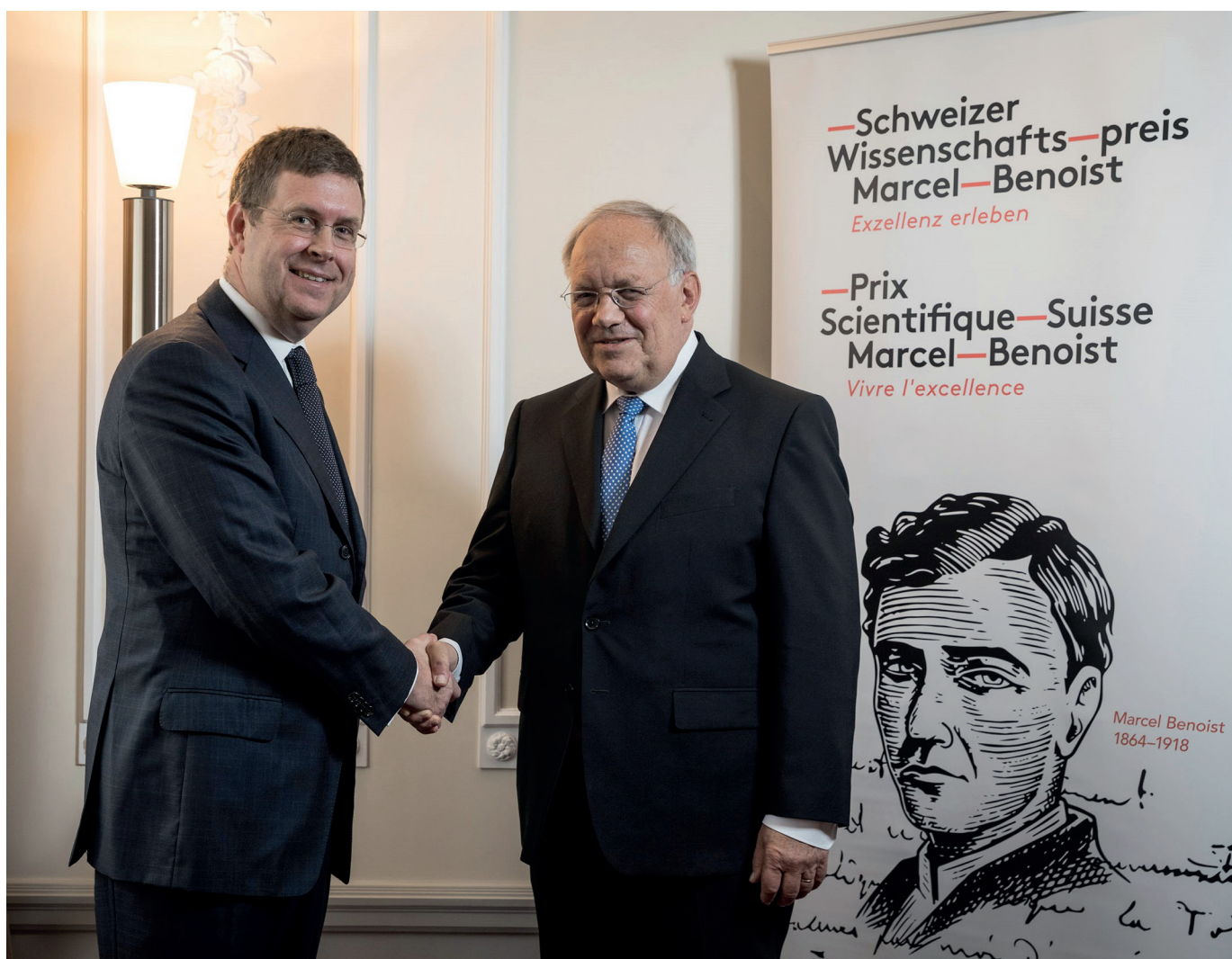


# 2018 Annual Report



This report is a performance report in accordance with Swiss GAAP FER 21.

### **Title page**

In 2018 Professor Lars-Erik Cederman, conflict researcher at the ETH Zurich, was awarded the Marcel Benoist Swiss Science Prize. The award winner was announced on 3 September 2018 by former Federal Councillor and Foundation chair Johann N. Schneider-Ammann.

### **Publication details**

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Ladies and gentlemen



As the new Head of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research, I am delighted to have also become chair of the Marcel Benoist Foundation.

The Foundation has a long tradition. Each year since 1920 it has awarded the Marcel Benoist Swiss Science Prize for excellent scientific research that is of particular importance to human life. The prize is both the oldest and now the most prestigious science prize in Switzerland.

