

# Portrait 2024

## Activity Report of the Vontobel Foundation

About the foundation – Our Commitment – Insights into our funding activities



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# ▮ About the foundation

## **Introducing ourselves**

As a grant-making foundation, the Vontobel Foundation provides financial support to projects undertaken by charitable Swiss institutions in the areas of social welfare, culture and society, nature and science. Funding is also provided to disadvantaged individuals, families, and students. Additionally, the Foundation publishes a series of in-depth monographs that address current and fundamental issues, contributing to political, social, economic, and cultural discussions. The Foundation was established in 1993 by private banker Dr. Hans Vontobel (1916–2016). He contributed a package of Vontobel shares, which, together with subsequent donations made by his son Dr. Hans-Dieter Vontobel, forms the core of the Foundation's capital. The Vontobel Foundation is subject to the supervision of the Office for Occupational Pensions and Foundations of the Canton of Zurich.

## **About the Founder of the Vontobel Foundation**





Our founder, Dr. Hans Vontobel, was convinced that a society worthy of the name is reliant on solidarity and mutual recognition.









Dr. Hans Vontobel was born in Zurich on December 4, 1916, completing his studies in law and political science in this city in 1942. The following year, he joined what was then Bank J. Vontobel & Co., and under his leadership the bank developed into one of the world's leading internationally active asset managers. In 1981, Dr. Vontobel assumed the chairmanship of the bank's Board of Directors, and in 1991 he moved into the role of Chairman Emeritus. He not only founded the Vontobel Foundation, but also the Creative Aging Foundation, and the Lyra Foundation to support young musical talents. For many years, he served as Chairman of the Zurich Stock Exchange, and was a member of the board of the Swiss Bankers Association and of the Neue Zürcher Zeitung, as well as Chairman of the German-Swiss Chamber of Commerce. As the father of two daughters and a son, he was not only a banker through and through, but also an author and publicist, a citizen sensitive to many key issues, and a keen observer of his time. He passed away on January 3, 2016, in his 100th year.

### Foundation Board

The Foundation Board is the highest body of the Vontobel Foundation. Based on the Foundation's charter, the Board defines the focus of our funding activities and decides on the allocation of funding contributions.

	<p><b>Dr. iur. Hans-Dieter Vontobel</b> Chairman of the Foundation Board</p> <p>Dr. Hans-Dieter Vontobel represents the third founding generation of the Vontobel family. He was CEO and subsequently chaired the Board of Directors of Vontobel Holding AG until 2002. Since the Vontobel Foundation's establishment in 1993 by his father, Dr. Hans Vontobel, Hans-Dieter Vontobel has been a member of the Foundation Board and its Chairman since 2005.</p>
<p><b>Dr. iur. et. lic. oec. HSG Urs Landolf</b> Vice Chairman of the Foundation Board and Chairman of the Investment Committee</p> <p>Dr. Urs Landolf has been a legal advisor at Wenger &amp; Vieli Attorneys-at-Law in Zurich since 2015. Previously, he was a long-time partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers in tax and legal consulting. Dr. Landolf is active as a foundation and board member, including as a trustee of the HSG Foundation. He also chaired the HSG Alumni Association for many years and is now an Honorary Senator of the University of St. Gallen.</p>	
	<p><b>Dr. iur. Maja Baumann</b> Member of the Foundation Board</p> <p>Dr. Maja Baumann represents the fourth founding generation of the Vontobel family. Since 2020, she has been a partner at the law firm Swiss Legal, specializing in real estate, commercial, and corporate law, as well as banking supervisory issues. She is also a member of the Expert Commission for Construction and Real Estate Law at the Swiss Bar Association. Dr. Baumann is active as a foundation and board member, including serving as Chairman of the Zurich Zoo Foundation's board and as a member of the Vontobel Holding AG board.</p>
<p><b>Ines Brunner</b> Member of the Foundation Board</p> <p>Ines Brunner holds a Master's degree in business economics from the University of Zurich and a Bachelor's degree in physiotherapy from the Zurich University of Applied Sciences. After working in internal auditing at a bank, she turned to physiotherapy and worked in various roles in both hospitals and private practices. At the Vontobel Foundation, Ms. Brunner is responsible for small grants in the area of education.</p>	

	<p><b>Nicole von Däniken-Wettergren</b> Member of the Foundation Board</p> <p>Nicole von Däniken-Wettergren also represents the fourth founding generation of the Vontobel family. She holds a Master's degree in economics and has held various positions at Vontobel Holding AG. She is a board member of a private FemTech company and, as a board member of the Vontobel Foundation, is responsible for small grants in the area of social welfare.</p>
<p><b>Dr. phil. Katja Gentinetta</b> Member of the Foundation Board and the Investment Committee</p> <p>Dr. Katja Gentinetta is a political philosopher and author. She publishes non-fiction books and essays on social and economic policy issues. For eight years, she moderated "Sternstunde Philosophie" and "NZZ Standpunkte" on the Swiss television broadcaster SRF, and today she leads the talks at the Swiss Institute of International Studies. From 2006 to 2011, she was Deputy Director of the think tank Avenir Suisse. She teaches at the universities of St. Gallen, Zurich, and Lucerne and holds various board and foundation memberships.</p>	
	<p><b>Dr. phil. Peter Maurer</b> Member of the Foundation Board</p> <p>Dr. Peter Maurer led the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the UN from 2004 to 2010 and then served as Secretary of State at the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. From 2012 to 2022, he shaped humanitarian aid as Chairman of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Today, he is involved in various boards of trustees and serves as Chairman of the Basel Institute on Governance, Senior Fellow at the Geneva Graduate Institute, and a board member of Zurich Insurance.</p>
<p><b>Dr. med. vet. Alex Rübel</b> Member of the Foundation Board</p> <p>Dr. Alex Rübel was the Director of the Zurich Zoo for nearly 30 years. Under his leadership, the zoo developed into a conservation center and one of the most modern zoos in the world. Dr. Rübel serves as President of the University of Zurich Alumni Association and contributes his expertise to various boards of trustees.</p>	

