



The Sustainable Life Skills Café Guidebook for Operators



www.SLSCAFE.eu

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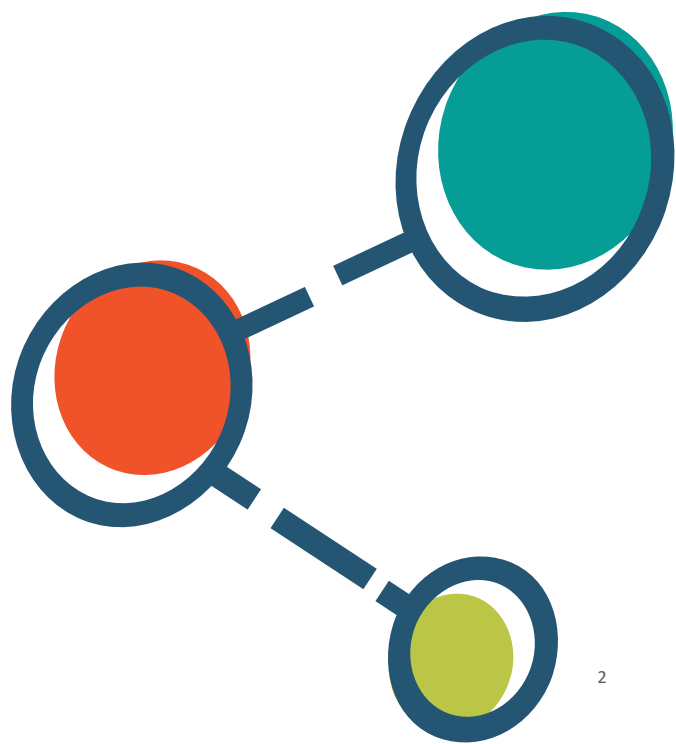
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01

INTRODUCTION





INTRODUCTION

The Sustainable Life Skills Cafe Project focuses on empowering individuals and providing disadvantaged adult groups with engaging, high-quality learning opportunities. Migrants, low-qualified adults, marginalised adults, and socially excluded adults are among these adult categories. The project aims to promote social inclusion, which will allow these persons to obtain information, develop attitudes and skills, and aid them in navigating a business-friendly atmosphere.

Independence and self-efficacy are built on life skills. Adults with various combinations of abilities can become lifelong learners, live independently, and contribute to society. The project partners at SLS Café believe that a life skills approach to adult education may benefit individuals, businesses, and communities.

Everyone should have the requisite abilities and talents for life and work in the twenty-first century. This includes essential skills such as literacy and numeracy, as well as important

competencies outlined in the new European Reference Framework of Important Competencies for Lifelong Learning, which was approved by the European Union Council in 2018. Adult education encompasses several skills and learning experiences with varying benefits and purposes, as well as a variety of techniques to assist persons throughout their careers and lives.

Collaboration with project partners resulted in the creation of an SLS Café manual that takes the reader through the process of establishing an in-person or online SLS Café. Due to new economic, technological, and sociological changes, we must improve our life skills.

Adult education transforms people's lives and provides new opportunities. It opens new job opportunities, provides a pathway to learning, supports early school leavers in returning to school, piques people's creative and cultural interests, and promotes health and well-being.

The Core Objectives Of Sustainable Life Skills Café

The core objectives of our Sustainable Life Skills Café project are:

- To create a complete toolbox that includes up-to-date strategies to grow a sustainable life skills mindset built in a clear, easy to comprehend and helpful way.
- To establish Sustainable Cafés, which will provide a target group-specific, motivating and low threshold learning environment and produce a step-by-step guide in the form of a schematic handbook that organisation outside the participating partner locations can use to adopt and put into practice in their area. The knowledge and expertise of the project partners will be compiled into the handbook in “best practices”.
- To create an interactive application that may serve as both a platform for disseminating material and an interactive exchange and calendar/location tool, guaranteeing that all resources that have been developed are accessible in their entirety and without change.



*“Success is the sum of small efforts repeated day in and day out”
– Robert Collier*

02

WHAT IS A SUSTAINABLE LIFE SKILLS CAFÉ?



What is a Sustainable Life Skills Café?

Sustainable Life Skills (SLS) Cafés are organised as public events, open to everyone and free of charge. Our goal is to make them conveniently accessible - hosted either on the premises of our project partners or, when larger gatherings are on the cards, in rented venues. The costs for these rentals are handled through the Management Grant, taking the worry out of the equation.

Understanding that responsibilities such as childcare can sometimes be a barrier to participation, we've got a solution. At every SLS Café, we have dedicated volunteers on hand to look after the young ones. This way, whether you're a single parent or have any other caregiving duties, you can participate freely. By taking this approach, we aim to make these life skills more accessible and the learning experience more inclusive.

Initiating a Sustainable Life Skills (SLS) Café requires a methodical approach divided into three strategic steps:

