



Photo: Milena Schlösser



**European
Movement**
Germany

Women of Europe
Award – Germany



30 Years



**Women
of Europe
Award**

Foreword

30 years of the Women of Europe Award – 30 years of recognition of women's commitment to Europe. This year, I am especially pleased to bestow the award on two inspiring women: Lisi Maier, President of the German Federal Youth Council (DBJR), and Professor Ingeborg Tömmel, founder of Germany's first full-time degree programme in European Studies.

Equality is one of the EU's core values and is enshrined in the EU treaties and the Charter of Funda-

mental Rights. However, there is still a long way to go before gender equality is achieved. We have also seen during the pandemic that it is still women who make sacrifices, e.g. in order to take on the task of homeschooling or provide care.

This makes it all the more important that we support and increase visibility of women's commitment and thereby encourage other women to follow suit. We want to achieve equal leadership responsibility in society, politics and business.

We are making progress towards this aim thanks to women like Ms Maier and Ms Tömmel. Congratulations.

Dr. Jörg Wojahn, representative of the European Commission in Germany



Photo: Vertretung EU-Kommission

Foreword



Photo: Milena Schlösser



It is our pleasure this year to recognise two women for their extraordinary voluntary commitment to Europe. Our network is greatly enriched by welcoming Lisi Maier and Professor Ingeborg Tömmel into its fold. Both are themselves experts in networking. Through their activities, they contribute to a lively exchange with and among young people in civil society and to an interdisciplinary dialogue on European topics in the academic arena. In a gratifyingly ever-growing circle of

excellent female nominees, they are deserved winners.

Even though the ceremony can only take place online, we are looking forward to presenting these awards and hope to see each other again soon!

Professor Gudrun Schmidt-Kärner, President of the Women of Europe Award Germany

Sabine Overkämping, Member of the EBD Board of Management

A versatile network: 30 years of the Women of Europe Award



Europe is a woman. And women also show a strong commitment to Europe. However, the posts and awards have mainly gone to men to date. The Women of Europe Award, initiated by Belgian senator Angèle Verdin, sought to change that in 1987 by shining a spotlight on women's voluntary work across international borders. It was not to be awarded on the basis of rank or seniority, but the real level of engagement. An award recognising women of Europe in Germany was

launched on the initiative of Ursula Schleicher, then Vice-President of the European Movement Germany (EBD) and Chair of the EBD's Commission for Women. Thanks to her efforts, the first award was presented in 1991.

30 years later, the idea has evolved into a vibrant network and the Women of Europe Award has become an integral part of the EBD's project work. The award brings together women of Europe representing a

wide range of backgrounds and endeavours – all with a shared commitment to a strong and united Europe. Together, their diverse civic engagement, whether for human rights, in youth education, or in the arts and culture, is helping to shape such a Europe. I am especially pleased that, on the initiative of the EBD, the European Movement International has again been bestowing its Women of Europe Awards since 2016 and the original European dimension has therefore been restored.

In this our anniversary year, we are adding two winners to the German network: women from two generations, united in their goal

to foster another generation. Lisi Maier, President of the German Federal Youth Council (DBJR), and Professor Ingeborg Tömmel, founder of Germany's first full-time degree programme in European Studies, are bringing young people closer to Europe through their commitment and creating space for a young democratic society.

Accordingly, we not only look to the past 30 years of the Women of Europe Award with pride but also ahead to the future with eager courage. It is commitment, like that shown by our winners, that will play a crucial role in determining Europe's future. **Here's to another 30 years of the Women of Europe Award – Germany!**



Dr. Linn Selle, EBD President, winner of the 2014 Women of Europe Award

1991–2021 Award Winners

2021	Lisi Maier Ingeborg Tömmel	2003	María del Rosario Hickmann
2020	Special Lifetime Achievement Award: Margrit Weimeister	2002	Ludmilla Irmscher & Cathrin Schauer-Kelpin
2019	Katharina Wolf	2001	Philomena Franz
2018	Düzen Tekkal	2000	Dagmar Schipanski
2016	Adriana Lettrari	1999	Gudrun Schmidt-Kärner
2014	Linn Selle	1998	Sister Lea Ackermann
2013	Daniela Topp-Burghardt	1997	Sissy Thammer
2012	Jasmina Prpić	1996	Christina Grotensohn
2011	Irina Gruschewaja	1995	Monika Hauser
2008	Necla Kelek	1994	Irina, Princess zu Sayn-Wittgenstein
2007	Inge Bell	1993	Susanne Tiemann
2006	Magdalena Baur †	1992	Gundi Gompf †
2005	Gesine Schwan	1991	Csilla Freifrau von Boeselager †
2004	Regina Hellwig-Schmid		

