



PART OF THE ROUND TABLE FAMILY

AGORA CLUB INTERNATIONAL

OCTOBER 2020



**We Dare To Grow
More for another year!**

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Introduction

ACI PRESIDENT CHRIS HELSEN



Hello ladies, all over the world,

How are you all? Hoping you and your family and friends are all in good health. I am so happy that our virtual 24rd Annual General Meeting of Agora Club International went very well, although it was a challenge for the entire board to organize this virtual event.

Thank you ladies for being on Zoom, for our councillors meeting and AGM. You all made this a memorable day .

In this newsletter you will read about:

- The virtual charter of a new club in Romania.
- The virtual CM and AGM.
- The speeches of the Board members.
- An impression of our winners of the Trophies.
- AC France, an innovative service project.
- AC Austria, godmother for a new Agora Club in Romania.
- Feedback of our donation to Diana Mandrescu, Romania.
- The continuation of our International Service Project.
- Vacancies in the International Board.
- Calendar

Enjoy reading and keep us updated about your projects and events. We keep on working in our virtual world, with a weekly boardmeeting on Zoom.

We Dare To Grow More for another year!!!

Keep in touch ladies, with whatsapp, zoom, phone, messenger, facebook.....
Always available for you
Chris Helsen



ACI 2020

Virtual Council Meeting & AGM

SATURDAY, 3 OCTOBER 2020

VIRTUAL AGM 24 TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Summary

- Reading of aims and objectives
- Lighting the candle of friendship
- Introduction of each country's councillor's
AC Israel and AC Switzerland were excused
- Geetings from the Round Table Family
- Agenda: adopted
- Financial report: adopted
- Financial budget: adopted
- AGORACLUB.WORLD: adopted
- Year report: of the Board adopted(you can find the PPT at the website of ACI)
- Report of our ISP project Palesa pads, by Laura Van Zyl
- Report of ISP project in Botswana by Bilkiss Moorad
- AC Botswana, Full member: adopted
- AC Nepal: Charter
- Amendment proposal by AC Germany: adopted
- Amendment proposal by AC The Netherlands: defeated
- Membership awards (in newsletter)

