

50 NEWSLETTER 2019

REPLACE
REDUCE
REFINE

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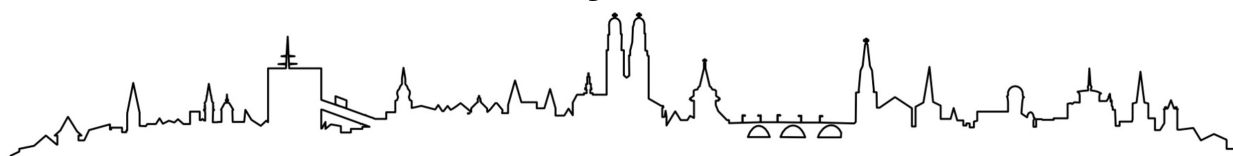




SGV MEETING 2019

December 12th and 13th, 2019, Technopark Zürich

60 years of 3Rs principles
20 years



Registration www.sgv.org



accredited as 2 days of continuing education

Word of the President

60th anniversary of the 3Rs in 2019!

Welcome to the 50th edition of the SGV newsletter.

In this newsletter you will find the summary of past year's SGV activities as well as the announcement of the program for the respective upcoming SGV meeting 2019.

The annual meeting 2018 in Lausanne was dedicated to the topic "Single housing: can we avoid this? This is an important topic as this is often done to prevent aggression in group housed male mice. However, single housing means lack of social interaction. The impact of social housing on the study results have been presented at our meeting for areas such as wound healing and immunity, brain neurochemistry, behaviour and the gut microbiota and body weight, food intake and visceral fat mass. We have also heard about examples how to prevent male aggression by providing enrichment, sufficient nesting material, forage, complex cages with visual separation via cage dividers or sterilized companion females.

The SGV award 2018 was given to Prof. em. Vera Baumans, University of Utrecht The Netherlands, for her outstanding and pioneer research on animal welfare.

A further highlight for SGV in 2018 was the joint symposium together with LS2 about "Tierversuche im Dialog". Please find more detailed information in this newsletter under 1. communication about on-going initiatives in Switzerland.

The Swiss 3R Competence Center, 3RCC, has closed its first open call in January 2019 and decided to fund 6 projects out of the 54 submitted applications. Congratulations to our Board member and cashier, Philippe Bugnon, who is being funded for his project "Breeding management software for genetically modified rodents".

Our 2019 annual meeting will be held in Zürich on December 12 and 13. You will find the program and location inside this newsletter. Our scientific committee has once more organized a high quality SGV meeting with speakers from Europe, Switzerland and USA. The meeting is dedicated to the 60th anniversary of the 3Rs "60 years 3Rs principles, 20 year after their revival and now". On the occasion of the anniversary we will have 3 SGV awardees this year, one for each "R" category. We are very proud to have Prof. Jane Hurst for the "Refinement" category for her non-aversive handling technique in mice, Prof. Hanno Würbel for the "Reduction" category for his work on systematic variation to improve reproducibility and Prof. Patrycja Nowak-Sliwinska for the "Replacement" category for her alternatives for mammalian screening models. We hope, you will find the program attractive and

applicable for your daily work. We will have again a free Apéritif Dînatoire in the industrial exhibition area in order to further foster the communication between our participants and the industrial exhibitors.

All that remains for me is to wish you a nice autumn time and looking forward to meeting you in Zürich in December and at our SGV General Assembly on December 12th.






Birgit Ledermann

President of the SGV



Presentation of the SGV board members

The board of the SGV meets three to four times a year to review the on-going activities and define the future actions to be undertaken for the development of the society and its outreach for the scientific world as well as for the lay society at large. A guest SAVIR representative, Dr Maïke Heimann, also joins for the SGV board meetings.

