



## MOTION FORM

FOR SERVAS INTERNATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY (SIGA) 2025

UPDATED: AUGUST 2025

**1. Heading for the proposal in this motion (No more than 10 words)**

How to attract and retain young members

**2. Date and place for this motion.**

Germany / The Netherlands, 2025-03-27

**3. SI member group(s) or SI EXCO member(s) who is (are) responsible for this motion.**

Note that only SI Member Groups or SI Executive Committee (SI EXCO, Servas International's global board) may propose motions for a SIGA.

Manuela Kuttig (Vice President and Youth and Family Coordinator Servas Germany)

Monique Cornelissen (National Secretary / President Servas Netherlands)

Arne Schäffler (National Secretary / President Servas Germany)

**4. Exact wording of the proposal to be voted on.**

We propose that SIGA 2025 approves that (one or more goals and/or actions):

Servas EXCO is requested to

1. conduct two surveys: 1. a survey addressing all Servas National Secretaries and Youth Coordinators to ascertain the instruments currently used and 2. a survey addressing all members 'U30' (under the age of 30) to collect ideas about attracting and retaining young members. Servas DE and NL will be happy to assist in developing the questionnaires
2. compile a digital **toolbox of youth promotion measures** which includes the findings from the surveys and propagate the toolbox once it is compiled
3. offer the Servas groups who need it support, e.g. workshops (virtual or face-to-face) to develop **youth action programs** adapted to their resources. Small Servas groups may be grouped into regional task forces.
4. support the implementation of the youth promotion measures as mentioned above and to evaluate their success by:
  - the measurement and regular reporting of key indicators in accordance with agreed criteria

- organize the exchange of experience at regional level (South America, Pacific, etc.).
- repeat the survey before next Sicoga

5. have transparent conditions and procedures for granting money for youth activities

Please note that SIGA 2025 must be able to vote YES, NO or ABSTAIN on a SIGA proposal.

**5. Implications on SI Statutes 2024.** The SI Statutes are accessible on the internet here:

<https://servas.org/administration-archive>

**Will this proposal affect the SI statutes and therefore create a need for a change in the SI statutes?** If the answer is yes, please:

5A) Copy the part of the SI statutes that you suggest should be amended

5B) Write the exact proposed new wording in the SI Statutes here:

**5A)**

- No

**5B)**

- No

**6. Explanation for the motion.** The motivation must contain a clear description of the benefit of this proposal for the Servas community; its member groups, individual members and Servas International as an international non-governmental organisation. It should also contain information on how it is different from current practice. It should indicate how the proposal is intended be implemented. Finally, the motion should explain the metrics that will be used to measure benefits from this proposal.

SIGA 2025 should approve this motion because (one or more motivations):

The current percentage of Servas members U30 worldwide is as low as 8 %. In comparison: in the general adult population, this percentage is around 20% in industrialised countries and over 30 % in less developed countries. If nothing is done, the average age of some Servas groups will exceed 70 years. Many Servas groups are desperate for effective measures to solve the problem. The applicants of this motion assume that the current practice, such as

- the **appointment of youth coordinators** and their support by SI-YFC,
- the organisation of international **youth camps** and
- the development of **social media** offerings,

is certainly sensible and important but works in isolation and not synergistically. Other reinforcing accompanying measures are necessary.

Subject to the results of the survey, the applicants assume that attracting and retaining young members can be massively improved. Below we provide some ideas for measures in the toolbox as examples. There are many more. It is understood that each group adopts measures

from the toolbox that will be relevant and helpful.

