

Dr. Nina Smidt

Managing Director / Board Spokesperson



Dr. Nina Smidt has been the Managing Director (CEO) and the Spokesperson of the Board of Directors of Siemens Stiftung since April 1, 2020. She is responsible for the operational management and the strategic development of Siemens Stiftung as well as the management of the working areas of Education, Social Entrepreneurship, Arts, and Culture in the focus regions of Africa, Europe, India, and Latin America. She also manages the coordination of Siemens Stiftung Foundation Alliance. Since 2020, in her role as the Managing Director of Siemens Stiftung, she is also a shareholder of WeHub! Victoria Ltd., a social enterprise founded by Siemens Stiftung.

Under her leadership, Siemens Stiftung has realigned its strategic focus on three topic areas: Access to Essential Services, Connected Societies, and Climate & Sustainability. As an operational foundation, Siemens Stiftung develops its own national and international projects, initiating, designing, and supporting them over the long term. The foundation is committed to sustainable social development, it pursues together with international partners.

Dr. Nina Smidt has extensive international expertise in the fields of education, sustainability, and international politics. Strengthening international relations, social innovation, and international partnerships is an intensive and comprehensive area of her work. She also has expertise in social entrepreneurship, diversity, equity & inclusion (DEI), geo-strategy and the development of sustainable fundraising strategies. Her deep understanding of sustainable social development as a holistic process with economic, environmental, and social dimensions enables her to develop and implement effective management strategies for transformation processes, change management, and new work initiatives.

Dr. Nina Smidt brings over 20 years of international experience in leadership positions across educational and scientific institutions, think tanks and foundations. Before Siemens Stiftung, she headed the US foundation of the ZEIT-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius in New York from 2010 to 2020. From 2011 to 2020, she was also the Head of International Planning and Development at the ZEIT Foundation in Hamburg. As Managing Director of Bucerius Education GmbH at Bucerius Law School in Hamburg, she was responsible for the Executive Education, Conference Management and Consulting divisions from 2006 to 2011. Prior to that, she was Deputy Managing Director of the International Centre for Graduate Studies at the University of Hamburg.

Dr. Nina Smidt holds a doctorate in linguistics and cultural theory, with a dissertation on critical literary theory at the University of Hamburg. As a postdoctoral researcher, she was awarded scholarships at the School of Criticism and Theory at Cornell University, US, and Haifa University in Israel. She previously studied German, English, and Education at the University of Hamburg, Political and Cultural Studies at the University of Technology in Sydney and Business Administration and Economics at the European School of Management and Technology in Berlin. She has also participated in various executive and board development programs at Harvard Business School, Yale School of Management, Columbia Business School, and WHU / IESE.

She has authored numerous publications on the topics of education, sustainability, social inclusion and participation, post-colonialism, transatlantic relations, future trends, and entrepreneurship.

Dr. Nina Smidt is involved in several German and international advisory boards:

- Federal Association of German Foundations, Berlin
- American Friends of Atlantic Bridge, New York City
- Do School, Berlin
- German-American Partnership Programme, Washington D.C.
- Sociopolitical Advisory Board of acatech, Munich
- LATIMPACTO (Impact Investing for Latin America), Bogota
- National MINT Forum, Berlin
- Rethinking Transport - Connecting Minds for African Solutions by GIZ and Agora Verkehrswende, Berlin / Nairobi
- Senate of the German Economy, Berlin

She represents Siemens Stiftung in the General Assembly of the Forum Bildung Digitalisierung and heads the Personnel and Finance Committee.