

Case Study

CoderDojo Belgium

1. Tell us a little bit about your group?

We set up a non-profit called "Coderdojo Belgium", which carries the Coderdojo brand in Belgium. Belgium is not as grass-roots as Ireland, but is organised more top-down.

Dojo list:

Aalst	De Pinte	Ieper	Lier
Antwerpen	Genk	Izegem	Lubbeek
Bredene	Gent	Klein Brabant	Mechelen
Brugge	Hasselt 1 (PhL)	Kortrijk	Roeselare
Brussel	Hasselt 2 (Corda)	Leuven	Waterloo

2. What reasons did you have for starting your Dojo Group?

Martine and Koen met Coderdojo members in Ireland and we decided that we wanted to start this in Belgium too. So we gathered a group of people interested in volunteering and helping out.

Within three months, we started in two locations (Antwerp and Genk). From that starting point, we spread the word to look for more locations and people to start new Dojos. There are now 20 Dojos within the CoderDojo Belgium group!

3. How do Dojos become members of your regional Group?

People who want to start new Dojos usually would reach out to us first for assistance before they actually start their Dojo. This way we can build a relationship with the new Champions of the Dojo from the start.

4. How did you set up the Dojo Group?

We decided to set up Coderdojo Belgium vzw as a registered Non-Profit Group right from the start. As a non-profit CoderDojo Belgium vzw is used to shelter and represent all Dojos in the region terms of:

- **Insurance:**
 - Liability Insurance
- **Legal responsibility**
- **Group purchases:**
 - Purchasing of resources like laptops
- **Corporate sponsorship:**
 - Contracting and negotiating of sponsorship from corporates
- **Public Relations:**
 - national communications and national press (local press is handled by each dojo individually)

5. How is your Dojo Group organised?

The initial group that met to discuss CoderDojo were Martine, Koen, Sophie and Johan. They are the de facto board of Coderdojo Belgium. Jerry has been co-opted onto the board because of his relentless support of CoderDojo Belgium.

On a greater scale, we have organised "clusters" of Dojos that are geographically close enough so that they can collaborate and support each other. Naturally the leaders of the local Dojos and clusters "emerge" and get in contact. Currently, there is no predefined term, nor a succession plan for the board, nor for local leadership.

Info provided by CoderDojo Champion Koen Pellegrims.