

# STORIES OF IMPACT AND INSPIRATION

**Welcome  
to our poster  
exhibition!**

**A celebration  
of our most  
powerful  
projects.**

**A vibrant display of hope, progress, and resilience. Each poster tells a story—reflecting our commitment to a better future for women, girls, and communities around the world.**

This exhibition brings to life the core of our NGO's work across five key areas: Education, Women's Empowerment, Ending Violence Against Women, Health & Food Security, and Sustainability. Together, they reflect our mission to **educate**, **empower**, and **enable** women and girls to thrive.

The projects highlight innovative solutions for sustainability, food security, and women's empowerment across society. These posters celebrate not just milestones, but the people and partnerships behind them.

As you explore, look for projects that embody our values of inclusion, collaboration, and impact. Each poster shows change in motion—girls accessing education, communities standing up against violence, and women stepping into leadership.



**To our members,  
invited guests,  
and all who've joined us:**

Immerse yourself in stories of courage, innovation, and change.

Let's celebrate the women and girls transforming their lives—and the world.



Soroptimist  
International  
of Europe

# WHO ARE SOROPTIMISTS? A GLOBAL VOICE FOR WOMEN!



**Soroptimists** are professional women who are actively engaged in their communities, who have a global vision of the world and of women's issues and who are aware of local challenges facing women, their conditions and their rights.

How do **Soroptimists** advocate for women's rights? Soroptimist International of Europe holds special consultative status at the **United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)** and participatory status at the **Council of Europe** and the **European Women's Lobby**. We also participate in the work of the **Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe**, the world's largest security-oriented intergovernmental organisation.

**Soroptimists work in 5 areas of focus.** Together, they reflect our mission to educate, empower, and enable women and girls to thrive. We do that through raising awareness, taking action and advocate.



EDUCATION

WOMEN'S  
EMPOWERMENT

VIOLENCE  
AGAINST WOMEN

HEALTH AND  
FOOD SECURITY

SUSTAINABILITY

**Soroptimist International  
of Europe (SIE)**

## NUMBER OF MEMBERS:

29,778 women in  
1,146 Soroptimist Clubs

## WHERE WE ARE?

There are Soroptimist Clubs  
in 43 countries across Europe,  
the Middle East and the  
Caribbean.



Soroptimist  
International  
of Europe

DISASTER RECOVERY FUND GRANT 2023

# EDUCATION FOR FORCIBLY DISPLACED WOMEN



**The benefit:** The project gave displaced women a path to independence through practical, market-relevant skills. Many have already found employment or are in the process of starting businesses or securing interviews. Beyond economic empowerment, the initiative restored hope and dignity in the wake of trauma. Some beneficiaries are now engaged with the Soroptimist movement as volunteers, extending the cycle of empowerment.

**PFR: 25510, 25798**

**The project:** In response to the displacement of over 100,000 ethnic Armenians from Artsakh, SI Yerevan launched a relief and development initiative. Partnering with the TeachMe Innovation Training Center, 37 displaced women received vocational training in Social Media Marketing, Graphic Design, and UI/UX Design. Additionally, 100 families were provided with warm blankets and bed linen across Armenia.



**Soroptimists of Single Club Yerevan, Armenia**

## PROJECT ACHIEVED BY:

- Promoting.
- 10 women completed Graphic Design training; 5 completed UI/UX training.
- 9 women have already secured employment; others are actively interviewing or launching businesses.
- 100 families received blankets and bedding in the relief effort.

## WOMEN & GIRLS REACHED:

**137**

## FUNDS RAISED:

**1,000 €**

## DISASTER RECOVERY

## FUND (SIE):

**14,971 €**



EDUCATION



Soroptimist International of Europe

# GIRLS' DAY 2021 – STEM EVENT



**The project:** In response to the underrepresentation of women in STEM fields, Soroptimist clubs (7) of the Helsinki Metropolitan area, Finland, organised a virtual Girls' Day STEM event for secondary school pupils. Originally planned as an in-person gathering at the Finnish Science Centre Heureka, the event was transformed into a fully online experience due to COVID-19. Girls' day events have been arranged three times, in 2019 and 2023, at the Finnish Science Centre (picture), Heureka. The fourth event will take place on October 9, 2025.

**The benefit:** The event empowered girls to explore science and technology in a practical and engaging way. It helped dismantle stereotypes, increased interest in STEM subjects, and reached students who may not have been able to attend an in-person event. It also strengthened collaboration between schools, universities, industry, and the Soroptimist community, with lasting educational resources and inspiration. **PFR:20438**



**Soroptimists of Helsinki, Finland, together with 5 different Clubs**

## PROJECT FACTS:

The event reached 1,000 pupils and teachers virtually and included over 10 topic-specific workshops. Pupils and their teachers participated in a 3.5-hour programme featuring hands-on virtual workshops on topics like AI, bioproducts, nanotech, packaging, and meteorology –delivered by universities, companies, and organizations. All participating groups were offered free entrance to the Science Center Heureka in winter/spring 2021-2022. Excess sponsor funding will be used to support STEM education and fund a future Girls' Day in 2023.

**WOMEN & GIRLS REACHED:**  
**over 700**

**FUNDS RAISED:**  
**20,000 €**

## PARTNERS:

**The Finnish Science Centre Heureka, companies, universities, associations and communities**



Soroptimist International of Europe

EDUCATION

BEST PRACTICE AWARD 2023

# BeOn - Bewusst Online



**Soroptimists  
of Ellwangen/Jagst,  
Germany**



**BeOn  
Bewusst  
Online**

SI-Präventionsprojekt  
an weiterführenden Schulen  
in Ellwangen



2021/22:	26 Workshops	627 participants
2022/23:	39 Workshops	883 participants
2023/24:	57 Workshops	1235 participants
2024/25:	61 Workshops	1283 participants

BeOn Project Elements

- Awareness**  
Cross-target-group
- Participation**  
of children and adolescents, parents, and teachers
- Sustainability**  
- consistent communication, project duration,  
and support through school social work

**The project:** To promote healthier digital habits among youth, the Soroptimists of Ellwangen launched BeOn – Bewusst Online, a media education project across local schools. With work-shops, expert videos, and peer-to-peer learning, BeOn addresses online risks like cyberbullying and hate speech, involving students, parents and educators.

**The benefit:** With around 6,000 students reached so far, BeOn empowers young people to navigate the digital world responsibly. It fosters awareness, encourages safer online behavior, and builds a bridge between generations in the digital age. The project is sustainable, locally funded, and expandable to other regions. **PFR: 21305**

## PROJECT FACTS:

The project was launched in the 2021/2022 academic year and is being implemented across six secondary schools in Ellwangen. It targets students in grades 5, 6, 7 and 8, and will run for a minimum of four academic years.

