

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020

## CORONA PANDEMIC INCREASES INTEREST IN FOUNDATION ACTIVITIES

The 2020 financial year was also an extraordinary one for Fondation des Fondateurs (FdF) due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which manifested at various levels.

The topic of foundations in general and specifically the establishment of a foundation has obviously accompanied many people. In particular, during the first lockdown in spring 2020, FdF was approached with a remarkably high number of questions about setting up a foundation or formulating wills in this context. This shows that, on the one hand, people are giving a lot of thought to how they can help fellow human beings during a time of crisis. On the other hand, it also seemed to be the right time for many to start reflecting on a personal philanthropic commitment. The consultations led to various concrete intentions to establish a foundation sooner or later.

There was also a high level of interest in the services of FdF on the part of various independent foundations. Either the founders are considering transferring the management of their foundation to FdF or are thinking of transforming their independent foundation into a dependent one (merger with FdF).

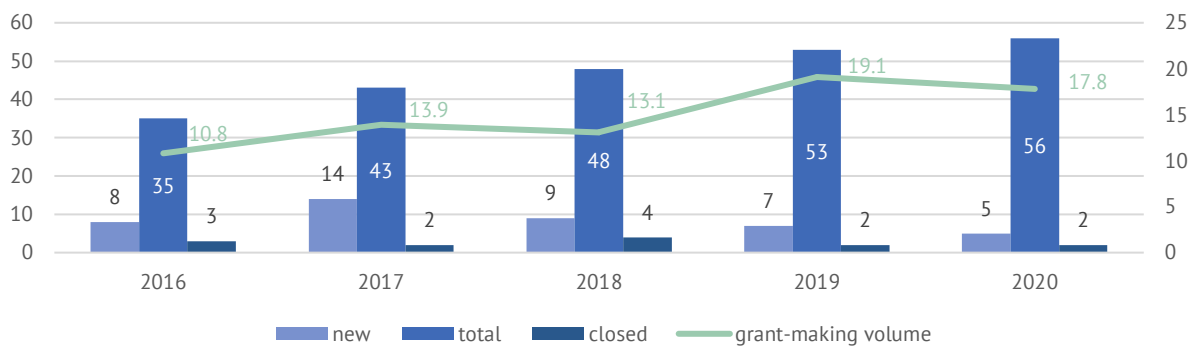
## GRANT-MAKING ACTIVITIES DURING THE PANDEMIC

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the focus of some sub-foundations (endowment funds) has changed. Some foundations have granted emergency aid to projects at risk from COVID-19 (e.g. in the cultural sector). Others have supported projects that were directly related to the pandemic, be it, medical research for a vaccine, or corona relief projects in severely affected developing countries. Also, many projects supported by the foundations were stalled or even suspended due to the global pandemic. The MODI Foundation, for example, had to cancel its main project “MODI Lab”, an exhibition on diversity and inclusion to be presented in the city of Zug.

## DEVELOPMENT AND DISTRIBUTIONS

The total grant-making volume of the 56 individual foundations and the general fund amounted to a total of about 17.8 million Swiss Francs in the reporting year (2019: 19.1 million Swiss Francs). The cumulative grant-making volume from 2007 to 2020 amounts to approximately 121.6 million Swiss Francs, making FdF one of the leading grant-making foundations in Switzerland.

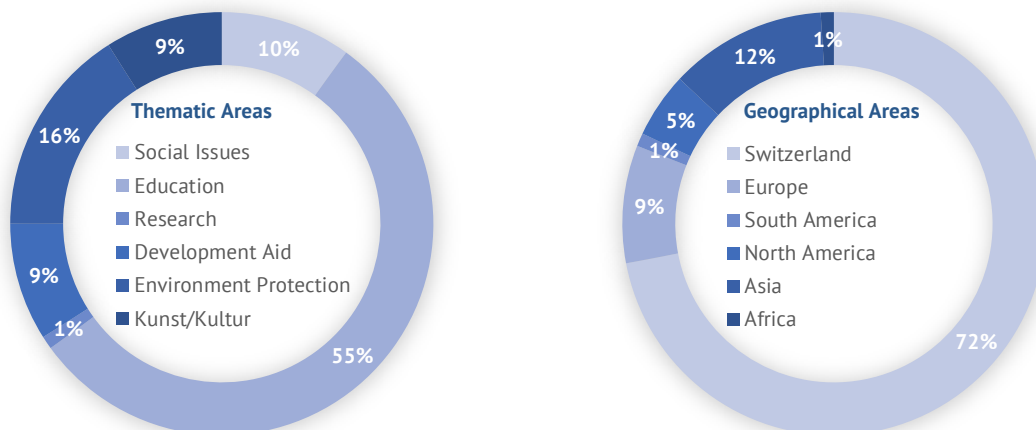
The following chart shows the development of the number of foundations as well as the grant-making volume per year since 2016.



### SUBJECT AND GEOGRAPHICAL IMPACT AREAS OF ACTIVITIES

In its activities, FdF is consistently guided by the will of the individual funders. They decide how detailed they want to report publicly about their funding projects and beneficiaries. Some maintain their own website or publish their own annual report. Others prefer to remain in the background.

