



# FACILITATORS CONNECT

## RETREAT 2023

The Netherlands Edition







# FACILITATORS CONNECT

HELPING PEOPLE TO  
GROW BETTER  
TOGETHER.

## THIS WAS RETREAT '23



Networking went to whole different level at the retreat: life-long connections were made.



Facilitators Connect was a place where we inspired each other: all from different backgrounds but with the same passion!



Everyone was so eager to learn from each other and to share their knowledge - there was absolutely no ego! We welcomed brand new facilitators, and experts in the field!

## CONTINUE READING 🍷

To find out more about our external speakers, internal speakers, photobooth and muuuuch more!

## JOIN US!

go to and subscribe to our mailing list!



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Hapert, The Netherlands



## EXTERNAL SPEAKERS

We invited 3 top tier speakers: Ahmad Munawar, Brittni Bowering, and Axelle Vanquaille. They all taught us incredible value things about building our own business. More on that further!



## INTERNAL SPEAKERS

Inviting two internal speakers, initially participants, highlighted our collective passion for facilitation across diverse professions. We wanted to give our attendees also opportunity to extend their experience and run their own session at the retreat.



## MINI WORKSHOPS

We also had a chance to do our own small workshops. This was for those who never did one or just wanted to introduce something interesting, like Lego Serious Play, Notion, or public speaking! Every topic was welcome, just put your name on the board and gather people!





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## EXTERNAL SPEAKERS



### POSITIONING, MARKETING AND SALES

In the power positioning session by Ahmad Munawar, we delved into the continuous process of navigating the business landscape, stressing the importance of defining our target audience and standing out for premium pricing. The marketing session focused on adapting to dynamic markets, offering insights into effective strategies and enabling attendees to discuss their cases one-on-one in hot seats. The sales session explored the art of persuading customers, emphasizing market dynamics, effective communication, and understanding client needs. Hot seats provided participants with the opportunity to engage in personalized discussions with the business coach, gaining instant feedback on their sales challenges in the ever-changing market.



### BRANDING

Brittni talked about how to make your workshops special by adding your own personality and brand. She explained who you are as a person and as a brand. She shared tricks to make your workshops more interesting, not just during, but also before and after. Brittni showed us simple ways to create special moments that people will remember, in line with our unique brands. Her session was like a helpful guide, teaching us how to make workshops not just fun but also memorable. We learned easy ways to make our workshops stand out and leave a lasting impression on everyone.



### VISUAL FACILITATION

Axelle, the creator of Drawify (also a plugin for Miro), taught us about the power of drawing in a simple and fun way. She used visuals to show how effective drawing can be, especially during Brittni's workshop. In the evening, Axelle shared easy tips to improve drawing skills and boost confidence. She proved that everyone can draw, breaking the myth of "I can't draw." Axelle highlighted the strength of visuals in creative brainstorming, inspiring us to use drawings in our workshops. Her session left us with newfound skills and confidence, ready to incorporate the fun and impact of drawing into our own workshops.



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Brittini Bowering

Ahmad Munawar

Axelle Vanquaille



We all want to make a difference and we all care about different things. But in essence it's the impact that really drives us. - Katrina Dargel



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Chris  
Bradshaw

## INTERNAL SPEAKERS

### AI **AI DESIGN SPRINTS**

With Jörg Winterhoff's workshop we were sure of a super engaging and interactive experience of the "AI Design Sprint™ ChatGPT". He made sure the participants understood the potentials of ChatGPT and came up with actual solution concepts on how to implement ChatGPT into our day-to-day operations.

But there is more... after the session they would also be able to run this power session with their potential clients!

### **INNOVATION**

The truth: 70% of digital transformations, 90% of startups, and 95% of new digital products fail.

In this workshop Chris Bradshaw tackled this problem! Chris explained an innovation framework for high-speed problem solving. And he did this with a lot of humour (and Lord of the Rings!)

The outcome? Strategic guidance, user understanding, reduced costs, faster decisions, de-risked investments, and a detailed innovation roadmap. With these skills, any business can succeed and thrive.



Jörg  
Winterhoff



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## MINI WORKSHOPS



**They invested time and money to be here, and you can feel that.  
They want to learn and they want to share.  
- Axelle Vanquaille**

During the retreat, there was a chance for people to host short sessions called miniworkshops. These were for anyone, even if they hadn't led a workshop before. People could share about things like Lego Serious Play, Notion, public speaking, or any topic they thought others would be interested in. It was a way for everyone to learn from each other in a relaxed and interactive setting. Whether you were new to facilitating or just wanted to discuss something you're passionate about, these miniworkshops provided a cool space to connect and explore different topics.



