

2025 Report



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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, Industry 4.0 and Health Care

Areas of Funding & Support

Culture, Social projects, Education & Science, the Environment

Regulatory Authority

Regulatory Board for Occupational Pension Plans and Foundations of Central Switzerland

Registered Office / Address

Artherstrasse 19, 6300 Zug

Website

www.ernst-goehner-stiftung.ch



Preface

Dear reader,

We are able to look back upon a very eventful and successful year. In January of 2025, the Foundation Board reviewed our strategy, confirming our active management approach and growing of the Foundation's assets.

The following development priorities have been established for the years to come: the portfolio of corporate investments will be further extended. Additional direct and indirect investments in the real estate portfolio will take place in the way of development projects and acquisitions. The guidelines for investing liquid assets are being adapted to the changed economic climate so that an optimal continued risk/return ratio can be achieved. Apart from maintaining and further developing its activities in the areas of Culture, Social projects, Education and Science and the Environment, the Foundation will continue to expand its funding and support of young entrepreneurs, with a stronger commitment to the Kick Foundation. The aim is to promote sustainable, broad-based value creation and, in line with the Foundation's charter, the preservation of jobs in Switzerland.

In 2025, DSV A/S, the Foundation's most significant stake, successfully repositioned itself. By finalizing the acquisition of Schenker AG (trading as DB Schenker) as of April 30, 2025, DSV completed the largest step in its corporate history.

EGS Beteiligungen Ltd. actively took advantage of the volatile markets in 2025 and rolled out its investment strategies by making purchases at favorable market prices. This enabled the positions in listed companies to be strategically expanded. By contrast, the acquisition activities relating to privately-held companies were muted owing to the difficult market environment.

In 2025, Seewarte Holding Ltd. was successful in substantially expanding and further optimizing its real estate portfolio. Two construction projects were completed: the town center complex of the Gerichtsplatz square in

Uster and the Kreuzstrasse commercial complex in Zurich. The refurbished property at Kreuzstrasse 82 in Zurich serves as the temporary headquarters of Seewarte Holding Ltd. and EGS Beteiligungen Ltd. until the construction of the new building at Dufourstrasse 29 and 31 in Zurich is completed.

The Foundation's charitable work was stepped up in 2025. The Foundation approved a total of CHF 59 million for 1,707 projects. In so doing, the Foundation has supported 40,207 projects with funding in excess of CHF 863 million since its founding in 1957. The Foundation remains committed to its philosophy of supporting a wide range of projects – including smaller projects – throughout Switzerland.

Finally, the Foundation hosted another annual event for the family beneficiaries and their relatives in summer. The event took place in the Zurich area, tracing the footsteps of founder Ernst Göhner and his corporate activities.

We would like to extend a word of thanks to all our staff for their tireless work in tending to the Foundation's many activities.

We take pleasure in presenting the 2025 report in a new look. This is intended to enable the values and impact goals of the Foundation and its companies to be experienced by all target groups.

We hope you'll enjoy reading about what has been going on in the Foundation.

Dr. Beat Walti
Chair of the Foundation Board

Samuel Bon
CEO

01

The Foundation

Ernst Göhner Foundation

The Ernst Göhner Foundation is a gift from Zurich entrepreneur Ernst Göhner (1900–1971) to posterity. Pursuant to its charter, the Foundation is tasked with managing and further developing its assets in line with business principles and exercising entrepreneurial initiative. Every year, it distributes a significant portion of its profits for charitable purposes in the areas of Culture, Education & Science, Culture, Social projects and the Environment. It also fulfills the remit of a family foundation.



Foundation Bodies

The supreme body of the Ernst Göhner Foundation is the Foundation Board, comprised of nine members. The Foundation's operations are steered by the Foundation's office staff.



Foundation Board (from left to right): Thomas Gutzwiller, Beat Walti, Giacomo Balzarini, Monika Krüsi, Mark Furger, Isabel Kühnlein Specker, Roger Schmid, Christoph Franz, Michael Hengartner



Foundation Office (from left to right): Katharina Schillen, Anna Bürgi, Tanja Vogel, Patricia Kopp, Corinne Wegmüller, Suzanne Avedik, Corinne Linda Sotzek, Martha Müller, Daniel Hübscher, Samuel Bon, Elvira Hammer, Natalie Rossi, Lucia Tellenbach, Claudia Uster, Michaela Gasser

Foundation Board

Foundation Board

Chair

Dr. Beat Walti

Vice-Chair

Dr. Roger Schmid

Giacomo Balzarini
Prof. Dr. Christoph Franz
Mark Furger
Prof. Dr. Thomas Gutzwiller
Prof. Dr. Michael Hengartner
Dr. Monika Krüsi

Representative of the Family Beneficiaries

Isabel Kühnlein Specker

Committees

Finance Committee

Chair: Dr. Beat Walti

DSV Committee

Chair: Dr. Monika Krüsi

Organization & HR Committee

Chair: Prof. Dr. Thomas Gutzwiller

Audit & Risk Committee

Chair: Mark Furger

Donations

Chair: Prof. Dr. Christoph Franz

Family Beneficiaries

Chair: Isabel Kühnlein Specker

Foundation Head Office

CEO

Samuel Bon

CFO

Daniel Hübscher

Special Projects

Dr. Suzanne Avedik

Performing Arts & Music

Anna Bürgi

Social Projects & The Environment

Michaela Gasser

Education & Science

Patricia Kopp

Social Projects & Film

Natalie Rossi

Music & Music Theatre

Katharina Schillen

Visual Arts & Preservation of Sites of Historical Interest

Dr. Corinne Linda Sotzek

Interdisciplinary Cultural Projects, Cultural History & Family Beneficiaries

Tanja Vogel

Performing Arts, Literature & Film

Corinne Wegmüller

Back Office

Elvira Hammer

Martha Müller

Lucia Tellenbach

Payroll Accounting

Claudia Uster

Entrepreneurial Activities

The Foundation's corporate investments and real estate activities are consolidated in EGS Beteiligungen Ltd. and Seewarte Holding Ltd. respectively. Only the stake in DSV A/S is held by the Ernst Göhner Foundation directly.

DSV A/S

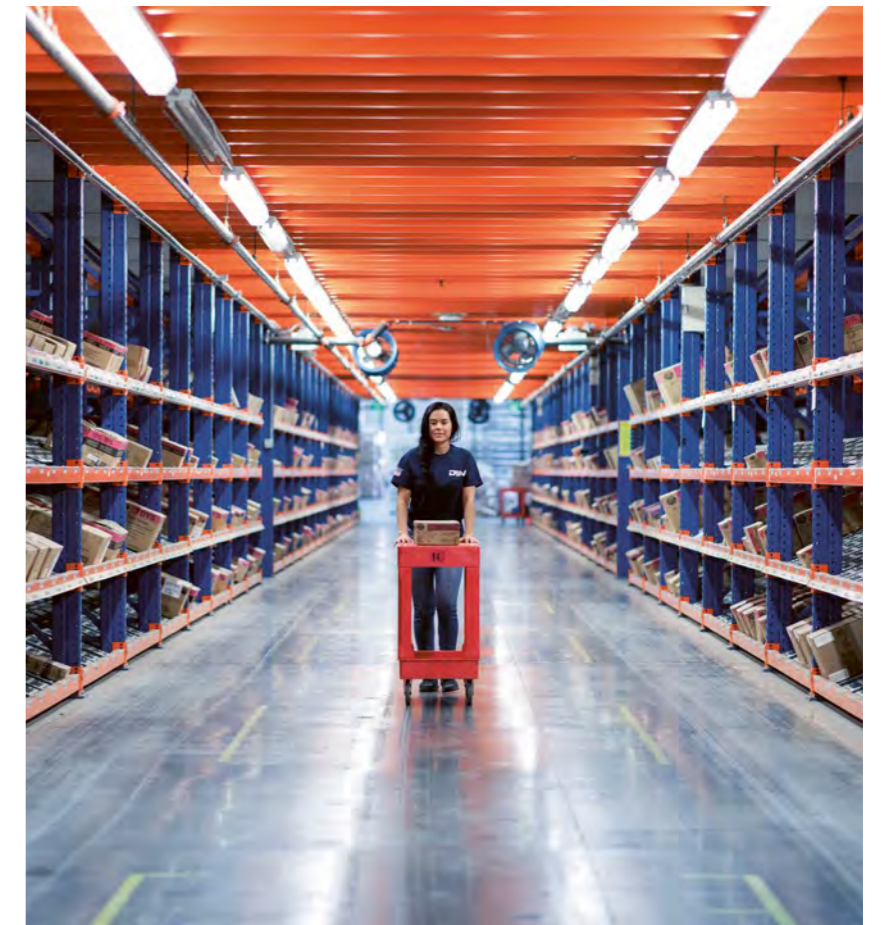
The largest stake (over 7%) in terms of value held by the Ernst Göhner Foundation is in DSV A/S, a publicly-listed Danish global transport and logistics service provider.

Website
www.dsv.com



In fiscal 2025 the focus at DSV A/S was on transformation and repositioning: By completing the acquisition of Schenker AG (trading as DB Schenker) as of April 30, 2025, DSV took the most significant step in its corporate history.

The integration of Schenker translates into a new dimension for DSV: the combined company has a workforce of almost 150,000 and a global network extending to more than 90 countries throughout the world. Integration is taking place step by step and should be completed by the end of 2028. As a result, DSV will emerge as the logistics company with the highest turnover in Europe.



DSV A/S – overland freight forwarding, ocean & air freight, and logistics solutions

Seewarte Holding Ltd.

Seewarte is the Ernst Göhner Foundation's center of competence for real estate. Being a real estate investor with a long-term horizon, Seewarte possesses a high-quality real estate portfolio of its own.



Board of directors of Seewarte Holding Ltd. (from left to right): Giacomo Balzarini, Patrick Vogler, Roger Schmid, Mark Furger, Kurt Ritz

Registered Office / Address

Seewarte Holding Ltd.
Kreuzstrasse 82
8032 Zürich

Website

www.seewarte.ch



The real estate portfolio is segment-specific, geographically focused on residential properties in prime locations in the Zurich economic area. The portfolio consists of 32 residential properties with ca. 1,500 apartment units, five commercial buildings, a hotel in downtown Zurich, and a shopping center in Regensdorf. Apart from this core real estate, Seewarte also has properties and development projects in Effretikon, Weiningen, Zurich Altstetten, and Zurich-Oerlikon. The properties are actively managed in a professional manner with an emphasis on client needs. With its seven-strong team, Seewarte focuses on its core competencies of portfolio management and development. Portfolio management is centered on the sustained preservation of value and generating stable, calculable income from the company's own investment properties. The development business unit is tasked with the acquisition, development and realization of the company's own real estate projects, providing for a long-term growth and value appreciation potential. Administration and construction management services are provided by service specialists.