	<p><b>Dr. oec. Martin Sieg Castagnola</b> Member of the Foundation Board and the Investment Committee</p> <p>Dr. Martin Sieg was Chief Financial Officer and a member of the Executive Board of Vontobel Holding AG from 2008 to 2020. Before that, he served on the senior management team of Zürcher Kantonalbank. Today, he is an independent consultant and a member of various boards of trustees and administrative boards.</p>
<p><b>Prof. Dr. med. em. Giatgen Spinas</b> Member of the Foundation Board</p> <p>Prof. Giatgen Spinas is the former Director of the Clinic for Endocrinology, Diabetology, and Clinical Nutrition at the University Hospital Zurich. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the LUKS Group and Chairman of the University Council of the University of Lucerne. Prof. Spinas also serves as Co-Director of The LOOP Zurich, a center for translational research with a focus on precision medicine. In addition, he is a member of the Zurich Ethics Commission, a consulting physician at the Oberengadin Hospital, and is active in various foundations.</p>	

# Our Commitment

The Vontobel Foundation is a grant-making foundation. As an independent shareholder of Vontobel Holding AG, the significant package of shares it holds constitutes its foundation capital. With the income generated by this shareholding, it provides support for Swiss charitable organizations, contributing to their projects financially and helping members of the upcoming generation take their place as the scientists and leaders of tomorrow. It assists economically disadvantaged individuals and families in Switzerland with grants to cover their living costs and allow them to become active members of society. And it provides scholarships to financially needy students.

We support initiatives with the following goals:

- Promoting an autonomous life for individuals and communities
- Promoting equal opportunities in education and the workplace
- Establishing the basis for physical and mental health
- Sustainably protecting the living conditions of humans and animals
- Promoting cohesion and understanding in society
- Supporting economically disadvantaged individuals and families

## Support for Individuals

The Vontobel Foundation supports economically disadvantaged individuals and families in Switzerland with grants to cover their living costs and allow them to become active members of society. And it provides scholarships to financially needy students and apprentices.

### Social Assistance

The Vontobel Foundation stands by individuals or families who find themselves in financial distress.

Switzerland has one of the highest per capita incomes in the world. Yet many people feel the pressure of the country's high cost of living and can fall into financial hardship. Families, people with physical and mental disabilities, or individuals living on a modest pension are particularly at risk. The Vontobel Foundation supports people living in Switzerland who are urgently in need of financial assistance, whether to cover everyday costs or to participate as members of society. A grant is made if it will sustainably improve the individual's personal and financial situation or bridge a temporarily difficult situation.



### Scholarships

The Vontobel Foundation supports university students and apprentices who find themselves in financial distress.

Anyone who wants to pursue an educational path should not be hindered by doing so because of financial barriers. The Vontobel Foundation awards individual scholarships to economically disadvantaged students and apprentices in all disciplines to ensure they have access to education, provided that they live in Switzerland and are enrolled in their initial education at a Swiss educational institution. Our scholarships are intended to supplement family or state support.



## Support for Organizations

The Vontobel Foundation promotes projects led by Swiss charitable institutions in the areas of social welfare, culture and society, as well as nature and science.

### Social Initiatives in Switzerland

The Vontobel Foundation is committed to equal opportunity through integration and to projects that promote mental health.

We support projects that contribute to equal opportunities in education and in the workplace. Well-targeted integration projects enable people to live independently and contribute to society. In this way, poverty is reduced, and sought-after professionals receive training. Such projects make a positive impact throughout Switzerland or more specifically in the Zurich region. We also support projects dedicated to promoting mental health. We are convinced that psychological stability is the basic prerequisite for independent and responsible action.

### Social initiatives abroad

The Vontobel Foundation helps individuals and communities worldwide earn a sustainable income through education and entrepreneurial approaches, thus preventing poverty and exclusion.

Our funded projects improve the income of disadvantaged demographic groups. The support should not create dependencies but rather empower people to shape their own lives. This corresponds to our understanding of sustainable poverty reduction. Our funding activities focus on:

- Projects concerning education and vocational training
- Initiatives with an entrepreneurial approach
- Projects promoting health
- Initiatives reinforcing nature conservation efforts, together with local communities

We expect our project partners to achieve a transformative impact and pursue an innovative approach that can be scaled up after an initial phase.

