

HUMER FOUNDATION

FOR ACADEMIC TALENT



ENABLING EXCELLENCE!

Dr. Franz B. Humer, Chairman of the Board of Trustees

You do not have to agree with everything that students all over Europe have said and done in recent months, sometimes using unacceptable means, in loud protest against the effects of the Bologna Reform. Beyond dispute, however, is the fact that "Bologna" has also created fresh problems in addition to the wholly desirable harmonisation of university studies in European countries and improved cross-border mobility associated with it. "Bringing higher education into line" is only a catchphrase and must certainly be taken seriously.

Since our foundation was established three years ago, we have been dealing with another negative consequence of the Bologna Reform. It seems increasingly evident that since the introduction of the Master's degree, too few academics have been prepared to invest a further three years in challenging doctoral studies. Today many universities are simply training too few doctoral students, which has increasingly detrimental effects on research and teaching and therefore on the higher education institutions themselves, as well as on those industries which are forced to rely on extremely well-trained researchers. It is important to enable students to achieve excellence in their degrees, which will continue to have a positive impact on their professional careers and their willingness to take on economic and social responsibility in the future.

Clearly, there is as such a need for action. The limits imposed on universities and higher education institutions, however, are extremely narrow, above all in financial terms. The difficult, at times catastrophic, financial state of the public purse in most countries is proving to be

the greatest obstacle to expanding and improving doctoral studies in a targeted way - all the more so, the longer it lasts. And in this context the prospects for the coming years are anything but good. The consequences of the financial and economic crisis will have the customary delayed effect on the tax revenues of the member states, with the result that further rounds of cuts also seem inevitable in the education sector.

Obviously, our foundation cannot halt this huge negative trend. The least we can do, however, by working closely with selected universities, is help some higher education institutions to offer future-oriented doctoral studies. Our collaboration with the universities of Salzburg, Zurich and Basle is proving a good investment. In 2009 we were able to give comprehensive support to a good dozen particularly gifted doctoral students. Following the progress of these young academics when carrying out their challenging projects gives me great personal pleasure.

And I believe this shows that our foundation is on the right track. I would like to offer my sincere thanks to all those who support us in this work. In particular, I would like to thank our professional colleagues in the office and the members of the Board of Trustees for their hard work and commitment.



PERFORMANCE REPORT 2009

Urs Lauffer, executive member of the Board of Trustees

The aim of our foundation, which was founded in the spring of 2007, is to support gifted young researchers in Switzerland, Austria and other European countries on a strictly non-profit-making basis. This takes place in close collaboration with the corresponding universities.

In the third year of our work we were able to support the University of Zurich Research Priority Programme "Asia and Europe" with CHF 300 000 (CHF 200 000 in the previous year). This money serves to fund a total of six doctoral students. In turn the University of Salzburg also received the considerable sum of EUR 150 000 (EUR 100 000 in the previous year). This assistance enabled eight doctoral students to study at the Salzburg Centre of European Union Studies in 2009. Lastly, in 2009 our foundation helped the University of Basle for the first time with CHF 100 000 for their research focus "Africa". This money is funding two doctoral students. Our foundation is currently financing the studies of 16 doctoral students altogether.

The intensive collaboration with those responsible at the three universities is proving worthwhile. On the one hand, the quality of their individual research work is regularly checked by the respective members of academic staff. On the other, the foundation can dispense with costly assessments of individual applications. For this reason the Humer Foundation will continue to dispense with assessments of applications from doctoral students addressed directly to it.

During this reporting year the Board of Trustees also held two meetings in Salzburg and Erlenbach. The focus of these meetings was the evaluation and approval of applications for financial assistance from doctoral students on the basis of detailed assessments from the three universities. In addition, the Board of Trustees conducted statutory business (annual accounts, annual report, report from the

statutory auditors and elections). Periodically the Board of Trustees scrutinises the success of our support activities in the presence of individual doctoral students and members of the academic staff responsible for them. Here the Board of Trustees evaluates both effectiveness as a measure of the effects of our work and efficiency, namely the economic use of our foundation's funds. Based on this and on actual individual cases, the Board of Trustees determines the policy of our foundation. Lastly the Board of Trustees deals with all financial issues and risks (incl. investment guidelines which are regularly examined and, if necessary, adjusted) and monitors the work of the office.