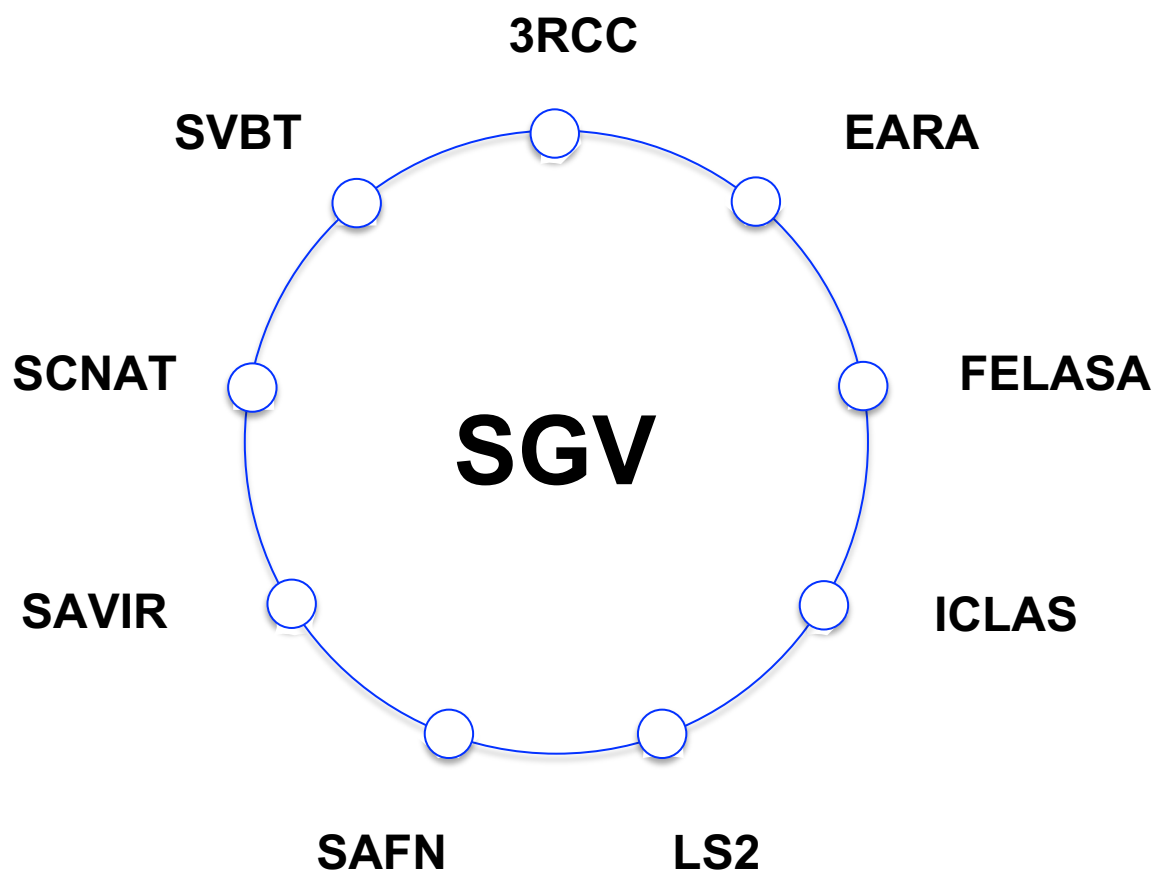
SGV President Dr Birgit Ledermann		Head of the Scientific Committee Dr Isabelle Desbaillets	
Vice-President Dr Paolo Cinelli		Editor in chief Laboratory Animals Limited (LAL) Dr Beat Riederer	
Secretary Dr Andrina Zbinden		SGV Web site MSc Jacques Volland	
Treasurer Dr Philippe Bugnon		SGV newsletter Dr Xavier Warot	

Presentation of the SGV Scientific Committee

The SGV Scientific Committee is in charge of establishing the SGV annual meeting program and organizing the meeting. It also reviews the SGV travel grants applications. A 3R consultant, Dr Stefanie Schindler, participates in the work of the Scientific Committee.

Head of the Scientific Committee: Dr Isabelle Desbaillets		Dr Gisèle Ferrand	
Dr Corina Berset		Dr Marcel Gyger	
Dr Philippe Bugnon		Dr Maike Heimann	
Dr Fabienne Chabaud		Dr Stefan Zeiter	

The SGV network



Partners of the SGV

3RCC	Swiss 3R Competence Center
EARA	European Animal Research Association
FELASA	Federation of European Laboratories Animal Associations
ICLAS	International Council for Laboratory Animal Science
LS2	Life Science Switzerland
SAFN	Swiss Animal Facilities Network
SAVIR	Swiss Association of Veterinarians in Industry and Research
SCNAT	Swiss Academy of Science
SVBT	Swiss Union for Vocational Education in Animal Care

The SGV is also in contact with the Federal Veterinary Office FSVO for all matters related to animal experimentation.