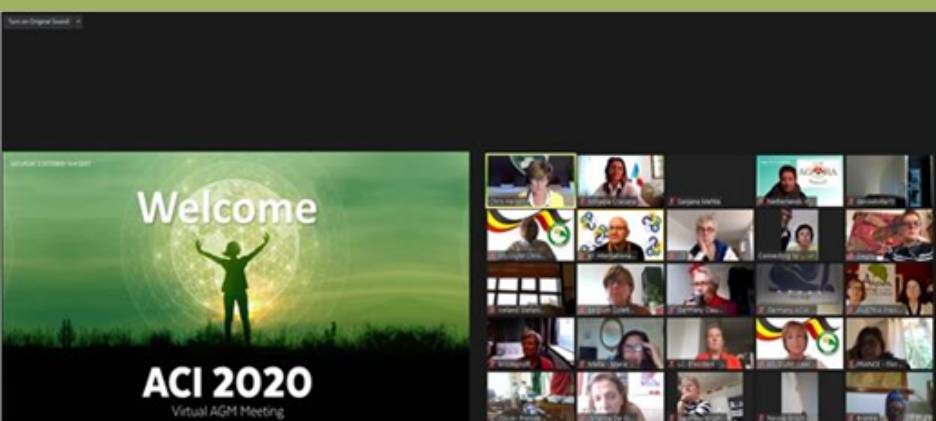
FULL MEMBER COUNTRIES

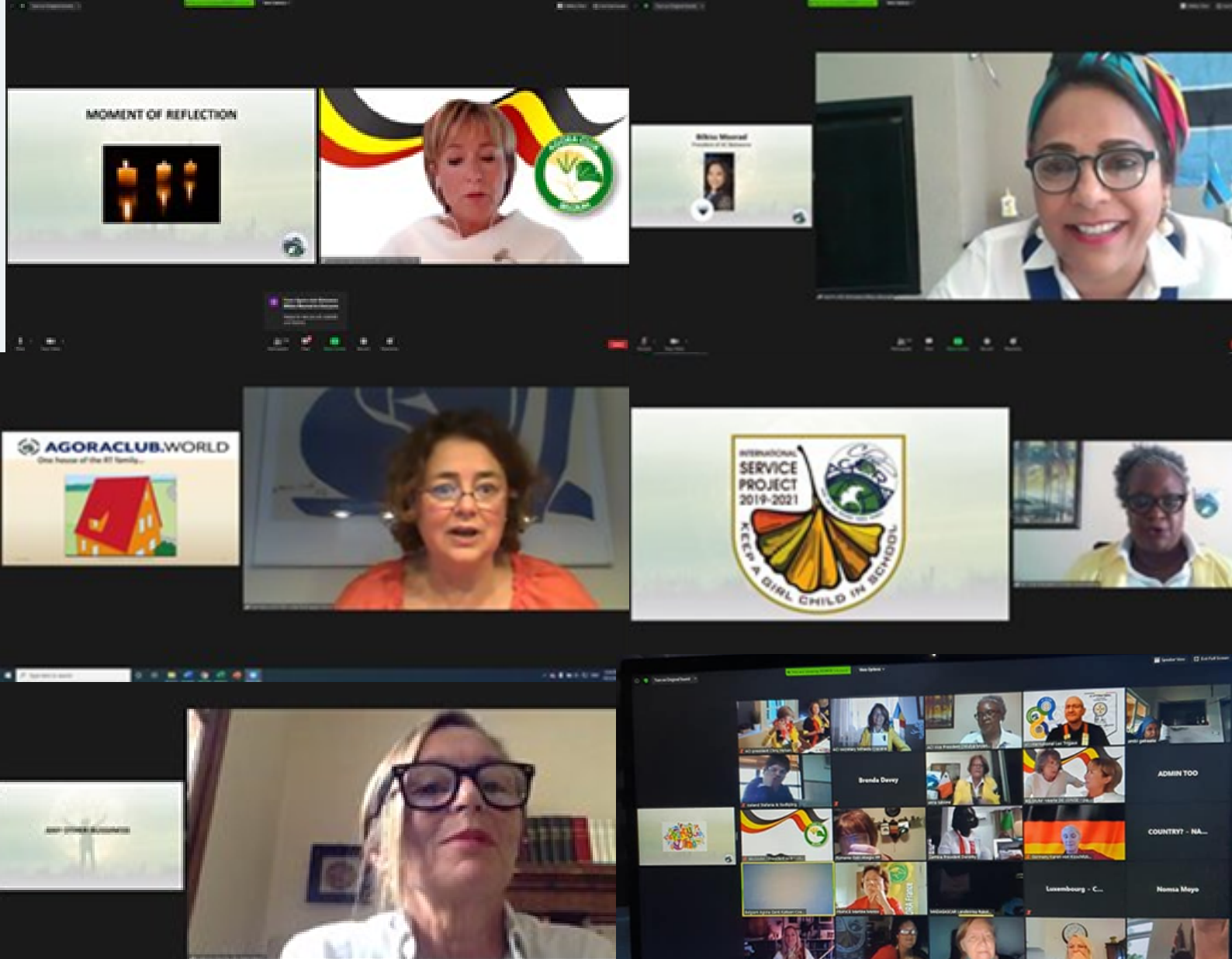


ASSOCIATE MEMBER COUNTRIES



SOME PICTURES DURING THE VIRTUAL AGM FROM COLLECTION...





SOME PICTURES DURING THE VIRTUAL AGM FROM COLLECTION...





SPEECHES OF BOARD MEMBERS DURING THE AGM



Dear ladies,

What a year it has been! Let us not focus on the Corona crisis. We all know how it impacted our lives. How it impacted our relations with family and friends. There was a life before corona and there will be a life after corona. We started our first year as real busy bees. The dynamic in our board was huge.

We could visit clubs around the world. Our highlights were in South Africa, Botswana, Nepal, Iceland, Malta, Luxembourg and Cyprus.

And then the social world came to a standstill. We gradually realized that travelling and large meetings would be impossible: first in spring, later in summer and finally in the whole year and probably next spring.

