



The Link

A global voice for women

3/2012-2013 N° 230



Strategic Plan: Goals 1 & 2
Strengthening Our Global
Voice for Women and Girls

Results from the 57th Session of the CSW
A Decisive Move to End Violence
against Women

International Women's Day
How Soroptimists
Celebrated the Day

Soroptimist International (SI) is a worldwide organisation for women in management and professions, working through service projects to build a better world for women and children. There are currently some 90,000 members in more than 3,000 clubs in 128 countries. Soroptimist International of Europe (SIE) is one of four federations of Soroptimist International. It has some 35,000 members in over 1,250 clubs in 59 countries. Soroptimists inspire action and create opportunities to transform the lives of women and girls through a global network of members and international partnerships. Consult our website at www.soroptimisteurope.org for more information about the aims, activities and projects that characterise our organisation.

Note from the Editor

WOMEN ON THEIR WAY UP

It didn't come as a big surprise when SIE ED Anne Simon recently announced SIE HQ Programme Executive Suba Uma had resigned to take up a new and exciting career opportunity. Many of us on the Board and at SIE HQ knew we wouldn't be able to 'keep' Suba much longer. We had already lost the very capable Executive Assistant Héloïse Roman to an attractive career opportunity.

Suba is bright, talented, personable, committed – and thus has all the prerequisites for a young woman on the way up the career ladder. Without exception, everyone wishes her well. She has left a legacy she can be proud of. Not only has she played a key role in building our Programme efforts, she has also personally assisted many Board and Federation mem-

bers over the years. I for one will sorely miss her because she has been a reliable contributor to *The Link* – and a dear friend. Indeed, it is fitting that Suba supplied this issue's cover: a photo of a young African woman on her way up in life!

As a Soroptimist and as Editor of *The Link*, I have come in contact with many exceptional young women – whether members, staff at SIE HQ or participants in the German and the SIE Mentoring Programmes. It gives me enormous pleasure to see these self-assured women making their way in life. What they might not realise is that they give me more than I can ever give them. For these new friendships with the next generation of women leaders, I am eternally grateful.

Christine Cromwell-Ahrens, Editor, The Link

Dear Soroptimist Friends

Although a few **thrilling months are still to come**, I am often asked what has been **the most impressive** aspect of my presidency. It is the **manifold programmes and projects** that Soroptimist clubs have been executing which give me goose bumps or even bring tears to my eyes when I see what Soroptimists have achieved for the benefit of women and children, for the benefit of whole communities. And our members have not just been focusing on one type of project. Besides the overall SI theme, **Educate to lead**, and the SIE Biennium Theme **Water & Food**, we are making a difference in many other areas as well. So, is this diversity of projects counter-productive? I don't think so. It might be easier to attract greater public and media attention, if we had one spectacular campaign, but I find it inspiring that each project is highly valuable in its own right. You will learn more about some of the most outstanding projects when, at the end of the **20th SIE Congress in Berlin, the Best Practice Awards** will be presented at **the Governors' Meeting**.

There are many awards in the non-Soroptimist world which recognise outstanding results. I was most impressed by the new award of the **club of Art Directors** (you could also call them the club of the creative brains), which has just been introduced in Germany: a **New-Thinker-Award** ('Neudenkerpreis'). The winner was 'Tuna Tunes', a campaign of Followfish, a movement that advocates **sustainable fishing and the protection of our oceans** – www.followfish.de/en/about-us/what-followfish. The jury described the work of the agency as 'not only clear, original, sympathetic, digital and viral, but it is above all an example of re-thinking'. To carry the idea of sustainability to a new level, the team asked an instrument maker to build a ukulele, a little guitar with four strings, from a tuna tin. I urge you to look at the video clip of their song at www.followfish.de/tunatunes and be inspired!

We can use this message as part of **an excellent campaign for our SIE Water & Food theme**, which is also the focus of the **SIE Congress in Berlin**. I wish we had enough money to commission **an image film on Soroptimist International of Europe** from the creative brains of this agency. It is important that we have public visibility and recognition. After all, we are a large number of women who are able to achieve a considerable multiplying effect by doing good and making it known. We should all make a greater effort to spread the word to other people about our aims and achievements, talk about our accomplishments, encourage others to be inspired by our work and ultimately even imitate it. There is good and there is better in everything. **Sorores optima** is the ambitious name behind our movement. Let us live up to it in every aspect of life; let us be proud and not be frustrated by our name.

You will meet many **creative personalities at the Congress** in Berlin. One of the participants of the panel discussion on Saturday morning will be **Professor Werner Kloas**, head of the Leibniz Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries (IGB), Berlin. He will talk about his 'tomato fish' for which he received the **German Research Prize 'Sustainable Development 2012'**. Please have a look at the SIE Congress website www.soroptimist.waterandfood.eu. Our communication team is constantly up-dating the site, which offers a lot of interesting information about Water & Food under NEWS.

Last but not least, you will witness the presentation of an extraordinary award at the Congress: the **5th SIE Peace Prize**. The winner will be announced and invited on stage on **the last day of the Congress, Sunday, 14th July**. No doubt she or he will be an outstanding personality!

Sadly, we are losing **our SIE Programme Executive Suba Uma** because she has received a job offer that is too good to refuse! Not only will her SIE HQ colleagues miss her, but Soroptimists from our Federation and other Soroptimists and staff around the globe will as well. She is a very well-known, respected and loved person. In her efforts for Programme, she always created a unique link between work and devotion to our ideals.

I am sure Suba will not forget her years with SIE. She will no doubt often be reminded of the close ties and enduring friendships. **All of us thank Suba for all she has done** and wish her the best of luck for her new position.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at the Congress in Berlin.

Take care




SIE President Kathy Kaaf addresses the large audience celebrating SI Turkey's 60th anniversary.

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Cover page

The SI 'Educate to Lead' theme has inspired many projects to help women achieve more in their professional life, like here in Mali. Photo: Suba Uma

STRENGTHENING OUR GLOBAL VOICE FOR WOMEN



The articles in the past two issues of *The Link* explained the work done by the Task Force on Structure and Strategy to enhance the development of our organisation. After presenting Goal 5 – Strategic Leadership in the last issue, this article describes the key role of Goal 1 – Programme and Goal 2 – Advocacy.

This triangle embodies the ‘raison d’être’ of our organisation. It reflects the commitment of our members to contribute, together and in friendship, to the lives and status of women and girls. It is also what attracts new members to join our mission. In the past, all activities were grouped within Programme. Following an in-depth review of each of the objectives, the Task Force on Structure identified the need to split the activities into Programme and Advocacy, giving more attention to societal changes and the resulting new needs. This double focus is also vital to advance our organisation as a crucial international player in the area of Women’s Rights.

Goal 1: Programme

Soroptimist International of Europe (SIE) will improve the lives and status of women and girls through education, empowerment and enabling opportunities.

Objective 1 – Increase access to formal and non-formal learning opportunities

Objective 2 – Improve access to economic empowerment and sustainable opportunities for the employment of women

Objective 3 – Eliminate violence against women and girls and ensure women’s participation in conflict resolution

Objective 4 – Ensure women and girls have food security and access to the highest attainable standard of health care

Objective 5 – Address the specific needs of women and girls by improving environmental sustainability and mitigating effects of climate change and disasters

Since its creation in 1929, SIE has seen many developments and taken different approaches to improving the lives of millions of women around the globe. Year after year Unions and Clubs and their projects witnessed our eagerness to act as agents of change and influence – whether contributing to programmes or raising funds, but ultimately helping to empower

women and girls through education and leadership. To ensure all these efforts are better known and serve as a platform of ideas for others, the Programme Team, together with the Scholarship Committee, laid down a comprehensive action plan with targets and deliverables.

Goal 2: Advocacy

SIE will be a global voice for women and girls and an advocate at all levels for their increased access to education and leadership positions.

