

EXC-012 MOTION FOR SI GA 2015 presented by AG on behalf of Exco

Subject Working Group: Travellers and Hosts / Regional Development

Title of motion

Youth leadership Committee: number of members

National secretary and national member group proposing motion

Ann Greenhough on behalf of SI Exco

Summary of the motion

The number of members elected to the Youth Leadership Committee will be reduced from five to three for the 2015 elections.

This committee will then have responsibility for creating and managing a Servas Youth team with an undefined number of appointed members.

As far as possible this team should be representative of all Servas regions and youth and family projects including SYLE.

The purpose of this team will be to support the work of the youth leadership committee in promoting and organising Servas youth and family activities and projects worldwide.

Background information and reasons for proposing the motion.

To replace the previous SI youth positions, a youth leadership committee of 8 people (known informally as the SI youth team) was appointed temporarily following the 2012 GA pending a distant vote election. Five members of this team were later elected by acclamation via a distant vote although only three members of the team remained active.

It proved very difficult for the eight members of the appointed team to establish efficient communication via video conferences. This hindered both team decision-making and the development of an agreed plan of work as a team.

A smaller elected leadership committee will be able to be more effective in its decision making and working together as a group as well as engaging with other SI committees. At the same time it will be important for this elected committee to develop an active support team to encourage youth activity in all areas, given in reality youth meetings are often a catalyst for developing Servas within a region.

The motion would amend the 2012 decision:

Effective immediately, the positions of Servas Youth Coordinator and Youth Development Officer are to be replaced with a permanent Youth Committee of five or more individuals preferably from at least three different continents with members appointed by the present EXCO before the end of the GA 2012, until a distant vote.

Likely benefits for Servas International and national groups if the motion is passed.

A smaller and more efficient committee able to promote youth activity.

Resource implications if the motion is passed in terms of time, human resources and specialist expertise.

The three committee members would have capacity to carry out its responsibilities as an SI committee with the oversight of SI Exco. The wider youth team would be available as a resource to the committee to develop projects and take responsibility for promoting youth events as needed.

What are the budget implications, if any, of the motion for Servas International and for national groups in the short and longer term?

The proposed SI budget includes funding for youth activities. This will not be affected by any change in the size of the YL committee.

Who should be responsible for the actions arising from the motion in terms of planning, development and management, for example which officer within SI Exco or SI Committee.

The responsibilities of the youth leadership committee on being elected would include encouraging regional youth activities and other projects through finding and appointing members to the youth team.

Would there be implications for the Servas International statutes if the motion is passed?

The statutes would record a reduction in the required number on the youth leadership committee from five or more to three.

What is the likely impact if the motion is not passed?

The youth leadership committee would continue with five or more elected members raising the possibility of similar difficulties for the functioning of the committee as occurred between 2012 and 2015.