## WOMEN & GIRLS REACHED:

**6,000**

## FUNDS RAISED:

**60,000 €**



EDUCATION



Soroptimist  
International  
of Europe

ACTION FUND GRANT 2020

# ANGELS FLOWN IN MY WORLD

Economic Development Support of Socially Vulnerable Women

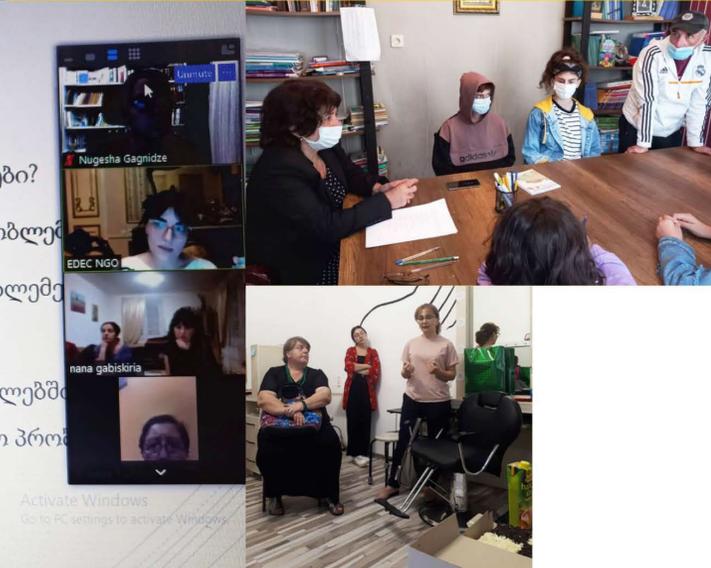


Women in Georgia are at a high risk of violence from male intimate partners according to the National Study on Violence Against Women, carried out by the UN Women.

Approximately 14 % of ever-partnered women aged 15-64 reported having experienced physical, sexual, and/or emotional violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime.

სამოქალაქო ინტერესების დაცვა

- ✓ რა არის სამოქალაქო ინტერესები?
- ✓ როგორ ვიკვლევთ სათემო პრობლემებს?
- ✓ როგორ ვახდენთ სათემო პრობლემებს პრიორიტეტიზაციას?
- ✓ თქვენი კომპეტენციების ფარგლებში შეგიძლიათ რეაგირება სათემო პრობლემებზე?



**The project:** In response to the economic vulnerability of domestic abuse survivors in Georgia, SI Kutaisi-Colchis launched this project. The initiative provided vocational training in hair-dressing to ten women living in state-run shelters. Each participant completed 300 hours of intensive training aimed at equipping them for employment or self-employment, thereby reducing the risk of returning to abusive environments.

**The benefit:** The project empowered survivors to reclaim their independence through professional skills and economic stability. More than job training, it offered hope, dignity, and a path toward self-reliance. The emotional and psychological impact was profound—women left the programme feeling capable, supported, and ready to rebuild their lives.

**PFR: 18828**

Sorooptimists of Single Club Kutaisi-Colchis, Georgia

## PROJECT ACHIEVED BY:

- Identifying a critical gap in post-shelter support for survivors of domestic violence,
- Securing strategic partnerships with local civil society and municipal bodies,
- Providing intensive, hands-on vocational training that leads directly to employability and personal empowerment.

WOMEN & GIRLS REACHED: 10

FUNDS RAISED: 4,590 €

## PARTNERS:

City Hall of Kutaisi Municipality  
Education Development and Employment Center,  
SoS Kinderdorf Kutaisi representative office



EDUCATION



Sorooptimist International of Europe

ACTION FUND GRANT 2022

# ROMA COMMUNITY: AWARENESS OF HEALTHY LIFESTYLE



**The project:** To improve health awareness and access among the Roma community, SI Peja implemented a targeted project promoting hygiene, disease prevention, and family planning. The club organized focused sessions for three groups—children, youth, and women—delivered by healthcare professionals. Topics included immunization, healthy living, and accessing healthcare services.

**The benefit:** The project helped Roma families gain better access to quality health services and supported the immunization of children in the community. It also empowered participants with knowledge about hygiene and family planning, contributing to long-term improvements in public health and wellbeing. **PFR: 23769**

**Soroptimists  
of Single Club Peja,  
Kosovo**

## PROJECT FACTS:

- Three focus groups were engaged: children, youth, and women.
- Sessions were delivered with the help of local medical professionals.
- The project led to improved immunization rates and increased health service usage among Roma families.

## WOMEN & GIRLS REACHED:

**455**

## FUNDS RAISED:

**N/A**

## PARTNERS:

**NGO Civic League of Kosovo  
"Peja Branch"**



EDUCATION



Soroptimist  
International  
of Europe

BEST PRACTICE AWARD 2022

# EDUCATION FUND FOR CLIENTS OF THE ORANGE HOUSE



**Soroptimists of Almere, Kingdom of the Netherlands and of Suriname**

### PROJECT ACHIEVED BY:

- Working with a local women's shelter to identify candidates for their educational programme,
- Providing the women selected with support to choose and complete their studies to gain future independence,
- Raising awareness of the importance of education as a means to independence and to break the cycle of abuse.

**WOMEN & GIRLS REACHED:**  
**2 (by 2025 - 2026)**

**FUNDS RAISED:**  
**33,000 €**

**PARTNERS:**  
**The Municipality of Almere, the Mayor and Council, Identity Games**

**The project:** To support women in shelters toward economic independence, the Soroptimists of Almere launched an education-focused project. They selected candidates through interviews, provided laptops, and tailored study plans. With strong local engagement and creative fundraising—including a special edition of Monopoly—they raised 33,000 € to fund the first two participants.

**The benefit:** Two women have already transformed their lives through education—one is employed, and the other near graduation. The project boosted visibility for Soroptimist values and inspired city-wide support. Thanks to replicable tools and templates, other clubs can now adopt this model to empower women globally. **PFR: 15589**

EDUCATION



Soroptimist International of Europe

## FRIENDSHIP LINK COOPERATION

# EMPOWERING TEENAGED GIRLS

TO BECOME THEIR OWN ACTORS OF CHANGE



**The benefit:** The initiative helped girls build confidence, critical thinking skills, and a clearer vision for their futures. Through interaction with trainers and speakers, participants began to shift perspectives and feel more equipped to define their goals and choices. The project empowered girls to become active agents in their own lives, regardless of their background. **PFR: 21381**

**The project:** In a collaboration between SI Follo and SI Rygge (Norway) and SI Nisporeni (Moldova), a personal development programme was launched for teenage girls in Moldova. The project aimed to empower girls aged 15-18 through training sessions focused on communication, self-presentation, educational planning, sexual violence prevention, and future career perspectives. Sessions were held in the villages of Grozesti and Seliste, using participatory methods that combined theory and practical exercises.



**Soroptimists of Rygge and Follo, Norway and Nisporeni, Moldova**

### PROJECT ACHIEVED BY:

- Collaborating across three Soroptimist clubs, two from Norway and one from Moldova to pool resources and expertise,
- Designing a targeted educational programme, combining practical training with open dialogue,
- Delivering interactive sessions in local schools that encouraged girls to think critically, set goals, and speak up.

### WOMEN & GIRLS REACHED:

**55**

### FUNDS RAISED:

**2,130 €**

### PARTNERS:

**The Education, Youth and Sports Department of the Local Council of Nisporeni**



EDUCATION



Soroptimist International of Europe

# STANDING UP FOR WOMEN IN TIMES OF CRISIS: ENHANCING WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS



**Soroptimists  
of Zagreb Centre,  
Croatia**



**The project:** In response to the 2020 earthquake in the Sisak-Moslavina region of Croatia, SI Zagreb Centre supported local women entrepreneurs who chose to stay and rebuild. Partnering with the Association of Female Entrepreneurs of Banovina and others, they developed and delivered five tailor-made workshops to boost resilience, personal branding, marketing, and business skills. The final event featured a round table discussion and the launch of a joint website for participating entrepreneurs.

