



Soroptimist International of Europe

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

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FOREWORD

from the SIE President



Dear Soroptimists and friends,

It is with great pleasure that we present to you a business-oriented digital Annual Report of Soroptimist International of Europe. This report compiles some of our biggest achievements and shows the amazing work that SIE Members continuously do to educate, empower and enable women and girls to improve their lives.

In 2016, SIE Unions and Single Clubs raised over €6 million and carried out over 4,000 projects in our different areas of focus: education, women's empowerment, violence against women, health and food security, and sustainability! I am especially proud of the amount of projects accomplished in the field of education. As the theme of the 2015-2017 Biennium is "Soroptimists Invest in Education" Soroptimists really rallied their efforts and the result is an impressive 1,469 projects in this area!

As in most of our work, the top projects in education, which you will read about in this Annual Report, are cross-cutting. The STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) Camp for young girls in Germany and gender diversity classes for teachers in Italy, not only educated women, but also empowered them. These projects taught women and girls the importance of gender-equality in their studies, workplaces, and everyday lives.



SIE Unions and Single Clubs supported education through their projects, and also through scholarships. While we have a special Federation Scholarship Fund through which SIE contributes to the needs of women such as university fees or vocational training, Unions and Single Clubs also raise their own funds for scholarships. In 2016, they granted over 1,080 scholarships! Compared to 797 scholarships granted in 2015, 282 more young women can pursue their academic and professional dreams!

Not only am I thrilled with the results of our members' hard work, but also with their dedication to accurately reporting this work. This allows us to present authentic and correct data and helps us to analyse our efficiency. It also helps us to see what we can improve and see how much more we can do for women. Without members' submissions, much of SIE's endeavours, including this Annual Report, would not be possible!

The reasons for publishing an online SIE Annual Report for the first time ever are two-fold. We want to showcase the accomplishments of our members to Soroptimists and non-Soroptimists alike, and to demonstrate the new direction of our Federation's branding. It will be an instrument to showcase our work and relevance amongst other similar NGOs and move forward our efforts to position ourselves with Local, National and International Institutions.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you all. Thank you to my fellow Board Members and to the Members of the Enlarged Board. Thank you to our members in Unions and Clubs all over the Federation. Together, we can move mountains.

Amitiés Soroptimist,

Maria Elisabetta de Franciscis
SIE President, 2015-2017

ABOUT

Soroptimist International of Europe

Soroptimists educate, empower and enable women and girls to improve their lives. Soroptimist International of Europe (SIE) is a network of over 34,000 professional women who work together at the local, national and international levels to achieve this aim. SIE currently has 1257 clubs, operating across 61 countries in Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and the Caribbean. It is the largest of the four Federations making up Soroptimist International which counts over 74,000 women as members.

Our ambition is to transform the lives and status of women and girls through education, empowerment and enabling opportunities. We want to see women and girls achieve their individual and collective potential, realise their aspirations, and have an equal voice in creating strong, peaceful communities worldwide. As Soroptimists, we strive for the advancement of women's status, high ethical standards, equality, development and peace, and the promotion of international goodwill and understanding.

One of the ways we achieve this is through advocacy. Soroptimist International of Europe holds general consultative status at the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and participatory status at the Council of Europe and the European Women's Lobby. SIE also participates in the work of OSCE through its permanent representatives. This allows SIE to advocate at the international level and lobby for the ratification and implementation of treaties concerning women and demand that priority issues for women receive their rightful place on the sustainable development agenda.

