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CREASSE

**PRACTICAL HANDBOOK ON “HOW TO
GUIDE COLLECTIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP:
THE ROLE OF THE SOCIAL FACILITATOR”**

GUIDE TO CONDUCT NETWORKING EVENTS

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GUIDE TO CONDUCT NETWORKING EVENT

Brief Summary

Networking events are more than just casual social gatherings, they are structured opportunities for professionals to build meaningful relationships, exchange knowledge, and foster collaboration. Within the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) ecosystem, such events play a vital role in strengthening ties between stakeholders, creating new partnerships, and supporting long-term development goals. A networking event typically brings together individuals from specific industries, professions, or interest areas to interact, share experiences, and explore collaboration opportunities. While some events are informal and open-ended, others follow a more structured format, such as presentations, themed discussions, or matchmaking sessions, to guide interactions and maximize outcomes. Whether the goal is to connect entrepreneurs, build local alliances, or spark innovation across sectors, thoughtful design and facilitation are essential for success.

In this module, the **social facilitator** will learn how to effectively design, plan, and facilitate engaging networking events that support collaboration, partnership development, and shared learning among SSE stakeholders and entrepreneurs. Whether social the facilitator is organizing a sector-specific roundtable, a cross-sector mixer, or a skill-exchange meet-up, strategic facilitation is key to helping participants engage meaningfully, connect intentionally, and leave with tangible insights and contacts.



The unit provides a framework for organizing inclusive and sustainable networking events, tailored to various needs within the SSE field. It covers essential elements such as defining clear objectives, identifying relevant participants, designing inclusive formats, and using facilitation tools to spark conversation and collaboration. The social facilitator will also gain insights into managing group dynamics, and creating an atmosphere where participants feel comfortable and energized.

The module will support the facilitator to develop the confidence and mindset needed to organize meaningful networking events that foster genuine connections and support long-term relationship-building within the SSE community.

Module Objectives

By the end of this unit, the social facilitator will be equipped with the knowledge and tools to design and facilitate impactful networking events tailored to the goals and needs of participants, and the activity.

The unit provides guidance for organizing two types of networking events, tailored to the specific aim of each event:

Networking Event 1: Entrepreneurs Networking Session

A session to be organized to put people with an entrepreneurial spirit in contact with each other and generate alliances with key stakeholders.

Aim: Generate connections and alliances

Networking Event 2: Entrepreneur – Stakeholder Feedback & Exchange Session

A session to be organized to exchange experiences with stakeholders, receive their feedback and accelerate the collective business ideas that the participants are developing.

Aim: Exchange experiences and receive feedback

With the completion of this unit, social facilitator will be able to:

- Define the purpose, objectives and intended outcomes of the networking events, aligned with the specific context and target audience.
- Design and organize inclusive, engaging, and participant-centered networking events that encourage collaboration, knowledge sharing, and relationship-building, whether in-person or online.
- Select and apply appropriate networking formats, tools and facilitation methods based on the groups invited and goals of the event.
- Lead interactive activities and group discussions that get people talking and working together.
- Use smart, practical techniques to make networking easier for the participants.
- Choose suitable venues, tools, and digital platforms that support a smooth and accessible experience.
- Create an inclusive, welcoming atmosphere for all participants.
- Help participants leave with real takeaway contacts, ideas, and next steps.
- Reflect on what worked and what to improve for future events.

Checklist

Key points the social facilitator should know or review before starting the module:

- ☐ Understand the purpose and value of networking.
- ☐ Be familiar with the basic principles of SSE and how networking supports its growth.
- ☐ Reflect on previous experiences attending or facilitating networking events, what worked, what didn't.
- ☐ Identify the needs and interests of expected audience (e.g., entrepreneurs, NGOs, institutions).
- ☐ Clarify their role as a facilitator, to create an engaging, and productive space for connection.
- ☐ Go over group dynamics and communication styles, especially for mixed groups with different experience levels.
- ☐ Get acquainted with inclusive facilitation practices, that ensure accessibility and comfort for all participants.
- ☐ Review any prior documents or planning materials, such as the "Sustainable Event Planning" guide prepared by ACH and available for use to organize sustainable events.
- ☐ Identify any tools or platforms that are expected to use.
- ☐ Familiarize with different networking formats.
- ☐ Know the logistical basics of event planning.
- ☐ Reflect on how networking aligns with the larger project goals.

- ☐ Read any local cultural or professional norms around networking and event participation.
- ☐ Gather examples or case studies from past SSE events to bring practical context into the training.

Learning Content

Definition of the networking event:

"An event specifically designed to provide opportunities for people to meet and connect for the purpose of sharing information, resources, and support, and to build mutually beneficial relationships that can help both personally and professionally"¹

Introduction to the Context of the Networking Event 1:

Entrepreneurs Networking Session:

This session will bring together individuals with an entrepreneurial mindset and key stakeholders from the social and solidarity economy (SSE) ecosystem to connect and generate alliances.

Aim: To foster meaningful connections, encourage dialogue, and build alliances between aspiring entrepreneurs themselves and optionally with SSE stakeholders, laying the foundation for future collaboration and collective action.

¹ Jones-Kaminski, S. (2009). I'm at a networking event—Now what???[Excerpt PDF]. Bella Domain. Retrieved from https://www.belladomain.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/11/networking_nowwhat_excerpt_111221.pdf

Participants

- Aspiring entrepreneurs or individuals interested in social entrepreneurship, particularly those intending to join the Pilot Learning Experience.
- SSE stakeholders, including organizations, support providers, ecosystem actors, financial institutions, local and regional institutions operating in relevant sectors. (optional)

Expected Outcomes

- Initial connections established among participants
- Networking with key stakeholders and potential collaborators
- Identification of common interests, challenges, or project ideas
- Formation of early group dynamics for future collaboration in the learning program
- Increased motivation and engagement toward the upcoming training sessions

Importance

A networking event is a key starting point for community-building. It allows participants to become familiar with each other in a relaxed environment, promoting open dialogue and trust.

Establishing early relationships strengthens collaboration throughout the learning experience and improves the outcomes of collective project development.

The first networking session plays a foundational role in the broader capacity-building process. As the launch event of a series of practical workshops, it supports the transition from individual ideas to group-driven initiatives.

It helps participants identify shared goals and values, which are critical for co-creating sustainable projects in rural contexts.

Participant Experience

During the event, participants will have the opportunity to:

- Introduce themselves and their interests
- Engage in structured and informal networking activities
- Explore potential areas of collaboration
- Learn about the support and resources offered by SSE stakeholders
- Enhance their skills and competences to build effective professional relationships.

