



AGORA CLUB INTERNATIONAL



ACI NEWSLETTER



JUNI 2024

**GREETINGS FROM OUR
TREASURER
2022 - 2024**

**6TH FORUM
MARRAKESH**

**ACI REGISTRATION
EXTENDED UNTIL 31.7.**

**ACI SERVICE
LAPTOPS4HOPE**

ME & MY SUITCASE



'ik zou je in een doosje, in een doosje willen doen – om later nog eens terug te kijken naar de herinneringen van toen'. It's an old Dutch song and loosely translated it means: 'I would like to keep you in a box, so that in the future I can look back on the past with a smile'.

My grandmother had a beautiful wooden chest in the attic. The chest had gold-colored hinges, a gold-colored lock and was hand-painted with flowers. The coffin was lined with blue linen. My grandmother kept 'memories' in this chest.

As a child, I always found it very exciting to look at the objects in the box with her. Grandma knew for each object what it was, why she kept it and what memory belonged to it. A photo of her parents as a child, a babyphoto of me together with my mother (her daughter), a golden ring - won in a national flower arranging competition, tickets for the ballet The Nutcracker - given to her by her grandmother for her 18th birthday (in 1927).

During the Second World War, she buried the chest in the ice cellar in the garden in the days before she had to flee the war with her father and (still young) daughters. My grandmother, her father and daughters were able to return to their home unharmed after the liberation. The chest was dugged up again and until her death in 2002, she filled the chest with memories and talked about the things she had kept in the chest.

I, like my mother, have a chest like that, but I also have „My Suitcase“. Most who know me at Agora recognize the suitcase. I received it as a the gift from all the Dutch Agora ladies in Puy du Fou when I joined the ACI board. The suitcase goes with me on everyAgora adventure. To Casablanca, to Cyprus, Brasov, to AGMs, to Side-by-Side partners and the Suitcase always goes home with a tangible memory.



ME & MY SUITCASE



I'm often asked what's so great about being a member of Agora. And when they see all the souvenirs that nowadays are still in my living room, many people think that 'traveling' is the reason why I'm a member of Agora. Honestly, traveling is fun, but it's not the traveling itself but the destination. In addition to getting to know a new environment, it's especially precious to get to know other women. Women who, just like me, are a member of Agora. Who, just like me, have made special friendships, gained fantastic experiences and made wonderful memories.



My first year on the board was chaotic due to the situation at home. Nothing went the way I wanted, but because of the love of the women I met while traveling, fantastic Belgian Agora friends and sweet Dutch ladies, I never felt lonely. A precious memory.

Just a few more months and then my journey in the ACI board will be completed, but that doesn't mean that the suitcase will go to the attic. The suitcase will definitely travel again, we will go out into the wide world. I sincerely hope that I will continue to meet you because the Suitcase and I are far from finished making memories.



Marian Florissen – Schuurman
Treasurer 2022-2024

— ACI time to register - NOW —

REGISTRATION EXTENDED UNTIL 31.07.24

Now it is time to register for our ACI Conference in Hanover!

The team there counts on you to register until end of June so they can make their first payments and prepare everything for a wonderful weekend. As the pretour was cancelled please just get in touch with ACT Germany if you want to travel the country on your own. In each area there will be a possibility to meet with members and enjoy some time together. For Berlin, Hamburg, Munich, Cologne...our German members will help you to find the best spots!



6TH FORUM IN MARRAKESH



Dear Ladies, we had our 6th Forum in Marrakesh. It was a great event with its ups and downs. On Wednesday afternoon, right after we had arrived, after some difficulties, we got a room for our board meeting and we were also able to get a conference room for our forum. We wanted to start our board meeting early on Thursday morning. Morocco threw a spanner in the works, delaying the arrival of our board members. If you want to be on time in Morocco, you have to leave a few hours earlier. In the end, we made it. We finished our presentation and scenario in the evening. The evening event was a white party around the pool. We had the Side by Side evening together, catching up with old and new friends from our Round Table family. The next morning we continued with fine-tuning our PPP and dress rehearsal. In between we had our first official meeting with Tangent Club International in 10 years. We introduced ourselves, talked about differences and similarities. Definitely we want to work together and arrange further meetings. In the afternoon Tangent celebrated their 10th anniversary at a presidential tea ceremony. Then we all met up with Club 41 and Tangent for the Country Night. We had the opportunity to try specialities from different countries. Next morning it was time for the 6th ACI Forum and we had a great room with lots of space ;) After the introduction of all participants, the presentation of the board and the treasurer report we collected ideas on different topics. The topics were: How can we motivate people to make use of Agora Club World? What is the reason people do not make use of ACW? How can we increase the money for the travel fund? .



