



Bringing youth together  
for powerful conversations

# Cafe Talk Booklet



Cafe Talk is about organizing open discussions in Cafes. We aim to bring young people together by giving them the space to discuss and debate about topics they feel concerned about.

We believe that having powerful conversations is the first step to improve our communities and make a change.

## We value

Openness: Using our differences in ideas and experiences to solve problems. Being open to others opinions and accept differences are a vital component in discussions.

Change: We believe that every person can be a change agent in the community. By putting together people's ideas and suggestions you can come up with a plan to change your own community.

Positivity: During a Cafe Talk we treat problems but together we transform them into opportunities to make our community better. Through the 90 minutes discussions we will come up with suggestions and plans to bring hope and positivity into our life.

Self-expression: Your voice matters, Cafe Talk opens the space for young people from different backgrounds to speak up their voices and share their ideas with their communities.

## We aim to

### Support people in expressing themselves freely:

By providing the basics of debating and the techniques of communication, we will assure that every Cafe Talk participant will express him/herself freely and effectively. We will support people to make their voices heard in the public sphere.

### Engage people in social life

We are willing to make Tunisia a better place, so we need everyone to be more aware about local and social issues. By organizing open discussions in cafes, we aim to create new ways of spreading awareness and engaging youth in our country's issues.

### Find solutions:

By engaging people into social life, we aim to develop their critical thinking and problem solving abilities. We will support them to create concrete solutions to our country's problems and even to global concerns based on the discussion presented during each Cafe Talk.



## *How to host a Cafe Talk?*

### 1. Create a team

Three main actors are essential to initiate a Cafe Talk in your community: a moderator (a host), a reporter and a community manager. Together, you will brainstorm about a topic and organize the event.

The responsibilities of each actor are:

#### **Host**

The Cafe Talk Host is the main responsible of the Cafe Talk event. The team will be in touch directly with him and he is the one who will be notified about all the information.

He will also be the moderator of the session during the 1:30 hour event and will make sure that all the rules are respected. Any person can be a Cafe Talk host but she/he should have skills to manage an audience and open to have a new experience in public speaking.

The Host is also the one who will submit the documentation requested after the Cafe Talk such as videos, reports...

#### Eligibility to be a Cafe Talk Host

Public speaking and communication skills

Willing to respect the Cafe Talk purpose and ethics (non-political and cannot be, in any case, associated to a political party or a religious orientation)

Showing a passion and engagement toward the topic s/he chose to discuss in the Cafe Talk

Experience in the non-profit sector would be an asset

Willing to send a report after the event

#### **Reporter**

She/he is the key element of the Cafe Talk event. She/he will be in charge of reporting and classifying the ideas instantaneously. He will report the problems and solutions discussed to the host after the talk

#### **Community manager:**

He will be responsible of the live tweet and he will make a live transmission of the Cafe Talk process through twitter, facebook and Instagram. Then, at the end of each section of the Cafe Talk, the community manager will share the interaction of the event followers.

### 2. Set a topic

Politics, sports, art, economics, and education... any of your suggestions are welcome to be discussed. But make sure to set your topic clearly so you can attract your audience and moderate effectively the talk. You have to:

-Raise specific issues: what it is, whom does this topic involve, why it is important to talk about it. Avoid being too general and take into consideration that you will only have 90 minutes to discuss the causes of the issue and propose practical solutions to it.

-Use a positive and affirmative form to set your motion

- Take into consideration current events and facts to set your topic so your audience will feel concerned about it.

# Bringing youth together for powerful conversations



Recommendation: Share this motion before the organization of Cafe Talk on social networks to see positive or negative reactions and the interest of the general public.

\* Note that IIDebate will not approve topics that revolve around hate speech, extremism in any form of exclusionary rhetoric or discrimination

*Why are you bringing these people together?*

We believe that brainstorming with a group of people coming from the same community and concerned about the same issues can be a powerful weapon to turn this issue to an opportunity. This gathering will be an added value to future generations since it will make them more involved in the decision making process.

### 3. Find a venue

A Cafe talk has to be in an open space, preferably a cafe in order to create a friendly atmosphere, avoiding ending up being in a formal meeting. When people feel comfortable to be themselves, they share their most creative thinking, speaking, and listening. Cafe Talk program has already different partners that you can contact through our team permission in case you don't have a host venue.