Last year the Foundation awarded the Marcel Benoist prize to Lars-Erik Cederman, professor of international conflict research at the ETH Zurich. Cederman's research is not only of excellent quality, it may also contribute to solving societal problems – just as the founder of the award intended – by helping us to better understand the causes of conflict.

2018 was the first year in which the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) was responsible for selecting the prizewinner, and this new regime proved very successful. The SNSF conducted an innovative and modern selection procedure leading to the choice of a very worthy prizewinner.

Today the Foundation now stands on a very solid basis. I would like to thank all those who, over the past years, have worked hard to achieve this. The repositioning of the Foundation was only possible thanks to the commitment of the Foundation Board and the valuable support of our donors. In particular I would like to mention the work of my predecessor, former federal councillor Johann N. Schneider-Ammann. He gave his full and committed support to the process of repositioning the Foundation, helping to create a structure upon which it can continue to highlight the importance of excellent research in our country in the years to come.

In order to reflect the full range of activities in Swiss research, the Marcel Benoist Swiss Science Prize will in future be awarded in different fields on a rotating basis. I already look forward to awarding this year's prize to a researcher in the field of mathematics, the natural sciences or engineering sciences.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Federal Councillor Guy Parmelin  
Foundation chair


2018 prizewinner: Professor Lars-Erik Cederman

## Findings on political peace-building and the inclusion of ethnic minorities

Conflict researcher Lars-Erik Cederman has shown that regional autonomy for ethnic minorities and their involvement in the political decision-making process are key to achieving lasting peace. Balanced wealth distribution and access to basic services are also vital.



Johann N. Schneider-Ammann (left), former federal councillor and chair of the Marcel Benoist Foundation, talking to Professor Lars-Erik Cederman, the 2018 prizewinner.



Lars-Erik Cederman, professor of international conflict research at the ETH Zurich, was last year awarded the 2018 Marcel Benoist Swiss Science Prize for his theoretical and empirical work.

Over the past few years, Professor Cederman has explored the relationship between inequality and conflict. He and his research group compiled a global data set on ethnic groups and their opportunities to share in government power in the period from 1946 to 2017. Inequalities between ethnic groups were measured using surveys of experts and satellite images, before being plotted on a digital map. The data collection is available to politicians, academics and the public (see: <https://icr.ethz.ch/data/>).

Professor Cederman's work combines theoretical innovation with empirical sophistication. In his early research, he used computer models to develop new theories of world politics. This allowed him to show how states and nations develop and dissolve. Professor Cederman's findings contribute to a better understanding of the root causes of conflict and assist in finding solutions. When announcing the prizewinner, former Federal Councillor Johann N. Schneider-Ammann explained: "Mr Cederman's work on ethnic conflict acknowledges the important contribution of the humanities and social sciences to the resolution of societal problems."

Professor Cederman was born in Sweden in 1963, and has Swedish-Swiss dual nationality. He studied technical physics at Uppsala University and international relations at the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva. He received his doctorate in political science from the University of Michigan in 1994. He then researched and taught at the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva, the University of Oxford, the University of California in Los Angeles and Harvard University. He has been professor of international conflict research at the ETH Zurich since 2003.

## Interview with Professor Lars-Erik Cederman



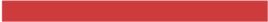
**"As scientists we bear a huge responsibility to explain our findings more clearly and more comprehensibly."**

### **Contact**

Prof. Lars-Erik Cederman  
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### **Further information**

<https://icr.ethz.ch/people/cederman>



**In 2018 you received the Marcel Benoist Swiss Science Prize. What does this award mean to you?**

Lars-Erik Cederman: I was absolutely delighted to receive the prize. It's a huge recognition of a person's work. It is a wonderful confirmation of the years I have invested in research.

**The Marcel Benoist Swiss Science Prize is awarded for excellence in research that benefits human life. What can we learn from your research into conflict and peace-building?**

Lars-Erik Cederman: My research shows that inequality between ethnic groups can lead to civil war. The prevailing doctrine had thrown doubt on this. My findings help us to find ways of addressing the problem by reducing inequality, e.g. group rights, power sharing and decentralisation.

**Your research is a good example of how the humanities and social sciences can contribute to solving problems in society. What has to be done so that both the public and policy-makers take note of these academic findings?**

Lars-Erik Cederman: The Marcel Benoist Prize is in itself a marvellous way of drawing attention to research findings. The fact that nowadays policy formulation, for example in development cooperation, is increasingly evidence-based is also very welcome. The media also plays a key role in this respect. Finally we academics bear a great responsibility to explain our findings more clearly and more comprehensibly.

