



International Geneva

Directory of Geneva Global Health Actors

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF EUROPE

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BACKGROUND AND MISSION

Soroptimist International of Europe (SI/E) is one of four federations of Soroptimist International (SI), a worldwide organisation of women in management and professions, working to build a better world for women and children through awareness, advocacy and action. SI/E is present in 61 countries across Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and the Caribbean, with over 1,255 clubs and 34,000 members. Its unions and clubs initiate and support projects aimed at improving the lives of women and girls. This can range from securing safe drinking water to helping women provide for their own livelihood. SI/E lobbies in international and European organisations, and in the countries of its member organisations, on issues related to human rights, gender equality, sustainable development and peace through international goodwill, understanding and friendship.

AREAS OF INTEREST

- poverty alleviation
- gender equality and education for all girls
- human rights
- ending violence against women
- healthcare provision
- aiding those affected by prostitution and human trafficking
- HIV/AIDS
- protection and conservation of the environment
- intercultural and interracial tolerance
- women's advancement in decision-making

HEALTH-RELATED ACTIVITIES

Through the work of its members, SI/E runs many programmes with health dimension. Their health-related projects involve building and refurbishing hospitals, the provision of medical supplies, training of nurses and midwives, supply of tests and

screening for diagnostics and health promotion, and various others, depending on the needs of women in different communities. SI/E is also engaged in improving and increasing access to safe drinking water. It actively promotes awareness of women's needs and their role in combating HIV/AIDS, including lobbying for access to affordable anti-retroviral drugs. In addition, SI/E supports projects implementing obstetric fistula clinics across Africa to assist women who are shunned from their families due to the condition. As a 'global voice for women', the organisation also actively advocates for improved healthcare at the local and national levels, and promotes education on reproductive health and rights.

GOVERNANCE AND STAFF

The headquarters of SI/E are located in Geneva and led by executive director Meltem Zourdos. It comprises of a 7-member staff and is overseen by a Board containing the President, the President elect, the immediate past president, four vice-presidents, the secretary general and the treasurer. These are joined by officers in areas such as communications, strategic leadership, etc. to form the Extended Board.

FUNDING SOURCES AND BUDGET

As a not-for-profit, volunteer organisation, SI/E relies on membership fees and fundraising. In 2016, EUR 6.5 million were raised by the different member organizations to carry out 4,189 projects.

PUBLICATIONS

Soroptimist International of Europe publishes a quarterly magazine, The Link. See: <http://www.soroptimisteurope.org/the-link-archive/>
For all publications, see: <http://www.soroptimisteurope.org/news-media/>

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