



6th European Interdistrict Zonta Seminar

EMPOWERING WOMEN in DECISION-MAKING

February 6-8, 2015 in Brugge, Belgium

BELGIUM IS WAITING FOR YOU! BRUGGE IS WELCOMING YOU!

Dear Zontians, dear Friends from all over Europe,

I am very happy to invite you to the “6th European Interdistrict Zonta Seminar”.

The Zonta International Committee Council of Europe initiated the seminar. The organizer is Frieda Demey, ZC Brussel Zavel, together with a team of Zontians from the Zonta Clubs of Antwerpen, Brugge, Brussel Zavel, Bruxelles 1, Damme, De Haan, Middelkerke. Since more than a year, we have been preparing an exciting seminar weekend for you in Brugge.

Brugge, a historical city, is also known as “the Venice of the North”. In 2000 the city of Brugge was inscribed on UNESCO’s World Heritage List. Brugge is a sparkling city with all interesting sites within walking distance. Not to miss are the splendid museums, churches and historical buildings, the canals and the city park with the swans on the “Minnewater” (Lake of love!). Brugge also hosts the College of Europe, an independent university institute which offers various masters specialized in European studies. (<https://www.coleurope.eu>)

We will be honored by the presence of our International President Maria-Jose Landeira Oestergaard and other members of the Zonta International Board. Their presence gives an extra dimension to our European Seminar.

The Congress Center “Oud Sint-Jan”, where the seminar will take place, is located in the historical heart of the city, surrounded by romantic canals. In the Middle Ages, “Oud Sint-Jan” was a monastery with a hospital. In 2009, it was transformed into a modern Congress Center.

“EMPOWERING WOMEN IN DECISION-MAKING” Why this theme?

2 Years ago, in Tampere, Finland, the seminar’s theme was: “Women in the 21st century – Old Problems, New Solutions”. One of the new solutions is to have more women in decision-making positions, at all levels and in all areas of society.

Our guest speakers are non-Zontian professionals. Every speaker has a discussion panel composed of Zontians active in professions related to the speaker’s theme. The three main themes that will be discussed are:

- The policy on women's participation in the decision-making process at European level
- Women and decision-making in education, business and politics
- Smart.women@work: technology and women's empowerment

The seminar's theme within Zonta! What are we doing? What else could we do?

Based on these themes, we want to explore together:

- How with our tools in Zonta can we improve women's participation in the decision making process?
- Do we need new tools in Zonta?
- What is the relevance of women's participation in the decision-making process against the background of the Zonta International Service Program and of the UN Millennium Development Goals?

To enhance the learning opportunity for every participant during this seminar, all meetings are organized in plenary sessions.

On Friday evening, the mayor of Brugge invites us in the historical City Hall. The seminar will take place on Saturday in the Congress Center Oud Sint-Jan. In the evening we will continue our discussions in the famous archeological cellars of the Crowne Plaza Hotel during a walking dinner.

Four French and English speaking guides are ready to accompany you on Sunday morning. They will take you around the city of Brugge for a stroll through the narrow streets and a visit of some of the most interesting sites.

We say "au Revoir – auf Wiedersehen – Bye-Bye – do Zobaczenia - do Pobachennya – Näkemiin – Tot ziens!" in the Provincial Court with a light lunch.

Attached you will find:

- the registration form,
- the hotel list,
- a draft program and
- some useful information.

We are looking forward to welcome you in Brugge on 6-7-8 February 2015.

Your participation to the seminar will make this event an unforgettable Zonta experience!

With warm regards,

Frieda Demey and the Seminar team

28th September 2014