Program of the SGV annual meeting 2019

60 years of 3Rs principles 20 years after their revival and now

Invited speakers

L. Antunes University Vila Real, PT	J. Hurst (SGV 3R Awardee, Refinement) University of Liverpool, UK	P. Pelczar University of Basel, CH
C. Berset University of Zürich, CH	N. Karp Astrazeneca, UK	V. Schreiner University of Basel, CH
I. Buch Basel Declaration, CH	R.G.K. Kirk (Keynote Lecture) University of Manchester, UK	V. Todorovic University of Colorado, USA
J.M. Clarkson University of Glasgow, UK	M. LaFollette University of Purdue, USA	G. Tyzack The Francis Crick Institute, UK
C. Eskes Swiss 3RCC, CH	M. Lütolf EPFL, CH	Jan Van der Valk 3Rs-Centre ULS, NL
P. Flecknell University of Newcastle, UK	A. Mensen Swiss 3RCC, CH	E. Velazquez University California at Davis, USA
L. Held University of Zürich, CH	J. Messer Roche Pharma Research & Early Development, CH	Hanno Würbel (SGV 3R Awardee, Reduction) University of Bern, CH
K. Hohlbaum Freie Universität Berlin, DE	J. Mogil McGill University, Canada	S. Zeiter AO Foundation, CH
	P. Nowak-Sliwinska (SGV 3R Awardee, Replacement) University of Geneva, CH	

On-going initiatives related to animal experimentation in Switzerland

Overview of current and most recent Swiss initiatives:

Total ban of animal and human research in Switzerland

- Popular initiative with public decision probably beginning of 2021
- Federal council has recommended rejection without any counter proposal

Ban of highest pain category "Maya Graf initiative"

- Parliamentary initiative, WBK-N has recommended rejection on May 24th, 2019
- Rejection by national council on September 25th, 2019
- Swiss animal protection organization will continue to work on the ban of the highest pain category

Civil rights for non-human primates

- Public initiative in Basel
- Basel constitutional court has endorsed appeal against Basel parliament decision, vote probably in 2020
- Will have no impact in Basel but precedent for cantons Fribourg and Zürich

Veto right for single cantonal commission members

- Public initiative in Geneva
- Rejected on votation November 24th, 2019 (64,42% against it)
- Would have set a precedent for other cantons and could have delayed license application approval process

LS2/SGV Joint symposium:

In Switzerland, as summarized above, there are currently various initiatives which call either for the total ban on animal testing or for the ban of the highest pain category in animal research. The approval of these initiatives would have far-reaching consequences for biomedical research in Switzerland. We have therefore set up together with LS2 a joint symposium to provide the researchers and the public with objective information on the current practice of animal experimental research in Switzerland.

We had about 140 participants in total and were very much honoured that Michael Hengartner, president of swissuniversities, gave the welcome address. He addressed the importance of animal research for the treatment of severe diseases both for human and animal patients. Animal research is still necessary to find new vaccines against bacteria such as Chlamydia, Streptococcus and Shigella as well as for parasites and viruses.

The program included:

- the necessity of open and transparent communication on animal research;
- the prerequisites to perform animal research in Switzerland;
- the different networks within Switzerland, Swiss Animal Facility Network and Animal Welfare Officer Network;
- the Swiss 3R Competence Center 3RCC;
- the commission of the Swiss academies for animal research ethics (KTVE).

In addition, we had four scientific presentation about successful animal research:

- The discovery of monoclonal antibodies;
- The development of neuro-prosthesis to recover the locomotor system after injury of the spinal cord;
- The use of sheep for the development of bone healing devices.

After the final plenary discussion, the symposium was closed with an aperitif for all speakers and participants.

In conclusion, we were able to point out the benefits and necessity of animal research as well as the necessity for more open and transparent communication on this topic. However, we missed our aim to attract lay people, who were our targeted audience, and instead we had a majority of academic participants. The next event is planned in 2020 in the Swiss Romandie with a different format in order to have it more attractive for the general public outside academia.

Update of the activities of the Swiss Animal Welfare Officers Network

The Swiss animal welfare officer network that has been established in 2013 met twice in 2019 at the University of Bern. One of the frequent agenda items is the discussion about the differences between the cantons regarding animal experimentation and animal housing as well as the exchange of knowledge and experience. The chair and co-chair had the opportunity to meet the new head of BLV animal research group Otto Maissen. We had a very good meeting and agreed to involve and use the knowledge of the AWO network for the review of e.g. new technical information 1.04, 3.01 and 3.03.

The network has given input to the new revised technical information 1.04 about the severity degree classification. A subgroup of the network is currently updating the thematic portal on animal research to implement the changes in the animal welfare legislation, e.g. the now obligatory role for the animal welfare officer and the establishment of the Swiss 3R Competence Center 3RCC.

