

# STRATEGY 2023

## PREAMBLE

The Joachim Herz Stiftung has its origins in the legacy of Joachim Herz, who came from a highly successful Hamburg merchant family. He built upon his considerable assets with economic expertise and entrepreneurial flair. In his will, Joachim Herz gave instructions for the establishment of the Foundation, setting out the Foundation's activities and the areas that he considered to be relevant for the future in the Foundation's statutes.

The Foundation commenced its work as an independent legal entity in July 2008.

## 1 PILLARS OF THE FOUNDATION'S WORK

The Joachim Herz Stiftung fosters education, science, research and teaching in the areas of economics, law, medicine, chemistry, physics and biology. Its work also includes the provision of support for educational institutions and students in the field of general school education.

As a civic organization, the Foundation aims to make its contribution to a capable society in which everyone has equal opportunities. Therefore, it helps members of society to unlock their potential, both on a personal level and in their specialist areas.

When defining what its mission means in concrete terms, the Foundation is guided by the fundamental values that were so important to its founder, Joachim Herz: self-determination in life, personal responsibility and initiative, open-mindedness toward foreign cultures, the ability to reflect, commitment and independence of thought and action. Factors that played a key role for the founder in his business career – such as competition, quality, and efficiency – are also reflected in the work of the Foundation.

The Foundation is independent of party political, government and religious interests. Strategy 2023 is based on – and is a continuation of – Strategy 2018. It provides the framework for the Foundation's program work, which is performed in accordance with the following guidelines:

## 2 GUIDELINES

The Foundation is primarily involved in its own projects. In other words, it develops and implements long-term projects that make a lasting difference. It cooperates with partners, such as other foundations, educational providers, and research institutions. To achieve the objectives set out in the statutes to the greatest possible extent, the Foundation also provides funding, especially in the area of research.

The Foundation supports children, adolescents, and young adults from school to the start of their careers. In the area of science, it primarily supports talented young scientists and honors established researchers.

The Foundation works national and – to a limited extent – international level. While it is active in its home city of Hamburg, it also works on projects across Germany, with international efforts focused on the United States.

On the one hand, the Foundation supports its target groups with direct grants. On the other hand, it provides its target groups with indirect assistance such as school and college teachers, as well as organizations (e.g. schools, research institutions, and charitable bodies) and networks that make an indispensable contribution in terms of fostering the Foundation's target groups on an individual basis.

The following qualification criteria serve as a basis across all areas of the Foundation's work:

- Scientific focus: in terms of its own project development activities, the Foundation works closely with researchers and incorporates their specialist and methodological expertise.
- Multiple perspectives and interdisciplinary working: the perspectives of individual disciplines are transcended when developing solutions.
- Digitalization: the appropriate use of digital media in education and science is supported.
- Experiential learning: a focus on hands-on and practical learning enables independent problem-solving.
- Dissemination of formats: exemplary formats are put into place on a multiregional basis, including in conjunction with partners.

The Foundation insights gained through its practical work public debate and plays an active role in this debate.

### 3 PROGRAM AREAS IN THE FOUNDATION'S WORK

The charitable activities of the Joachim Herz Stiftung (JHS) are focused on three program areas, each of which is defined in more detail by potential areas of action:

- Personal Development
- Understanding Science
- Comprehending and Shaping the Economy

#### 3.1 Personal Development

Successful educational pathways are a fundamental prerequisite for personal achievement and social cohesion. Therefore, JHS aims to secure the educational success of young people while giving them opportunities to discover their talents, unlock their potential, and learn about other ways of seeing the world.

Research plays a crucial role in terms of achieving these goals, as it generates knowledge on questions of effectiveness and implementation and therefore paves the way for evidence-based and effective courses of action. To this end, long-term partnerships are established with scientists from both Germany and abroad – and research projects are initiated and supported.

Following three areas of:

- Developing Individual Potential: JHS awards grants to school students and gives them access to a network of alumni and partners.
- Helping Trainees Gain International Expertise: JHS runs its own exchange programs with the United States, establishes networks and partnerships, and supports third-party projects.
- Fostering Educational Pathways: JHS establishes educational networks and provides evidence-based programs that help schools to promote.

#### 3.2 Understanding Science

Scientific literacy and an interest in new research questions are essential if individuals are to form their own judgments and if society is to develop as a whole.

Following three areas of:

- Improving General Scientific Literacy: JHS inspires young people with its own hands-on experimental experiences and with digital science resources.

- Strengthening Science Teaching: JHS offers up-to-date materials and programs for teacher training and development, and facilitates networking among STEM professionals.
- Promoting Scientific Expertise: JHS supports young scientists and established researchers in the implementation of international and interdisciplinary collaborative projects.

### **3.3 Comprehending and Shaping the Economy**

In order to shape your own life and make responsible choices, an understanding of economic issues is essential. That is why JHS promotes the economic education of young people, as well as research in the field of economics.

Following three areas of:

- Improving Economic Literacy: JHS encourages young people to explore economic issues beyond the classroom and, in particular, gives them access to digital resources.
- Supporting Economics Teaching: JHS provides unbiased teaching materials, offers well-grounded teacher training programs and promotes research into economics teaching.
- Lateral Thinking in Economics: JHS particularly supports young economists with new methods and ideas in interdisciplinary research and also assists outstanding established researchers.

## **4 SUPPORT IN THE AREAS OF LEGAL STUDIES AND MEDICINE AND SPECIAL FUNDING FOR THIRD-PARTY PROJECTS**

JHS uses a portion of its budget to fund third-party projects.

### **4.1 Funding Areas of Legal Studies and Medicine**

Funding in the areas of legal studies and medicine is focused on northern Germany and meets the highest quality requirements in line with international standards. A programmatic structure similar to that of the Foundation's program work is not currently planned.

## 4.2 “Perlenfonds” (Special Grants)

With its Special Grants, the Foundation supports individual third-party projects in all areas of activity that conform with the statutes. Decisions on whether to award Special Grants are taken on the basis of predefined quality criteria. Funding is focused on school- and non-school-based projects.

## 5 NETWORKING AND ALUMNI WORK

Since the Foundation was established ten years ago, a network has arisen from its work in its three program areas and its project funding in the form of Special Grants. This network ranges from scholarship recipients and trainees through to college students, teachers, postdoctoral students, and researchers. It also includes cooperation partners and experts, as well as other foundations and educational bodies.

Alumni and project partners also support JHS beyond the scope of project work, providing food for thought and raising current issues that are relevant to the Foundation’s areas of activity. Networking and alumni work at JHS is all about learning from each other through cooperation, gaining new ideas, and promoting continued development on a mutual basis.

## 6 QUALITY ASSURANCE, MONITORING, AND EVALUATION

The work of JHS is characterized by the very highest standards in respect of quality, efficiency, and effectiveness. It is for this reason that quality assurance has been established as a key pillar of the Foundation’s work. Monitoring and tailored evaluation are performed on selected projects.