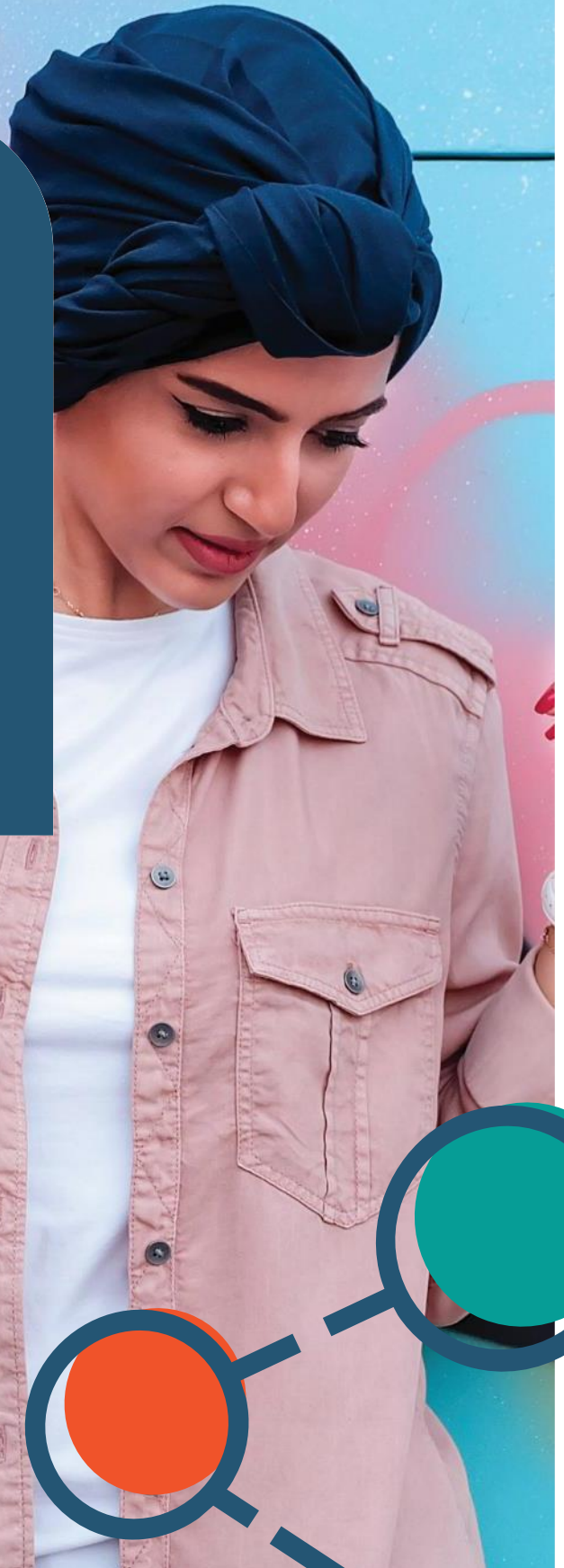
- **Define the Cafés Purpose and Goals:** The inaugural step involves delineating the specific life skills that will be the focus of your event, substantiating their relevance and importance for your intended audience. An explicit and comprehensive articulation of the event's goals and objectives is crucial, whether it be enhancement of communication competencies, development of financial literacy, or any other life skill.
- **Identification of Potential Collaborators and Stakeholders:** The second phase necessitates contemplation about organisations, enterprises, and individuals who have a shared commitment to fostering life skills development. This step requires identifying prospective collaborators and stakeholders who have the capacity to contribute to the event's organisation and promotion, as well as offer resources in terms of funding or expertise.
- **Event Planning and Promotion:** The final phase involves the construction of a meticulous plan, detailing aspects such as the event's format, agenda, speakers, and activities. The event must be promoted through a diverse range of channels, including social media, email, and print media. Additionally, the incorporation of incentives for attendees, such as complimentary resources or certificates of participation, can serve as catalysts to boost participation and engagement.





“Of all the Life Skills available to us,
communication is perhaps the
most empowering”

Bret Morrison



03

FINDING EVENT LOCATIONS





Finding Event Locations

Finding the right venue for the Sustainable Life Skills Café takes careful planning and thought. Here's a breakdown of some key questions to guide the process:

How Often Do You Need the Venue?: Consider if you'll be meeting regularly in the same spot or if the needs will change over time. Regular meetings might call for a permanent space, while occasional gatherings could benefit from different venues.

Location, Location, Location: Think about where the venue should be. Is it close to public transport? Is it easy for your target audience to get to? Choosing the right location can make or break your café's success.

What Type of Venue and How Big?: Consider what you'll be doing in the space. How many people do you expect? Do you need specific facilities or technologies? This will help you narrow down the choices and find the perfect fit.

Should You Change Up the Venue?: Regular meeting spaces can create a sense of community, but changing venues might keep things fresh and exciting. Weigh the pros and cons to find what works best for your group.

What Services and Facilities Do You Need?: From catering to technology, consider what extra services or facilities you'll need. Make sure the venue can accommodate those needs or be ready to arrange them yourself.

How Will You Pay for the Venue?: Consider your budget and how you'll cover the costs. Maybe you'll fundraise, seek sponsorships, or tap into memberships. Understanding your financial options will help you plan better.

By asking these questions and considering these factors, you can create a roadmap to find the right venue for the Sustainable Life Skills Café. It's not just about finding a place to meet; it's about choosing a space that aligns with your mission, serves your audience, and fits your budget. Remember, the right venue will contribute to the overall success and impact of your Café, so take the time to plan and choose wisely.

Ideas of Venues for Your Café



Liberal Adult Education Centres: These centres are designed to cater to adults looking to continue education or acquire new skills. Government-backed, they offer a broad range of courses and programs. They are typically open to everyone, making them an inclusive choice for hosting events. A collaborative partnership with such a center could align with the objectives of community education.

Public Libraries: With free access to computers, internet, study spaces, and meeting rooms, libraries are an ideal spot for educational gatherings. Their central locations and community focus make them an accessible and budget-friendly option for various activities.

Community Premises: Community spaces, like community centres or halls, offer flexibility for different events like workshops, seminars, and training sessions. They are often available at affordable prices, allowing for a wider reach to different segments of the community.

Universities: Universities often have lecture halls, meeting rooms, and other facilities suitable for educational activities. Collaborating with a university could also provide access to academic resources and expertise, enhancing the quality and credibility of the program.

