7/2014

PROGRAMME NEWS

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PROGRAMME TEAM!

What a couple of months it has been! May saw the first ever Programme & Advocacy Training Seminar for Programme Directors in Geneva, while July was the time for Governors and Presidents to meet in Copenhagen and review the work of the organisation over the past year. At both events, "the bottom-up approach" was the phrase of the day! As you leaf through this issue you will understand why: both events were the occasion to celebrate your *phenomenal* work – and both were the time to discuss how we can do this *even more* effectively in the future. A key ingredient to this is simply knowing what your Club is up to! This is why we are especially proud to announce that the new project reporting/PFR system, and its accompanying Interactive Map, are up and running and ready for you to use! We owe special thanks to all Programme Directors who tested the new system and gave their feedback. In this issue, you will find detailed information on how to do so. So, do keep us posted! The Programme Team looks forward to hearing from each and every one of you.

Maria Elisabetta de Franciscis, President Elect and head 'Programme & Advocacy'
Emine Erdem, Assistant Programme Director

This month: CELEBRATING YOUR WORK!



2014 PROJECT OF THE YEAR!

Soroptimist International Union of Italy

"56 Protected Courtrooms for Minors"





7/2014

PROGRAMME NEWS

BEST PRACTICES 2014

This year, our members submitted an unprecedented 113 projects for the Best Practice Awards 2014!

I commend the incredible determination and outstanding professionalism of all these projects. In addition to the many impressive fundraising initiatives that were submitted, I was astonished by the creativity of many of the projects and the personal involvement of Soroptimists working in friendship to help women and girls in concrete ways.

This year's jury included Elena Savu - Vice President Advocacy, Emine Erdem - Assistant Programme Director, Gerda Huisman - Communications Officer, Anne Simon - Executive Director and Bintou Koïta - Programme and Advocacy Assistant. Choosing the winners was no easy task for the jury but, evaluating each of the 113 projects according to a set of predetermined criteria, they managed to select the 11 winners in a fair and transparent way.

Enjoy reading about these projects on the SIE website and in the Best Practice Awards 2014 brochure. Make sure you spread the word about these fantastic projects – and perhaps think about replicating them in your own Club/Union?

Ulla Madsen, SIE President

Best Practice Awards 2014: EDUCATION

Winner!

SI Bamako Espoir (Mali) & **SI Schwyz**, **SI Burgdorf**, **SI Langenthal**, and **SI Bad Ragaz** (Switzerland) for the project **Construction of a school and related infrastructure in the village of Foura**

Runner up!

SI Murau (Austria) for the project **Language, a bridge to integration**

This project is also awarded the annual *Educate to Lead* Prize





7/2014

PROGRAMME NEWS

Best Practice Awards 2014: ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Winner!
Soroptimist International **Union of Italy** for the project **Cavezzo 5.9**



Runner up!
SI Apeldoorn (The Netherlands) for the project **'Just do it!' Empowerment training for teenage mothers**



Best Practice Awards 2014: ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Winner!
Soroptimist International **Union of France** for the project **National Film Gala**



Runner up!
SI Ulm Donaustadt (Germany) for the project **Shelter for women victims of violence**



7/2014

PROGRAMME NEWS

Best Practice Awards 2014: HEALTH

Winner!
SI Lomé Aurore (Togo) for the project
Support for neonatal unit in Lomé

Runner up!
SI Lviv (Ukraine) for the project
Improvement of sanitary conditions in burns ward





Best Practice Awards 2014: SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

Winner!
SI Antananarivo Mandrosoa
(Madagascar) for the project
Botanical Garden

Runner up!
SI Lysekil (Sweden) for the project
Women running for water





MEMBERSHIP CONSULTATION

First and foremost: Thank you to all the 707 Clubs across Soroptimist International of Europe who responded to the "Membership Consultation" survey!

An in-depth analysis of the results of the "Membership Consultation" was presented at the Governors' Meeting in Copenhagen earlier in July. It clearly showed what Single Clubs and Clubs belonging to Unions think helps them recruit and retain members – and what they find to be obstacles in this regard.

