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## **NEW GOETHE-INSTITUT DIRECTOR FOR IRELAND AS CURRENT LEADER MECHTILD MANUS TAKES UP INTERNATIONAL ROLE**

Mechtild Manus, for the past three years Director of the Goethe-Institut in Ireland, is to leave Ireland on 29 May 2015 to take up a new post as senior fellow at the Goethe-Institut's Headquarters in Munich. She will monitor current debates in German society and inform the 160 institutes in 94 countries about the latest trends in political thinking. Her successor is Thomas Lier, currently Director of the Goethe-Institut in Ankara (Turkey).

During her time in Ireland, Mechtild Manus has contributed significantly to fostering cultural exchange between Ireland and Germany: she launched the **Deutschmobil** which travels to schools in Ireland, oversaw the creation of the travel app **German Traces in Ireland** and enabled the strand of German Dance "**Moves from Germany**" at this year's **Dublin Dance Festival**, including the festival's opening performance of *Built to Last* by Meg Stuart / Damaged Goods / Münchner Kammerspiele.

Currently President of EUNIC Dublin, the network of European National Institutes for Culture, Mechtild inspired a series of public lectures and masterclasses by leading European designers as part of the Year of Irish Design (ID2015) from product design to furniture and from fashion to jewelry.

She also progressed the redevelopment of the Goethe-Institut's Irish HQ on 37 Merrion Square, a €10 million project funded by the German Foreign Office on which construction begins in autumn 2015.

*It is not without sadness that Mechtild Manus takes her leave. "The city and Ireland as a whole left a mark on me. From the very first day I felt so welcome by the Irish. There is a warmth, an openness and a tangible caring attitude towards others. Artistically, I was deeply impressed by theatre companies like ANU, by visual artists like Isabel Nolan, writers like Claire Keegan and choreographers like Aoife McAtamney. I take a lot from here to Germany," said the outgoing Director. "I thank the many people and organisations in all cultural fields for their trust and their partnership. I hope that they extend the same openness and cooperation to my successor."*

The new Director of the Goethe-Institut in Ireland, Thomas Lier, takes up his position in Dublin in September 2015. A scholar of Middle Eastern History, he received his PhD from the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität (LMU) in Munich. His previous posts have included Alexandria (Egypt) and Amman (Jordan).

### **For media information, please contact**

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## **EDITORS' NOTES**

### **About the Goethe-Institut**

The Goethe-Institut is the Federal Republic of Germany's cultural network with 160 institutes in 94 countries. Founded in 1951, it has been active in Ireland since 1961. The role of the Goethe-Institut in Ireland is to inform about Germany, provide German language classes and foster cultural exchange between Ireland and Germany.

### **About the Building Project**

The redevelopment of the Goethe-Institut's Irish HQ at 37 Merrion Square will see the 1790 Georgian townhouse refurbished to its period glory and welcome the creation of a new garden and contemporary mews building on the site. Building work commences in 2015, and the Goethe-Institut has temporarily relocated all services to 62 Fitzwilliam Square until the Merrion Square building re-opens in 2017. Designed by Irish/German architects Henchion Reuter Architects, the historic building, post-development, will contain the Goethe-Institut's Information and Library Service, a new German café and expanded cultural/events space, while a new contemporary mews building will house the German Language School and services for teachers of German.

You can contact the Goethe-Institut at 62 Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin 2, Ireland / +353-1-6801110 / [info@dublin.goethe.org](mailto:info@dublin.goethe.org) / [www.goethe.de/irland](http://www.goethe.de/irland)

For the latest updates on Goethe-Institut events, follow the Goethe-Institut on Facebook & Twitter: [www.facebook.com/goetheinstitut.irland](https://www.facebook.com/goetheinstitut.irland) / [@GI\\_Ireland](https://twitter.com/GI_Ireland)

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