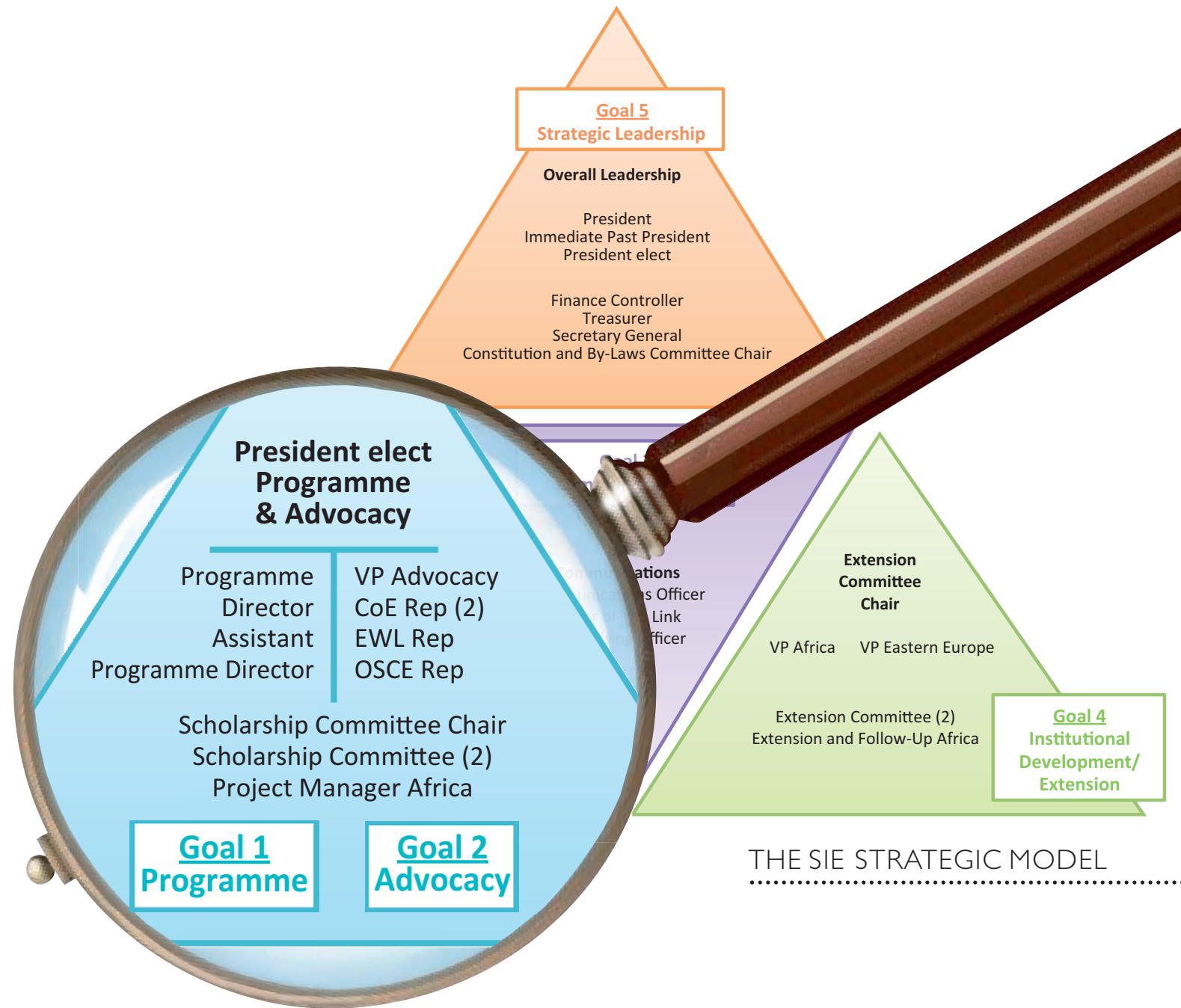
Objective 1 – Contribute to the UN Millennium Development Goals and those of other organisations, such as the Council of Europe, as an active advocate.

Objective 2 – Ensure meaningful representation of SIE members as a Global Voice for Women in their respective communities; encourage them to act as agents of influence vis-à-vis authorities and policymakers – whether at local, national or international levels.

Objective 3 – Increase participation and contribution to the United Nations, ECOSOC, the Council of Europe, the FAO and other European Institutions.

Minutes of SIE Boards in the 1930s and 1940s show how actively Soroptimists were engaged in influencing women’s conditions and empowering women at national levels. The 1960s show the intense fights for equal rights – especially for boys and girls. In recent decades, in addition to engaging in peace projects and water projects, SIE has been working actively to improve women’s status. The role played by our representatives at the UN, the Council of Europe, the OSCE and the European Women’s Lobby has proven to be extremely relevant.

While, thanks to women’s movements such as Soroptimist, the last century has seen great progress in conditions for women, violence against women has increased. Combating violence is amongst our priorities. SIE and the other Federations have joined forces to work within the Commission on the Status

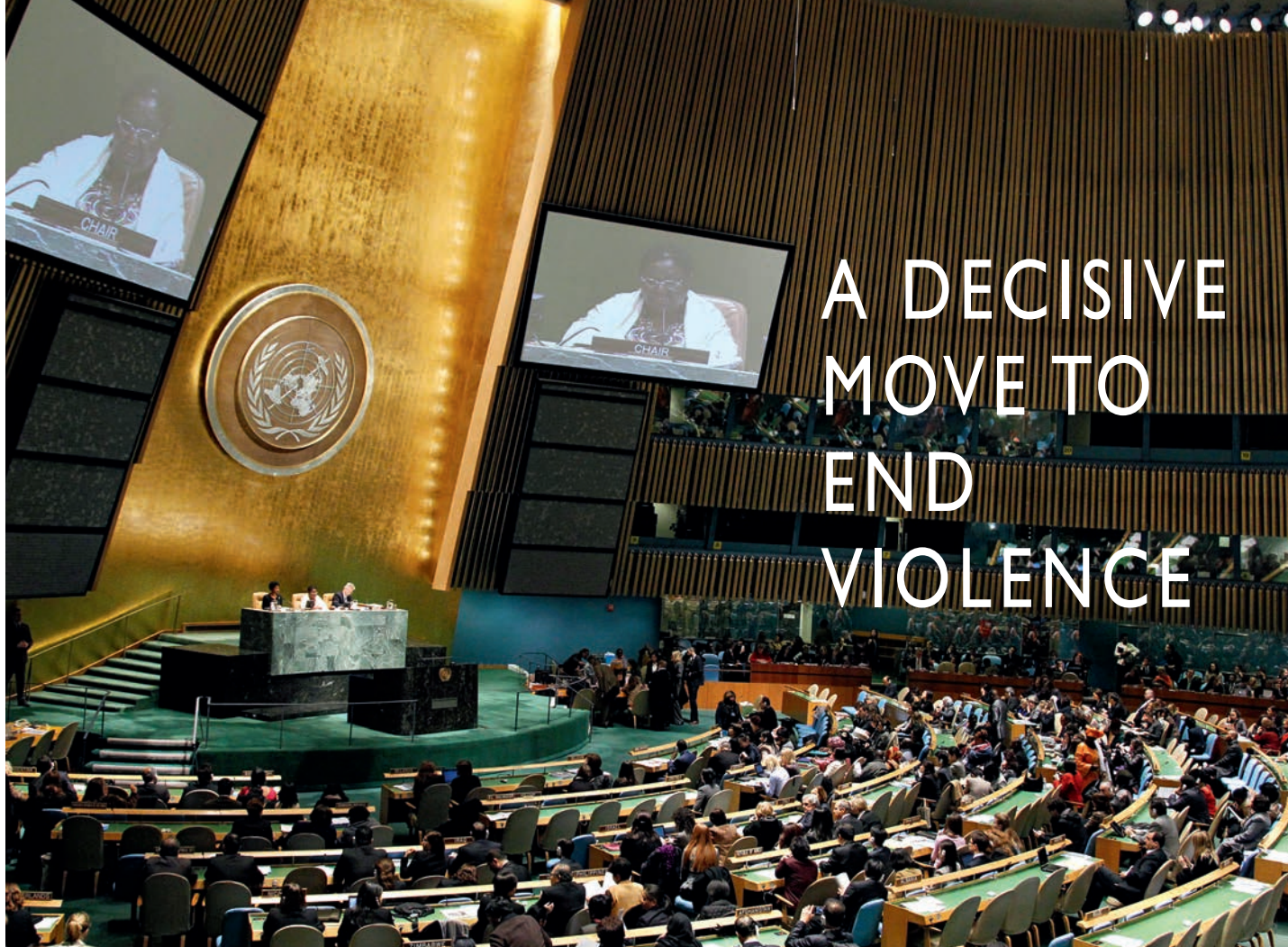


of Women (CSW) and are now delivering statements as an organisation (see pages 6-7). However, lobbying is essential at every possible level. And it is crucial to take into account the diversity of cultures in European countries, Africa and the Middle East. With the Federation’s ECOSOC consultative status at the UN, which was granted in February 2011 and carries certain reporting responsibilities, and even more importantly its participatory status at the Council of Europe, SIE must make better use of its role as ‘A

Global Voice for Women’ to campaign for women’s issues.