#### **Ideas for toolbox**

1. Active and goal-oriented interaction between YFC (Youth and Family Committee) and the national Servas groups (whereby Servas groups can be combined into Servas regions in order to better utilise capacities)
2. 'No fee' policy for young members including membership fees and LOI fees.
3. For national and international events, a discount for young participants. At all national and international Servas events, 20% of the places are reserved for young participants.
4. Offer to all U30 applicants to be interviewed by their peers to make the experience more appealing.
5. Streamline the application process.
6. The word "interview" should be replaced by a more welcoming description adapted to the language used, e.g. "welcome talk".
7. The interview of "Servas babies" (children of Servas members) can be very short.
8. The interviewer could be a kind of buddy to the new member after the welcome call.
9. Organise youth events at all levels (region, national, international) according to local capacities.
10. Expand the SYLE program, as enthusiastic young travelers often become more involved in Servas.
11. Promote the filters on [www.servas.org](http://www.servas.org) for hosts willing to accept SYLE travellers and Youth Exchange.
12. Develop a suitable media offering, which ideally includes face2face elements such as WhatsApp groups as well as more offer-driven ones such as Instagram groups.
13. Face-lifting of [www.servas.org](http://www.servas.org) towards the younger generations.
14. [www.servas.org](http://www.servas.org) should have a section for young members.
15. Make using Servas online less complicated.

#### **7. SI budget implications**

Describe what financial resources are needed to accomplish the aims of this motion.

Use the money currency Swiss francs, which is the currency used for SI's budget:

- Rules and criteria for existing funding for youth activities must be made more transparent and actively promoted to all groups
- If this project receives high priority, an annual budget of 7-10k CHF seems appropriate.

This budget is needed for:

- Professional marketing help
- Travel expenses and other costs for face to face Workshops
- Grants to enable young members to attend international events
- Servas groups without fees for young members should be excluded from the annual contribution to SI for these young members. So Servas member groups have no disadvantage when it comes to the calculation of the annual payment to SI.

**8. Other resources needed – time, experts with specialist competences or knowledge or other human resources.**

- Professionals are needed to build media skills and effective internal communication in all teams and groups
- Professionals are needed to improve external publicity and PR.

**9. Proposed timeline/timetable for accomplishing the aims of the proposal?**

The proposed action should ideally:

- Start on this date: Year–Month–Day. 2025-11-01
- Be accomplished on this date: Year–Month–Day.

The project should end at Sicoga 2028 or when Servas has reached 15% U30 members worldwide.

The person(s) or group(s) will report the results of this motion to SI Exco.

Manuela Kuttig (Servas Germany); Monique Cornelissen (Servas Netherlands); Arne Schäffler (Servas Germany).

**10. Which person(s) writes/write this motion and is/are responsible for the proposal?**

Person 1

Name:

- [Manuela Kuttig](#)

ServasOnline registration ID (see your ServasOnline profile on [servas.org](https://servas.org)): 38544

Functions/titles in Servas:

- [Vice President and Youth and Family Coordinator Servas Germany](#)

Email address(es):

- [manuela.kuttig@servas.de](mailto:manuela.kuttig@servas.de)

Mobile number(s) (Signal, WhatsApp etc) and other communication channels (if applicable):

- +49 176 43508300 = Mobile number = Signal = WhatsApp

### Person 2

Name:

- [Monique Cornelissen](#)

ServasOnline registration ID (see your ServasOnline profile on [servas.org](https://servas.org)): 8890

Functions/titles in Servas:

- [\(National Secretary / President Servas Netherlands\)](#)

Email address(es):

- [info@servasnl.org](mailto:info@servasnl.org)

Mobile number(s) (Signal, WhatsApp etc) and other communication channels (if applicable):

- +31 611 010933 = Mobile number = Signal = WhatsApp

### Person 3

Name:

- [Arne Schäffler](#)

ServasOnline registration ID (see your ServasOnline profile on [servas.org](https://servas.org)): 13116

Functions/titles in Servas:

- [President and Nat. Secretary Servas Germany](#)

Email address(es):

- [as@servas.de](mailto:as@servas.de)

Mobile number(s) (Signal, WhatsApp etc) and other communication channels (if applicable):

- +49 175 7290002 = Mobile number = Signal = WhatsApp

**11. Who or which group will be responsible for accomplishing the aim/aims of the proposal in this motion?** (SI committee, SI Team, SI member group or Servas individual member/members.

- [SI Youth & Family Committee](#)

**For SI Exco Use Only:**

<b>12. SI Exco comment on this motion</b>
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Date: 2025-MONTH-DAY
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Comment:
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**For Minute Taker Use Only:**

<b>13. Amendments (Passed or defeated)</b>
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