

**“Visions of Paradise” - Soroptimists go for Water and Food  
Concept for the 20<sup>th</sup> European Congress of Soroptimist International Europe (SI/E);  
Berlin, 12<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> July, 2013, Hotel Maritim, Stauffenbergstrasse**

**Common Aims**

Starvation and malnutrition on one side, obesity and its corresponding complications on the other, are the extremes that the congress wants to focus on and to find practicable solutions for. SI/E wants to enlighten, inform, and raise awareness to tackle these problems.

**Aims of the 2013 European Congress in Berlin**

SI/E intends to inform congress participants about, and raise awareness of, the following main fields:

- Inequality in supply of water and food, the reasons and consequences,
- Sustainability in agriculture with emphasis on scientific and technological solutions
- local and traditional knowledge,
- Projects with sustainable assistance programmes, jointly-run projects, stand-alone applications and practical programmes, examples of best-practice.

**Developing / Emerging Nations**

Starvation and malnutrition should be decreased by scientific and technical solutions for safeguarding food supplies. Women should be enabled to play an active role within agricultural production and sustainability, to improve the livelihoods of their families and their community environments.

- Availability of safe water resources,
- Optimised cultivation and irrigation techniques,
- Increase in sustainable productivity and small scale farming, fishery, forestry, livestock breeding,
- Biodiversity, knowledge of new, old, and ‘forgotten’ crop species,
- Knowledge of climate change and its consequences, knowledge of plants in arid areas,
- Knowledge of cottage gardens, pre-school- and school gardens,
- Storage, preservation and distribution of foodstuffs,
- Strengthening the role of women in agriculture and as proprietors of land
- Offering increased access to education and income generating activities,
- Availability of microcredit facilities and better political frameworks.

**Industrialised Nations**

- Awareness of healthy eating concepts through developing education and skills programmes,
- Knowledge of sustainability in farm production and food,
- Raising awareness of the immorality of speculation with agricultural resources and land grabbing,
- Providing a fairer global trading system and taxation regime,
- Advocating cottage gardens, kindergarten and school gardens,
- Reducing food wastage, raising awareness of environmental issues and sustainability of resources.

The thematic division of the Congress and the accompanying workshops has been conceived to introduce new knowledge and provide practical solutions for developing/emerging nations and industrialised nations.

**Overall Message**

SI/E clubs from 58 countries have set their ideas in motion through partnerships and joint projects. They have formed networks together with NGOs and other organisations (Welthungerhilfe, Women for Water, etc) in working for the common aim of human health, safeguarding nutrition in developing and emerging nations, as well as promoting dietary diversity in industrialised countries.