### Nature and Science

The Vontobel Foundation is committed to initiatives and projects that contribute to sustainable living conditions for both humans and animals.

Intact ecosystems are essential for life. We support projects that strengthen animal welfare, protect nature, and sustainably shape land use. In the area of Nature, we support projects addressing the following issues:

- The dilemma between animal welfare, nature, and nutrition
- Nature and species protection in Switzerland and abroad
- Landscape protection in Switzerland and abroad
- Small education-oriented nature conservation projects
- Education and awareness in dealing with nature
- Zoos, wildlife parks, and nature museums in the greater Zurich area
- Applied animal protection
- Beratungsprojekte zum Wohle der Natur

We support young researchers at established research institutes focusing on the following issues:

- Ecologically regenerative land use
- Animal husbandry and nutrition
- "One Health" topics such as zoonoses or antibiotic resistance
- Scientific bases for animal-assisted mental health therapies

### Medical research

The Vontobel Foundation promotes high-quality medical research conducted by young researchers.

Medical research enables the development of new treatments, medications, and therapies. We contribute to this progress by supporting young researchers working on a relevant project at an established research institute. Through this support, we are also increasing the competitiveness of Switzerland as a research hub.

In general, we support salaries for early-career researchers (PhD candidates, doctoral candidates, and others with protected research time) but do not provide support covering costs of materials and laboratory.

### Culture and Society

The Vontobel Foundation supports various initiatives that promote social cohesion and understanding.

In the field of Culture and Society, we back initiatives by recognized and respected organizations that foster unity and build bridges between different demographic groups and generations. The projects we support are transformative in nature and have a wide-ranging impact, focusing on initiatives grounded in the values of freedom, security, and responsibility. Together, we contribute to a strong democracy.



# Insights into our funding activities

Thanks to our project partners, we are able to engage ourselves and achieve positive impacts for society. Learn about some of the projects we have supported in 2024. We present more projects on our website at: [vontobel-stiftung.ch/projects](https://vontobel-stiftung.ch/projects).

## Social Initiatives in Switzerland

### **Crescenda: Helping Migrant Women Gain Employment Experience**

*The Vontobel Foundation is supporting the project "Scaling FEMCooperatives" led by the Crescenda Association from 2024 to 2026, aiming to guide participants towards sustainable professional and social independence, thereby promoting the autonomous lives of migrant women.*

The Crescenda Association develops social enterprise models, offers training and continuing education programs, and serves as a meeting place for exchange and integration. It aims to accompany participants towards sustainable professional and social independence, thereby promoting the autonomous lives of migrant women. Through the creation, implementation, and scaling of social enterprise models, these women are empowered to offer collective entrepreneurial services.

The pioneering project "Scaling FEMCooperatives" promotes innovative, inclusive, and sustainable entrepreneurship. Crescenda is building a cooperative that provides numerous migrant women a secure workplace under fair working conditions. Through self-organized teams, employees take on significant operational responsibility and receive training and support in other areas of the business. These cooperatives are designed for rapid growth, supported by an efficient governance model. In the medium term, all employees will have the opportunity to become cooperative members, allowing them to have a say in their working conditions. This fosters identification with the company, and the employees become part of a community that supports each other.

The project also addresses structural issues by investing in the development of the "fair cleaning" network. Public awareness is raised to enhance the value of care and cleaning work and to uncover abuses.



### **143.ch - Die Dargebotene Hand: Assuring First Aid for Greater Psychic Steadiness**

*From 2022 to 2027, the Vontobel Foundation is supporting the project "Counseling in Individual Chat for Adolescents and Young Adults" led by 143.ch – Die Dargebotene Hand to expand its capacity for pastoral chat counseling.*



The Swiss association "Die Dargebotene Hand" is the best-known point of contact for emotional first aid in Switzerland. Around 700 trained volunteers are available as conversation partners to people in need by phone, chat, or e-mail. The association is open to everyone, regardless of age or issue, and is accessible 24/7 through the emergency number 143 or online, anonymously, confidentially, and free of charge. It contributes significantly to the prevention of suicide, violence, and addiction.

Through these helpline conversations, people are empowered to reflect on their situation and recognize their inner resources. Such conversations can lift an emotional burden from callers' shoulders and help them see their difficulties in a new light.

In Zurich, The Offered Hand already began offering online counseling via email and chat in 2002. In recent years, the demand for this low-threshold psychosocial counseling through individual chat has increased significantly, especially among adolescents and young adults; this channel is particularly suitable for discussing their often very sensitive issues.

The project "Counseling in Individual Chat for Adolescents and Young Adults" aimed to expand the organization's capacity for chat counseling, requiring the training of new chat counselors. At the same time, quality assurance needed to be developed further through dependable chat monitoring, supervision, and ongoing training of volunteer staff. With more than 60 years of telephone counseling experience, Die Dargebotene Hand benefits from an excellent reputation.

## Social initiatives abroad

### CO-OPERAID: Supporting Education for Children in Africa and Asia

*CO-OPERAID and the Vontobel Foundation have a long-standing partnership. From 2022 to 2025, the Foundation is supporting the project "Reintegration and Vocational Training for Youth from the Slums and Streets of Kitale in Kenya," aimed at helping young people transition into independent and autonomous lives.*



CO-OPERAID is an independent, nonprofit Swiss aid organization dedicated to the education of particularly needy children and adolescents in Africa and Asia, giving them the opportunity to learn, discover their talents, and develop.

