

SICOGA NEWS 2022

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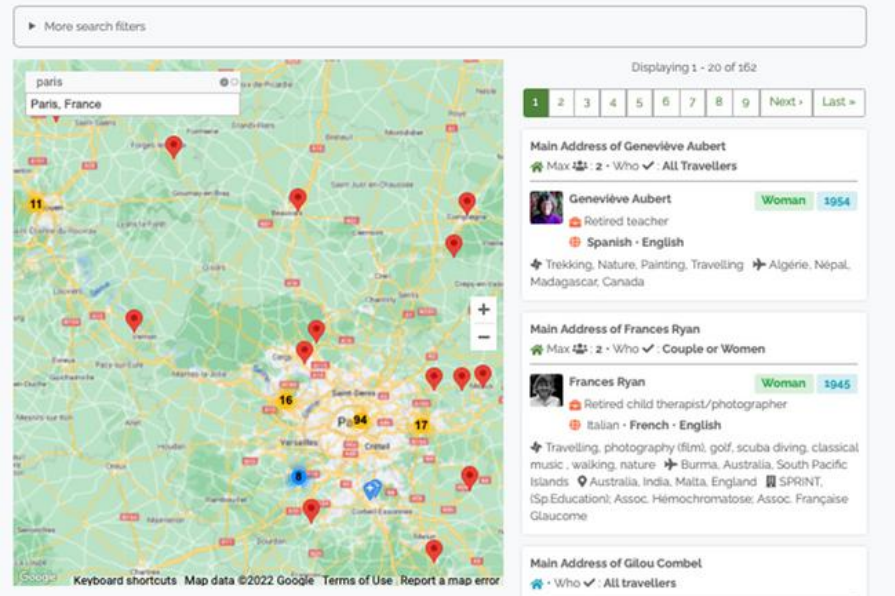


News from SI Media & Communications team (SI MCT)

TRENDING TODAY

- Introducing the new Servas.org
- Belgian report "Servas as locals in Tourism"
- Workshop: Climate change
- Servas in armed conflict: videocall with Sergey from Ukraine
- Servas in UN: CSW
- Servas youth and families experiences: Summer camp and SYLE
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Interface of new Servas.org website

Introducing the New Servas.org

Today the new version of the Servas.org website was presented by Jonny Sägänger, SI President, and Paul Nielsen, SI Membership & Technology Secretary. Among the new features explained are the profile edits and key people. There is still a lot of process to be done, but the team is working to create a user-friendly platform.

During the presentation, it was pointed out how some members are travelling with incomplete Letter of Introduction (LOI) and they pointed out the importance to have a complete LOI with stamp.

Lilly Kerekes (Servas International Translation Committee) voices out some of the concerns from the Spanish-speaking community. A member of Servas Colombia

created some videos to help understanding the previous version, but still people had troubles managing the technology and the sections that had not been translated. The new version brings a new and greater challenge: are we ready to create a more modern Servas according to technology times?



Recommendations from the Belgian report for travelling like locals

Belgian report "Servas as locals in Tourism"

Tourists versus travellers was the discussed topic and how tourism benefits the country. It was explained the distinction between community stay and homestay tourism.

Furthermore, staying with locals allows you to see the true face of the country. There was also a brief explanation of the sharing economy given and Servas is seen as a part of the sharing economy.

A member from Sweden stated that instead of taking the Servas to the city centre or malls, she will take a bike ride around to create sharing memories, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats were also explored. In the sequence, Anne made four groups of people to ask for ideas and suggestions on how to "attract more young people into Servas."

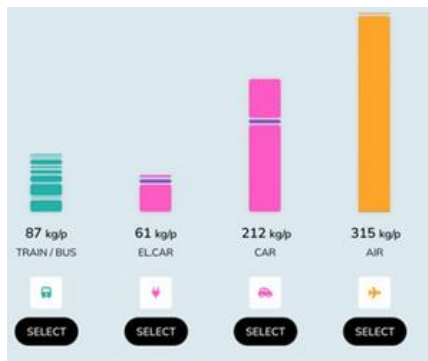


Tea time in the Asia Plateau gardens

Servas and Climate Change

As an international federation which helps build world peace, Servas International is concerned by considerations on how to travel and host with environmental consciousness and preserve world harmony. Servas France & Sweden made "Travel & Climate change" one