This interaction will ease their integration into the learning journey and increase the likelihood of long-term collaboration.

Guide to Plan and Host Networking Event 1

Hosting a networking event requires careful preparation and attention to detail. The following guide outlines key steps for social facilitators to plan and implement a successful event:

PRE – EVENT ACTIVITIES

1. Define the Event's Purpose

The event serves as the introductory step in the Pilot Learning Experience. It provides a structured yet informal space for participants to get to know each other, exchange ideas, and begin building trust and collaboration. This early engagement is intended to facilitate the formation of working groups that will co-develop collective initiatives in rural areas during the upcoming workshops. It also introduces them to relevant stakeholders who can support or inspire their entrepreneurial journey.



The networking event may focus solely on peer-to-peer connections among aspiring entrepreneurs or include both entrepreneurs and stakeholders, depending on the specific objectives and participant needs identified by each partner organization.

2. Set a Goal (internal)

Facilitate meaningful connections among at least (80%) of participants by guiding structured networking activities that encourages the exchange of ideas and contact information. Ensure that at least 70% of participants report feeling more connected and motivated to engage in the Pilot Learning Experience through a post event feedback survey.

3. Identify the Event Target Audience

Target group size: Aim for 15–20 participants.

Profile of participants:

- Adults from rural areas at risk of social exclusion.
- Individuals with entrepreneurial potential or interest in starting a social and solidarity economy initiative.
- Participants who intend to join the Pilot Learning Experience.

Diversity and inclusion:

- Ensure gender balance and encourage participation of underrepresented groups.
- Take in consideration accessibility for people with disabilities.



Include a wider support ecosystem (optional)

- Involve actors from the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE), who can provide inspiration and guidance.
- Existing or aspiring social enterprises
- NGOs
- Support organizations
- Successful social entrepreneurs
- Financial institutions

4. Choose the Format, Date, and Time

Format: In-person session (strongly encouraged for optimal engagement), with the option to be held online if more accessible for participants.

Physical presence fosters direct interactions, deeper connection and engagement, while online events offer flexibility and accessibility. Consider the target audience's preferences and the purpose of the event when making this decision. Therefore, if participants face mobility challenges or long travel distances, the event can also be conducted online using interactive tools that replicate the dynamic of in-person networking. If participants likely already know one another, for example, a more casual event can be organized where participants freely talk and interact. If the event is larger in scale, there might be need to add time for speed networking, allotting participants a certain amount of time to introduce themselves to one person at a time.

Schedule the event in advance to ensure the availability of the chosen venue, and maximize the attendance and minimize the chances of participants having scheduling conflicts

Timing:

- Select a date and time that is convenient for participants coming from rural areas, considering their availability.
- Avoid typical work hours and ensure adequate time for travel and networking.

Duration: Ideally, plan for a half-day session, 2-3 hours in the morning or afternoon, depending on the number of participants and activities planned.

5. Find and Secure an Appropriate Venue

Choose a venue that fits the meeting's purpose and format.

- **Proximity:**

- Select a location easily accessible to rural participants, if feasible, ideally close to their communities.
- If possible, host the event in spaces aligned with the values of the social and solidarity economy, such as co-working spaces run by social enterprises, community centers, local SSE initiatives to provide participants with additional exposure to inspiring models.
- For bigger events that include workshops or presentations, opt for venues with the appropriate technical infrastructure such as sound and projection equipment.

- **Accessibility:**

- If applicable, take into consideration the venue is accessible to people with mobility challenges.

- The venue should offer basic amenities, space for breakout groups, and an atmosphere conducive to dialogue and creativity.
- Provide transportation support if needed.

Book the venue in advance to make sure to get the space that event needs.

For virtual events, select a platform that meets technical needs, such as breakout room functionality or screen sharing options.

6. Outline a budget

Prepare a detailed or estimated budget. Having at least an outline of the event's budget helps identify the necessary expenses and accurately calculate the overall costs, enabling efficient resource allocation and adherence to financial limits. Specific budget items may vary depending on the networking event.

Budget items may include:

- The physical venue rentals
- The video conferencing platform
- Food and beverages (Catering Services)
- A guest speaker or workshop leader/moderator/facilitator
- Promotional materials
- Technical or logistic support
- Any additional costs

7. Plan and Prepare the Agenda

Prepare an agenda that balances networking opportunities and informative content, if available. Include:

- Date, start and end time including breaks
- Description of activities
- Expected outcomes (e.g., connection, trust-building)
- Logistics details such as registration time, session durations, and location information (directions, parking).

If the event is virtual, provide details about how to access the video conferencing platform or if they need to download software in advance.

A sample agenda might include:

TIME	ACTIVITY
09:30 - 10:00	Arrival and Registration
10:00 - 10:15	Welcome & Introduction to the Learning Experience
10:15 - 10:45	Participant Icebreaker & Short Intros
10:45 - 11:30	Interest Mapping
11:30 - 12:15	Thematic Networking Circles (e.g., Sustainability, Women Entrepreneurship, Rural Tourism)
12:15 - 12:30	Wrap-Up & Next Steps
12:30 - 13:00	Informal Coffee & Networking

8. Invite the Participants in the Event

The way participants are invited will depend on whether the learning path participants have already been selected.

- **If the participants have not yet been selected:**

Launch an open call using community networks, local institutions, or social media. The call should clearly outline the purpose of the broader learning opportunity. Once potential participants are identified, contact them directly to confirm their interest and availability through a pre-registration form specifically for the first networking event. Also, make sure to add in the pre-registration form a question about what participants hope to gain from the networking experience, for example, meeting potential collaborators, finding service providers, exploring funding opportunities, or expanding their professional network.

- **If participants are already identified or recruited:**

Reach out to them with a personalized invitation via email, WhatsApp, or phone, accompanied by a pre-registration or confirmation form. This form should allow them to:

- Confirm their availability on the proposed date and time
- Express any specific needs (e.g., transport, accessibility)
- Indicate what they hope to gain from the networking experience (e.g., meeting collaborators, finding service providers, exploring funding opportunities)

- **For open or mixed event including other stakeholders:**

Promote the event through social media, local community channels, or via partnerships with local organizations. If the event is closed or invite-only, limit communication to targeted and direct invitations, ensuring a more curated group aligned with the session's purpose.

Over-recruit to reduce dropout risks and to enhance the group dynamic and collective spirit.