One of the Vice Presidents to be elected in July will be assigned to support our respective SIE Representatives in their Advocacy and Lobbying work. An action plan is currently in preparation to ensure Unions and Single Clubs have the appropriate messages and advocacy tools to lobby at national and local levels.

Hajdis Karlsdottir, Chair of the Structure and Strategy Task Force, in collaboration with SIE Executive Director Anne Simon



UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

A DECISIVE MOVE TO END VIOLENCE

Chairperson Marjon Kamara addresses the Commission on the Status of Women in New York.
UN Photo/Paulo Filgueiras

After two weeks of intensive dialogue, fierce debate and hard work on this year's priority theme, 'Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls' (VAWG), a successful conclusion was reached at the 57th Session of the CSW on 15th March 2013, with a strong and meaningful agreement to end violence and discrimination against women and girls.

Although the final document was adopted with reservation, many States acknowledged it as 'fair and balanced'. Some States, however, regretted the lost opportunity to make more progress, while others expressed reservations, especially due to explicit references to sexual rights and reproductive rights. Nevertheless, the agreement is a testimony both to the urgency to end violence against women and girls and to the commitment of the 45 CSW members. It provides an important foothold to continue the unfinished work of empowering women and girls worldwide, to influence the Post 2015 Development Agenda, and to ensure that VAWG remains a priority. It will serve as the main policy guide for the UN. As UN Women Executive Director Michelle Bache-

let exhorted in her closing remarks: 'Words now need to be matched with deeds, with action. Now is the time for implementation and accountability.' Indeed, throughout the CSW, both UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Michelle Bachelet strongly encouraged Member States to maintain momentum, achieve consensus and take action.

A session of historical importance

The 57th Session of CSW was the largest international meeting ever organised to stop VAWG, with over 130 country delegations in attendance and 6000 registered representatives of civil society. Through the efforts of NGOs, the voice of

civil society complemented the views of Member States. When NGOs are accredited and in good standing with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), like SI and SIE, NGOs can engage in advocacy when drafting the outcome document. This is exactly what the Soroptimist delegation – expertly led by SI Assistant Programme Director, Anusha Santhirasthipam – did when all accredited NGOs joined forces and played a critical role in counteracting fundamentalist opposition to women's human rights and fundamental freedoms.

After last year's inability to reach any agreed conclusions on the issue of 'Rural Women', Member States knew that they could not accept another failure, even though many Governments tried very hard to reverse or seriously erode previously agreed treaties and declarations. This year, the Agreed Conclusions were the result not only of global engagement and mobilisation as well as flexibility and compromise, but also of determined leadership and hard work by many Member States and UN officials, coupled with high-profile advocacy by civil society and women's organisations.

Setting global standards for action

The Agreed Conclusions affirm that States should 'strongly condemn all forms of violence against women and girls and refrain from invoking any custom, tradition or religious consideration to avoid their obligations with respect to its elimination'. The document adopted by the Commission sets global standards for action to prevent and to put an end to the violence committed against women and girls, one of the most grave violations of human rights. It is one further step toward securing the rights and dignity of girls and women. It focuses on prevention through education and raising awareness as well as by addressing gender inequalities in political, economic and social fora. The document draws attention to the need for services to protect the right to sexual and reproductive health, including through emergency contraception and safe abortion for victims of violence. The importance of punishing perpetrators of violence as a critical measure to end impunity and of putting in place services for survivors of violence is also highlighted. Additionally, the need to end harmful traditional practices is stressed, and, for the first time, the risks facing female human rights defenders and the obligation of states to protect

them are acknowledged. Notably, SI's proposal to end femicide is included in the text (see SI ASD Anusha's statement at the UN).

States must be pressured into action

In the end, however, the Agreed Conclusions establish international norms, not international laws. It is up to each Member State to align its national policies with the Conclusions, which provide Member States with the guidelines for accepted practice that should be implemented within their borders. Therefore, if we really want to make a difference, the work must continue, and, above all, we must keep advocating to get the States to honour the commitments they have made. States must be pressured into action on this vital issue.

Maria Luisa Frosio, SIE Extension Committee Chairperson, SIE Delegate to CSW57



SIAPD Anusha Santhirasthipam presented the SI Statement at the UN



Participants are overcome with emotion and excitement as they applaud the Agreed Conclusions and Michelle Bachelet, soon to step down as Executive Director of UN Women.



SIE 1st Vice President Christine Peer and SIE Extension Committee Chair Maria Luisa Frosio.

SOROPTIMISTS CELEBRATE WOMEN!

Some SI Clubs and Unions in the European Federation responded to our call to report on their activities to mark International Women's Day on 8th March. The following is a summary of the very different ways our members celebrated the day.

Three generations of Soroptimists from SI Dakar met under the leadership of their Club President Joséphine Yekbe to remember their pioneers and celebrate the achievements of many Senegalese Soroptimists on International Women's Day. All present called for greater solidarity towards women who make up the foundation of our society. Joséphine Yekbe reminded participants of the many projects achieved by their Club: amongst others, water pumps to combat drought, support for women prisoners and financing local products.

An award for SI Costa del Sol

To commemorate International Women's Day, the Department for Equality at Mijas Town Hall in Southern Spain chose to honour local women in recognition of their work to promote equality. One of these awards was dedicated to SI Costa del Sol. Club President Jenny van der Mark was delighted to receive it on behalf of all the members. 'It is so motivating and gratifying to see our work recognised and valued by the local community', said Jenny at the award ceremony.

SI Costa del Sol has been working on a long-term project in conjunction with the Andalusian Government to eradicate violence against women as well as local programmes such as raising funds for the local Food Bank; organising the donation of special gifts from the Lego Foundation for the Red Cross and putting on a charity dinner-dance that raised € 4,600 for a local association for people suffering from mental disease. 'I hope this recognition will encourage other women to see what we are doing and perhaps become interested in joining us to help improve the lives of women and girls', said Jenny. For more information: see www.si-es.org or Facebook, Soroptimist International - Clubs de España.

Honouring women's organisations in Greece

SI Greece officially celebrated the 8th March in the Kostis Palamas building with an event titled 'Women in the Service of Women', honouring the work of women and women's organisations in recent years. The event started with a performance by string quartet ensembles from Athens. President of SI Greece Maria Pyrgaki and Member of the European Parliament Rodi Kratsa then gave speeches. The keynote speaker was businesswoman Sofia Kounenaki-Efraimoglou, who gave a talk on 'Women and entrepreneurship'. Past President of SI Greece Vasso Stavrianopoulou-Ganatsou then announced the award winners. The discussion was moderated by the journalist Penelope Gavra. Many representatives of the Women's Organisations and others bodies attended the event.

A few weeks earlier the Soroptimists of Greece addressed the problem of medical supply shortages by collecting 16 cartons of medicines and offering them to the NGO of the Holy Archdiocese of Athens. The event was widely covered by SKAI TV broadcast network and given much publicity by the Greek media.

Bean-planting in Bonn-Bad Godesberg

In response to a call by SIE President Kathy Kaaf, her own club in Germany, SI Bonn-Bad Godesberg grew bean plants and sold them in the centre of Bonn on 8th March, attracting much attention in the process! In line with her Biennium Theme Water and Food, Kathy suggested planting vicia faba, commonly known as broad beans, as a highly nutritious foodstuff and easy to cultivate. The action was to symbolise solidarity with all women of the world in their struggle to survive and feed their families.