Cafés or Restaurants with Event Spaces: For a more informal and relaxed setting, cafés or restaurants with special event spaces might be a suitable choice. They can create a comfortable atmosphere that encourages conversation and learning in a more social context.

Coworking Spaces: These spaces are designed for collaboration and often provide the technology and amenities needed for meetings and presentations. They might be a fit for more professional or business-oriented gatherings.

Accessibility and Inclusivity Considerations: To ensure success, it's vital to minimise barriers to participation. Choosing a location with easy city access or good public transport connectivity can make it more appealing. Considerations about parking, wheelchair accessibility, and other logistical factors should also be part of the decision-making process.

Selecting the right venue for the Sustainable Life Skills Café involves a thorough analysis of various options and understanding their unique benefits and constraints. Whether it's a formal education center, a casual café setting, or a community space, the choice must resonate with the café's mission, the expected audience, and budget. By considering all these factors, you can create a conducive environment that promotes learning, engagement, and community building.



Venues In Belgium

Anderlecht - [GC De Rinck](#)

Brussels - [GC De Markten](#)

Elsene - [GC Elzenhof](#)

Etterbeek - [GC De Maalbeek](#)

Evere - [GC Everna](#)

Ganshoren - [GC De Zeyp](#)

Haren - [GC De Linde](#)

Jette - [GC Essegem](#)

Neder-Over-Heembeek - [GC Nohva](#)

Koekelberg – [GC De Platoo](#)

Belgium has a unique network of community centres in many suburbs throughout Belgium with very affordable event spaces





Venues In Belgium

Laken - [GC Nekkersdal](#)

Oudergem - [GC Den Dam](#)

Schaarbeek - [GC De Kriekelaar](#)

Sint-Gillis - [GC Pianofabriek](#)

Sint-Jans-Molenbeek - [GC De Vaartkapoen](#)

Sint-Joost-ten-Node - [GC Ten Noey](#)

Sint-Lambrechts-Woluwe - [GC Op-Weule](#)

Ukkel - [GC Het Huys](#)

Vorst - [GC Ten Weyngaert](#)



Venues in Ireland

Ireland offers a diverse selection of venues that can be an ideal match for a Sustainable Life Skills (SLS) café, each contributing unique features that encourage education and community engagement. Here are a few examples available for booking:

- **Connected Hubs**: A platform where you can search for meeting rooms or spaces to hire across Ireland, making it a versatile option for finding the perfect location for an SLS café.
- **Aughrim Kilmore Community Hub**: Offering meeting rooms and hot desks, this community hub can accommodate various group sizes and activities, providing a conducive environment for learning and collaboration.
- **ManorHub** - Leitrim: With facilities including meeting rooms and hot desks, ManorHub provides a welcoming and well-equipped space, perfect for setting up your own SLS café.
- **The Hive** - Carrick on Shannon: Known for its well-designed spaces that support a wide array of activities, The Hive is a prominent venue that can serve as a vibrant setting for an SLS café.





Venues in Denmark

Copenhagen Green Guide: provides a comprehensive guide to sustainable initiatives in Copenhagen, including eco-friendly venues that may be suitable for hosting events. You can search the site by category, including "events and venues," to find spaces that align with your mission.



Sustainable Cities Collective: This website provides a directory of sustainable initiatives in cities around the world, including Copenhagen. You can search the site by category, including "event spaces," to find venues that are committed to sustainability and community education



Copenhagen Municipality's event spaces: Copenhagen Municipality has several event spaces available for rent, including community centres, libraries, and cultural centres. You can browse available spaces on their website and contact them directly to inquire about availability and rates.



Venues in Finland

In the vibrant landscape of Finland, a country known for its commitment to education and community engagement, various venues offer unique opportunities for learning and collaboration. From liberal adult education centres, publicly funded to ensure accessibility for all residents, to the communal embrace of public libraries, there are myriad spaces designed to foster lifelong learning.

- [Turku Main Library](#)
- [Finnish Adult Education Center of Turku](#)
- [Turku Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [Suomen Yrittäjät](#)
- [Bastu](#)





Venues in Germany



University of Konstanz – The University offers various rooms for educational events. Generally, room rental is free of charge for scientific events. However, due to high demand during the semester, reserving a lecture hall or room may only be possible on weekdays during semester breaks.

Treffpunkt Petershausen Konstanz – This venue offers meeting rooms for neighborhood residents for a nominal fee. Working for the common good and not for profit, the rooms are unavailable for commercial purposes, seminars, conferences, etc.

AWO Konstanz - A major provider of social work in the district, AWO Konstanz offers venues of various sizes for seminars, lectures, regular group or club meetings.

Café Mondial - A creative space open to everyone, including students and migrants worldwide, Café Mondial provides meeting rooms for non-commercial educational or cultural events free of charge.

Freiräume – Situated in Konstanz's old town, Freiräume offers an exceptional conference location with historical flair. It includes

several seminar rooms with equipment, a kitchen, optional catering, and its own garden.

St. Johann – This venue provides co-working spaces and meeting rooms suitable for diverse educational and cultural activities.

The KIM - The University's central service provider for IT and library services, KIM offers free access to computers and the internet, as well as study spaces and meeting rooms for educational activities.

Juze (Youth Center of the city of Konstanz) – A vibrant space for young people, Juze promotes active participation through various activities and projects. Non-profit organizations can use their meeting spaces for free.

Die Neuwerk-Genossenschaft - Owning and operating the Neuwerk building in Konstanz, this cooperative offers rental space for various events at a fair price.