Make sure to follow up with reminders before the event and be prepared for last-minute cancellations by over-inviting or maintaining a small waiting list. Encourage participation by clearly communicating the value of the event, and, if possible, offering support with travel or logistics to reduce access barriers for rural participants.

Provide attendees with the agenda ahead of time, so they know what to expect and can plan accordingly.

9. Promote the Networking Event (prior promotion, optional for an open event)

Start promotion at least one month in advance to ensure good turnout.

- **Use multiple channels:**

Local networks, municipalities, civil society organizations, cooperatives, WhatsApp groups, etc.

- **Include:**

- A clear invitation message
- Link to the registration form
- Contact info for support
- Brief explanation of the event's purpose and benefits

10. Plan Logistics

Prepare all logistical elements in advance:

- Provide clear directions to the venue.
- Arrange transportation support if needed.
- Offer refreshments, such as food and beverages, to help create a comfortable and welcoming atmosphere if the event format and budget permits it. For virtual events, consider sharing a recipe for a special refreshment that participants can prepare themselves. A portion of the agenda or a dedicated breakout room may be used for preparing it together.
- Ensure materials and equipment (name tags, printed agendas, handouts, audio/visual equipment) are available and functional.
- Have the attendance list ready for registration and check-in and prepare feedback forms or a digital satisfaction survey to evaluate the session afterward.

11. Prepare the Materials and Equipment

- **Printouts and materials:**
 - Agenda
 - Rules or guiding principles for respectful interaction
 - Name tags
 - Presence/attendance list including GDPR
 - Networking handouts or cue cards
 - Satisfaction survey
- **Equipment:**
 - Projector (if needed), speaker, microphones
 - Test all tech in advance

12. Prepare for Facilitation

To ensure a smooth and engaging networking event, the facilitator should take time to prepare in advance. Here are key steps:

- **Know the Participants**

Review the list of participants, including their backgrounds, interests, and professional goals. This helps you anticipate possible connections and tailor facilitation to the group's profile.

- **Design the Flow of Activities**

Structure the session in a way that balances informal interaction with purposeful connection-making. Prepare a clear agenda with engaging elements such as icebreakers, interest-mapping, and themed small-group rounds.

- **Prepare Interaction & Facilitation Tools and Techniques**

A great networking event involves professionals making connections, but people may need help approaching one another. Therefore, design the environment to encourage engagement. Strategies to facilitate interactions may include:

- Organizing speed networking sessions
- Creating ice-breaker activities (short activities, fun warm-up questions or creative prompts to put participants at ease)
- Forming smaller discussion groups to promote deeper discussion
- Ensure inclusive participation by assigning "connectors" or "engagement facilitators" to gently involve more reserved attendees in conversations.



- If possible, send out a brief list of attendees with names, professions and interests before the event to encourage pre-engagement. Always ensure prior consent is obtained from the participants, in full compliance with GDPR regulations.

- **Set the Tone**

The hosts' energy sets the tone for the entire event, so it is important to be welcoming, approachable, and actively engaged. Show genuine curiosity and kindness when greeting participants. Offer encouragement to those who may feel shy or hesitant.

- **Be Ready to Support Everyone**

Throughout the session, check in with participants, especially those who seem isolated or less confident. Introduce people to one another when you see opportunities for synergy.

- **Stay Flexible**

Have a plan but be open to adjusting in real-time. Read the room and respond to the group's dynamics. Sometimes informal moments lead to the strongest connections.

NETWORKING EVENT ACTIVITIES (description)

1. Welcome & Introduction

Open the event with a warm welcome and briefly explain the purpose of the networking event and how it fits into the broader Pilot Learning Experience. This introduction should also highlight the importance of peer support, collaboration, and community-building among entrepreneurs, and other stakeholders if present.



2. Icebreaker Activity

After the introduction, follow with a short, engaging icebreaker to help participants feel more comfortable and establish an initial connection with others in the room. Examples can include:

- “Common Ground” – participants form pairs or small groups to find three things they have in common.
- “Speed Smiles” a light-speed round where everyone greets one another with a smile and one word that describes how they feel.

3. Participant Introductions

Allow each participant to introduce themselves to the group, sharing their name, background, where they're from, and what motivated them to attend. They can also briefly describe their interest in entrepreneurship or their vision for a potential project.

4. Interest Mapping

Invite the participants to reflect on and share their fields of interest, types of social impact they care about, or early-stage business ideas they have in mind. This can be done using flip charts, post-its on a board, or an interactive visual map. The facilitator groups similar interests to create thematic clusters, which will guide the following networking rounds.

5. Themed Networking Rounds

Engage participants in 3–4 rounds of small group discussions based on shared themes or business areas (e.g. sustainable agriculture, women's empowerment, youth employment, local crafts). Each round lasts around 15–20 minutes and ends with a signal for participants to rotate.

These rotating conversations allow participants to explore connections with others who share their passions or offer complementary ideas, while also ensuring that everyone has the chance to meet multiple people in a structured but informal way.

6. Contact Exchange

After the final networking round, encourage the participants to exchange contact details with individuals they found particularly inspiring or relevant. This could be facilitated by providing a simple contact-sharing sheet or allowing space and time for participants to connect one-on-one.

7. Wrap-Up & Reflections

Reflect on the session with the participants. A few volunteers may be invited to share a takeaway, such as:

- A new idea they discovered
- Someone they were inspired by
- A potential collaboration they're excited about

Outline the next steps, especially information about the upcoming activities in the learning path and how participants will be kept informed.

8. Feedback /Satisfaction Survey

To conclude, evaluate the session by giving a short feedback form (on paper or digital) to the participants. The survey should be accessible, brief, and offer both multiple-choice and open-ended questions.

- Make time at the end of the session or allow a few extra minutes before participants leave.
- Provide both digital and physical formats: Some participants in rural areas may not have access to smartphones or stable internet. Printed versions ensure no one is left out.



