernst Göhner Foundation, Christian Schmidt and Barbara Geiser (Kontrast)
Editor:	Corinne Linda Sotzek, Lucia Tellenbach
Layout:	Hanna Williamson-Koller
Picture credits:	DSV A/S (p. 6) Moschetta Photography (p. 7) Andrea Diglas Photographer (p. 12) Seewarte AG, picture: Michael Haug (p. 16) Frederic Meyer (Kontrast) (pp. 24, 28, 30, 34) Ernst Göhner Foundation archives (p. 37) Alois Ottinger (p. 38)
Proofed by:	Andrea Linsmayer
Printed by:	Graphische Anstalt J. E. Wolfensberger AG
Copyright:	Ernst Göhner Foundation

Zug, March 2024