These venues reflect a blend of community engagement, educational focus, and cultural inclusivity in Konstanz, offering a range of options to suit different needs and purposes.

Venues in France



The Centre International d'Antibes: This language school offers a range of courses for adults and has multiple locations throughout Antibes. They also have a dedicated event space that could be suitable for the SLS Café.

The Médiathèque d'Antibes: This public library has multiple meeting rooms and spaces that could be used for educational activities. They also offer access to computers and the internet.

Le Labo Coworking: This coworking space in the heart of Antibes offers multiple event spaces that could be used for the SLS Café.

The Université Côte d'Azur: This university has multiple campuses throughout the region, including one in Antibes. They have multiple event spaces that could be used for educational activities.

The Salis Beach Café: This beachfront café has a dedicated event space that could be suitable for the SLS Café.



04

ONLINE SLS CAFÉS



Choosing Your Online Platform



The success of your Sustainable Life Skills (SLS) Café project hinges on the careful selection of both the right online platform and the optimal timing. Crafting an online environment that is accessible, secure, and engaging is key to nurturing learning and fostering the development of sustainable life skills, especially among disadvantaged adult groups.

When choosing an online platform, it's crucial to consider user-friendliness and broad accessibility. Popular platforms such as Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Google Meet, Discord, and Skype provide intuitive video conferencing tools that enable interactive discussions and activities, making them suitable choices for many.

For those seeking specialised features, BigBlueButton offers an open-source solution, widely embraced by educational institutions in France, while LiveStorm, a French-based platform, is tailor-made for webinars, online events, and live streaming. LiveStorm enhances the virtual experience with features like polls, Q&A sessions, and attendee engagement tools.

If security and additional functionality are paramount, Jitsi stands out with features such as screen sharing, real-time captioning, and end-to-end encryption.

By aligning the platform's features with the needs and preferences of your target group, and selecting a time that maximises convenience and participation, you pave the way for a thriving SLS Café. This alignment not only builds a virtual space conducive to learning but also catalyzes the empowerment and growth of those looking to develop essential life skills.



Things to Remember when Hosting an Online Café

Hosting an online Sustainable Life Skills (SLS) Café event is a multifaceted process that requires meticulous planning, promotion, execution, and follow-up.

- **Planning the Event:**

Begin by defining the event's purpose, format, and agenda. This includes pinpointing the topics to be explored, identifying the speakers or facilitators leading the sessions, and determining interactive features to maintain attendee engagement. The planning phase sets the foundation for a successful event.

- **Promoting the Event:**

Utilise various channels such as social media, email, and newsletters to share vital event details, including date, time, and registration links. Effective promotion helps attract a broader audience and builds anticipation.

- **Technology Testing:**

Ensuring a smooth experience requires testing the video conferencing platform and essential devices like microphones and webcams in advance. Conduct a trial run to identify and rectify any technical glitches, thereby minimising disruptions during the event.

- **Hosting the Event:**

On the day, warmly welcome attendees, introduce speakers, and actively monitor chat and Q&A functions. Strive to provide

satisfactory responses to inquiries, fostering a lively and interactive environment.

- **Post-Event Follow-Up:**

Express gratitude to attendees and solicit feedback, sharing a recording of the event or additional resources that may pique interest. This follow-up helps build lasting connections and informs future improvements.

- **Security Considerations:**

If sensitive or personal information will be shared during the SLS Café sessions, choose a platform with robust encryption and security features to safeguard participant privacy.

- **Time Zone Considerations:**

For international participants, carefully consider time zones. Select a time that accommodates most attendees and consider offering session recordings for those unable to attend live.

In orchestrating an online SLS Café event, the synergy of careful planning, dynamic promotion, technological readiness, engaging hosting, thoughtful follow-up, and attention to security and time zones contributes to an enriching and impactful experience. These elements, when executed with precision, create a space where sustainable life skills can be nurtured and celebrated, advancing the shared goal of lifelong learning and personal growth.



“

“Online learning is an important tool helping to close the widening global skills gap”

World Economic Forum

”

05

HOW TO FIND TUTORS



Finding Tutors

Finding the right tutors for initiatives such as the Sustainable Life Skills Café requires a systematic approach. First, the needs and target audience must be clearly identified, whether focusing on low-skilled individuals, marginalised communities, or migrants. Utilising dedicated online platforms like **Superprof**, **Kelprof**, and **Apprentus** is an effective way to search for tutors, allowing filtering by subject, location, and other essential criteria. Social media platforms, specifically LinkedIn and specialised Facebook groups, can further provide access to communities that align with educational and volunteering interests. These tools not only offer connections to subject-matter experts but also foster a broader understanding of soft skills that may be necessary for the given audience.

When considering potential tutors, the evaluation of soft skills such as empathy and effective communication is equally critical to the assessment of expertise in the subject matter. These attributes are particularly vital when addressing the educational needs of disadvantaged or socially excluded adults, where a compassionate approach may enhance learning outcomes. The process of reaching out and connecting with potential tutors should also be conducted with care and transparency. Clearly communicating the project's needs, goals, and values ensures that both the tutors and learners can engage in a mutually rewarding educational experience. By adhering to this methodical approach, organisations and individuals can identify and engage with the tutors best suited to their unique requirements.



“All of the top achievers I know are life-long learners. Looking for new skills, insights, and ideas. If they’re not learning, they’re not growing and not moving toward excellence.”

Denis Waitley



Ways to Find a Suitable Tutor

To identify the ideal tutors for the SLS Café project, consider these avenues:

Engage with Academia: Collaborate with universities, friendship societies, and international groups. These often host seasoned individuals eager to volunteer.