Short Summary of the Networking Event Activities

ACTIVITY	PURPOSE
Welcome & Introduction	Set a warm, inclusive tone; explain the session aim
Icebreaker Activity	Help participants relax and connect on a personal level
Participant Introductions	Name, background, and interest in social entrepreneurship
Interest Mapping	Participants share focus areas or business ideas
Themed Networking Rounds	Small group conversations with rotation (3–4 rounds)
Contact Exchange	Encourage participants to exchange contact info
Wrap-Up & Reflections	Share takeaways, announce next steps
Feedback Survey	Distribute and collect satisfaction questionnaires



POST EVENT ACTIVITIES

1. Collect and Analyze Feedback Evaluation Surveys

- **Ensure all participants are given the opportunity to complete the feedback survey.** If they were unable to do so during the networking event, follow up with a reminder via email or message to encourage their input.
- **Analyze responses promptly:** Look for common themes regarding what participants found valuable and what could be improved. Pay special attention to any feedback related to accessibility, inclusiveness, or unmet needs.
- **Use the findings to adapt to the second networking event.**

2. Send Thank-You Emails and Inform on Next Steps

- **Send personalized thank-you messages:** Within 2–3 days after the event, send a warm thank-you email to all participants. Acknowledge their contribution, highlight the diversity and energy they brought to the session, and express appreciation for their openness and participation.
- **Share a short recap of the event:** Include 2–3 sentences summarizing the session's key highlights or achievements (e.g., number of connections made, topics discussed, common interests identified).
- **Attach or link useful materials:** This could include a contact list (only with consent in compliance with GDPR), photos from the event, or links to a summary document or presentation slides, if used.

- **Clearly communicate the next steps:** Inform participants about upcoming events, capacity building workshops and mentoring opportunities. Include dates (if confirmed), how they can register or stay involved, and who to contact for more information.

3. Promote the Event Afterwards

After the session, promote the networking event through your organization's communication channels (e.g., website, newsletter, or social media, targeted e-mails, community outreach or a combination of these channels) to spread the word about the event. Share photos, key highlights, testimonials, and quotes to celebrate its success and to motivate others to participate in future initiatives. Create a section on the website of the project for the event to provide information and updates about the event.

Introduction to the Context of the Networking Event 2:

Entrepreneur - Stakeholder Feedback & Exchange Session

The second networking event will bring together the participants of the Capacity Building Workshops and key SSE ecosystem stakeholders to connect, exchange experiences, and receive feedback to accelerate the refinement and scaling of participants business ideas. The session is designed to take place after participants complete the Capacity-Building phase of the Pilot Learning Experience. Ideally, it may also follow or be integrated within the Community Pitching Event.

Aim: To enable participants to share their entrepreneurial ideas, exchange experiences, receive constructive feedback from relevant stakeholders, and establish meaningful connections (potential collaborations, mentorships, funding or supporting avenues) for the development and potential implementation of their initiatives in the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE).

Participants

- **Entrepreneurs:** Participants from the first phase of the learning path (capacity building workshops) who have developed or improved their business ideas during the training and seek validation.
- **SSE stakeholders,** including support organizations, capacity building providers, ecosystem builders, policy makers, social entrepreneurs, investors, financial institutions and both local and national institutions, working within the SSE sector or in other relevant fields related to participants' ideas.
- **Experts and Mentors:** Professionals who can offer practical feedback, mentorship, and guidance.
- **Potential Collaborators and Financial Backers:** Organizations and individuals interested in supporting or partnering with innovative SSE projects

Expected Outcomes

- Participants receive constructive and actionable feedback that helps refine their entrepreneurial ideas.
- Potential collaborations, mentorships, and funding opportunities are initiated.
- Increased visibility of social initiatives within the SSE ecosystem.

- Stakeholders gain awareness of emerging ideas and local social entrepreneurial energy.
- Strengthened SSE network with ongoing engagement beyond the event

Importance

- This event is a crucial bridge between learning and real-world application, connecting aspiring entrepreneurs with experienced ecosystem actors. It provides a practical platform to validate and enhance business ideas, boosting participants' confidence and unlocking new opportunities that are vital for bringing their initiatives to life, especially in rural contexts. By fostering collective wisdom and resource sharing, the event helps entrepreneurs overcome barriers and accelerate their journey toward sustainable impact.

Participant Experience

- Entrepreneurs introduce themselves and present their ideas via brief elevator pitches.
- Stakeholders actively listen, provide feedback, and explore collaboration or support possibilities.
- Structured interactive and time-efficient networking formats such as speed dating sessions, small group discussions, and Q&A segments.
- Informal networking opportunities allow organic relationship-building.
- A supportive, inclusive and solution-oriented environment that encourages, open dialogues and knowledge exchange.
- Entrepreneurs enhance their skills and competencies needed to build meaningful and effective professional relationships.

Guide to Plan and Host the Networking Event 2

The following guide outlines key steps for social facilitator to plan and implement a successful event:

PRE-EVENT ACTIVITIES

1. Define the Event's Purpose

The event serves as a space where early-stage social entrepreneurs can connect with stakeholders, exchange experience, gain validation and feedback, fostering business connections to support idea development and growth.

2. Set a Goal (Internal goals)

- Facilitate at least 3 potential collaborations or funding commitments.
- Ensure 80% of entrepreneurs receive actionable feedback.

3. Identify the Event Target Audience

- **Target Group Size:** Aim for 15–20 participants or more.
- **Profile of Participants:** SSE entrepreneurs who have completed workshops, SSE ecosystem stakeholders, capacity builders, investors, donors
- **Diversity and Inclusion:** Ensure representation across gender, age, sectors, and vulnerable or marginalized groups to enrich perspectives.



4. Choose the Format, Date, and Time

- **Format:** In-person is highly encouraged for direct quality interaction; online may be used if accessibility or context demands it.
- **Timing:** Schedule soon after the capacity-building or pitching event. Select dates and time that is convenient for participants.
- **Duration:** Half day (morning or afternoon), flexible depending on participant number and session design.

5. Find and Secure an Appropriate Venue

Proximity: Ideally, the venue should be located near rural areas to encourage participation from local communities, but it can also be centrally located to ensure easy access for all participants. If held near rural zones, it should be easily reachable and not too far from main transport routes. If a central location is chosen, consider providing transport support or facilitation to participants coming from more remote areas.

Alignment with SSE Values: Whenever possible, choose venues that reflect Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) principles. However, the priority is to select a space that meets the technical and logistical requirements of the event.

Accessibility: Ensure the venue is accessible to all participants, including those with mobility challenges or other specific needs, if applicable.

Booking: Reserve the venue well in advance to secure the appropriate space that fits the event's size and format.



For Virtual Events: Choose an online platform that supports the event's technical needs, such as breakout rooms, screen sharing, and easy participant interaction.

6. Outline a Budget

Plan for venue costs, refreshments, transport support if needed, materials, and possible travel stipends for stakeholders. Refer to the description of NW1.