But we adapted to the new situation and leaped into the virtual world. The AGM in The Hague is postponed and you all voted for the board to stay for a second year

And here we are: broadcasting our AGM from my living room. The motto of this year was Dare To Grow. Quite a challenge in this year where everything seemed to be shrinking.

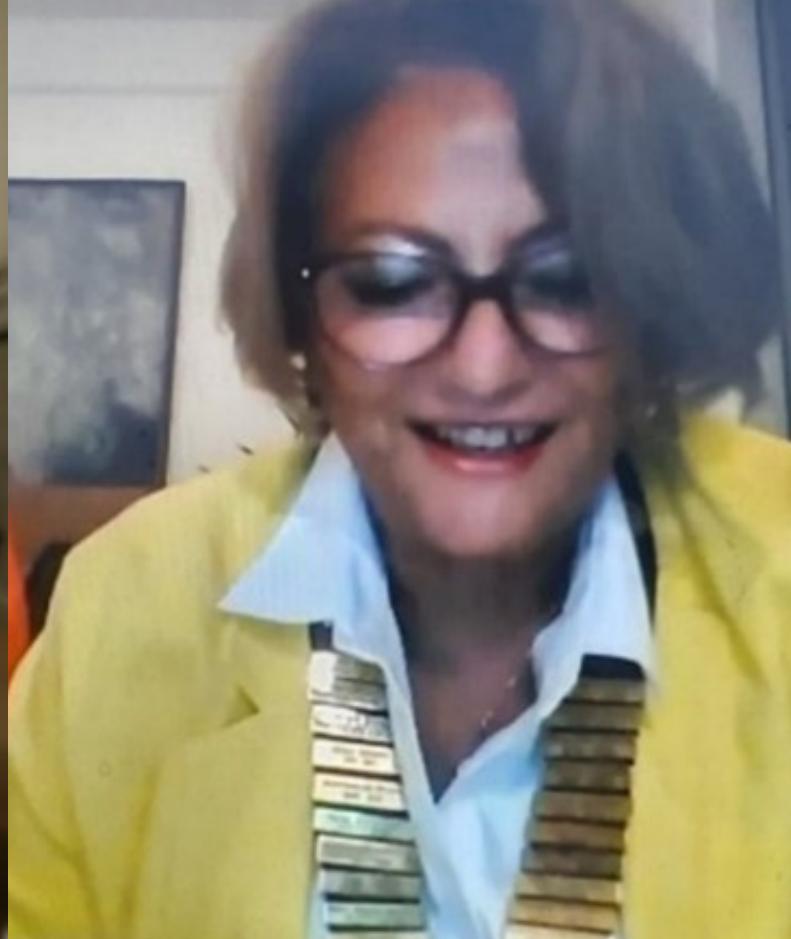
But preparing for this meeting the spirit in our board and my local agora club was growing. And as we see some light at the end of the tunnel we all need to grow again. Let our social life within the clubs grow. Engage on new projects and activities, first local and eventually national and international. Let's share our social life with new members. Never in our lifetime it was more clearly that we are human beings who need social interaction.

So let us be ambitious. As we are exiting this crisis let us try to grow again and let us grow more. Let's cultivate our friendship carefully, Let us grow more: and believe in the hope that we will meet again. Not virtual but in real life. Let us meet again in The Hague next year. Let us enjoy preparing and attending next AGM.

If nature comes back to normal, I'm convinced next AGM in The Netherlands will be a new highlight in the history of our club

**Your President,
Chris Helsen**





SPEECH OF PAST PRESIDENT ANNA TABONE

Dear ladies and gentlemen,

Our AGM is coming to an end, but our commitment continues for yet another year. I would like to sincerely say a big well done to Chris and her team in Belgium for working so hard to organise these zoom meetings.

This was by no means an easy year for Chris, but she managed to achieve success notwithstanding the cancellation of the various events, missions, and interaction with the members of Agora worldwide, and of the Round Table family.

Despite Corona, Chris we still created great memories together as a board and look forward to our physical meetings in the coming year. Onwards and upwards.