## PROJECT FACTS:

Five intensive two-day workshops were delivered by both experts and Soroptimist members. The project received national visibility through a Nova TV feature.

## WOMEN & GIRLS REACHED:

**13**

## FUNDS RAISED:

**7,650 €**

## PARTNERS:

**Association of Women Entrepreneurs  
of Banovina Tagoras Ltd.**



**The benefit:** The project empowered 13 women to grow their businesses and invest in their community. It resulted in a joint tourist and catering initiative, complete with a logo and website. The workshops inspired collaboration, visibility, and renewed motivation in a region marked by crisis. **PFR: 23746**



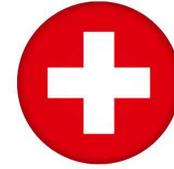
**WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT**



Soroptimist  
International  
of Europe

BEST PRACTICE AWARDS 2024

# FINANCE COURSES FOR WOMEN



KOSTENLOSE KURSE FÜR FRAUEN

## HAST DU DEINE FINANZEN IM GRIFF?

Das Thema Geld und Finanzen begegnet uns allen täglich und trotzdem befassen gerade wir Frauen uns viel zu wenig damit. Das muss aber nicht so bleiben.

Du möchtest mehr Klarheit über dein eigenes Budget gewinnen? Du möchtest wissen, wie du dich für das Alter absichern kannst oder möchtest verstehen, wie du deine finanzielle Unabhängigkeit in einer Beziehung bewahrst? Dann melde dich noch heute an einen oder mehrere unserer kostenlosen Kurse an.

JETZT ANMELDEN!



Scanne dafür den QR-Code und fülle anschließend das Formular aus. Bei Fragen melde dich unter [events.siaarau@gmail.com](mailto:events.siaarau@gmail.com)

Dieses Angebot wird ermöglicht durch den SI Club Aarau in Zusammenarbeit mit der Budget- und Schuldenberatung Aargau - Solothurn.



**The project:** To close the financial literacy gap between men and women, the Soroptimists of Aarau launched free budgeting and retirement planning courses for women. In partnership with Budget- und Schuldenberatung Aargau Solothurn, they delivered three tailored sessions and created a brochure titled "Everything about your budget" to support long-term learning.

**The benefit:** The project gave women the tools to take control of their finances and reduce stress. Participants gained practical knowledge about budgeting, social insurance, and pensions. The courses boosted confidence and helped women make informed decisions for their financial future. **PFR: 25900**

**Soroptimists  
of Aarau,  
Switzerland**

### PROJECT ACHIEVED BY:

- Identifying a significant problem and working with credible partners,
- Offering personalised support,
- Working on a toolkit compiling targeted information to support the women concerned.

### WOMEN & GIRLS REACHED:

**45**

### FUNDS RAISED:

**N/A**

### PARTNERS:

**Budget- und Schuldenberatung Aargau  
Solothurn**

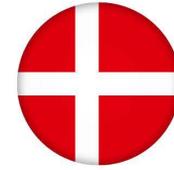


**WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT**



Soroptimist  
International  
of Europe

# CLEAN WATER FOR VILLAGE IN KABEKEL IN GAMBIA



**The project:** To address severe water scarcity in the village of Kabekel, SI members from Denmark partnered with SI Banjul to drill a borehole, install a solar-powered water pump, build three water towers, and lay pipes to 64 residential compounds. The villagers contributed by digging trenches and laying the pipes themselves, creating strong community involvement and ownership.

**The benefit:** Access to clean water has improved health, hygiene, and daily life for the entire village. Women now spend less time fetching water, children no longer suffer from waterborne parasites, and improved hygiene has led to better school attendance and performance. Women have also begun gardening and goat breeding, using the income to support their families and send children—especially girls—to school.  
**PFR: 13452, 22312, 25113**

**Soroptimists  
of Silkeborg,  
Denmark**

## PROJECT ACHIEVED BY:

- 64 compounds now have water taps.
- 3 water towers installed and connected via underground piping.
- Village has saved 400 dalasi for maintenance.
- Ongoing site visits have taken place annually (except 2020) to monitor progress.

