

EXC-015 MOTION FOR SI GA 2015

Subject Working Group: Travel and hosts/ Regional Development

Title of motion

Promoting special interest networks within Servas

National secretary and national member group proposing motion
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Ann Greenhough on behalf of SI Exco

Summary of the motion

<p>The GA supports the promotion of special interest networks within Servas, making use of the new SI website to develop them in a more structured way than has previously been possible. Linking people with shared interests has the potential to enhance both individual and group experiences in Servas.</p>
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<p>Families in Servas will have a dedicated webpage on the SI website to promote Servas as a family friendly organisation and to encourage connections between families both as hosts and travellers. Likewise a Servas Youth webpage will replace the previous Servas Youth website.</p>

<p>Other areas of interest will be promoted either through a separate webpage to be known as Special Interest Networks, or via the proposed Making Connections page.</p>
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<p>The Servas Environment Network will be encouraged as an first example on which to base future special interest networks, linking in with the proposed Making Connections project and working group. The potential use of new SI website will be explored to develop the most effective way of connecting Servas members with shared interests.</p>

Background information and reasons for proposing the motion.

<p>During the SI meeting in Dalesbridge UK in 2014 there was discussion about how Servas members with shared interests could be better linked within the organisation through the new SI website and online host entries as well as through more ad hoc connections via social media such as Facebook and Twitter.</p>
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<p>There was particular interest in encouraging debate within Servas on issues concerning the environment and their relevance to world peace. This included the responsibility of travellers to be aware of the environmental impact of their travels. There was also seen to be potential to link members living and working in very diverse settings around the world with a shared interest in protecting the environment.</p>

Likely benefits for Servas International and national groups if the motion is passed.
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<p>Servas members sharing specific issues on a wide range of topics and issues will be encouraged to exchange ideas through online networks leading to possible future face to face visits. A focus on developing an environment network would promote wider interest and debate within</p>

Servas on environmental issues including their impact on attempts to resolve conflict around the world.

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

A separate working group or jointly with the Making Connections project would develop of the idea of special interest groups.

IT expertise would be needed to advise on how to best promote special interest networks on the new website.

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

There are no initial budget implications. In the future applications for funding could be made to DC or other sources to fund specific projects.

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.

Within Exco the vice president would have responsibility to work with other SI committees to ensure the setting up of either a separate working group or jointly with Making Connections project.

Once established any special network group would be largely self-directing.

Lead person for environment network to be identified.

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

No

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

The opportunity would be lost for Servas to develop use of the new SI website to more effectively link Servas members with a shared interest.