**What projects are you currently working on and what are your next goals?**

Lars-Erik Cederman: I am currently finishing off two book projects on inequality and conflicts. My new ERC project is called Nationalist State Transformation and Conflict. It will allow me and my team to analyse the significance of border demarcations to conflict processes, both from a historical perspective and a current one.

## Foundation activities in 2018

**The awarding of the Marcel Benoist Swiss Science Prize, also known as the Swiss Nobel Prize, was a major event in the Marcel Benoist Foundation's year. The continued process of repositioning the Foundation, launched in 2017, was also a major focus of the year's activities.**

### **Prizewinner selection and prize ceremony**

2018 was the first year in which the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) was responsible for selecting the Marcel Benoist prizewinner. In an open nomination procedure held at the beginning of the year, the research community in Switzerland was invited to submit nominations. The SNSF and an international panel of experts applied a new process to make their selection, choosing Prof. Lars-Erik Cederman from a total of 29 nominations. The choice of the 2018 prizewinner was confirmed by the Board of Trustees at the plenary session of 20 August 2018.

For the first time, the prizewinner was selected on a rotation basis, which ensures that all scientific disciplines are taken into account. Last year, nominations could be submitted from the humanities and social sciences. In 2019, a prizewinner from the field of mathematics, natural sciences and engineering sciences will be selected. In 2020, the prize's centenary year, it will be the turn of biology and medicine.

Last year's prizewinner was announced to the public at a press conference on 3 September 2018. Various media outlets subsequently reported on the Marcel Benoist Swiss Science Prize and the 2018 prizewinner. The press conference was followed by a lunch attended by representatives of the Foundation, its donors and prizewinner Lars-Erik Cederman.

The prize ceremony took place on 15 November in the Bernerhof in Bern. The work of Professor Cederman was honoured in a formal ceremony opened by former federal councillor Johann N. Schneider-Amman. Professor Scott Gates of the Oslo Peace Research Institute and the University of Oslo gave a speech praising the work of Professor Cederman, and Professor Matthias Egger, President of the SNSF Research Council, also spoke to the assembled guests. Professor Cederman himself gave a presentation, reporting on his career and his main scientific results. A further highlight was the farewell speech in honor of Johann N. Schneider-Amman, who in 2018 stepped down as federal councillor and thus as the Foundation's chair. Professor Christian Leumann thanked Mr Schneider-Amman on behalf of the entire Board of Trustees for his valuable services to the Marcel Benoist Foundation. The event was moderated by Barbara Bleisch, who did a marvellous job guiding the audience through the entertaining evening.

### **Repositioning**

Since 1920, the Marcel Benoist Foundation has awarded the Swiss Science Prize annually for outstanding research of importance to human life. The award provides a unique opportunity to give Switzerland a national platform for research.

The organisation underwent some changes in recent years in order to put the Foundation on a sustainable footing. Recapitalisation via private donations was sought, responsibility for the selection procedure was transferred to the Swiss National Science Foundation and a number of changes were made to the organisation's structure.

The Foundation's assets were further boosted in the past twelve months by private donations. This means it can continue to provide CHF 250,000 in prize money for the Marcel Benoist Swiss Science Prize and to organise an attractive award ceremony with a wide-ranging selection of guests from the world of education, research and innovation.

The partnerships entered into in the course of the reorganisation have also proved highly valuable. The Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) is now responsible for the academic selection of the prizewinner. The Marcel Benoist Foundation also works closely with the SNSF to organise the award ceremony and in public relations. There is now an established professional system of asset management, and the Foundation's day-to-day financial affairs are managed by Von Graffenried AG fiduciaries. The Foundation secretariat is still based at the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation. In addition, the Confederation continues to support the Marcel Benoist Swiss Science Prize in a public-private partnership and to contribute financially to the existing service level agreement with the Swiss National Science Foundation.

## Impressions from the 2018 award ceremony



Prof. Lars-Erik Cederman talking to Barbara Bleisch, the award ceremony moderator.



Prof. Scott Gates of the Oslo Peace Research Institute and the University of Oslo paid tribute to Prof. Lars-Erik Cederman.



The award ceremony was opened by the then Foundation chair, Federal Councillor Johann N. Schneider-Amman.



A large number of guests paid tribute to prizewinner Lars-Erik Cederman (right).



Professor Matthias Egger, President of the Swiss National Science Foundation Research Council, also spoke in praise of the prizewinner's work.



The 2018 prizewinner is entered in the Marcel Benoist Foundation Golden Book.



At the award ceremony Professor Lars-Erik Cederman presented his main research findings and talked about his career.



