

# CURRICULUM VITAE

**Sonja Lahnstein-Kandel, M. A.**

STEP 21  
the Youth Initiative for Tolerance and Responsibility  
Jugend fordert! gemeinnützige GmbH  
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since 1998

**STEP 21 „Jugend fordert!“ non-profit limited company**  
Managing Partner

Further partners: Bertelsmann AG, Siemens AG and BBDO  
Germany

Consulting partner: Roland Berger Strategy Consultants

Foundation and Implementation of **STEP 21**,  
the Youth Initiative for Tolerance and Responsibility

1994 – 1998

**Bertelsmann AG**  
Commissioner for „Bertelsmann for Tolerance“

## Career:

1994- 2000

**Tonbach Round-Table**  
Director

high-level international conference series of the  
Dräger-Foundation in cooperation with other institutions (i. e.  
Office of the Federal President, Ministerpresidents of the  
German Länder)

1988 – 1994

**Dräger-Foundation, Lübeck**  
Director

Conferences, symposia, publications, exchange programs  
and cooperative international projects in the area of  
economic and development policy, international politics and  
cultural affairs

1987 – 1988

Planning, organization and implementation of a charity-  
concert series with the NDR-Chorus and orchestra in  
Munich, Hamburg and Wiesbaden on the occasion of the  
40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the State of Israel

1985 – 1986

career break due to family reasons

- 1984 – 1986  
**University of Dortmund**  
**Department of Marketing**  
Academic assistance and teaching in the area of International Management
- 1982 – 1984  
**DEG – German Investment and Development Corporation, Cologne**  
Regional Manager for Central and Mid-America  
  
Responsible for all projects and joint ventures of the DEG with German and local partners in Columbia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Venezuela, Costa Rica and El Salvador
- 1979 – 1982  
**The World Bank, Washington DC, South Asia Projects**  
Senior Industrial Economist/Operations Officer  
  
Industrial project and program financing in the development countries of South-East Asia; development of credit strategies, management of expert teams, consultations and negotiations with governments as well as private and institutional investors
- 1975 – 1979  
**The International Monetary Fund, Washington D.C. Western Hemisphere Department/Asian Department**  
Economist  
  
Development of stabilization programs and balance of payment loans in several countries of Latin America and Asia; extensive missions and participation in negotiations with governments of these countries
- 1974 – 1975  
**Commission of the European Community, Brussels**  
Assistant to the Spokesman for economic and financial policy, budget and capital market issues
- 1973  
**Hamburg-Afrika Bank AG, Hamburg**  
in charge of export finance and suppliers' loans
- 1972  
**Strabag Bau AG, Frankfurt/Main**  
In charge of purchase management for a major building site (bridge)

Academic Background:

1974	Diploma in Economics (M. A.), University of Hamburg (Magna cum Laude)
1969 – 1973	Study of Economics in Hamburg
1969	Several months of study of journalism and political sciences at the University of Ann Arbor, Michigan/USA
1968 - 1969	General Certificate of Education of the University of London
1966 – 1968	British High School, Hamburg
1956 – 1966	Grammar School and High School in Zagreb (then Yugoslavia, currently Croatia)

Languages:

German, English, French, Croatian, Spanish (basic)

Nationality:

German since 1970 (born in Zagreb)

Other Activities:

- Chairman of the German "Förderkreis der Universität Haifa"
- Member of the Board, University of Haifa, Israel
- Member of the Board, Foundation "Denkmal für die ermordeten Juden Europas"
- Counselor, Women's World Banking, Washington DC (until 1998)
- Member, Atlantik Brücke e. V.
- Member, Jewish Community, Hamburg
- Chair, Council for a Beautiful Israel e. V. (until 1998)
- Member of the Executive Board AGIS/Association of German International Schools (1995- 2000)
- Member of the Executive Board of ISH/International School Hamburg (1994-1999)
- Member of the Initiative Board „Democracy Alive“ of the German Bundestag (until 2001)
- Member of the Jury-Commission "Präventionspreis", Conference of interior ministers of the German Länder (until 2001)
- Carrier of the Order of the Federal Republic of Germany (Bundesverdienstkreuz)

Personal:

married to Professor Manfred Lahnstein,  
Federal Minister of Finance ret.  
Daughter Lea-Rebecca