

Conference of the European Servas Groups



Jan. 30, 2025 – Feb. 2, 2025

Wiesbaden (near Frankfurt)



Servas Germany invites to the **4th International meeting of the European Servas groups** on the topic “More members, more younger members, more active members”.

More members

- During Corona, most European Servas “countries” lost quite a few members.
- After Corona, some Servas countries have not only made up for the loss, but have also benefited from the current travel boom and have more members than ever.
- But: practically all Servas groups are currently suffering from declining travel activities (if you count the number of LOIs).

More younger members

- Every lively organization needs fresh wind blood in the form of younger members - especially when it comes to travel.
- In fact, the age structure of most Servas groups is very uneven: in Germany, in 2023, over 65% of members were > 60 years old – but only 10% of members were < 40 years. And it will be the same in almost all European Servas ‘countries’.

- The good news is that a few Servas countries have apparently managed to become attractive to younger travelers again. But this is not the case for the majority of Servas countries.

But is this really an unsolvable problem?

- Servas Germany has spoken to activists of a dozen European Servas Groups – and this much is clear: "Traveling with a mission" and away from the global tourist streams is a trend everywhere - especially among the under 30s.
- In Frankfurt, we will therefore be working to remove the obstacles, so that young people can actually find their way to Servas.

More active members

- There are countries where Servas is almost at a standstill – because there is no one left to take care of things, to make sure that LOIs are issued, that applicants get their interviews and so on.
- We are experiencing simultaneous growth and decline in Europe. And one reason is probably that there is practically no exchange of experiences between the European Servas countries, even though we live very close to each other.

This is exactly what has to be changed. Incidentally, SI EXCO agrees that something has to happen. Radha Radhakrishna wrote to us: "we need to make Servas more attractive - ... and that is through organizing programs ... that will give members a sense of sharing and belonging."

Details of the Meeting

Servas Germany invites Activists from all Servas Groups of Europe, Middle East and Africa to the

Wiesbaden Youth Hostel
Blücherstr. 66-68
65195 Wiesbaden

- The Meeting starts on Thursday 30.01.2025 at 4 p.m. and finishes on Sunday 02.02.2025 1 p.a. (= 3 overnight stays).
- Wiesbaden is located at the gates of Frankfurt. The city is very pretty and has a Hauptbahnhof (main railway station) with non-stop services from both Frankfurt Airport and Frankfurt Central Station.
- Anyone who is active in the national Servas organization and has a function as National Secretary, Vice President, Treasurer, Peace, Youth or Family Secretary is eligible to participate.
- By popular request, Servas activists up to the age of 35 are exempt from this condition: they can participate without 'office' if they are involved in youth work or other activities in their country.

- Servas Germany has reserved a total of 40 places and beds in the youth hostel. Servas Germany and perhaps also Servas International will support the conference financially, so the conference fee including 3 nights and most meals will be in the range between 250 and 350 EUR per person, with a special discount für participants not older than 35.
- Program: the details of the program have not yet been determined - an **organizing team** will develop proposals and present them for discussion in the run-up to the conference.

If you are interested to join the conference please get in touch with your national Servas organization. If you get the approval to participate apply an email to office@servas.de. If you have any questions or would like to suggest topics, please include this in your email to us.

One last thing: this European conference is not in competition with the established SICOGA or SI Distant Votes, but perhaps an attempt to find new ideas to solve an old problem, namely to attract new, younger and more active members.

The members of the Servas Germany Board are very much looking forward to the meeting and the exciting discussions we will have.

KEY POINTS FOR FAST READERS

Start:	January 30, 2025 16:00 hrs (4 p.m.)
End:	February 2, 2025 13:00 hrs (1 p.m.)
Category of Event:	International Meeting
Location:	Wiesbaden (near Frankfurt)
Language spoken:	English (no interpreting)
Maximum of participants:	40
Conference fee:	350 € per person, 250 € for participants of Servas groups with limited funds and participants < 35 years. Surcharge for single and double rooms.
organizing Servas group:	Servas Germany e.V. [www.servas.de switch to English with the button in the top right corner]
participating Servas groups as of 1.10.2024:	Austria, Belgium/Lux., Czech Rep., Denmark, France, Israel, Latvia, Norway, Rwanda, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Servas International, United Kingdom/Ireland