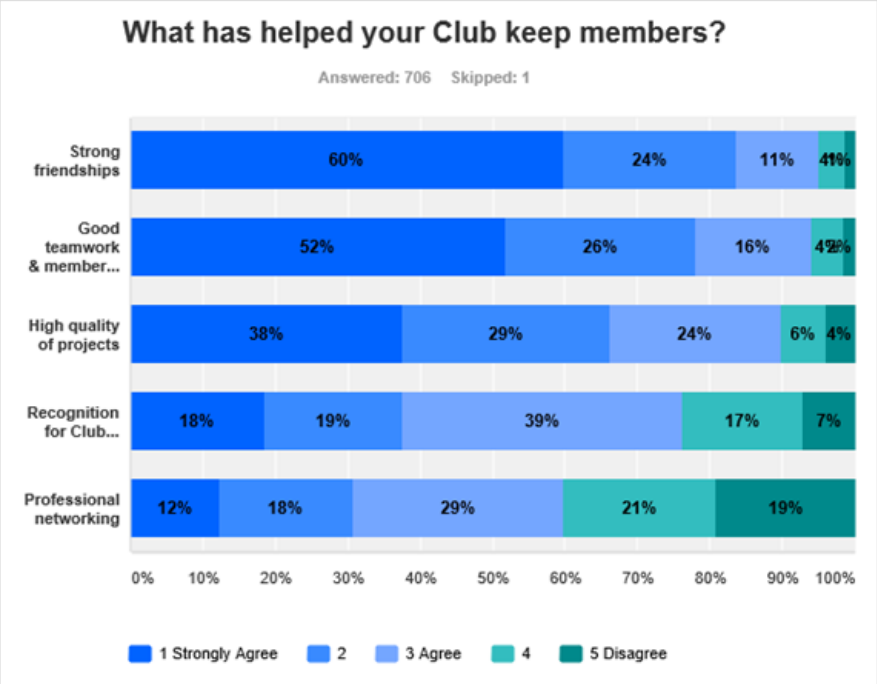
So what do members see as the keys to retaining members? The high quality of projects they undertake, good teamwork, and the resulting friendships! 85% of SIE members also agree that the high quality of projects is what helps them recruit new members!

Want to know more?

If you are a Club belonging to a Union: In the next couple of weeks, each Union will receive a detailed analysis of the results obtained from its Clubs. You can contact your Union to get the relevant results. As mentioned before, no Club will be singled out – all responses will remain confidential.

If you are a Single Club: If you would like a more detailed analysis of responses obtained from Single Clubs, simply contact Headquarters at programme@soroptimisteurope.org.

We look forward to continuing this important discussion with you. Thank you again for deepening our understanding of members' and Clubs' needs and challenges so that we can respond to them more effectively!



NEW REPORTING SYSTEM AND INTERACTIVE MAP

The brand new project reporting is up and running! It has been presented to Governors and tested by Programme Directors during the Programme & Advocacy Seminar and all their invaluable feedback is currently being integrated into the tool. Now it's your turn to try it!



The PFR system is no longer just a form that you fill out and don't hear from again! All PFR reports you submit from now on will appear on the Soroptimist Interactive Map – a map showing all reported Soroptimist International of Europe projects from the last year! All your projects and Friendship Links will appear on the Map so that your colleagues, beneficiaries, and all others who are interested can read about them and celebrate them! The Interactive Map is there to show, in real time, the dynamism and solidarity that are at the heart of Soroptimism.

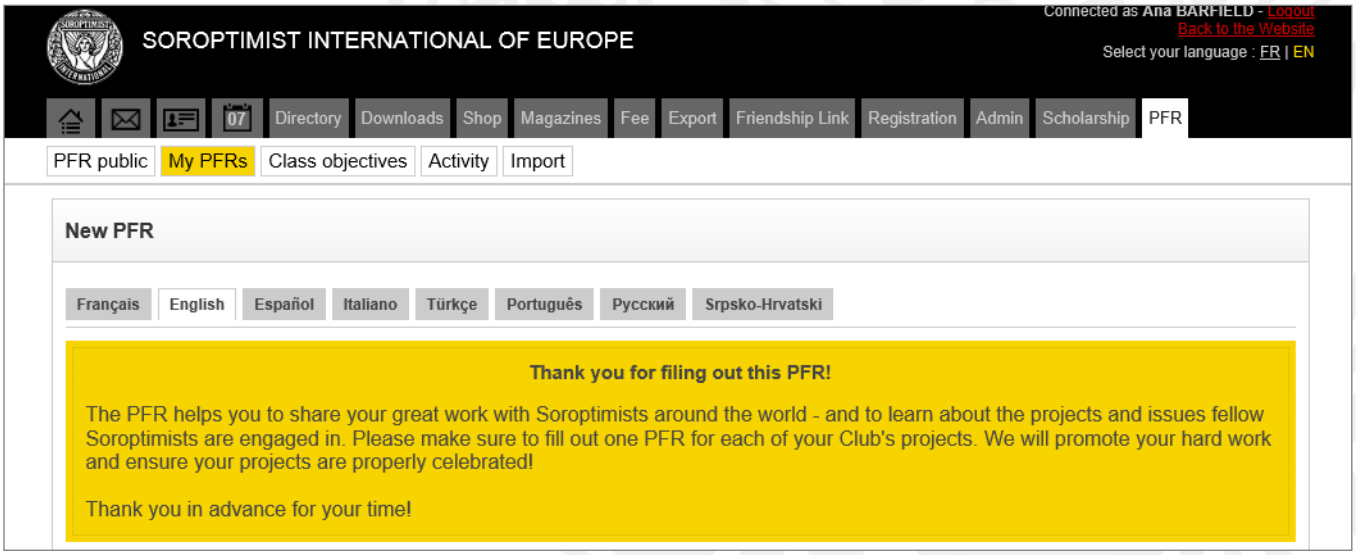
Sounds great! Where can I see the map?

