



Fondation pour la Garde Suisse Pontificale au Vatican
Stiftung der Päpstlichen Schweizergarde im Vatikan
Fondazione della Guardia Svizzera Pontificia del Vaticano

ANNUAL REPORT

2019

FOUNDATION OF THE
PONTIFICAL SWISS GUARD
IN THE VATICAN



FOUNDATION OF THE
PONTIFICAL SWISS GUARD

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

In 2000, the Foundation of the Guard was founded in Fribourg, Switzerland to ensure the long-term existence of the Swiss Guard. The purpose of the foundation is to support the Swiss Guard and its guardsmen financially, materially and socially.



CONTENTS

	President of the Foundation Board Ruth Metzler-Arnold	7
1	Funding areas of the foundation	10
1.1	Recruitment and marketing	13
1.2	Support for families and children	14
1.3	Education and training	15
1.4	Professional reintegration	18
1.5	Infrastructure and equipment	21
1.6	Renovation of the Swiss Chapel	23
2	Swearing-in ceremony on 6 May 2019	25
3	The Feast of St. Martin	25
4	Messaggero	26
5	Group of the 147	26
6	Foundation Board	28
7	Financial information	30
8	Donations and grants	35
8.1	Administrative expenses	35
8.2	Audit	37
8.3	Fiscal treatment of donations	37
8.4	Donation accounts	39



RUTH METZLER-ARNOLD

PRESIDENT OF THE FOUNDATION BOARD

„In many respects, the Foundation fulfils an important bridging function between the Vatican Guard and the homeland of the guards.“

Dear Readers

The 20th Annual Report of the Foundation of the Pontifical Swiss Guard is now available and provides you with an insight into the activities of the Foundation.

The Foundation is particularly committed to the recruitment and improvement of the living conditions of the guards and their families as well as to the further training of guards during their years of service in the Vatican.

The Pontifical Swiss Guard cannot pay for all the materials and equipment it needs with only the funds made available by the Holy See. The Foundation has therefore decided to establish a group of friends and patrons – the Group of 147 – with the aim of providing targeted support over a number of years to the various

areas that are crucial to improving living conditions in Rome and the attractiveness of serving on the Guard.

In many respects, the Foundation fulfils an important bridging function between the Vatican Guard and the homeland of the guards.

It contributes to the further existence of the Swiss Guard. It supports the recruitment process, training and professional reintegration of the guards in Switzerland after they have completed their service.

It covers any gaps in social security contributions and, in particular, ensures that the guards remain under the OASI during their service abroad.

Furthermore, the Foundation contributes to funding the education of the children of guards' families. The aim is to allow children of the guards to attend the Swiss school in Rome in order to facilitate their later integration into the Swiss education system.

The Foundation coordinates its activities closely with those of the Foundation for the Renovation of the Barracks, whose aim is to reconstruct the current barracks buildings, which do not have sufficient living space and are in very poor condition.

I would like to thank the guards and their superiors, all of the patrons large and small, and the members of the Foundation Board for their commitment.