The members of the Board of Trustees are each elected by the sponsors for a period of two years. The current period of office ends on 31 December 2010.

The work of the foundation is funded primarily from investment income and donations, and to a lesser extent from capital withdrawals. Thanks to a satisfactory flow of donations and a highly successful investment policy which achieved considerable financial gains, it has been possible to further consolidate the organisation's capital despite increased payouts in this reporting year. Therefore our foundation will continue its funding activities in the coming years to the same extent as hitherto, that is, by providing between CHF 500 000 and CHF 700 000.

The office is managed by Lauffer & Frischknecht, Management Consultants for Communication, on a consultative basis. Stéphanie Ramel deals with administration. MA (Econ.) Fritz Frischknecht manages the accounts. InCen-tive Asset Management AG is in charge of asset management. Swiss GAAP FER 21 is used for the annual accounts.

UNIVERSITY OF ZURICH – ASIA AND EUROPE

The University Research Priority Programme (URPP) *Asia and Europe* of the University of Zurich studies the many and various processes of appropriation and demarcation in culture, religion, law and society which have occurred and continue to take place today between Asia and Europe. It pools the research focus of twelve disciplines and four faculties of the University of Zurich on academic knowledge of Asia, which represents a concentration of academic expertise on Asia unique in Switzerland. One of the core tasks of the URPP is the targeted promotion of the next generation of researchers. This enables young researchers to complete doctoral theses and post-doctoral research projects of outstanding quality, which explore various aspects of relations between Europe and Asia. The cross-faculty, interdisciplinary research structure offers them ideal boundary conditions for obtaining a supported discipline-specific yet interdisciplinary doctorate or post-doctorate.

At present the Humer Foundation is supporting the following six doctoral students who have this research focus:

PATRICK BROZZO

Marriage in Islamic and Jewish law – a study on the incorporation of cultural diversity in family law

PIA HOLLENBACH

Ethnographic study of reconstruction after the tsunami in Sri Lanka

ALIYA KHAWARI

The political economics of microfinance

SARAH VANDENREYDT

Buddhism between religion and philosophy

MATTHÄUS REST

Water Power

LINDA MADUZ

Analyzing the Causes of Welfare State Development in East Asia

UNIVERSITY OF SALZBURG – EUROPEAN UNION STUDIES

Since 2005 the University of Salzburg has been offering a cross-faculty Master's programme on all aspects of the European Union. An additional doctoral programme entitled "European Union Studies" has been offered for the last two years.

At present the Humer Foundation is supporting the following eight doctoral students:

CLAUDIA ARISI

European integration and social policy. A comparative study on the emergence of an active approach to unemployment

MORITZ BUSCHMANN

Technology transformation towards renewable energies and its impacts on European economies and societies

SIMONE MOTYKA

Energy security – an analysis of public service obligations in the energy sector

CHRISTINA ORTNER

The role of media for the development of social fears and uncertainties in the context of the European integration process

ALENA OTTICHOVÁ

European versus national health policy. The effects of EU health policy on national health systems

ILZE RUSE

The balance of the economic and social objectives in the regional perspective. How the EU governance contributes

HELENE SCHÖNHHEINZ

The Open Method of Coordination (OMC) revisited: the European Employment Strategy (EES) as a two-level game with special emphasis on the role of the EU Council Presidency

ALEXANDER SEYMER

Values as explanatory variables for attitudes towards welfare states. A cross-national comparison among four EU Member States

KEY FINANCIAL DATA 31/12/2009

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

	2009	2008
	630 000	360 000

Since it was established in 2007 the foundation has provided financial support totalling CHF 1 254 000.

OPERATING RESULTS / ORGANISATIONAL CAPITAL (rounded)

	2009	2008
Donations	650 000	1 000 000
Financial results	800 000	60 000
Annual profit	800 000	685 000
Organisational capital	4 400 000	3 600 000

FOUNDATION COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN

Dr. Franz B. Humer (Erlenbach)
Chairman of the Board of Directors of Roche Holding

VICE CHAIRWOMAN

Renate Gerber (Arlesheim)
Vice Chairwoman of the Board of Directors of
Fritz-Gerber-Stiftung für begabte junge Menschen

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Dr. Gottlieb Keller (Zürich)
Member of the Corporate Executive Committee of
Roche Holding

Urs Lauffer (Steinmaur)
Partner Lauffer & Frischknecht,
Management Consultants for Communication

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