Administrative Office (from left to right): Markus Dammann, Marco Tanghetti, Christian Eberle, Philipp Fratschöl, Thomas Regli, Isaak Ornstein, Alexander Stegmann, Claudia Uster

Board of Directors

Chair

Giacomo Balzarini

Mark Furger

Kurt Ritz

Dr. Roger Schmid

Patrick Vogler

Head Office

CEO

Thomas Regli

CFO

Philipp Fratschöl

Head of Construction Project Management

Markus Dammann

Construction Project Management

Christian Eberle

Group Management Accounting

Alexander Stegmann

Portfolio/Asset Management

Marco Tanghetti

Payroll Accounting

Claudia Uster (up to 06/2025)

Isaak Ornstein (since 10/2025)

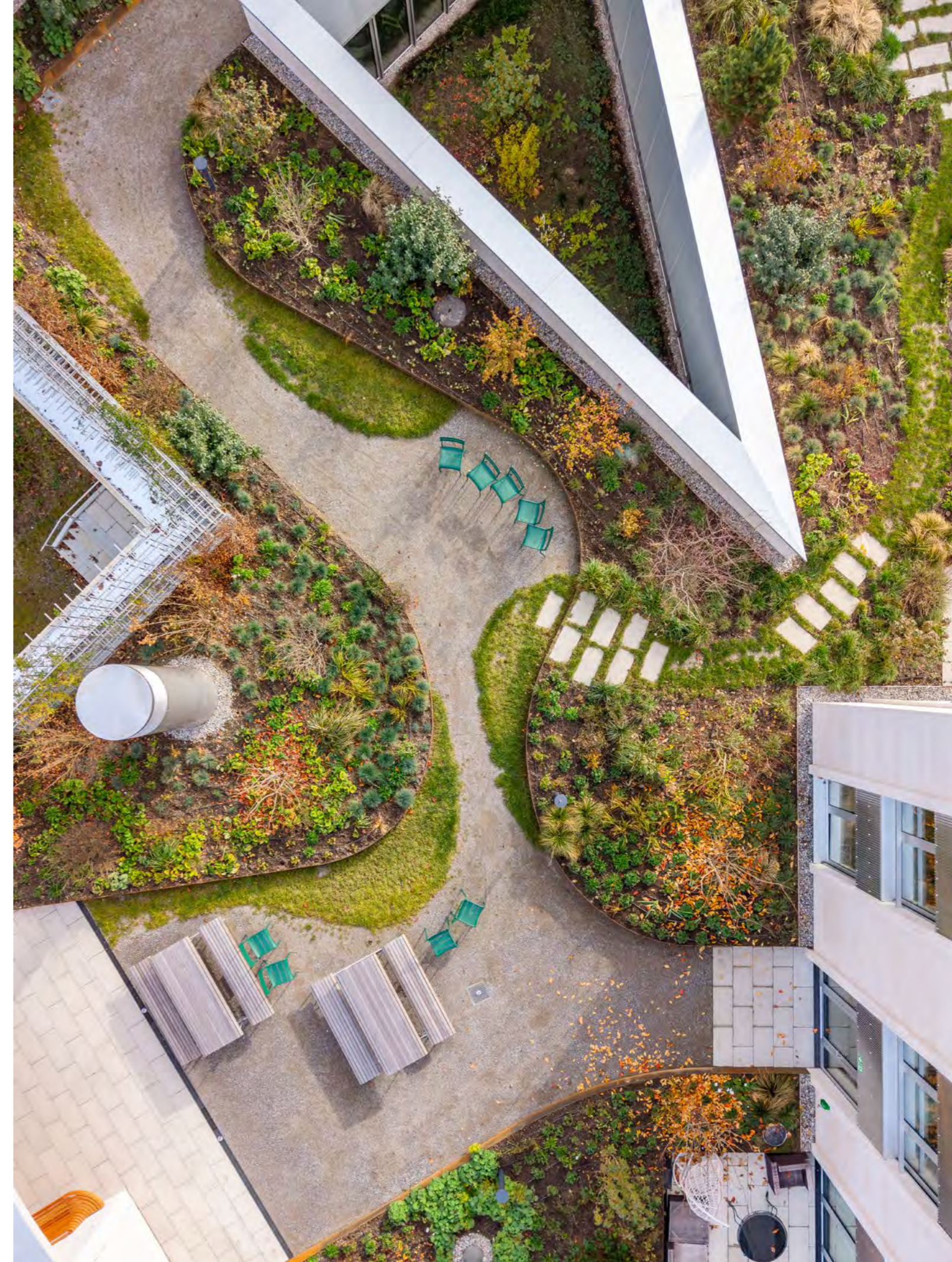
In 2025, Seewarte Holding Ltd. was successful in substantially expanding and further optimizing its real estate portfolio. Two construction projects were completed: the town center complex of the Gerichtsplatz square in Uster and the Kreuzstrasse commercial complex in Zurich. Completion took place on schedule, on budget and to the requisite quality standards.

The building complex in the center of Uster, in the vicinity of the district court building, features three residential buildings with a total of 106 rental apartment units. They are linked via a shared space of ca. 17,000 sq. ft. providing for restaurants and other services. Some apartments are featured as flexible furnished mini units with a MOVEMENT design: as the name implies, their movable modules enable the living space to be adapted to individual situations and requirements. The refurbished, upgraded business property located at Kreuzstrasse 82 in Zurich serves as the temporary headquarters of Seewarte Holding Ltd. and EGS Beteiligungen Ltd. until the construction of the new commercial building at Dufourstrasse 29 and 31 in Zurich is completed.

New development projects were also advanced decisively in 2025. Application for a construction permit was made for a construction project in the center of Effretikon consisting of a high-rise residential building featuring 106 units and retail and commercial space of almost 20,000 sq. ft. in size on the ground floor. A total of five development projects providing for ca. 260 apartment units are currently in progress. As to transactions completed in 2025, Seewarte purchased five properties and sold four. The purchases primarily extend to residential properties in and around Zurich. They optimally complement Seewarte's existing real estate portfolio in terms of their quality and return.



In 2025 Seewarte completed a new complex in the center of Uster, in the vicinity of the current district court building. (photo: Fotowerder GmbH)



A communal rooftop garden with a pavilion connects the three buildings, forming an ecological oasis. (photo: Fotowerder GmbH)



One Step Ahead for Nature

The Get Nature Positive startup compensates for the effects of built-over areas by augmenting the biodiversity of other areas. Seewarte is the first company to invest in biodiversity by way of the new certificate.

Copy by Jana Avanzini, photo by Katharina Lütcher

"A startup has to be ahead of its time, be on the leading edge," says Simon Zeller. The environmental scientist founded Get Nature Positive two years ago; he is supported by business developer Manual Rebholz.

What's in a name? The idea is to do something good for nature. "We offer businesses the possibility to compensate for sealed surfaces with enhanced natural areas," says Zeller. The reward for this is the Get Nature Positive Premium certificate.

We're in the middle of the startup's pilot project: a residential housing development located at Asylstrasse in Thalwil. In 2024, Seewarte constructed three buildings here with 44 apartment units. But the completion of construction didn't mean that the work was done. In order to earn the new certificate, the built-over area comprised of the building complex was offset by an ecological restoration project. Specifically: The 28,000 sq. ft. sealed area in Thalwil was offset by nature areas in Cham 34,000 sq. ft. in size – featuring specifically lush oatgrass meadows and tall herbaceous vegetation.

Adrian Annen, the owner of Chollerhof, a large dairy farm, is responsible for these nature areas. On the leased land he upgraded the biodiversity area from level 1 to level 2. Financed via the construction project, and also by way of direct payments from the Swiss federal government. For Annen this biodiversity enhancement meant additional work and expense during the first few years. He has to deal with the *Rumex obtusifolius*, commonly known as bitter dock, a tough weed, and calculate the mowing times differently. The hay produced by the biodiversity meadow has to be used separately as fodder since it is too lean for dairy cows.



Simon Zeller's focus is on the soil.

Ecological Design of the Housing Development

Upon completion of the biodiversity meadow in Cham, Seewarte didn't yet have the certificate. The green space of the housing development in Thalwil was also created applying ecological criteria. Instead of a traditional lawn, a biodiverse flower meadow was planted instead. Crouching over the short-mown grass, Adrian Annen and Simon Zeller identify plantain herb, daisies and chervil. Come summer, a meadow will be in bloom here – probably forty inches high. The investment here in diversity is obvious, Zeller and Annen see this during their walk among the buildings. Various perennials grow under the bushes and even the bike rack has been designed to incorporate grass patches alongside gravel. All of this has a cooling effect on the housing development in summer.

However, it is also important to ensure "networking" or interconnectedness in neighborhoods, says Simon Zeller. But he doesn't mean something in the way of business. In built-up areas the migration paths for animals like hedgehogs and amphibians should also continue to function. If these paths are covered by bushes and shrubs, the creatures only have to run across open spaces and roads for short distances.

This interconnectedness is often lost in high-density construction projects. Wild, chaotic corners provide places where animals can hide, gnarled trees with holes and branches provide shelter and nesting places for bats and birds.

People often have the impression that everything is highly regulated in Switzerland. "Only few are aware that the Red List of Endangered Species is much longer here in Switzerland than in neighboring countries," says Zeller.