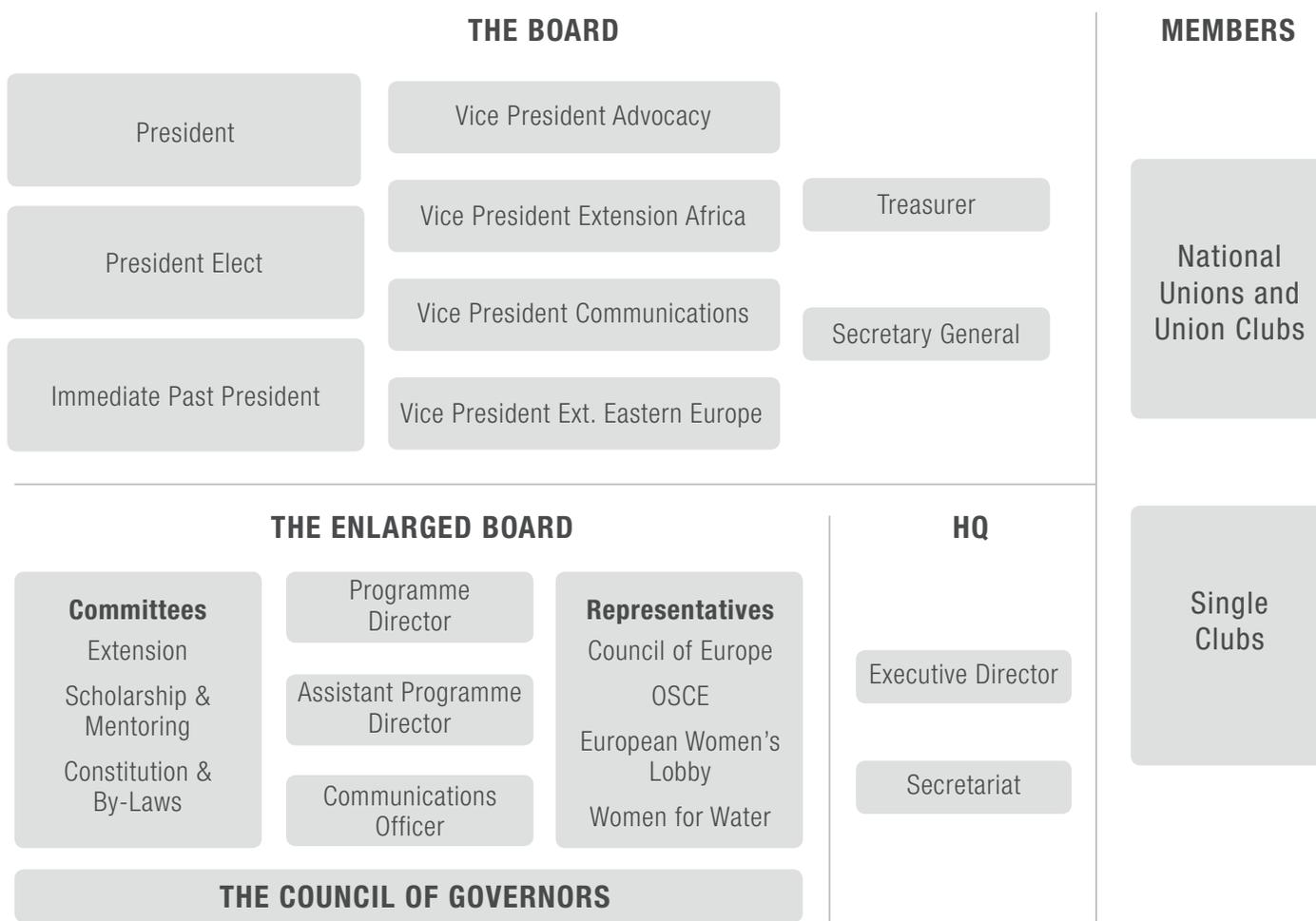
Our members include women of all ages, representing a wide range of professions. As such, we are a platform to share our knowledge and experience. We want to ensure that all women and girls have the opportunity to become leaders in their communities, and we will continue to lobby for them at all levels of society.