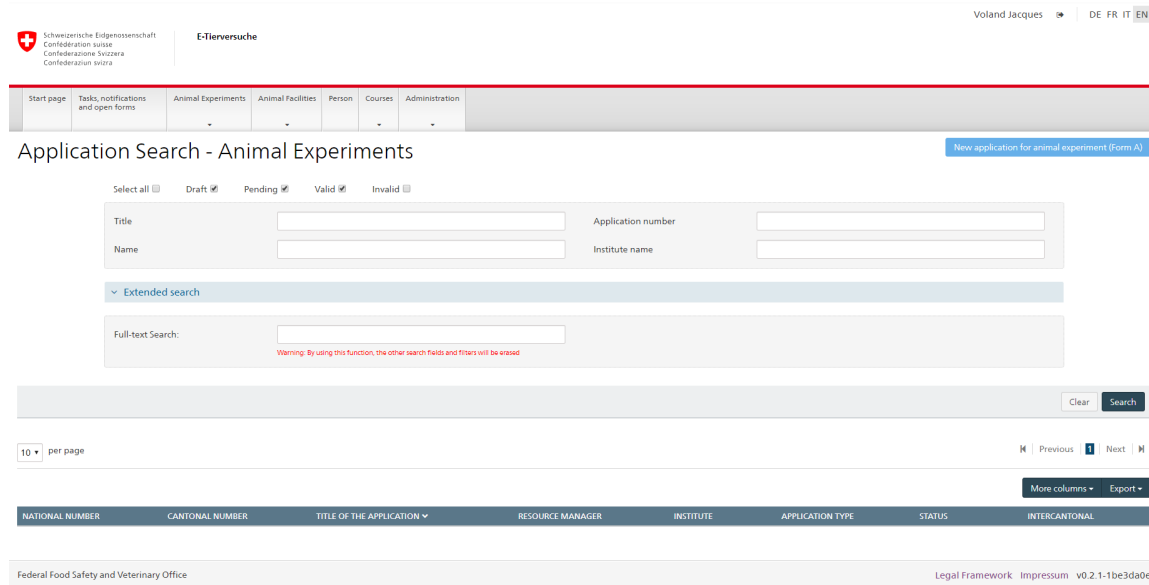
At the last meeting the network has established an additional working group for the planning of the next public events on animal research. The idea is to find a suitable format that attracts the interested public, e.g. a “roadshow”.

Birgit Ledermann

Chair of the AWO network

Update on current regulations for animal experiments

In 2020 the relaunch of the web-application e-tierversuche is planned. All processes concerning animal experimentation, animal facilities, persons involved, lines with pathological phenotype a.s.o. will be administrated by this new application.



The screenshot shows the 'E-Tierversuche' web application interface. At the top, there is a header with the SGV logo and navigation links for 'Voland Jacques', 'DE', 'FR', 'IT', and 'EN'. Below the header is a menu bar with options: 'Start page', 'Tasks, notifications and open forms', 'Animal Experiments', 'Animal facilities', 'Person', 'Courses', and 'Administration'. The main content area is titled 'Application Search - Animal Experiments' and includes a 'New application for animal experiment (Form A)' button. There are filters for 'Select all', 'Draft', 'Pending', 'Valid', and 'Invalid'. Search fields for 'Title', 'Application number', 'Name', and 'Institute name' are provided. An 'Extended search' section includes a 'Full-text Search' field with a warning: 'Warning: By using this function, the other search fields and filters will be erased'. At the bottom, there is a table with columns: 'NATIONAL NUMBER', 'CANTONAL NUMBER', 'TITLE OF THE APPLICATION', 'RESOURCE MANAGER', 'INSTITUTE', 'APPLICATION TYPE', 'STATUS', and 'INTERCANTONAL'. The footer contains 'Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office' and 'Legal Framework Impressum v0.2.1-1be3da0e'.

By law all applications for animal experimentations have to be submitted by the web application e-tierversuche. This application is a part of the e-government strategy in Switzerland. It allows researchers to submit their projects to the cantonal authorities. In 2020 there will be a relaunch of e-tierversuche. The researchers have the possibility to log into e-tierversuche as animal welfare officer, resource manager, study director, involved person or as an administrative role. The resource manager of an institute or a research group has a contract with the canton for the use of e-tierversuche. He/she is able to generate applications and to submit them to the animal welfare officer. Also, he/she can manage the personnel of his group and submit the yearly reports to the canton. The study director can generate and write application and finally submit them to the resource manager. Also, he/she is able to submit reports to the cantonal authorities. An involved person, who has access to e-tierversuche is only allowed to generate and write the applications and the reports. Finally, the animal welfare officer submits the applications to the Canton. With this role of administration, the user can also manage the personnel and write and submit the yearly reports. It also simplifies the administration of the education and continuing training of the researchers.