At the end of the award ceremony, Prof. Christian Leumann, Rector of the University of Bern and first vice chair of the Marcel Benoist Foundation, thanked outgoing federal councillor Johann N. Schneider-Ammann for his valuable contribution to the Marcel Benoist Foundation.

## Many thanks!

**Nearly 100 years ago, Marcel Benoist created the basis for the Marcel Benoist Foundation. Since 2017, new donors have helped to secure the future of the Swiss Science Prize and increase the Foundation's assets considerably.**

We would like to thank all our donors for their valuable support. Our thanks also go to those who do not wish to be named here.

### **Private individuals**

Martin Haefner  
André Hoffmann  
Max Rössler  
Stephan Schmidheiny  
Hansjörg Wyss  
Walter Inäbnit  
Ernst Thomke

### **Foundations and companies**

Vontobel Foundation  
Schindler Group  
Accenture Foundation  
QIAGEN N.V., Peer Schatz, in memoriam Gottfried Schatz, 1992 Benoist prize-winner  
Zurich airport AG

### **Patronage Committee and Friends**

The members of the Patronage Committee act as ambassadors for the Marcel Benoist Swiss Science Prize, helping to increase its visibility and to raise public awareness about the importance of top-level research for Switzerland. They also encourage further partners to commit to supporting the prize. The solid basis upon which the Foundation now rests is thanks not only to its donors but also to the valuable support of former federal councillor Johann N. Schneider-Ammann. The Foundation is delighted that Mr Schneider-Ammann will continue to promote the objectives of the Marcel Benoist Foundation as an honorary member of the Patronage Committee.

The Friends of the Foundation include further sponsors of the Marcel Benoist Swiss Science Prize, reflecting the broader support for the award, which is of such importance to research in Switzerland.

Information on the Patronage Committee and Friends can be found at [www.marcel-benoist.ch](http://www.marcel-benoist.ch).

# The Marcel Benoist Foundation

## Foundation purpose

The Marcel Benoist Foundation was established on 19 November 1920. By accepting Marcel Benoist's legacy, the Confederation committed itself to respecting the founder's wish – to fund an annual prize to promote scientific research which is awarded to a Swiss scholar or a scholar resident in Switzerland with the most useful invention, discovery or study in the sciences that is of particular relevance to human life. The prize is awarded in different disciplines on a rotating basis.

## Board of Trustees

Federal Councillor Guy Parmelin  
Head of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research  
EAER, chair of the Board of Trustees

Prof. Christian Leumann  
Representative of the University of Bern, first vice chair

Prof. Joël Mesot  
Representative of the Confederation, second vice chair

Prof. Martine Rahier  
Representative of the University of Neuchâtel, assessor

Prof. Adriano Aguzzi  
Representative of the University of Zurich

Prof. Dominique Arlettaz  
Representative of the University of Lausanne

Prof. Martin Brown  
Representative of the University of St Gallen

Prof. Anik de Ribaupierre  
Representative of the University of Geneva

Prof. Michael N. Hall  
Representative of the University of Basel

Prof. Jean-Pierre Montani  
Representative of the University of Fribourg

Prof. Michele Parrinello  
Representative of the University of Italian Switzerland

Prof. Jérôme Pousin  
Representative of the French Ambassador to Switzerland

Prof. Paul Richli  
Representative of the University of Lucerne

Prof. Michäel Unser  
Representative of the Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL)

Prof. Wendelin Werner  
Representative of the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich (ETHZ)

The trustees are appointed by the Federal Council. Any interests of individual members are publicly listed (federal extra-parliamentary commissions).

#### **Foundation committee**

Federal Councillor Guy Parmelin, Chair  
Prof. Christian Leumann  
Prof. Joël Mesot  
Prof. Martine Rahier

#### **Investment committee**

Prof. Martin Brown, Chair  
Prof. Joël Mesot  
Prof. Paul Richli

#### **Secretariat**

The Foundation secretariat is part of the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation SERI. The secretary is a SERI employee.  
Raphael Noser, Foundation Secretary

#### **Finance secretariat**

Since November 2017, the Marcel Benoist Foundation has outsourced the management of its finances and its annual report, which is drawn up in accordance with Swiss GAAP FER 21.

Von Graffenried AG Treuhand, Bern  
Patrick Rüttimann, certified accountant, member of the executive board

#### **Auditors**

Following the reorganisation of the Marcel Benoist Foundation, the Board of Trustees appointed Unico Thun AG in Thun as its new auditors. The company audited the financial accounts for the first time in 2017.