Ruth Metzler-Arnold

Former Federal Councillor

President of the Foundation Board

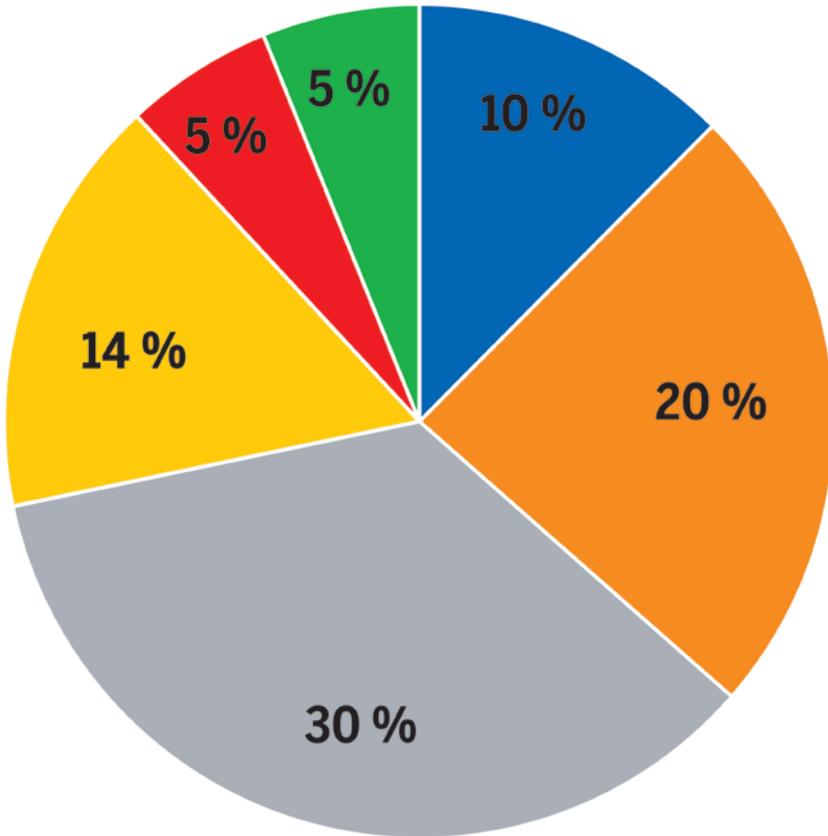


1. FUNDING AREAS OF THE FOUNDATION

Over the past year, the Foundation has supported the following areas that are crucial to improving living conditions in Rome and the attractiveness of serving on the Swiss Guard:

- Support for families and children
- Education and training
- Contributions to professional reintegration in Switzerland
- Support with recruitment and PR work
- Infrastructure and equipment
- Renovation of the Swiss Chapel (Santa Maria della Pietà, Campo Santo Teutonico)

FUNDING AREAS OF THE FOUNDATION 2019



 Education and training

 Support for families and children

 Contributions to professional reintegration

 Recruitment and PR work

 Renovation of the Swiss Chapel

 Infrastructure and equipment



1.1 RECRUITMENT AND PR WORK

Recruiting a sufficiently large number of guards proves to be a huge challenge every year.

The Foundation supports the Guard Command by creating and providing advertising materials, attending job fairs and providing funding to hold the “Taster Week” for prospective guards. This week enables them to get an impression of life in the guards’ quarter and gives them the opportunity to visit Saint Peter’s Basilica and the Apostolic Palace. The Foundation covers the participants’ travel, accommodation and food costs.

The Command of the Pontifical Swiss Guard operates the IRS Information and Recruitment Centre in Glarus for recruitment purposes. The IRS is affiliated with a professional personnel management office, which serves as a contact point for people interested in joining the Guard and conducts interviews with candidates.

The Foundation’s support of the Guard’s activities includes producing brochures and advertising materials, as well as publishing articles and giving interviews in the Swiss media.

1.2 SOUTIEN AUX FAMILLES ET AUX ENFANTS

En 2011, la Fondation a commencé à verser des allocations familiales sur le modèle suisse afin de soutenir les familles des gardes. Le montant des contributions est basé sur les directives du canton de Fribourg.

À partir de 2019, les frais de scolarité pour la fréquentation de l'école suisse sont également pris en charge. Les enfants des gardes doivent avoir la possibilité de suivre une scolarité correspondant au système suisse. Cela leur permet de commencer un apprentissage ou d'être admis dans les différentes hautes écoles sans avoir à passer d'examen.

Les allocations sont également destinées à décharger les familles des gardes des dépenses liées à la pratique sportive et musicale de leurs enfants.

La Fondation souhaite soulager le budget des familles en contribuant aux frais de formation.

En outre, la Fondation participe également aux charges liées au logement.

1.3 INSTRUCTION ET FORMATION CONTINUE

Afin de remplir consciencieusement la mission exigeante que représente le service de sécurité pour le Saint-Père, les gardes suivent régulièrement des cours de formation continue à l'interne mais également en externe.

Plus de 90 gardes ont déjà suivi avec succès la formation complète pour devenir agent professionnel de sécurité et de surveillance avec brevet fédéral (AESS).

Cpl Oliver Xaver Ritz, what motivated you to train as a security guard?

My motivation was to continue my education in the field of security and do an apprenticeship with a Swiss Federal Diploma. That means that when I return to Switzerland, I'll also have a diploma to show for my years of service.

How has this training benefited you specifically?

It gave me another perspective of the security sector. That's because many of the procedures in the Guard are routine and have remained largely unchanged for years. It was an interesting experience to see how Swiss security companies deal with similar situations.