My dear ladies,

I would like to thank you all for having given me the chance to serve as your Vice President. This year has not been easy for all of us and I especially, have been taken out of my comfort zone! I would like to thank Agora Club Zambia for their unwavering support. I also had five amazing ladies to work with, with "Captain Chris" at the helm!! They remind me of a pencil maker, who taught five important lessons:-

- Everything you touch will always leave a mark.
- The mistakes you make can always be corrected.
- Your most important asset is what is inside of you.
- In life, you will always undergo some painful sharpening that will make you a better pencil.
- To be the best, you must allow yourself to be held and guided by the hand that holds you.

Corona virus, has taught us, not to take life and things for granted. Let us continue to be there for each other and be our sister's keeper ! Take care and be safe!
Here's to another great ACI year!!

SPEECH OF ACI VICE PRESIDENT CHILUFIA MWANAKATWE



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SPEECH OF ACI TREASURER 2018-2020 VANDANA DEODHAR

Dear all,

Wow! What a year this has been! Not quite what we expected but with great leadership and experience from Chris and Anna, new ideas and support from Chilufya and Mihaela, and Tone.

We have learned how to meet virtually as a board and organization exclusively through video conferences and email and What's app communication.

With travel suspended for most of the year we have relied on these virtual meetings and to stay connected in our friendships and to keep the business of our organization growing!

This has been such a strange year in so many ways, and I have been challenged and had to step up professionally and personally.

I am thankful for the friendships made and lessons learned. I was lucky to meet all the board members and at least spend some time together with them in Italy. I will treasure those moments forever.

I hope all of us world wide come out of this challenging situation very soon and normal operations can resume.

XXX
Vandana



SPEECH OF ACI SECRETARY MIHAELA CRACANA

For me this Agora year started exactly as I expected to be : an amazing experience with a lot of work, having fun, traveling, planning, organizing things, moving people, flying around the globe...

But as Romanian folk wisdom says :

If you like something too much for sure it is illegal, immoral or makes you fat...well this corona virus "arranged" a little bit the way we live so I remained just with the last part...

encourage everybody to keep going, I know it's easier to lie on the couch, in your favorite pajamas, doing nothing and visiting the fridge instead of going out to meet your friends, organizing , making commitments and fulfill them, wearing the mask and washing your hands every 10 minutes but an Agora lady is the one who can do this better than an ordinary lady so dare to do good things, of course have fun , and share us your experience, I can't wait to have it in our newsletter and media!

Thank you ladies



BY LAURA VAN ZIRL

Report on ACI ISP



AGM 2020 ISP REPORT

Madam Chair, the Agora International Board, all my Agora sisters and special guests - Greetings



Imagine you're a schoolgirl, it's 'that time of the month' and you feel the uncomfortable onset of period pains. You begin to worry because you know that soon the morning will come when you wake up to Mother Nature's 'gift'. Your poverty stricken family do not have the resources to buy hygienic sanitary ware and you are forced to use unsafe alternatives like rags, sawdust or newspaper. You won't be going to school for a while, the ridicule would just be too humiliating.

I realise the very thought will be immensely uncomfortable for those listening, but it's the reality many young girls face in low-income areas. These girls end up missing 3-5 days of school each month. This disruption hampers their confidence and progress, and many of these girl children eventually end up dropping out of school altogether.



I feel humbled to be a part of Agora International who has been a shining light in the lives of 614 girls who now have the resources to be able to stay in school and go about their daily lives with the dignity they deserve – even during the dreaded shark week!



Re-usable sanitary pads with the lifespan of 5 years make a world of difference to these young girls.



Globally we find ourselves in unprecedented times and quite understandably, it has been very difficult to fundraise since most of us have been challenged emotionally and financially. The increasing poverty in the world around us is quite overwhelming and the pandemic crisis has made us all acutely aware of our own mortality.

That said, I am grateful to be able to report that we have successfully executed two ISP missions to date.



Just one month after being voted in at the AGM in Morocco, the ISP was launched in Soweto, South Africa. 300 girls were empowered with full Kickstart Flow Kits and we enjoyed a wonderful weekend with members from the ACI board, international AC visitors and members from Round Table and Ladies Circle.