34,000
professional
women

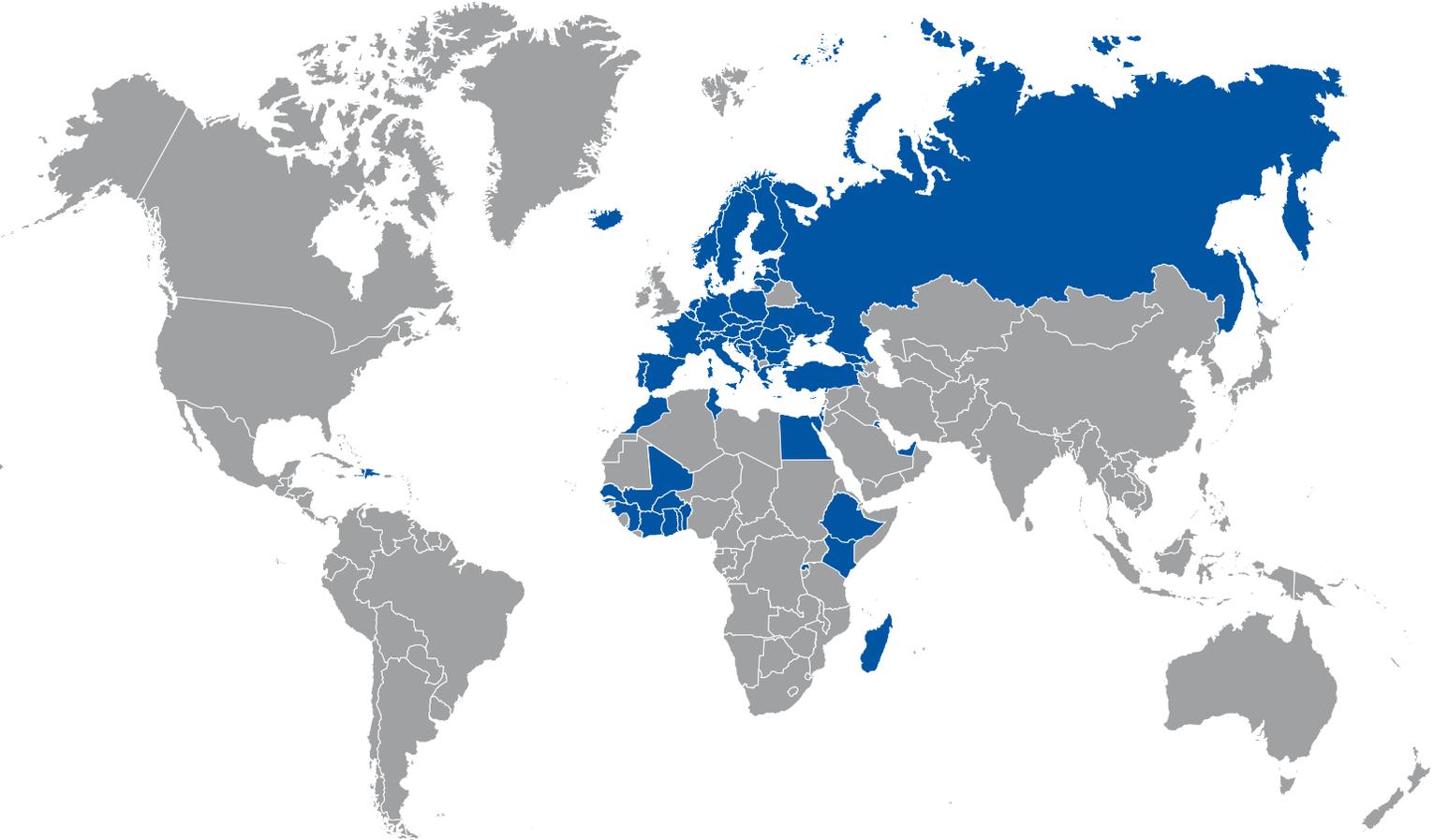
1257
clubs

61
countries

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



WHERE WE ARE



61
countries