In addition, we specifically looked at numerous areas, which might not be focused on that much by the Guard (e.g. lift, gas and water distribution systems, burglar alarm systems, fire alarm systems).



Which parts of the apprenticeship did you particularly like and which parts didn't you enjoy as much?

The practical training sessions, in particular, were very interesting and informative. The training principles provided by Securitas AG were an important complement to the course.

The huge amounts of theoretical knowledge such as Swiss law were, in my opinion, dealt with too quickly and with too much material. You have to remember that this is something that we don't have to pay attention to in our daily work as guards. But it's clear that in taking the exam, this material is absolutely essential. In that respect, it would certainly be helpful if more time could be dedicated to the theoretical side in the future.

Are there any other training courses that you would like to attend?

I'd like to train as a shooting instructor according to the regulations of the Swiss Police Institute. This would provide the corps with another shooting instructor, as well as giving me with another good foundation for my return to Switzerland.

I'm also interested in the project for training in the Police Support Service. I'm currently weighing up taking part in it.

Thank you very much for the interview!

1.4 PROFESSIONAL REINTEGRATION

During their service in Rome, the members of the Guard are required to make voluntary contributions to the Swiss OASI. This enables them to avoid having large gaps in their contributions after returning to Switzerland and having a massive reduction in their retirement pensions. The Foundation has therefore agreed to pay half of the guards' contributions to the voluntary OASI.

The Foundation also finances a retirement savings plan as part of the occupational pension scheme. This should also help make it easier for guards to be integrated back into the labour market on their return to Switzerland after completing their service.

There are also situations in which merited guards receive financial support when they leave the Guard. This is the case, for example, when taking up a challenging degree programme or a further education course.





1.5 INFRASTRUCTURE AND EQUIPMENT

To ensure that the Guard can be provided with the right equipment at all times, 25 new helmets need to be purchased. These are forged by hand and in line with traditional, old craftsmanship.

To ensure the preservation of this magnificent armour, they must be replaced with replicas. Equivalent replicas of the original armour are created by hand.

MORIONS

In addition to the everyday headgear, the beret, the Pontifical Swiss Guard wears a magnificent helmet of polished steel, the so-called morion, on important public holidays..

ARMOUR

The historical armour is worn at the swearing-in ceremony, Christmas and Easter. Traces of wear and tear are clearly visible.



1.6 RENOVATION OF THE SWISS CHAPEL

The chapel with its mural paintings is seen to be a building of great historical value and worthy of preservation.

However, the stonework and plastering as well as the furnishings are showing considerable damage caused by humidity. Not only does this damage adversely affect the chapel's visual appearance but most important of all, it has attacked the fabric of the building.

In order to tackle the restoration of the Chapel of the Swiss Guard, a wide range of measures that need to be carried out in several stages have been planned.

The Foundation guaranteed to cover the costs for the conservation and restoration of the murals.

A document dated 16 May 1520 testifies the transfer of rights of use of the front left side chapel of the Church of Santa Maria della Pietà at Campo Santo Teutonico to the Pontifical Swiss Guard.

The prayer room is thus considered to be the first guards' chapel and was used as a place of worship as well as a burial ground.



2. SWEARING-IN CEREMONY ON 6 MAY 2019

This year again, a number of members from the Foundation Boards, accompanied by their guests, attended the swearing-in ceremony of

23 new members of the Swiss Guard.

Over an evening meal and during a visit to the barracks, the tasks of the Swiss Guard were explained to the guests and new patrons were won over.

3. THE FEAST OF ST. MARTIN

The Feast of St. Martin 2019 took place in Basel. A great many friends and patrons, most of them hailing from the region, attended the event and were informed about the current challenges facing the Swiss Guard.

4. MESSAGGERO

The 12/19 edition of *Messaggero* featured a report on the canonisation of Marguerite Bays. The articles about the life and activities of the Swiss Guards in the Vatican also made for interesting reading.

5. GROUP OF THE 147

In the reporting year, the “Group of the 147” was formed, an exclusive group of friends of the Swiss Guard. The aim is for the group to consist of donors who are willing to support the Swiss Guard with five annual contributions of at least CHF 3,000 or a one-off contribution of at least CHF 15,000. In no time at all, the group already had ten members.