In February 2020, the second #Keep A Girl Child In School mission was convened and hosted by the ladies of AC Botswana. Another 300 Kits were given to the young girls at a school in Gaborone. It was a jam packed weekend as we celebrated Botswanas' Charter and the first Africa Mid Term Meeting.



Two weeks later, the world went into Quarantine and it was a whole 5 months of lockdown before we, in South Africa, were able to travel within the provinces again.



It is disappointing that our international sisters could not join, but I hope that the photos and thank you notes have captured some of the joy and gratitude with which the gifts were received.

I sincerely hope and trust that 2021 is going to be a better year for all of us and I thank you in advance for all of you who are considering fundraising to help us keep more young girls in school.

Rockefeller Jr. said it best in his quote “Think of giving not as a duty but as a privilege”.

Every Euro donated towards re-usable sanitary pads is greatly appreciated, and it will be our privilege as the ISP Convenors to help get your gifts to the girls who need it.



14
girls
need
your
help

We have these 14 beautiful Sumbandila Scholarship Trust girls attending Pretoria University who need your help. We hope to make this our next mini mission.



Let's re-write the story...

Imagine you're a schoolgirl, it's 'that time of the month' and you feel the uncomfortable onset of period pains.



You smile because you know you are prepared, thanks to those lovely ladies from Agora International you now have hygienic re-usable sanitary pads which will keep you dry and clean!

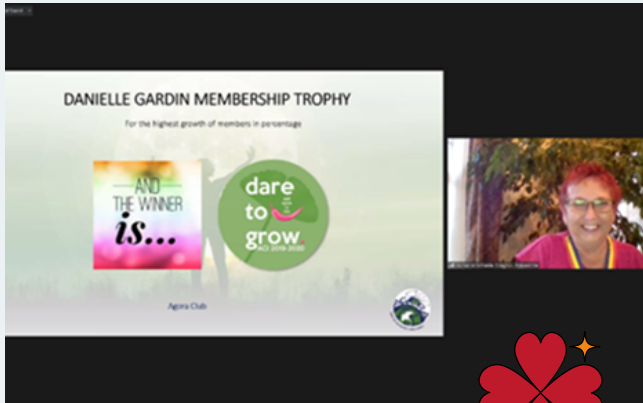
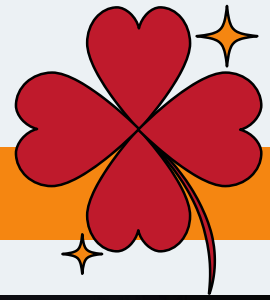
You carry on your day wondering whether you would like to become a scientist or maybe a teacher, or you daydream about the day you become a mother.



ISP CONVENORS
Agora South Africa
ACI Board

Trophies winner

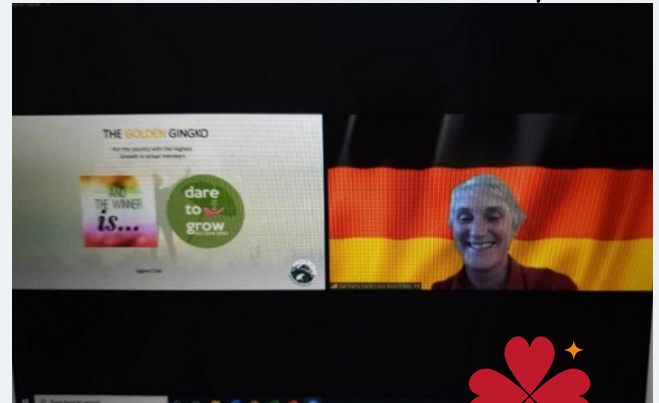
2019/2020



Danielle Gardin Membership Trophy

To stimulate our countries to develop and grow as an association, this Membership Trophy is awarded to the Full Member Country with the highest growth of members in percentage.