Bridge Generational Knowledge: Connect with senior communities. Retirees often bring a wealth of knowledge they're keen to share.

Harness Local Expertise: Lean on your network of local entrepreneurs and educators. They might know or be the perfect fit.

Connect with Migrant Advocates: Engage volunteers familiar with migrant communities and adept at teaching soft skills.

Dive into Thematic Cafés: Liaise with thematic café attendees and organisers. They often house enthusiasts eager to share their subject matter expertise.

Optimise Digital Platforms: List your requirements on prominent job boards like LinkedIn, Indeed, Monster, and Angellist.



Ways to Find a Suitable Tutor



Engage Business Hubs: Network at local enterprise offices and entrepreneurial groups. You might find professionals excited to volunteer.

Spotlight on Refugees: Successful entrepreneurs from refugee backgrounds can inspire and guide peers.

Browse Tuition Websites: Digital tutoring platforms are goldmines for soft skills educators.

Tap into Local Volunteers: Engage local organisations and institutes. Students and interns, especially, might value the hands-on experience.

Expand Your Inner Circle: Ask friends, family, and colleagues. They might be interested or know someone who is.

Engage with Schools: Schools often have connections or similar services to offer.

Advertise Broadly: Consider traditional ads or online platforms like Le Bon Coin or Craigslist for a wider reach.



The Importance of the Right Tutors

Finding the right tutors for the SLS Café project isn't just about locating skilled individuals; it's about aligning shared values, methodologies, and goals. Consider conducting in-person or virtual interviews to gauge a potential tutor's passion for the subject, commitment to social inclusion, and ability to relate to various learners. Encourage them to demonstrate their teaching approach and discuss past experiences or scenarios. Collaboration with other organisations and educational institutions may also reveal hidden gems within your community.

Moreover, providing training or orientation aligned with the SLS Café's mission can help to foster a shared vision. Building a network of tutors who resonate with the project's ethos ensures not only an effective learning environment but also contributes to a community that embodies the principles of sustainable living, open communication, and empathy. By approaching the recruitment process with these considerations, you craft a team that's more than skilled – they are dedicated and aligned with the project's unique mission.

06

ENGAGING PARICIPANTS – DISSEMINATION AND MARKETING GUIDELINES



The Best Strategies to Promote Your Café

Marketing a learning café is unlike promoting a typical venue or event. It's about building a community, fostering engagement, and creating a space where knowledge and experience are shared. A well-planned marketing strategy can make the difference between an ordinary gathering place and a thriving learning environment.

First and foremost, you must know your audience. Reach the right people by understanding their age, interests, lifestyle, and education level. This understanding will not only shape your marketing message but guide you to the most effective channels. Social media platforms that resonate with your audience—such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, or video-centric platforms like YouTube, TikTok, or Instagram—are vital. Regular updates about your events, speakers, and engaging topics will keep your community informed and excited.

Visual appeal matters too. In an age of visual communication, well-designed pictures, posters, and flyers that are concise and aesthetically pleasing can capture attention quickly. Essential details like date, time, and location, presented in an attractive format, can draw potential attendees to your event. Collaboration with community partners like local libraries or community centers extends your reach and enriches your promotional efforts.

Community-building is at the heart of your café. Encourage attendees to network, connect, and spread the word. Provide opportunities that foster a sense of belonging and turn your patrons into passionate advocates for your space.



Promoting Your SLS Café



Identify your target audience: Before promoting your SLS Café on social media, it's essential to identify your target audience. Determine which social media platforms your target audience is most active on, and tailor your content accordingly.



Publish content on all relevant social media platforms: Share updates, news, and announcements related to your SLS Café on all relevant social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn. Be sure to use relevant hashtags to increase visibility.



Create a promotional video for your e-café: Consider creating one for your SLS Café and sharing it on YouTube. YouTube has a vast audience, and a well-crafted video can attract potential participants.



Build an email list: Use social media platforms to promote your SLS Café and encourage people to sign up for your email list. Once you have an email list, you can send regular updates, newsletters, and promotions to your subscribers through a platform such as Mailchimp.



Collaborations: Partner with relevant organisations or individuals to expand your reach and credibility. For example, you could collaborate with a local environmental group, a sustainable business, or a relevant influencer to promote your event and reach their networks.



Start a podcast: Starting a podcast is an excellent way to reach more people interested in your SLS Café. Podcasts are ideal for auditory learners; you can share insights, tips, and interviews about sustainable life skills.



Engaging activities: Plan interactive and engaging activities that promote learning and community building. For example, you could offer workshops, games, or competitions that help participants develop sustainable life skills.

07

FUNDING OPTIONS AND SPONSORS



Funding Options for Sustainable Life Skills Café

When you're venturing into starting a sustainable life skills café or related activities in partners countries or cities, considering various funding avenues is pivotal:

Develop a Detailed Project Plan:

Before anything, ensure you have a robust project plan in place. This should highlight your goals, objectives, proposed activities, and anticipated outcomes, presenting potential funders with a transparent vision of your initiative.

Research Potential Funders:

Understand who might be interested in supporting your cause. Identify organisations or foundations whose objectives align with yours. Once you've curated a list, delve deeper into their specific funding criteria, application process, and submission deadlines.

Leverage Partnerships and Collaborations: Strengthen your standing by teaming up with relevant organisations or individuals. Such partnerships not only increase your credibility but also split the responsibilities and financial obligations.

Apply for Government Grants: Many governments allocate grants for initiatives that revolve around education, culture, or promoting multiculturalism. Reaching out to local government agencies or visiting official websites can provide insights into potential grant opportunities.