## WOMEN & GIRLS REACHED:

**2,000**

## FUNDS RAISED:

**13,514 € + 4,000 €**

## PARTNERS:

**The village of Kabekel, Gambia**

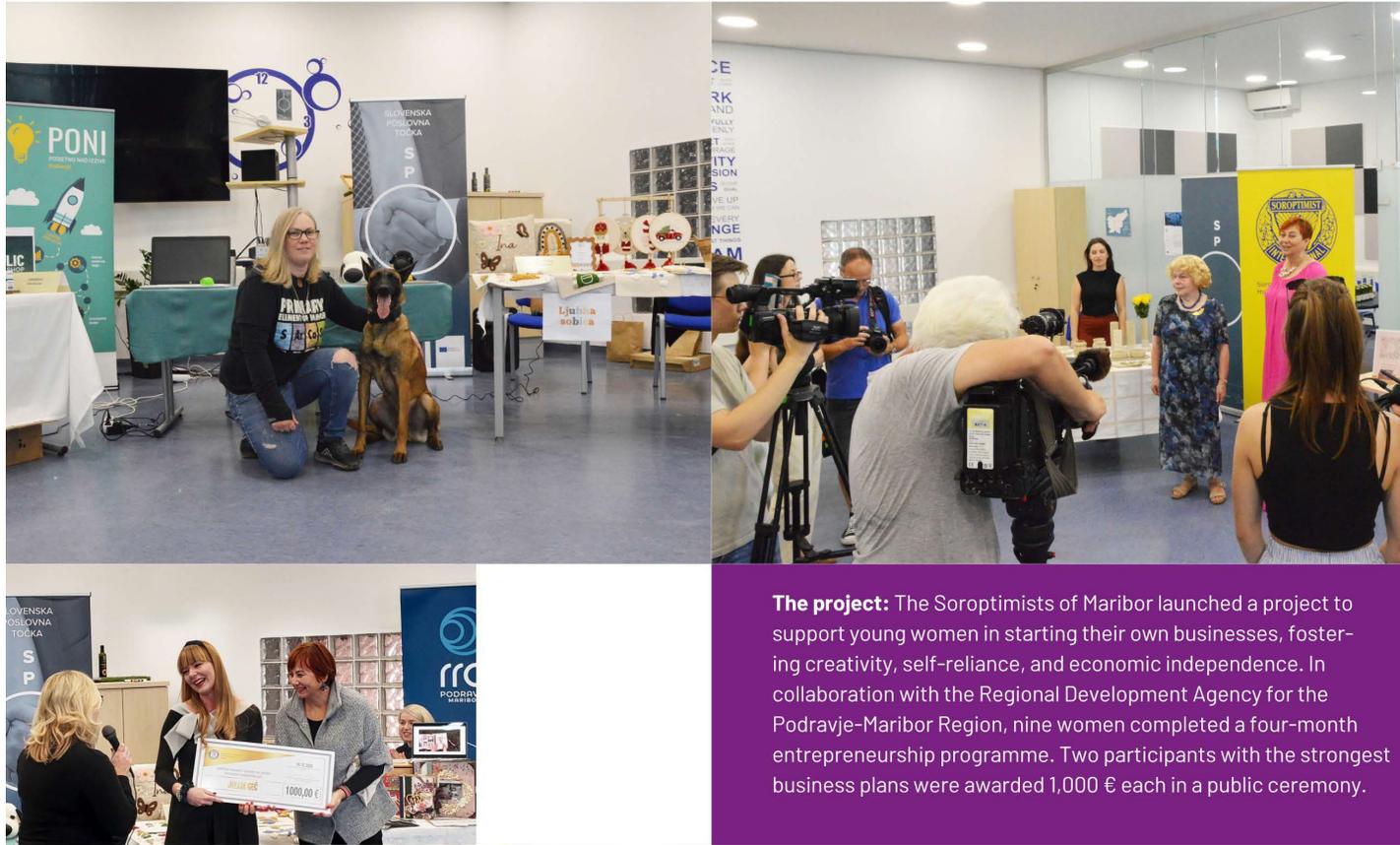


**WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT**



Soroptimist  
International  
of Europe

# EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF FEMALE ENTREPRENEURS



## Soroptimists of Maribor, Slovenia

### PROJECT ACHIEVED BY:

- Partnering with a regional development agency to deliver a structured mentorship programme,
- Providing financial support and public recognition to two outstanding participants,
- Maintaining post-programme collaboration by involving awardees in future Soroptimist-led community workshops.

### WOMEN & GIRLS REACHED:

9

### FUNDS RAISED:

N/A

### PARTNERS:

Regional Development Agency for the Podravje-Maribor Region

**The project:** The Soroptimists of Maribor launched a project to support young women in starting their own businesses, fostering creativity, self-reliance, and economic independence. In collaboration with the Regional Development Agency for the Podravje-Maribor Region, nine women completed a four-month entrepreneurship programme. Two participants with the strongest business plans were awarded 1,000 € each in a public ceremony.

**The benefit:** The initiative provided mentorship, funding, and long-term opportunities for growth. It not only helped launch women-led businesses but also created new community offerings—such as workshops in graphic design and kinesiology—led by the awardees. The programme increased participants' confidence, visibility, and economic potential.

PFR: 26295



WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT



Soroptimist International of Europe

# SISTERS HAND IN HAND AND E-COMMERCE



**The project:** Held in 2024/2025 at Karabağlar City Council, this seminar is part of an ongoing program aimed at empowering women who migrated to Izmir from various regions of Turkey. They often have basic education but lack access to technical or entrepreneurial training. The project focuses on bridging that gap through theoretical and practical education in personal development, digital business, and emotional resilience.

**The benefit:** The seminar empowers women by building job-readiness and digital entrepreneurship skills. Participants gain tools to start businesses, enter the job market, or earn through e-commerce. It also fosters self-confidence, social inclusion, and collaboration among women, promoting both emotional well-being and socio-economic integration.

**PFR: 24157**

**Soroptimists  
of Izmir,  
Türkiye**

## PROJECT ACHIEVED BY:

- Partnering with city councils, psychologists, and digital training experts,
- Offering accessible, free training on emotional regulation and digital business,
- Building on feedback and success from the previous two years,
- Creating awareness of the vital role of NGOs and local cooperation in women's empowerment.

## WOMEN & GIRLS REACHED:

**40**

## FUNDS RAISED:

**N/A**

## PARTNERS:

**Konak Municipality,  
Ege University**



**WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT**



Soroptimist  
International  
of Europe

BEST PRACTICE AWARD 2024

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE SPOTLIGHT: SAY NO TO FEAR



**The benefit:** The initiative raised public awareness and engaged a wide cross-section of the community—especially youth—in open dialogue around violence prevention. It strengthened regional partnerships, encouraged institutional collaboration, and empowered women and students through education and mentorship, creating a more united and responsive local network.

**PFR: 26036**

**The project:** As part of the global 16 Days of Activism campaign, the Soroptimists of Ruse launched a dynamic project to raise awareness of domestic violence and support women’s shelters. Their activities included a city-centre flashmob, student-led theatre, training sessions, book presentations, and mentoring programmes. They illuminated the Pantheon in orange, signed a regional agreement with 11 local organisations, and collaborated with authorities, educators, and international partners to drive systemic change.



**Soroptimists of Ruse, Bulgaria**

## PROJECT ACHIEVED BY:

- Carrying out large-scale awareness-raising actions,
- Collaborating with major stakeholders and professionals in the field, emphasising the voices of victims,
- Garnering media attention for greater resonance.

## WOMEN & GIRLS REACHED:

**1,000**

## FUNDS RAISED:

**N/A**

## PARTNERS:

**Zonta Club + University + Association Centre Dynamica + Youth Red Cross + Municipality of Ruse, Regional and City Court, Regional Police Headquarters, Forensic Medicine Ward of Kaneff University Hospital, Theatre workshop “Patilanci”, Ruse**



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



Soroptimist International of Europe

# SIGURHÆÐIR, VICTORY HEIGHTS - SERVICE CENTRE FOR SURVIVORS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



Victory Heights provides holistic, trauma-informed care in collaboration with local services, healthcare, legal counseling, and law enforcement to support women affected by gender-based violence



For further information please visit [sigurhaedir.is](http://sigurhaedir.is) or [facebook.com/sigurhaedir](https://facebook.com/sigurhaedir)

Heiðmörk 1a, 800 Selfoss  
+354 843 5566  
[sigur@sigurhaedir.is](mailto:sigur@sigurhaedir.is)



**The project:** Victory Heights is the first and only specialised centre for gender-based violence (GBV) services in South Iceland. Developed by the Soroptimist Club of South Iceland, the project established a safe space offering therapy, support, and GBV education. After 10 months of preparation, the center opened in March 2021. It also serves as a regional coordination hub for all 23 partners and professionals, bringing together state agencies, municipalities, and NGOs.

Photo: Agnes Hlynisdóttir

**The benefit:** Victory Heights provides vital support to survivors of GBV, including trauma therapy, counselling, and referral services—locally accessible and free of charge. It has become a trusted resource, with client numbers far exceeding initial projections. Referrals come from police, healthcare, municipalities and child protection agencies, while public awareness is growing through word of mouth. The centre fosters collaboration and systemic improvement in the fight against gender-based violence (GBV). **PFR: 19220, 20125**

## Soroptimists of Sudurland, Iceland

### PROJECT FACTS:

- In 2020, 25 sisters in the SI Club Sudurland decided to prioritise the goal of eradicating gender-based violence.
- Victory Heights opened its doors in Selfoss in March 2021.
- Grants received from Soroptimist International of Europe **Action Fund** 2021, 18,000 €, and 2023, 8,000 €.
- Victory Heights is a member of the EFJCA, European Family Justice Centre Alliance.

**WOMEN AND GIRLS REACHED:**  
**Approx. 400**  
**in advanced therapy**

**FUNDS RAISED: 2020 - 2024**  
**1.213,400 €**

### PARTNERS:

**All 15 counties belonging to the South and their social services, The Hospital of the South and its nine health clinics throughout the South, the two Police Organisations and two District Commissioners covering the South, The Human Rights Centre of Iceland and The Women's Legal Counselling (NGO)**



Soroptimist International of Europe

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

BEST PRACTICE AWARD 2022

# I STAND WITH HER - ORANGE KUWAIT



**The project:** To raise awareness about gender-based violence, SI Kuwait launched Orange Kuwait 2021 as part of the global 16 Days of Activism campaign. Under the theme "I Stand With Her," the initiative focused on engaging men as allies by collecting and sharing video messages on social media. SI Kuwait partnered with The Body Shop, TONS, and Layla Harmony spa, hosted a motorcycle ride with the local biker club and the Australian Embassy, and held a final panel event with around 75 attendees. Prominent buildings across Kuwait were lit in orange, and Soroptimists actively engaged in TV and radio appearances to amplify the message.