Just go to the SIE website at www.soroptimisteurope.org and it will be right there waiting for you!

Looking great! So how do I get my Club's project onto the Map?

Actually there are three different ways to do that, so just take your pick:

- Go to the SIE homepage at www.soroptimisteurope.org and click on **Submit a PFR**. You will be asked to insert a username and password. These are the same as the ones you've been using to log into the SI PFR system.



- Go to the SIE homepage at www.soroptimisteurope.org and log into the **Members' Area** by clicking on the padlock icon. Enter your ID and Password. Then click on the **PFR** tab (on the top right of the toolbar), and then on the **Add a PFR** button.
- Go to the SIE homepage at www.soroptimisteurope.org and log into the **Members' Area** by clicking on the padlock icon. Enter your ID and Password. On the dashboard, click on the **PFR** button in the **My Club / My Union** area.

That's so easy! When will my project appear on the Map?

It usually takes SIEHQ a day or two to approve the projects as there are quite a few coming in each day. If we need more information about your project, we will get in touch with you by email.

What else do I need to know?

Not all information you submit will be publicly available – only the key information. Members of SIE will, however, be able to access the full reports. All reports are stored in the Members' Area of the website, on each Club's profile page.

Do I have to submit the project report in English? This is sometimes difficult…

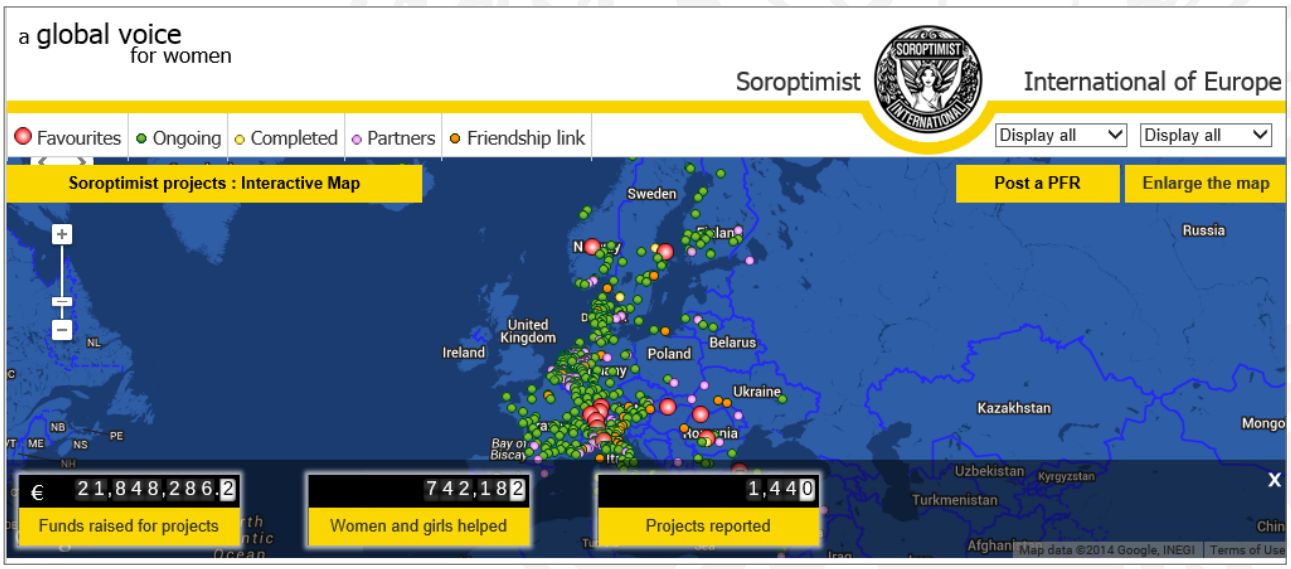
Not anymore! The PFR reporting system is now available in several different languages – English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, Serbo-Croatian, Spanish, and Turkish. This means you can submit your reports in any of these languages!

And what if I have a question, who can I write to?

