



Short information about ISWI

Who are we?

The "Initiative Solidarische Welt Ilmenau e.V." (ISWI e.V.), established in 1992, is an incorporated society and NGO led by students who organize the projects as volunteers. Its status is that of a non-profit and benevolent organization. We set ourselves the goal to fight against social inequality, racism and intolerance as well as to promote mutual understanding. To reach this aim, we organize projects that raise awareness to recent problems and offer an open platform to get to know each other, exchange views and work out solutions for these problems. Our main project, the "International Student Week in Ilmenau" (ISWI), takes place every two years since 1993 at the Technische Universität Ilmenau.

What is ISWI?

The "International Student Week in Ilmenau" is a conference for students organized by students. Over 300 participants from more than 70 different countries took part in the last ISWI in 2013.

Compared to other similar events ISWI is known for its focus on group work, lectures and debates on a certain main topic, to which the conference is dedicated. As main topic the organizing committee always tries to find areas of tension that include recent problems and developments in the world.

The main aim of the ISWI is to bring young people from all over the world together and serve as a platform for exchange and getting to know each other as well as for discussion and working out ideas to solve recent problems. The official language of the conference is English.

The following list gives a review of the past ISWIs.

ISWI	motto	main topic	patron
ISWI 1993	Become friends - unite the world	mutual understanding	Hans-Dietrich Genscher (former member of German Bundestag (parliament), Foreign Minister and Vice Chancellor of Germany)
ISWI 1995	Get up and live - now!	mutual understanding	Dr. Bernhard Vogel (former Minister-President of Rheinland-Pfalz and Thüringen)
ISWI 1997	Let's build our future	future	Frau Prof. Dagmar Schipanski (former Minister for education and culture of Thüringen and president of the Landtag of Thüringen)
ISWI 1999	Celebrating Diversity	diversity	Federico Mayor Zaragoza (former Secretary-General of the UNESCO)
ISWI 2001	Just Future	future	Edelgard Bulmahn (member of German Bundestag (parliament) and Federal Minister of Education and Research)
ISWI 2003	because the people matter	sustainability	Boutros Boutros-Ghali (6th Secretary-General of the United Nations)
ISWI 2005	one world – one vision	war and peace	Jody Williams (Nobel Peace Prize laureate 1997)
ISWI 2007	time to think	education	Prof. Dr. Gesine Schwan (former president of Viadrina European University)
ISWI 2009	Right now!	human rights	Hina Jilani (former United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Human Rights Defenders)
ISWI 2011	crossing borders	freedom	Stéphane Hessel (diplomat, ambassador, author, former French Resistance fighter and concentration camp survivor)



ISWI 2013	moving YOUth	youth	Vandana Shiva (Indian environmental and biodiversity activist, philosopher, womans rights activist, Right Livelihood Award) Jose Antonio Abreu (venetian composer, economist, politician, child care worker, activist and founder of the largest musical project in Venezuela, the Sinfónica de la Juventud Venezolana Simón Bolívar)
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ISWI 2015

The ISWI 2015 is dedicated to the topic "Responsibility". It is taking place from the 29 May to 7 June, 2015. We invite students from all over the world to discuss the different aspects of responsibility. Problems shall be shown and possible solutions will be worked out. The motto of the conference is "dare to care".

The groups

To discuss various aspects of the main topic we created different working groups. The participants have to decide, in which group they would like to take part during the week. They apply for the conference by writing two essays, in which they are asked to explain their motivation to join ISWI and their choice for the working group as well as to interpret the motto of the conference. The students with the best essays will be invited. For ISWI 2013 over 3000 applications reached us.

A group consists of maximum 20 participants and is led by two group leaders, who are students of our university that volunteered for this task. The group leaders will receive preparation and support from members of the organizing committee. There will be a series of seminars for the intending group leaders which will include rhetorical training, moderation techniques, conflict management and a workshop on intercultural communication. At the end of the week, the groups are invited to present their results in a closing ceremony. Furthermore, they are published in form of a printed documentation.

Here is an outline of our planned groups:

1) Taking Responsibility

- 1.1) Encourage people
- 1.2) Chances and problems that come along with "Assumption of Responsibility"
- 1.3) Founding an organization
- 1.4) Overcoming barriers of communication

2) Stay Active

- 2.1) Continuity
- 2.2) Information – what do we really know?
- 2.3) Barriers in activism
- 2.4) Virtual commitment @ organization platforms
- 2.5) Documentation

3) Take pART!

- 3.1) Fine arts
- 3.2) Music
- 3.3) Theatre
- 3.4) Creative writing
- 3.5) Dance

4) Set Priorities

- 4.1) Journalism
- 4.2) Education
- 4.3) Political responsibility
- 4.4) Environment
- 4.5) Health
- 4.6) Technology
- 4.7) Commitment against discrimination
- 4.8) Sexual freedom and self-determination
- 4.9) Medical and humanitarian aid
- 4.10) Equality and women's rights
- 4.11) Consumption

5) Question Activism

- 5.1) Altruism vs. Egoism
- 5.2) Black & White thinking
- 5.3) Ethics and morals in the activism
- 5.4) Marketing, advertising, public relations



The lecturers

For each ISWI we try to get experts, who are able to give a deeper insight into certain aspects of the topic and an input for a fruitful group work. Therefore we invite lecturers from all over the world, who are well-known for their experience and work, to give a lecture in Ilmenau.

Beside others we could already welcome Prof. Konrad Zuse, Prof. Joseph Weizenbaum, Johan Galtung, Tschingis Aitmatow, Prof. Udo Schuklenk, Raul Montenegro, Danny Schechter, Hans Rudolf Herren, Brian Wood, Ulrike von Pilar, Dr. Hanumappa Sudarshan and Dr. Takahiro Shinyo.

The cultural programme

In addition to the group work, lectures and debates we organize a cultural programme containing various events, where the participants and all people interested have the possibility to get to know each other in a free and open atmosphere while they are enjoying the various forms of culture. But the cultural programme is also linked to the topic. For example for ISWI 2011, we organized "The long path to freedom", an interactive role play, where the participants could experience and learn on different aspects of freedom.

For organizing the different cultural events we are closely cooperating with the other student associations on the campus.

For ISWI 2015 the following events are planned:

- an International Sports Event
- a Get-to-know-party
- an International Brunch
- an Open Air concert
- a movie night

Furthermore, there will be many other smaller events. For example, all our student clubs on the campus will open their doors every night and offer a special programme.

Our campus TV-Station "iSTUFF" will broadcast live every day as "ISWIision" and our student radio station "hsf" will broadcast for the whole ten days as "ISWIradio".