**The benefit:** The campaign sparked nationwide awareness and highlighted the importance of allyship in ending violence against women. It engaged the public, media, and private sector, empowered men to speak up, and united the community under a shared message of support. The initiative also strengthened Soroptimist Kuwait's presence and partnerships across the country. **PFR: 20031**



**Soroptimists of Single Club of Kuwait, Kuwait**

## PROJECT ACHIEVED BY:

- Working with local companies to amplify visibility and awareness,
- Uniting people behind a powerful theme,
- Alerting the media and carrying out activities with them,
- Carrying out diverse activities for maximum impact.

## WOMEN & GIRLS REACHED:

**75**

## FUNDS RAISED:

**6,061 €**

## PARTNERS:

**The Body Shop, TONS, Tristar Motors, Layla Harmony Spa**



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



Soroptimist International of Europe

BEST PRACTICE AWARD 2023

# PRZEMOCOMETR® (VIOLENCE METRE) LET'S FIGHT VIOLENCE TOGETHER



The Violence Meter: let's confront violence together  
The project is funded by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA Grants and Norway Grants under the Active Citizens Fund.

## The Violence Meter

What does consent mean? Consent is the deliberate, voluntary, and explicit act of giving your approval in a particular situation. You have the right to change your mind whenever you want, based on your own reasons. You are not obligated to explain yourself or succumb to any kind of pressure.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTED BY:

VILLE DE PARIS SEINE-SAINT-DENIS LE DÉPARTEMENT  
www.przemocometr.org  
800 120 002



There is violence in your relationship when they...

**WARNING. SAY STOP!**

6	They give you the silent treatment when upset.
7	They blackmail you when you disagree with them.
8	They constantly criticize your opinions, ideas, choices, etc.
9	They mock you.
10	They are perpetually jealous.
11	They manipulate you.
12	They control your outings, clothing, or makeup.
13	They browse through your text messages, emails, applications, or photos without your permission.
14	They persistently insist on you sending them your intimate photos.
15	They isolate you from your family and loved ones.
16	They demean and insult you.
17	They go into a rage when something displeases them.
18	They threaten to kill themselves because of you.

**PRO**

**The project:** Launched during the 2022 Orange the World campaign, Przemocometr® is an awareness and education initiative by SI Wrocław Club and Plakacjary to combat violence against women. At the heart of the project is a “violence metre” tool—designed to help individuals assess whether their relationship is healthy, toxic, or abusive. The Soroptimists led the initiative from start to finish, coordinating training sessions, educational materials, branding, and outreach. The project gained national momentum through expert collaboration, media partnerships, and public engagement.

**The benefit:** Przemocometr® empowers individuals to recognize early signs of abuse, make informed decisions, and seek help. It supports professionals working with survivors, boosts public understanding of gender-based violence, and challenges the normalization of harmful behaviors. **PFR: 23751**

## Przemocometr

Swiadoma zgoda? Jest to akt wyrażenia zgody w sposób świadomy, wolny i jednoznaczny, w określonym momencie i na konkretną sytuację. Zabrania nacisków i zmiany zdania, kiedy tego chcesz i bez względu na powody. Nie musisz się na niego sprawdzić, ani czuć winy w razie zmiany zdania. NIE MA NA PROGU WYPEROWAŃ NA TELEFONIE!

VILLE DE PARIS SEINE-SAINT-DENIS LE DÉPARTEMENT  
www.przemocometr.org  
800 120 002

Responding to questions, you can measure if the relationship is partnership, or based on mutual agreement, or has a toxic character.

Soroptimists  
of Wrocław Club,  
Poland

### PROJECT ACHIEVED BY:

- Running a wide-ranging VAW awareness campaign,
- Promoting a tool to help identify violent behaviour,
- Alert governing bodies and involve civil society in this major issue.

### WOMEN & GIRLS REACHED:

**500,000**

### FUNDS RAISED:

**101,000 € + 11,000 €**

### PARTNERS:

Plakacjary, Norway Grants (the financial mechanism of the European Economic Area and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism) - financial assistance established by Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein for the countries of Central and Southern Europe



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



Soroptimist  
International  
of Europe

## ACTION FUND GRANT 2020 AND 2022

FROM IMPERFECT LOVE TO MORE THAN PERFECT:

# LOVE THAT GIVES YOU WINGS!



**Soroptimists  
of Lisbon Caravela,  
Portugal**



**The project:** “Love that gives you WINGS” is a multi-part awareness and education campaign developed to combat violence against women and domestic violence. Spearheaded by the Soroptimist Club, the initiative used public engagement and digital tools to raise awareness—especially among youth—through a series of creative, interactive campaigns. The project included 13 webinars, public participation actions, supermarket outreach, and a flash mob.



### PROJECT FACTS:

- 13 webinars delivered with participation from lawyers, psychologists, public figures, survivors, and NGOs
- Audience: primarily aged 15–25
- Major Portuguese supermarket chain “Continente” distributed hotline contact info via shopping receipts
- “Photo with WINGS” campaign engaged men as allies in GBV awareness
- Flash mob held on Nov 25th (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women)

### WOMEN & GIRLS REACHED:

100

### FUNDS RAISED:

N/A

### PARTNERS:

**APAV – Associação Portuguesa de Apoio à Vítima, CIG – Comissão para a Cidadania e a qualidade de Género, Encontrar+se, Academia da Coragem, Corações com Coroa, Livraria-Bar Menina e Moça, Dress for Success**



**The benefit:** The project successfully reached a wide and diverse audience, particularly young people aged 15–25, helping them recognize and speak out against abusive behaviors. It gave visibility to the issue of gender-based violence in both public and private spheres and encouraged men to take part in the conversation. Feedback from schools, participants, and the public showed that the initiative sparked reflection, discussion, and meaningful change in attitudes.

**PFR: 19602, 19603, 20288, 19716, 20959, 20960, 20962**



Soroptimist  
International  
of Europe

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

BEST PRACTICE AWARD 2024

# WOMEN'S SAFE HOUSE – A LOT OF HARD WORK AND A LITTLE BIT OF MAGIC



**The project:** The Single Club of Costa del Sol runs a comprehensive support project for women—particularly foreign women—experiencing domestic violence. The initiative provides immediate crisis aid, including emergency shelter, food, and translation assistance, while guiding survivors through medical, legal, and psychological support systems. Recognizing the additional barriers faced by non-Spanish speakers, the club created The Magic Book, a multilingual guide for both survivors and police. The project operates in close coordination with local authorities, NGOs, and the Red Cross as part of the VIOGENEX network, ensuring rapid and effective assistance.



**The benefit:** The project ensures that women in crisis—especially those facing language or cultural barriers—receive swift, holistic support tailored to their needs. Survivors are not only kept safe during the acute phase but also guided through Spain's legal, health, and social systems. The initiative helps them regain control of their lives through emotional support, legal aid, and access to employment and education. It also fosters long-term collaboration among local organizations, making systemic help more accessible and effective.

