

International Greeter Association: Fact sheet | 2019-03



The idea: Greeter Concept

Greeters welcome visitors to their city and take them on a personal, two- to three-hour walk showing them the city beyond the guide books and off the beaten track.

Greeters are volunteers who love their city or region and are keen to share with you their enthusiasm and knowledge about the city or region.

During the walk, visitors discover the city on foot or using public transport network. Whether visiting a city for the first time or as a regular visitor Greeters welcome them to their city and look forward to showing them a part of “their” city.

All Greeters and Greeter organizations share the same core values: see next page.

International Greeter Association – network of Greeter organization around the world

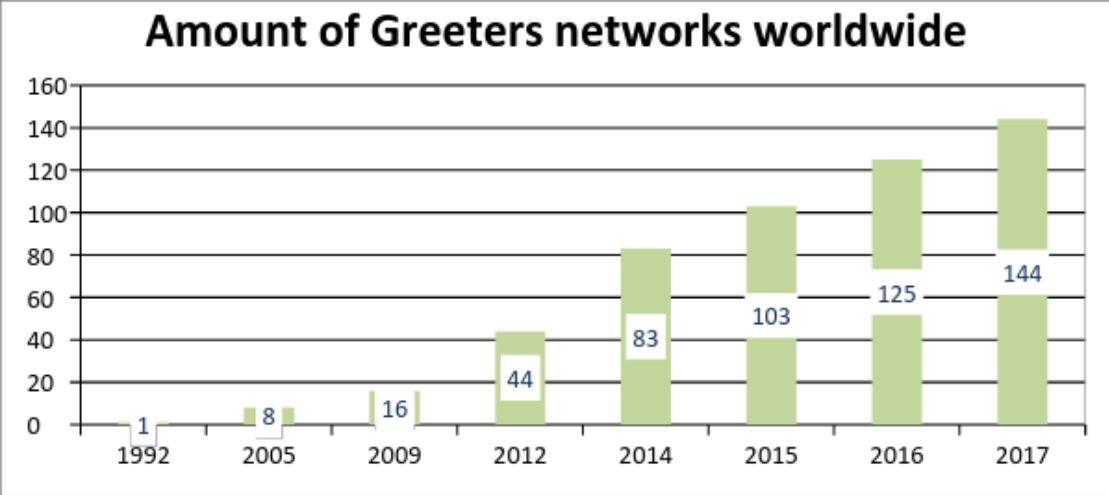
IGA is a worldwide network of more than 140 city/region Greeter programs, sharing a common drive to create a unique experience, by connecting visitors with enthusiastic local volunteers.

In bi-annual meetings the members of the IGA discuss and decide about their common project and elect the IGA board.

Current IGA Board members

- Katie Law, Chicago – Chair
- Klaus Bostelmann, Hamburg – Secretary
- Joaquin Brenman, Buenos Aires
- Françoise Deygout, Paris
- Emilie Herssens, Brussels
- Diana Hounslow, Pas-de-Calais

Facts & Figures



IGA Core Values

All Greeters and Greeter organizations share the same core values:

- 1) Greeters are volunteers, a friendly face for those visiting a city/destination
- 2) Greeters welcome individuals and may serve small groups of up to six people
- 3) Meeting a Greeter is free of charge
- 4) All visitors and volunteers are welcomed without any kind of discrimination.
- 5) Greeter organizations support sustainable tourism. Programs respect natural and man-made environments, bringing both cultural and economic enrichment to local communities. Programs aim for a lasting positive image of each destination.
- 6) Greeter organizations create a mutually enriching opportunity for cultural exchange; create links between people in creating a better world.

Milestones in IGA history

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| 1992 | Lynn Brooks initiates “Big Apple Greeters” in New York |
| 1997 | The Greeter concepts starts to spread around the world: Melbourne becomes second destination. In 2001 Adelaide follows, Buenos Aires and Chicago follow in 2002, 3 years later Houston and Toronto. |
| 2005 | First meeting in New York, attended by five destinations from US and Canada |
| 2007 | “Global Greeter Network Annual Roundtable” in Toronto, Canada.
Regulations for new members approval, GGN website and logo. |
| 2009 | More than 10 destinations |
| 2010 | Jos Nusse (Den Haag) is elected chairman |
| 2012 | A private foundation called GGN is established in Den Haag |
| 2012 | Christian Ragil (Paris) is elected chairman |
| 2013 | More than 50 destinations.
Annual Meeting Paris: First Release of “GGN Goals and Governance” |
| 2014 | Annual Meeting Chicago: Joaquin Brenman (Buenos Aires) is elected chairman |
| 2015 | More than 100 destinations |
| 2016 | July 2016: Jos Nusse leaves GGN board and claims Private ownership of GGN website |
| 2016 | Nov 2016: Katie Law (Chicago) is elected chairman |
| 2017 | May 2017: Board launches independent Website www.globalgreeternetwork.com |
| 2017 | Nov 2017: Member voting for establishment of legal entity for Greeter community |
| 2019 | Mar 2019: Board members establish IGA in Brussels/Belgium |

Website www.internationalgreeter.org

Contact

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