No doubt there were many more activities to mark International Women's Day. These are just a small cross section of how Soroptimists celebrate their works and other women!

Through its Union network, Greek Soroptimists collected much-needed medical supplies and donated them to the Holy Archdiocese of Athens.

SI Dakar gathered three generations of Soroptimists to celebrate their good deeds in Senegal.

Marie-Luise Kreiss from SI Bonn-Bad Godesberg grew bean sprouts and then the club sold the fledgling plants in the centre of Bonn on 8th March.

Members of SI Costa del Sol with Mijas Town Hall Councillor Carmen Márquez.



SIE Scholarships

RECIPIENTS EXPRESS THEIR GRATITUDE

Scholarships are important tools in helping to improve the lives of women and girls – a top priority of our organisation. They allow recipients to acquire a skill, complete their studies or fulfil their aims in a chosen profession. The grantees and the Clubs and Unions that nominated them are very thankful for the support, as shown below.

Thora Yr Arnadottir, Iceland, earned a Masters degree in Food Science at the University of Massachusetts:

I had to face a lot of obstacles while at the University of Massachusetts. My Masters degree involved a big research project to be carried out in a laboratory. I worked alone with an adviser so I had to rely on myself. In the beginning that was a challenge because I was not used to research work. Now I would say it was the most valuable experience I have gained. I had to adapt to a different working environment in a foreign country. I would say that I am now much more tolerant regarding different working habits.

My goal was to get a good job preferably as a consultant where I would be able to help bridge the gap



Thora

between educational institute /research institute and industry. I am sure the time I spent at University of Massachusetts prepared me to be a better worker and to be more understanding towards others.

After returning home, I got a laboratory job in a growing company. I was promoted in September and now I'm a consultant, advising companies in risk analyses and quality management. It is exactly the job I had hoped for, so I couldn't be happier.

Sanita Baldone, Latvia, received a Bachelor's degree in Human Resources Management:

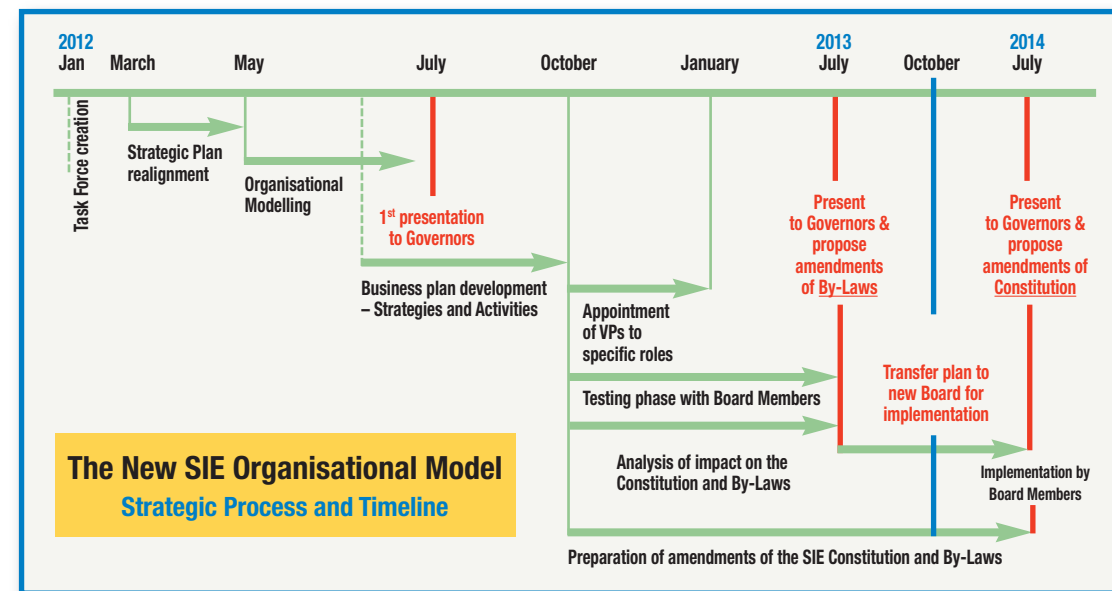
I am an ambitious person. I know what I want: which is to get an education that would be particularly useful for me! Fortunately, my friends, colleagues and family all supported my decision. I chose a Bachelor's course in Human Resources Management because I believe that education plays an important role in the huge competition currently prevailing in the labour market. By graduating from this programme, I have gained an internationally recognised professional diploma in higher education. This makes it possible for me to work with staff or to continue my studies not only in Latvia, but also throughout Europe and around the world.

Whilst studying at one of the best universities in Latvia, I have made new friends and established new contacts I can use in the future. I have also expanded my basic knowledge of the area related to my daily work. Currently I am working at the Ogre branch of the State Employment Service. I have decided to do a Masters in Business Administration in the future. I am really grateful to the SIE Scholarship Committee for the support in my studies!

Annabeth Studer Meyer, SIE Scholarship Committee Chair



Sanita



A timeline has been developed to show the individual steps required along the way before implementing the Strategic Model into our SIE By-Laws and Constitution.

SIE Strategic Model

THE NEXT STEPS FOR THE SIE STRATEGIC PLAN

At the GM in 2012, the SIE Board first unveiled the new Strategic Model and Strategic Plan for SIE. In preparation of the GM in Berlin, the Constitution Chair was asked to comment on the repercussions for our Constitution and By-laws.

In the last issues of *The Link*, we presented an updated organisational Model and a detailed seven-year Strategic Plan devised by the SIE Board's Task Force on Structure and Strategy and based on SI's Goals. The idea is to achieve clearer working relations within the Board, more productivity during a biennium through specific competencies and more focused communications within the Soroptimist world as well as externally.

An Action Plan based on the Objectives of the Strategic Plan is a work in progress, which means the activities and actions are still being discussed and elaborated by the responsible Board members. However, the Board has been testing the Model itself, in order to give a preliminary assessment at the Governors' Meeting in Berlin. Following that, it will be the task of the Constitution Committee to translate these practical changes into proposals for modifications and amendments on the SIE By-Laws and the SIE Constitution. These will be mainly in the area of the number of Board positions and their titles.

For example, in the Strategic Model every Board officer has been assigned a specific duty within the four triangles. It is conceivable that each Vice President or other officers will be assigned to certain goals and made directly responsible for these designated areas. As a result, the responsibilities of each of these officers would need to be firmly anchored in the Constitution. In an ideal world, each VP would then be elected based on her capabilities for a very specific job. This would necessitate amendments to the relevant articles in the Constitution. In addition, qualifications for Board positions may have to be revised to reflect the individual professional competencies, skills and abilities required.

Of course, not all the changes currently tested by the Board will need to be introduced into our Constitution or the By-Laws. Some modifications will evolve as we work with this new Model. For example, although we have revised the Federation job descriptions, explaining the ideal qualifications and skills envisioned, nothing has changed as far as the electoral requirements are concerned. Only some aspects of the pyramid will require changes in the Constitution in 2014. For example, a new position for a Fundraising Officer should be proposed and then stipulated.

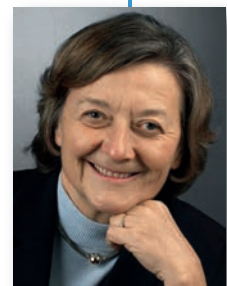
The Strategic Model and its repercussions for the work of Board members aim to make our organisation more efficient and cost-effective, while preserving and enforcing its democratic nature. The Constitution and By-Laws Committee has worked side-by-side with the Task Force on Structure and looks forward to continuing the challenging, but very rewarding task of accompanying the organisational changes needed in the 21st century, while still protecting the fundamental mission and principles of Soroptimism laid down in its Constitution and By-laws.

Maria Elisabetta de Francisicis, SIE Constitution and By-Laws Chair 2011-2013

In continuation of our series, Gerd Halmø and Kirsti Guttormsen, 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents of SI Norway, respectively, report on the experience with corporate board and gender quotas in their country.