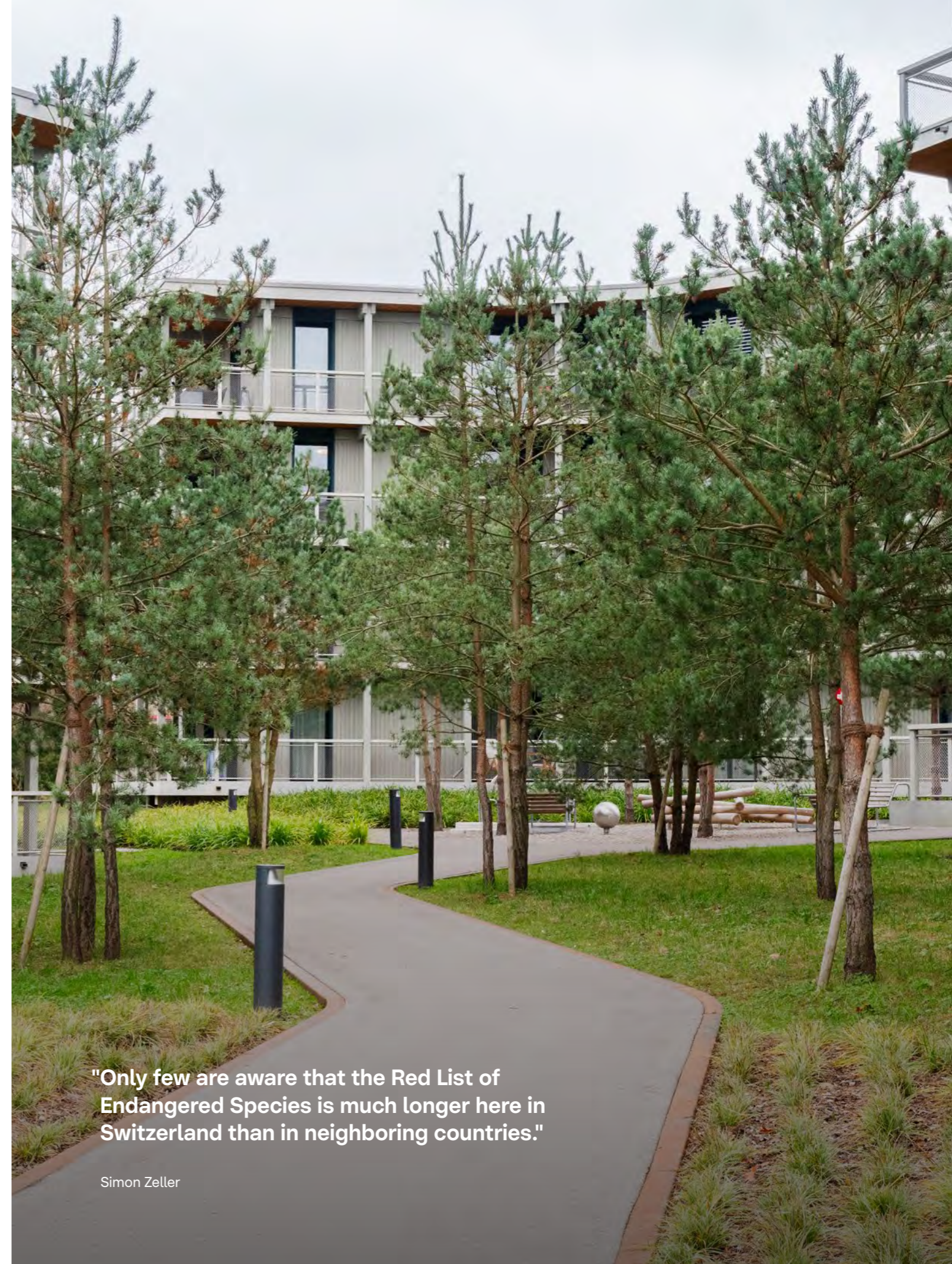
It is hard work requiring an inordinate amount of patience to convince companies to invest in biodiversity, especially in light of current tariff policies and the resulting economic losses. Also, more and more persuasion is needed when it comes to voluntarily engaging in work benefiting the environment. Even if you succeed in getting ahead of new requirements imposed by the Swiss federal government in a couple of years, Zeller points out. "Many companies account for sustainability in a variety of areas – in terms of the materials they employ, their working conditions, or the manner of transport selected by them. Yet very little is done when it comes to land use," says Zeller. That is why having trailblazers like Seewarte on board is key.

Biodiversity in Agriculture

On the other hand, the goals of the Get Nature Positive initiative are met with open arms in agriculture, as in the case of Adrian Annen. "We already have land areas in reserve – for businesses that seek to offset each square foot of sealed ground with 1.2 square feet that has been restored to its natural state," says Zeller. A measure that accounts for only a fraction of a percent in the construction budget but brings about long-term change. Hence, the current contract with Adrian Annen runs for twenty-five years, for example. And often soon after the land has been upgraded it is noticeable how nature is reclaiming these places: at a pond that was recently created, deer tracks appeared at the shoreline after only a week.



In the nature area in Cham, for farmer Adrian Annen not all weeds are treated equally.



"Only few are aware that the Red List of Endangered Species is much longer here in Switzerland than in neighboring countries."

Simon Zeller

EGS Beteiligungen Ltd.

EGS Beteiligungen Ltd. (EGSB) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Ernst Göhner Foundation. Since 2009 it has pooled the Foundation's investment activities in companies and is responsible for its entrepreneurial remit.



EGSB board of directors (from left to right): Thomas Gutzwiller, Daniela Bosshardt-Hengartner, Monika Krüsi, Beat Walti, Michel Riva, Valentin Vogt

Registered Office / Address

EGS Beteiligungen Ltd.
Kreuzstrasse 82
8032 Zürich

Website

www.egs-beteiligungen.ch



EGSB invests a significant portion of the Foundation's assets in Swiss companies with a long-term horizon and actively promotes their sustained positive development.

- **Investment focus:** Focus on companies based or with significant value creation in Switzerland, which are already "hidden champions" (niche-market leaders with low public awareness) or have the potential to become independent market leaders in their segment. The portfolio consists primarily of established companies.
- **Dedication & commitment:** Good governance by management and the board of directors is a basic prerequisite for our investments. EGSB sits on the board of directors and offers strategic support by way of its know-how and network. By taking part in management, a powerful incentive is created for achieving joint goals.
- **Expansion:** Since 2022, EGS Beteiligungen Ltd. has also been engaged as a financial investor in a selection of late-stage startups (growth investments).



Administrative Office (from left to right): Urs Eberhard, Franz Studer, Flurin Issler, Lars Hostettler, Felipe Diehm, Christian Pfab, Dominik Sauter, Roger Niggli, David Kurmann, Benedikt Kirchgässler, Hendrik Nelis, Julia Hall (not shown)

Board of Directors

Chair

Prof. Dr. Thomas Gutzwiller

Daniela Bosshardt-Hengartner

Dr. Monika Krüsi

Michel Riva (since 01/2025)

Valentin Vogt

Dr. Beat Walti

Head Office

CEO

Dr. Franz Studer

CFO

Urs Eberhard

Investment Directors

David Kurmann

Christian Pfab

Investment Managers

Felipe Diehm

Julia Hall

Head of Corporate

Management Accounting

Flurin Issler

Investment Associates

Lars Hostettler (from 07/2025)

Hendrik Nelis (from 08/2025)

Investment Associate for Growth Investments

Benedikt Kirchgässler
(from 05/2025)

Investment Analyst

Roger Niggli

Senior Advisor

Dominik Sauter

2025 was defined worldwide by a slowdown in global trade and increased volatility in stock markets, triggered primarily by continuing tariff conflicts and the US's unpredictable trade policies.

The Swiss economy nevertheless forecast a robust GDP growth of 1.3%, driven by the service sector and the pharmaceutical industry. However, the sharp appreciation of the Swiss franc had a significant negative impact on companies with an export orientation.

Huber+Suhner Ltd. showed the strongest performance, propelled by major contracts for optical switches in AI data centers. Sensirion Holding Ltd. exhibited a remarkable recovery and returned to profitability with a significant growth in revenue. During 2025, Interroll Holding Ltd. stabilized, while Siegfried Holding Ltd. showed a loss in value, brought about by a fall in revenue associated with customer inventory reductions and delayed sales revenue from the new production site in Minden. SERTO Group AG exhibited good performance during the year under review. Seaking (International) Inc. showed a strong recovery. Bauwerk Group Ltd. continued to present the largest challenge.

EGS Beteiligungen Ltd. took advantage of the volatile markets in 2025 and rolled out its investment strategies by making purchases when market prices were weak. This enabled the positions in listed companies to be strategically expanded: The stake in Comet Holding Ltd. was topped up by 4.7% to 7.7%; the stake in Interroll Holding Ltd. was increased by 0.3% to 7.0%.

There were hardly any changes in the privately-held equity investments: at Bauwerk Group Ltd. a sale of 1.0% was effected to management, causing its stake to be reduced to 99.0%.









Acquisition activity was subdued owing to the difficult market environment, as potential sellers postponed transactions in anticipation of better conditions. In September of 2025, a financing package jointly negotiated by Gimv and EGSB was successfully completed at SpineArt SA. The company received an infusion of fresh equity capital via a capital increase, enabling the shareholder structure to be streamlined at the same time. As a consequence, EGSB's ownership interest was increased by 1.6 percentage points to 27.6%.

In 2025, an exit took place at Beekeeper with regard to growth investments. New investments were made in Delvitech SA. The company is specialized in the development of native AI automated optical inspection solutions (AOI) for electronics. Delvitech plans to accelerate its next growth phase and strengthen its global presence with a special focus on India, where the company will be opening a new production site in 2026.






In mid-2025 staff was increased by three associates as planned: a growth associate and two associates for established listed equity interests. By expanding the team in this manner, greater efficiency has been achieved in the acquisition process and a qualitatively enhanced perception of the owner role in portfolio management.

