LANDIS&GYR
STIFTUNG

Social safety net for cultural professionals
Social insurance contributions

The Landis & Gyr Foundation takes the social security of artists and cultural professionals seriously. Since the 2023/2024 call for applications, mandatory social insurance contributions have been deducted for residencies, travel grants and artist grants.

Artists and cultural professionals often find themselves in a vulnerable position regarding social security, mainly due to their fluctuating employment status. As a rule, they work in so-called atypical employment relationships – they are self-employed, part time employed and/or freelance workers – and are therefore at a greater risk of needing state assistance, especially in old age.

The precarious social security status of cultural professionals is a problem that concerns everyone involved, from artists to cultural promoters, and the only way to improve the situation is through joint action. In line with the federal government, Pro Helvetia and numerous cities and cantons, the Landis & Gyr Foundation has introduced mandatory social insurance contributions for all grants awarded. By sharing responsibility, the government and private foundations are effecting systemic change that can help secure the social safety net for artists.

Action steps:

- Social insurance contributions are paid for cultural professionals covered by Switzerland's federal old-age and survivors' insurance (OASI); this includes all natural persons with official domicile in Switzerland.
- The social insurance contributions are in effect for residencies, travel grants and artist grants (but not project grants) of CHF 10,000 or more.
- The grant money is disbursed only after the Landis & Gyr Foundation has received all required information on a grantee's pension fund or Swiss third pillar account (3a account).
- The Landis & Gyr Foundation makes direct payments into the grantee's pension fund or 3a account.
- The provision is 12 percent of the grant amount and is financed in equal parts by the grantee and the Landis & Gyr Foundation. The Foundation disburses the grant money to the grantee, minus 6 percent (half of the social insurance contribution).

Example: In the case of an artist grant of CHF 30,000, the Foundation pays 94 percent of the total sum (CHF 28,200) to the private account of the grantee. At the same time, the Foundation transfers the entire social insurance contribution (12 percent, or CHF 3,600) directly to the grantee's social insurance account (pension fund or 3a account).

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Settling accounts for pension fund/3a account on the example of an artist grant of CHF 30,000

Artist	6% of CHF 30,000	CHF 1,800
Landis & Gyr Foundation	6% of CHF 30,000	CHF 1,800
Total amount payable to social insurance account		**CHF 3,600**
Payment to artist		CHF 28,200
Payment to pension fund/3a account		CHF 3,600
Total amount paid by the Landis & Gyr Foundation		**CHF 31,800**

Further information on social insurance schemes is available at discipline-specific pension funds (music, literature, visual arts, theatre and dance): www.vorsorge-kultur.ch (social insurance network, in German, French and Italian), the professional associations and: https://www.suisseculturesociale.ch/sozialversicherungen/ (in German and French)

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