The announcement of lines with pathological phenotypes (Art. 226, Art. 141, Art. 145, Animal Welfare Ordinance) has to be performed with the form M by the web application e-tierversuche. The Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office FSVO maintains there a register of the decisions M for the attention of the authorities.

The Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office FSVO publishes quarterly the final information of the experiments about the animals per animal species and the degree of severity. Yearly the reports of the animal experiments (Form C) and of the animal facilities (Form CH) are published in a statistical view.

Since 2018 the animal welfare officer is a requirement for each institute performing animal experimentation. He/she is responsible, that the applications for a license are complete filled out and especially regarding the declaration concerning the assessment of the indispensable extent. In the relaunch version of e-tierversuche the animal welfare officer will have to submit each application to the Canton.

Last but not least before a license is issued the question of the dignity of the animals and the weighing between the benefit for human/animal and the strain for the animal have to be made by the researchers and the authorities. The Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office FSVO has published a guide to the “weighing of interest”.

(link: <https://www.blv.admin.ch/blv/en/home/tiere/tierversuche.html>, section [Degree of severity and harm-benefit analysis](#)).

Other important information in the field of animal experimentation is published in different technical information such as for euthanasia (3.01), analgesia (3.03), severity degree (1.04) and so on, which were recently updated.

All the new legal requirements for animal experimentations are implemented in the web application e-tierversuche, where the relaunch is foreseen next year in 2020.

MSc Jacques Voland

Veterinary Office of the Canton Berne, Switzerland

SGV board member

SGV Grants

SGV Travel Grant

To support its members for continuing education, the SGV has at its disposal a total amount of CHF 10'000. The SGV Board according to the state of the SGV finances can change this amount. A minimum of CHF 4'000 is covered by money donated by the Swiss Academy of Sciences. Travel grants will be given to members either working in CH or coming from abroad to CH for a continuing education course or for projects related to the 3Rs. A first portion of funding of CHF 7'000 is allocated to early career members for continuous education purposes. The next portion of funding of CHF 3'000 is dedicated to members who will actively contribute to the 3Rs (i.e. a 3R course organizer, FELASA Days, etc). If by August 1st, there is still money available from the second portion, it will automatically be transferred to the first portion. The SGV Board will discuss exceptions.

Criteria to get a grant

- Be or become a SGV member.
- Only courses with an importance in laboratory animal science (LAS), husbandry, breeding or experimentation with a gain of knowledge in the 3Rs will be acknowledged.
- Preference will be given to Ph. D - students in their final student year or to postdoctoral fellows in their initial postdoctoral years.
- Candidates will be supported only if they actively participate to the meeting by presenting a poster or an oral communication.
- One grant per person will be allocated over a period of time of 4 years: CHF 500 for CH / CHF 1'000 for / from EU and other destinations.
- One grant per research group per year. One grant per conference per year. Should another member apply for the same conference, the grant policy is based on "first-come, first-served".
- Short-Term Scientific Missions enabling young scientists to visit other laboratories, for instance to learn a new LAS technique will also be supported.
- At the end of the meeting or mission, a report will be sent to the president of the SGV scientific committee for publication in the next SGV Newsletters.

Application

Applications will be sent by email to the president of the SGV scientific committee by the laboratory principal investigator (senior scientist) at least 4 weeks before the beginning of the meeting/project/mission.

All details regarding the application and the required information can be found at <https://courses.sgv.org/funding>.

Decision bodies

- The SGV scientific committee.
- For exceptions, the president of the SGV scientific committee will transfer the application to the SGV Board.

Transfer of the grant to another person

- The grantee will provide specific information to the president of the SGV scientific committee at least 3 weeks before the meeting. The SGV scientific committee will then decide whether or not to transfer the grant.

Transfer of the grant to another meeting/course

- If the grantee wishes to transfer her/his grant to go to another course, she/he will contact the president of the SGV scientific committee.



SGV 25th Fund

Situation

The Swiss Laboratory Animal Science Association (below in text as SGV) has a capital originating from the membership fees and income of the education meeting that is organized every year. Until now this money was used for the operating budget of the SGV (representation in other associations and authorities, secretarial work, ...) but also to finance continuing education of young researchers (travel grants) and as a rolling capital for the organization of the SGV education courses.

