

## International Guardianship Network

The International Guardianship Network (IGN) was founded in Berlin in December 2001 by international adult guardians and judges. Now we have more than 165 members from 23 nations and 4 continents. Most of our members come from Europe or from English speaking countries like the U.S., Canada and Australia.

We are independent of political and religious ideologies. The membership is voluntary and free. It is our mission to provide information and networking opportunities for guardianship professionals and volunteers worldwide (adult guardians, trustees, judges, researcher, social worker etc.). Further, we initiate international projects and conferences.

Our first IGN Conference was in Berlin, April 6 to April 9, 2003, with 35 guardianship professionals from 7 nations (Australia, Israel, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Canada, USA). The conference reader "**International Adult Guardianships - Presentations from the International Guardianship Network Conference in Berlin**" (9 presentations from 6 nations, 190 pages) was published in April 2003.

The second IGN Conference „Adult guardianships in Central Europe“ was held in St.Pölten, Austria, September 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2005, with more than 50 guardianship professionals from 11 nations (Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, Luxembourg, Hungary, Slovenia, Netherlands, England and Scotland, USA, Australia). This conference was organised by IGN in cooperation with the Austrian organisation NÖ Landesverein für Sachwalterschaft und Bewohnerververtretung Niederösterreich, and sponsored by the Austrian Ministry of Justice.

The third IGN Conference (only for German speakers) „Adult guardianships in Europe – chances and borders“ was held in Olten, Switzerland, May 10 to 12, 2007 with 25 guardianship professionals from 7 nations (Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, Netherlands, Slovenia, Denmark). The conference was organised by IGN and supported and sponsored by the Swiss Guardianship Association.

The fourth IGN Conference was held in Bergen an Zee, The Netherlands, September 11 to 13, 2007 with more than 60 participants from 14 nations (Canada, USA, Australia, Japan, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, England and Scotland). The conference was organised by the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Faculty of Law, and by the organisations MEE Noordwest-Holland and Stichting Mentorschap Alkmaar in cooperation with IGN. Further, the conference was supported and sponsored by Mentorschap Netwerk Nederland.

The IGN member organisations Betreuungsverein Treptow-Köpenick e.V., Mentorschap Netwerk Nederland and NÖ Landesverein für Sachwalterschaft und Bewohnerververtretung started the EU-Project „Education of volunteer guardians in Europe“ in November 2007.