Apply for Government Grants: Many governments allocate grants for initiatives that revolve around education, culture, or promoting multiculturalism. Reaching out to local government agencies or visiting official websites can provide insights into potential grant opportunities.

How to Secure Sponsors for Your SLS Café

Securing sponsors for your SLS Café can be a crucial step in ensuring its success. When finding sponsors it is important to remember that sponsorship is not just about securing funds; it's about building a partnership that aligns with your mission and adds value to the sponsor as well. Approaching it with professionalism, clarity and a sense of collaboration can set your SLS Café on a path to sustained success.



“Resilience is not a single skill, but a variety of skills and coping strategies that can be learned and developed over time”

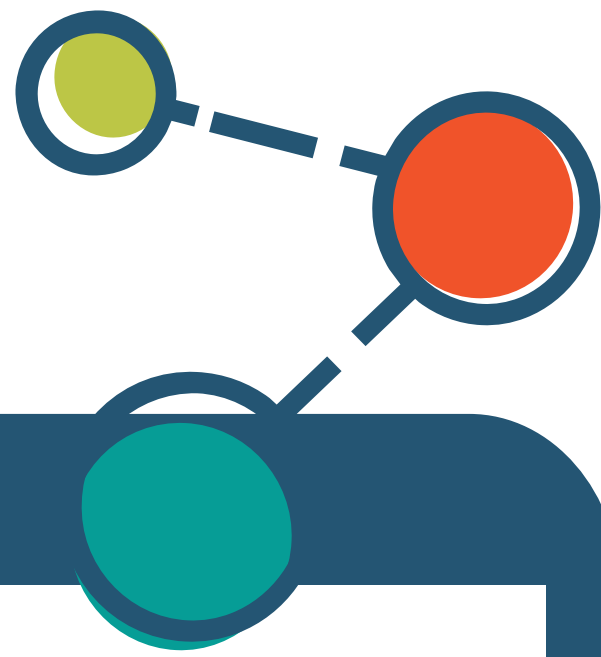
Robert Brooks

How to Secure Sponsors for Your SLS Café

Firstly, when securing sponsors, it is important to identify and approach potential sponsors. Therefore, begin by identifying businesses and organisations whose values align with your SLS Cafés mission. Look for those interested in education, cultural diversity or skills development. Create a compelling sponsorship package that offers various benefits and caters to different budgets. Present a clear, concise proposal and don't hesitate to include past successes or endorsements to instil confidence.



How to Secure Sponsors for Your SLS Café



Networking and relationship-building are at the heart of attracting sponsors. Engage in industry events and follow up with potential sponsors to nurture these relationships. Be open to negotiations and strive for a win-win agreement that benefits both parties. Consider proposing multi-year agreements for a more extended, mutually beneficial partnership.

Once a sponsor is on board, keep them engaged with regular updates and acknowledgement. A simple thank-you note, or public recognition can fortify the relationship. Provide regular reports detailing how their contributions have been used and impact achieved. Ensuring compliance with legal requirements, including proper documentation and adherence to tax laws, builds trust and sets the stage for ongoing support.





Where to Seek Funding in Partner Countries: Belgium

Socius: A recognised, autonomous support centre in partnership with the professional field and the Flemish government, Socius supports recognised socio-cultural adult organisations in the Flemish Community. They also submit selected projects for funding approval to the Department of Culture, Youth, and Media.

BRIO: This information centre aims to increase knowledge about Brussels and its surrounding areas, focusing on social sciences. By making fragmented information more accessible, BRIO spreads knowledge on a wide range of subjects, including language diversity and funding opportunities.

Vlaamse Gemeenschapscommissie (VGC): Serving as the hub of the Flemish community in the Brussels-Capital Region, the VGC shapes competencies in culture, education, welfare, and health from a Dutch-speaking perspective. Grants can be applied for these domains.

Commission Communautaire française (COCOF): Responsible for French Community duties in the Brussels-Capital Region, COCOF covers culture, education, healthcare, and citizen assistance. Within its scope, it can form, fund institutions, or initiate community responsibilities.

Fédération Belge des Fondations Philanthropiques: Comprising over 80 active foundations, this federation serves as a catalyst for contemporary philanthropy in diverse fields including social welfare, health, education, heritage, and sustainable development.

The King Baudouin Foundation: An agent for change, this foundation strengthens organisations and individuals' capacity, promoting values like integrity, transparency, and diversity. Its areas of activity range from poverty reduction to democracy and heritage, launching 100 calls for projects annually.

National Lottery: It awards numerous grants supporting diverse projects including social integration, improvement of living conditions for disabled or sick people, and access to healthcare and education.

United Fund for Belgium: A non-profit organisation focusing solely on social projects such as child welfare, poverty reduction, and social integration. Collecting donations from companies and individuals, it supports close to 100 charitable associations annually, financing projects that make a meaningful difference.

Where to Seek Funding in Partner Countries: Denmark



Statens Kunstfond: The Danish Arts Foundation offers grants for cultural events and projects, including events that promote sustainable living and learning. You could explore this option for funding your SLScafés.



The Novo Nordisk Foundation supports projects and initiatives promoting health, education, and scientific research. If your SLS Cafés have a health or education focus, you could explore funding options with this foundation.



The Velux Foundations: This philanthropic foundation supports projects promoting sustainable living, environmental protection, and scientific research. They offer to fund for various projects, and you could explore whether your SLS Cafés align with their mission.



Many **Danish municipalities** offer funding for cultural and educational events. Check your local municipality's website to see if there are any funding programs you can apply for.



Private sponsors: You could also consider approaching private sponsors interested in supporting your SLScafés. These could be educational institutions, private language schools, businesses, or individuals passionate about sustainable living and learning.