7. Plan and Prepare the Agenda

A sample agenda might include:

TIME	ACTIVITY
09:00 - 09:15	Welcome & Introduction
09:15 - 09:45	Participant Introductions & Elevator Pitches
09:45 - 10:15	Stakeholder Introductions
10:15 - 11:30	Themed Networking Rounds
11:30 - 11:45	Coffee Break & Informal Networking
11:45 - 12:40	Individual Speed Dating/ Dialogue/ Stakeholder Q&A & Collaboration Opportunities
12:40 - 12:50	Wrap up & Reflections
12:50 - 13:00	Feedback Survey

8. Invite the Participants to the Event

- **For Entrepreneurs:** Send personalized invitations along with the registration link. Ask them to confirm their availability and interest in participating.
- **For Other SSE Stakeholders:**
- **If the event is open:** Promote it through social media and relevant networks. Include the registration link and clearly invite them to confirm their participation.
- **If the event is closed:** Send direct invitations via email to selected stakeholders, including the event agenda and a registration link to confirm attendance.

Follow-Up & Engagement:

- Send timely reminders before the event.
- Anticipate possible last-minute cancellations by slightly over-inviting or keeping a short waiting list.
- Encourage participation by clearly communicating the value of the event (e.g. networking, learning, visibility).
- Where possible, offer logistical or travel support to reduce barriers for rural participants.

Preparation: Share the event agenda in advance so participants know what to expect and can prepare accordingly.

9. Promote the Networking Event

If the event is open to stakeholders or the public, start promoting at least 1 month in advance via social media, SSE networks, mailing lists, and institutional websites. Send personal email invitations to targeted stakeholders.

Include:

- A clear invitation message
- Link to the registration form
- Contact info for support
- Brief explanation of the event's purpose and benefits
- Indicate what they hope to gain from the networking experience (e.g., meeting collaborators, finding service providers, exploring funding opportunities)

10. Plan Logistics

Refer to the description of NW1.

11. Prepare the Materials and Equipment

- Name tags, printed agendas
- Rules or guiding principles for respectful interaction
- Presentation tools (projector, laptop, microphone)
- Handouts with participation project summaries
- Feedback forms and pens
- Presence/attendance list including GDPR

12. Prepare for Facilitation

To ensure a smooth and engaging networking event, the facilitator should take time to prepare in advance. Here are key steps:

Before the Event

1. Review Participant & Stakeholder Profiles

- Carefully study the background, interests, and project focus of all registered participants, especially entrepreneurs and key stakeholders.
- Identify potential synergies or useful matches (e.g., entrepreneur working on inclusion with a stakeholder focused on funding inclusive projects).
- Use this knowledge to guide pairings during speed dating, group composition in networking rounds, or to spark meaningful dialogue.

2. Develop Structured Conversation Prompts

Prepare targeted questions or prompts for each session to help guide discussions and keep them focused.

Examples:

- **For Elevator Pitches:** “What challenge does your idea solve?” or “Who is your target beneficiary or customer, and how do you reach them?”
- **For Themed Networking Rounds:** “What’s your biggest obstacle in scaling?” or “What type of support or resources would most help you advance your project?”
- **For Stakeholder Q&A:** “What advice would you give to early-stage social entrepreneurs to increase their chances of success?”, “How can entrepreneurs better position themselves to access financial support?”

3. Familiarize with the Agenda and Space

- Know the agenda inside-out: understand transitions, session goals, and allocated time per activity.
- Visit the event space or platform beforehand (in-person or virtual) to visualize movement, group areas, and tech needs.
- Ensure that materials (e.g., name tags, timers, feedback forms) and signage (e.g., table numbers or group themes) are ready.

During the Event

4. Time Management & Transitions

- Start and end each session on time. Use a timer or subtle cues (e.g., a bell or hand signal) to indicate transitions.
- Clearly explain instructions before each session begins, and remind participants of time remaining as needed.
- Keep the event flowing smoothly, minimizing downtime between sessions.

5. Create a Welcoming & Inclusive Atmosphere

- Open with energy and warmth to set the tone.
- Encourage openness, curiosity, and mutual respect.
- Be mindful of body language and engagement, ensure all participants feel seen and heard.

6. Engage Quieter Participants

- Watch for participants who are hesitant to speak or are being overshadowed in groups.
- Invite them gently into conversations by directing a question their way or asking for their perspective.
- Offer support (e.g., by summarizing others' points and then inviting them to build on it) to ease entry into the dialogue.

7. Moderate Group Dynamics

- Step in if conversations get dominated by one voice or stray off-topic.
- Keep a neutral stance and support balanced discussion.
- Ensure that stakeholder sessions are not turned into pitches but remain open exchanges of ideas.

8. Capture Insights & Atmosphere

- Make quick notes of key themes, questions, and needs expressed during networking.
- sessions. These insights can feed into the wrap-up session or inform follow-up actions.

NETWORKING EVENT ACTIVITIES

Welcome & Introduction

Begin the event by welcoming participants warmly and setting a positive, inclusive tone. Follow by introducing the hosting organization or project team and briefly outline the objectives of the session. Share the agenda, explain the flow of activities, and clarify any practical details such as timing, venue facilities, and participation guidelines. Invite participants to feel comfortable, engaged, and open to interaction. To create a motivating atmosphere, consider including a short inspiring message or quote relevant to the theme of social economy.

Participant Introductions & Elevator Pitches

Invite participants to introduce themselves by sharing their name, organization, and role. Then, guide entrepreneurs to deliver short (2–3 minute) elevator pitches that explain their ideas, projects, or social ventures. Follow a clear structure by using a timer or visual cue to ensure fair time management and equal speaking time for all. Encourage participants to listen actively and connect ideas across pitches.

Stakeholder Introductions

Follow the participant's introductions by inviting key stakeholders to present themselves. Ask each to briefly share who they are, the organization they represent, and how they contribute to the SSE ecosystem. Encourage them to mention one specific area of interest or a current opportunity for collaboration. This helps participants identify which stakeholders may align with their work. Use this session to set the foundation for meaningful interaction later in the event.

Themed Networking Rounds

Organize participants into small, themed groups for structured networking. Begin by explaining the topics or challenges each group will focus on (e.g., funding, inclusion, innovation, impact). Follow a timed format, typically 15–20 minutes per round—and invite participants to rotate after each round to engage with new people and topics. Use guiding questions to support discussion and encourage inclusive participation. Ensure a balance between structured conversation and free exchange of ideas.

Coffee Break & Informal Networking

Invite participants to take a short break and engage in informal networking over refreshments. Follow up by encouraging them to connect with those they haven't yet interacted with, revisit interesting conversations, or explore unexpected collaborations. Consider using name tags or conversation starter prompts to facilitate interaction and support participants who may be shy or new to networking.

