Dear members,

This letter comes from the three of us on the Management Board of EWMD International, Kris Hauf (President), Ursula Böhle (President) and Juliane Chakrabarti (Treasurer). We are writing to you to keep you up to date with EWMD news and events.

2012 will probably go down in history as a year of big events that were anticipated but have so far failed to happen. The eurozone was expected to implode but is still alive and kicking, although fighting to find a common solution for challenges that are regionally quite diverse. Although EU Justice Commissioner Viviane Reding failed to achieve compulsory quotas for women on boards, it’s only a matter of time before her proposed EU Directive sets an “objective” of 40 per cent non-executive directors on the boards of big listed companies throughout the EU. Mixed leadership is an essential ingredient of a successful, innovative and sustainable Europe and if some players in the game (who worry that they might have to face fresh, highly educated and holistically thinking women leaders) need a bit of extra motivation, they should get it. Though the goals we are pursuing (in our private lives, our business careers or in our EWMD network and community) may seem overwhelmingly complex or too big to handle, if we “eat the elephant a piece at a time”, we will eventually get where we want to be. Let’s make that our rallying cry for 2013.
**Kris Hauf and Juliane Chakrabarti re-elected – a message from Ursula Böhle**

It is with great pleasure that I announce (for those who did not attend the AGM in Mayrhofen) that Kris Hauf has agreed to continue in her role of International President together with me. Kris and I have found a very successful and efficient way of cooperation and I am confident that we will become even better in supporting each other in our shared role – after all, shared leadership is a trend in today’s business and I’m proud to say that we at EWMD are living out what other organisations are only just now discussing. But what would two EWMD co-presidents do without a brilliant treasurer with deep expertise in her area? Juliane Chakrabarti has also agreed to be available for another term (and was elected at the AGM for a further two-year period). I’m very much looking forward to working with Kris and Juliane, who are both not just professional, pragmatic and reliable but also creative and good fun to work with.

**Changes at EWMD International office**

Andrea Weber has left us after many years running the international office. A big thank you to Andrea for all her support. There are plans to improve the work of the international office, but nothing concrete has been decided. The Management Board has drawn up a provisional job description which will be available on ewmd.org in the new public private help section. As soon as this process is complete, the post will be advertised so that we can find a successor for Andrea. In the interim, Hamburg member Susanne Möllenbeck has been contracted to provide international office support.

Welcome, Susanne.

**Changes at EWMD International board**

We have two new directors who were confirmed at the AGM. Sandra Haase is our new Director Marketing, and Sabine Duval has taken over as Director Corporate Membership. Both are from Rhein-Main chapter in Germany. Also, Nina Pladies was re-elected as EWMD auditor at the AGM.

Relevant documents from the AGM can be found on the EWMD website:

www.ewmd.org/node/13697
Impressions from Mayrhofen

As you know, not only the AGM but also our 2012 International Conference was held in Mayrhofen, Austria, in November. The topic “Making Social Innovation Happen” drew nearly 200 members and guests and was also attractive to the corporate world (sponsors and Corporate Members) – a very good result for an EWMD conference. We received several new membership applications from conference participants and speakers, and several companies are considering becoming Corporate Members as a result of their positive impressions of EWMD. Photos can be found here: www.conference2012.ewmd.org/en/fotos.php  Once again, our heartfelt thanks to the organising team for doing such an excellent job identifying top speakers and also making sure that the whole event ran very smoothly and enjoyably.
ewmd.org support and team

Another highpoint of 2012, of course, was the relaunch of the EWMD website in September. A help section was introduced in the autumn. The public part can be accessed from any page (at the very bottom “info” and “help”) or follow this link: www.ewmd.org/node/14874 . A “public private” help section, i.e. an “inner space” available to all registered EWMD members and not to the general public, will be published soon. This members only help section will also include info on general EWMD matters, e.g. the new EWMD international manual, all statutes, etc.

