

News from SI Media & Communications team (SI MCT)

Trending Today

- With a pinch of salt
- Country presentations
- From one SICOGA to the other
- Photo Gallery



Day Outing

Today was a day of leisure and fun for the "salt of the earth" people of Servas!

After a quick breakfast, the participants set off for Salins-les-Bains, a commune in the Bourgogne-Franche-Comté region. Traveling along roads that overlooked the renowned vineyards of the area—where leaves were slowly turning yellow and red to welcome autumn—the buses reached the quaint town.

The town owes its name to its saline waters, which shaped its history for centuries and earned it a place on the UNESCO World Heritage list in 2009, as an extension of the Saline Royale d'Arc-et-Senans, which had been inscribed in 1982. Salt extraction at Salins-les-Bains began as early as 1115 and continued uninterrupted until 1962—nearly 1,200 years. Deforestation in the region during the 17th and 18th centuries led to the creation of the Saline Royale d'Arc-et-Senans.

Indispensable for preserving food in the Middle Ages, salt was often referred to as “white gold.” The salt at Salins, known as igniferous salt, was produced by heating saline water with wood or coal. By the 17th century, salt production employed nearly 5,000 people and generated half of the region’s income.

The visitors learnt about the intricacies and history of salt production, as well the architectural works of Claude Nicolas Ledoux at the museums. They also enjoyed a sumptuous meal at the Casino restaurant.

- Aditya Divya Singh

Origin of the Word "Salary"

"SALARY"

The word **"SALARY"** comes from the Latin word "salarium," derived from "sal," meaning **"SALT"**. In ancient Rome, soldiers were sometimes paid with salt or given money to buy it, as salt was a valuable resource. The term later passed into Old French as "salaire," meaning payment or wages, before entering Middle English as "salarie" and eventually becoming "salary." Thus, French served as a bridge between Latin and English, helping shape the modern word we use today to mean regular payment for work. - Sayan Roy



Saline Royale: UNESCO World Heritage site

"Saline Royale" is French for "Royal Saltworks" — a historical site where salt was produced, often on a large and state-controlled scale.

The most famous example is the Saline Royale d'Arc-et-Senans in eastern France, built in the 18th century by architect Claude-Nicolas Ledoux. It was a large, planned saltworks complex designed to produce salt efficiently and was considered an architectural marvel of its time. The site is now a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** and a symbol of France's industrial and cultural history.





Colombia

Colombia kicked things off with an electrifying explosion of Latin America's finest energy, delivered by an incredible salsa group. Get ready for LATAM 2026!

Korea



The Korean delegation presented the activities of Servas Korea and sang beautiful lullabies accompanied by a harmonica performance.



Taiwan

It was a heartwarming presentation, richly detailing historical, geographical, and cultural aspects. To conclude, everyone had the wonderful opportunity to try a traditional dance together.

Switzerland



The Swiss presentation featured an entertaining quiz, complete with prizes, and national musical performances that delighted all Servas Members.



Italy

The Italian delegation's presentation on their culture was a delight, featuring the Servas song and 'Bella Ciao,' which cheered everyone up.

UK



For the UK's presentation, the audience had fun galore, learning the steps to a Highland dance!



USA

The USA's presentation was all about going off the beaten path! The team shared a fantastic 'zine' showcasing the rich biodiversity of the country.

Israel



Israel shared verywell performed traditional dance that brought everyone together in unity.



SICOGA 2022 to SICOGA 2025

Involving young members in Servas activities and guiding them to the heart of the organization is essential for developing new leaders within the Servas community and ensuring that youth have a voice in Servas decisions. SICOGA and other Servas events are powerful opportunities to engage young people and strengthen their connection to our community.

In my case, I was invited as a youth volunteer to attend SICOGA 2022 in India, which was my first international experience with Servas. Much of the support I received came from the former National Secretary of Servas Brazil, Neuma Dantas. As a result, in 2024 I became the National Secretary of Servas Brazil, which led to my participation as the Brazilian delegate at SICOGA 2025 in Dijon, France.

Matheus Nienow, Servas Brazil

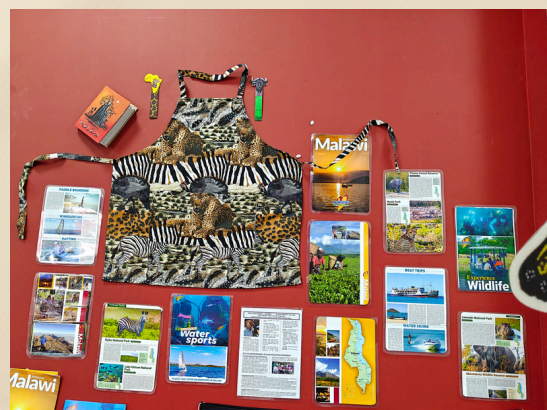
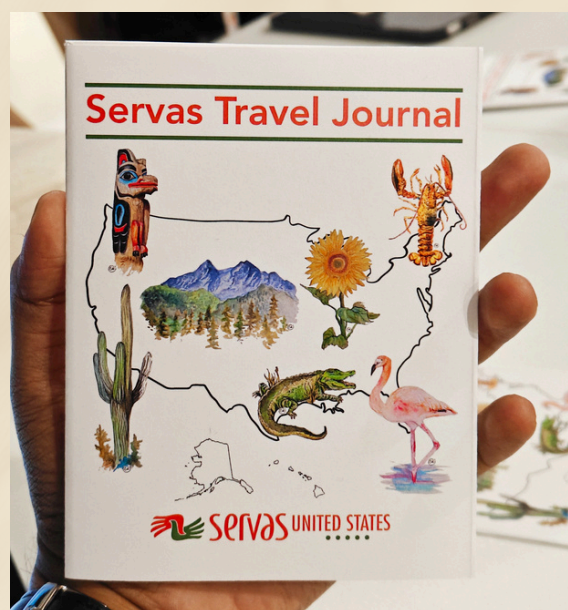


Photo Gallery



SICOGA 2025 News Bulletins is produced by a team of volunteers

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