Individual Speed Dating / Dialogue / Stakeholder Q&A & Collaboration Opportunities

Begin this session by inviting participants to engage in one-on-one or small group discussions with stakeholders. Follow either a structured speed-dating format, where participants rotate every 8–10 minutes, or create open stations where individuals can approach stakeholders freely. Encourage entrepreneurs to ask specific questions, share their challenges, or explore collaboration opportunities. Ask stakeholders to offer constructive feedback, share relevant resources, and express interest in future engagement. As facilitator, manage the flow of time and ensure all participants have equitable access to these valuable interactions.

Wrap-Up & Reflections

Bring the event to a close by inviting everyone back into a shared space for reflection. Summarize key points, highlights, or emerging themes from the day.

Invite a few participants to share brief reflections, takeaways, or actions they plan to pursue. Follow this with words of appreciation for everyone's engagement and contributions. Conclude by outlining any follow-up steps, such as resource sharing, networking opportunities, or ongoing community involvement.

Feedback Survey

End the session by inviting participants to complete a feedback survey. Follow up by explaining its importance and how their input will help improve future events.

Another optional flow for the 2nd Networking Event

ACTIVITY	PURPOSE
Welcome & Introduction	Set the tone for the session; explain objectives and encourage open, collaborative interaction.
Stakeholder Presentations & Thematic Panel	Introduce key ecosystem actors and invite them to discuss pressing issues, opportunities, and trends in the social and solidarity economy.
Entrepreneur Presentations & Feedback Panel	Entrepreneurs pitch their ideas; stakeholders provide live feedback, advice, and suggestions for improvement.

ACTIVITY	PURPOSE
Themed Networking Rounds	Facilitate structured small-group discussions based on shared interests (e.g., inclusion, green economy, education, etc.); participants rotate across groups.
Stakeholder-Participant Exchange	Enable direct conversations, Q&A, and dialogue between entrepreneurs and stakeholders for potential follow-up or collaboration.
Wrap-Up & Reflections	Recap the session, invite participants to share takeaways, and thank everyone for their contributions.
Feedback Survey	Collect participant feedback to evaluate the session and improve future networking events.

POST-EVENT ACTIVITIES

Refer to the description of NW1.

1. Collect and Analyze Feedback Evaluation Surveys

- Ensure all participants complete the survey.
- For those who didn't submit at the event, send a reminder email.
- Analyze results to identify strengths and areas for improvement.

2. Send Thank-You Emails and Inform on Next Steps

- Acknowledge participation.
- Share a brief recap and photos (if applicable).
- Indicate upcoming steps (e.g., follow-up support, next session dates).

3. Promote the Event Afterwards

- Share event highlights on social media.
- Tag and acknowledge stakeholder contributions.
- Include testimonials or success stories from the event if available.

RESOURCES AND TOOLS

Registration and Participation Management (RSVP):

- Google Forms for simple, free pre-registration of the participants making sure to include the reference to the GDPR.
- Airtable for tracking registrations and attendance

Promotion Templates:

- Social media announcement templates
- Email invitation sequence (3-part: announcement, reminder, final call)
- LinkedIn event post format (optimize with relevant hashtags)

Day-of Materials:

- Attendance /Signature List (with GDPR Compliance notice)
- Name tag template with conversation prompts
- Printable icebreaker cards
- Simple registration sheet or digital alternative
- Post-event survey , in compliance with GDPR Regulations

Follow-up Resources:

Thank you email template

Event photo sharing guidelines

Next steps invitation

Examples

Below are provided techniques and practical activities provided (group discussion techniques and role play) the social facilitator can use during the sessions to engage the participants.

Movement-based activities to start:

The Human Spectrum

- Designate one side of the room as “Strongly Agree” and the other as “Strongly Disagree”
- Ask sector-relevant questions
- Have participants physically move to where they align on the spectrum
- Encourage quick discussions with those standing nearby

Professional Musical Chairs

- Arrange chairs in two circles, facing each other
- Play music while participants walk around
- When the music stops, they sit and chat with the person facing them
- Provide a specific discussion topic for each round

Networking techniques

Network Mapping

Have participants stand and form physical connections based on:

- Industries they work in
- Years of experience
- Skills they want to learn
- Skills they can teach

Small Group Rotations

Break large group into smaller pods of 4-5 people:

- Give each group a specific challenge or topic
- Set a 10-minute timer
- Have groups rotate every 10 minutes
- End with quick shares from each group

Skill-Matching Sessions

Create intentional connections based on skills:

- Have attendees list one skill they can teach
- List one skill they want to learn
- Match people accordingly for 5-minute mini-mentoring sessions

Interactive Learning Components

Lightning Learning Rounds

Quick-fire knowledge sharing:

- 2-minute presentations from willing participants
- Focus on specific industry tips or insights
- Allow for brief Q&A after each share

Expert Corners

Set up designated areas where experts can share knowledge:

- 15-minute rotating sessions
- Small group discussions
- Hands-on demonstrations
- Practice exercises

Innovation Stations

Create interactive demo areas that spark conversation:

- Set up product demonstrations
- Showcase new technologies
- Offer hands-on experimentation
- Include collaborative challenges

Examples of Innovation Stations: VR/AR experience demos; 3D printing workshops; AI tool demonstrations; New software trials; Prototype testing areas.

Tip: To help planning a networking event: Rotate specialists through each station to keep conversations fresh and provide expert insights.

Quiet Networking Zones for Introverts

Create comfortable spaces for lower-energy networking:

- Designate clearly marked “quiet networking” areas
- Set up small tables for 2-3 people
- Provide conversation prompt cards
- Keep these areas away from music or loud activities
- Add comfortable seating and good lighting

Tip: Position quiet zones near refreshments or along natural traffic paths so introverts don't feel isolated.

Problem-Solving Stations

Set up areas focused on common industry challenges:

- Create whiteboards or digital displays showing specific problems
- Encourage small group discussion and brainstorming
- Rotate people through different stations every 15 minutes
- Share solutions with the larger group at the end

Final Checklist

Upon completing this module, the social facilitator will be able to:

- ☐ Have a solid understanding of all key topics covered and be fully prepared to plan and facilitate a successful networking event, equipped with the necessary techniques, and tools.
- ☐ Clearly understand and explain the purpose and the objective of the networking event.
- ☐ Confidently design and facilitate inclusive networking formats for various group sizes and goals.
- ☐ Apply inclusive principles in event design and execution.
- ☐ Confidently facilitate opening, interaction, and closing segments.
- ☐ Use inclusive facilitation techniques to engage participants of all communication styles and confidence levels.