Woman of Europe 2021: Lisi Maier

“Europe for young people, young people for Europe” – this motto sums up Lisi Maier’s wide-ranging commitment. Born in Munich in 1984, the secondary school teacher already began her activities in this area during her training: she volunteered at various levels of the Kolping Youth and the Federation of German Catholic Youth (BDKJ) and, in 2012, was appointed full-time BDKJ Federal Chair and took over the honorary position at the head of the German Federal Youth Council (DBJR). But as a voice for young people in the political scene in Berlin, her vision has not been restricted solely to Germany: **Maier wants to see a youth-friendly, democratic and solidary Europe.** Referring to the associations under the DBJR umbrella as “workshops of democracy”, Maier hopes these

can give Europe’s young people a voice, especially in the countries in and around Europe where democracy is under threat. For example, she was involved in setting up a national youth council in the Ukraine and helps to support the Belarusian youth council, RADA. Lisi Maier believes that spaces for a young democratic civil society can emerge or be maintained everywhere in Europe and facilitates networking, dialogue and encounters.

Europe is also a recurrent theme in her volunteering: for example, Lisi Maier is a member of the panel of the Franco-German Citizens’ Fund, the advisory board of the German-Polish Youth Office for bilateral exchange and encounters, and the German Council for Sustainable Development, where she primarily deals with hu-



man rights matters within Europe. In her activities, it is important to Lisi Maier to take a special look at the support and **equal representation of girls and women** and their interest groups. She also reinforces European equality policy as Vice-Chair of the National Council of German Women’s Organisations. “And with all of this, Lisi Maier shows that

warmth, teamwork and assertiveness are not mutually exclusive,” says her nomination by EBD member organisations DBJR and the Central Committee of German Catholics (ZdK).

www.dbjr.de
www.bdkj.de

Woman of Europe 2021: Professor Ingeborg Tömmel



Bringing Europe closer to the people – that is the goal of political scientist Professor Ingeborg Tömmel. By founding Germany's first full-time degree programme in European Studies in 1993, the long-standing professor at Osnabrück University made topics and mechanisms of Europeanisation

accessible across disciplines. Insights and knowledge have never been an end in themselves for Professor Tömmel; **her goal has always been to stimulate social debate and reach a broad public rather than confine herself to academic circles.** This commitment was expressed through the Jean

Monnet Centre of Excellence in European Studies that she established in the 2007/08 winter semester, which took on an explicit mission of outreach to the city and its environs. As the centre's first director, she created opportunities for the dissemination of information and critical debate on the European Union in the public sphere. In particular, she wanted to raise awareness of European topics among young people in this way.

Since attaining emeritus status in 2008, Ingeborg Tömmel has continued her work in Germany and further afield, especially via the VHS Osnabrück community college, where she regularly offers series of talks on topical European policy issues. As a citizen,

she has contributed her knowledge, network and time to a multitude of local initiatives and projects revolving around north-south understanding in the EU and has advocated for transnational solidarity. In May 2016, she co-founded the "50 aus Idomeni" initiative, which aimed to bring at least 50 refugees from Greek camps to Osnabrück. She is also an active member of Seebrücke Osnabrück.

As a socially-minded, active professor and women in a still male-dominated university environment, Ingeborg Tömmel has been and still is an inspiration for young women.

www.jean-monnet-centre.uni-osnabrueck.de

Margrit Weimeister

Europa-Jugendbauernhof Deetz

Special
Lifetime
Achievement
Award



Margrit Weimeister founded the Jugendsee-heim association in Deetz, Saxony-Anhalt, in 1992 in order to carry out international youth work. Having learned from the lessons of World War II, the former member of the Saxony-Anhalt state parliament wanted to contribute in this way to a peaceful Europe and to tolerance and openness in her local area. In 1996, this grew into the idea of the Europa-Jugendbauernhof, a farm where young people from Germany and abroad could meet. The aim of the

farm is to convey to these young people the importance of the environment and agriculture together with the values of democracy and free self-determination, **thereby sending out a clear message against xenophobia and for peaceful understanding.** Since 1992, countless young people from all over the world and Germany have been able to participate in international workcamps in this context. Weimeister organised the work at the Europa-Jugendbauernhof until 2013 and is still involved today, although the reins have now been passed to her son Ulrich Weimeister. The EBD honoured this superb personal commitment in 2020 with its first **Special Lifetime Achievement Award** as part of the 30th German Unity Day celebrations.

