

Workshop for a European Future –

“Visions meet Reality”

Date:	Oct. 11, 10:45 – 12:15
Venue:	Convention Hall, Kongress am Park, Gögginger Str. 10, 86159 Augsburg
Chair:	PDG Prof. Friedrich Büg, MD 111
Speakers:	Dr. Ilona Diesner, Carolina C. Ferreira, Johannes-Paul Gross, Prof. Dr. Jan Kosturiak, Helmut Lang, Stéphane Merigaud, Maria Morvillo, Dr. Sven Sohr, Nemanja Trbovic, Maren Wiesendorf

Minutes

Dr. Sven Sohr acted as the moderator of the workshop and introduces the chairperson and the speakers.

F. Büg informed the participants of the Lions International Youth Forum 2014 organised by MD 111 – Germany, which was based on the Summer Academy format. Organised in cooperation with Hochschule Ulm, the Graduate School and Technische Akademie Ulm e.V., the participants of the youth forum had the opportunity to obtain 5 ECTS points by completing a "contact study programme". This was the first Lions youth forum to include this opportunity.

F. Büg explained that this youth forum included a future workshop based on the method developed by Robert Jungk, where participants developed five projects to "make the world a better place" (for a better Europe 2030), which is very much in the spirit of the Lions Club. During the event, the participants forged real friendships, and expressed a wish to establish an international "Lions Cyber Club" to keep in touch and to continue the work. By approval (charter) by LCI on 11 August 2015, such a special "Lions Cyber Club" has now been established.

A short presentation video of the youth forum gave an insight of the impressive work done during this summer academy.

Carolina C. Ferreira, Johannes-Paul Gross, Stéphane Merigaud, Maria Morvillo, Nemanja Trbovic and Maren Wiesendorf presented the "REGIO PLUS" project, which is one of the concrete outcomes of the Lions Youth Forum 2014. This project aims at promoting sustainability in Europe, through information and education and through the promotion of locally produced food from sustainable production.

In his input statement, H. Lang explained that the answer to the question whether Europe has any credibility is key to the future of Europe. Efforts made to make Europe a better place with which more people can identify are more important now than ever. He emphasised that, to find guidance regarding such efforts, Lions would have to look no further than their ethical principles laid down in their code of values, as they are in line with the cultural principles behind the European project.

He acknowledged that Lions generally act on a smaller, more local scale, working with people that they personally know. These people could however act as multipliers, initiating a snowball effect. Lions should therefore make use of the experience and outcomes of the Youth Forum 2014 and expand their activities in these areas. Apart from the youth forum, it would be desirable to devise an ambitious programme that could be integrated into the third-level education landscape. A "Lions Academy for Europe" would therefore be a great and realistic idea rather than a utopian concept. Lions should embrace this idea as a task at European level, and promote it wherever they can. H. Lang expressed the view that the time had come for such an effort, and that further decisions could be taken without delay, as Lions would have the ability, dedication and influence to get the ball rolling.

I. Diesner referred to the major trends that can be seen in society and urged the Lions to establish closer networks between experts and students, especially between Lions and across generations and nations. Both experts and students would benefit from such close links, and Lions in Europe, where the organisation has more than 250,000 members could take up a leadership role, as there is huge potential for multiplication effects.

By establishing a "Lions Academy", modern learning environments and scenarios could be promoted in an attractive package, focused on the needs of individuals.

Given the current global crisis, J. Kosturiak emphasised the importance of reflecting on and promoting traditional, shared and essentially European values. These values need to become new paradigms around the globe to make the world a better place for all. Instead of competition and fighting, career, money and greed, control and manipulation, growth and EBIT, the focus must return to cooperation and synergy, purpose and mutual support, trust, responsibility and humility, contentment, quality of life, nature and family.

A "Lions Academy" would play a key role in winning over young people in Europe to adopt these values for their lives and communities. Through such an academy, a viable path towards a better Europe of the future would be mapped out.

F. Bög quoted Ignatius of Loyola: "He who goes about to reform the world must begin with himself" and encouraged the participants of the workshop to remember this adage when devising suggestions for viable solutions. Referring to the problem of food shortages in the world, he expressed the view that this problem could not be overcome by the currently adopted doctrine of free markets but needed a different approach.

In order to tackle such problems, F. Bög proposes to include the question of meaningfulness in traditional management concepts, in the form of an overarching concept that is to govern and guide all objectives and activities. The ethical principles and objectives of Lions International would form a sound basis for such an approach.

In this context, the Lions should devise an "education model" for students in Europe.

This could for instance be done through the establishment of a "Lions Master in New Business & Management", which is of course a far-reaching idea. This Lions Masters programme should be delivered by a "Lions Academy" in cooperation with renowned universities who have an excellent international reputation for accreditation. For more details on this idea, participants were referred to the slide show of the workshop.

By adopting this idea, Lions would make a crucial, sustainable and viable contribution to making the world a better place, rooted in hope giving hope to others.

The Lions International Youth Forum 2014 of MD 111 – Germany demonstrates that this idea is not just a utopian dream but a realistic proposal.

In an open-floor discussion, the workshop participants supported the idea of a "Lions Academy" as a desirable institution. For its implementation, it was proposed that the academy would offer individual modules to complement the Masters programme.

To allow for the reorganisation of the room for the party, the workshop was wrapped up 10 minutes earlier than scheduled.

Several participants expressed great interest in the idea of a "Lions Academy" and its implementation. In discussions following the workshop, they signalled that they would like to get personally involved in working towards its implementation.

Signed Friedrich Büg