Norway took the plunge

'THE QUOTA LAW HAS SERVED ITS PURPOSE'



**GERD
HALMØ**
1st Vice President
of SI Norway

In 2003 the Parliament in Norway adopted a law which required all public limited-liability companies (ASAs) and all publicly owned companies to have at least 40 percent of each gender represented on their respective Board of Directors. Strong sanctions were also introduced, but have, as far as we know, not yet been used.

Public limited-liability companies can be registered as ASA or AS. Listing on the stock exchange requires ASA registration. While only one in 1000 companies in Norway is registered as ASA, they represent 10% of total turnover and 3% of all employees. The number of companies registered as AS is higher. The quota law does not apply to these companies.

The law proposal caused much public debate in Norway. One fear was that companies would change registration form to avoid the quota law. The law was nevertheless adopted by a large majority and supported by most political parties. The number of ASA companies decreased somewhat the first years, but was to a large degree balanced by new registrations.

Another question raised was whether there were enough qualified women for the jobs. However, this discussion did not last long, as Norway has many well-educated women with a high participation in the work force. It also has one of the world's

best social systems allowing for combining career and family life.

The quota law resulted after a long discussion on the low and unchanging number of women in top positions in business. Voluntary mechanisms, management courses and mentoring programmes had not proved to be efficient tools. Acceptance for such a law probably also gained from a strong tradition in Norway to use quota to promote gender balance in many areas.

What is the situation today?

The law has served its purpose. In 2004, only 6% of directors on ASA boards were women. By 2008 it was already close to 40%. In no branch of business were women represented by more than 41% in 2012.

Women on ASA boards are on average younger and have higher education than their male counterparts. More women hold several positions as board directors.

Studies conducted by the Norwegian Business School on the impact of women directors show greater emphasis on strategic control tasks of the board, such as health, environment and safety issues and on corporate social responsibility, requiring analytical and visionary skills. There is less con-



**KIRSTI
GUTTORMSEN**
2nd Vice President of
SI Norway

flict, and the boards tend to focus more on work processes, thus increasing effectiveness.

Other studies show that both women and men on the ASA company boards are generally satisfied with the law. Improvements cited include new perspectives, more discussions and important competence which had been lacking before.

In a recent survey, the board chairmen in major companies in Norway expressed a high level of satisfaction with the result of the quota law. They hope to have more women directors with operational management experience and bottom-line responsibility, as there are still too few. However, by no means has the quota law increased the number of women in top positions in business. Men continue to be CEOs and chairmen of the boards. Women currently hold less than 10% of such positions in ASAs. As for AS companies, only 17% of board directors are women – only a minor change

since 2004. The government is considering an extension of the quota law to large AS companies, based on turnover and number of employees. The main argument against this step is the intervention into private ownership rights.

Strengthen the legitimacy of boards

Personally, we believe the main issue is to create boards in which members offer complementary experiences and opinions, regardless of gender. However, we feel it is unreasonable that women's competence is not utilised. A wider range of selection would also strengthen the legitimacy of boards. In this respect, the quota law is necessary to achieve substantial development. Otherwise, statistics indicate that it will take a very long time indeed to reach gender balance on corporate boards.

UNESCO

LIAISON COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES NGO STRATEGY

The NGO/UNESCO Liaison Committee has announced its strategy for 2013-2014. The Committee, whose members and president are elected by the Conference, represents the interests of the entire group of NGO partners of UNESCO, oversees the effective functioning of the partnership and promotes consultation between the NGOs and the exchange of relevant information.

The UNESCO partnership with non-governmental organisations representing civil society constitutes a valuable cooperation network for sustainable development, equity, international understanding and peace in UNESCO's fields of competence. The International Conference of Non-Governmental Organisations meets every two years to review cooperation between NGOs and UNESCO, conduct collective consultations concerning the broad lines of programmes and facilitate cooperation between organisations with shared interests. The Liaison Committee meets during the interval between Conference sessions.

The Committee came up with the following objectives for a strengthened partnership:

- Develop a culture of partnership between the NGO community and UNESCO, in particular concerning intellectual cooperation in all the organisation's fields of competence,

- Take into account the cultural diversity of civil society in the collective actions undertaken by the UNESCO non-governmental partners, including increasingly NGOs located in diverse parts of the world,

- Promote continuous information exchange within the non-governmental network, making use of social networks and new technologies of communication,

- Strengthen the credibility and visibility of NGO collective action, particularly towards the UNESCO Member States.

Among the actions planned for 2013-2014 are forums outside headquarters, but in cooperation with UNESCO, on priority themes such as Africa, gender equality, human rights, Education for All, cultural diversity, social inclusion, etc. Eastern Europe is one of the regions of focus. Events will also be organised at UNESCO headquarters in connections with certain International Days, including water, human rights, education, peace, etc. The Liaison Committee considers its mission to be, among other things, to support concrete projects implementation, notably within the framework of the two annual forums and during the celebration of international UN days.

Rina Dupriet, SI UN Representative for UNESCO

HELPING PEOPLE HELP THEMSELVES

**Soroptimists
go for
WATER
AND
FOOD**

Impressive Water & Food projects The creativity and ambition of Soroptimist projects around the Federation are astounding. Many clubs have invested time and money to realise successful

Project 'FEMEI' is special in many ways. SI Vaduz and SI Goldes have collaborated to raise more than € 16,000 towards this project for Moldova. The key fundraisers have been Monika Studer of SI Vaduz and Luise Köfer of SI Goldes through a special event and the sale of the decoltée cream, respectively. The implementation of the project to grow medicinal plants in Moldova for seed production has largely been to the credit of Dr Angelika Prentner of SI Goldes. She travelled to Moldova twice to organise workshops to train the local in how to cultivate the plants and explain their effect, application and preparation. From this cultivation the participating women will harvest the seeds and package them for sale at the SIE Congress in Berlin.

Successful at many levels

The Project FEMEI consists of four subprojects: medicinal plants in Cobilea, medicinal plants in Sanatauca, installing a water supply in Japca and building a fishpond. The first two projects provide the women with a livelihood while working at home. The goals are to promote the self-sufficiency of the women involved so that they will become role models for other women and to transfer the necessary know-how in connection with the processing and application of medicinal plants. They will also be trained in laboratory analysis and quality standards. These women will gradually gain their independence from social benefits, improve their social standing and build their self-confidence. They also will have access to alternative medicines. With the introduction of a water pipeline in Japca, the inhabitants now have access to running water directly in the village. The fishpond subproject is still in progress.

Vegetable-growing in Togo

In order to help reduce poverty in Togo, SI Lomé Aurore has chosen to aid a group of 20 disadvantaged women by providing them with 4.5 hectares of farming land in the south of Lomé. The women are able to grow their own vegetables and sell them at a local market. Thanks to the tools and electrical equipment financed by SI Luxembourg, this produce gener-



and life-changing projects. Whether to improve water supplies, to grow medicinal plant or to show children the joys of nutritional cooking – we salute your commitment to the Biennium Theme.

ates sufficient income to assure the women's financial independence.

On her recent trip to Lomé, SIE Extension Committee Chair Maria Luisa Frosio met a number of local women involved in this commendable project. They expressed their heartfelt gratitude for the Soroptimist funding. Working day and night, even sleeping in nearby huts to protect their gardens, they are able to support their families and send their children to school. Mostly illiterate themselves, they struggle to give their children a better future. 'It was a very impressive meeting', says Maria Luisa, adding, 'Women like these are the future of Africa'.

Salt-awareness week in Italy

Under the theme 'Water and Food' SI Italy held a 'Salt Awareness Week' in March to encourage people to check, reduce and savour their food – ideally without salt!

In the English section of SI Italy's website you can find a leaflet, a video and an article written by two scientists of our Union, www.soroptimist.it/en/news/2697-water-&-food-world-salt-awareness-week.asp.

Improving children's nutrition

Clubs in Germany have initiated numerous projects, some on their own and others in collaboration with other SI clubs around the Federation or with external partners. In fact, as the host country for the SIE Water & Food Congress in Berlin, the Union has even produced an impressive PowerPoint presentation showing the widely diverse and successful projects. Space does not allow the detailed description they deserve, but one project illustrates the importance of educating children in proper nutrition: SI Saarbrücken supported a local organisation called PÄDSAK, by donating € 13,500 to fund a chef who prepares healthy food with and for children in the local community.