The Magic Book is available in four languages—Spanish, English, German, and French—and is distributed to local police and survivors. **PFR: 18778, 18816**

Photos: "Mijas Comunicación".



**Soroptimists  
of Single Club Costa del Sol,  
Spain**

## PROJECT ACHIEVED BY:

- Working jointly with relevant structures on women's issues,
- Giving hands-on assistance to vulnerable women,
- Creating a tool to provide relevant information to women and the police.

## WOMEN & GIRLS REACHED:

**32**

## FUNDS RAISED:

**1,150 € + 720 €**

## PARTNERS:

**Guardia Civil, Mijas Council Foreigners  
Department, Red Cross Mijas,  
La Cala Lions, Age Care**



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

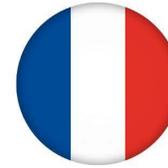


Soroptimist  
International  
of Europe

STROKE PREVENTION IN FRENCH GUYANA:

# PRAN SWEN DI TO TCHÒ

(CREOLE LANGUAGE SPOKEN IN THE CARIBBEAN)



**The benefit:** The project breaks down misconceptions that heart disease primarily affects men, promotes early detection, and empowers people with preventative health care. It makes screening widely accessible, especially in remote areas, while increasing awareness of gender-specific symptoms and risks. The initiative has not only improved public health outreach but also significantly raised the visibility of Soroptimist Cayenne.

**PFR: 18976**

**Soroptimists  
of Cayenne,  
France**

## PROJECT ACHIEVED BY:

- Raising awareness in the field,
- Collaborating with key players,
- Targeting needs and offering a sustainable alternative.

## WOMEN & GIRLS REACHED:

**100,000**

## FUNDS RAISED:

**26,000 €**

## PARTNERS:

**College de Cardiologie de Guyane,  
Union regionale des professionnels de  
sante pharmaciens de guyane**

**The project:** To address the high rate of cardiovascular disease among women, SI Cayenne launched Pran Swen Di To Tchò, a heart health awareness and screening campaign across French Guyana. In collaboration with pharmacists and cardiologists, the club equipped every pharmacy in the region with 'My Diagnostick'—a tool that detects cardiac arrhythmia, a major cause of strokes. This mini ECG test takes just one minute and is offered to anyone aged 25 and over, especially those at risk.



**FOOD & HEALTH SECURITY**



Soroptimist  
International  
of Europe

# CLEAN WELLS - HEALTHY RURAL WOMEN



**The project:** In response to a severe water shortage in Ukraine's Kulykivka district, the Soroptimists of Chernihiv, with support from ten Danish clubs, launched the Clean Wells initiative. At local authorities' request, they hired specialists to restore wells, easing the burden on women responsible for water collection. The project gained local media coverage and serves as a model for low-cost, high-impact community aid.

**The benefit:** The project improved the quality of life for rural women—many elderly, disabled, and living in poverty—by restoring their only water source. It also raised awareness of rural inequality, encouraged government engagement, and inspired future expansion through partnerships and public outreach. **PFR: 18272**



**Soroptimists  
of Single Club Chernihiv,  
Ukraine**

## PROJECT ACHIEVED BY:

- Cooperation between Soroptimists of Chernihiv and ten Danish clubs as well as local authorities

## WOMEN & GIRLS REACHED:

**830**

## FUNDS RAISED:

**1,850 € + 1,050 €**

## PARTNERS:

**Ten Danish Clubs and  
Chernihiv Children's Fund,  
Kulykivka District Authorities,  
mass media**

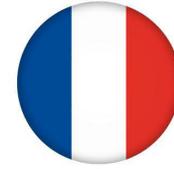


**FOOD & HEALTH SECURITY**



Soroptimist  
International  
of Europe

# TREES FOR PEACE IN VERDUN: HONOURING SUZANNE NOËL



**The project:** Faced with the effects of climate change on forests, the Soroptimists of Metz and Strasbourg launched a symbolic reforestation initiative in Verdun, a UNESCO World Heritage site and former WWI battlefield. In collaboration with the National Forests Office, 11,000 trees are being planted from 2021 to 2024. The project honours Dr. Suzanne Noël, founder of Soroptimist France, and engages over 50 European, American and Australian in a shared mission of environmental and historical significance.

**The benefit:** This project not only restores forest ecosystems damaged by drought and pests but also creates a living memorial that links environmental action with historical remembrance. It promotes biodiversity, supports climate resilience, and honors the contributions of women. With strong international engagement, it serves as a powerful model for collective impact across borders. **PFR: 26426, 25072**

**Soroptimists  
of Metz & Strasbourg,  
France**

### PROJECT ACHIEVED BY:

- Engaging concretely on the theme of climate change,
- Highlighting the duty of remembrance and Soroptimist values,
- Involving many Soroptimists across Europe and beyond.

**WOMEN & GIRLS REACHED:  
2,000**

**FUNDS RAISED:  
84,120 € by 31st December 2024**

### PARTNERS:

**National Forests Office (ONF),  
External sponsors: Ahlstrom Co (BE),  
La Marseillaise Real Estate (Strasbourg),  
Marie-Thérèse Haag**



Soroptimist  
International  
of Europe

SUSTAINABILITY

# THE CITY I WOULD LIKE - RE-INVENT THE CITY ON A WOMEN'S SCALE



**La città che vorrei**  
Reinventare la città a misura di donna

**The project:** "The City I Would Like" is a national initiative by the Union of Italy aiming to redesign cities through the lens of women. The project includes a three-step approach: advocacy, listening to women's voices, and territorial action. A key milestone was the creation of the Soroptimist Manifesto, based on input from over 5,000 women via a national survey, offering a vision for eco-sustainable, inclusive, and people-friendly cities. A protocol signed with ANCI, the Association of 8,000 Italian Municipalities, opened the door to institutional engagement across the country.



**The benefit:** This project empowers women to actively shape the cities they live in. It amplifies their voices in public decision-making and promotes gender-sensitive urban transformation. At the local level, it sparked actions ranging from educational workshops and school greening to green space revitalisation, historic district planning, and digital inclusion. Nationally, it laid the groundwork for long-term gender-informed urban policy. **PFR: 23500**



## Soroptimists of 162 Clubs within Italy

### PROJECT FACTS:

- 162 clubs involved, 5,000+ women surveyed, 60+ local events held.
- 14,500 online interactions, 5,500 Manifestos distributed, and 10,000 volunteer hours contributed.
- Shared with 8,000 mayors via ANCI; project delivered at zero cost through 9 expert partners.

**WOMEN & GIRLS REACHED:**  
**60,000**

**FUNDS RAISED:**  
**75,172 €**

### PARTNERS:

National Association of Italian Municipalities ANCI, Association of Lombardy and National Enterprises: Assolombarda and Con-industria, Fondazione Sodalitas, Rete Ecole for Education (Net), Young Women Network, Banca Ifigest, Ambiente Italia, Lexis Research. Media partner for the Event of October 14th, 2023: "Corriere della Sera"



Soroptimist  
International  
of Europe

**SUSTAINABILITY**

# IMPROVEMENT OF SOIL



**The project:** To combat food waste and promote soil health, SI Mersin-Mezitli participated in a municipal composting initiative targeting fresh produce waste in local bazaars. Every Wednesday for four months, members gathered at a district market to separate fruit and vegetable waste from non-compostable materials, preparing it for composting.