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## PHOTOBOOTH

Navigating the world of facilitation, especially as a beginner, presents a unique challenge – capturing compelling images of yourself in action.

And not just good pictures – we're talking about great ones that truly showcase what you bring to the table. It's crucial to have a visual representation of your facilitation skills when presenting your services, be it through videos or photographs.

Without established projects, you lack opportunities to have professional photos taken, creating a challenging loop. It's a struggle: no pictures, fewer sales, no projects, no pictures, and the cycle repeats.

Even when you finally land a project, the chances are that you can't freely share the pictures outside of the company you worked for. Tricky situation, isn't it?

That's where our retreat came to the rescue! We set up a photobooth where you can simulate workshop scenarios and capture dynamic images of yourself in action. 📸 Of course, with some helpful tips from Marc (our photographer!)



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## AGENDA

	MONDAY 11/09	TUESDAY 12/09	WEDNESDAY 13/09	THURSDAY 14/09	FRIDAY 15/09
8:00		8:00 BREAKFAST	8:00 BREAKFAST	8:00 BREAKFAST	8:00 BREAKFAST
9:00					
10:00		10:00 - 12:30 POWER POSITIONING AHMAD MUNAWAR	10:00 - 12:30 MARKETING AHMAD MUNAWAR	10:00 - 12:30 SALES AHMAD MUNAWAR	9:30 TIME TO SAY GOODBYE :(
11:00					
12:00					
13:00		13:00 LUNCH	13:00 LUNCH	13:00 LUNCH	
14:00					
15:00		14:30 - 17:00 AI DESIGN SPRINT JORG WINTERHOFF	14:30 - 17:00 BUILD YOUR BRAND BRITTNI BOWERING	14:30 - 17:00 CREATING INNOVATION ROADMAPS CHRIS BRADSHAW	
16:00					
17:00	17:00 ARRIVAL DRINKS				
18:00					
19:00	19:00 DINNER	19:00 DINNER	18:30 DINNER	19:00 DINNER	
20:00					
21:00			20:00 VISUAL FACILITATION AXELLE VANQUAILLIE		
22:00	GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER			21:00 PARTY	
23:00					
24:00					







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## LEARNING & GROWING WHILE MAKING FRIENDS



**Sergej Zavrnik** · 1st

I help teams solve product challenges and de-risks new devel...  
3w · Edited · 🌐

Inspired. Empowered. And motivated to learn more about facilitation. 🚀  
👍

This is how I feel after intensive and fun 5-days at [Facilitators Connect](#) retreat. 😊

In last days, I had privilege to be part of inspiring and empowering community of facilitators. ⚡

Not only to learn more about facilitation skills, market positioning and workshop application. But even more important, to exchange knowledge and experiences. And create space to grow together as facilitators. 📝

Thank you [Katrien Schepers](#) 🍀📱 and [Michiel Hauwaert](#) to enabling this great growth experience! 🙌👍

And the community for sharing, questioning and supporting 🤗 [Nathy Ravez](#) Angel Takooree 🙌, [Katrina Dargel](#), [Laura Duchatelet](#), [Apa Hospodková](#) [Michael Garcia](#) [Chris Bradshaw](#) 🙌

Lets facilitate together 🙌



**Laura Duchatelet** · 1st

Bored of going to the same events all the time? Me too. Let's ...  
3w · Edited · 🌐

What a week. I'm beaming with energy and inspiration from a retreat for facilitators by facilitators.

This video below was only day 1.

We connected, we facilitated, we workshopped, we problem-solved, we content created, we niched down, we innovated, we laughed, we learned about ourselves and our values, we lego serious played, we graphic recorded, we roadmapped our businesses, we deep-dived into our why's, we celebrated with karaoke and dance & so much more cool stuff happened... like clarity, lots of it.

Words can't explain how meaningful this week was to me.

So much love and gratitude for all my peers at [Facilitators Connect](#) and for all the speakers & trainers: [Ahmad Munawar](#), [Brittni Bowering](#), [Axelle Vanquaille](#), [Chris Bradshaw](#) 🙌, [Jörg Winterhoff](#). Thanks for sharing your expertise so generously.

