

REPAIR CAFÉ

ASHOKA EDUCATION



THE PROJECT IN A NUTSHELL



«WE ENGAGE TECHNICAL STUDENTS IN THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITY AND SHOWCASE THEIR SKILLS BY UPCYCLING OLD DEVICES »



CHALLENGE

Students who come from general education and switch to technical education often have trouble in their first year of reorientation, as it represents a big change for them. They usually lack self-confidence and sometimes see their reorientation as a failure. It is therefore crucial for them to get involved in meaningful projects that will give sense to their new orientation and motivate them to engage fully in it.



PROJECT

The project aims to mobilise the students to repair dysfunctional devices belonging to the inhabitants of the community around the school. This allows both technical and vocational students to face concrete problems similar to those that they will confront in their future professional life. It also strengthens their links with their local community, in particular with the elderly and disadvantaged people. Finally, it helps them to acquire and enhance their technical and entrepreneurial skills while raising their awareness on issues of sustainability and circular economy.



STAKEHOLDERS

In addition to the students participating themselves, the project requires:

Teachers: they are there to guide the students in the reparation procedures.

Beneficiaries: they are members of your local community that need assistance to bring a new lease of life to their devices.

Local host: a community center willing to host the event for free.



WORKLOAD

Organising a Repair Café can be very simple if you already have the internal resources and the local partner to host it in your community. It usually takes **4 to 5 hours** to prepare a session (see below for more details)



RESOURCES

This project requires tools for reparations such as a mobile workbench and the tools from the school. It is also important to have a written authorization from your local host.

HOW TO IMPLEMENT THE PROJECT **IN YOUR SCHOOL**

1 ENGAGE YOUR TEAM AND COMMUNITY



FIND YOUR TEAM

Set up a team of 2-3 motivated teachers in your school ready to get involved. In the meantime, find a group of motivated students willing to join the project.



CONTACT REPAIR CAFÉ

Get in touch with the Repair Café community (repaircafe.org). Create a profile and talk with the community nearest to your school to see how they can help you.



FIND A LOCAL HOST

You can organise the Repair Café in your school, but if you want to create a bond with the neighborhood, it is best to find a space outside the school.



VALIDATE THE INTEREST

Make a survey to test the interest of the inhabitants of the community in your initiative. If you have a local host, they can help you to get in touch with them.

2 PREPARE THE REPAIR CAFÉ



FIND A DATE

Check with the Repair Café community and with your local host as to the best date for the event in order to avoid different events conflicting with one another.



CREATE A REGISTRATION FORM

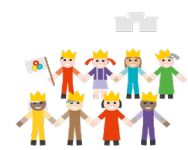
Create an online form on the Repair Café community using their guidelines. It is the form that participants will use to register to a repair schedule (you can also do it manually).



COMMUNICATE THE EVENT

Communicate your event through different channels:

- school's network;
- social networks;
- local host & community;
- Repair Café community.



MOTIVATE YOUR STUDENTS

Take a moment with your students to select the tools and materials you'll need for the day itself. Print special t-shirts or find a sign of recognition to create strong team spirit!

3 DURING AND AFTER THE REPAIR CAFÉ



REGISTER PARTICIPANTS

On the day of the event, welcome participants and make sure they are registered online. If not, register them on the platform before directing them to the students.



MENTOR STUDENTS

The Repair Café is a great moment to create a special bond between teachers and students. Take the opportunity to take on the role of a coach or mentor during that day.



MEASURE YOUR IMPACT

After the event, take time to debrief with your students: what did they learn? what did they enjoy most? what could be improved? what does sustainability mean to them?



THIBAUT, 16 YEARS OLD



Organizing and participating in a Repair Café teaches us to work together. We have to trust other people, deserve their trust and learn from everybody's experience. We all experience a lot of satisfaction and pride when an object is repaired. And even if alone we sometimes go faster, together we always go further!

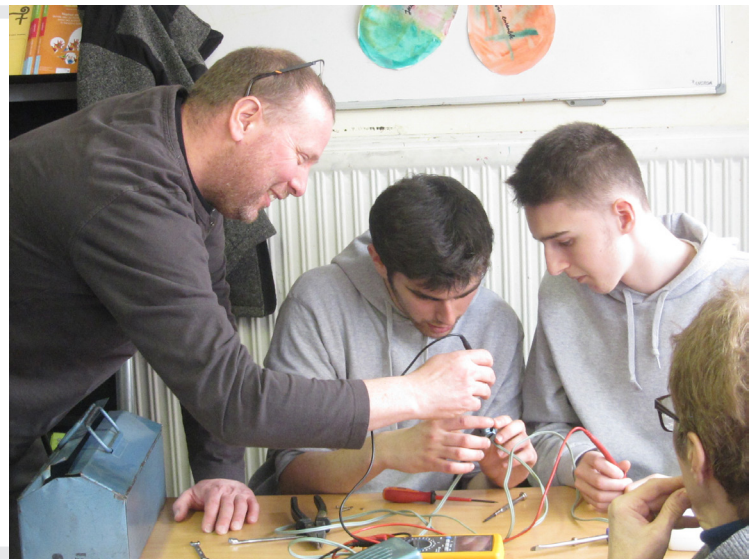


BEST PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNT

This project is a great way to showcase the talents of the students and **give meaning to their vocational training**. It is an opportunity for teachers to become closer to them by adopting a mentoring role.

One of the key success factors of this project is the participation of **multidisciplinary** students and teachers (electricity, carpentry, welding, computer science, mechanics,...)

It is also key to conduct a debrief after the event to consolidate the lessons learnt and discuss outcomes. Finding a partner association to facilitate reflective workshops on sustainability in the lifestyle can be very helpful.



GENERATIONS

The impact of a Repair Café can be even bigger when the event involves elderly people from the community in the volunteer team. They can mentor students, transfer their knowledge and contribute to strengthening the intergenerational link in the community.

INSURANCE

The question of public liability is also essential. Keep in mind that participants who bring a device must always sign a disclaimer stipulating that Repair Café cannot be accountable in case of accident or dysfunctionnal device following the repair.

SHOWCASE

The primary objective is clearly to showcase the work of the students and make the school shine. In this regard, communication is key and should not be neglected. Pictures, videos, and customised sweatshirts are more than welcome to make people aware of the initiative!

MORE INFORMATION TO GO FURTHER



CONTACT

Meet with the project owner
Guy Brunin
asty-moulin@repaircafenamur.be
www.repaircafe.org

VIDEO

Discover the story behind the project and the background to its creation here

