

The email correspondence below is the reply by Jonny Saganger SI President to the questions raised by Franco Corsi, Servas Italy, in relation to the SI Budget for 2016-18 - Jonny's replies are inserted in blue.

Posted to the DV Nov2016 web page with the consent of Jonny & Franco by Distant Vote Administrator, Chris Patterson, 6 December 2016

From: Jonny Sågänger
Subject: Answer from SI Exco - - - Re: SERVAS - DV Nov 2016 - Voter Mailout #3 - Voting Papers Sent
Date: 27 November 2016 9:22:02 am NZDT
To: Franco Corsi
Cc: EXCO

cc: SI Exco, SI Distant Vote admin

Dear Franco Corsi,
dear Servas Italy Exco,
thank you very much for your questions relating to items in the ongoing distant vote.
Please find my answers in **blue** below.

The reply is the result of a group fact gathering effort by SI treasurer LV Subramanian, ServasOnline project manager Bernard Andriue, SI general secretary Penny Pattison and myself, Jonny Sågänger, SI president.

All the best
Jonny

To Servas International and EXCO.

Dear friends, at our last Executive Committee meeting, we discussed it at length, on the vote DV proposal and particularly on MOTION EXCO - 002 - 2016/Approval of 2016-18 Budget

Very good, democracy at work.

Before proceeding to the vote, we would like to ask for clarification on certain items of the budget presented.

We refer in particular to the item CAPITAL PROJECTS. Provisional budget by 2016 to 2018 is a global figure of provision of approximately 76,000 Swiss francs for the project SOLSYS.

That figure seems very high for the proposed investment.

The ServasOnline project needs to have a budget for 2016-2018 because ServasOnline comprises not only a members' database and a modernized website on the Internet domain servas.org but also a system that needs continuous monitoring, maintenance and development in order to function well. A majority of the time and resources will be added by Servas volunteers, but monetary investment is needed for the three purposes monitoring, maintenance and development.

Please note that the ServasOnline project in each development step of the project has been made by using procurement processes to guarantee that the Servas community has received best prices and lowest cost by using procurement processes in a professional way. Different suppliers have been able to present bids and the ServasOnline Team and SI Exco have in cooperation chosen the suppliers which have offered the best combination of price and performance. Please note that the procurement process has been done in a professional manner, but at no cost since the ServasOnline Team has worked without monetary payment.

We understand the complexity of this project, but it needs to have about it, the detail of how are

composed the proposed figures and the timing of implementation of SOLSYS project.

Please find a brief summary of the ServasOnline system (SOLSYS) under development:

The GA decision at Argentina 2009, necessitated the development of a robust software with an interactive website system to facilitate instant information exchange between various SERVAS member countries. This has resulted in the development of SERVAS Online (SOL) led by a project team who volunteered to help and interfaced with the professional developers who were selected based on their capability and experience background.

SOL has been installed and is under Beta testing before it is made operational probably by December or January 2017. SOL can be operated in English, French, Spanish and German. The proposed modules of SOL are

(1) Creation of Member's Database (completed): An interested person can make a direct application and get himself/herself registered as a member by following the step by step process. The member will be allotted a membership number with a login id controlled by a secured password for enabling the member to complete the member's profile. Thereafter the member can use the website quite effectively by contacting hosts directly by email or webchat or by phone as convenient. All the information from Dolphin is being transferred to SOL after which Dolphin will become redundant.

(2) User friendly Interactive section (completed): The member with this user friendly interactive system can browse and read about the SERVAS activities and its forthcoming events which would be updated periodically to reflect the current status. Creating a web chat within the system will enable instant communication with other members who may be online.

(3) Digital Stamp & LOI (proposed): This system is being configured to issue digital traveller stamps affixed to the standard LOI generated by the system to the SERVAS traveller after due completion of interview process. The system will maintain numerical control of the stamps and ensure secure record keeping.

(4) SERVAS News (completed): This will provide information about SERVAS activities and events all around the world. The member can also present items of interest which can be published in the SERVAS News pages. Travelogues, jokes, and funny clips can be published regularly and members can be encouraged to participate in this activity.

(5) Accounting (proposed): There is an idea to integrate the financial accounting/budgets into this program thereby making it possible for the various member countries to maintain and update their accounting periodically and facilitate the submission of the periodical annual reports/financial reports to SI.

This has been possible with the full support of the volunteers from various parts of the world. The development of programs have been outsourced to software experts who have been selected after thorough screening and due commercial negotiation process. Financial resources would be needed to develop and complete the Modules 3 & 5 as mentioned above. Hence budget provided for 2016-2018. Monitoring, maintenance and upkeep of the programs and website will be done by professional support under annual service contract which will come under operational running expenses.

In relation to the same project we would like to know him better in the general and implementing lines.

Another point on which we would like to have clarification, is the management of the LOI within the SOLSYS and its stamp. Please remember that on this last point we asked a few months ago at the EXCO, the possibility of launching an experiment, limited to Italy, which allows you to assign a stamp to each LOI and related associate in derogation of the current rules, making the load a flat-rate charge . Unfortunately we have not received any response.

I beg your pardon that I missed to answer your message in September. Exco has, as you know, earlier this year analyzed your proposal and suggested you connect with Connie Giesendorf, national secretary of Servas Germany, which I understand you have done.
Exco's position at this point:

Our position is dependent on the formal registration of SI as a non profit organisation in Switzerland which will mean that SI cannot bill the member countries for the stamps but run on flat annual membership fees received from the member countries.

Work is progressing towards this by implementing SOL and making all members having direct membership to SI as against their home countries. The members will be allotted membership number from the website and he/she will have the access to enter his/her personal data and check the present status by logging in. SOL will also help in doing away with printing/distribution and computation of stamps used by system generated digital stamp with the standard LOI. This is a phased project and may get implemented in 2017/2018 if all member countries accept this method.

At this stage the system is not geared to permit a single country to switch over as indicated in the proposal put up by Servas Italy at the NZ GA.

It is also not clear the voice which imputes 27,000 Swiss francs to "Registration Servas"

This item is based on the SI General Assembly 2015 decision:

Decisions taken on Thursday 15 October 2015

It is agreed to register Servas International (SI) as a recognized international non-governmental organisation (INGO) with a domicile, with a budget of 27000 CHF from the SI financial reserves for the period 2015-2018. This will include an international group of legal experts to ensure that SI is registered in a way that works effectively for all countries.

I hope these answers will be sufficient in reply to your questions.

All the best
Jonny Sägänger
President
Servas International

We reserve, in the absence of a comprehensive response, to provide one vote against.

The understanding of SOLSYS program is fundamental, we must indeed be accountable to Members on how they are spending their membership fees and have a global vision of the same.

Thank you in advance



Cordiali saluti
Franco Corsi
[visita il sito **SERVAS ITALIA**](#)