

## "Visions of Paradise" – Congress Berlin 2013

**Soroptimist International Europa (SIE)** looks forward to welcoming 2000 women from more than 80 countries to their 20th Congress, from 12th to 14th July 2013 in Berlin.

The theme of the Congress is

### **"Visions of Paradise" – Soroptimists Go for Water and Food.**

Starvation and a lack of clean water in developing countries, obesity and its consequences in industrialised nations: those are the extremes for which Soroptimists try to offer a sustainable solution. The Congress will inform participants, raise awareness and present practical approaches towards the solution of these problems.

#### **Topics of the SIE-Congress 2013 in Berlin are as follows:**

- unequal distribution of water and foodstuffs, causes and consequences,
- Sustainable agriculture, scientific and technological solutions
- local and traditional knowledge
- Sustainable projects, community and individual projects,
- best practice examples.

In the plenary sessions in the mornings, and "theme sessions" in the afternoons, findings will be discussed and practical solutions presented for developing and emerging countries.

#### **Conference Concept and Goal**

At a star-studded Congress findings and experiences will be presented from each of the component areas of water, agriculture and nutrition.

As international agents for change Soroptimists shall be enabled to transfer and apply this know-how in their respective countries and cultures.

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**Soroptimist International (SI)** is a worldwide service-organisation of women in the professions. As a global network of their members SI is committed to improving the living conditions of women and girls.

SI was founded in California, USA, in 1921. The first European club was initiated by the facial surgeon Dr. Suzanne Noël in Paris 1924. The surgeon Dr. Edith Peritz founded the first German club 1930 in Berlin.

**Today SI has 90.000 members in 125 countries, SIE 35.000 members in 58 countries.**

SI provides millions from their own resources for international major projects such as: training and promoting the interests of women and girls, help for war-traumatised women, education on and opposition of genital mutilation, information campaigns on anti-personnel mines and help for the victims.

Since 2007 the commitment of **SI Europe** has focused on water and sanitation facilities. In hundreds of projects in Africa and Eastern Europe and with a total investment of more than two million Euros Soroptimists promote sustainable measures to help people help themselves.

Further information can be found under:  
**[www.soroptimisteurope.org](http://www.soroptimisteurope.org)**



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