This year Danielle Gardin Membership Trophy belong to the country which has achieved a growth of 19 %, **Agora Club Romania**, president **Mihaela Draghici**

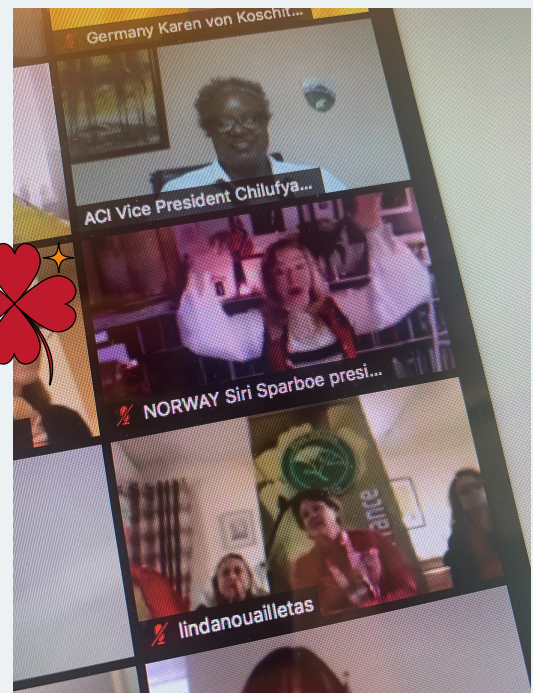


The Golden Ginkgo

The winner of The Golden Ginkgo award is the Agora country with an increase of 35 members this year and belong to **Agora Club Tangent Germany** with **National President Karen von Koschitsky**

The "Stronger Through Diversity" Membership Trophy

"for Associate member countries, with the highest increase in membership of 20%, belong to **Agora Club Norway**, in the picture **Siri Sparboe**, from **AC1 Norway**





An innovative service project launched by Agora Club Vichy in line with the International service project Palesa Pads.

The service project launched by the Vichy Agora Club consists of providing young women with sanitary pads. Specific dispensers were designed by the Agora Ladies and manufactured by a local company. The opening ceremony took place in presence of the City Mayor and a member of the Parliament. Congratulations to Vichy Agora Club!!

ISP - AGORA CLUB FRANCE

Innovative Service Project



Opening of the Dispensers



AGORA CLUB FRANCE

Second Board meeting of Agora France together with the Region Presidents in Thouars



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CHARTER - AGORA CLUB AUSTRIA

First time International godmother!

Charter Agora Club 7 Suceava, Romania!

September 26th, 2020 - Video-Zoom. We were able to be present at the foundation of the Romanian Club 7 as „Godmother“ thanks to „Zoom“! The mood couldn't be drowned and it was celebrated on two sides! On the one hand Gabi & Silvia were in the Wachau and on the other hand the main part took place at our president Sigrid's home. It included a decorated table with the presents from the Romanian ladies, neclaces and bracelets made of flowers, little Austrian flags to wave and prosecco to jolt! Congratulations to the Charter of Agora Club 7 Suceava! So proud to be your Godmother!

A warm welcome from Agora Club Austria
Welcome Ladies



CHARTER - AGORA CLUB AUSTRIA





SIDE BY SIDE – SEPTEMBER 4TH, 2020

Intro-Dinner LC 5 & Round Table Spittal/Drau

Burg Sommeregge / Seeboden / Millstättersee / Carinthia / Austria

You cannot miss out on such a spectacle when you're invited on a knight's castle! Whilst roaring and clapping of the crowd the new presidents of the two clubs were crowned king and queen dressed in ancient robes and ambience all the time supervised by the castellan! We even were allowed to attend a medieval battle.

Thanks a lot for the invitation to the intro dinner of Ladies Circle 5 and Roundtable-Spittal – it was a pleasure to celebrate once again