As of the end of 2025, EGSB held the following stakes (listed according to the date of acquisition; representative selection):






Established Privately-held Companies

Company	Acquired	Stake
 Bauwerk Group Leading manufacturer of parquet flooring	2009	>50%
 Paros Beteiligungen AG / ARGUS DATA INSIGHTS Holding AG Leading provider of media tracking and analytics services	2019	<10%
 Seaking (International) Inc. Leading provider of catering & galley installations for cruise ships	2019	<50%
 SpineArt SA Developer and manufacturer of spinal implants	2020	<50%
 B+G Schweiz Ltd. / Bächler + Güttinger AG Leading Swiss horticulture and landscape design & construction specialist	2021	<50%
 Roth Gerüste Gruppe AG Swiss market leader for special-purpose scaffolding	2021	>50%
 DV Bern Holding AG / DV Bern AG Developer of software solutions and IT service provider	2023	<50%
 SERTO Group AG International manufacturer of industrial fittings: tube union systems for liquids and gases	2024	>50%

Listed Companies

Company		Acquired	Stake
 HUBER+SUHNER	Huber+Suhner Ltd. Leading manufacturer of electrical and fiber optic components and system solutions for the transmission of data and energy	2011	<10%
 SENSIRION THE SENSOR COMPANY	Sensirion Holding Ltd. Leading manufacturer of microsensors for the measurement of liquids and gases	2018	<10%
 Siegfried	Siegfried Holding Ltd. Leading manufacturer of active chemical ingredients for the pharmaceuticals industry	2018	<10%
 comet	Comet Holding Ltd Leading manufacturer of X-ray and RF power technologies and systems	2022	<10%
 INTERROLL	Interroll Holding Ltd. Leading manufacturer of internal logistics products and services	2022	<10%

Late-Stage Startups

Company		Acquired	Stake
 BEEKEEPER	Beekeeper Holding Inc. Digital platform for linking front-line workers with existing company systems	2022 Exit: 2025	<5%
 Bcomp	Bcomp Ltd. Manufacturer of natural fiber reinforced plastic composites (NFRPs)	2023	<10%
 FUTURAE	Futurae Technologies Ltd. Developer and marketer of authentication solutions for financial service providers	2024	<10%
 Swissto12	SWISSto12 SA Developer and manufacturer of components and systems for the space and communications industry	2024	<10%
 DELVI TECH	Delvitech SA Developer and manufacturer of optical inspection components and systems for electronics	2025	>10%



Joining Together – Thinking Bigger

Green spaces are rapidly gaining in importance: they improve the climate of urban landscapes, decisively impact the quality of life – while serving as the infrastructure of tomorrow. The more large-scale the projects, the more exacting the requirements made of them. That is why B+G Schweiz Ltd. pools the strengths of leading landscaping design and athletic grounds construction specialists to bring green spaces and sports activities together.

Copy by Jana Avanzini, photos by Noemi Braem, courtesy of B+G Switzerland

Sounds are heard in the foreground when the TikTok clip begins: someone taking a deep breath before a flowering bush, the slow scraping of a rake on dry earth, the crisp snap as the dandelion stem is broken off. And then the question "Just a few flowers you say?", followed by an answer underscored by hard rock: "Nope!" Yelling, two young women thrust their shovels into the ground and drive through the scene on excavators with their fists raised in the air like conquering superheroes. "Apply now!" flashes across the screen.

A POV clip for sure, really "lit", to express it in the current vernacular. This clip is aimed at young people and does an excellent job of reaching them where they're at. The clip was made for landscaping design specialists Bächler+Güttinger. It aims to address the greatest challenges facing the landscaping industry today – the talent shortage, the shortage of people with the expertise and skills needed. This has become more acute over the last couple of years.

An even greater challenge can be traced back to developments in the real estate sector. Where once individual single-family homes abounded, entire housing neighborhoods are making an appearance. Throughout the country, large apartment complexes and residential development projects are cropping up that require a large variety of climate-resilient outdoor spaces. "In some cases they involve contracts in the millions – previously inconceivable," explains Carsten Bopp, CEO of B+G Schweiz Ltd. Since 2021 B+G has been bringing together leading landscaping specialists to leverage expertise and develop professional solutions for projects of this magnitude.

Board member David Kurmann also emphasizes: "The romantic notion of a gardener who tends to the beautiful rose gardens of affluent single-family properties has little to do with the reality of today." Business is still of a local nature, and will remain so, but large customers increasingly expect to receive the same high level of service throughout Switzerland. This offers B+G an opportunity to consolidate the market by acquiring local businesses. As to purchasing, businesses have been able to benefit from better terms due to large volumes, and from resource balancing in projects by being able to optimize capacity utilization over and beyond individual locations.



Working with large machinery and equipment is becoming increasingly common.

Collaboration and Upcoming Young Talent

In so doing, B+G Schweiz Ltd. also addresses topics that are difficult for individual businesses to tackle. It is the point of contact for legal issues, provides support when it comes to financing tools and administrative issues like payroll accounting. It strengthens businesses when it comes to strategic purchasing, enables investment in new technologies and, by sharing machinery and equipment, creates improved options for capacity utilization – in short embracing collaboration instead of competition.

Now B+G Schweiz Ltd. unites eleven businesses with twenty-one sites and a combined workforce of 800. Established, high-performing businesses with regional roots, proven expertise grown organically, and knowledge of their markets. "Therein lies our strength," says Carsten Bopp. "We leverage synergies and pool expertise – but without compromising the uniqueness of our individual businesses." Employees also benefit from this approach. "Of course, there are greater opportunities for professional development if you can gain new experience within the group or work temporarily for a sister business," says David Kurmann. In addition, connecting with others facilitates succession planning, which is often lacking, while

strengthening the long-term stability of the individual businesses. "We generally operate in a market in which there is a shortage of skilled talent. Filling positions and apprenticeship vacancies is not easy," says Carsten Bopp.

Apart from young people just starting out, the industry has also been discovered by those seeking to change careers. "We see that we need more people who don't discover landscape gardening until later in life," says Bopp. That's why we are founding our own academy next year – it will enable career switchers to get the expert training they need. Common training documentation already exists. As does a common brand identity. B+G Schweiz Ltd. also assumes the major part of planning when it comes to marketing. "In small organizations a specific individual is seldom hired just for marketing. And you also won't find someone with an affinity for social media everywhere," David Kurmann knowingly says. That's why this aspect in particular is a great plus for a smaller business organization. In order to attract young people to this industry it is imperative to approach them using the right "vibe". And of course, via the channels and platforms on which they "chill".



The beauty of nature can be used to score points in marketing.



"In small organizations a specific individual is seldom hired just for marketing. And you also won't find someone with an affinity for social media everywhere."

David Kurmann, board member of B+G Schweiz Ltd.

02

Our Charitable Work

Our Charitable Work

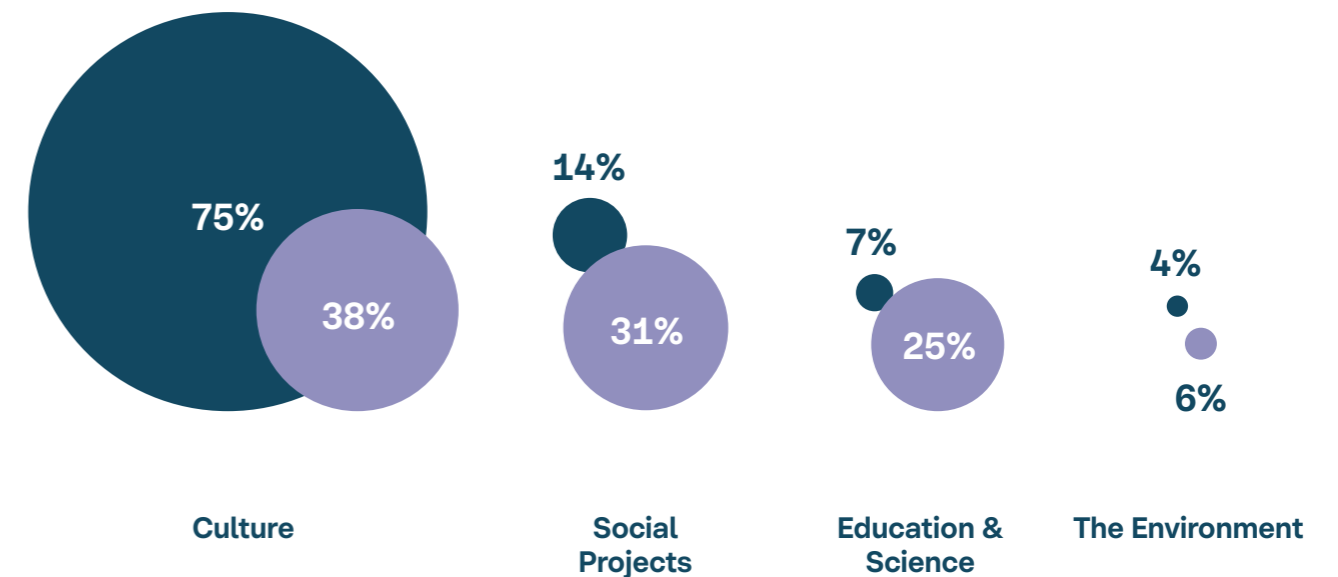
In 2025, the Ernst Göhner Foundation approved funding totaling CHF 59 million for 1,707 projects. Since its founding in 1957, the Foundation has supported over 40,207 projects with well over CHF 863 million. For 2026, the Foundation Board has appropriated a budget of CHF 60 million.

Ca.
1,700
projects supported

The Ernst Göhner Foundation supports charitable projects in the areas of Culture, Education & Science, Social projects and the Environment. The Foundation is active throughout Switzerland and promotes the exchange of ideas and experience between the various regions of Switzerland.

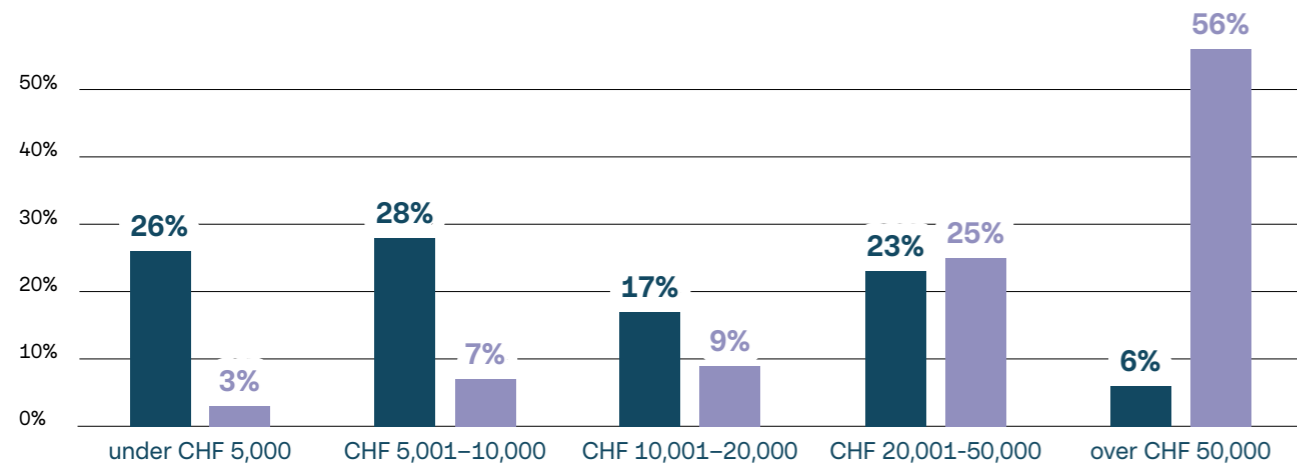
Projects approved in 2025 according to number of projects and funding amount