In the next few weeks you'll see a lot of pictures by [Marc Jaspers](#). He was our full-time content creator/coach. Making sure all of us were comfortable and authentic in front of the camera. So much respect and appreciation for the gift of memories 📸

Last, and most important of all, thank you [Katrien Schepers](#) 🍀📱 & [Michiel Hauwaert](#). Thank you for taking this bold decision and going all-in on this retreat. You created something truly unique.

Lots more to come, but first I'm going to catch up on some sleep 😊❤️  
🙏



**Facilitators Connect**

318 followers  
1mo · 🌐

It has begun!! 🙌👍

All credits go to [Marc Jaspers](#) for the footage!



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## ALL INCLUSIVE

Our participants had a room and bathroom for themselves, or shared with someone else. Nothing was mandatory; if they needed rest throughout the day, they could always withdraw.

### ROOMS

They had full access to workshops and to our workshop materials, so they could facilitate, and use a variety of resources during and after the retreat.

### MATERIALS

## LEAVE YOUR WALLET IN YOUR ROOM



### TRANSPORTATION TO AIRPORT

All transportation was covered after the moment you land at the airport (Eindhoven or Brussel Zaventem). We arranged taxis to come and pick up our attendees.

### FOOD & DRINKS

Breakfast, lunch and dinner were all taken care of. There were also snacks available during workshops and throughout the day. Coffee, water, soda... everything was provided. Alcohol was also included at dinner and at the party!



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## THE ORGANIZERS



Hey!

My name is Katrien and I'm from Belgium. I have a background in architecture and currently work part time as project manager for a youth facility. There, I run workshops with the employees and children to explore how we can adapt our infrastructure based on our needs. User experience but then applied to architecture if you will!

I co-created this retreat because I love connecting people and I've experienced how powerful an in-person event can be. Michiel and I met at a similar event a year before. Because this organization wasn't doing it again, we decided to create it ourselves. We gained so much from it and wanted more people to experience the power of meeting like-minded people offline!

It's really difficult to capture what the retreat did to me. It was soul-filling to see people excited about facilitation and about meeting people. I saw people opening up in just a few days. It's so incredibly important to learn in an environment where you feel appreciated. I feel like this event really was a safe space where people could develop their skills!



Hi, I'm Michiel!

Without really knowing it, I've been facilitating and hosting workshops for years now. A while back I decided to make it my main focus. You're probably wondering how this could happen without me really knowing? Well... It was just part of my job and I did not really think about it.

I have a background in IT. I started as a software developer and later transitioned into the role of a functional analyst and scrum master.

Mainly during my period as an analyst and scrum master, I've been hosting lots of workshops; requirements gathering, team alignment, retrospectives,... you name it!

A while back I wanted to explore new challenges I did not really like getting down in the nitty-gritty details of the requirements gathering during the analysis process anymore. So I started to look around what I could do next. Then it hit me, I've been "facilitating" for years without ever really noticing it.

So I decided to move away from the nitty-gritty details and started learning about building and hosting my own custom workshops.

This allowed me to stay involved in the problem-solving process, without having to provide all the answers. Now I try to help teams build the right products, faster. With the help of both custom and existing workshops, like the Design Sprint! For me personally learning about facilitation was an eye-opener. It gave me a clear path forward.



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## OUR COMMUNITY



Welcome to Our Ongoing Gathering Place! 

After our fantastic retreat, we've started a community to keep that awesome retreat feeling going. This isn't just a website—it's a space where people who love facilitation can keep learning, growing, and connecting.

Our community is like a lively hub where both experienced facilitators and newbies can do well. It's a friendly online spot where we share experiences, ideas, and keep learning together.

