

History of Zonta International European Inter District Seminars 1995 - 2023

By Karin Nordmeyer

As in all good fairy tales, it all began at Zonta International:

Once upon a time there was a huge European District 14 with 240 clubs, which was divided into 5 new districts in 1994.

In order to maintain the mutual information and the important friendship projects across the borders, the International Board allowed a new format of meetings outside the organizational structure of Zonta International: Inter-district seminars!

In other words, a platform for reflections, or open forum, for friendship and networking - completely without official decision-making processes: solely for personal exchange on current political topics and for cultivating friendships. Irene Wiese von Ofen had been fighting for this decision since her time as governor.

It then took a little while until after the first European Interdistrict Seminar in 1995 in Lübeck (Cornelia Kläuser-Reucker and Leena Kankainen) the next three seminars in 2002 in Stuttgart, 2009 and 2011 in Bonn

(Karin Nordmeyer and all European governors)
institutionalized the regularity of the meetings.

By the way: The idea of the EIDS was also taken up by
the US Zonta Districts!

The seminars are thematically designed, organized and
supported exclusively by the personal initiative of the
respective current governors and their teams.

Important: besides the high level speakers, the
respective Zonta International Presidents and/or
Presidents-elect were and are involved in all seminars!

The Seminar venues move through Europe: 2013 in
Tampere, Finland (Tuija Heikkilä), 2015 Brugge Belgium
(Frieda Demey), 2017 Vienna Austria (Inge Geyer), 2019
Tartu, Estonia (Tiina Rebane)

And today we gathered for the 9th seminar -

Wow: what a success!