The SIE Congress will offer an ideal forum to present many more of the wonderful projects that our members have implemented. Do come and see!

< Through her seminars on medicinal plants in Moldova, Dr Angelika Prentner of SI Goldes is providing many local women with a means to earn their own livelihood by growing medicinal plants and selling the seeds. << Dr Angelika Prentner checks the harvest of medicinal plants in Moldova. <<< Women in Togo grow their own vegetables and sell them at the market, thus securing their financial independence, thanks to the generous support of SI Lomé Aurore and SI Luxembourg. v SI Saarbrücken funded a project implemented by PÄDSAK to teach children how to prepare healthy food. (Photo: PÄDSAK)





'Open Heart - Open Door' Friends to Meet in Berlin

SIE PROGRAMME PROMOTES FRIENDSHIP ACROSS BORDERS

An Open Heart - Open Door Get-Together Lunch will be held at the 20th SIE Congress in Berlin on 13th July from 12.45-2 pm. All subscribers are welcome!

Since its introduction by Past SIE President Heidrun Konrad in 1995, more than 400 Soroptimists in 51 countries have joined our worldwide community, which promotes friendship and hospitality across borders. By opening our homes to other Soroptimists, we demonstrate the principles of Friendship, International Goodwill and Understanding - and indeed strive to make the world a better place.

Although hospitality is a key concept of this programme, you do not need to offer accommodations to participate. You may choose, for exam-

ple, the option of being a contact person or a guide in your community. It is equally rewarding to meet and greet a Soroptimist friend who is visiting your area! Exchanging houses is another possibility - and very trustworthy between Soroptimists.

Open Heart - Open Door also provides exchanges for the children of Soroptimists. The young people can stay with Soroptimists - with all the benefits. This option is becoming more and more popular among young people and their parents.

Professional Exchange is another of the most interesting concepts behind Open Heart - Open Door. The idea is to widen your network.

From the enthusiastic feedback I receive, it is evident that this programme is a very important aspect of Soroptimism. If you want to join Open Heart - Open Door, please contact me by email at hkhknapgo@upcmail.nl and I will send you the application form. Or download the form from the SIE website. After subscribing, you will receive the full directory. During the Congress in Berlin you can find me at the Open Heart -



Open Door stand. I would be delighted to meet you there and answer any questions.

Liaison Officer Henny Knap-Go, SI Hilversum and Liaison Officer for 'Open Heart - Open Door'

SI Lipari Isole Eolie

JOIN A TOUR OF THE AEOLIAN ISLANDS

The breathtaking sight of the volcanoes of the Aeolian Islands.



SI Lipari Isole Eolie is once again inviting Soroptimists to take part in a sightseeing tour of the Aeolian Islands of Italy. The exciting seven-day programme from 21st to 27th July includes excursions to the islands of Lipari, Panarea, Stromboli and Salina. Among other things, there will be a guided tour of the Regional Aeolian Archaeological Museum, the Cathedral of Staiint Bartholomew and the Archaeological Park of the 'Castello' of Lipari. The spectacular volcanoes of the Aeolian Islands are UNESCO World Heritage sites.

To see the entire programme in detail and to obtain information on the hotels go to the SIE website. For more information and to register, please contact the offices at settimanaeoliana@gmail.com or telephone +39 0909812426.

Solidarity Fund

PROVIDING AID TO THOSE WHO NEED IT

Since the banking crisis in 2008, the world has seen a dramatic economic downturn. Many of us are experiencing the consequences, and Soroptimists are no exception. Private financial concerns mean some members are barely able to afford their fees.

Indeed, SIE created the Solidarity Fund in 1998 to, among other things, assist these members by subsidising all or part of their fees to the Federation. From the annual fee paid by each SIE member, one euro is currently allotted to this Fund. As stipulated in the Fund's Statutes, the SIE Board decides every year who will receive financial aid based on the applications. Beneficiaries remain confidential.

An analysis of the Solidarity Fund over the past nine years brought the following findings:

Unions

The number of Unions requesting Solidarity Fund support has never reached more than 3.5% of the total fees paid by the Unions. Except for a peak in 2008-2009, consequent to the onset of the financial crisis in Europe, the situation has been fairly stable.

Single Clubs

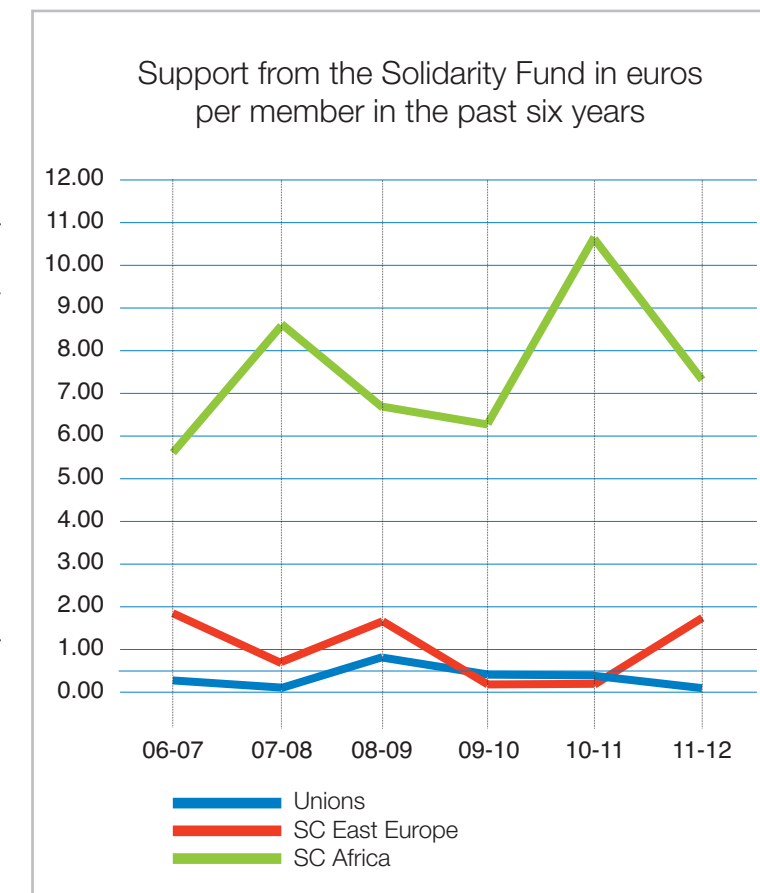
Of course, the circumstances vary from country to country, but general observations can be made from a geographical perspective. For instance, from 2003-2004 the Solidarity Fund has subsidised an average of five Single Clubs in Eastern Europe, amounting to approximately 10% of the total East European membership. This represents at the most 7% of the total amount paid by clubs in Eastern Europe. The huge efforts made by these Single Clubs to achieve sustainability - despite the economic challenges in this region - are commendable.

In Africa, the picture is unfortunately less encouraging. Over the same period, 10% to 40% of Single Clubs in Africa have requested aid. More alarmingly, more than 35% of the clubs have been supported by the Fund in the past

three years, which represents 36% to 40% of the fees owed by African Single Clubs to the Federation.

In light of this disturbing development, the SIE Board may be forced to take some painful decisions in future. While some Single Clubs are working hard to sustain and develop themselves, others seem to have grown accustomed to being subsidised. As this is neither fair to all members nor in line with the spirit of the Solidarity Fund, the Board will have to scrutinise applications even more carefully and insist on more rigid controls. With financial pressures now affecting members throughout the entire Federation, the aid provided by the Fund will have to evolve to accommodate more widespread needs and, if necessary, to accept requests from completely new Unions and Single Clubs facing ad-hoc difficulties.

Claire Govaerts, SIE HQ Accounting Executive



Grant of Friendship 2014

MAKE NEW FRIENDS IN YORKSHIRE



Above: Visitors will meet clubs like SI Ilkley, here celebrating the opening of a tennis facility for children.



Right: The Yorkshire Region offers thrilling sights, such as Bolton Abbey.