■ Number of projects approved as a %
■ Amounts of projects approved as a %



Projects approved in 2025 according to number and funding amount

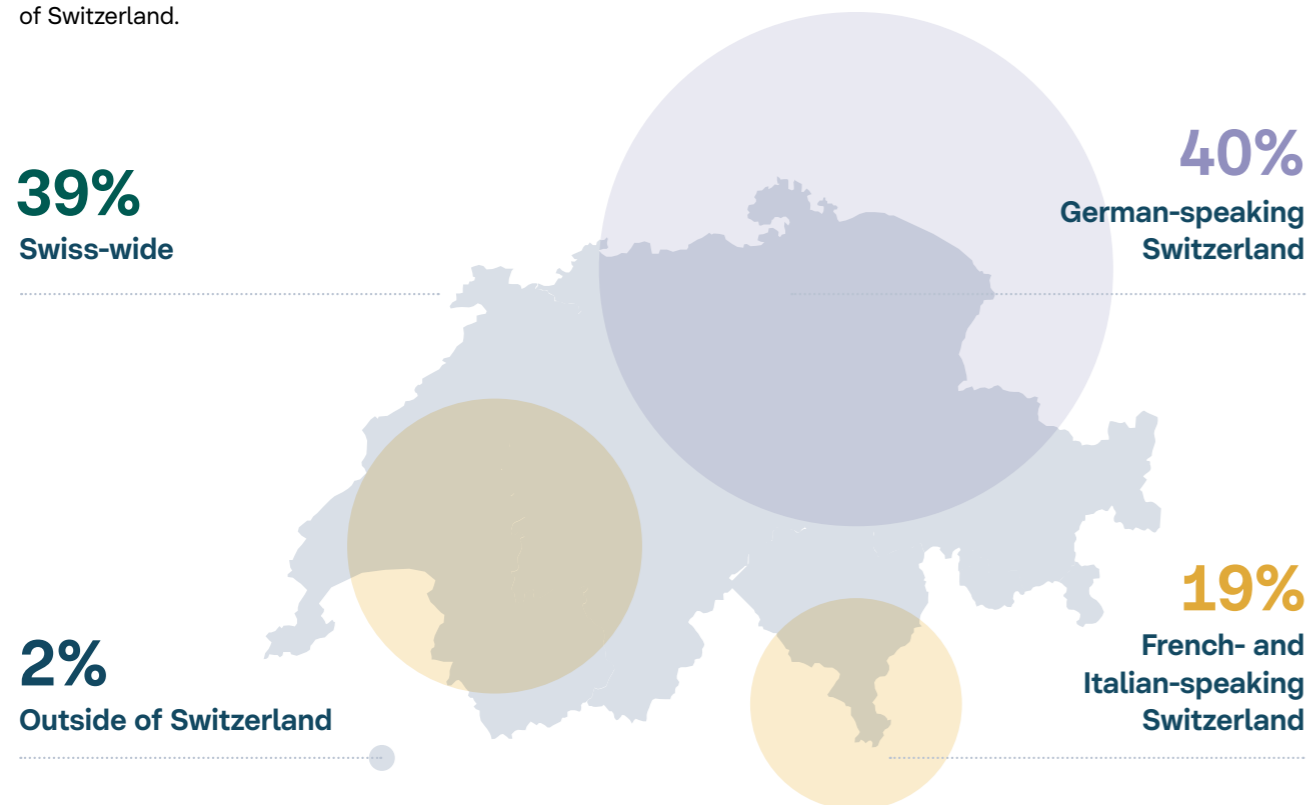
■ Projects as a % according to number of projects
 ■ Projects as a % according to funding amount



Projects Approved According to Geographical Region

The Ernst Göhner Foundation is active throughout Switzerland. In exceptional cases selected projects outside the country are also taken into consideration, to the extent they are linked to Switzerland or fall under the Foundation's entrepreneurial activities. In the past year, 98% of all project funding approved was in Switzerland, compared to 2% of funding going toward projects outside of Switzerland.

The regional distribution corresponds to the Ernst Göhner Foundation's mission as a charitable foundation active throughout Switzerland, which has a national cachet and takes account of all areas of Switzerland.



Selection of Large-Scale Projects

The following projects figure among the most significant initiatives promoted by the Ernst Göhner Foundation last year (apart from fostering fledgling startups and funding various grant programs):

- **Venture Kick** and **Talent Kick** – programs of the Foundation for fortifying Switzerland's startup ecosystem, 2026, and 2025–2027
- Comprehensive refurbishment and expansion of the **Technorama** Swiss Science Center in Winterthur
- Renovation of the **Mamco - Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art** in Geneva
- Setting up the **Carpentry Center of Competence** in St. Margrethen (SG)
- **Tischlein deck dich** (food pantry initiative) – expansion throughout Switzerland and operation of collection platforms and distribution points for those affected by poverty, Switzerland, 2025–2027
- **Swiss Food Bank** – expansion throughout Switzerland and operation of food collection and distribution serving social services providers, Switzerland, 2025–2027
- **Pro Infirmis** – pro bono counseling for persons with disabilities and their next of kin (social counseling, assistance counseling, assisted living), 2025–2027
- Construction of **new wildlife conservation building** at the Walter Zoo in Gossau (SG)
- Renovation of the **Hermitage Foundation** Museum in Lausanne
- **"Digital Transformation of Pathology"** – a new era in the field of clinical diagnostics" at the University Hospital of Zurich
- Humanitas Foundation – construction of a new **residential home** in Horgen
- Pfadi Trotz Allem (scouting for people with disabilities) – construction of new **residential dormitory** for fifty adults with special needs in La Neuveville
- Kartoni Cultural Hub – construction of new **stage house** in Glarus
- Construction of Wyden **residential home** and preservation of jobs for persons with special needs in Balgach (SG)
- Fondation Foyers Valais de Cœur – construction of new **residential home** for persons with disabilities in Martigny
- Construction of an underground **gymnasium** and a new sustainable school building for the upper secondary level of the Swiss School in Barcelona

Eligibility Criteria

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 as needed or renders financial assistance in cases in which public authorities can be expected to participate at a later point in time.

Website

Ernst Göhner Foundation
– Areas of Funding & Support



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. In 2005 SwissFoundations published its first governance code for grant-making foundations and co-initiated the Center for Philanthropy Studies (CEPS) of the University of Basel. The Ernst Göhner Foundation is actively engaged in the executive board and the working groups of SwissFoundations and, together with other member foundations, also funds various collaborative projects.

Website

www.swissfoundations.ch



Culture

The Ernst Göhner Foundation fosters professional cultural activities in all genres throughout Switzerland. The advancement of upcoming young talent takes front and center stage.

The Foundation seeks to offer young people the opportunity to develop and present themselves to a wide audience throughout Switzerland. The Foundation is also committed to outreach and participation projects that provide broad sections of the populace with access to culture.

Apart from project funding, the Foundation makes infrastructure contributions to Swiss cultural institutions. In the area of heritage conservation, the Foundation assumes some of the funding of renovation, restoration and repurposing costs of publicly accessible cultural landmarks. It also funds projects relating to cultural history and the humanities that make source material (images, scripts, collections) accessible to researchers and the public at large.

Funding directed to the education and training of exceptional young creative artists is exclusively provided in association with the Swiss Study Foundation (all disciplines) and the Kiefer Hablitzel Foundation (visual arts and music). These partner foundations organize assessments and competitions on the basis of which a jury of experts selects the grant recipients and award winners. Requests and proposals are to be addressed directly to the respective foundation. With First Dance the Ernst Göhner Foundation supports – in collaboration with the Sophie and Karl Binding Foundation – young dance artists in transitioning from professional dance training to the stage.





Contemporary, Intimate, Leading

The ADC Pavilion in Geneva is one of the most important centers for contemporary dance in Switzerland. Although the building has stood for only a scant few years, the institution's reputation extends far beyond Switzerland's borders.

Copy by Jana Avanzini, photos by Katharina Lütcher

It is still quiet in the Pavilion of the Association for Contemporary Dance (ADC Pavilion) in Geneva. Not a soul is to be found in the foyer, it is dark in the kitchen, and there is little happening on Place Sturm in front of this contemporary building on this afternoon. Inside the auditorium, however, rhythmic drumbeats can be heard coming from the speakers. It is Armin Hokmi and his troupe who are preparing for their evening performance. In colorful sweatpants and loose shirts, the dancers are sitting on the floor, stretching and massaging their arms and legs, while Hokmi goes through the emotional interpretation, the movements and their inner expression with the dancers. The Iranian-born choreographer, who lives in Berlin, is currently on an international tour with his successful stage production "Shiraz". After various festivals, after Düsseldorf and before London, he is visiting Geneva with five dancers, and thus is in excellent company. Since 2021, high-caliber guest performances have shared the stage in the ADC Pavilion with coproductions, international artists-in-residence, local outreach projects and festivals. The Pavilion's offerings also include its own archives of dance history and a magazine featuring interdisciplinary content. Workshops and milonga tango evenings take place in the foyer, sometimes outside in the summer, with a breathtaking view of Geneva – between the pavilion and the Russian Orthodox church with its gilded onion domes.



Perfect dancing conditions are present in the ADC.

ADC head Lou Coloumbani has been part of the team since only last summer, yet he already feels like he is among family. "Geneva is fantastic," says the Marseille native, adding: "It possesses a high cultural density, is dynamic yet relaxed." The ADC Pavilion has many loyal regulars, not to mention the many international professionals who visit regularly to seek inspiration or to discover talent for their own institutions, venues and festivals. This is all down to the sponsoring organization, for ADC has been putting on dance performances at various Geneva venues since 1986. The company moved into its own pavilion in 2021 – constructed from 84 wood frames and developed specifically for the needs of dance performances. The stands can seat 194, and tonight come 8:30 every one of these seats will be taken.

