

Soroptimist



International d'Italia

acceleriamo il cambiamento

let's accelerate change

2021-2023



Soroptimist International

Soroptimist International is a worldwide organization of women involved in professional or managerial activities, aiming to the advancement of the status of women and girls and promoting human rights.

ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT


Soroptimist International (SI) was founded on October 3rd, 1921 in Oakland, California (USA). It has spread across the globe in 118 Countries and currently has a network of approximately 3000 Clubs and 70,000 Members. Every four years, SI organizes an International Convention open to all its Members. The upcoming Convention, chaired by President Maureen Maguire, will take place in Dublin on July 27th-29th, 2023.

ITS STRUCTURE

The Clubs in each Country make up Regions and National Unions, which are in turn grouped in five Federations, namely SI African Federation (SIAF), SI of the Americas (SIA), SI of Europe (SIE), SI of Great Britain and Ireland (SIGBI), and SI of the South West Pacific (SISWP). The European Federation (SIE) currently includes about 1200 Clubs, across 48 Countries in Europe, the Middle East and the Caribbean, accounting for approximately 31,500 Members. The Federations refer to the Soroptimist International presided over by the International President. The Soroptimist International of Italy – or Italian Union – currently accounts for 161 Clubs and about 5300 Members.

INTERNATIONAL STATUS

Soroptimist International holds a consultative status in the major United Nations agencies, namely ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council), UNESCO (United Nations



Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), ILO (International Labor Organization), WHO (World Health Organization), FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization), UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization), UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees), UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund), UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme). The European Federation (SIE) is represented, with a consultative vote, within the Council of Europe, OSCE (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe) and is a member of the European Women's Lobby (EWL).

EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

All the activities involving analysis, information and actions carried out by each Club translate into services, which make up the framework of national and international programming. SI programming finds inspiration in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – an action program for people, focusing on the planet as well as on prosperity, signed in September 2015 by the Governments of 193 UN member Countries. It includes the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) making up an extensive action program accounting for a total of 169 targets aimed at accompanying the transition process towards a new development model, ensuring economic growth and the control of natural resources consumption, the enhancement of wellbeing and the relaunch of the competitiveness of the production system to create more jobs and employment opportunities.

These guidelines have inspired the program of SI President Maureen Maguire, whose motto is *Opening Doors to a Bright Future*. Her action plan will aim at “Changing Lives



Through Education”, thus promoting and supporting education – including informal education – of women and girls, and enhancing their leadership skills.

Every year on December 10th the **Soroptimist Day** is celebrated across the world, coinciding with the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948). On that day, every year, the International President makes a worldwide fundraising appeal, to be allocated to a specific humanitarian project focusing on women.

THE ACTIVITY OF SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF ITALY AND ITS CLUBS

The activity of Soroptimist International of Italy (SII) for the 2021-2023 biennium will herald the motto *“Let’s accelerate change”*, which, through factual actions, will focus on bridging the gender gap – still existing in Italy more intensively than in other western Countries – and on achieving sustainable environmental, social and economic objectives.



Italian Soroptimists therefore, in compliance with the statutes and programs of Soroptimist International, will be committed in ensuring the improvement of the status of women, in peaceful communities, in sustainable environments, i.e. meeting the current needs without jeopardizing the possibilities of future generations to meet theirs.

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change



THE REBIRTH OF THE SOUNDING FOREST

In honor of our Founding Sisters and recalling the values that have come down to us, we will implement a reforestation project in the area affected and devastated by the Vaia storm in Val di Fiemme, in the Trentino Dolomites. The spruces in that area provide the invaluable wood used to make musical instruments, among which the prestigious Stradivari violins. The project envisages the planting of one spruce for every Club and every Member, along with the assessment of the impact of carbon dioxide reduction. SII will cooperate with the Magnifica Comunità of Val di Fiemme in the implementation of this project and the reclamation of the area, by organizing cultural events.

A FOREST TOGETHER

A project in partnership with “WeTree”: women launching a green deal to provide “fresh air” to the post-pandemic world. This project will take place in the Clubs’ territories to promote the development, creation and care of a green area to be dedicated to women who have distinguished themselves for their tangible commitment in accordance with the principles and aims of Soroptimist International. The Clubs in every Region will collaborate to identify the most appropriate and suitable location (urban areas, suburbs or extra urban areas) to create a green area, a “green corridor” to ensure biodiversity, or to plant even a single tree.

BEE OASIS

This project will be pursued by furthering educational activities for young generations, and by creating a network of small beekeepers (not Members) which SII will support in developing their activity with new technologies seeking to improve the quality of their work and their products.



STEM

Guidance and experimentation

The project, in partnership with IBM and numerous universities, seeks to do away with gender prejudices regarding STEM school subjects, paving the way for female students and broadening the options for their university education choices. IBM experts – women – will hold sessions in the classroom and in experimental laboratories, guiding the girls to discover the creativity, interdisciplinary features and social value of scientific disciplines.

STEM and Soft Skills

This project, in partnership with IBM, will enable female students who qualify to access the educational and certification platform set up by IBM, and further improve their skills with the support of consultants. The aim is to bridge the gap between school education and the requirements of job opportunities. This educational opportunity is open also to all Soroptimists.