SI Yorkshire Region of SIGBI is offering a grant to a Soroptimist from outside the UK either travelling alone or two Soroptimists travelling together to visit the Region of Yorkshire in the UK in May 2014. The visit will be for a period of up to three weeks, and will be planned to allow our guests to attend the SI Yorkshire Conference planned for Saturday 10th May 2014.

Preference will be given to applicants who have not have been to the UK before. A good working knowledge of spoken and written English is essential.

Visitor(s) will be responsible for their own travel expenses to and from the UK and Yorkshire. SI Yorkshire Region will provide all accommodation, meals, hospitality, sightseeing trips and travel between hosting clubs. An itinerary will be planned to include visits to a variety of Clubs in the Region to reflect the interests of the successful applicant(s).

For an application form, please contact Angela Edwards, Regional Vice President (GOF), 8 High Garth, Richmond, North Yorkshire DL10 4DG in the UK or email her at angelamaurice1@yahoo.com. Please include 'GOF' in the subject line. The telephone number is +44 1748 824240.

Your application form must be accompanied by an endorsement from your Single Club or Union. Please note all completed applications must be typed and contain a contact telephone number and email address. The final closing date for applications is Tuesday, 1st October 2013.

MADRE

A PARTNERSHIP THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

In the face of abuse and discrimination, women and girls must mobilise worldwide. Like MADRE's many grassroots partners, they have to organise locally and globally to confront violence and stand up for their rights. That is why MADRE supports safe spaces where women and girls can receive life-saving services and

empower each other through their stories of strength.

Thanks to vital support from SIE and SIA, women and girls in Port-au-Prince, Haiti have a place to turn when they face violence. Women and girls made homeless by the 2010 earthquake still confront devastating sexual violence in the dis-

placement camps. MADRE supports the KOFIV Women's Centre, where women and girls who have survived rape can receive care and counseling. They have the support of KOFIV community organisers to put them on a path of healing. In addition, the Women's Centre has been a crucial meeting place for women to create activist strategies to push for the passage of a new law combating violence against women!

On the other side of the globe, in Kenya, young women and girls also benefit from a safe space. MADRE supports a network of shelters that feeds and cares for girls who have escaped genital mutilation and child marriage. Grateful Kenyan mothers have named these school shelters the 'Nanyori' Network, which means 'You Are Loved'. The shelters also serve as boarding schools, providing girls from indigenous communities in rural Kenya with a safe environment to pursue their education. These shelters act as a vital safe haven to protect girls while offering emotional support and mentorship. They equip girls with opportunities to build a healthier, happier future. They give girls the space to dream of a brighter future for themselves and their communities—and move beyond their dreams to action.

As in Haiti and Kenya, MADRE works in partnership with women and girls worldwide to win human rights, including education, health and reproductive rights, economic development, peace and an end to violence against women and girls. We provide humanitarian aid, training and support to meet urgent needs and develop long-term solutions to the crises women face.

Roxana Diaz, MADRE at www.madre.org

Haitian girls express their gratitude for the care and counseling they receive thanks to SIE's support.
Photo: MADRE



Women for Water Partnership

SIE REPRESENTED ON STEERING COMMITTEE

The General Assembly of the Women for Water Partnership elected Asha Abdulrahman to the Steering Committee at its meeting in March 2013. She will primarily be responsible for the development and implementation of activities on the African continent. This position involves lobbying and advocacy work for Women Leadership in Water and support for Women's Major Group, of which SIE is also a member.



Asha will help support member organisations in Africa, enabling them to do their work and providing WfWP empowerment tools, where possible. The most important issues are the Gender

& Water Summit to be held from 27th-29th November in South Africa, which WfWP will be co-hosting; the development of country programmes for Uganda and Kenya; and the planned WfWP 'hubs' in Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya. 'We are most grateful that Asha is willing to provide her knowledge and experience for the benefit of the

Women for Water Partnership,' wrote Honorary Secretary Wazna Hamidullahkhan in her announcement.

SIE VP (2011-2013) Asha Abdulrahman's term of office of three years began on 15th March 2013.

SI Turkey

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS WITH FRIENDS



The happy international crowd gathered in Izmir to celebrate with SI Turkey.

It was really spectacular to see how SI Turkey celebrated its 60th anniversary with its 39 clubs in early April. Some 200 Soroptimists from Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark, Lithuania, Israel, Sweden, Kenya and Austria, including Past SI President Hanne Jensbø, came to Izmir to share this occasion with club members from all over Turkey. From 4th-7th April we enjoyed many cultural, culinary, thought-provoking and social treats. With all the wining and dining, we were truly spoiled by Turkish hospitality!

One of the highlights was a conference on 'Multiculturalism & Human Life', sponsored by the City Council of Konak in Izmir. Many of the roughly 300 participants had no doubt never heard of SI before the City Councillor of Konak, Dr. Hakan Tartan, opened the Conference, and Union President Mine Kavala spoke about the goals and objectives of our organisation. With Past Union President Remide Arkun as moderator, the three panelists, Sara Pardo, a writer and historian, Faruk Pekin, a cultural expert and tourism manager, and SIE President Kathy Kaaf underlined the importance of multiculturalism as a basis for a happy community life. While Sara

Pardo depicted Izmir historically as a multicultural city, Faruk Pekin described the whole country as having been a multicultural society ever since the Ottoman Period. Kathy Kaaf underlined that society needed 'pluralistic togetherness' and 'transculturalism' and an efficient integration policy to avoid the growth of a parallel society. The event was rounded off by traditional ethnic dances performed by young dance students.

While SI Turkey had its Annual Delegates' Meeting, the guests enjoyed a tour of Izmir, including a visit to a women's orientation and training centre, which received financial support from Izmir Clubs, an excursion to Ephesus, the House of Virgin Mary and the picturesque mountain village of Şirince, where we ate the most delicious *gözleme*, with Izmir Soroptimists as our excellent guides.

The gala dinner was held against the backdrop of a slide show commemorating the various charter ceremonies and important anniversaries of all the Clubs in the Union and also highlighting important past and present Turkish Soroptimists. We chatted, we laughed and we danced till midnight. I especially enjoyed meeting 12 members of SI Etiler, a friendship link with my Club, SI Wien-Belvedere. *Çok teşekkür ederim* to the Turkish Union!

Herta Kaschitz, Governor of SI Austria



Herta Kaschitz presented her Club banner to Turkish Union President Mine Kavala.



SI St. Gallen/Appenzell

TREASURED MOMENTS IN KIEV

The ties to the Ukraine have a long history. Five years ago during the presidency of Sina Stiffler, the Swiss Union supported a project in Lemberg/Lviv in the Ukraine. Years earlier SI St. Gallen/Appenzell had already done the same with SI Rapperswil. After a visit to Lemberg, SI Switzerland then decided to work with the Ukraine as part of a twinning project.

When Tamara Nasarova from SI Kiev was invited to the then 'Dreiländertreffen' in Arbon two years ago, she reported about a project called 'I want to see the sun', involving aid to a boarding home and school for visually impaired children. Our club offered to help. In 2011 we donated CHF 5 000 and in 2012 travelled to Kiev. Tamara warmly welcomed the 13 Soroptimists and six partners, including two members of our Friendship Link SI Bregenz. The Soroptimists from Kiev showed us their wonderful city and shared its history with us.

We were particularly impressed by the visit to the home for visually impaired children, which SI Kiev has supported for 15 years. The children receive aid in developing their sight, but are also assisted in learning to live independently. SI Bregenz donated an additional CHF 2,000 required for the project. We planted two trees in the 'Avenue of Friendship' of the school garden as a souvenir of our visit. With these sounds and scents, the children are able to gain a greater feeling for the environment. As a small token of our appreciation, we invited three members of SI Kiev to attend our 25th club anniversary.

Traudl Eugster, Club St. Gallen/Appenzell, Switzerland

Children from the school for the visually impaired are shown here with members of SI Kiev and SI St. Gallen/Appenzell.

The Netherlands

A FILM FESTIVAL FOR CHILDREN

No action or fantasy films on the 14th February, but instead quality children's films with a message. For the fifth time Soroptimists of eight SI clubs in the northern part of the Netherlands organised the Best Practice Award winning Soroptimist Film Festival for Kids (SFFK).