But the audience likes arriving earlier; the foyer begins to fill one hour before a performance is due to begin. Young and old drink tea and beer, people in giant coats and wild hats chat, eat quiche and sit cross-legged on the red Persian carpets if all the wooden designer chairs are taken.



All 194 seats are occupied.

Above this scene, reminiscent of a modern bohemian salon, 1,687 small lights are suspended from the ceiling. Sound designer Rudy Declière created this lighting design that makes the high-ceilinged room seem a lot more intimate.

Finishing the last of her cake, a young art student mentions that she is a regular, before returning her plate to the bar. Now the doors to the auditorium open – there are no buzzers or chimes announcing the beginning of the performance. The foyer is quiet again.

The Ernst Göhner Foundation supports infrastructure projects of cultural institutions. Examples include upgrading the lighting and sound system of the ADC Pavilion in Geneva, a key national center for contemporary dance. This enables the working conditions and visibility of artists and groups in established venues and in the independent scene to be optimized. Infrastructure projects also enable many cultural institutions to become more accessible and thus more attractive for the public at large.

"Geneva is fantastic. It possesses a high cultural density, is dynamic yet relaxed."

Lou Coloumbani, head of the ADC Pavilion



The audience feels at home in the foyer.



The Upper Engadine shows itself from its idyllic side around the Chesa Planta.

A Cultural Memory

Since their founding in 1988, the Culture Archives of Upper Engadine have steadily grown in relevance and scope as a cultural institution. Now they have been able to move into premises that are appropriate for their content: the Chesa Planta in Zuoz.

Copy by Jana Avanzini, photos by Katharina Lütcher

"The problem with the Culture Archives is their success," says archives chair Luzi Schucan. What he means: already a few years after the friends' association was founded, the stacks were bursting at the seams. The founding duo Dora Lardelli and Giuliano Pedretti leased a room in the old hospital of Samedan over thirty-five years ago at their own expense. It soon became too small; a new solution was found in Chesa Planta in Samedan. However, the rooms were cold, partly damp and soon yet again too small. So the search began anew for a long-term solution – ending up in the heart of Zuoz, in the historical Chesa Planta of the same name.

Joining forces with the foundation of the von Planta family, the project took shape – under the leadership of Conradin von Planta and architect Urs Padrun. "But to be fair, the conversion was a major accomplishment," says Schucan. Listed as a historic building – both inside and out – the renovation of the building, which was constructed in 1777, constantly brought new surprises. Nevertheless, the grand opening took place after four long years in November of 2024. Today, the historical building is earthquake-proof and kept toasty warm with eco-friendly district heating. The former barn was transformed into a history repository. Income from the apartment units located on the top floor under the roof cover part of the running costs. The building is a mix of old and new, stone arches and glass doors, Rococo stoves and exposed concrete in the stairwell.



Tours are regularly conducted of the new archives.

Luzi Schucan waxes conversational while leading through the rooms. Behind the stone walls and the thick bar-covered windows we descend floor by floor below ground, and then ascend floor by floor back up again. Here stored vertically and stacked horizontally there are more than 50,000 photographic negatives, 5,000 photographs, 20,000 postcards, 10,000 letters, 4,000 architectural drawings, 20,000 slides, and numerous handwritten materials, all cataloged for research purposes. And for outreach by way of exhibitions and guided tours. Add to this periodicals and posters, books, oil paintings, watercolors, but also the guitar and several Bambis awarded to Vico Toriani. It smells like fresh wood and a little like attic between the books. With his glasses perched on the end of his nose, Luzi Schucan rummages through the boxes, knows exactly where the information he is looking for is located, where the receipts for his anecdotes are. About the church choir that used to enlist the singing services of a member from each household – otherwise a fine was payable. About the demise of the larch budworm and the survival of a Dutch composition believed to have been lost. Or the tale of a fearless British lady mountaineer dressed in large robes, making her way through the ice and snow. You can literally feel what Kurt Gritsch, head of the archives, said in his opening speech: "Culture is the key that enables us to unlock the understanding of who we are as human beings."



Luzi Schucan knows the archives like the back of his hand.



All the documents are finally accessible in the purpose-built repository.

The Ernst Göhner Foundation is committed to the renovation of listed buildings and opening them up to a broad public. It also supports archives dedicated to various purposes by contributing to their infrastructure and/or development, assessment and making cultural assets publicly accessible. Archives are important for a society's collective memory and for understanding the past and present and culture as practiced and lived.

"The problem with the Culture Archives is their success."

Luzi Schucan, chair of the Culture Archives



Social Projects

One of the Ernst Göhner Foundation's primary callings is to support institutions dedicated to the socially disadvantaged and adults, youths and children with physical or mental disabilities.

First and foremost, the Foundation makes financial contributions to infrastructure and projects, in exceptional cases contributions to enable continued operation, but does not provide assistance of an individual nature or payments to cover operating shortfalls. Projects should be of a long-term and sustainable nature, serve as role models, and have a broad impact.

The Foundation also supports projects that help to integrate young people, people with physical or mental disabilities, and recipients of public assistance into the world of work, projects that promote respectful relationships and coexistence between people of different ages and backgrounds, and projects aimed at preventing addiction and violence.





The young people advance stone by stone alongside the professionals.

Building on a Dialogue

In order to overcome boundaries and prejudices, direct contact is frequently necessary as is discovering what one has in common with others. «Building Walls Breaking Walls», a project for young people, is an excellent example of this. A visit to the building site of intercultural dialogue in Jura (SO).

Copy by Jana Avanzini, photos by Katharina Lütcher

As the bright yellow PostBus rounds the last bend, you can already see it: the light-colored dry-stone wall that divides the meadow in two for over a hundred yards. And way in the back, underneath some small maple trees, a few people who are working on it. They are young people from Switzerland, the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, Palestine and Israel, Italy and South Tyrol. They have gathered here for a week to take part in the «Building Walls Breaking Walls» project. As the name of the project implies, they not only will be building walls but also breaking them down – walls of a cultural nature. The project seeks to overcome borders and boundaries that arise as the result of conflicts and wars, language barriers and religious differences. An ambitious idea that has been successfully connecting young people for several years.

In 2013 the Nature Culture Association – cofounded by Oliver Schneitter Ashton and Jörg Lötcher – organized a week of intercultural dialogue for the first time. Since then, an international network has been established, with young people coming together six times a year in various «Building Walls Breaking Walls» assignments. In Jura (Solothurn), in Romandy, Ticino, but also in Israel and Ireland. These weeks are dedicated to a building project, but also excursions, cooking together, encounter sessions and workshops. Borders and boundaries are discussed as are differences, what a passport actually is, and what one's own origins mean. Where do you recognize yourself in "other" cultures, where do you discover commonalities? Restoring and building dry-wall masonry serves as physical exercise in this context.

Half of the sixteen participants are at work on the Lower Grenchenberg, mentored by five dry-wall masons. Relaxed background noise fills the meadow between two wooded areas. The sound of hammers and chisels can be regularly heard, along with chatting and laughter, the dull thud of stones being placed on top of one another. The wind rustles in the leaves of the trees. Here everybody is on a first-name basis, chatting almost exclusively in English. That is designed to prevent cliques from forming, says Lina. The Swiss group leader grabs a sip of water in the tent that is used for storing food and drink and provides a little shelter at the edge of the building site. She has been part of the team for five years now. When she speaks her passion for the idea behind the project, but also for the work itself, is immediately apparent. "There is something which grounds you when setting stones on top of one another," says Lina, adding: "The masons aren't any faster with our 'help', but they aren't any slower either." Construction head Joel, chuckling, confirms this. He and the other dry-stone masons are on site for several weeks, sleep near the building site in the Swiss Alpine Club (SAC) hut, while the project participants stay at the ski clubhouse, located a little further up the mountain. "The flow is completely different when young people are around," he says. For one, work on the wall proceeds less efficiently, yet there is more of an exchange going on between everyone; plus which, conveying knowledge is a lot of fun, he adds.

He is then approached by Ghazal, who is getting ready for her assignment. She wants him to assign her a difficult task, she's in the mood for a real workout today. During the past few years she has been present as a participant for a couple of weeks in the Israeli-Palestinian group, now she has advanced to group leader. Matthew, who is standing next to her, is here for the first time. A staff member of a Northern Irish non-profit organization, he has overseen a variety of international youth projects. This time it is different. "Most programs are extremely language-based. A completely different dynamic is created here on account of the physical nature of the work." As a result, there is time to reflect on one's thoughts and to process what has been said. "About dinner...," Jawad asks him. The 18-year-old from Northern Ireland wants to make shepherd's pie, a traditional Irish dish. But first he has a number of old stones to remove.

He is working underneath a hawthorn tree next to Franz, who is currently building a kind of bridge in the wall – for the tree's roots – and explaining the advantages to Jawad. Apart from youth and peace work, culture and social work, education about the environment is also a top priority here. Dry-stone walls are like puzzles, only harder, says Sofia, who hails from Italy. She emphasizes that in the space of just a few days she has already learned much more about various conflicts and cultures than she ever could have imagined. She has managed to overcome many clichés, especially with respect to Israel and Palestine. Radi from Palestine joins in: he especially appreciates discovering how many things people have in common when you look beyond outer appearances and nitpicky details. He is extremely pleased to be working on this wall and thus contributing to the cultural heritage of this country. "Everything is so peaceful," says Radi, standing up and abandoning the stones for a moment to take a look at the work that has been completed. "Peaceful" describes the situation perfectly.



The dry-stone wall on Grenchenberg is rising up again.

The «Building Walls Breaking Walls» project enables an encounter and an exchange to take place between various cultures and languages. By restoring historical dry-stone walls, local biodiversity is also fostered and Swiss cultural heritage preserved. The Ernst Göhner Foundation considers the project to be particularly worthy of support as multiple purposes are achieved at the same time. That is why the Foundation has appropriated funding for the Nature Culture Association for this project on several occasions.

"In the space of just a few days I have already learned much more about various conflicts and cultures than I ever could have imagined."

Sofia, project participant Building Walls Breaking Walls



After lunch the mood is buoyant despite the hard work.

Education & Science

The Ernst Göhner Foundation fosters the education, training & professional development of talented young people from all walks of life.

Fostering takes place primarily by way of contributions to select training programs and infrastructure projects involving education and training centers. The award of grants is done exclusively in concert with the partner organizations, i.e. Pestalozzi International Foundation, Swiss Study Foundation, and Swiss Sport Foundation. Grant requests are to be submitted directly to these foundations.