SIDE BY SIDE – SEPTEMBER 4TH, 2020





EFTW DONATION TO DIANA MANDRESCU

I good deed never forgotten

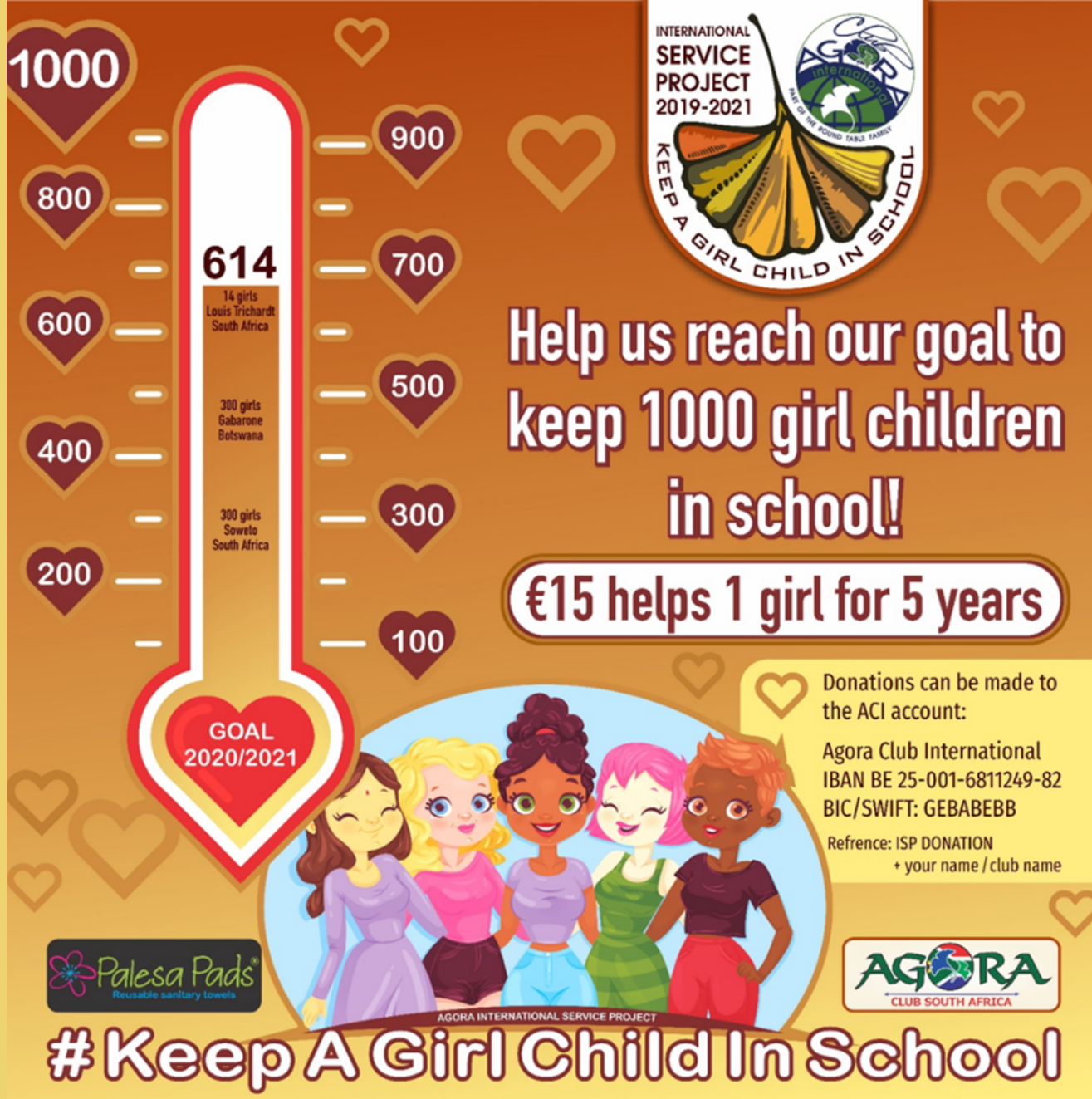
Dear ladies form Agora Club

With great pleasure I'd like to inform you that my overall health status is very good right now, the medical checkups in the last year have been very reassuring, the doctors are very pleased and so am I.

The hole area around the eye has healed very nice, but there are left some little marks because of the therapy. The eye doesn't look great inside, I can't see anything with it right now, but I hope I'll be able to see again. I have been told it's a normal reaction due to the therapy. My eyelids don't open anymore and because of this my appearance it's not ideal, my lacrimal gland do not exist anymore so I need to put artificial tears all the time not to let the eye to get dry . Soon I'll be able to get a plastic surgery that will improve the way the eye open. I'm very excited that I'll be looking almost the same as before and that this horrible disease will be just a bad experience that I overcame stronger than before. Hopefully I will be getting the surgery next year and I'll be getting back to my regular life, to my job as school teacher as now I get illness pension of 210 euro monthly

I wanted to thank everyone form the bottom of my heart for everything that you did for me, financially and most important for the support and care.

