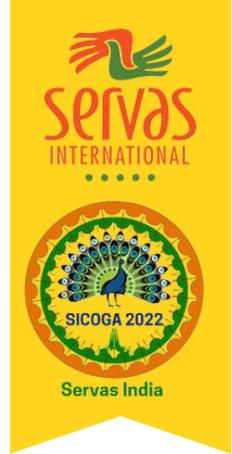


SICOGA NEWS 2022

No: 4 | 25th November, 2022



News from SI Media & Communications team (SI MCT)

TRENDING TODAY

- Servas and the Planet: motion approved
- International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
- Local Fauna Experience
- Visiting Villages
- Mahabaleshwar Trip
- Asia Plateau Sunrises
- Electronic Voting: a New Way to Exercise Democracy in Servas.



Flash-mob of all the women of SICOGA 2022. United we stand to eliminate violence against women.

Servas and the Planet

The SIGA has started! And great news come with it. A second fundamental principle has been added to the Servas International Statutes stating the following: *We accept our responsibility to respect and care for the planet, recognizing the web of life that links all aspects of our independent natural world.* A long discussion was required to reach a decision. Multiple youth members were invited to speak up and share their perspective on the topic. All agreed on the importance of including this amendment. Furthermore, they acknowledge this step as a way of creating the organization more appealing to fellow youth. Other victories from this first day are the successful implementation of electronic voting and an internationally standardized Letter of Introduction.

Elena Olivera Begué



The only planet we have.
Credits to Elena Olivera Begué.

International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

the United Nations declared the 25th of November as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. 23 years have gone by of demonstrations that, annually, all over the world, mark this date, honouring and celebrating the courage of these three sisters, to which each and everyone who fights for the full implementation of Human Rights feels connected. 62 years after the cruel murder

of Las Mariposas, we still need to raise our voices loudly and say that we are mourning for the murdered women, on all continents, victims of multiple forms of gender violence. Almost everywhere women continue to be the victims of the patriarchal system because still governed by social practices that undermine the individual freedom. In 2022, twenty-three years after the declaration of the 25th of November as International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, we are still protesting against the discrimination to which women continue to be subjected in our countries, against the non-recognition of femicide as a hate crime and against all manifestations of gender violence and multiple discriminations. We fight for the eradication of all types of violence against women!

Carla Kristensen



Quiz
answers
A-1
B-2
C-2



Visiting Villages

While the SIGA was taking place, a group of observers and volunteers visited the villages of Mahu and Vivar, collaborators of Initiatives of Change (IoC). These two towns are an example of how inner change can trigger society actions. Some examples are the increased cleanliness in the streets and wastewater natural treatment systems.

Elena Olivera Begué



Top: visitors and typical food.
Bottom: the sanitation pond.
Credits to Raj Kumar

Local Fauna Experience

In Italy where I live there are no monkeys. So I'm not used to dealing with them. When I was on the trip last Tuesday, I was very happy to meet some of them. The first impression I got was of surprise, and then of tenderness. I said to myself "but look how cute it is". She approached me and I thought "oh how nice, she wants to make new friends!" But then it wasn't quite like that. It grabbed my purse tightly. Definitely a lot of strength took possession of it and with an expert attitude, of those used to stealing, it moved away towards the edge of the ravine. In an instant I thought that my cell phone, my credit card, my money was flying away and so I started chasing her.

I managed to stop her and grab my purse just before it flew away. The little, disappointed thief came back to me and tried to bite my leg. Luckily I had long trousers. I later found out from the taxi driver that it is better to leave the bags in the car. I was definitely lucky. Badie photographed the sequence.

Emanuela Gottero



Thieves ready to action.
Credits to Lucia Re.