In Science & Research projects, the Foundation substantially takes account of all disciplines, except for basic research, which is not funded as a general principle. Research projects in the natural sciences and engineering sciences are generally selected by the Ernst Göhner Foundation in collaboration with university administrations or their respective funding foundations. Medical research activities and projects are supported in only three areas: infrastructure and special-purpose apparatus, digital transformation in healthcare (at the national level) and public health (at the national level).

The Foundation also funds projects relating to cultural history and the humanities that make source material (images, scripts, collections) accessible to researchers and the general public.



Mosses reveal their fascinating structures under the microscope.



Lush Plants, Fertile Atmosphere

The "Nachtaktiv" (Active Nights) series of events draws young people to museums. Here, they can engage in conversation with scientists over drinks and music at evening events – and even try their hand at some hands-on activities.

Copy by Jana Avanzini, photos by Katharina Lütcher

The neon sign "Alles Kaktus?" ("Everything cactus?") casts a warm glow over the courtyard of the Zurich Succulent Collection. A group of young people has gathered here on a late-summer Thursday evening. Laughter and conversation are to be heard, and admiration expressed for a new jacket. Last time the students got together to play pool. Tonight, they are paying a visit to the museum's greenhouses, to "dig around" a bit.

You might be surprised to learn that the evening program of a group of twenty-somethings consists of looking at a bunch of plants in a museum – yet the Active Nights event makes it possible. The project was developed by the Zurich-Basel Plant Science Center with the idea of piquing the interest of young adults for science topics and museums. Similar events also take place in the Rietberg Museum or the Mühlerama Museum – during the evening and for those aged between fifteen and thirty. "It's great being able to attract this age group. They tend to be the last ones we're able to reach," says Gabriela Wyss, head of the Succulent Collection. Active Nights is making an appearance here for the third time and the collaboration is evidently well-established.

"It's great being able to attract this age group. They tend to be the last ones we're able to reach."

Gabriela Wyss, head of the Succulent Collection

The first visitors wait outside, basking in the last rays of sun; inside those conducting the event introduce themselves to one another. Dr. Flavian Tschurr and Corina Oppliger of ETH Zurich have come with basil in a pot and a thermal camera; Camil Müri of the Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW) with his work on plants that are able to replace sewage treatment plants. Biotech engineer Ibtissem Smida is conducting three workshops this evening on aloe vera; and Maeve Lin of the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research is devoting herself entirely to mosses.

DJ Cyra is in charge of background music. She puts on some old hip-hop, some cumbia. Chill and freestyle, she says, and makes one thing clear right off during the introductions: do not hesitate to approach her if the music is too loud, becomes too much of a muchness. That won't happen tonight. The audience is young, twenty on average. "But we won't turn away anyone else who might like to join us," says Savannah Goetsch, project coordinator of the Zurich-Basel Plant Science Center, with a chuckle. And people do come, no doubt about it: the three workshops and guided tours are booked solid immediately. The greenhouses, quiet just a few minutes ago, fill up fast. Drinks are passed across the improvised bar counter, a few pickled prickly pear cactus leaves are available for sampling.

Tonight's event has the humorous title "Juicy Plants": it is dedicated to the subject of water and plants. At every Active Nights event the project team and staff of the respective museum choose a topic. Then they look for scientists who can convey the right innovative content. "For us the main thing is to make the knowledge contained in museums and the link to current research topics visible," says Savannah Goetsch. The idea is to make current research accessible to the general public and to discuss novel scientific ideas in a relaxed atmosphere.

Maeve Lin has arrived with a couple of mosses that she moistens and painstakingly separates, enabling visitors to examine them under the microscope. Discussions relating to these super plants soon develop at her booth. Who knew that peat moss is the world's largest carbon sink? Or that things can be thrown into an antibacterial, oxygen-depleted bog and retrieved one hundred years from now perfectly preserved? Bog bodies come to mind.

Now bio-engineer Ibtissem Smida is conducting the workshop on the manufacture of aloe vera gel. She shows how this super plant can be processed and transformed into cosmetics, jams or used as an ingredient to add to your morning smoothie. But caution is advised – there can be too much of a good thing: aloe vera has such a pronounced laxative effect that just 100 grams can cause severe diarrhea. Since it has antibacterial properties, it is good not only for your skin and hair, but also for intimate care.

Old-school hip-hop is now to be heard outside of the workshop room. A young couple sits down next to the mosses. She heard about the event on Instagram, found the post cool. Her interest in plants prompted her to bring her boyfriend along. He laughs, sets his beer down next to the microscope and immerses himself in the world of chloroplasts.

The relaxed atmosphere in the evening is quite different from the one during the day, when visitors quietly stroll around the Succulent Collection, looking at the plants and reading the accompanying information. Nevertheless, evening visitors are noticeably cautious as they walk among the plants, says Gabriela Wyss, observing people strolling through the cactuses with their beer and mate in hand, taking selfies, and chatting with scientists at the booths.

The music floats from the speakers until 10:30, and the disco lights are reflected off the glass ceilings and walls. Then quiet again commands the greenhouses.



Here succulents stretch from floor to ceiling.

The Ernst Göhner Foundation supports scientainment offerings like Active Nights in order to make science accessible and appealing to a broad audience, promote scientific literacy among the general public, and spark widespread interest in science topics. By combining science and entertainment, these projects are able to appeal directly to people, which increases the reach and impact of science promotion efforts.

"For us the main thing is to make the knowledge contained in museums and the link to current research topics visible."

Savannah Goetsch, project coordinator of the Zurich-Basel Plant Science Center



Lively discussion in the aloe vera workshop.

The Environment

The Ernst Göhner Foundation appropriates funding contributions to preserve natural habitats and Switzerland's flora and fauna.

The Foundation supports measures to preserve, restore or upgrade landscapes and the structures and buildings that characterize them. It also promotes projects like publications or exhibitions designed to raise public awareness, especially that of children and young people, for environmental topics.

The Foundation supports projects in economically disadvantaged areas of Switzerland, in particular in mountain and border regions, so as to preserve these areas as habitats and places where people live and work. These projects are implemented primarily in collaboration with partner organizations. The focus is on projects that serve the economic sustainability of the region, counteract rural exodus and depopulation, or promote local initiatives, near-natural land use, and traditional crafts.



In the outdoor enclosure the St. Bernards are enjoying the first rays of the sun.



Dog – a Swiss Cultural Heritage

The St. Bernard is not just any dog breed. These large animals are a Swiss cultural heritage, and social companions in various institutions. The knowledge around these special dogs is concentrated not far from their place of origin.

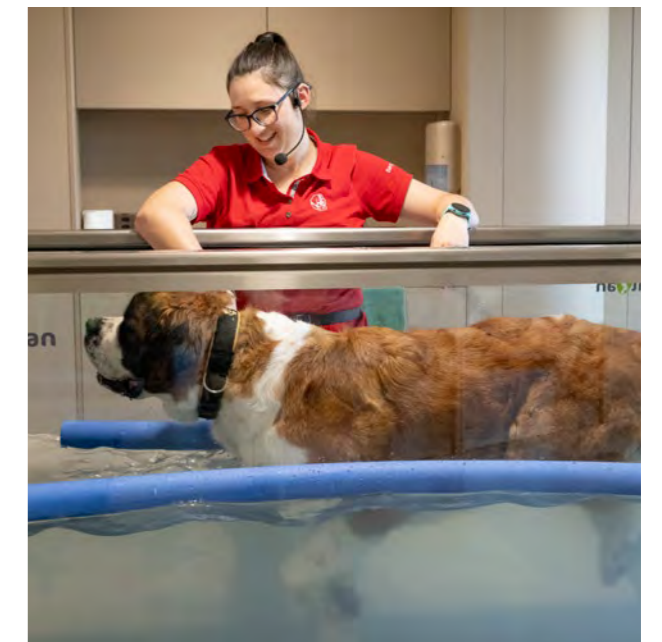
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The most handsome St. Bernard male in Martigny is always called Barry. This follows a tradition. The current Barry is eight years old, weighs 165 lbs., has the ideal square-shaped head – and has won numerous prizes. His home is located not far from the Great Saint Bernard Pass. It consists of a breeder station and Barryland, a theme park – the world's first theme park dedicated solely to the St. Bernard, Switzerland's national dog.

Opened in 2025, the park conveys knowledge around this legendary mountain hostel dog in a museum section, and also in a large area in which visitors can observe the dogs enjoying their everyday activities. Here the dogs sleep in soundproof kennels, their large heads with their soft muzzles sprawled out on the floor. Here they romp around in four outdoor enclosures on this sunny fall day. And here they are massaged, groomed, and kept in shape with physical therapy in rooms that are open to the viewing public. Curious people of all ages stand there, enjoying themselves and nodding their heads, intently listening to the dog carer's explanations.

There are ca. 200 visitors on quiet days and up to 1,500 a day during the peak season, according to Alexandra Burgdorf, head of communications, who leads us behind the scenes. 16 of the 37 dogs are in the park every day, the rest remain at the breeding station. During the summer, ten dogs are to be found at the Great Saint Bernard Pass.

Thanks to the park, the human team has grown to a staff of 90 strong this year. One of them is dog carer Tom Bétrisey, who is giving Finesse a good grooming. The five-year-old female knows exactly what to expect. She is relaxed while Bétrisey checks the scent of her ears, trims her claws, brushes her coat, and then brushes her teeth with chicken-flavored toothpaste.



The St. Bernard athletics program includes hydrotherapy in a pool filled with warm water.

"The dogs are like a magnet," says Bétrisey, as he romps around the outdoor enclosure with the dogs, along which enthusiastic children are gathered. They stick their hands through the fence and try to get a good feel of the dogs' shiny coats. But the park is not a petting zoo, Alexandra Burgdorf emphasizes. Although St. Bernards are extremely friendly dogs, too much attention can be a bit much for them. They need fourteen to sixteen hours of rest and sleep a day. That is why the professionals avoid overly rambunctious social contact with strangers – also during social therapy sessions for which St. Bernards are frequently used in assisted living homes, facilities for people with special needs, and animal-assisted therapies. The canine teams – consisting of a human and a dog who are trained together – complete up to 600 assignments a year in Switzerland. However, never more than two assignments a week, although the demand for them is much higher. The dogs are not timid. They'll readily approach you, even if you aren't armed with treats like the dog carers. They'll seek your stroking hand and lean in so eagerly against your legs that you almost topple over.