The project "Reintegration and Vocational Training for Youth from the Slums and Streets of Kitale in Kenya" targets young people living in poverty in the city of Kitale. Despite the Kenyan government's efforts to improve education, there still remain significant deficits and needs. For this reason, CO-OPERAID's project supports young women and men in their transition to vocational training, helping them on the path to an independent and autonomous life. Since 2018, a proven approach combining methods borrowed from social work with a dual vocational training model based on the Swiss system has achieved positive results.

CO-OPERAID's project for youth aims to achieve the following goals:

- Reintegration into a stable social structure
- Dual vocational and business competencies training
- Integration into the workforce
- Raising awareness among authorities about dual training models

By developing their abilities and talents, youth in the region around Kitale in western Kenya can break free from poverty, build a better future for themselves and their families, and provide essential services to their communities.

### GreenLamp: Saving Lives by Training Midwives

*The Vontobel Foundation is supporting the association GreenLamp by financing scholarships for 20 midwives to complete a four-year bachelor's degree program between 2024 and 2027. After their training, these women, who come from poor rural regions, will be able to earn a sustainable income.*

Since 2012, the non-profit Swiss association GreenLamp has been funding and supporting community-based projects in Ethiopia that improve access to healthcare and education for women and girls.

The organization follows a sustainable, systemic approach and bases its work on three pillars:

- LEARN: Training midwives from poor rural regions
- LIGHT: Providing solar-based light and power in health centers
- LEAD: Supporting and training women to take on leadership roles

The goal is to empower women and girls and reduce the high maternal and infant mortality rates in remote areas of rural Ethiopia.

Training as a midwife enables young women to gain professional qualifications as well as financial independence. Through their work and commitment to the entire population, they serve as role models in the communities they live in.

After completing their studies, the midwives will return to their home regions and work for four years in a rural health center. There, they will care for expectant women and their children before, during, and after childbirth, and give information sessions on topics such as family planning, nutrition, hygiene, and education. They will also raise awareness about harmful traditional practices, such as female genital mutilation.



## Nature und Science

### University of Zurich, Center for Gerontology: Vontobel Prize for Aging Research

*The University of Zurich's Center for Gerontology annually awards the University of Zurich's Aging Research Prize, endowed by the Vontobel Foundation. The main goal is to promote gerontological research in Switzerland, which can originate in any scientific field related to aging.*

The Vontobel Foundation finances the annual Prize for Aging Research. It is awarded to people or organizations in Switzerland who are involved in research into gerontology. The prize is endowed with 30,000 francs which is usually divided between three winners.

The prize may be awarded to one or more persons for completed, publishable, or already published work of outstanding quality, in the form of an article in a scientific journal.

The aim is to support the transfer of knowledge between research and practice, in particular the development of basic knowledge for practice, and of practical experience for research, as well as the scientific review of gerontological practice. Another important concern is to inform the public, raising awareness of societal issues relating to aging, in order to underline possibilities for solidarity between different generations, age groups, and professional groups in the field of gerontology.





### IG Wilde Biene: Boosting the Wild Bee Populations with a Web App

*In 2023, the Vontobel Foundation offered support to IG Wilde Biene ("Wild Bee") by contributing to the further development of their Bee-Finder app, which enhances the quality of measures to promote biodiversity.*

The non-profit association IG Wilde Biene was founded in 2020. Through various projects, it is committed to promoting wild bee populations in Switzerland. Additionally, the association contributes to improving scientific data on the occurrence and habits of native wild bee species.

With the Bee-Finder web app, IG Wilde Biene has created a powerful tool for the practical promotion of local wild bee populations in both private and public spaces. Bee-Finder provides specific information about the rare and endangered wild bee species at a specific location and describes their pollen preferences and structural requirements for their hives. This requires knowledge of the current bee fauna at the location, so as more and more communities recognize their responsibility and acknowledge the multi-layered benefits of Bee-Finder, knowledge is continuously added about the distribution of wild bees in new communities. The Bee-Finder app makes existing information accessible to a wide user group, improving the quality of biodiversity promotion measures.



### MuKa Center: Supporting Dam-Calf Contact Rearing in Dairy Production

*The Vontobel Foundation is supporting the MuKa Center in 2024 and 2025 in its efforts to promote a gentle and sustainable form of dairy farming.*

The MuKa Center is an initiative of the "Förderverein Mutter-Kalb-Haltung," an association advocating for the improvement of animal welfare by promoting and spreading species-appropriate, natural, and sustainable cow and calf rearing practices in dairy production. This approach takes into special consideration the fundamental needs of the animals as well as the health of both humans and animals.



Dam-calf rearing is a method in dairy production where newborn calves are not separated from their mothers, called "dams." It is the most natural form of calf rearing: this way, all female and male calves stay with their mothers for 12 weeks or longer, feeding directly from the udder. Unlike dam-calf rearing in meat production, the cows continue to be milked, and the milk is sold or further processed.

