

Biographies

Iris Schwanck

Director of FILI –Finnish Literature Exchange and Finland. Cool. 2014

Iris Schwanck was born in Geneva and educated in Finland. She holds a PhD from the University of Helsinki and also studied in Paris and Brussels. She worked at the Universities of Jyväskylä and Helsinki as a professor and researcher, where her main interests were the French 19th century novel and African francophone literature. After leaving the academic world, she served as deputy director at the Centre for International Mobility (CIMO) and as director of the Finnish Cultural Institute in Paris. Since 2001, she has been director of FILI – Finnish Literature Exchange. She was president of the Mikkola International Writers' Reunion in 2001 and served as director of the cultural cooperation project "100% Finlande en France" in France from 2005 to 2008. She directed the project "Les lettres Nordiques au Salon du Livre 2011" and is current head of the organizing committee for Finland, this year's guest of honour at the Frankfurt Book Fair 2014. The President of France awarded her the "Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur" distinction in 2011.

Anna-Maija Mertens

Head of the Finnish Institute Germany in Berlin

Since 2010, the political scientist Dr. Anna-Maija Mertens has been director of the Finnish Institute Germany in Berlin. Anna-Maija Mertens is originally from Helsinki, where she passed her qualification for university entrance (Abitur). She completed her studies of political science as well as modern and contemporary history in 2001 at the University of Münster. In her dissertation, she investigated the role of the presidency of the European Council in drafting of the European constitution. From 2003 to 2007, Anna-Maija Mertens was project manager at the University of Münster while also working as a freelance consultant, as well as a political journalist for Finnish media. In 2007, she turned to scientific consulting and joined Scientific Consulting Dr. Schulte-Hillen GmbH in Bonn. Anna-Maija Mertens and her husband Mario are the parents of two children.

Timo Parvela

Timo Parvela (born 1964) is one of Finland's most popular authors of fiction for children and young adult. The former primary school teacher has won several awards, including the renowned Finlandia Junior Award, and was recently awarded the LesePeter Award by Germany's Education and Science Workers' Union (GEW). Parvela's books have been translated into 15 languages. His most popular book series is about a primary school student named Ella, whose humorous observations on the everyday madness at a Finnish school are from the perspective of a naïve child. The "Ella" series is published by the Hanser Verlag.

Juergen Boos

Director Frankfurt Book Fair

After studying to be a publishing manager, Juergen Boos studied business management in Mannheim. He worked for several years as sales director for Droemersch Verlag, Literarischer Verlag, Carl Hanser Verlag and Springer Verlag in Berlin, where he went on to become director of international sales. In 1997, he moved to Verlag Wiley-VCH in Weinheim as executive director of marketing, sales and distribution. He has been director of the Frankfurt Book Fair since April 2005.

Host:

Mikko Fritze

Director of the Goethe-Institute Finland

Mikko Fritze was born 1963 in Tampere, Finland. He studied Biology and German in Hamburg. During his career at the Goethe-Institute, he has lived and worked in Argentina, Croatia, Uruguay and the Republic of Estonia. From 2007 to 2010, he was the director of the Tallinn 2011 Foundation - European Capital of Culture 2011. He has served as director of the Goethe-Institute Finland in Helsinki since 2010. Mikko Fritze is married and has three children.

Further Information:

Press Office Finland. Cool. | c/o WBCO GmbH | Silvia Lenz | Krögerstraße 2 | 60313 Frankfurt | T +49.69.13388037 | F +49.69.13388033 | s.lenz@wbco.de