The troops of Charles V attacked the Vatican on 6 May 1527 and also invaded St. Peter's Basilica. The Swiss Guard fought courageously against an opponent that outnumbered them 25 to 1. The commander, Kaspar Röist, was killed. Some 147 members of the Swiss Guard were massacred before the high altar of St. Peter's Basilica, with only 42 managing to escape at the last minute as they protected Pope Clement VII's retreat through the Passetto, a secret passage in the fortress wall that connects the Vatican with Castel Sant'Angelo.

In memory of the 147 guards who fell heroically in 1527, this circle of friends of the Pontifical Swiss Guard is called the “Group of the 147”.

The members of the “Group of the 147” will meet every year for an evening event in Switzerland. The President of the Foundation of the Guard, the President of the Foundation for the Renovation of the Barracks and the Commander of the Guard will provide information about the latest developments in Rome, the Vatican and in the Guard.

An outstanding personality will be invited to each event and will discuss current issues and the spiritual dimension of their commitment with those attending.

The members of the “Group of the 147” receive the “Messaggero”, which reports on life in the Swiss Guard. Over the course of a 5-year period, members are invited to two exclusive visits to the Vatican spanning several days: once for the swearing in of the new guards in May and once for a two-day visit in September.

Contact addresses

reto.jauch@sz-j.com

raymond.loretan@gmail.com

6. FOUNDATION BOARD

Day-to-day business is taken care of by the Comité de Direction (CdD) and the Foundation Secretary.

In 2019, the Foundation Board was composed of the following:

PRESIDENT

Ruth Metzler-Arnold, Appenzell (CdD)

VICE PRESIDENT

Michel Plüss – until October 2019

Dr. J. Maurice Zufferey, Cham – from October 2019 (CdD)

FINANCE

Dr. Imad M-M Hatem – until October 2019

Dr. J. Maurice Zufferey, Cham – from October 2019 (CdD)

MEMBERS

Christoph Graf, Guard Commander, Vatican City (CdD)

Dr. Martin Dubach, Zug (CdD)

Brigitte Hauser-Süess, Brig-Glis (CdD)

Rocco Cattaneo, Bironico

Guido Egli, Meggen

Dr. Thierry Fauchier-Magnan, Versoix

Bishop Dr. Felix Gmür, Solothurn

Prof. Dr. med. Philippe Jaeger, Walchwil

Reto Jauch, Zug

Filippo Lombardi, Melide

Raymond Loretan, Geneva

Dr Jean-Pierre Roth, Collonge-Bellerive

Daniel Roubaty, Villars-sur-Glâne

Lukas Schmucki, Rapperswil-Jona

Dr Urs Schwaller, Tifers

SECRETARIAT OF THE FOUNDATION

Astrid Seiler, Zurich – from October 2019

Daniel Zbinden – until October 2019

ACCOUNTING

Nathalie Croteau Jauch, Zug

TBO Treuhand, Zurich

FOUNDATION HEADQUARTERS

c/o Monsieur Daniel Zbinden; Lawyer,

Route de la Cité-Bellevue 6, Postfach 1606, 1701 Freiburg

7. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

We are delighted that we were once again able to count on the trust and generosity of our friends and patrons in the year under review. The increased public presence and the Foundation's endeavours to attract new donors have proven successful.

As a result, donations and contributions increased by 46% year-on-year to CHF 731,354. Accordingly, contributions to projects for the Guard also rose by 73% to CHF 646,326 in comparison with the previous year.

In the year under review, the following funding areas were supported: education and training (10%), support for families and children (20%), contributions to professional reintegration in Switzerland (30%), recruitment and PR work (14%), renovation of the Swiss Chapel (5%), infrastructure and equipment (5%), and a provision for renovation of the barracks, which will be used to support the Foundation for the Renovation of the Barracks throughout the course of 2020.

Administrative and IT expenses were reduced by 7% to CHF 62,000, which, representing 9% of fees paid out, are in line with industry standards.

Thanks to healthy market conditions, financial income enjoyed very positive growth and helped to strengthen the financial basis of our Foundation.

The Foundation has a very healthy balance sheet, which will allow it to continue supporting the long-term concerns and projects of the Guard generously in the coming years. The numerous large and small donors and, since this year, the "Group of the 147" patrons have contributed significantly to this.

The statutory auditor has audited the financial statements 2019, which comprise the balance sheet, income statement, proof of funds and the notes to the financial statements, and recommends that the financial statements 2019 be approved.