Fun quotes:
Every tech person got this comment at least once: *"Slow down please!"*



Different transport footprint slides used for the Climate Change presentation from: <https://travelandclimate.org/>

of the countries delegations' priorities for 2022 and came up with facts and tools to help us adapt our traveling habits, presented during a workshop on Tuesday 23rd evening. Practical issues were shared such as choosing wisely transportation medium, preferring short distances, identifying green accommodations, lighting suitcase, managing waste... The workshop's teachings aimed at showing the negative effects of data storage, streaming and social networks that we need to

measure and keep in mind and cannot replace actual travel experiences. The workshop ended with deep interactions between participants enlightening the importance of the topic. As members of Servas, our role is to question our traveling and hosting habits and adjust for a more sustainable behaviour and continue to discuss this worldwide challenge together.

Important facts:
5% of CO2 emissions are due to travelling
39 countries are present at SICOGA out of the +78 members in Servas



Johnny live call to Sergey during the workshop

Servas in armed conflict: videocall with Sergey from Ukraine

This morning we had a presentation from Sergey Kibitkin, the NS of Servas Ukraine, currently located in West Ukraine. Actually, he couldn't show the presentation himself because of the frequent blackout caused by this terrible war. The conflict is going on for 9 months, the same time to bring a child to the world. It caused thousands of deaths by both sides, 15 million of Ukrainian people displaced as refugees and an uncountable amount of people tortured,

violated and "disappeared". It was very moving when he told us about his son, wife and friends trying to survive in this situation.

Then Sergey told us **the best way to help Ukraine** right now: **donations to government organization** (e.g., Red Cross of Ukraine), so they can buy ambulances, medicines.

Two quotes of Sergey: "I don't know when the last day is" & "Nothing tastes better than a glass of hot soup, if you have nothing to eat".



fCollection of pictures from the Servas Summer camp in Sicily, August 2022

Servas in UN CSW

Among the annual reports presented by EXCO, we would like to highlight the activities carried out by the Peace Secretary, Paige Lacombe, as an important SERVAS community had the opportunity to actively participate in the UN CSW (Commission on the Status of Women) for the first time online, with very good experiences. Now, every year, the CSW is open online for everyone who wants to participate and be enriched with experiences from other NGOs worldwide, in March every year. You too can do your bit for Servas. Contact your local Peace Secretary.

Servas youth and families experiences; Summer camp and SYLE

In one of the last sessions of the day, two members of the Youth & Family Committee, Raffaella Rota and Susana Martinez, have prepared a meeting about youth and its value in Servas. Helped by Ester and Sebastiano, two young members from Servas

Italy, they managed to touch important topics not only with SYLE experiences and summer camp presentation, but also with important proposals for the future, finalized to include more and more young people in the Servas family.

Servas and Tech: Live Subtitles

Our Servas international members who are watching the meetings online can use the translation into the regional language thanks to live subtitles. Therefore, it represents a new beginning for Servas digital transformation

Servas at the UN

Servas International exposed its objectives in the cooperation with the UN. Special hosts were Danielle Serres, former Peace Secretary and Peace Coordinator at the UN, Daniela Donges, main representative in Geneva, Angelika Hofmann, main representative in Vienna, and Kent Macauley, main representative in New York. They talked about the work of the last years and how our NGO cooperates with other similar realities and with the UN.

International campaigning to abolish nuclear weapons

A partnership between International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) and Servas The campaign against nuclear weapons is a distinctive Servas' flag through a partnership with The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). Therefore, it was a subject of a workshop in which there were presented some data included the fact that 9 countries still have nuclear weapons and that there have

been more than hundred nuclear tests so far. Briefly, Servas community has reaffirmed the need to abolish nuclear weapons throughout the workshop.

Happy birthday!

Daniela's and Harsha's birthday were celebrated at the SICOGA 2022. Servas members wished her to have a wonderful day and success.

Happy Birthday! Feliz aniversário!
जन्मदिन की शुभकामनाएं! Feliz cumpleaños! 生日快樂! 생일 축하!