Calves that have contact with their mothers and can feed directly from

the udder show very good growth rates and exhibit natural social behavior. If calves drink enough colostrum and milk from their mother right from birth, she supplies them with the necessary antibodies to protect them from pathogens, which helps them develop a strong immune system, making them healthy and resilient.

On the other hand, early separation causes significant distress for both the dairy cow and her calf, as well as for the farmers, and often leads to sick animals with a high need for antibiotics. Residues of these antibiotics end up in the soil and groundwater, negatively impacting biodiversity and making bacteria more resistant. Through its transition project, the MuKa Center supports farmers across Switzerland in transitioning to contact rearing, trains veterinarians on the topic, and develops recommendations and training materials for a successful transition.



## Culture and Society

### Stapferhaus: Encouraging Dialogue; Reducing Polarization

*The Vontobel Foundation is supporting the Stapferhaus with basic funding over three years, from 2024 to 2026, to help the organization strengthen its work leading dialogue and finding solutions in society to counteract polarization and find common answers for the future.*

As an actor at the national level, the Stapferhaus makes contemporary issues accessible for social dialogue in our democracy. Founded in 1960 as a "place of human encounter and intellectual engagement," it was converted into a foundation in 2007. Since the 1990s, it has made a name for itself across Switzerland and Europe as a unique exhibition center and place for dialogue. It uses innovative formats that allow the general public to engage in depth on contemporary issues. In 2018, the Stapferhaus opened its new building directly adjacent to the Lenzburg train station. In 2020, it was awarded the European Museum of the Year Award.

The increasing polarization in society and politics is leading to a decline in willingness to compromise, making it more difficult to develop common solutions. With its multi-format approach, the Stapferhaus aims to counter this trend by promoting dialogue and strengthening social cohesion on pressing contemporary issues.

The Stapferhaus is known for addressing controversial contemporary issues in exhibitions and events involving a broad audience. The common denominator of all its exhibitions is that they seek understanding rather than conflict, enticing the audience in a playful way to perceive issues from different perspectives. By engaging with other positions, it critically questions its own positions – or sharpens them. In either case, an exchange takes place to move forward together on the basis of broader knowledge and experience.



### Circle of Young Humanitarians: Engaging Young People in Humanitarian Causes

*The Vontobel Foundation is supporting the Circle of Young Humanitarians with basic funding over three years, from 2024 to 2026. The goal is to empower young people to become active as advocates and supporters of humanitarian causes.*



contradictory challenges facing the humanitarian world.

The Circle of Young Humanitarians (CYH) was founded in 2021 in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Zurich, with the aim of bridging the gap between the ICRC today and the next generation. CYH provides young people with a place where they can come together, gain experience in the humanitarian world, learn new skills, and make a difference.

The need to actively involve young people in the humanitarian world is more urgent than ever – not only to inform them as future decision-makers but also to empower them to act as advocates and supporters of humanitarian causes. The aim is to build a bridge between them and humanitarian organizations, fostering a deeper understanding and stronger connection to humanitarian principles. In a world where the lines between fact and fiction are increasingly blurred, CYH seeks to create reliable platforms that offer young people authentic insights and concrete opportunities for action. Through educational initiatives, interactive forums, and creative campaigns, young people are encouraged to engage with the complex and often

# Monograph series 2024

The Vontobel Foundation publishes a series of in-depth monographs addressing current and fundamental issues that contribute to political, social, economic, and cultural discussions.

The publications are published quarterly in German and are available in print form as well as free e-books. They can be downloaded or ordered from the website [vontobel-stiftung.ch](https://vontobel-stiftung.ch).

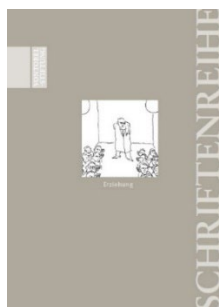
The following publications were published in 2024:



## **Taiwan** March 2024

Authors: Matthias Messmer & Hsin-Mei Chuang

The e-book is available in English.



## **Erziehung** June 2024

Author: Allan Guggenbühl  
 Illustrations: Martial Leiter



## **Chat mit Moses – Über Original und Kopie** September 2024

Author: Martin Meyer  
 Illustrations: Charlotte Eckstein



## **Bärte** December 2024

Author: Marion Löhndorf  
 Illustrations: Peter Gut

# Supported projects 2024

Complete list of all projects approved in 2024:

## **Social Welfare**

### **Arche Zurich**

New location for Ark's child support center in Seebach – integration into overall operations after pilot phase  
[www.archezuerich.ch](http://www.archezuerich.ch)

### **ASOCIATIA NATANAEL SUCEAVA**

Construction of a new building for the Natanael School

### **Association Equilibre, Altdorf**

Educational measures by Association Equilibre (A.E.) and employment integration by JLT Company AG/Ko-KoTé  
[www.association-equilibre.com](http://www.association-equilibre.com)

### **Choba Choba Foundation, Basel**

Cacao field lab in the Peruvian Amazon  
[www.chobachoba-foundation.com](http://www.chobachoba-foundation.com)

### **CO-OPERAID, Zurich**

Reintegration and vocational training for youth from the slums and streets of Kitale in Kenya  
[www.co-operaid.ch](http://www.co-operaid.ch)