Consider crowdfunding to raise funds for your SLScafés using platforms like **Kickstarter** or **GoFundMe**. Visit [Kickstarter](#) or [GoFundMe](#) to start a campaign.

Where to Seek Funding in the Partner Countries

Business Finland: Business Finland is a public funding agency that provides funding for Finnish companies and startups. They offer various funding programs for companies at different stages of development.

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF): The ERDF provides funding for regional development projects in the European Union, including Finland. The funding can be used for various projects, from infrastructure improvements to business development.

Finnish Cultural Foundation: The Finnish Cultural Foundation is a private foundation that provides funding for cultural projects and activities in Finland. They offer several types of grants, including project and artist grants.

Private sponsors: Private sponsors can also fund projects in Finland. You can reach out to companies and individuals interested in supporting your project and pitch your idea to them.

It's important to note that each funding and sponsorship option will have its requirements and eligibility criteria. You should research each option carefully and ensure you meet the criteria before applying.

Finland



Where to Seek Funding in the Partner Countries: France



Public Subsidies: The French government provides subsidies to nonprofits for diverse purposes. Explore sites like the Ministry of Solidarity and Health or the French Agency for Development (AFD) for information.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR): In France, companies with CSR programs may fund nonprofits related to their business activities. Approach these firms to request support for your cause.

Bpifrance: Bpifrance is a public investment bank that offers financing, guarantees, and advisory services to French businesses. They have various programs and initiatives to support entrepreneurs, including startup accelerators and seed funding.

Initiative France: Initiative France is a network of nonprofit organisations that offer financing and support to entrepreneurs in France. They have various programs to support entrepreneurship cafes and other initiatives, including microcredit programs and mentoring services.



Where to Seek Funding in the Partner Countries: Germany



There are various funding options on the local, regional and national levels in Germany for the organisations to implement projects and concept cafés.

Das Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge (BAMF) – "Gesellschaftlicher Zusammenhalt – Vor Ort. Vernetzt. Verbunden." (BGZ): Each year, around 300 projects are carried out across Germany, aimed at enhancing intercultural living and supporting language learning and voluntary commitment.

Robert Bosch Stiftung: This foundation actively works to promote projects across Germany and globally in various fields such as Education, Health, and Global Issues.

The Fonds Soziokultur – Sociocultural Fund: Grants from this fund are provided to time-limited projects dealing with specific themes like active participation of non-artists and exploration of social issues.

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ): GIZ focuses on the sustainable development of international education work. It collaborates with businesses, civil society, and research institutions, emphasizing sustainability as the guiding principle.

Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (BMZ) – The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development: BMZ shapes the foundations of German development policy. It encourages initiatives that support equal participation in social, political, and economic life.

Where to Seek Funding in the Partner Countries: Ireland

Pobal - They work on behalf of the Government to support communities and local agencies toward achieving social inclusion and development.

Enterprise Ireland - They provide funding and support for companies - from entrepreneurs with business propositions for a high potential start-up through to large companies expanding their activities, improving efficiency and growing international sales.

Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) - Provide a range of financial supports designed to assist with the establishment and/or growth of enterprises.

Social Entrepreneurs Ireland - Their mission is to find people with solutions to social problems and support them every step of their journey. They do this through their programmes and direct funding.

Furthr - Furthr provides ambitious founders with everything they need to start and scale their businesses. They offer the most comprehensive range of practical support to entrepreneurs in Ireland.



09

BEST PRACTICE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS FOR ADULT LEARNERS AND HARD TO REACH TARGET GROUPS





In this section, we will focus on showcasing exemplary learning environments that are particularly effective for adult learners and hard-to-reach target groups. Our analysis will cover our partner countries, including Belgium, Finland, France, Ireland, and Denmark, to offer a comprehensive view of best practices in these nations.

Belgium



Freelancers Belgium: Connecting freelancers with each other to share and learn about starting and running a freelance business in Belgium.

Feel alive & build confidence: This group is about meeting fellow individuals seeking to grow. Every meeting, they do exercises that will benefit you.

Soft-Skills & Gestion Emotionnelle | Groupe Bruxelles: This Meetup group was created to share and transmit our knowledge on:

- emotional intelligence: how to flourish individually?
 - social intelligence: how to flourish socially?
 - conflict management: how to make our companies evolve?
 - leadership: what skills should be stimulated to become the leader everyone wants to follow?
-
- Topics covered: leadership, emotions, conflict resolution, human relations, individual responsibility, managing change, self-confidence, self-realisation, self-affirmation, emotional intelligence and social intelligence, management of “difficult” personalities, etc.
 - Operation: We alternate between Meetup-teachings and Round Tables of exchanges, not only to be able to offer you quality content every 15 days but also to let you speak during the Round Tables: We learn as much from you as you from us, and this is what makes the evolution even richer!

Career Coaching and Professional Well-Being: This group aims to create a community of like-minded people of their view of one's professional life: Thrive in a work environment that is not always favorable. Learn how to progress from individual contributor to influential leader to make more money, gain more recognition, and have a greater impact.

Personal Development in Brussels: Belgium's largest, fastest-growing, and most engaged personal development community, founded in 2009. We give you access to some of the greatest personal development tools through continually expanding webinars and live events programmes. You may attend free taster classes up to becoming globally certified in a variety of personal development methods, including NLP, Harrison Assessments, Hypnosis, TimeLine Therapy, and much more... Because the goal of this group is to bring people together who share common interests, sharing and socialising are an important part of all of our Meetups.