With the aim of awareness of the Rights of the Child, this festival offers children from eight to twelve years a look into the lives of children in other situations as their own - children who have to work instead of going to school, who have no parents, who suffer from violence or who are neglected. Together with the UNICEF's educational materials, such as guest lectures and kids' journals, watching the film with the entire class offers teachers the opportunity to delve deep into the matter. Children



Dutch children are given the chance to learn about the lives of their less fortunate peers.

often draw pictures, write a short paper or give presentations of the subject they saw in the film. In today's economic recession, not many families have the means to go to the cinema. This year, one of the selected films was the Dutch drama film *Little Bird* (org.: *Kauwboy*), directed by Boudewijn Koole, which won the title European Best Youth Film 2012 at the Berlin Film Festival this February.

Initiated in 2009 by three SI clubs, today's festival has grown to eight clubs, six locations and 6000 children. A foundation has been set up to coordinate the selection of the films, organise the public relations and support the SI clubs. So, the Soroptimist flag is now waving at six cinemas, and each year more SI clubs join in to enable more children to enjoy and learn about the Rights of the Child!

For more information, see www.sffk.nl, or contact Esther Aarse at reestlanden@soroptimist.nl or Luc de Wit-Ybema: assen@soroptimist.nl.

SI Padua

60TH ANNIVERSARY TOASTED IN STYLE



Past SI President Marie Jeanne Bosia congratulates SI Padua on its 60 years of excellent service to the community.

An anniversary cake was served after the toast to the club.

SI Padua, the 8th Club to be established in Italy in April 1953, celebrated the 60th anniversary of its chartering at the prestigious University of Padua on 13th April.

In the presence of Flavia Pozzolini, President of SI Italy, Marie Jeanne Bosia, Past SI President, Elisabeth Back Impallomeni, Past President SIE, Club President Cristina de' Stefani introduced a panel discussion on the very current topic of 'In the control room - the contribution of women to complex decisions'. The panelists were Isabella Chiodi, Vice President of IBM Europe, Cristiana Compagno, Rector of the University of Udine, Anna Puccio, Board of Directors of Luxottica



Group, and Marina Salamon, President of Doxa and Altana.

Anna Crema, a brilliant student of the Galilean School at the University of Padua, argued that the future must hold full citizenship for women, as stated in Article 3 of the Constitution. Reiterating the commitment of our organisation to advance women at all levels, Union President Flavia then concluded the meeting.

In the evening, 110 participants including Mayor Flavio Zanonato, public authorities and presidents of further Italian SI Clubs and other service clubs from Padua attended the gala dinner, held at the villa of De Benedetti-Trieste in Vaccarino. After a wonderful Ensemble Vivaldi concert, performed by 'I solisti Veneti', with Clementine Hoogendorn playing the flute, the guests toasted the Club's anniversary. A scholarship was then presented to Luigi Mazzucato from 'Cuamm - Doctors with Africa' for two medical students at the University of Beira (Mozambique).

SI Aalen

TURNING WINE TO WATER



From right: SI Aalen Vice President Margarete Scheuermann, Head of the Cookery School and Soroptimist Marietta Hagoney, winemaker Inge von Geldern and chef Birgit Mahler.

'Soroptimists Turn Wine into Water' was the motto of a fund-raising even, organised by SI Aalen on the occasion of World Water Day. In the facilities of the Cookery School Hagoney, club members and guests prepared a six-course meal. Everyone was invited to sample 13 different

German wines, which had been donated by Inge von Geldern. She is a winemaker at the Kirsten winery in Klüsserath on the river Moselle and President SI Trier. Soroptimist Marietta Hagoney, the owner of the Cookery School, had provided the school's facilities and the food free of charge. As a result, the evening of good food and teamwork yielded €1,200, which SI Aalen donated to a water project in Africa.

SI Dakar

MATERNITY WARD INAUGURATED



The Belgian guests joined their Soroptimist friends in Senegal to celebrate the opening of the maternity ward in Grand Mbour.

At the initiative of Muriel Jonkheer, three Belgian service clubs, including SI Val Barbant Waterloo collaborated to build a maternity ward in Grand Mbour, Senegal, which was named 'Muriel AFRICA' in her honour. The Soroptimists from SI Val Barbant invited SI Dakar to attend the inauguration of the new ward, which took place in February, followed by a drink at Muriel's home. The Belgian ambassador, the Minister of Health and other local dignitaries were also present at the inauguration. More than 10 local Soroptimists turned out to show their support.

SI Schwäbisch Gmünd

MARKING WORLD WATER DAY

The theme of the evening at the Theatre Workshop was topical and exciting with a mix of excellent lectures and wonderful music. SI Schwäbisch Gmünd organised a high-level event on the occasion of World Water Day. The subjects to be covered were whether we are facing a world water crisis and how health and water go hand in hand. Musical entertainment was provided by the Percussion Ensemble of the Waldstetten Music School. The keynote speakers, Professor Frieder Haackh, Technical Director of the Zweckverbandes Landeswasserversorgung Stuttgart and Dr. Doris Reick of the Landesgesundheitsamt Baden Wuerttemberg, addressed these important topics. The experts stressed the importance of sustainability and cross-sectoral approaches to finding solutions to water problems.

Club President Birgit Heilig thanked the speakers and the Percussion Group for its crowd-pleasing performance. She also expressed her gratitude to the audience who participated in the lively discussion.

The proceeds of the event were donated to Solwodi e.v., an organisation offering solidarity to women in need. Among other things, Solwodi supports a water project in Kenya, which is particularly close to the heart of SI Schwäbisch Gmünd. It is called *Co gi chis* - Concerns for the Girl Child Society.

Annette Assfalg, SI Schwäbisch Gmünd

Club President Birgit Heilig thanked the speakers and the Percussion Ensemble for an unforgettable and inspiring evening.





Please submit your contributions to the next issue of *The Link* by 31st July 2013!

NEW SIE CLUB TO BE CHARTERED

8th June 2013

Celje (Slovenia)
Charter to be presented by
Christine Peer
SIE 1st Vice President
Club President
Marina Tavcar Krajnc
Phone: +386 313 262 63
E-mail: marina.tavcar@siol.net

14th September 2013

St Laurent du Maroni (France)
Charter to be presented by
Maria Luisa Frosio,
SIE Extension Committee Chair
Club President
Joyce Fulgence
Phone: +33 5 94 34 31 29/
Mobile: +33 6 94 24 75 67
E-mail: joyce.pengel@justice.fr

14th September 2013

Delmenhorst (Germany)
Charter to be presented by
Birgit Moll Arsnes,
Governor, SI Denmark
Club President
Mechthild Harders-Opolka
Phone: +49 4331/808 320
E-mail: uopolka@web.de

5th October 2013

Kutaisi-Colchis (France)
Charter to be presented by
Ulla Madsen, SIE President elect
Club President
Nugesha Gagnidze
Phone: +995 431 257 456/
599 968 335
E-mail: n_gagnidze@yahoo.de

5th October 2013

Esslingen (Germany)
Charter to be presented by
Emine Erdem, Governor (2010-
2012), SI Turkey
Club President
Karina Klein
Phone: +49 711 550 2320
E-mail: info@krkarinaklein.de

FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR SIE

17th September 2013

25th Anniversary
SI Sigdal (Norway)

18th September 2013

23th Anniversary
SI Athens-Psychico (Greece)

24th September 2013

25th Anniversary
SI Bochum/Witten (Germany)

27th September 2013

50th Anniversary
SI Helsinki III Helsingfors (Finland)

28th September 2013

50th Anniversary
SI Länsi-Pohja (Finland)

29th September 2013

50th Anniversary
SI Karhula (Finland)

5th October 2013

50th Anniversary
SI Silkeborg (Denmark)

15th October 2013

25th Anniversary
SI Etiler (Turkey)

20th October 2013

50th Anniversary
SI Volos (Greece)

22nd October 2013

25th Anniversary
SI Anittepe (Turkey)

10th-11th July 2013

Governors' Meeting
Berlin (Germany)

12th-14th July 2013

SI/E Congress
Berlin (Germany)

INTERNATIONAL AWARENESS DAYS AND EVENTS

5th June

World Environment Day

21st September

International Day of Peace

