

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

FOUNDATION ACTIVITY IN THE SECOND PANDEMIC YEAR

The Covid-19 pandemic continued to have a major impact on economic and social life in Switzerland in 2021. The Fondation des Fondateurs (FdF) was not affected. On the contrary, it continued to serve as a focal point for all types of philanthropic initiatives; some of which led to the establishment of further dependent foundations.

Due to the limited space available in the Haus der Stiftungen, the FdF moved in mid-2021 from Kirchgasse 42 at [Breitingerstrasse 35 in Zurich](#), where it benefits from the synergies of sharing with the EDUCA SWISS foundation.



Another [donor event](#) was finally held on 9 September 2021. The response was very positive and showed how pleased people were to see each other in person again after the long Covid-induced break. The event at [Zunftthaus zur Saffran \(Zurich\)](#) gave two subfoundations the opportunity to introduce themselves in more detail.

The young founding couple Luca and Devika Salomon founded [Sambol Foundation](#) at the FdF in 2018. It manages women's shelters and helps victims of violence in Sri Lanka to help themselves. Devika Salomon has a biographical connection to Sri Lanka – her husband has decided to travel back and forth between Sri Lanka and Switzerland with her and their children. It was enriching that [one world foundation switzerland](#), which is also based at the FdF and operational in Sri Lanka, was able to contribute to the discussion.

The young researchers Sandra Sulser and Manuel Fankhauser presented the work of the [Santorio Foundation](#). Their project "AI For Nutrition" develops a comprehensive and scalable solution for digital nutrition recording, specifically designed for use in research.

The technology platform was developed in the Digital Epidemiology Lab at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne (EPFL) and is supported, inter alia, by the Leenaards Foundation.



PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE FOUNDATION FUNDS

Despite – or perhaps due to – the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the subfoundations were very active in the year under review and pursued their foundation objectives vigorously. Continuous support is essential including during a pandemic, and areas that are not in the media spotlight still need support.

The [Lori and Karl Lutz Fund](#) (going back to the founding couple of the FdF) has existed since FdF began in 2007. Its mission is to support the education of young women. The fund has been managed by the FdF Board of Trustees since the death of Lori Lutz. In addition to supporting projects involving the foundations Aiducation International, Vision Guatemala and Stiftung Presencia, the fund also participated in an EDUCA SWISS (Swiss Foundation for the Promotion and Financing of Education) initiative. The “Foundation for Future” education fund project (Covid emergency aid for young people in education) was launched in 2021 and supported by seven association members of SwissFoundations.

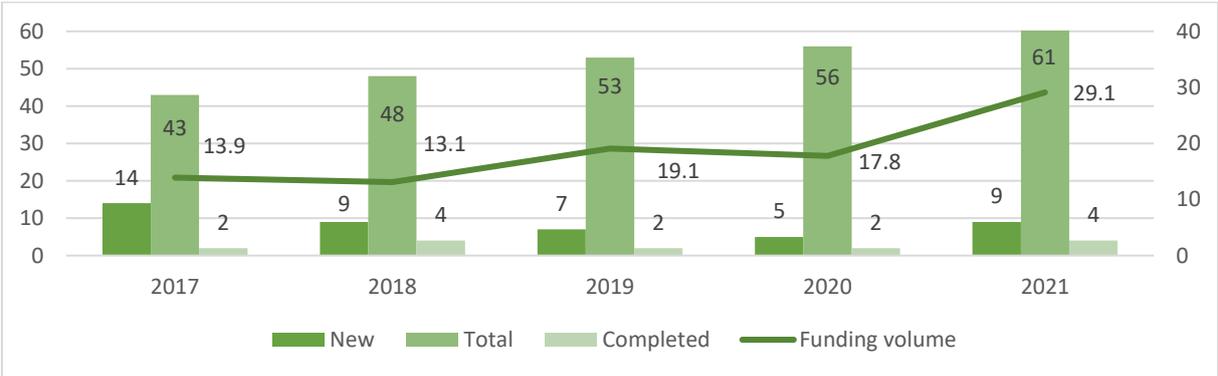
NEW WAYS

The [Venture Kick fund](#) – one of the first FdF subfoundations – was growth oriented from the outset. The aim of the fund was to identify and promote entrepreneurial ideas at Swiss universities. This resulted in further funding vehicles, which were located at the FdF for many years – always with the same aim: for up-and-coming researchers to transform their findings into products and companies more quickly and successfully. As a result of the developments and successes of the recent years, those responsible for the fund have come to the conclusion that it is now time to establish a legally independent vehicle for all these activities. The founding of the independent Kick Foundation in 2021 and the associated spin-off of [Venture Kick](#) was a milestone for the FdF. It is in the interests of the umbrella foundation for foundations to develop or reorient themselves, so FdF closely accompanied the transition process from foundation fund to independent foundation.