I wish you all the best, good health to you
and your families and keep up the amazing work you do! You're wonderful!
Love, Diana Mîndrescu



ISP – BAROMETER

Ladies, without your support, we would not have been able to manage what we have so far! If it wasn't for the Covid 19 Pandemic, I'm sure we would have done even more. So far we managed to reach 614 girls! You have given ACI one of the greatest gifts anyone can give. You have given us exposure, credibility and respect from other members of the RT family. We have received to date €2346.66

We have seen the great need for reusable sanitary pads and we implore you to please continue donating to this noble cause so that we can reach more girls and help to keep them in school. Thank you once again for your generosity

WANTED

DEAD or ALIVE ✓

VICE PRESIDENT

TREASURER

SECRETARY

WEB-LADY

REWARD

FRIENDSHIP AND FUN

Calendar of events 2020-2021

MONTH	Date	EVENT	PLACE COUNTRY, CITY	WHO CAN ATTEND
2020				
SEPTEMBER				
	5	RTI AGM	ZOOM	
	20	HYM C41 international	ZOOM	
OCTOBER				
	3	ACI CM	ZOOM	
		ACI AGM	ZOOM	
NOVEMBER				
	7	HYM LC+Agora France	France, Bordeaux	canceled
	6-9	HYM ATC Germany	Kulmbach, Germany	
	14-15	ACI Day Moto Raid to Ampefy with Quatalagor Madagascar Family	Madagascar	
	14	ACI Day		
DECEMBER				
2021				
JANUARY				
	29-31	LCI - MTM APAC	Nepal	Samta
		LCI – MTM Nordic	Denmark	
FEBRUARY				
	5-7	LCI-MTM- Africa	Zambia	Chilu
		LCI-MTM – SE Europe	Cyprus	
	11-14	RTI HYM	Sri-Lanka	
	19-21	LCI-MTM-Middle Europe	Malta	
MARCH				
APRIL				
	24	AGM ATC Germany	Germany, Osnabrück	
		AGM AC Switzerland	Switzerland Lausanne	
MAY				
	7-9	AGM AC Madagascar	Nosybe	
	15	AGM AC Iceland	Iceland Reykjavik	
	21	AGM AC USA	USA, Detroit	
	22	AGM AC South Africa	Johannesbourg	
	22-26	BOARDMEETING ACI	Italy, Verona	

	27-29	ACI FORUM	Italy, Verona	
	27-29	C41 international AGM	Italy, Verona	
	29	AGM AC The Netherlands	The Netherlands, Twente	
	29	AGM AC France	France, Hyeres	
	29	AGM AC Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe, Harare	
	29	AGM Tangent International	Verona, Italy	
JUNE				
	8	AGM AC Norway	Norway, Sanders	
	12	AGM AC France	France, Cannes	
	13	AGM AC Zambia	Zambia, Sanfya	
	18	AGM AC Malta	Malta, Valetta	
	26	AGM AC Belgium	Belgium, Tiennen	
	26	AGM AC Botswana	Botswana, Gaborone	
		AGM AC Romania	Romania, Dubova	
		AGM AC Morocco	Morocco, Casablanca	
JULY				
		AGM Israel	Israel, Tel Aviv	
AUGUST				
	26-29	LCI-AGM	Morocco, Casablanca	
SEPTEMBER				
OCTOBER				
	1-3	AGM ACI	The Netherlands, The Hague	
	3	Handover Meeting BM1		
	14-16	HYM C41 international	Romania, Brasov	Mihaela Chilu
		HYM Tangent International	Romania, Brasov	

ACI EVENTS

LCI EVENTS

C41 I EVENTS

RTI EVENTS

TCI EVENTS





REMEMBER

ACI DAY

14TH NOVEMBER

AGORAclubinternational.com