For those of you who did not meet the ewmd.org support team at the launch event in Vienna or in Mayrhofen, we would like to introduce our support team for ewmd.org: Adam Boryniec is our webmaster. You can contact him by e-mail webmaster@ewmd.org and, if needed, arrange a phone call. Adam is located in Warsaw, Poland. He will help you use the website and with questions concerning EWMD mailing issues. He is also the contact for reporting malfunctions and for requesting changes. The webmaster cooperates closely with the developer team of CMS.pl, which designed and built the website. All technical matters are handled by CMS.pl. In person this is Lech Piekarski, one of the senior programmers, and Tomasz Martynski, the head of CMS.pl. They are supported by a team of staff.

Your regional or national webcoach can also provide support. These are volunteer EWMD members who have access to advanced information and training through the IT team. This is why EWMD International invited them all to Vienna in the autumn and will do so again in 2013 – date and location to be announced. They will do their best to help you use the homepage and forward further queries and suggestions to the IT team. You can find the webcoaches by performing a member search on “EWMD function” or you can contact them by e-mail using the following naming convention: webmaster.chaptername@ewmd.org, e.g. webcoach.italy@ewmd.org.

Direct link to regional webcoaches:
http://www.ewmd.org/members-directory/all?f[0]=field_mem_ewmd_functions%3A160

Direct link to national webcoaches:
http://www.ewmd.org/members-directory/all?f[0]=field_mem_ewmd_functions%3A190

The IT steering committee (ITSC) – Kris Hauf, Juliane Chakrabarti, EWMD Director IT Martina Bongartz and the external project manager Tania Frevert – supervise the support service and progress with bugfixing and improvements. The steering board meets in monthly calls and is responsible for decisions about change requests.
Could you organise a Learning Journey?

Learning Journeys are one of the most successful EWMD formats and they are also the perfect way to reach our goals of broadening international business understanding while networking at the same time. For 2013 we have been offered inside information and networking support by our member Truida Prekel in South Africa. Wouldn’t it be highly interesting (and fun) to go on a Learning Journey to South Africa, a country that is at a thrilling point in its development? We are looking for a member who would be willing to organise the Learning Journey, building on Truida’s information and local expertise. The programme can be very flexible as long as it supports the goals of EWMD (i.e. it must be a predominantly “learning” project and not just tourism-oriented). If you’re interested in getting involved in shaping this fascinating project, please contact us for more detailed information by sending an e-mail to: service.international@ewmd.org.

International Conference to focus on citizenship and diversity

The European Union has declared 2013 the European Year of Citizens (http://europa.eu/citizens-2013) to mark the 20th anniversary of the introduction of EU Citizenship, when the Maastricht Treaty came into force in 1993. Dedicated to the rights that come with EU citizenship, the year will

- provide an opportunity for people throughout Europe to learn about the rights and opportunities open to them thanks to EU citizenship, particularly their right to live and work anywhere in the EU
- stimulate debate about the obstacles that prevent people from fully using these rights and generate specific proposals for addressing them, and
- encourage people to participate in civic fora.
The team organising the EWMD international conference in Brescia, Italy, in 2013 have chosen “Citizenship and diversity in multicultural Europe” as the theme. The conference will focus on the issues that affect the female citizens of Europe and produce a manifesto outlining steps for achieving equality of opportunity and necessary supporting economic and fiscal measures. The event will kick off on the evening of Friday, 25 October with a cocktail reception and dinner. Conference sessions will be on 26 October, with the AGM of EWMD International to follow on 27 October.

Brescia is located in one of Lombardy’s most interesting regions in terms of environment and culture. The surrounding area offers some of northern Italy’s prettiest landscapes, not to mention excellent food and wine, and Brescia itself is within easy reach of all the great cities of the north, such as Milan, Bergamo, Verona, Mantua and Venice. Please put the date in your diaries.

A big thank you to all of you who have contributed actively to making 2012 such a rich year for EWMD. We hope to see as many of you as possible personally in 2013, especially at the International Conference in October.

Best wishes for a healthy and successful New Year with plenty of rewarding networking.

Kris, Ursula and Juliane