GIRLS' DAY

The project, in partnership with the Italian Chambers of Commerce (CCIAA), enterprises and professional practices, will see the participation and support of Italian Soroptimist Clubs and Members in the organization of a day devoted to the guidance and training of girls in making their educational and professional choices. The girls will have the opportunity to meet professionals in their firms or professional practices during a regular working day and explore unexpected working scenarios.

ADVISORING

This project aims to disseminate the spirit and cultural heritage of Soroptimist International among new Members, through a focused exchange organized with Advisor Members.

MENTORING

The Mentoring project, launched by SII in 2011, along with the leadership training course organized by SDA Bocconi, is now celebrating its 10th anniversary with a broader horizon of skills, technologies and a larger number of girls involved. Thanks to the generosity and commitment of more and more Soroptimists willing to devote their time to young generations and transfer their human and professional experience, we can certainly drive change.

SOROPTIMIST LEADERSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP

Cultural meetings to further explore on Women's Leadership and Empowerment topics with Soroptimist figures of reference and external ones.

WIKIPEDIA

The project intends to create contents regarding important female figures indicated by the Clubs with the contribution of texts provided by Soroptimists themselves.

Financial education

This project on financial education for women stems from a cooperation between Soroptimist of Italy and the Bank of Italy.

Soroptimist International of Italy Photography Contest

This contest seeks to select photos depicting the actions, principles and goals of Soroptimist International and intends to boost good quality photography.



MAGGIE* The treasure of Seshat

This adventure videogame was created to combat, from the earliest school years, the gender stereotype that girls are less talented than boys in scientific subjects and, at the same time, to train the logical and mathematical thinking of little girls and boys in an entertaining and amusing way, helping them to overcome the anxiety of mathematics. The MIUR (Ministry of Education, University and Research) has put the app on the portal noisiamopari.it and Giunti Scuola has included it in the primary school book of the school subjects for the fourth and the fifth class.

**Network project*

Club Records for History and Identity

We are our history: identity and common purpose start from the awareness of the common roots and the sense of a collective process. The memory of a Club has to be the heritage of all Members and has to be available through accessible modes. The use of the website as records is already very efficient for the documents of the Italian Union and also the Clubs could decide to follow the same procedure.

Female Leadership

A training course in cooperation with SDA Bocconi (University of Economics in Milan) for young graduate women that are tutored by a Member as their mentor.

Young Female Music Talent Contest

This contest for young female musicians takes place every two years with a selection and a scholarship award.



“Orange the World” Campaign

16 Days of Activism (November 25th - December 10th) “Orange the world: End violence against women now!” We join the international campaign wanted by UNWomen and coordinated by the Center for Women’s Global Leadership.

Protected courtroom for the hearing of minors

A protected room inside the Courts of justice with video recording equipment and an appropriate furniture to receive a young child that has been a victim, though sometimes only a witness, of a crime of violence, so that the judge can take the deposition keeping the child away from a public hearing and without forcing him/her to undergo a direct confrontation with the other parties in the trial.

A Room of One’s Own

A room for the hearing of women that report stalking, mistreatment and any other form of violence. It is a protected environment, where a less traumatic approach with the investigators is used. The project has the aim to support the women while reporting the violence to the Police and on their way to respect and dignity of their person.

SI Sostiene in carcere (Support to women prisoners)

A project for women prisoners to give them work, financial independence and self-esteem in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice and the female sections of the Italian prisons, “supporting” the empowerment of the female inmates with vocational qualification courses and paid working activities in and out of jail.



THE CITY I WOULD LIKE

To reinvent the Women-friendly City

A questionnaire in cooperation with the Administrations and the local press.

Retrofitting of the urban space as reactivator for use

An invitation to middle school kids to draw and describe a change in their city to forward to the local Administrations. The Club of reference can assign a scholarship for this project and then publish it at national level.

BULLYING AND CYBERBULLYING

“Bullying is a predictor for the future violence against women” (WHO), so this project will organize meetings between parents and teachers with the support of a guide. The meetings aim to get awareness of the risks and problems connected to bullying and cyberbullying and to set out prevention and reaction strategies for the cases that could happen.

RESPONSIBLE CITIZENSHIP

Actions of shared administration of common goods and actions of civic education (e.g.: management of green areas – adopting a park). Sociality and care of common areas.

BABY PIT STOP

Setting up equipped spaces for mothers that want to nurse their babies when they are away from home. Project in partnership with Unicef.



SOROPTIMIST VADEMECUM

Responsible consumption: the sustainability of the daily actions.

C&C – WOMEN’S CULTURE FOR AN ECO-SUSTAINABLE CULTIVATION

One product from every Club

The project will be open to all Clubs: they will be invited to join the network estab-

lished on the occasion of EXPO 2015 and asked to indicate one local female producer of food excellence (not a Member) and at least one of her products.

The product will be chosen according to quality criteria, promoting knowledge and awareness in the consumer through a process of enhancing quality products linked to the region, the environment and the short food processing chain.

- **SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF ITALY AWARD**

This award is assigned every two years to a personality that during her lifetime has shown to be clearly engaged in tune with the principles and aims of the Soroptimist International.

- **25 YEAR FUND AWARD**

This is a study award meant for a research on a topic connected to the projects of the biennium.



Soroptimist International d'Italia

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