

Presentation of PDG Niels Schnecker
SD 124, Romania, CA4 Candidate as International Director

"FLYING HIGH TOGETHER: INSPIRING LEADERSHIP, GROWING FRIENDSHIP!"



My candidacy for the position of International Director comes to continue the work I have done in the last 23 years of Lionism, of which 16 years have also had a strong international value.

Here, in brief, is my history in Lions Clubs International, the projects I have been involved in for over 20 years and the work I have done, together with friends, within District 124 Romania and internationally:

My Lions journey began in 2001, when I became the charter president of LC Bucharest Millennium. Over the years that followed I took on the responsibilities of Zone Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer of the District Cabinet. My activity in representing District 124 began in 2006, after being elected as VDG2, ensuring the representation of Lions D124 Romania members as Governor in the 2008-2009 Lions year. I have coordinated the leadership activity at the European level since 2013 (GLT Area Leader), and since 2019 in the Global Action Team activity (GAT Area Leader). The responsibilities at the European level were entrusted to me as a result of the work I have done in the field of leadership.

I have always been concerned with contributing to increasing the level of leadership, since the beginning of my Lions activity, in 2002. The skills of a trainer, but also knowledge related to our organization at the European level, were developed, in a first stage, within the ALLI and FDI seminars in Brussels and Malaga. In 2008 I began to share this knowledge by being a facilitator in seminars dedicated to club vice presidents, secretaries and treasurers organized in District 124. My activity as an instructor in national and international programs - Advanced Lions Leadership Institute (ALLI) seminars, Emerging Lions Leadership Institute (ELLI), Regional Lions Leadership Institute (RLLI) – attended by Lions from all over Europe, continues even now. Moreover, since 2013, I am an instructor (DGE Group Leader) in the seminars that prepare the future governors of Lions Clubs International. I continue to help tailor training programs for future club and district officers. Thus, I am currently chairing a project of the long Range Planning Committee Europe that aims to create the foremost leadership development and training facility for Constitutional Area 4 - Lions Academy Europe, as a body of the Europa Forum.

I would like to mention the organization of the European Forum in Bucharest in 2007, in my capacity of treasurer and vice president of the forum's organizing committee.

A first personal success at the level of Lions Clubs International was the acceptance of the participation, for the first time, at an FDI institute of two Leo members trained to become facilitators within the LEO District 124 Romania. I intensively negotiated with the Board of Directors the approval of a dispensation for Romanian Leo members, a dispensation which, later, was transformed into a rule at the level of the entire international Association. Furthermore, the project to integrate Leo members into the Lions, at which I participated, was completed after many years of work, materializing into the Leo-Lions program.

My continuous work has been recognized over time through international awards, among which I would mention the Presidential Medals received from the former Presidents of Lions Clubs International Jimmy Ross (2007), Al Brandel (2009), Barry Palmer (2014), Joe Preston (2015), Bob Corlew (2017), Naresh Agarwal (2018), Gudrun Yngvadottir (2019), Jung Yul Choi (2020 and 2021) and Douglas Alexander (2022), Brian Sheehan (2023), Patti Hill (2024).