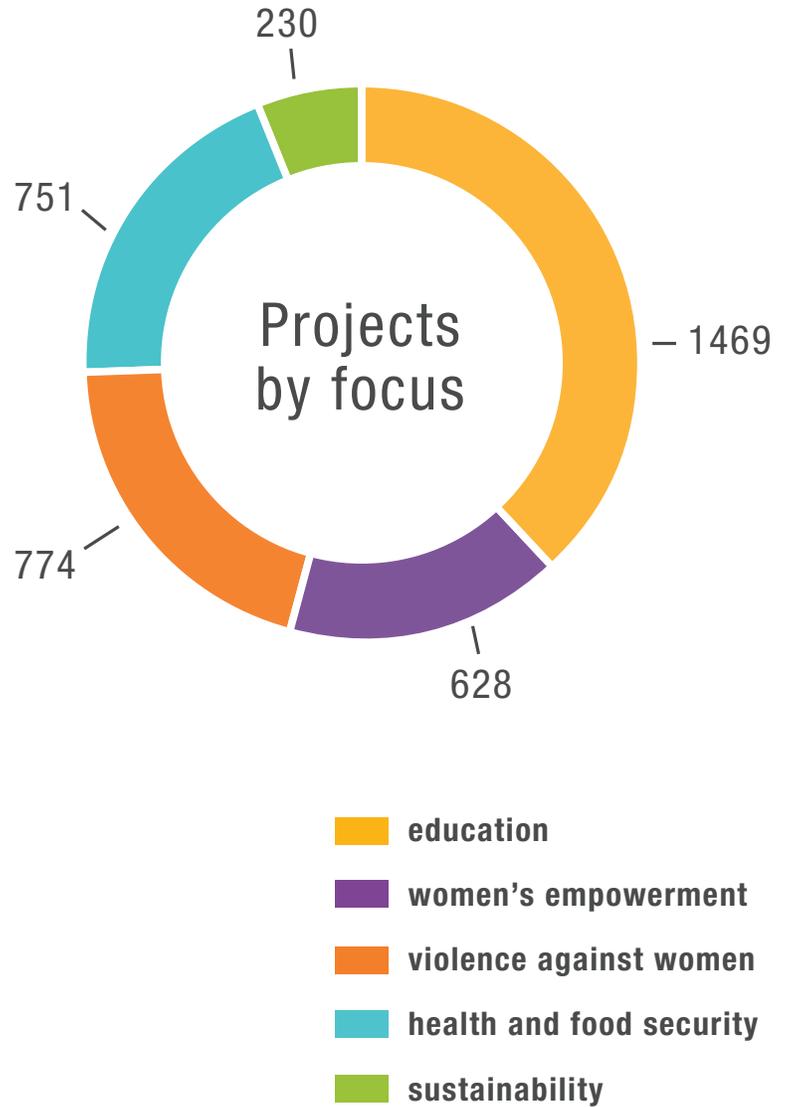
24
unions

76
single clubs

- Europe 47
- Africa 27
- The Caribbean 2

OUR PROJECTS

Single Clubs and Unions implement projects that focus on five main areas.