#### **Supervision**

Federal Supervisory Board for Foundations, Bern

#### **Bank details**

Donations in Swiss francs:  
Postfinance account  
89-32730-0  
IBAN CH73 0900 0000 8903 2730 0

## Annual financial statement

BALANCE SHEET as at 31 DECEMBER	2018	2017
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ASSETS	CHF	CHF
PostFinance AG, current account	134'512.83	7'237'551.56
Zürcher Kantonalbank, current account	199'943.10	0.00
Zürcher Kantonalbank, asset management account	38'326.97	0.00
<b>Cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>372'782.90</b>	<b>7'237'551.56</b>
Federal Tax Administration, withholding tax	22'728.89	7'164.54
<b>Other short-term receivables</b>	<b>22'728.89</b>	<b>7'164.54</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>395'511.79</b>	<b>7'244'716.10</b>
Securities	9'988'384.10	0.00
<b>Financial investments</b>	<b>9'988'384.10</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>	<b>9'988'384.10</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>10'383'895.89</b>	<b>7'244'716.10</b>

LIABILITIES	CHF	CHF
Deferred income	58'062.00	96'198.49
<b>SHORT-TERM LIABILITIES</b>	<b>58'062.00</b>	<b>96'198.49</b>
Restricted funds	917'000.00	0.00
<b>FUND EQUITY</b>	<b>917'000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
Unrestricted funds	9'408'833.89	7'148'517.61
<b>ORGANISATION EQUITY</b>	<b>9'408'833.89</b>	<b>7'148'517.61</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>10'383'895.89</b>	<b>7'244'716.10</b>

OPERATING STATEMENT	2018	2017
	CHF	CHF
Unrestricted donations	3'450'000.00	5'750'000.00
Restricted donations	1'060'000.00	0.00
<b>Total donations</b>	<b>4'510'000.00</b>	<b>5'750'000.00</b>
Prize money	-250'000.00	-250'000.00
Prizewinner selection and award ceremony	-138'059.63	-91'965.55
<b>Project-related expenses</b>	<b>-388'059.63</b>	<b>-341'965.55</b>
Repositioning, Fundraising	-107'577.60	-212'496.25
<b>Fundraising/general marketing expenses</b>	<b>-107'577.60</b>	<b>-212'496.25</b>
Board of Trustees fees	-583.25	-2'983.30
Finance secretariat	-23'712.80	-14'900.00
Auditors	-2'692.50	-2'900.00
Other administrative expenses	-6'458.30	-482.10
<b>Administrative expenses</b>	<b>-33'446.85</b>	<b>-21'265.40</b>
<b>Operating result</b>	<b>3'980'915.92</b>	<b>5'174'272.80</b>
Price gain on securities	-757'757.18	161'994.93
Portfolio management costs	-34'829.40	-11'101.13
Investment controlling/consulting costs	-10'785.00	0.00
Selection costs/Management mandate implementation costs	0.00	-23'017.50
Bank interest and fees	-228.06	-79.39
<b>Financial result</b>	<b>-803'599.64</b>	<b>127'796.91</b>
<b>Result before change in fund equity</b>	<b>3'177'316.28</b>	<b>5'302'069.71</b>

OPERATING STATEMENT	2018	2017
	CHF	CHF
<b>Result before change in fund capital (carried over)</b>	<b>3'177'316.28</b>	<b>5'302'069.71</b>
Allocations to restricted funds	-1'060'000.00	0.00
Withdrawals from restricted funds	143'000.00	0.00
<b>Change in fund capital</b>	<b>-917'000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Annual result (before allocations to e.g. withdrawals from organisation capital)</b>	<b>2'260'316.28</b>	<b>5'302'069.71</b>

The consolidated statement of accounts was drawn up in accordance with the Swiss GAAP FER 21 accounting standards and audited by Unico Thun AG.

### Governance and working methods

The Marcel Benoist Foundation to promote scientific research, based in Bern, is exempt from federal and cantonal taxes due to its non-profit status.

The Foundation's Articles of Association are drawn up by the Board of Trustees. The Board makes strategic decisions regarding the Foundation and ensures that the purpose of the Foundation is met. The Board of Trustees works on a voluntary basis.

Asset management is governed by the Foundation's investment regulations. The financial assets are invested in the medium to long term by an investment committee with a view to achieving security and a sustainable return.

The accounting records and financial statements are audited by Unico Thun AG. The Foundation is supervised by the Swiss Federal Supervisory Authority for Foundations.

Further information on governance and working methods can be found at [www.marcel-benoist.ch](http://www.marcel-benoist.ch) > Pledge Excellence > Tax-related and legal issues.

**Contact**

Marcel Benoist Foundation  
Foundation secretariat  
c/o State Secretariat for Education,  
Research and Innovation SERI

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We look forward to hearing from you.