

Dr. Nina Smidt

Managing Director / Board Spokesperson



"Only by working together can we bring about change. By working in partnership with stakeholders from civil society, business and politics, and by thinking boldly beyond established boundaries, we will succeed in addressing the global challenges of our time and shaping the future."

Dr. Nina Smidt has been Managing Director and Spokesperson of the Board of Directors at Siemens Stiftung since April 1, 2020. Together with her fellow board member Klaus Grünfelder, she drives the hands-on implementation of the foundation's goals. On October 1, 2021, the Board of Trustees entrusted her with the overall management of the Education, Arts & Culture and Social Entrepreneurship work areas, as well as responsibility for Communications. Since then, she has been leading the foundation's strategic realignment across the three thematic areas of "Access to Essential Services," "Connected Societies," and "Climate & Sustainability." She is also a shareholder in WeTu, a social enterprise in Kenya founded by the Siemens Stiftung.

As a nonprofit foundation, Siemens Stiftung is committed to sustainable social development, for which Access to Essential Services, Connected Societies, and Climate & Sustainability are fundamental prerequisites. Dr. Nina Smidt has extensive international expertise in the fields of Education, Social Entrepreneurship and Sustainability, which she combines with her geostrategic expertise. She also has in-depth knowledge and experience in developing sustainable fundraising strategies, Head of Unit transformation processes, change management and new work initiatives. Strengthening international relations, social innovation and international partnerships are part of an intensive and comprehensive area of her work. In her role as Managing Director of Siemens Stiftung as well as in various supervisory bodies, she works closely with a broad network of partners including more than 100 non-governmental organizations, government representatives, universities and educational institutions in Europe, Africa, Latin America, and the USA.

Dr. Nina Smidt has 20 years of international experience in leading educational institutions and foundations. Prior to joining Siemens Stiftung as a board member, Dr. Nina Smidt headed the ZEIT-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius U.S. Foundation in New York from 2010 to 2020. From 2011 to 2020, she was also Division Director for International Planning and Development at the ZEIT Foundation in Hamburg. As head of Bucerius Education GmbH at Bucerius Law School in Hamburg, she headed the Executive Education and Consulting divisions from 2006 to 2011. Prior to that, she was Deputy Managing Director of the International Center for Graduate Studies at the University of Hamburg.

Dr. Nina Smidt holds a PhD in linguistic and cultural theory and wrote her dissertation on critical literary theory at the University of Hamburg. As a postdoctoral fellow, she received fellowships at the School of Criticism and Theory at Cornell University, USA, and at Haifa University in Israel. Previously, she studied German, English and education at the University of Hamburg, Political and Cultural Studies at the University of Technology in Sydney and Business Administration at the European School of Management and Technology in Berlin. In addition, she participated in various executive programs at Harvard Business School, Yale School of Management and Columbia Business School. She is also the author of numerous publications on education, social engagement, and participation, postcolonialism, and transatlantic relations. Dr. Smidt is an expert on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and sustainability, and has a deep understanding of sustainable social development as a holistic process with economic, environmental, and social dimensions.

Dr. Smidt acts as a conference speaker in Germany, Latin America, and the USA. She is also a member of the following boards of trustees or advisory boards: Federal Association of German Foundations, Berlin; American Friends of Atlantik Brücke, New York City; German-American Partnership Program, Washington D.C.; Tamer Center for Social Innovation at Columbia Business School, New York City; Do School, Berlin; Steering Committee National STEM Forum, Berlin; Social Policy Advisory Board of acatech, Munich; Advisory Board LATIMPACTO (Impact Investing for Latin America), Bogota; Generation CEO - Network for Women in Leadership; Diversity Charter. She represents Siemens Stiftung in the General Assembly of the Forum Education Digitalisation.