Our team will be available to provide any documentation or communication tools to facilitate your location research.

### 4. Reaching-out to your audience

After setting a topic, it's time to invite people to your Cafe Talk. People who are interested in your topic will register online. We also encourage you to make offline publicity through direct contact with institutions or youth centers and cafes. You can also use our communication tools that we can share with you.

You have the possibility to invite **special guests** (public figures, decision makers...) who are directly concerned with the topic you chose for your Cafe Talk.

*How can you communicate about it?*

Nowadays, social medias play a crucial role in sharing people's ideas and reaching out to the public sphere. Through our platform, any host is requested to share the ideas and solutions discussed in a Cafe Talk with an online community.

By using the Hashtag of the Program #CafeTalk #NameOfYourCommunity #Topic, social media followers from that city will be contributing to the discussions, sharing their ideas and asking their questions to the Cafe Talk community. The Cafe Talk holders' team will also be requested to record videos before, during and after the event by interviewing participants.



## Host guidelines

### Ethics:

**Purpose:** You have to maintain the spirit of the Cafe Talk; bringing people together to discuss about topics they feel concerned about. This is not to convince them about a predetermined idea. Cafe Talk is non-political and cannot be, in any case, associated to a political party or religious orientation.

**Length:** A coffee talk may not exceed 90 minutes. However, you can use the same topic, in different Cafe Talks with a different audience.

**Location:** The Cafe Talk can be in a cafe, cultural cafe, youth center, institution, open space, public space or any convenient place where people can sit together and take the time to share their ideas without any borders. As a Cafe Talk host, you need to inform us through filling out the online survey about the location.

**Participants:** Up to 10 participants may attend the Cafe Talk. Each participant has to sign-up online. Priority is given to people who signed-up first.

### Brand:

You will have to include the logo of Cafe Talk in your communication tools (online and/or offline). You can also associate the brand of your organization/cooperation with the Cafe Talk for the event.

### Funds:

Organizing a Cafe Talk is a volunteer endeavor as well as for the host as for the participants. In case you organize the Cafe Talk in a Cafe, participants will pay their own orders.

## What is the format of a Cafe Talk?

### 1. Presentation of the Host: 10 minutes

The host will start the Cafe Talk with an introduction to the topic explaining why he/she chose that specific subject. Then, the host will present the program and the guidelines of the Cafe Talk event.

It will also be an opportunity for him/her to present different definitions; statistics, facts and programs to help the participants to better understand the context of the discussion.

### 2. Problem analysis: 20 min

#### 2.1 Ask Questions:

During this session, the Cafe Talk host will start by asking relevant questions to the participants in order to make them reflect on the source of the problem.

A relevant question is a question that generates curiosity, stimulates reflective conversation and invites creativity and new possibilities.

#### 2.2 Discussion:

Each participant in this section will have 90 seconds to argue about the sources of the problems and its effects on the community. It will be an opportunity to share the point of view of each participant.

#### 2.3 Social Media Section: 10

The community manager will share with the participants the comments and suggestions made by the Cafe Talk event followers. That will be an opportunity to the participants to reflect more about their outputs.

#### 2.4 Wrap up: 10

The reporter will make a wrap up of the different ideas mentioned in the first section (What are the sources of the problem mentioned and what are their effects on the community)

### 3. Solutions

#### 3.1 Suggestions: 20

Based on the sources and effects of the problems, participants will discuss concrete solutions that they will agree on at the end of the section.

#### 3.2 Social Media Section: 10

The community manager will share with the participants the comments and suggestions made by the cafe talk event followers. That will be an opportunity to the participants to reflect more about their outputs.

### 4. Wrap up: 10

The reporters will make a wrap up of the different ideas mentioned in the solution part and will explain the next step of the team objectives through the ideas suggested by the participants.



## Contacts:

Nizar Ben Salah

Cafe Talk project coordinator

Phone: (+216) 55 088 071

Email address: [nizar@iidebate.org](mailto:nizar@iidebate.org)

Address: Rue Abderrahmen Azzem, Immeuble Wifek, Bloc A, Apartement 45

Phon: (+216) 71 903 734

Website: [cafetalk/iidebate.org](http://cafetalk/iidebate.org)

Email Address: [cafetalk@iidebate.org](mailto:cafetalk@iidebate.org)