www.europa-jugendbauernhof-deetz.de

Katharina Wolf

Europe Union of Saxony

Defending European values with civic resources

Katharina Wolf has been purposeful in achieving just that for decades. Her radius of action covers Saxony, a region where she still sees a need to advocate for European integration and education about Europe. **“That’s not what patriotic Europeans look like!”** was her firm response to the 2014 Pegida movement. Her engagement did not stop at counter-demonstrations: together with fellow campaigners, she established the Europa-Union Sachsen e.V. in March 2015, of which she has been the chair ever since.

“Europe doesn’t just happen in Brussels. It happens anywhere where people are involved in actively shaping the idea of what Europe means,”



says the lawyer. That is why she is also committed to connecting pro-European organisations in Germany and Europe. She is the chair of the federal committee of the Europa-Union association in Germany, the country’s largest citizens’ initiative for Europe. In 2000, she was one of the founding members of the European Women Lawyers Association. Her career as a civil servant has also had a European flavour, having included stints in Brussels, Berlin and elsewhere.

www.europa-union-sachsen.de

Düzen Tekkal

Hawar.help. e.V.



When the so-called Islamic State committed genocide against the Yazidis living in northern Iraq in 2014, Düzen Tekkal made a documentary film – “HÀWAR – Meine Reise in den Genozid” (“HÀWAR – My Journey into Genocide”) – in order to expose the atrocities. In 2016, the political scientist and war correspondent published a book entitled “Deutschland ist bedroht – Warum wir unsere Werte verteidigen müssen” (“Germany is under threat – why we must defend our values”). She founded the HAWAR.help association and, working with the Ministry for Development, launched the

“Back To Life” project, which provides women who were once imprisoned by IS with a path back into society.

Tekkal knows diversity is more than just an empty phrase. It means a lived experience of democracy that allows for a range of opinions and protects minorities.

“There’s no way to do it that doesn’t involve women,” says Düzen Tekkal. “I firmly believe that no society can develop in a positive way if it suppresses women’s potential.”

At the heart of integration is the ability to reconcile diversity. And this can only happen when different cultures, religions and people of many different backgrounds are able to talk, live and shape society together. These are Düzen Tekkal’s values – values that represent Europe’s diversity.

www.hawar.help

Adriana Lettrari

Netzwerk 3te Generation Ostdeutschland

What role does the former division of Europe play in the lives of the “children of German reunification” of 1989?

This is the question that has been bothering Adriana Lettrari since 2009. She founded the “Netzwerk 3te Generation Ostdeutschland” (Third Generation East Germany Network) to investigate how experiences of German reunification can represent an opportunity.

The communication and political scientist was born in 1979, in Neustrelitz, and grew up in Rostock. After spending her childhood behind the Iron Curtain and her youth in the reunified Germany, Lettrari, like her contemporaries in neighbouring eastern European states, was “socialised twice” – they learned two cultural languages and are able to



bridge the gap between two worlds. They know that everything can change suddenly and are able to play their part in bringing about change – they have the ability to transform. The network engages in international dialogue on this and other topics.

With its memorandum entitled “Wir fangen einfach an” (“Let’s just get started”), the “Generation of German Unity” makes the case for a pluralistic attitude towards solving current, and also pan-European, issues about the future.

www.netzwerk.dritte-generation-ost.de

Linn Selle

Junge Europäische Föderalisten e.V.



Sparking young people's interest in Europe

Charisma and a clever choice of political methods – Linn Selle's involvement in the 2014 European election campaign demonstrated that these two things can move the masses, as the saying goes. When German broadcasters ARD and ZDF only wanted to let the European leading candidates ("Spitzenkandidaten") debate on the niche channel Phoenix, Selle used an online petition to mobilise almost 30,000 supporters within a very short space of time, and ensured the

issue gained attention throughout Germany.

The political science graduate was an active member of the "Junge Europäische Föderalisten e.V." (Young European Federalists) federal board of management for many years, among other things serving as deputy federal chairwoman and federal secretary. The native Westphalian explains the reason behind her voluntary work: "We young people have a special connection with Europe – completely unlike even the generation before us. That's why I want to take a stand and make my voice heard, so that one day we can live in a real European community." Since 2018 she has been president of the European Movement Germany, and the youngest-ever holder of that office.

www.jef.de
www.netzwerk-ebd.de

Daniela Topp-Burghardt

Ring Europäischer Frauen e.V.