It also facilitated this transition in reverse during the financial year. The **Stiftung Coop Tagungszentrum CTZ** was founded in 1922. Over time, it had come to be treated in a similar way to a Coop Group subsidiary. Thanks to the merger with FdF, the foundation now operates – as a foundation fund – independently of Coop AG. As a result of the merger, CTZ will have lower administrative costs, thus freeing up more funds for its purpose. In addition, CTZ can benefit from FdF’s know-how and network. There was no need to change the CTZ purpose. The FdF is designed as a genuine umbrella foundation. It can therefore also incorporate independent charitable foundations by merger. The merger of the two foundations was accompanied, supported and approved by Basel Foundation Supervisory Authority.

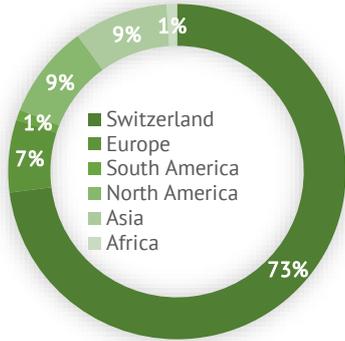
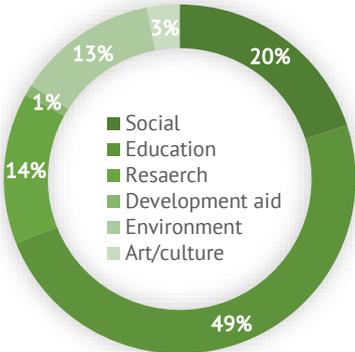
DEVELOPMENT AND DISTRIBUTIONS

The funding volume of the 61 individual foundations (funds) in total and the general fund amounted to around CHF 29.1 million in the year under review (previous year CHF 17.8 million). The cumulative funding volume since its founding in 2007 to 2021 amounts to around CHF 150.7 million, making FdF one of Switzerland’s main charitable foundations. The chart below shows the development in number of foundations and funding volume per year since 2017.



SUBJECT AREAS AND SPHERES OF ACTIVITY

The FdF consistently aligns its activity to the will of the individual founding members. They determine the level of detail they want to report to the outside world about their sponsored projects and beneficiaries. Some have their own website or publish their own annual report. Others prefer to adopt a low profile.



The charts opposite show the subject areas and spheres of activity that received assistance in the 2021 financial year. Compared to the previous year, activity in the social area increased significantly by 20% (previous year: 10%). However, the main focus remains on education (49%). The majority of funding is still allocated to initiatives in Switzerland (73%).

FOUNDATIONS UNDER THE FdF UMBRELLA

At the end of 2021, there were 61 funds under the FdF umbrella. Further information on the individual foundations is available at www.fondateurs.ch.

A total of **nine new foundations** were set up in 2021 under the FdF umbrella:

- arcas foundation
- BoardforGood Foundation
- CognitiveValley Foundation
- CreArt Basel Foundation
- Fonds für Qualitätsjournalismus
- Kasics Kulturstiftung
- Stiftung.Kultur.Gut.Kulinarik
- Stiftung Coop Tagungszentrum CTZ
- Stiftung Zürcher Zofingerhaus

INTEREST IN UMBRELLA FOUNDATIONS

Last year, the management of the FdF was invited on a number of occasions to present the umbrella foundation model, including as part of a lecture at Rochester University Bern. These events serve to raise awareness of this flexible and contemporary solution and to facilitate philanthropism by interested parties. Banks in particular are keen to establish partnerships with umbrella foundations instead of setting up their own philanthropy desk.

THE LEADING UMBRELLA FOUNDATION IN SWITZERLAND

The Fondation des Fondateurs was founded by Lori and Karl Lutz in 2007 as a non-profit umbrella foundation. Its aim is to offer founders the opportunity to implement their personal funding priorities individually, professionally, and cost-effectively. The Fondation des Fondateurs is managed with proven expertise in philanthropy, operates independently of financial services, maintains exemplary governance and is politically, ideologically, and denominationally neutral. It is supervised by the Eidgenössische Stiftungsaufsicht (federal foundation supervisory authority).

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| Board of Trustees | Dr Thomas Sprecher (Chairman); Dr Philipp Egger (Vice Chairman); Evelyn S. Braun (Member) |
| Administrative Office | Dr Matthias von Orelli (Managing Director); Gianni Inguscio (Project Manager); Marianne Furrer (Administration) |
| External offices | OBT AG, Basel (Accounting); HB&P Wirtschaftsprüfung AG, Basel (Audit); Eidgenössische Stiftungsaufsicht |
| Governance | Member of SwissFoundations; based on the Swiss Foundation Code |