- 
- ☐ Apply practical tools such as icebreakers, group rotations, and skill-matching exercises during the event.
 - ☐ Manage logistics during the event, including timekeeping, transitions, materials, and space.
 - ☐ Encourage participation from all attendees.
 - ☐ Anticipate and manage group dynamics.
 - ☐ Provide prompts to guide meaningful conversation.
 - ☐ Ensure participants make valuable connections.
 - ☐ Collect and evaluate participant feedback.
 - ☐ Document and share key takeaways, insights, and connections made during the event (e.g., through summary notes or visual methods).
 - ☐ Reflect on what worked and what could be improved for future events. Also, reflect on the facilitation approach and areas for growth.
 - ☐ Maintain contact with participant's post-event.
 - ☐ Know how to replicate or adapt the networking format for different contexts or audiences in the future.

Reflection Exercise

1. How did the networking environment influence your willingness to engage with others?
2. What interaction or activity during the event felt most meaningful or impactful to you? Why?
3. What aspects of today's networking event helped you feel more comfortable engaging with others, and what could have supported you even more?
4. How can you continue the connections made today in your professional journey?
5. What obstacles did you face during the interaction, and how did you overcome them?

Results Oriented Exercise

1. To what extent did the event contribute to the project's expected outcomes or indicators?
2. What concrete outputs or collaborations have emerged as a result of the networking session?
3. How many meaningful exchanges (based on follow-up intentions or stakeholder interest) were facilitated during the session?
4. Did the event contribute to increased awareness or knowledge about social economy?
5. Did the format (e.g., panels, rounds, Q&A) allow for meaningful stakeholder-entrepreneur interaction?
6. What would you improve to enhance the impact of stakeholder involvement in future events

Additional Resources and Further Reading

- **Stova. (n.d.). The complete guide to hosting successful networking events.** Retrieved from <https://stova.io/event-networking-guide/>
- **Numundo Ventures. (2024, November 8). Guide to organizing networking events: The best way to plan your event.** Retrieved from <https://numundoventures.com/how-to-organize-a-successful-networking-event/>
- **Maximizing networking opportunities at your event: Strategies for success. (2024, September 10). Soup.io.** Retrieved from <https://www.soup.io/maximizing-networking-opportunities-at-your-event-strategies-for-success>
- **Big Bang Partnership. (n.d.). The ultimate guide to running a networking event for knowledge exchange.** Retrieved from <https://bigbangpartnership.co.uk/networking-event-for-knowledge-exchange/>
- **Fourwaves. (2024, January 1). 19 practical networking tips for your next conference.** Retrieved from <https://fourwaves.com/blog/how-to-network-at-a-conference/>
- **Bladen, C., Kennell, J., Abson, E., & Wilde, N. (2022). The Routledge Handbook of Business Event Management. Routledge.** Retrieved from: https://www.google.at/books/edition/The_Routledge_Handbook_of_Business_Event/RxV_EAAAQBAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=guide+how+to+conduct+networking+event+pdf&pg=PA101&printsec=frontcover

ANNEX 1: RESOURCES AND TOOLS

Event Attendance Management Templates

1. Google Forms (Simple RSVP Collection Template)

Title: [Event Name] – Registration Form

Fields to include:

- Full Name
- Email Address
- Organization / Affiliation
- Role / Job Title
- Reason for attending / What would you like to get out of the event?
- Dietary or accessibility needs (if applicable)
- Consent to be photographed
- Consent to receive follow-up communication

Link: Create via [Google Forms](#)

2. Airtable (Attendance Tracker Template)

Fields to include:

- Name
- Email
- RSVP Status (Yes / No / Maybe)
- Notes (e.g., dietary restrictions, special needs)
- Networking Interests

Link: Use Airtable templates to automate sorting and filtering by categories.

Promotion Templates

1. Social Media Announcement Post

 Save the Date!

Join us for [Event Name], a unique networking event for [target audience]!

 Location: [Venue or Online Link]

 Date & Time: [Insert]

 Register now: [Link]

#NetworkingEvent #SSE #YourProjectHashtag

2. Email Invitation Sequence (3-Part Template)

• Email 1: Announcement (3 weeks before)

Subject: You're Invited: [Event Name] Networking Event!

Body: Quick intro, purpose of the event, who should attend, registration link.

• Email 2: Reminder (3 days before)

Subject: [Event Name] is coming up – Don't miss it!

Body: Short overview, key activity highlight, logistics reminder.

• Email 3: Final Call (Morning of the event)

Subject: Today's the day! Join us at [Event Name]

Body: Start time, access link/location, what to bring (if anything).

3. LinkedIn Event Post Format

- Create an event via your organization page
- Include banner image
- Add 1-line description for each panel, workshop or theme
- Include hashtags: #NetworkingForImpact #SocialEconomy #CREASSE

Event Materials

1. Name Tag Template

In the Name tag write the name of each participant.

Design Tip: Add a prompt like “Ask me about ____” under each name

Fields to include:

- First Name
- Organization
- Specialty or Interest Area

2. Printable Icebreaker Cards

Card examples:

- “Find someone who has worked in three different sectors.”
- “Share one challenge you’re currently facing.”
- “What’s one project you’re proud of?”
- Printable PDF with 12–20 questions per page.

Link to some possible cards to be adapted:

https://www.canva.com/design/DAGoKQgM5yk/L6EYXRCU_qLnAFNbHwKb5w/edit?utm_content=DAGoKQgM5yk&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=sharebutton

3. List Presence Sheet (Printable or Google Sheet Format)

Columns:

- Name
- Organization
- Email

- Phone
- Sign
- Consent photo and video taken during the activity in compliance with GDPR Regulations

4. Post-Event Survey (Short Questions Template)

- How satisfied were you with the event overall? (1–5 scale)
- What was the most valuable aspect of the event for you?
- Did you identify any potential collaborations or networking opportunities during the event? If yes, how many? (Open-ended or number scale)
- What type of collaboration or support opportunities emerged (e.g., mentorship, joint projects, funding discussions)? (Open-ended – with note: Feel free to skip if confidential)
- What would you improve next time?
- Who would you like to connect with further?
- Would you like to stay involved through future events or join our newsletter? (Yes/No)

Follow-up Resources

1. Thank You Email Template

Subject: Thank You for Joining [Event Name]!

Body: Thank participants, share photos (if applicable), link to post-event survey, invite to stay connected.