"Europe is not just a continent. Europe is a vision."

Bringing together women from all over Europe and using dialogue to foster a sense of community – this is the idea that has driven Daniela Topp-Burghardt, chairwoman of the "Ring Europäischer Frauen e.V." (European Women's Circle), for more than a decade. Topp-Burghardt, who has a degree in economics, explains her conviction: "An in-depth knowledge of what we have in common leads to a sense of shared identity; by recognising our differences we can develop understanding or learn from each other." She set up the not-for-profit association in Cologne in 2003. As well as organising a wide range of talks and roadshows, the association also runs annual trips to countries around Europe to meet others – open ex-



changes of views and ideas with local parliamentarians and representatives of women's associations provide a forum in which to consider commonalities such as economic, cultural, educational and social systems.

There's one thing in particular that links the women of Europe, something that the native Frankfurter encounters over and over again – the struggle for equal rights in politics, economics and society. "We owe it to the younger generations to improve this situation."

www.r-e-f.eu

Jasmina Prpić

Anwältinnen ohne Grenzen e.V.

2012



“If human rights are to be enforced, the legal system must defend them.”

Jasmina Prpić was born in Banja Luka, in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The lawyer and feminist came to Germany as a war refugee in 1992. One part of her career involved spending three years in Kosovo, working with potential witnesses to crimes of rape to enable them to come to the Hague Tribunal, and providing them with legal support. While there she realised how much women and women's organisations need legal help – and how

much human rights depend on enforcement by the courts.

In 2007, together with eleven female colleagues from Germany and a number of other countries, Jasmina Prpić LL.M. founded the “Anwältinnen ohne Grenzen e.V” association (Women Lawyers Without Borders). She has been its chairwoman ever since. The association is currently involved in setting up a network of local female lawyers in the countries its members come from, and uses legal means to fight for the promotion and enforcement of human rights for women, as well as for the abolition of all types of unequal treatment or discrimination, both at home and abroad. This is a cause that Jasmina Prpić has devoted more than half her life to, with persistence and creativity.

www.anwaeltinnen-ohne-grenzen.de

Irina Gruschewaja

Den Kindern von Tschernobyl

2011



The fight against silence about Chernobyl and for civil society in dictatorial Belarus

1986 – the year of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. In Belarus, it meant silence from the state and efforts to play down the impact. Professor of German studies Irina Gruschewaja was not willing to accept this and, together with her husband, set up the “Den Kindern von Tschernobyl” (For the Children of Chernobyl) initiative.

“The future of the world lies in international civic co-operation.”

Hundreds of thousands of Chernobyl children from different generations come to western Europe on holiday, mostly to Germany. Today the initiative includes projects ranging

far beyond trips for children – youth work, help for girls in prison who are in danger of dropping out of society because of petty offences, help for old people who were uprooted from their homes near Chernobyl and moved to faceless prefabricated accommodation – people no one else cares about.

Irina Gruschewaja's sense of civic duty links many thousands of people in the east and west alike. Her life's work uniquely bridges the divide between people.

www.bag-tschernobyl.net

Necla Kelek

Social scientist and publicist

2008



Integration and self-determination for Muslim women

In 21st century Europe, a Muslim woman's freedom to determine for herself how she lives her life is still not something that can be taken for granted. Necla Kelek fights against the oppression of these women and pushes forward the conversation about cultural and political aspects of the integration of Muslim women and

men in Germany and Europe, sometimes putting forward provocative demands.

Necla Kelek was born in 1957 in Istanbul and came to Germany at the age of ten. She studied economics and sociology at university, graduating with a thesis on Islam in daily life. Kelek won the Geschwister-Scholl prize for her 2005 bestseller, "Die fremde Braut" ("The Foreign Bride"). From 2005 to 2009 she was a permanent member of the German Islam Conference and sits on the senate of the "Deutsche Nationalstiftung" charity (German National Foundation).

Necla Kelek lives in Berlin, where she works as a freelance author.