**The benefit:** The project helped reduce food waste, support compost production, and return nutrients to the soil. It raised community awareness about environmental sustainability and encouraged others to take action. The initiative offered a practical and scalable solution that individuals and communities can implement to nurture the planet.

**PFR: 22221**

**Soroptimists  
of Mezitli,  
Türkiye**

## PROJECT ACHIEVED BY:

- Partnering with Mezitli Municipality and joining a national compost initiative,
- Mobilizing members and volunteers for consistent weekly engagement,
- Using social platforms to amplify the message and model sustainable behavior for others.

**WOMEN & GIRLS REACHED:  
1,000**

**FUNDS RAISED:  
N/A**

**PARTNERS:  
Mezitli Municipality**



**SUSTAINABILITY**



Soroptimist  
International  
of Europe

UNION SPECIAL AWARD 2022 – NEW MEMBERS & VISIBILITY

# THE ROAD TO EQUALITY



**The project:** To celebrate Soroptimist International's 2021 centennial, the Austrian Union launched "The Road to Equality" campaign, focusing on four key issues: Finance and Women, Women's Health, Women and Housing, and Life Free from Violence. Over 100 days, 60 clubs participated in a nationwide awareness hike covering 3,752 km, passing a symbolic catalogue like a torch between clubs. Alongside the hike, clubs organised local events, award ceremonies, and film premieres to engage communities and policymakers.

**The benefit:** The key issues of the campaign were brought to the attention of politicians, the press, stakeholders, business leaders, decision-makers, and the general public across Austria. All clubs throughout the country participated in organising the campaign, successfully engaging a younger audience as well. The visibility of Soroptimist International has been increased, and the relationship between the clubs has been strengthened. 403 newspaper articles reached 18.9 million readers, over 20 TV features reached 2.3 million viewers, and 32 radio interviews reached 231,000 listeners. Social media presence grew to 108,000 Instagram views and 98,000 on Facebook.  
**PFR: 20961**

## Soroptimists of Union of Austria

### PROJECT ACHIEVED BY:

- Organising a major awareness-raising hike,
- Reaching out to the media, politicians and official representatives,
- Promoting Soroptimist's reputation as a credible organisation on women's issues.

### FUNDS RAISED:

**87,000 €**

### MORE FIGURES:

**100 days hike, 3,752 km, 72,000 signatures, all 60 Austrian clubs, More than 50 mayors and hundreds of high-profile visitors took part.**

### PARTNERS:

**CROMA Pharma GmbH, Bankhaus Schellhammer & Schattera AG, Energie AG Oberösterreich, Energie Steiermark AG and others mentioned in the BPA brochure**

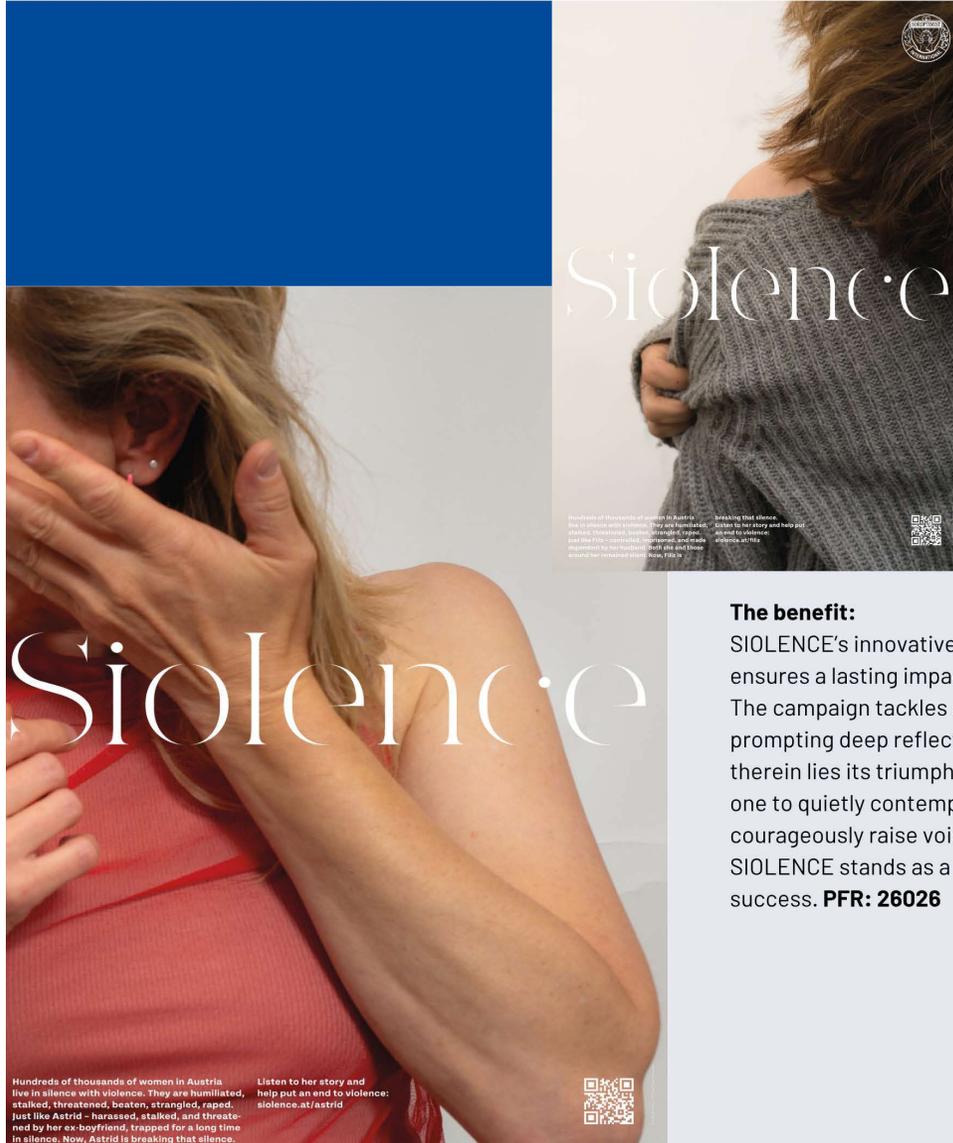


Soroptimist International of Europe

UNION SPECIAL AWARD

UNION SPECIAL AWARD 2024 – NEW MEMBERS & VISIBILITY

# SIOLENCE



**The project:**

How to shatter the oppressive silence? The Austrian Soroptimists found an answer in a powerful equation:

**Violence + Silence = SIOLENCE.**

SIOLENCE, with its unique approach, targets this very silence. By breaking it, the Soroptimists have enabled seven women to share their harrowing stories—through images and, for the first time, their own voices.

**The benefit:**

SIOLENCE's innovative approach ensures a lasting impact. The campaign tackles a tough issue, prompting deep reflection, and therein lies its triumph. It calls on each one to quietly contemplate and then to courageously raise voices. In doing so, SIOLENCE stands as a resounding success. **PFR: 26026**

## Soroptimists of Union of Austria

**PROJECT ACHIEVED BY:**

- Assessing the situation of women in Europe who are victims of domestic violence,
- Presenting a nationwide travelling exhibition with photographs and podcasts that tell the harrowing stories of seven women,
- Launching a powerful campaign to raise awareness and encourage action against domestic violence.

