

## News from SI Media & Communications team (SI MCT)

### Trending Today

- Opening ceremony: exhibition on artwork around the world
- 190 participants from 50 countries
- See you tomorrow for more!



Art exhibition at the salle de la Coupole

Welcome to SICOGA 2025, Servas members arriving at Dijon, a picturesque town in the region of Bourgogne, France. 190 participants from about 50 countries will have the opportunity to meet and share stories, to learn with each other and make memorable moments as well.



The participants were received at the venue by the enthusiastic and welcoming members of the organising committee. They were given a welcome bag and identity tags for the rest of the conference. After conversations over lunch, as participants arrived from different parts of the world, the attendees were brought to the Town Hall for the opening ceremony.





The gathering was addressed by the Deputy Mayor of Dijon, Ms Christine Martin, members of Servas France and the President, Servas International, accompanied by interpretations in three languages simultaneously to encourage more inclusivity. Ms Martin was inspired by the ethos of Servas and its peace-building activities.

Artist and Servas member, Jean-Luc Turlure, who has been engaged in building a network of artists throughout the years, was the organizer of the exhibition, sent by Servas members from around the world. The installations, paintings, sculptures and mail art were much appreciated by the attendees. The evening concluded with a taste of French Gastronomy and an ice-breaking session.



Ms Christine Martin with Jean-Luc Turlure



## Weaving Peace in Dijon



Bhudeb Chakravarti with some Happy SICOGA Participants

*"I felt a quiet sense of privilege to be part of SICOGA 2025. The grandeur of the inauguration was not in the ceremony alone but in the diversity of people gathered, each carrying stories, struggles and hopes of their own. I met people from various countries — some familiar faces I already knew, and others I was meeting for the very first time. What made the experience even more overwhelming and pleasant was finally meeting, in person, those with whom I had only spoken over the phone or on conference calls. The words spoken during inauguration resonated deeply, reminding us that peace is not an abstract dream but a collective responsibility that begins with dialogue, openness and compassion. Sitting among so many voices united by a single purpose, I felt both humbled and inspired. The symbolic team event at night after dinner was perhaps the most powerful expression of the day."*

*As strands of wool passed from hand to hand, a vibrant net slowly took shape, woven together by our shared presence. When some participants dared to jump onto that fragile-looking net, it held firm — not because of one thread, but because of the strength of many. It was a moving metaphor for peace itself: fragile when left to a few, but unbreakable when woven together by many hands, many hearts. In that moment, I felt a surge of hope — that despite differences of language, culture or nation, we can create a fabric strong enough to hold us all."* - Bhudeb Chakravarti

For tomorrow, October 4th, we are going to have some important activities and topics as you can check at the SICOGA event timetable.

Tomorrow, start the formal activities of the Conference part of the SICOGA. We begin in the morning with World Café workshops moderated by Pamela, Francisco, Kristina, Isabelle, Jonny and Joseph.. Join one of these groups and contribute with your ideas to make Servas better, stronger and more attractive.

**Reminder!** Everyone got meal tickets, inside the plastic name tags. Be sure you bring your ticket for that day and meal to the restaurant during the event.



## Photo Gallery



SICOGA 2025 News Bulletins is produced by a team of volunteers

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