Inge Bell

Journalist

The fight against human trafficking and abuse of defenceless women and girls in the Balkans

Look and act – this is Inge Bell's motto. During her time as a foreign correspondent for broadcaster ARD, the Slavist and historian of eastern Europe saw a great deal of suffering as she spent months travelling in (south-)eastern Europe, filming and carrying out research. It wasn't enough for her just to report on it. For Inge Bell, the logical consequence was to start up humanitarian aid projects to eliminate social injustices. One such project offered protected accommodation, mental health support and vocational training to underage girls who had been forced into prostitution.

www.ingebell.de



Photo: Uwe Klössing

2007

The media entrepreneur and human rights activist supports and oversees this and other aid projects, for example for disabled people, with a keen eye and unrivalled dedication. Today, as an expert, author, lecturer and public speaker, Inge Bell is just as devoted to fighting human rights abuses. In 2012, the German president Joachim Gauck awarded her the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Magdalena Baur †

europafels e.V.



A European network for transnational initiatives supporting innovative schools

Even as a schoolgirl Magdalena Baur, who was born in Upper Silesia (Poland), was convinced of the need for European states to move closer together. As a teacher, she organised European projects, school exchange programmes and supported related initiatives. The protection of and support for minorities are a particular area of focus for her.

www.europafels.eu

She set up an extensive network linking educational institutions in various countries, in order to implement the idea of "learning from each other" at a practical level. This involves bringing people into direct contact with each other as part of international seminars and projects, providing teachers, and the people that train them, with ideas and help to make European co-operation in the field of education a reality.

The europafels association (european association for education, lifelong learning and studies) was founded at Magdalena Baur's instigation and supports transnational initiatives aimed at developing schools.

Gesine Schwan

Dialogue between Germany and Poland

"Trust, the foundation on which friendship between Germany and Poland is built, can only grow out of personal encounters between people."

In keeping with this motto, professor Gesine Schwan has been working to establish and expand cultural exchanges and contact at the civil society level, primarily between young people in Germany and Poland, for more than 30 years.

Gesine Schwan was an early supporter of the "Solidarność" (Solidarity) trade union movement in Poland, has helped a wide range of German-Polish initiatives to establish contacts and

www.gesine-schwan.de



structures and continues to support ongoing dialogue today. Her goal is to bring people together and make a difference.

Gesine Schwan was president of the European University Viadrina in Frankfurt an der Oder from 1999 until 2008. She was a co-founder of the Humboldt-Viadrina School of Governance and was its president from 2010 until 2014.

Regina Hellwig-Schmid

Visual artist/curator



Building bridges with art and culture

Since 1992, Regina Hellwig-Schmid has worked to promote international understanding in a unique way – using art and her skill at bringing people together. Acting as a catalyst and facilitator of ideas, she is the driving force behind international projects dealing with cultural, scientific and artistic co-operation in the Danube region.

www.donumenta.de
www.regina-hellwig-schmid.de

As a way of thinking about war and peace, she organised the “pax danubiana – Flaschenpost für den Frieden” initiative (“pax danubiana – a message in a bottle for peace”), in which 1,856 artists in ten countries on the banks of the Danube entrusted a personal message of peace to the river on 23 September 2000.

In 2001 she set up the first International Danube Conference on Art and Culture in Regensburg, which was followed by further conferences in the Danube region. One example of her many projects was “documenta”. Running from 2003 to 2012, it reached its peak with “14 x 14 Survey of the Danube Region. Positions in Contemporary Art”.

María del Rosario Hickmann

More than 25 years of voluntary work for German-Spanish cultural exchange

Dr. María Rosario Hickmann came to Kiel in 1976 when she got married, and since then she has been involved in cultural exchanges between Germany and Spain.

In 1977 she founded a women’s group to help Spanish “guest worker” families integrate. Then, in 1980, she set up language courses at the “Deutsch-Iberoamerikanischen Gesellschaft” (German-Ibero-American Society) which was subsequently at the heart of her masterpiece in 1991 – the “Institut für Spanische Sprache und Kultur” (Institute for Spanish Language and Culture) in Kiel. The institute rapidly developed into a centre for German-Spanish communication. For Spaniards, it’s a “home away from home”; for Germans, it’s



the ideal place to learn Spanish and experience Spanish culture. Alongside her work as a lecturer at Kiel University’s Institute of Romance Studies, she has also published the German-Spanish cultural journal “Solera” since 2002. In 1997 she was awarded the Spanish Order of Merit “Lazo de Dama de Isabel la Católica” for her outstanding commitment to voluntary work, and in 2000 she received the Medal of Merit from the Federal Republic of Germany.

www.solera-difusion.de

Ludmilla Irmscher & Cathrin Schauer-Kelpin

KARO e.V., Plauen



Since 1994, KARO has been working in the border region between Germany and the Czech Republic against forced prostitution, human trafficking and the sexual exploitation of children. Ludmilla Irmscher and Cathrin Schauer-Kelpin provide vital assistance to affected children, young people and women.