BXL - Personal Development, Communication, Coaching & NLP: Mastering life and communication skills are essential for success in every aspect of your life, including your profession, business, relationships, and happiness. And our goal is to advise and inspire you to make reasonable changes in your life and create a new benchmark for your Life, Business, and Career.

Denmark

- **The Danish Adult Education Association:** This national organisation provides adult education and training courses to help individuals develop their skills and knowledge. Their courses cover various topics, from language learning to computer skills, and are offered in various locations across Denmark. The association also offers online courses and resources to support lifelong learning.
- **The International Community in Aarhus:** This organisation supports international residents in Aarhus, Denmark, by providing social and professional events, workshops, and language courses. Their events and workshops focus on life skills, including communication, leadership, and cross-cultural understanding.



Finland

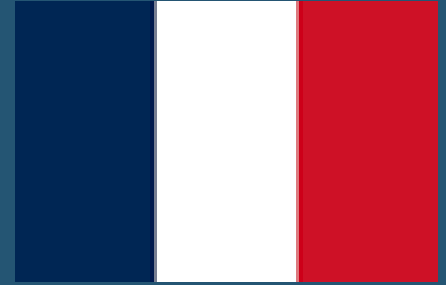


There are many good practices for adult learners and hard-to-reach target groups in Finland. Here are a few examples:

- **Open University** - The Open University in Finland offers a range of flexible and accessible courses for adult learners. The courses are designed to fit the needs of working adults and can be completed online or in person.
- **Youth and Adult Education Centre (Työväenopisto)** - These centres provide various courses and programs for adult learners, including vocational training, language courses, and hobby classes. They are often located in local communities, making them easily accessible for hard-to-reach groups.
- **Helsinki Summer University** - This university offers short courses and programs in various subjects for adult learners. The courses are designed to be flexible and accessible, often taught by experts in their fields.
- **Kansalaisopisto** - These centres provide adult education and training programs in rural areas and small towns. They offer various courses and programs, including language courses, art classes, and vocational training.
- **The Finnish Adult Education Association (FAEA)** - The FAEA provides various resources and support for adult learners, including training programs, workshops, and networking opportunities.
- **MONIKA – Multicultural Women’s Association**: This organisation is a women’s organisation helping women with an immigrant background. The NGO improves women’s position in Finland.

Finland values lifelong learning and provides many opportunities for adult learners, including hard-to-reach target groups, to access education and training programs. These programs are designed to be flexible and accessible, and they are often located in local communities, making them easy to reach for those who may face barriers to education.

France



Café Numérique: Café Numérique is a series of learning cafes that are organised in different cities in France, including Toulouse, Bordeaux, and Lille. These cafes focus on digital innovation and entrepreneurship, and offer workshops, conferences, and networking events for professionals in the field. Café Numérique has successfully promoted digital innovation and entrepreneurship in France and inspired the creation of similar initiatives in other countries. It also strongly focuses on promoting diversity and inclusion in the tech industry. The community strives to create a welcoming and inclusive environment for all members, regardless of their background or experience level. The frequency and type of Café Numérique meetings can vary depending on the location and the needs and interests of the local community; however, in general, it's about once a month.

Café des Sciences: This learning cafe is located in Toulouse and offers regular talks and discussions on scientific topics, such as physics, biology, and ecology. It aims to promote scientific literacy, engage the public in scientific research and innovation, and host regular events, typically in cafes or other public spaces. They also provide online resources and materials to help promote science education and awareness. These resources include videos, podcasts, and articles covering various scientific topics.

Café des Langues: This learning cafe in Paris offers language exchange events where adults can practice their language skills with native speakers. The events are open to people of all levels, from beginners to advanced learners, and are designed to encourage conversation and interaction between participants. Events typically last for two hours, during which time participants are encouraged to speak in their target language with native speakers.



Germany



- **Café Mondial** - Café Mondial is a creative space and meeting place for everyone, including students and migrants worldwide. Café Mondial regularly opens the doors - and invites everyone to consulting services, discussion events, music, dance, cooking together, or 'just' with coffee, tea, juice and cake. The idea of the non-profit association Café Mondial is to solve the fundamental problem of a lack of space for creative get-togethers. Café Mondial is located centrally and is very well connected to public transport. In addition, accessibility and a play corner with activities for children ensure that participation in events is compatible with the needs of the attendees.
- **Juze (Youth Center of the city of Konstanz)** – Juze is a living space for young people. They promote active participation by offering various activities and projects. One is the Homecafé project, where young people meet online and organise different activities.
- **Treffpunkt Petershausen Konstanz** - The Petershausen meeting place is a house for all generations and people of all origins. Numerous initiatives and private individuals organise a wide range of events here.
- **Villa in Leipzig** - this is the socio-cultural centre in the heart of Leipzig! They initiate, enable and support offers and projects in youth, culture and social affairs. They support people in developing their potential and realising their ideas. Their resources are open to encounters, communication, education and self-realisation
- **Give Something to Berlin** - is an association that connects migrants, refugees, and locals to engage in building an open and inclusive society. The Open Language Cafés are a space for learning languages in a relaxed but structured environment. They offer a friendly, non-academic setting to improve speaking skills through conversations between native speakers and language learners.

Ireland

A few places in Ireland are really good for adult learning.

- **Education and Training Boards Ireland (ETBI)** - is the national representative body established to collectively represent the sixteen Education and Training Boards. They have many courses for all ages.
- **The Open University Ireland** - Open to people, places, methods and ideas. They promote educational opportunity and social justice by providing high-quality university education to all who wish to realise their ambitions and fulfil their potential.
- **Aontas** are the National Adult Learning Organisation, advocating for the right of all adults in Ireland to quality lifelong learning.





Esquare

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