

SICOGA NEWS 2022

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News from SI Media & Communications team (SI MCT)

TRENDING TODAY

- Country Presentations
- Women travelling alone
- Closing Ceremony
- Disco Night
- Post Sicoga
- Participant highlights



*Italy's country presentation.
Credits to Manish Jai*

Country presentations, games and fun activities - food also.

The final weekend of SICOGA 2022 was a perfect occasion to bring up the most amazing country presentations. Several nations decided to give their best to show their most famous and typical products, habits, languages and places. In the three final days, everyone put on a literal show to present his country at her best, in the general amusement and approval. There were piece of theatres, videos, songs and also amazing food, along with gifts and quizzes to make the crowd take part in it too.

The presentations went along for three days, as they were very highly participated and it was impossible to put them all together in a single event. In the end, also some friends and some countries which were not able to be in person at the conference, presented their countries by connecting to Teams and showing some photos and videos of their beautiful lands. Knowing each other and living together is what Servas is all about. It is incredible to see how something as playful and funny as a small show of



Our wonderful team of youth volunteers for SICOGA 2022.

This event changed my whole thoughts on Servas. Meeting amazing people and got some life time friends and memories
♥ - Raj, India

one's country can be very important to learn, enjoy and appreciate someone else's traditions and lifestyle.
Sebastiano



Women Travelling Alone. Credits to Alvany Santiago

Women travelling with Servas

WOMEN TRAVELLING ALONE

The purpose of this workshop was to shed light into whether or not there is any increased danger (or is it a challenge, not dared to face by many women?), when they decide to travel on their own, considering that women have been subjected to different kinds of gender based discrimination throughout the years. In some countries it is still an exception to see a woman travelling on her own, and we have heard stories where, when asked, women tell lies and say they are waiting for someone, waiting for their husbands or friends, in order to avoid sensitive questions or harassment.

We wanted to get that better, so this project started a couple of months before the final presentation at the SICOGA. First, we sent questions to some women from different Servas groups and asked them to record a video with their testimonies,

who came from different parts of the world, like Spain, Italy, Russia, USA, and so on. Then, sent the videos to Luis Miguel Avendaño (Spain) who kindly made the final editing and production.

The four authors of this project made an introduction to the video, before the screening, where they explained the process of compiling the testimonies and the making of the video. They also expressed a deep appreciation for all the passionate testimonies received. When the screening was over, some women came to us saying that they, too, would like to give their testimony and whether there would be a sequel. Spoilers: yes.

Auction Hunters!

After the closing ceremony, a charity auction was held. It was a great success, and everyone brought something interesting to sell! The response was even better than anyone expected, and lots of items were sold!

Disco night!

On the last day of SICOGA 2022, servas youth came up with an idea of disco night full of Bollywood songs. All the Servas members participated with full energy and enjoyed the disco night. Servas youth did a collective dance which was

choreographed by Ananya and the team. Disco night was a fun-filled event to close SICOGA. This event brought the great bond in between the Servas members. The event wouldn't have been successful without our fantastic DJ: Dakshit.

Raj Kumar





Post SICOGA

The last day arrives to soon. Last breakfast that is served at 8am by an amazing team of cooks. Last laughs together. A lot of hugs in the hour and a half in between the morning chai and the last bus leaving Initiatives of change. This is not the end of this story, but a chapter is definitely ending and all the participants feel it in their hearts. This is why, we want to leave some space for them to share their highlights.



*It always amazes me to see people from all over the countries from all continents together in harmony. For a moment you forget that there is a border or racism. That's why I enjoy SICOGA's a lot, but for this SICOGA my best was jumping with Sari :)
~ Gulsen, Turkey*



Powerful women in Servas ~ Paige, USA



What better illustration of the values of Servas than Iran's and Israel's delegates coming together, hands on shoulders, when delegates were thanked? Or Poland and Belarus' delegates sitting next to each other in a friendly manner? ~ Laurent, France



Sicoga 2022 was great. I postponed for years a trip to India and finally Servas forced me to do it and I'm very grateful. Traveling was a wonderful experience and then the sicoga place, the people there, those 6 days sharing so many things. Thanks to everybody who made it possible!!! ~ Ana, Argentina

The story behind SICOGA

How does an event like SICOGA 2022 get organized? It takes many hands. I want to thank all those who made it possible. I am sharing pictures from a dinner in Pune two days before SICOGA where we all met. This group had already been working together for over 6 months to put together different aspects of SICOGA – Venue, registrations, travel support, visa support, funding, hosting, program planning and procuring materials. Though we had been working together for many months, this was the first time many of us met in person. Thanks to everybody's efforts, we had a fantastic SICOGA. This was Servas at its best. ~ Radha, USA





The Servas symbol is made of people. Love and peace to all of you.

Last Day of Conference

On the last day of our amazing journey to India, everyone reunited in the wide space of the Canada Room for a brief, but heartfelt, closing ceremony. These moments were aimed to say a well deserved thank you to all the people of the Panchgani Centre staff, and say a well

deserved thank you to all to perform a typical Indian dance with sticks which le everyone smiling. These last to the responsables and the collective movements were a great way to conclude a conference that started with dancing, and made everyone smile and laugh, and wonderful. Afterwards, even though we were getting the chairs were moved close to the end. **Sebastiano**

Last Newsletter :- (

The last newsletter is coming to an end. This leaves us with a bittersweet taste. We have spent many hours making these 6 numbers to collect some information about these wonderful days. Many people have contributed enormously. Lots of laughter and also some long hours have been dedicated to this.



The editing team at work. Credits to Manish Jain.

Now it is time to say goodbye. Thank you again to everyone who made SICOGA, and also this newsletter possible. Hope you have enjoyed reading it. See you soon <3.

Elena & Sebastiano

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