Alongside the provision of psycho-social and medical care, building relationships and establishing a trusted network of contacts on both sides of the border are at the heart of their work.

In the most difficult terrain

In 2004, what was once a social project became the not-for-profit association KARO e.V. In 2008, Ludmilla Irmscher stepped down. Cathrin Schauer-Kelpin continues to spread the word about the unthinkable, gives victims a voice and challenges people to take responsibility for their actions and their fellow human beings. She ventures into the most difficult terrain, where our society has only a limited number of solutions to offer.

www.karo-ev.de

Philomena Franz

Remembrance of the Holocaust

Appealing for humanity and tolerance among the younger generation

Philomena Franz comes from a Sinti family that has lived in Germany for centuries. In 1943 she was arrested and deported to the Auschwitz extermination camp. She has experienced hatred, humiliation, agony and fear. Many members of her family did not survive the Holocaust.

When we hate, we lose. When we love, we become rich.

She has written about her experiences in a book entitled "Zwischen Liebe und Hass" ("Between Love and Hate") and gives readings and talks at schools.



Her message: "We survivors bear the scars. But my life has taught me one thing - When we hate, we lose. When we love, we become rich."

Philomena Franz encourages her readers and listeners to face the unknown and learn to understand it. She fights for reconciliation and understanding, and in so many ways spreads the message that tolerance must come from the heart.

Dagmar Schipanski

Shaping the scientific landscape
in the European context



Professor Dagmar Schipanski has been involved with many international bodies, such as the UNESCO World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology and the International Scientific Advisory Committee of the United Nations University in Tokyo.

www.dagmar-schipanski.de

Between 1999 and 2004, in her role as Thuringia's Minister for Science, Research and the Arts, she helped Thuringian universities expand their various relationships with partner institutions in central and eastern Europe. From 2004 to 2009 she was the president of Thuringia's state parliament. In this capacity she worked hard to promote relationships with partner parliaments throughout Europe. Between 2011 and 2013 Dagmar Schipanski was the principal of the European "Studienkolleg" in Berlin.

Gudrun Schmidt-Kärner

Building bridges between western
and eastern Europe

Working on projects between northern Germany and the Kaliningrad Region/Russia

Professor Gudrun Schmidt-Kärner is concerned with promoting understanding of the different living situations and ways of thinking that can be found in western and eastern Europe.

She was behind the founding of the "Hanse-Büro" (Hanse Office) in 1992, and today's "Schleswig-Holstein Informationsbüro" (Schleswig-Holstein Information Office). The association she founded ("Förderverein für Kaliningrad/Russland" or Kaliningrad/Russia Development Association) works with young people to promote voluntary



work, solidarity and individual responsibility for shaping communities. This helps them to learn the importance of these fundamental European values in human interaction.

As well as mentoring former interns, who today are successful business-people, Gudrun Schmidt-Kärner also works to promote the integration of disadvantaged young people into society.

www.gsk-russlandpartner.de

Sister Lea Ackermann

SOLWODI e.V. – Solidarity with women in distress



Initiative for the victims of human trafficking and forced prostitution

In 1985, Sr. Lea Ackermann founded SOLWODI e.V. – an abbreviation for “Solidarity with women in distress” – in Mombasa, Kenya. Germany now also has 16 advice centres which provide seven safe apartments, as well as with psycho-social counselling and advice on legal matters and mentoring services. The assistance on offer is also available to women from other countries who have fallen

victim to violence and exploitation, whether they have entered the country as migrant workers or through marriage, or as a result of forced prostitution and human trafficking.

The aim is to use education and training to help the women achieve financial independence and thereby open up new perspectives on life for them, or to use contacts with NGOs in the women’s countries of origin to support their future reintegration in that country, for those women who want it.

Solwodi is a human rights organisation whose clear goal is to achieve dignity for women within German society and in a united Europe. In 2014, Sr. Lea Ackermann was awarded the Augsburg Peace Prize for her work in this field.

www.solwodi.de

Sissy Thammer

“A stage where the world’s youth can rehearse”

Committed to international cultural exchange

Dr. h. c. Sissy Thammer has headed the Bayreuth Young Artists’ Festival since 1986 and has put into practice her vision of a broader understanding of the word “Europe” from the outset. For her, Europe is not “east” or “west”, Muslim, atheist, Jewish or Christian, but rather a system of values based on culture, art and music.