### **Cuisine sans frontières, Zurich**

Foyer FAMA, Burkina Faso  
[www.cuisinesansfrontieres.ch](http://www.cuisinesansfrontieres.ch)

### **Verein Crescenda Basel**

Scaling project FEMCooperatives/EQUIPA  
[www.crescenda.ch](http://www.crescenda.ch)

### **Die Dargebotene Hand, Zurich**

Support for adolescents and young adults via one-on-one chats  
[www.143.ch](http://www.143.ch)

### **elea Foundation for Ethics in Globalization, Zurich**

Engagement as an "elea Philanthropic Investor"  
[www.elea.org](http://www.elea.org)

### **Verein family-help, Zurich**

Further development and professionalization of the organization  
[www.family-help.ch](http://www.family-help.ch)

### **Fondation Avenir Madagascar, Dienne**

Covering the costs for photovoltaic installations on the roofs of ESSVA  
[www.avenir-madagascar.ch](http://www.avenir-madagascar.ch)

### **GreenLamp, Zurich**

Scholarships for a 4-year BSc midwifery program for young women in Ethiopia  
[www.greenlamp.ch](http://www.greenlamp.ch)

### **Interessengemeinschaft Sozialpsychiatrie Bern**

"Evaluation Soteria"

**Verein Mudio NGO, Bern**

Mudio Multiplier Education – healthcare from northern Namibia to Zambia

[www.mudio.com](http://www.mudio.com)

**Netz4, Zurich**

"Coffee & Coaching" – coaching program with space for leisure and community

[www.netz4.ch](http://www.netz4.ch)

**newTree, Bern**

Co-financing the program for sustainable food and income security in Burkina Faso

[www.newtree.org](http://www.newtree.org)

**Verein Parasolka, Reiden**

Expansion of the Parasolka residential home in Tjachiv

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

**Pestalozzi Overseas Children's Foundation (POCF), Zurich**

SkillsHub: Empowering youth for sustainable futures

[www.pestalozziworld.com](http://www.pestalozziworld.com)

**Verein Project Rescue, Zurich**

Rescue, return, and reintegration of victims of human trafficking and prostitution

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

**Pro Juventute, Zurich**

Job application training to succeed in landing an apprenticeship

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

**Right To Play Schweiz, Zurich**

"Tusobola" – supporting the education of at-risk girls and boys in Uganda

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

**ROCK YOUR LIFE! Schweiz GmbH, Bern**

Promoting the development of a mentoring program for youth with refugee backgrounds in Zurich

[www.schweiz.rockyourlife.org](http://www.schweiz.rockyourlife.org)

**Sambhav Nepal (Schweiz), Zurich**

PCL Health

**Sangira - Friends of Rwanda, Zollikon**

Equal opportunities in education and employment/entrepreneurship

[www.de.sangira.ch](http://www.de.sangira.ch)

**Schweizerische Stiftung Pro Mente Sana, Zurich**

Psychosocial and legal counseling for affected persons, family members, and professionals

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

**Solafrica, Bern**

Solar-powered learning youth centers – vocational perspectives for disadvantaged youth in Kenya

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

**SPORTEGRATION, Zurich**

Professionalizing and expanding SPORTEGRATION

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

**Stiftung Heilsarmee Schweiz, Zurich**

Christmas celebration for people affected by poverty

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

**Swiss TPH, Basel**

Climate change and health: opportunities to build resilience in Switzerland and the Global South

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



**TearFund Schweiz, Zurich**

Education instead of poverty – vocational training for adolescents and young adults in Malawi

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

**TIXI Zürich, Fahrdienst für Menschen mit Behinderung, Zurich**

Digitizing the coordination of volunteers

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

**University Children's Hospital Zurich**

Helping finance a new building for Zurich's "Kispi"

[www.kispi.uzh.ch](http://www.kispi.uzh.ch)

**Nature and Science – Nature****Agroscope, Zurich**

Support areas for amphibians: protection and promotion of the common toad in arable landscapes

[www.agroscope.admin.ch](http://www.agroscope.admin.ch)

**Antarctic Research Trust, Forch**

What are the causes for the decline of the endangered erect-crested penguin?

[www.antarctic-research.de](http://www.antarctic-research.de)

**Botanischer Garten der Universität Zürich, Zurich**

Immersive exhibition at the Botanical Garden of the University of Zurich: Nature as Medicine

[www.bg.uzh.ch](http://www.bg.uzh.ch)

**Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz- Hochschule für Life Sciences, Muttenz**

Global warming: what impact do pesticides and climate change have on honey bees?

**Verein Grünwerk – Mensch & Natur, Winterthur**

Nature conservation initiatives – impactful practical conservation

[www.verein-gruenwerk.ch](http://www.verein-gruenwerk.ch)

**Clinic for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, University Psychiatric Clinic Zurich**

Animal-assisted therapies at the Psychiatric University Clinic Zurich

**Stiftung KORA, Ittigen**

Research on the effects of lethal wolf management in Switzerland 2024-2028

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

**Verein Pro Riet Rheintal, Altstätten**

More nature for landscape and settlement 2024-2026

[www.pro-riet.ch](http://www.pro-riet.ch)

**Schweizerische Vogelwarte, Sempach**

Ecological enhancement of the Valais vineyards to promote birdlife and nature

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

**Wildtier Schweiz, Zurich**

Monitoring the weasel population in Switzerland

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

**Stiftung Wildnispark, Zurich**

Bison & Co.