2. Event Photo Sharing Guidelines

- Send a shared Google Drive or Dropbox folder
- Send a link of the photos through We Transfer.

- Include a note: “Please credit [Photographer/Organization Name] when sharing.”
- Get permission to share via registration form consent.

3. “Next Steps” Invitation Template

Subject: Let’s Keep the Momentum Going!

Body:

- Recap of outcomes or connections made
- Invitation to join an online group / platform
- Info about the next event, training, or opportunity

Here’s a ready-to-use “Next Steps” Invitation Template that you can send to participants after your networking event:

Subject: Let’s Keep the Momentum Going!

Body:

Dear [First Name],

Thank you once again for joining us at the [Event Name]! It was inspiring to see so many meaningful connections and conversations taking place. From the shared experiences to the spontaneous collaborations, your presence truly contributed to the energy and success of the event.

To keep the momentum going, we’d love to invite you to join our **[name of platform/community]**, a dedicated space where participants can continue discussions, share resources, and explore partnership opportunities. You can join here: [Insert link to group/platform].

What’s next? We’re already planning our next event: **[Next Event Name]**, happening on **[Date]**, focused on **[Short Description]**. More information will be shared soon—stay tuned! If you’d like to stay in the loop, please follow our project page [Insert Link] or sign up for our newsletter [Insert Link].

Let’s continue building a stronger Social and Solidarity Economy together!

Warm regards,

[Your Name]

[Your Organization]

[Contact Info]

[Social Media Links]

Examples of Practical Activities to Organize during the Networking Event 1:

1. Icebreaker Activities (15–20 minutes)

Help participants feel more comfortable and energized.

Example: “Entrepreneur Bingo”

Create a bingo sheet with statements like:

- “Has started a business before”
- “Is passionate about agriculture”
- “Wants to work in tourism”

Participants must find others who match the descriptions and write their names, great to initiate conversations.

2. Role-Play Scenarios (30–45 minutes)

Simulate real-world situations to spark discussion, reflection, and empathy.

Example: “The Elevator Pitch Exchange”

Participants are divided into pairs. One plays the role of an aspiring entrepreneur pitching a rural business idea to a stakeholder (e.g., funder, municipality representative, NGO).

Switch roles after 3–5 minutes. Then, reflect in the group:

- What worked?
- What would you improve?

3. Rotating Small Group Discussions (30 minutes)

Structure networking and thematic sharing in cycles.

Format:

- Divide the room into topic tables (e.g., sustainable farming, tourism, craft production, digital tools in rural areas).
- Participants rotate every 10 minutes, introducing themselves and contributing to each topic.
- One note-taker remains at each table to summarize ideas for the final wrap-up.

4. “Dream Project” Group Brainstorming (45–60 minutes)

Participants form small groups (3–4) to imagine an ideal rural social enterprise.

Guiding questions:

- What issue does it address?
- Who are the beneficiaries?
- What resources are needed?
- What role would each person play?

Groups share their vision to the plenary and optionally post ideas on flipcharts or a virtual board.

5. Visual Mapping – “My Entrepreneurial Path” (20–30 minutes)

Each participant creates a visual map or timeline with key moments:

- Who am I?
- Where am I coming from?
- What’s my motivation?
- Where do I want to go?

Then they briefly present their maps in pairs or triads.

6. Silent Wall Feedback (Ongoing during the event)

Create a wall or corner where participants can post:

- “What I need help with”
- “What I can offer”
- This can spark spontaneous networking and help identify collaboration opportunities.

7. Closing Reflection Circle (15 minutes)

Stand in a circle and have each participant share:

- One new connection they made
- One idea or opportunity they’re excited about
- What they’re looking forward to in the Learning Experience

Examples of Practical Activities to Organize during the Networking Event 2:

1. Speed Networking / “Speed Dating” sessions

Participants rotate through a series of short, timed one-on-one or small group conversations with different stakeholders.

- Participants pair up for 5–7 minute one-on-one chats.
- A signal (bell/timer) prompts rotation to next partner.
- Encourage entrepreneurs to briefly pitch their idea; stakeholders provide quick feedback or ask clarifying questions.

How to organize:

- Prepare a list of participants and arrange pairs in advance or organize on the spot.
- Use a timer and a clear signal for rotation.
- Provide prompt cards with sample questions (e.g., “What is the biggest challenge you face?”, “What kind of support are you looking for?”).

2. Thematic Roundtables

Set up several tables (4-5), each focused on a specific topic (e.g. financing, marketing, legal setup, partnerships, technology, social impact etc). Participants choose where to sit and rotate after a set time. Groups of 4-5 participants rotate every 8-10 minutes. One note-taker remains at each table to capture insights.

How to organize:

- Assign participants evenly at the start.
- Provide flipcharts or large paper for notes.
- Prepare guiding questions for each table.

3. Elevator Pitch Corner

- Entrepreneurs deliver 3-minute pitches to a small panel of stakeholders.
- Panel and audience provide constructive feedback (2-3 minutes each).
- Allow Q&A to clarify or deepen understanding.

How to organize:

- Select 3-4 entrepreneurs in advance. (depending on the number of business ideas developed during the capacity building workshops)
- Brief panel on constructive, actionable feedback approach.
- Time pitches strictly to keep on schedule.

4. Idea Gallery Walk

- Entrepreneurs create posters/boards summarizing their ideas.
- Posters are displayed around the room.
- Stakeholders walk around, leaving feedback notes or placing interest stickers.

How to organize:

- Provide materials in advance (poster boards, markers, sticky notes).
- Arrange posters in accessible locations.
- Explain feedback method (sticky notes, stickers).

5. Live Problem-Solving Clinic

- Participants present a current challenge or question.
- Small mixed groups (entrepreneurs + stakeholders) brainstorm solutions.
- Groups report key ideas to the larger group.

How to organize:

- Collect challenges before or at start of session.
- Assign groups with diverse expertise.
- Use flipcharts to capture ideas.

6. Networking Bingo

Give participants a bingo card with networking prompts such as:

- "Find someone who works with youth"
- "Talk to a donor or funder"
- "Meet someone from a rural area"
- "Find someone who has launched a business in the last year"

They must complete the card by talking to different people.

7. Commitment Wall

At the end of the event, provide a wall or board where participants and stakeholders write down one specific action they commit to taking at a post-event. These can include:

- "Follow up with Anna about her tourism project"
- "Introduce the craft cooperative to our grant officer"
- "Schedule a meeting with a digital tool provider"



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