It is in this spirit that she creates a unique place for intercultural learning in Bayreuth every August – a place to experiment with new developments in the world of art, a place for active and committed peace-building.

The Bayreuth Young Artists’ Festival is a unique blend of many things – it



is an arts event that offers a nurturing environment for young artists, provides training and social work, and promotes international understanding. All these things make it a cultural event that is European in its scale and reach, imbued with passion and a spirit of sustainability.

Sissy Thammer, international youth worker, arts manager and lecturer, is the holder of prestigious awards from the Federal Republic of Germany and the Free State of Bavaria.

www.youngartistsbayreuth.de

Christine Grotensohn

AKIK – Aktionskomitee Kind
im Krankenhaus

1996



AKIK represents the rights of children and their parents before, during and after hospital treatment for children and young people.

As the mother of one such child, Christine Grotensohn was involved with the “Aktionskomitee Kind im Krankenhaus” (Action Committee for Children in Hospital, or AKIK) from 1977 onwards, and made it her goal to see the introduction of unrestricted visiting hours and free ac-

commodation for one parent in hospitals. She also supported the integration of parents into daily hospital life.

She played a major part in the “Charta für Kinder im Krankenhaus” (Charter for Children in Hospital) that was drafted during the first European Conference of AKIK Initiatives in 1988, and today enjoys support throughout Europe from professional associations, paediatricians and the World Health Organisation.

In 1993, Christine Grotensohn played a decisive role in the establishment of the European Association for Children in Hospital (EACH), which works to implement the rights of hospitalised children in Europe.

www.akik.de

Monika Hauser

medica mondiale e.V.

Supporting traumatised women and girls in war zones and crisis areas

The news of mass rapes in the former Yugoslavia in 1993 led gynaecologist Dr. Monika Hauser to work with female doctors, psychologists and nurses in Bosnia to found Medica Zenica – a centre for medical and psychosocial therapy for women traumatised by war in the Bosnian city of Zenica.

Her work in this field expanded to include the foundation of further projects in Kosovo, Albania, Liberia and Afghanistan. As well as providing medical care, medica mondiale helps to give traumatised women a new perspective

www.medicamondiale.org



1995

on life again, through psychosocial support, legal advice and also political human rights work.

medica mondiale operates internationally and is part of a transnational network opposing violence against women. In 2008, Monika Hauser received the Alternative Nobel Prize for her work.

Irina, Princess zu Sayn-Wittgenstein

For Poland's integration into Europe



A commitment to German-Polish understanding

Recognising that education and training are key starting points for the integration of Poland into Europe, Irina, Princess zu Sayn-Wittgenstein, supports initiatives in the field of student exchange programmes, training and further education.

As chairwoman of the "Verein der Freunde und Förderer der Katholischen Universität Lublin e.V." (Association of Friends and

Supporters of the Catholic University of Lublin), she has been promoting German-Polish dialogue since 1987, through exchange programmes between German and Polish universities. With the "Verein für deutsch-polnische Managerfortbildung" (Association for German-Polish Manager Training) she has demonstrated her commitment to economic co-operation between Germany and Poland since 1990.

Since 1983, Princess zu Sayn-Wittgenstein has also been involved in the social sector as co-founder and chairwoman of the "Malteser-Johanniter-Johanneshaus" (Maltese Knights of St. John of Jerusalem Care Centre), which runs a group of long-term homes for people suffering from mental illness.

Susanne Tiemann

Promoting the interests of freelance
professionals at the European level



Professor Susanne Tiemann is concerned with giving a broad range of professionals an understanding of what European unification means and the opportunities it brings.

Between 1987 and 1994 she represented the "Bundesverband der Freien Berufe" (German Association of Liberal Professions) on the European Union's Economic and Social Committee. She was president of that committee from 1992 to 1994. Working on a voluntary basis, she developed, among other things, a "Europäische Charta der Freiberuflichkeit" (European Charter for Liberal Professionals).

Susanne Tiemann was also president of the "Bund der Steuerzahler" (German Taxpayers' Association) and president of the European Secretariat for the Liberal Professions (SEPLIS) in Brussels. She was a professor of management science at the Catholic University of Applied Sciences in North Rhine-Westphalia and an honorary professor of social law at the University of Bonn. From 1994 to 2002 she was a member of the Bundestag, the lower house of the German parliament.