The following charts show the subject areas and spheres of activity in which grants were made in 2020. Compared to the previous year, funding activity in the education sector significantly increased to 55% (previous year: 34%). The main geographical focus of activities continues to be in Switzerland.



### FOUNDATIONS UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF FdF

As of the end of 2020, 56 funds were under the umbrella of FdF. In addition, the management of the two independent foundations mandated to FdF was successfully continued. For further information on the individual foundations, please visit [www.fondateurs.ch](http://www.fondateurs.ch).

## NEW ENDOWMENTS 2020

In 2020, five new foundations were established under the FdF umbrella.

The [Free Private Cities Foundation](#) promotes the dissemination of new concepts of peaceful and free coexistence in word, writing and pictures, in particular the idea of private state services based on a civil contract within the framework of so-called Free Private Cities.

The [I&I Foundation](#) promotes the arts, in particular contemporary music, by awarding commissions to up-and-coming young composers. The foundation enables the presentation of these works to the community.

The [Intrinsic Foundation](#) aims to research and test intrinsically motivated education. A creative network of actors and thinkers wants to interpret learning in such a way that it is compatible with the developments of the future and ultimately strengthens schools.

The [Stiftung für direkte Demokratie](#), which is independent from any political party, promotes the participation of civil society and enables new forms of democratic involvement. The foundation supports civil society, non-profit projects based on fundamental values such as human rights, social justice, equality and sustainability.

A further foundation does not wish to be mentioned by name.

## CLOSURES 2020

The [Swiss Blockchain Foundation](#) (2018-2020) wanted to promote awareness and research on blockchain technology. To this end, the foundation planned public roundtables, workshops, and conferences. The founders recognized that they lacked the capacity to pursue the foundation goal with the level of attention they desired.

The [CHAR Foundation](#) (2015-2020) aimed at the promotion of projects and persons in the field of rhythmology in Switzerland. With the funding of innovative, forward-looking scientific projects it was primarily intended to support cross-academic scientific exchange, the development of new technologies in the sense of translational rhythmology, as well as national and international training in this field. Unfortunately, it was not possible to find the necessary resources.

## SPIN-OFF

In recent years, foundations that started under the umbrella of FdF have repeatedly transformed into independent foundations. Such a process is entirely in the spirit of FdF, because the umbrella foundation also sees itself as a (birth) facilitator for foundation ideas. Some of them fail, but others are successfully implemented. If the philanthropic success is big, the conversion into an independent foundation can make sense. Especially if the size of the foundation's activities exceeds the services that can be provided by the umbrella foundation.

A good example for that is the [Stiftung KEDA](#). The foundation was established as a dependent foundation under the umbrella of FdF when it was still uncertain whether it would ever be possible to realize the project "Culinarium Alpinum" in Stans. Since numerous donors and sponsors were willing to support the project, a foundation vehicle was necessary. When the feasibility of the project was foreseeable, the

outphasing of the foundation into an independent one seemed reasonable and logical. After all, FdF cannot offer the appropriate framework conditions to an operational foundation.

## RETREAT OF THE FOUNDATION BOARD

The Foundation Board and the FdF office visited the Culinarium Alpinum in Stans for a retreat and were, thus, able to convince themselves of the successful spin-off of the Stiftung KEDA. Topics of the internal retreat were, among others, the future challenges of FdF and the Swiss foundation sector.

## FOUNDERS' EVENT

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the always well-attended founders' event had to be cancelled in 2020. The Foundation Board and the FdF office very much hope that the popular "get-together" can be held again in 2021.

## MARKET STUDY ON UMBRELLA FOUNDATION

The Foundation Board of FdF has decided to commission a market study on the topic of umbrella foundations from CEPS (Center for Philanthropy Studies) in Basel. In recent years, numerous new umbrella foundations have been established in Switzerland. However, the term umbrella foundation is neither protected nor clearly defined. Therefore, it is often difficult for potential founders to gain an overview and to assess the advantages and disadvantages of the different service providers. A systematic analysis of the various umbrella foundation models intends to make an essential contribution to greater transparency among umbrella foundations.

### FONDATION DES FONDATEURS - THE LEADING UMBRELLA FOUNDATION IN SWITZERLAND

Founded in 2007 by Lori and Karl Lutz as a non-profit umbrella foundation with the purpose of offering donors the opportunity to implement their personal funding concerns individually, professionally and cost-efficiently. FdF is managed with proven philanthropy competence, operates independently of financial service providers, cultivates exemplary governance and is politically, ideologically and religiously neutral. It is supervised by the Swiss Federal Foundation Supervisory Authority.

<b>Foundation Board</b>	Dr. Thomas Sprecher (President); Dr. Philipp Egger (Vice-President); Evelyn S. Braun (Member)
<b>Office</b>	Dr. Matthias von Orelli (Managing Director); Gianni Inguscio (Project Manager); Marianne Furrer (Administration)
<b>External Mandates</b>	OBT AG, Basel (Bookkeeping); HB&P Wirtschaftsprüfung AG, Basel (Revision); Swiss Federal Foundation Supervisory Authority
<b>Governance</b>	Member of SwissFoundations; adheres to the Swiss Foundation Code