Mahabaleshwar Trip

Among the different excursions available, many participants chose the Mahabaleshwar Visit. We went by taxi to a series of different places, including a Hindu temple, a local market, a luna park, a strawberry plantation, a beautiful garden. Beyond enjoying ice cream milkshake with delicious strawberries, we also learnt the local way of cultivation of these popular plants. Personally, the market was the highlight of the excursion. We saw so many different beautiful Saree (the traditional Indian dress), tasted

several types of nuts with spices and herbs, get gifts for our family and learn better about each other. In my taxi we were 4 young volunteers coming from Italy, India, France and Brazil. I am so happy to be here and have so many enriching experiences :)

Ester Poma



Part of the youth group in Mahabaleshwar
Credits to Raj Kumar.

Asia Plateau Sunrises

Marching to the sunrise. That was how a consistent group of Servas members spent their early morning, sacrificing a couple of hours of sleeping to get to the top of the Asia Plateau. They climbed up just in time to see the sunlight appear from behind the clouds.

Sebastiano Foresti



Asia Plateau at sunrise. Credits to Jain Manish



Page of the elections.
From the Servas International website.



Page of the elections.
Credits to Manish Jain.

Electronic Voting: a New Way to Practice Democracy in Servas

The electronic Voting system is introduced in SICOGA 2022 for the first. This is a historic moment, which enables all the delegates around the world to participate in voting sessions. Jonny and Radha explained how the new voting system works, how the members can vote and conducted a demo of the new voting system. A step to the future made possible also by the work and dedication of the fantastic SICOGA 2022 tech team. A first try was made the day before the actual voting process, so everyone could get acquainted to the new system.

Steps to follow when voting with the new electronic system:

1. Go to servas.org
2. Go to "Community".
3. Go to "International Conferences".
4. Go to "Sicoga 2022".
5. Go to "Assembly".
6. Go to "SIGA Votes".
7. Read the list of candidates.
8. Click on the one you want to vote.
9. Vote.

With the help of the volunteers, delegates could overcome every type of difficulties. Servas is officially updating, to reach a new - and even more inclusive - way to exercise democracy.

Sebastiano Foresti

Curious facts:

The Asia Plateau is the 2nd largest natural plateau in Asia. It has a record circumference of about 7 to 8 kilometres.

Summary of first SIGA session

A lot of motions have been approved today, but some of most important ones are:

- Including human and earth dimension in the SI statutes.
- Presentation and SIGA decision SI EXCO's recommendation for priorities for incoming SI EXCO during the next mandate period 2023-2025, including budget implication.
- Standardized and universal LOI

The elections of SI officers for committees and teams for the next mandate period started today.

Check tomorrow's newsletter for the results!

Susana Martinez

For more details check the minutes that will be uploaded in: servas.org/en/sicoga2022/general-assembly



*We couldn't help ourselves to insert something less serious. **Guess who they are!** Leave a note in room 606
Credits - even though maybe this picture is not a real credit - Elena OB.*

SICOGA NEWS 2022 is produced by a team of volunteers
Editing by: Sebastiano Foresti, Elena Olivera Begué and Susana Martinez.
Translation to Spanish by: Lilly Kerekes, Susana Martinez and Elena Olivera Begué.





During the evening there was a memorial service to honor and remember Ewa Dzierżawska, a long time very significant Servas member.

Ewa's story has been told while some photos were presented. Then we made a big circle out in the garden, held candles and sang a memorial song in Ewa's memory.



Ewa's memorial service during SICOGA 2022.



Tribute to
Ewa Dzierżawska
Servas Poland
1950-2021



Ewa joined Servas in 1981. At that time Poland was under the Soviet Union communist regime, where activities and orgs such Servas were strongly forbidden. However, ignoring all threat Ewa took a big risk, actively, recruited members and developed Servas Poland, all in a very hidden underground way.

It might take a whole day to list all Ewa's activities and devotion. Along the years Ewa became the glue of Servas, making the Polish group growing by the day.

After the 2012 Ewa handed over the leading of Servas Poland and started to work and lead the SI Development Committee. Thanks to Ewa and her great team, quite a few new national groups have joined Servas, while Ewa kept supporting them until they could stand on their own feet.

Ewa has been active until the last moment, not allowing herself to rest or slowdown.

Ewa has left us on 12 June 2021. Her memory and contribution to Servas will remain as a guiding force and inspiration for all of us forever.

By Amir