You can get in touch with the Programme & Advocacy Team at programme@soroptimisteurope.org or with Bintou, the project manager for the Interactive Map, at bintou@soroptimisteurope.org

Brilliant! Whose idea was this?

At the end of her biennium, Past President Kathy Kaaf together with ED Anne Simon brainstormed on ways to make the thousands of wonderful and often life-changing projects done by Soroptimists better known – to fellow Soroptimists and to the world at large. The Soroptimist Interactive Map is the result of that fruitful discussion!



7/2014

PROGRAMME NEWS

PROGRAMME & ADVOCACY SEMINAR IN GENEVA

How can Soroptimists be even more effective advocates for women and girls at the local, national, and international levels? How can they design effective projects that bring about lasting change to women's lives? How can our members have their voices heard at the international level?

All this and much more was explored at the first ever Programme & Advocacy Seminar that took place in Geneva on May 23rd and 24th! The Seminar, led by President Elect Maria Elisabetta de Franciscis, welcomed 35 Programme Directors and Assistant Programme Directors from 29 different countries across Europe, the Middle East, and Africa.

As you can see from the photos, these were an action-packed two days with presentations, discussions, hands-on exploration of the new project reporting system, and even a visit to the United Nations! Indeed, Geneva, the centre of many of the world's leading international institutions, including the UN, was the ideal setting for putting Soroptimists' programme and advocacy work into a larger, global context.

To see more pictures from these intense and fun couple of days, please go to the SIE website or to the SIE Facebook page!

The Seminar was organised and delivered by your Programme & Advocacy Team:

Maria Elisabetta de Franciscis, President Elect
Elena Savu, Vice President Advocacy
Emine Erdem, Assistant Programme Director
Anne Simon, Executive Director
Ana Barfield, Programme & Advocacy Officer
Bintou Koïta, Programme & Advocacy Assistant



7/2014

PROGRAMME NEWS

WHAT WE TALKED ABOUT AT THE PROGRAMME & ADVOCACY SEMINAR

Our organisation and its 5 goals

Communication & Why it matters

Introduction to Programme & Advocacy

Programme: What's it all about?

Advocacy: What's it all about?

International institutions of concern to women

The Council of Europe's *Istanbul Convention*

New project reporting system & Interactive Map



7/2014

PROGRAMME NEWS

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PROJECT APPLAUDED BY GOVERNORS

The Governors' Meeting held this year in President Ulla's hometown, Copenhagen, wasn't only the occasion to review the work of the Federation as a whole and celebrate the very best projects undertaken by our members over the course of the year, but also to look ahead to some new initiatives the Federation is embarking on.



Indeed, the first-ever Federation-wide project on violence against women, presented by SIE Executive Director Anne Simon, was received with great enthusiasm by the 50 Governors! This initiative, which you had the chance to read about in an earlier edition of the *Programme News*, will seek to generate understanding of the complex ways in which social, political, economic, cultural, and legal factors determine violence against women. It will aim to make a lasting contribution to the development of effective, long-term and cost-effective prevention and response strategies and programs. A number of Governors from across SIE commended this initiative as timely and crucial to curbing violence against women – a phenomenon we have all witnessed time and again in our own communities through our work as Soroptimists.

We are also truly delighted to share with you the news that Soroptimist International of Great Britain and Ireland (SIGBI) will be joining forces with SIE for this ambitious project, as was announced by SIGBI President Elect Jenny Vince at the Governors' Meeting. With the UN Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the World Health Organisation (WHO), Judge Silvana Arbia, and other world renowned experts already on board, it is no exaggeration to say that momentum is growing fast!

The project will be guided by an Advisory Board of your fellow Soroptimists:

Marie Jeanne Bosia, Past SI & SIE President
Patricia Black, Past President SIGBI
Sigrid Ag, Past President SI Norway
Gerda Rosiers, President SI Belgium
Renata Trottmann Probst, SIE Constitution & By-Laws Chair
Flavia Pozzolini, Past President SI Italy
Maria Luisa Frosio, SIE Extension Committee Chair
Herta Kaschitz, Governor SI Austria

We hope that many of you will join us in this effort. Stay tuned for ways in which you and your Club/Union can get involved and contribute!

HAVE COMMENTS?

This is YOUR newsletter! If you have a comment, document, link, or anything else that you would like us to communicate in an upcoming edition of the newsletter, please share it with us! Feel free to send your news to:
programme@soroptimisteurope.org

CONTRIBUTORS

Emine Erdem, Assistant Programme Director
Maria-Elisabetta de Franciscis, President Elect
Anne Simon, Executive Director
Ana Barfield, Programme and Advocacy Officer
Bintou Koïta, Programme and Advocacy Assistant
Gizeh Becerra, PhD student, Gender issues