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

**Verein Wisent im Thal**

Support for the "Wisent Thal" project

[www.wisent-thal.ch](http://www.wisent-thal.ch)

**Division of Conservation Biology, Uni Bern**

Predators and their prey communities: Basis for sound wildlife management

**Nature and Science – Medical Research****Balgrist University Hospital, Research in Orthopedic Computer Science Zurich, N. A. Cavalcanti**

Request for funding of the medical research project SONCARE as part of an MD-Ph.D. study

**ETH Zurich, S. Giannoukos**

Lactobreath: a pilot study to diagnose lactose intolerance based on the exhaled breath metabolome

**ETH Zurich, V. Korkhov**

Molecular mechanism of membrane adenylyl cyclase regulation by neuronal calcium sensor proteins

**ETH Zurich, Institute for Pharmaceutical Sciences, V. Otto**

Coverage of costs for a doctoral thesis of a young researcher in lymphatic vessel glycobiology

**ETH Zurich, A. Oxenius**

Visualization of immune control of cytomegalovirus infections in tissues

**ETH Zurich, B. Pfister**

Mechanisms of chloroplast development

**Institute for Research in Biomedicine, Bellinzona, G. Guarda**

The transcription factor RFX7 in autoreactive B cells' development and autoimmune pathology

**Inselspital, Bern University Hospital, Bern, R. Trepp**

Cognitive and cerebral aging in patients with phenylketonuria

**Kantonsspital Graubünden, Chur, Th. Fehr**

Effects of therapy with SGLT2 inhibitors in patients with polycystic kidney disease

**Kantonsspital St. Gallen, St. Gallen, S. Stricker**

Protected research time

**Lausanne University Hospital (CHUV), Lausanne, C. Fumeaux**

Deciphering beta-lactamase induction in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* clinical mutants

**Luzerner Kantonsspital, Clinic for Neurosurgery, Schüpfheim, S. Rüssli**

Research funding for the Swiss Spinal Tumour Registry (Swiss-STR)

**FIAS Foundation, Basel**

Support for a research project

**Department of Biomedicine (DBM), Basel, M. Filipowicz Sinnreich**

Coverage of salary and project costs for a research project

**University of Basel, Digital Surgery Lab, Biomedical Engineering, J. Lavanchy**

Prevention of postoperative complications by use of deep learning

**University of Basel, Allschwil, A. Taha**

Machine learning models for the prediction of BMI and complications after bariatric surgery

**University of Bern, M. Alves**

Human brain organoids: an alternative to animal testing for the study of neurotropic virus infection

**Universität Bern, ARTORG Center for Biomedical Engineering Research, M. Pastore**  
Boosting dexterity and executive functions in children with ADHD through cognitive-motor training

**Universität Bern, Institute for Tissue Medicine and Pathology, Bern, M. Schenk**  
Support for young researchers: funding a position as a scientific postdoctoral researcher

**Università della Svizzera Italiana, Lugano, A. De Gottardi**  
Immunologic players in the control of metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease

**University of Geneva, P. Castets**  
Biomedical research project on VMA21-related disorders – PhD salary support

**University of Zurich, Vetsuisse Faculty, Zurich, N. Borel**  
One Health and pig manure: the risk of spreading antibiotic-resistant bacteria?

**University of Zurich, University Hospital Zurich, Clinic for Neonatology, S. Brezina**  
Movement imitation therapy for preterm babies (MIT-PB)

**University of Zurich, D. Fehr**  
Atopic dermatitis in Central Europe and Sub-Saharan Africa

**University of Zurich Ingenuity Lab and Empa, I. Herrmann**  
MenstruAI – in-pad biosensor allowing naked-eye detection of biomarkers in menstrual blood

**University of Zurich, Institute for Implementation Science, Professorship for Implementation Science in Nursing Science, R. Naef**  
Evidence-based aftercare for bereaved families of palliative care patients

**University of Zurich - Institute of Physiology, S. P. Nobs**  
Investigating the role of the microbiome in lung disease associated with rheumatoid arthritis

**University of Zurich, P. Stauffer**  
Oncoprotein modulation by Legionella toxins

**University of Zurich, Healthy Longevity Center**  
Vontobel Prize for Aging Research

**University Children's Hospital Zurich - Skin and Soft Tissue Research Center, Zurich, V. Woodtli**  
Support for a medical research project on the treatment of severe skin defects

**University Hospital of Zurich and University of Zurich, M. El Amki**  
New catheters for clot dissolution and improved brain reperfusion in ischemic stroke

**University Hospital of Zurich, K. Hofer**  
Research project REDEFINE

**University Hospital of Zurich, J. Krützfeldt**  
Rejuvenation of aged skeletal muscle using microRNA 501 – a preclinical study

**University Hospital of Zurich, B. Ludewig**  
Immunopathological mechanisms in myocarditis and inflammatory cardiomyopathy

