



MBA Program

Meet Anke Sieg, an MBA Solvay alumnus who learned how to overpass her limits.

BIOGRAPHY AND INTERVIEW

Biography

Anke Sieg is a **multi-lingual B2B professional** with a degree in pharmaceutical sciences. She earned her PhD at the University of Geneva, followed by R&D positions at Procter & Gamble, UK and Baxter Europe, Belgium.

Since 2008, Anke has held several roles in R&D and Application Engineering in Dow Corning Europe. Since her studies for an Executive MBA at Solvay Business School from 2013 to 2015, Anke became **Technical Key Account Manager for several European clients in the Pharmaceutical and Medical Device sector.**

Since 2015, Anke is **Executive Board Member and Treasurer** of Professional Women International (PWI) Brussels, a non-profit network economic empowerment of women and fostering workplace diversity.



"I learned to push boundaries, but also got to know personal limits."

Interview

WHAT IS YOUR CURRENT JOB AND POSITION?

Today, I am Technical Key Account Manager at [Dow Corning](#), a global leader in silicon-based technology and innovation, but I expect this to change during the year.

HOW ABOUT YOUR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE?

As people with **technical** profiles, our R&D and corporate roles train us to become **very process- and detail-oriented**. However, today's world is all about change, inter-connectivity and working at interfaces to enable innovation. It is no longer enough to be expert in one field, you need to be able to evolve with your field, understand the big picture and how other influences and fields change and shape the tomorrow.

My personal challenge was to go **from the deep expertise in one field to a more transactional profile**, to bridge functional differences and find the right balance between operational and strategic focus, pragmatism and creativity, to lead teams towards creating sustainable value for our clients and society. The mentoring I received as part of my PWI membership and the [MBA training](#) enabled me to make this transition.

WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM THESE CHALLENGES?

Everyone has unique skills and experiences. The key is to be **humble** to learn from everyone and leverage these skills to create the best outcome.

A changing environment, organizational structures and conflicting interests create barriers and fears along the way. From my work at Dow Corning, with my clients and my board experience at PWI, I can say – it is key to understand the human element, the underlying issues and then to focus on the common goals and interests of all involved parties as guiding principle.

Lead your team towards this goal, keep the members **engaged** and then you make **the impossible happen**.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MBA EXPERIENCE AT THE SOLVAY BRUSSELS SCHOOL?

It was a very **enriching** experience to go back to school, to take quality time for personal development and to deeply immerse myself in a new environment, new context and new personal network.

I made great friends and experiences. I enjoyed it a lot, but it was also very **challenging** to implement besides work and family. I **learned to prioritize and to balance several responsibilities**.

HOW DID YOUR MBA SHAPE WHO YOU ARE TODAY?

I learned to **push boundaries**, but also got to **know personal limits**.

At business schools, you learn a lot of tools and concepts, and you learn why and how businesses and functions take certain decisions. It is an **eye opener** and provides the toolkit to become a great leader.

The key is then to use it every day, **to go beyond your comfort zone** and fight for what you believe in.

My work and my board experience at PWI, in particular, have been great places to put it all together, to run an organization and transform it from within – in essence to practice all hard and soft skills coming together.

DO YOU HAVE ANY ADVICE FOR PEOPLE WHO WANTS TO START AN MBA?

Establish and engage your support network before you start (in particular when you have a family!). It will sustain and support you during this remarkable experience. I am particularly happy to discover the new format of the Executive MBA: only one long week-end a month will make it easier for those with young children and with families.

Otherwise go for it! And the earlier you do it, the better!

The Executive MBA welcomes about 30% of women every year in its classroom. The School's objective is to increase this ratio to more than 40%!



[Learn more](#) about the Solvay Executive MBA