St. Bernards grow into adults fast and don't have a long life expectancy. In most cases their lifespan is only ten years, and at the age of seven they have already entered their geriatric phase. Their lifespan can't be extended even if they benefit from physical therapy every day. "But their

quality of life is improved dramatically, particularly if they undergo joint therapy," explains Tom Bétrisey. That's why daily physical therapy is a must in the breeding station and in Barryland. Even aqua aerobics is available at Barryland: as enjoyed by Qualya, who is currently completing her session in the theme park's own hydrotherapy pool.

Private owners of St. Bernards typically have little access to such amenities. "Our main job is educating people on how to look after these dogs in the most optimal way and what owners should look for in day-to-day interactions," says Burgdorf. Follow-up care of the approximately twenty puppies that are sold by the Barry Foundation breeding facility in Martigny to private individuals includes taking a good look at their prospective new homes. Comparable to the way tabs are kept on the dogs themselves. They mustn't get too heavy so that major joint issues can be avoided. The coats of most dogs at Martigny are kept on the short side – in line with the tradition of the dogs that have made their way over the snow-covered passes for centuries. All in keeping with the tradition of Barry 1: he lived from 1800 to 1812 in the mountain hostel located at the Great Saint Bernard Pass and, according to legend, saved over forty people buried by snow and fog. A story that characterizes the image of the St. Bernard as man's loyal and courageous companion.

Animal welfare is a primary concern of the Ernst Göhner Foundation. The Foundation has provided generous funding to the construction of the new building since Barryland helps the visitor to learn how to properly care for dogs and about the specific needs of this dog breed. In 2025, the Foundation also helped to fund the construction of the new animal rescue shelter of the SPA humane society of Valais and the construction of daylight windows in the building housing the dogs of the Foundation for Happy Dogs and People. The Foundation also made a financial contribution to a study on the health of calves and the use of antibiotics conducted by the *Förderverein Mutter-Kalb-Haltung* (Association for the Promotion of Cow-Calf Contact Rearing in Dairy Production).



The history of the St. Bernard is documented by the museum section in Barryland.

"Our main job is educating people on how to look after these dogs in the most optimal way and what owners should look for in day-to-day interactions."

Alexandra Burgdorf, head of communications & fundraising Barryland



Petting is allowed if the dogs approach of their own volition.

Kick Foundation & Kickfund



Kick Foundation
www.kickfoundation.ch



Talent Kick
www.talentkick.ch



Venture Kick
www.venturekick.ch



Kickfund
www.kickfund.ch

Kick Foundation

The Ernst Göhner Foundation initiated the Kick Foundation in concert with the Gebert Rüt Foundation in 2021. Its purpose is to strengthen the Swiss startup eco-system by way of various philanthropic initiatives. Each initiative of the Kick program is self-contained and independent. Together, however, they form a highly coordinated eco-system that creates innumerable possibilities for collaboration, inspiration and the exchange of ideas and experience.

Idea Kick assists college-prep and vocational school students in transforming their ideas into viable businesses. They develop these projects in national competitions like *Schweizer Jugend forscht* (Swiss Youth in Science), Young Enterprise Switzerland, or Entrepreneur Skills. The initiative also organizes follow-up programs for them. **Talent Kick** is a highly selective intercollegiate program that helps students locate an interdisciplinary founder team and gather practical business experience.

Venture Kick (founded by the Ernst Göhner Foundation in 2007; since 2021: part of the Kick Foundation) offers a nine-month kickstart process during which young entrepreneurs and their promising business ideas are mentored on their way from scientific theory to market viability. Since 2007, Venture Kick has selected 1,251 startup projects from among approximately 8800 proposals received by it from Swiss institutions of higher learning and disbursed CHF 67 million in seed funding. These projects have given rise to a portfolio of ca. 830 active startups that have created more than 16,000 jobs.

Kickfund

Kickfund is an independent investment fund that is based on Venture Kick's deal flow pipeline. It invests in selected startups that have successfully completed Venture Kick's selection and funding process. The Ernst Göhner Foundation initiated this fund in concert with the Gebert Rüt Foundation. This model is unique throughout Europe as a portion of the profits flows back to the Kick Foundation as a donation for the purpose of supporting the Kick Foundation's other programs.

Key developments and highlights in 2025 include: Portfolio expansion and follow-up investments: establishment of a diversified portfolio with ca. 100 high-tech startups and investments of CHF 21 million through the end of 2025. When the follow-up investments are included, this corresponds to just under 70% of the target size of the fund portfolio.

On the whole, investors from all over the world have invested over CHF 10 billion in Venture Kick startups, most recently \$100 million in Neural Concept Ltd.

In 2025, 66 of the startups funded by Venture Kick were recipients of the Top 100 Swiss Startup Award. For the first time, places 1 to 10 were taken exclusively by Venture Kick alumni. The attractiveness of the Venture Kick accelerator program has been significantly enhanced over the past couple of years: the winning projects are able to secure up to CHF 850,000 in additional funding from the Kickfund. Profit-sharing returns from the Kickfund provide a significant contribution to the sustainable funding of Venture Kick in the medium term. In 2025, the startups supported generated a return amounting to ca. CHF 4 million. In so doing, one third of the annual budget was defrayed.

Venture Kick pursues ambitious goals and anticipates increasing the number of funded projects to 3,000 by 2033. By pursuing this strategy, 100,000 jobs have been created in Switzerland in innovative, future-proof industries.

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

Some of the companies have successfully completed equity rounds with notable investors. 22 companies have received a second investment by the fund.

In June, Kickfund – in concert with Swiss investment firms Founderful, Deep Tech Nation Switzerland and Startupticker.ch – published Swiss Deep Tech Report 2025, an annual periodical, for the first time.

Investor events and fund updates: at two events, investors had the opportunity to become more acquainted with six portfolio companies and get a close-up view of the fund's performance.

03

The Göhner Family

The Göhner Family

The Göhner Company was originally founded in 1890 by Gottlieb Göhner, Ernst Göhner's father. After his father's passing, 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 also working in managing positions there.

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".

In the film "Ein Beispiel" (The Life and Work of Ernst Göhner), created in honor of his 70th birthday, Ernst Göhner said:

"I am deeply grateful for all the people who have stood by me – and continue to do so – in both good times and challenging moments. I consider us to be one united family."

Ernst Göhner, founder of the Ernst Göhner 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 corporate stakes and the real estate portfolio form the key sources of funding for the grants made by the 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.

Grants to the family members are made under the legal framework provided for Swiss family foundations. They are largely based on a lifecycle model catering to 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 living family members are nephews, the youngest already great great grand nieces and nephews of founder Ernst Göhner. In 2025, the annual get-together of the family beneficiaries took place in Zurich and Küsnacht. Various sites were visited that are of significance for the founder and the history of the EGS Group. As in the previous year, the Christmas event took place in Haus zum Rüden, the heritage guildhall of the Constaffel Society, in Zurich.



Playground, Sonnalde residential development in Adlikon in ca. 1970. (photo: Ernst Göhner Foundation archives)

Ernst Göhner

(1900–1971)



- 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 with attached glazier's shop at Hallenstrasse 15/17 in Zurich.
- 1900** ● Birth of Ernst Göhner as the second youngest of six children on February 28.
- 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.
- 1932** ● Founding of Tür- und Fensterfabrik AG (Tufa AG), today: EgoKiefer AG.
- 1934** ● Founding of Holzkarosserien AG (abbreviated: Holka AG); sale to Th. Willy AG in 1966.
- 1940** ● Acquisition of general agency for DKW (Auto Union AG) 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 (45%) in Auto Union GmbH, sold to Daimler-Benz AG in 1958.
- 1944** ● Founding of Bauwerk AG, today: Bauwerk Group AG (parquet flooring).
- 1951** ● Founding of Reederei Zürich AG together with the Federation of Migros Cooperatives; sale of stake (50%) about five years later to Migros.
- 1962** ● Acquisition of interest in Alpina-Reederei AG (maritime shipping in Basel). 1988: sale to German Harmstorf Shipping Group & Co.
- 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) AG.
- 1971** ● Sale of Ernst Göhner AG, Ego Werke AG, Bauwerk AG, Bartels-Werke GmbH and Ibus-Werke GmbH to Elektrowatt AG. Ernst Göhner thus became the largest private shareholder in Elektrowatt AG.
- 1971** ● Death of Ernst Göhner on November 24th in Risch (ZG).

Gems from Our Archives

The archives of the Ernst Göhner Foundation contain a promotional film of Ernst Göhner AG made in 1972: *Elementbau: Göhner-Bauten mit Igeco-Betonelementen* ("Prefab Construction: Göhner Buildings Made with Igeco Precast Concrete Construction Elements"). It was produced by Condor Films Ltd., at that time the leading address for promotional films.

Advertising of Ernst Göhner AG in 1972

At the end of World War II, Europe lay in ruins. The order of the day – to rebuild infrastructure and housing as quickly as possible. In Switzerland, which was spared the ravages of war, the focus was on providing housing for the rapidly growing population.

Copy by Urs Lengwiler

In concert with architect Gottfried Schindler, Ernst Göhner developed a modular construction system enabling entire facades to be prefabricated efficiently and assembled on site in a cost- and time-saving manner. Innovators Göhner and Schindler formed an ideal team: Schindler, who made a name for himself with the construction of air raid shelters, was interested in engineering issues from the perspective of an architect. Göhner mastered the principle of prefab construction components and assembly at the construction site, having utilized this established technique in the construction of windows.

The archives of the Ernst Göhner Foundation contain a promotional film of Ernst Göhner AG made in 1972: *Elementbau: Göhner-Bauten mit Igeco-Betonelementen* ("Prefab Construction: Göhner Buildings Made with Igeco Precast Concrete Construction Elements"). It was produced by Condor Films Ltd., at that time the leading address for promotional films.

Elementbau shows pictures of German cities ravaged by war. It documents how building employing the prefab construction system came about, and illustrates how young families brought the completed housing developments to life. The entire film is scored by jazz renditions of pieces by Johann Sebastian Bach. Pride in this engineering feat is reflected in the voiceover commentary. The color images, somewhat faded due to their age, and the sound combine to form a remarkable historical document.



Promotional Film

Youtube *Elementbau Ernst Göhner* (in German)



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