## **Culture and Society**

### **AlgorithmWatch CH, Zurich**

AlgorithmWatch CH funding consortium 2025-2028

[www.algorithmwatch.org](http://www.algorithmwatch.org)

### **Beyeler Museum AG, Riehen**

“Northern Lights”

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

### **Circle of Young Humanitarians, Zurich**

3-year project: promotion and professionalization of young movements for international humanitarian law

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

### **Fondazione Cav.Lav. Carlo Pesenti, Mailand**

Support for a public event on sustainability in industry and finance

### **Fondazione LuganoMusica, Lugano**

Support for a symphony concert

### **Research Center for the Public Sphere and Society (fög), University of Zurich, Zurich**

Support for the project “Everything’s Fake – Or Is It? Managing Media with Confidence”

[www.foeg.uzh.ch](http://www.foeg.uzh.ch)

### **Fotomuseum Winterthur**

Exhibition project “Devoted to the Collection – Constellation 1”

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

### **Fotostiftung Schweiz, Winterthur**

Exhibition, mediation, and publication project: “Bernhard Voïta – Melencolia”

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

### **Jüdisches Museum der Schweiz, Basel**

Education for diversity, tolerance, and historical awareness

[www.juedisches-museum.ch](http://www.juedisches-museum.ch)

### **Liberethica, Fribourg**

Liberethica Think Tank

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

### **Lucerne Symphony Orchestra, Lucerne**

Piano festival and focus of the Lucerne Symphony Orchestra: “The Symphonic Piano”

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

### **Museum Henry Dunant, Heiden**

Henry Dunant in Heiden – contemporary portraits: a new core exhibition in which contemporaries tell their stories

[www.dunant-museum.ch](http://www.dunant-museum.ch)

### **Museum Rietberg - Stadt Zürich, Zurich**

Partial financing of the exhibition “Hallyu – The Korean Wave”

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

### **Salzburg Easter Festival GmbH, Salzburg**

Support for the festival

[www.osterfestspiele.at](http://www.osterfestspiele.at)

### **Plattform ZiAB Zivilgesellschaft in Bundesasylzentren, Bern**

Supporting ZiAB “Civil Society in Asylum Federal Centers”

[www.plattform-ziab.ch](http://www.plattform-ziab.ch)



**real21 – die Welt verstehen, Lucerne**

real21 – Understanding the World. Democracy needs international journalism

[www.real21.ch](http://www.real21.ch)

**Swiss Israelite Federation SIG, Zurich**

Prevention and dialogue program Likrat

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

**Stiftung Hirschen-Ensemble, Zurich**

Supporting the Hirschen Ensemble

[www.hirschen-ensemble.ch](http://www.hirschen-ensemble.ch)

**Lyra Foundation, Zurich**

Support for young musicians demonstrating exceptional talent

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

**Stiftung Schloss Aarwangen**

Renovation and opening of Aarwangen Castle

[www.schloss-aarwangen.ch](http://www.schloss-aarwangen.ch)

**Stiftung Stapferhaus Lenzburg**

Strategic partnership for dialogue and against polarization on pressing issues

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

**Stiftung zur Wahrung der Walser Kultur an der Bernhardiner Strasse (Stiftung Walserkultur), Nufenen**

Expansion of the "Ultimo" hall of the Walserama

[www.stiftung-walserkultur.info](http://www.stiftung-walserkultur.info)

**Tonhalle Society Zurich AG, Zurich**

"Student Managers" and Mozart Membership in the 2024/25 season

[www.tonhalle-orchester.ch](http://www.tonhalle-orchester.ch)

**University of Fribourg – Center for Faith & Society, Fribourg**

Support for a research project

**Verein für faire soziale Infrastruktur, Zurich**

Dynamic economic study on "Life Provision in Switzerland"

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

**Verein Militär- und Festungsmuseum Full-Reuenthal**

E Expansion of the Swiss Military Museum

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

**Verein Theater Rigiblick, Zurich**

Support through an operational contribution

[www.theater-rigiblick.ch](http://www.theater-rigiblick.ch)

**Verein Zürcher Forum, Dietikon**

Phenomena – entries into the experiential world for people on a limited budget

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

## List of ongoing long-term projects in 2024

**Eselmüller-Stiftung, Grasswil**

Establishment of a Swiss donkey expertise center

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

**Research Institute for Organic Farming (FiBL), Frick**

Insect decline and varying cultivation intensities in arable land

[www.fibl.org](http://www.fibl.org)

**ICRC Foundation, Geneva**

Red Cross and Red Crescent Missing Persons and Separated Families Centre

[www.icrc.org](http://www.icrc.org)

**Stiftung Schweizer Jugend forscht, Bern**

National competition for young researchers

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

**THE LOOP Zurich**

StimuLOOP: sensomotoric precision neuro-rehabilitation through personalized stimulation loops

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

**University of Zurich and UZH Foundation**

Chair in "Sustainable Economics"

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

**Zurich Art Society, Zurich**

Art mediation at Kunsthhaus Zurich

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

# Contacts

We would be happy to assist you with any questions or concerns.

## **General inquiries**

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## **Website**

[vontobel-stiftung.ch](http://vontobel-stiftung.ch)

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