The SGV board proposes to create a fund (called « SGV 25 years ») with the excess of money, to financially support projects related to the goals of the SGV, that are promotion of the Laboratory Animal Science and the Animal Welfare, and ethical considerations in animal experimentation.

The SGV board asks the General Assembly to accept the creation of this fund and the possibility to finance projects during the year according to pre-defined criteria. The SGV board proposes to create this fund at the General Assembly 2012, year of the 25th jubilee of the SGV.

Goal of the Fund « SGV 25 years »

This fund is used to finance projects corresponding to the goals of the SGV.

Financing of the Fund « SGV 25 years »

The SGV finances this fund with the excess of the annual capital. Any amount higher than 250'000.- CHF on June 30th is invested in the Fund « SGV 25 years » of the next year. If the fund money cannot be used by June 30st, it will remain in the Fund for the next year and can be used the next year according to the same conditions.

If the financial situation of the SGV requests it, the SGV board can decide at any time to transfer the balance of the Fund in the capital of the SGV.

Grant applications

Completed grant applications and attached documents are to be submitted by email (as PDF documents) to the secretariat of the SGV, twice a year on January 31st and July 31st.

If the formal requirements are met, the application will be peer-reviewed by internal or external reviewers within a time period of three months. If this is not possible due to a high number of applications, the SGV will inform the applicants.

Applications, that do not fulfill the criteria described below, will not go through the reviewing process and will be sent back to the applicant within two weeks after receipt.

The grant application must be submitted in English and includes:

- a) Title;
- b) Goals of the project and the state of knowledge in the proposed research domain;
- c) Description of the project;
- d) Material and Methods;
- e) If animals are involved, please join the license and the balance of interests;
- f) Research plan;
- g) Coordinates of the applicant / supervisor of the project;
- h) CV of the applicant / supervisor of the project;
- i) List of publications of the applicant / supervisor of the project;
- j) Research Institute resp. Company;
- k) Human Resources;
- l) Budget of the financial support (material, salary, ...);
- m) Other financial support for the project.

Additionally, the application must provide information about the significance of the project for animals in relation to the 3R principle:

- n) Specify what type of projects / methods / domain of the research will be positively influenced by the gain of knowledge in this project in Switzerland, Europe and worldwide (impact of the project);
- o) Possibilities and limitations of how the gain of knowledge can be applied and/or distributed/disseminated.

Criteria for the financial support of projects

The SGV board, elected by the General Assembly of the SGV, decides for financial support of projects with respect to the goals of the SGV, according to the following criteria:

- The importance of the project in relation to the goals of the SGV;
- The viability of the project (goals to reach, financial support other than SGV, ...).

The financial support can be given:

- only for salary;
- for the acquisition of material necessary for the project (are excluded: animals, housing material, computers, ...). For instance: surgical material, enrichment, material for identification, ...;
- for publications related to 3Rs (for example publications costs, graphics, pictures, ...);
- for associations supporting the SGV goals.

For a financial support up to 25'000.- CHF, the decision is taken by the SGV board. At least $\frac{3}{4}$ of the SGV board members must vote to validate a decision and decisions are taken by simple majority vote. In case of equal votes, the President takes the final decision.

The SGV board does not need to justify its decisions in case of refusal of the financial support.

For applications higher than 25'000.- CHF, the decision for a financial support must be taken by the General Assembly. The SGV board decides according to the criteria stated above whether the project corresponds to the SGV goals and whether it can be submitted to the General Assembly. The applicant prepares a summary of the project (not anonymous) and the SGV board sends it to the SGV members with the agenda of the General Assembly. The applicant presents her/his project during the General Assembly which will then decide about the financial support. Decisions are taken by simple majority vote.

If the project is abandoned, the money that was not invested must be reimbursed within 10 days.

In the case of changes within the project (human resources, methodology, ...), the applicant must inform immediately the SGV board who will then decide whether the project must continue to be financially supported by the fund « SGV 25 years ». When the criteria are no more fulfilled, the money not used must be reimbursed within 10 days.

Report

At the latest, one month before the SGV General Assembly the supervisor of the project must send an intermediate or final report to the SGV board, including the progress, the goals reached and still to be reached, as well as the amount of money already invested in the project.

The SGV board presents a report of all projects in progress or completed during the year to the General Assembly. The SGV board can invite the supervisor of the project to present her/his project and the results to the SGV General Assembly.

In case of absence of report, the financial support is suspended for this applicant.