



SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF EUROPE

GUIDELINES : WHEN THERE ARE TWO CLUBS OR MORE IN THE SAME COUNTRY

COOPERATION - COMMUNICATION - CONTACTS with other clubs in the same country

Single Clubs in the same country **cooperate** and work together. Such **cooperation** will have started between clubs before the moment of chartering, as this is a condition for the creation of other clubs in the same country and ultimately - **when there are seven clubs** (at least 150 members) - **in the foundation of a Union.**

After the chartering has taken place, the clubs should meet as often as possible , but at least every six months. **The inter-clubs contact meetings** could be held on a rotation basis so that each club hosts a meeting. A short report of these meetings should be sent to SIEHQ.

Single Clubs in the same country may work **together** on a joint project, so that they have the possibility to share responsibilities and **to communicate** with each other. They may even apply jointly for funds from the Action Fund. This will be another opportunity of exchanging ideas and building up **cooperation and communication.** When a Single Club applies for funds from the Action Fund and then fails to meet its obligations the penalty provided for in the Statutes of the Action Fund applies to all Single Clubs in the same country. Only one application per country should be sent.

A delegate from a Single Club is invited to the Governors' Meeting. The delegate should be fluent in French or in English, if not in both. When there are more clubs than one in the same country, the invitation is extended on a rotation basis so that each club is given the opportunity to have a delegate attend this important Federation event. The invitation is extended to the Club President and, if the Club President cannot attend, then to another delegate of the club. This delegate should, on her return, make a report on the meeting. At the **inter-club contact meeting**, the delegate should be prepared to answer questions and develop matters related to the Federation and particularly to the Governors' Meeting she attended.

Whenever a member or members of a club attend a given event as guests either of the Federation or a Union, they should **communicate and share their experiences** not only with the members of their own club but with the members of the other club(s) as well. **The Soroptimist spirit can only be developed through communication and cooperation.**

Club members are not obliged to accept all the invitations the Club receives (charterings, anniversaries, other events). The invitations help to keep a Club informed of the various activities being organised throughout the Federation and just a short, friendly thank you message is quite enough.

No Single Club operates entirely on its own when other Soroptimist clubs exist in the country.

Without cooperation, communication and contacts Soroptimist is not possible. Although in some cases distances may be a major drawback, by developing a network between the clubs this will be overcome. Soroptimists today are more and more mobile and travel for individual/professional purposes within their country. Such travels should be used for organising a meeting, even if it is only a **contact** with one member from another club. Back home she will be able to let the others know of this **contact** and will share with them her experience.

This exchange and **cooperation** will also be reported in the annual report addressed to the President and a special heading to this effect will be added to the Guidelines for Preparing a Report.

COOPERATION - COMMUNICATION - CONTACTS with the Federation

For extension matters the Chairperson of the Extension Committee is the contact person; for administrative matters the secretariat SIEHQ is the contact office, as to Africa the Liaison Officer is the contact person; for all other matters the Federation Follow-up Officer is the contact person.