Gundi Gompf †

Kinder lernen europäische Sprachen e.V.



A contribution to international understanding and the unification of Europe

From 1969 onwards, Professor Gundi Gompf was scientific adviser to the "Englisch ab 3. Grundschuljahr" ("English from the 3rd year of primary education") pilot project in Hesse. In 1970, Hesse's then education minister charged her with developing new university courses that dealt with foreign language learning in primary schools. She

was appointed professor of English Language Teaching and Literature at the University of Frankfurt am Main in 1976, a position which she held until her retirement in 2005.

In 1989 Gundi Gompf founded the not-for-profit association "Kinder lernen europäische Sprachen e.V" (Children Learn European Languages", in order to bring about reform of foreign language teaching in terms of education policy. She believed that moving the point at which foreign languages are first taught into primary schools was of the utmost importance in order to give children better professional opportunities and achieve better understanding within European business. Gundi Gompf died in the autumn of 2013.

www.kles.org

Csilla Freifrau von Boeselager †

Founder of the Hungarian
Charity Service of the Order of Malta

Through the Charity Service of the Order of Malta, Csilla Freifrau von Boeselager organised the transport of relief from Germany to Hungary, providing particular assistance to hospitals, retirement homes and homes for disabled people.

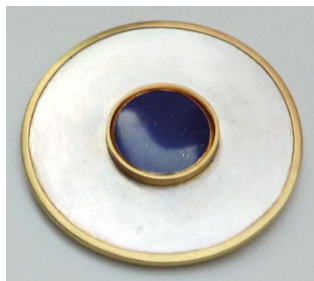
In 1989, shortly before German reunification, she used the organisation she founded to implement a dramatic relief operation – she took in thousands of GDR citizens, in a hastily organised camp in Budapest.



Up until her untimely death in 1994, Csilla Freifrau von Boeselager, holder of the European Human Rights Prize, helped to promote international understanding through her involvement in numerous cross-border humanitarian initiatives, with the help of more than 9,000 volunteers.

About the “Women of Europe Award”

Strong women for a united Europe – since 1991, the European Movement Germany (EBD) has been conferring the “Women of Europe Award” on women who make a special commitment to the further integration of Europe, and have shown courage, creativity and persistence in



A symbolic honour: The “Women of Europe” receive a brooch specially made for them.

their voluntary work. The symbolic awarding of this accolade – the winner receives a brooch specially made for her and joins an active network of recipients of the award – aims to give European women who are active in the civic

space a way to connect with each other, enable them to network with EBD member organisations and strengthen volunteering structures in civil society.

The winner is selected each year by a panel made up of the award’s president, two members of EBD’s board of management, two former holders of the award and representatives – both female and male – of the EBD’s member organisations. The EBD appeals to its member organisations and partners to publicise the call for entries for the “Women of Europe Award” within their networks and submit their own nominations.

The president of “Women of Europe” is professor Gudrun Schmidt-Kärner; her deputies are Sissy Thammer, the 1997 winner, and Adriana Lettrari, who received the award in 2016.



The European Movement International (EMI) bestows the European equivalent of the German award – the Women of Europe Awards – annually in conjunction with the European Women’s Lobby (EML). Nominations can be submitted by the member organisations, such as the EBD, and by the award sponsors. The jury, which changes every year, is made up of representatives from the worlds of politics, business, science, media and civil society. On 2 December 2020 women were honoured in

four categories for the fifth time. Berlin founder Sara Nuru was recognised for her commitment to promoting women and female entrepreneurs in countries in the Global South. The other awards went to Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, Belarusian opposition leader and human rights activist, in the Women in Power category, the European Federation of Nurses in the Women in Action category and Mariya Atanasova, a Roma youth activist, in the Women in Youth Activism category.

www.europeanmovement.eu/women-of-europe/

Supported by:



Auswärtiges Amt



Vertretung in Deutschland

Contact us

Europäische Bewegung Deutschland e.V.

Sophienstraße 28/29

10178 Berlin

T +49 (0)30 3036201-22

F +49 (0)30 3036201-19

info@netzwerk-ebd.de

www.netzwerk-ebd.de

You can contact the Women of Europe Award's network of award winners, candidates and supporters by email at:
frauen-europas@netzwerk-ebd.de

Further information can be found at:

www.netzwerk-ebd.de/aktivitaeten/preis-frauen-europas