

EXC-013 MOTION FOR SI GA 2015

Subject Working Group: Travellers and Hosts / Regional Development

Title of motion

CREATING A STRATEGY FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN SERVAS
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National secretary and national member group proposing motion
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Ann Greenhough on behalf of SI Exco

Summary of the motion

- The GA approves the creation of a Servas International strategy for both sustaining and developing the organisation at a local and regional level.
- To achieve this aim, SI Exco should first encourage national groups and those in key SI roles (including the area coordinator if in post) to cooperate in creating a development strategy in each Servas region.
- In collaboration with national groups it is envisaged that the Development Committee and Youth Leadership Committee will play key roles in formulating such strategies as well as promoting activities and initiatives likely to increase Servas membership across all age groups and backgrounds.
- There should be particular emphasis on addressing the difficulties encountered in regions such as Africa and Central America in maintaining membership of some national groups at a viable level.
- Whilst looking at regional strategies the opportunity should be taken to evaluate the functions of the area coordinator role alongside the alternative ways in which national groups in some regions have worked together in shared activities. This is with a view to determining the best way of providing leadership, support and innovation within Servas regions in the future.
- SI Exco, in collaboration with other SI committees, should aim to bring together the work on development strategies in each region and formulate them into an overall SI strategy for regional development.
- Any proposals requiring changes to the SI statutes should be presented to the 2018 GA.

Background information and reasons for proposing the motion.

<p>Servas continues to expand and contract as an organisation with membership increasing in some regions and reducing in others.</p> <p>Going online will offer Servas as yet unexplored possibilities to stabilise and expand its membership. There is potential to develop in new directions and be more appealing to prospective members. Working together to create a shared regional strategy will be an opportunity to identify unique local circumstances and think about the most effective ways of promoting Servas within each region. Regional activities in recent years in East Europe and Central Asia and in South East Asia demonstrate the benefits of national groups coming together in joint initiatives, leading to increased membership in both new and longer established national groups.</p>

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

- With the benefit of a viable strategy for development in place, the Servas network will be better prepared to support both the the survival and expansion of national groups across regions.
- Working together on creating a joint strategy will encourage closer links between national groups and could lead to new shared initiatives.

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

- Active participation would be required from members of national groups in each region together with representatives from the Development and Youth Leadership committees.
- Further specialist help could be accessed from other SI committees 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?

No specific budget implications.

Those wanting to organise regional activities including youth or regional meetings will be able to apply for funding from the existing development fund, regional and youth budgets.

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.

In each region representatives of national groups and SI committees, including area coordinators if in post, would form a working group to be responsible for work on a development strategy. Within SI Exco the vice president would be the lead person and would work in collaboration with other SI committees to consider an overall SI strategy for regional development.

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

Regional activities are not specifically covered in the SI statutes.

A future SI strategy for regional development may indicate that some changes to the statutes are needed.

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

Regional activities are likely to continue in an uncoordinated way.

In some regions, without increased collaboration those national groups with already limited membership will struggle to survive.