On behalf of the Foundation and the Guard, we would like to thank all donors large and small for their contributions. It is thanks to you that we can continue to inspire young Swiss people to serve in the Vatican and maintain a tradition that dates back more than 500 years.

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019

(in 1'000 CHF)

	2019	2018
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	1964	1613
Securities	1373	1360
Total assets	3337	2973
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities	204	15
Non-current liabilities	766	709
Total debt capital	970	724
Foundation capital	100	100
Profit brought forward	2153	2271
Result of the financial statements	114	-118
Total equity	2367	2253
Total liabilities	3337	2977

INCOME STATEMENT

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019

(in 1'000 CHF)

	2019	2018
Assigned donations	516	288
Unassigned donations	215	212
Donations and contributions received	731	500
Payments to the Guards	458	372
<i>Expenses within the scope of the Foundation's purpose:</i>		
Further contributions	183	0
PR work	5	0
Assigned contributions and direct expenses	646	372
Gross profit	82	127
Administrative and IT costs	62	67
Operating result	23	60
Financial result	148	-78
Result before change to provisions	172	-18
Release of project provisions	457	35
Creation of project provisions	-515	-135
ANNUAL RESULT	114	-118



8. DONATIONS AND GRANTS

The Foundation of the Pontifical Swiss Guard can be supported in many different ways:

- Unassigned donations: these are used by the persons responsible within the Foundation in accordance with the Foundation's purpose.
- Assigned contributions: by specifying the desired funding area (e.g. education and training, purchase of a morion), the donation will be used for this specific purpose.
- Sponsorship: it is also possible to support the Pontifical Swiss Guard by means of a sponsorship in the areas of education and training, logistics or infrastructure, or by helping the Foundation and the corps in numerous areas in an advisory function.

8.1 ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Low administrative costs are one of the Foundation Board's objectives, which works on an honorary basis. This ensures that donations go directly to the funding areas and projects of the Swiss Guard.



8.2 AUDIT

The Foundation's books are audited by Fiduconsult Freiburg AG, Rue des Pilettes 3, 1700 Freiburg.

The audit report of 23 march 2020 for the 2019 accounts (balance sheet and income statement as well as the notes) contains no reservations.

8.3 FISCAL TREATMENT OF DONATIONS

With the decree of the cantonal tax authorities dated 4 October 2002 and the Financial Directorate of Fribourg, tax exemption applies to donations to the Foundation of the Pontifical Swiss Guard in the Vatican.



8.4 DONATION ACCOUNTS

In order to support the various funding areas and projects, donations can be transferred as follows:

Beneficiary | Foundation headquarters

Foundation of the Pontifical Swiss Guard in the Vatican
Route de la Cité-Bellevue 6
PO box 1606
1701 Freiburg

Bank account details

Bank Vontobel AG, Gotthardstrasse 43, CH-8022 Zurich
CHF: CH49 0875 7000 0120 2282 7
EUR: CH06 0875 7000 0120 2282 5
USD: CH76 0875 7000 0120 2282 6

Postfinance

CH53 0900 0000 1724 9662 0

Contact address

For any questions about donations | grants | projects

Foundation of the Pontifical Swiss Guard in the Vatican
Astrid Seiler, Secretariat
seiler@schweizergardestiftung.ch

IMPRESSUM

PUBLISHED BY

Foundation of the Pontifical Swiss Guard in the Vatican

Route de la Cité-Bellevue 6

Case postale 1606

1701 Fribourg

Phone +41 (0)78 245 15 803

stiftung@schweizergarde.ch

www.schweizergarde.ch

PHOTOGRAPHY

Cover page – © posztos | Shutterstock.com

Page 2 – © Mantegna

Page 4 – © Zoltan Tarlacz | Shutterstock.com

Page 6 – © Rapahel Hadad

Page 9 – © AM113 | Shutterstock.com

Page 12 – © GSP

Page 19 – © Artymiak

Page 24 – © Riccardo De Luca - Update | Shutterstock.com

Page 34 – © Artymiak

Page 36 – © Rostislav Glinsky | Shutterstock.com

Page 38 – © Drop of Light | Shutterstock.com

TRANSLATION

Syntax Übersetzungen AG, 8800 Thalwil – www.syntax.ch

CONCEPT

denkwerkraum ag, 6006 Lucerne – www.denkwerkraum.ch