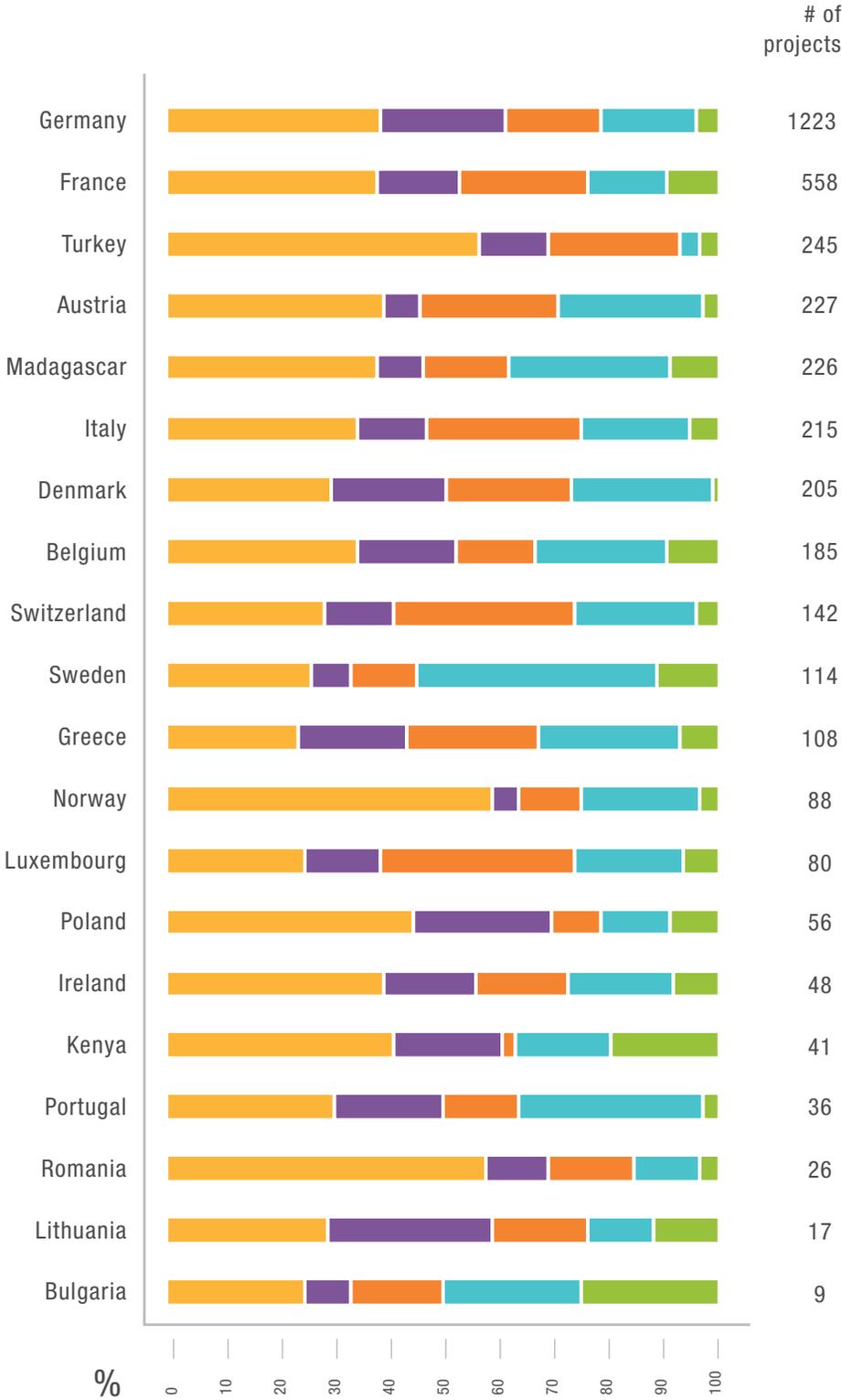
In 2016 SIE members raised

6,533,212 €

and carried out

4,189 projects.

Projects per union



BEST PRACTICE AWARDS

SIE Unions and Clubs have implemented thousands of projects that focus on our key areas: education, women's empowerment, violence against women, health and food security, and sustainability. Each year, SIE grants Best Practice Awards to top projects.

PEOPLE REACHED
52,128

FUNDS RAISED
319,196 €



2016 Project of the Year Award

Construction of an Education Centre and Orphanage for Street Children in Antannarivo

Club of Antananarivo Mandrosa (Madagascar) and Clubs of Luzern, Bad Ragaz, Vevey and Schwyz (Switzerland)

A centre welcoming and educating disadvantaged children was forced to shut down, so Soroptimist clubs funded the construction of a new one. They also funded supplies, such as dormitory furniture.

Funds raised:

21,000 €

Number of beneficiaries:

75

Soroptimists Invest in education

Each Biennium, SIE adopts a new theme on which to concentrate their efforts. During the 2015-2017 Biennium, the spotlight was on education.



Educate to Lead Award

STEM Camp for girls
Club of Uelzen (Germany)

A simple, practical, fun and cost-effective way to help develop young girls' interest in pursuing careers in the STEM area which can be a powerful accelerator of gender equality, empowerment, and economic development.

Funds raised:
3,300 €

Number of beneficiaries:
22



EDUCATION Top Project

Education to Gender Diversity
Union of Italy

Educating teachers on the concepts of gender and gender equality can help eliminate gender-based discrimination and its gravest form: gender-based violence. Over the course of the year and in 20 regions in Italy, training sessions were given to teachers on gender and gender equality who then implemented those concepts in their classrooms.

Funds raised:
22,000 €

Number of beneficiaries:
30,000

FUNDS

SIE has established funds to allocate resources to specific areas of work.

Federation Scholarship Fund

awards grants totaling in excess of 100,000 € per year to young women covering needs such as university fees, vocational training, and general support during studies. In memory of our founding President, the Dr Suzanne Noel Scholarship Fund provides financial assistance to female doctors to perfect their knowledge of, and experience in, plastic and reconstructive surgery.