**WOMEN & GIRLS REACHED:**  
**3,000,000**

**THE CAMPAIGNE REACHED:**  
**6,000,000 PEOPLE**

**FUNDS RAISED:**  
**50,000 €**

**MORE FIGURES:**  
**50,000 visitors saw the exhibition at its 14 stops, in prestigious galleries, museums and institutions nationwide. After the campaign's debut, the University of Vienna University Preparation Programme joined.**

**PARTNERS:**  
**16 mentioned in the BPA brochure**



Soroptimist International of Europe

UNION SPECIAL AWARD

Hundreds of thousands of women in Austria live in silence with violence. They are humiliated, stalked, threatened, beaten, strangled, raped. Just like Astrid – harassed, stalked, and threatened by her ex-boyfriend, trapped for a long time in silence. Now, Astrid is breaking that silence. Listen to her story and help put an end to violence: [silence.at/astrid](https://silence.at/astrid)



UNION BEST PROJECT 2020

# DONNE & LAVORO SI SOSTIENE IN CARCERE



## A NEW DIMENSION OF FREEDOM FOR WOMEN IN PRISON THROUGH JOB TRAINEESHIP



**The project:** Italian Soroptimists endeavoured to promote gender equality through two main objectives: education and economic empowerment. The Protocol (Agreement) signed by the Union of Italy in October 2017 and renewed in 2019 with the Ministry of Justice was fundamental to collaboration between the clubs and Prison Administrations.

**The benefit:** Through a collective action of Soroptimist clubs, the Union initiated a national project in order to improve the future of women in prison granting support through professional training courses and working activities with a "trainer". At the end of the training, women receive a final certificate to be used in the employment market with the help of social cooperatives inside and outside prisons. **PFR: 16616**

### **Dressmakers:**

Bergamo, Mklano  
Bollate, Modena,  
Perugia, Trento,  
Vercelli Prisons



### **ICE-Cream Makers**

Vigevano Prison



### **Aromatic Plant**

#### **Grower:**

Como-Varese  
Prison



### **Hairdressers:**

Milano Bollate  
Prison



### Soroptimists of Union of Italy

#### PROJECT ACHIEVED BY:

- Promoting women's education,
- Providing professional training courses,
- Providing mentoring to reach economic independence.

#### WOMEN & GIRLS REACHED:

**350**

#### FUNDS RAISED:

**130,000 €**

#### MORE FIGURES:

**50 Clubs**

**30 penitentiary institutions**

#### PARTNERS:

**Italian Ministry of Justice,  
Penitentiary Department and more  
than 30 partners and companies  
like IKEA, Fabbri 1905 food company,  
Musso Gelaterie Italian ice-cream  
company, etc.**



Soroptimist  
International  
of Europe

UNION BEST PROJECT

BIENNIUM AWARD 2022

# GREEN OASES TO SAVE THE BEES



**The project:** To combat the alarming decline of bees, the Soroptimists of Italy—alongside SI Hermagor in Austria—launched Oasi delle Api (Bee Oasis), a nationwide campaign to protect pollinators and raise environmental awareness. More than 150 projects were carried out by 117 Italian clubs, including the creation of bee-friendly spaces, donations of over 300 hives to female beekeepers, and educational activities in schools. The project also involved large-scale advocacy efforts and creative initiatives to engage civil society.

**Centenary project:**  
117 Italian clubs with 1 Austrian - 150 projects creating better environment for bees, 300 bee hives given to women beekeepers, planting trees



**The benefit:** The initiative created supportive habitats for pollinators across Italy while empowering women in sustainable beekeeping. It promoted environmental education, biodiversity, and youth engagement through school programs and public events. The project also raised awareness at national and institutional levels, sparking long-term commitment to ecosystem health. **PFR: 20847**



**Soroptimists of Union of Italy**

## PROJECT ACHIEVED BY:

- Setting up webinars to raise awareness with leading experts,
- Supporting female entrepreneurs,
- Developing creative tools.

## WOMEN & GIRLS REACHED:

**100,000**

## FUNDS RAISED:

**100,000 €**

## PARTNERS:

**Municipalities, Italian regions, forest rangers, beekeeper associations, beekeepers**



**UNION BIENNIUM AWARD**



Soroptimist International of Europe

UNION BEST PROJECT AWARD 2022

# FINANCIAL EDUCATION – WOMEN MATTER



## Soroptimists of Union of Italy

### PROJECT ACHIEVED BY:

- Partnering with key institutions with expertise in finance and financial education,
- Large-scale training of members, who would in turn, train vulnerable women,
- Working together with local organisations to identify vulnerable women and secure locations to carry out the courses.

### WOMEN & GIRLS REACHED:

**3,000**

### FUNDS RAISED:

**10,000 €**

### MORE FIGURES:

Some 300 Soroptimist members, (one to two for each of the 161 Italian Clubs), attended an online training course for financial literacy educators, held by the Banca d'Italia.

### PARTNER:

**Banca d'Italia**



**The project:** The Union of Italy decided to carry out an educational project to foster economic empowerment and independence while promoting female employees and working towards closing the gender gap in economic and financial matters. The project targeted women in vulnerable situations, such as immigrants, victims of violence and widows, and aimed to teach them to manage their own money well.

**The benefit:** In total, 42 courses were held to improve financial literacy. The project was a big success with 3,000 women learning about finance, including female migrants, victims of violence, victims of trafficking, elderly and jobless women. In October 2020, some 300 members, (one to two for each of the 161 Italian Clubs), attended an online training course for financial literacy educators. **PFR: 20807**

UNION BEST PROJECT



Soroptimist International of Europe

UNION BEST PROJECT 2023

# SI POLAND WAR ZONE INITIATIVE - PROJECT MATCHING



The Polish Union Board and all the Soroptimist clubs in Poland (Kraków, Bielsko-Biała, Katowice, Cieszyn, Wrocław, Warsaw, Wrocław, Słupsk, Olsztyn, Gdynia, Gdańsk) carried out initiatives that benefited tens of thousands of Ukrainian women and children.



**The benefit:** More than 170,000 € was raised, directly helping over 23,000 Ukrainian women and children. Through coordinated action and global solidarity, Soroptimists offered safety, healing, and a sense of normalcy transforming emergency aid into long-term empowerment and hope.  
**PFR: 23687**



**The project:** In response to the war in Ukraine, Polish Soroptimists launched immediate aid efforts for women and children fleeing across the border. They provided food, shelter, legal help and emotional support. Using SIE's Project Matching platform and international Friendship Links, they raised significant funds and expanded their initiatives to include education, psychological care, and integration support.

**Soroptimists  
of Union of Poland**

## PROJECT ACHIEVED BY:

- Responding to the specific needs of the displaced people,
- Initiating a major fundraiser,
- Activating all possible channels of mutual assistance within SIE to obtain financial support.

## MORE FIGURES:

**Offering Polish language courses for female refugees from Ukraine - 1,769 participants.**

**Providing legal and psychological help - 1,493 participants**

**Initiative "Together against sexual violence against Ukrainian women"- 2,550 refugees**

## WOMEN & GIRLS REACHED:

**23,000**

## FUNDS RAISED:

**171,243 €**



UNION BEST PROJECT



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