6TH FORUM IN MARRAKESH



What do you think about starting an E-club on national level? How can we improve the cooperation side by side in countries particularly with Tangent? Are there Side by Side agreements in your country? What do you think about the idea that the ACI board should have a global representation of our 24 countries and 4 continents? Should we divide our member countries in 5 regions for this reason?

If you are curious what the answers were, you can read them in our forum minutes from 11.07.2024 **in the ACW**

We were 42 Agora Ladies in total. Our Moroccan ladies performed a wonderful ceremony with us. Agora Maroc was not only spoiling our Boardies and international guests at our FORUM in Marrakech, but also donating 60.000 Dhs (about 6.000 Euros) to #JOODassociation which was founded by their member of Hind Laidi to help people after the horrible earthquake in Morocco. We had a lot of fun. Thank you for the organization and the warm hospitality.

Finally, the fantastic gala evening with moroccan dancers and specialties made the weekend complete.

On Sunday morning, before our departure from Marrakech, we had the pleasure of a meeting with our friends from #5clubs1vision. Thank you so much for coming to our meeting! It is always fascinating to experience the culture, people and traditions of a foreign country. It was really important that we were there in person, that the family members saw us and talked to us - at Club 41 noone asks who is Agora anymore.



NEWS FROM OUR ISP



#laptops4hope was on a successful mission in **Morocco**. An IT multifunctional lab was installed in school Jemma- Houderrane, Kemiset. 5 computers were connected to the internet in a network with a big screen, a printer and a speaker with microphones. All devices will be used by teachers and children during lessons and extra curricular activities. Another 5 laptops will be donated to some children coming from poor families.

Congratulations [#AgoraClubRabat4](#) / [Agora Mar](#) and president Nadia Amine who took the initiative to implement our ACI ISP project in this area.

We are grateful to our sponsors and friends who donated the computers and money to buy more devices locally. Many thanks to volunteers who carried the computers to the destination, to our technical team who helped this project to come to become a wonderful success!

Next mission: **Zambia** in November 2024. Let's **#move it!** We need 30 laptops to go and another 1600 Euro to buy the solar panels and all extra equipment for IT labs in schools. The first step is done with the help of [Club Agora France](#) and with the help of our friend from [CLUB 41 INTERNATIONAL!](#) Please contact [Mihaela Cracana](#) for further information.

Agora Club Tangent Germany was thinking about how to support our ISP [#Laptops4hope](#) and has now started a cooperation with [Freunde helfen Konvoi](#) to collect laptops and notebooks which are transported to [#Ukraine](#). At the German AGM there was a symbolic handover of the firsts devices.

There will be a flyer to invite companies to assist.

In Germany there are also projects like [HEY ALTER - Alte Rechner für junge Leute](#) who collect and hand out used electronic devices to pupils which is a good way for our members, because they are located in many German towns. [Agora Club Tangent 56 Lüneburg](#) for example has donated 500 Euro to their local initiative. If you support locally – please let us know! Every step counts to help children get a better education.



AND WHAT ABOUT OUR AGM 2026?



We are in search of a country member willing to take on the task of hosting our Annual General Meeting in 2026. This is not just a simple request - this is a chance to show your country's unique culture, hospitality, and it is an opportunity to leave a lasting impression, build bridges, and create unforgettable memories for all our members from around the world. So, we offer you the occasion, to step up and offer your country as the stage for our AGM in 2026. Take this opportunity to make a difference and to be a part of something truly special.



Thank you for considering this opportunity, and we look forward to see which country member will take the challenge and make AGM 2026 an event to remember.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR BOARDIES

Now it's time to send in your applications and help Agora Club International to continue its journey! Open positions are VP, Treasurer and Secretary - but of course there are several ways (web, media, social media, ACW, editorial, ...) for you to support and involve yourself. Please don't hesitate to contact **Jill Brees** and discuss how, when and in which position your skills can contribute best!!! We need your superpower! Let's #move_it together.



For more news **see our ACW** or visit our social media accounts where all member countries are presented in a virtual ACI around the world tour. It shows who we are, what we do and stand for. This is especially important for countries and clubs who would like to attract new members and circlers to join them.



On Facebook we have a group for all of you to post <https://www.facebook.com/groups/139904506082128>
Our official account on Facebook is new and can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/AgoraClubInternationalNEW>
On Instagram it is: Agora Club International

If you have finished reading – send a note to: so-me@agoraclubinternational.com
because Ulrike and Sandra really would like to know who really reads all this ;-)

We are all looking forward to seeing you in Hanover!