Disaster Relief Fund

targets the specific needs of women and girls recovering from the effects of natural disasters and armed conflicts.

SIE Action Fund

supports humanitarian projects and promotes educational programmes.

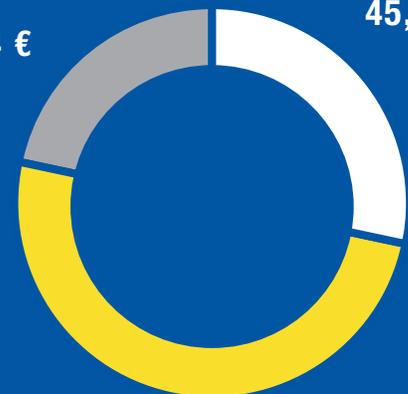
Roswitha Ott Fund

provides health care and education to children with special needs and children in need as well as financial assistance.

FUNDS RAISED FROM MEMBER FEES

**SOLIDARITY
FUND**
33,944 €

ACTION FUND
45,141 €



SCHOLARSHIP FUND
79,086 €

SCHOLARSHIP

Education empowers women and girls to realise their potential and thrive in their careers. That is why we find it imperative to support them through scholarships. Contrary to the scholarships given out through the Federation Scholarship Fund where grantees are sponsored by the SIE Federation, the funds for these are raised by Unions and Clubs themselves.

UNIONS

| | | |
|---------------------|------------------|-----------|
| Primary school | 1 | 160 € |
| High school | 378 scholarships | 158,366 € |
| University | 419 | 312,965 € |
| Further education | 151 | 195,047 € |
| Vocational training | 81 | 79,695 € |

SINGLE CLUBS

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|----------|
| High school | 23 scholarships | 10,958 € |
| University | 3 | 3,250 € |
| Further education | 10 | 30,724 € |
| Vocational training | 14 | 15,824 € |

1080
SCHOLARSHIPS
GRANTED

806 989 €
SCHOLARSHIP
GRANTS AWARDED

MENTORING

In addition to the grants given out through the scholarship fund, Unions and Clubs organize various mentoring programmes that empower women to achieve their professional goals. Mentoring programmes pair up young women starting their careers with established professionals to gain insight and confidence and achieve success. In one-on-one sessions, mentors typically advise on how to deal with workplace scenarios and challenges. Most of the women taking part prove the value of these programmes as they obtain employment or even start their own business ventures shortly after.



photo : Katarzyna Blasiewicz

300
mentorships offered

827
Soroptimist mentees

1,474
Non-Soroptimist mentees

433
Soroptimist mentors

89
Non-Soroptimist mentors

THE SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF EUROPE PEACE PRIZE



For over ten years now, we have awarded the SIE Peace Prize to visionary women for their outstanding contributions towards the establishment or maintenance of peace in their own communities and abroad. From 2017 it will be presented every four years at the SIE Congress to honour these individuals deserving special recognition for their remarkable achievements to promote peace.

The most recent winner of the SIE Peace Prize is Dr. Edit Schlaffer. She is the founder of Women Without Borders, an advocacy and research organization that brings women together to create a new female security paradigm, and SAVE – Sisters Against Violent Extremism, the first global women’s anti-terror platform. Through these initiatives, Dr Schlaffer has realized numerous trailblazing projects to boost women’s self-confidence, thus establishing a female power base in countries transitioning from traditional societies to modernity.

Past Peace Prize recipients:

- Edit Schlaffer, 2015**
- Silvana Arbia, 2013**
- Sylvia Borren, 2011**
- Valdete Idrizi, 2009**
- Carla del Ponte, 2007**
- Vera Bohle, 2005**



SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF EUROPE

We are a worldwide network of professionally and socially diverse women.

We are a platform to serve communities, share knowledge and experience.

We educate and empower women and girls to lead.

We fight violence against women and girls.

We give women a voice by lobbying at all levels of society.

If you want to make a difference in your community, further women's issues on a wider scale, extend your professional network and make new friends outside your normal circles, we invite you to find out more about us!

soroptimisteurope.org

 [@SoroptimistInternationalofEurope](https://www.facebook.com/SoroptimistInternationalofEurope)

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