



Caserta, 22 November 2016

## **Sponsoring Young Women in STEM to Participate in the SIE Congress**

Dear Soroptimist friends

As the year 2016 draws to a close, the organisers are putting the finishing touches on the programme for the SIE Congress, which is so good it simply has to be shared beyond our membership! That is why we have come up with a unique idea which brings together the notions of investing in education, inspiring women interested in STEM disciplines (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) and opening our Congress to outstanding individuals who can gain an inside view of our organisation. For the first time ever, Unions and Single Clubs are invited to sponsor young women between the ages of 18 and 25 who are either studying or working in STEM fields. The Soroptimists are expected to cover their guest's travel, accommodation and SIE Congress expenses. Unions and Single Clubs that are unable to handle these costs may apply for SIE funding. The Federation has set aside €30,000 for this purpose. The candidates will be chosen on a first come, first served basis, whereby only one nominee can be sponsored per country.

I am extremely enthusiastic about the prospect of opening our Congress to these talented young women. It is not only the fact that they have the chance to attend the Congress and experience our organisation first hand, but they will also have the opportunity to network with the highly inspirational women speakers who are leaders in their fields. And let's not ignore the recruiting potential!

The application form and more details are available on the SIE Congress website ([www.soroptimistflorence2017.com](http://www.soroptimistflorence2017.com)). I urge you to take advantage of this special opportunity to further the careers of young women in STEM disciplines. It is a perfect way to show that Soroptimists truly are investing in education!

In friendship,

Maria Elisabetta de Franciscis  
SIE President 2015-2017