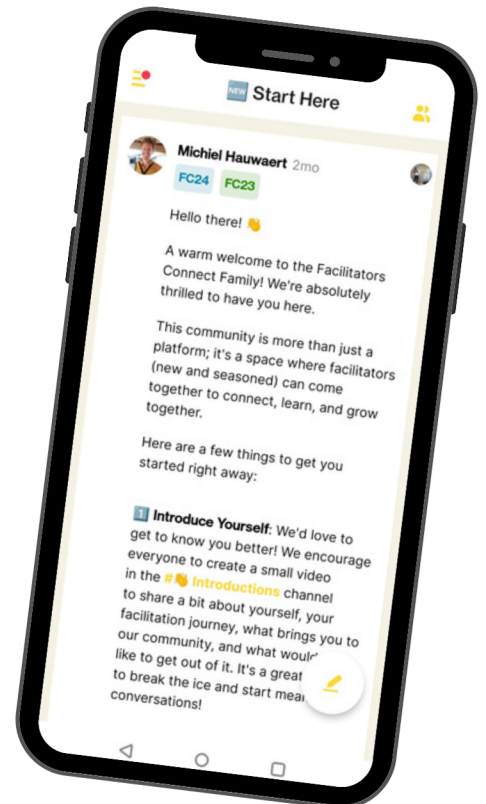
In this community, you can ask for advice about growing your business or chat about facilitation. We also keep everyone updated on possible plans for Retreat 2024, have monthly calls for group chats, and set up a cool feature to help members connect and work together.

This isn't just a website; it's a way for facilitators to keep growing and connecting even after the retreat. Join us in this lively community where the retreat spirit continues, and facilitators support each other!



Oh yeah, and it's free!

Contact us for more info!



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## WHAT PEOPLE SAY

Find more on #facilitatorsconnect on LinkedIn!



**Nathy Ravez** · 1st  
Catalyzing Team Excellence for Leaders, Consultants & Facilit...  
3w · Edited · 🌐

My Journey to Clarity: Let's Find Yours Together

If you ask me what I got from the #Facilitatorsconnect Retreat, the answer's simple: Clarity. Who am I? What do I want? Where is my biz going? All clear now! Special thanks to [Ahmad Munawar](#), your positioning session was a true revelation !

I'm all about connecting, inspiring, and guiding people. It's in my DNA, a part of who I am.

I've embraced my role as a guide, fueled by deep empathy. No more comparing myself to others. I've seen the difference I make just by being me—flaws and all. Tears flowed when I met ghost-followers of my LinkedIn and podcast, who gave me so much with their warm feedback. Unknowingly, I've been an impact-maker.

What did this week bring me?

- 🔍 Found my path
- 💪 Confidence, level up!
- 😄 Got me some soul food and strength
- 🌟 Pure revelation—and I'm here for it.

Not just a retreat. The name "Facilitators Connect" took on its full meaning; we've been connected, and it's been empowering. A game-changer for me and, no doubt, for everyone there.

My buzzword? IMPACT!

That's the mantra for my podcast's second year, my business, and my personal journey.

Some of you reached out to me over the past weeks, looking for guidance on your facilitation journey, seeking advice to get clarity on your path. Let's #workshop it!

SPOILER



**Chris Bradshaw** 🙏 · 1st  
I innovate your company to outpace the competition by improv...  
3w · 🌐

Want to improve your work, create better outcomes, and receive more significant rewards while maximizing your happiness? 🙏

After having 24 hours to reflect on my recent experience at [Facilitators Connect](#) and the results it has created, I am grateful for investing money and time in myself to keep working towards being in the top 1% of my craft.

The best way to express my learnings and to encourage you all to do the same and invest in yourself is this 🙏🙏🙏

[#growthmindset](#) [#learningandgrowing](#) [#selfdevelopment](#)  
[#communitybuilding](#) [#sharingknowledge](#)

**Within the first few hours  
we were just in so many deep  
conversations already,  
even though we were strangers.  
- Angel Takooree**



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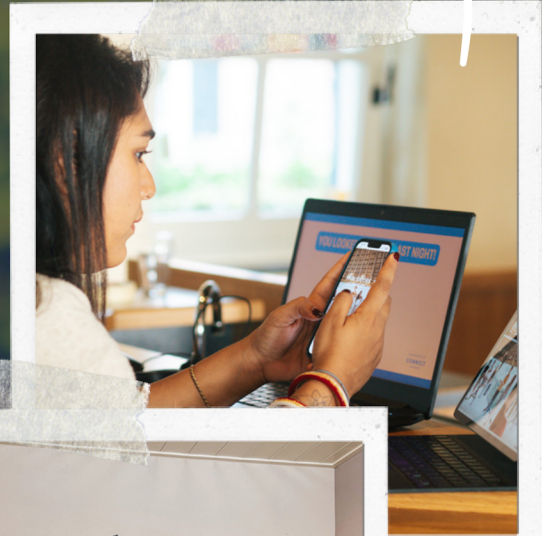
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Pictures  
downloadable the  
day after!



speakers



mini workshops



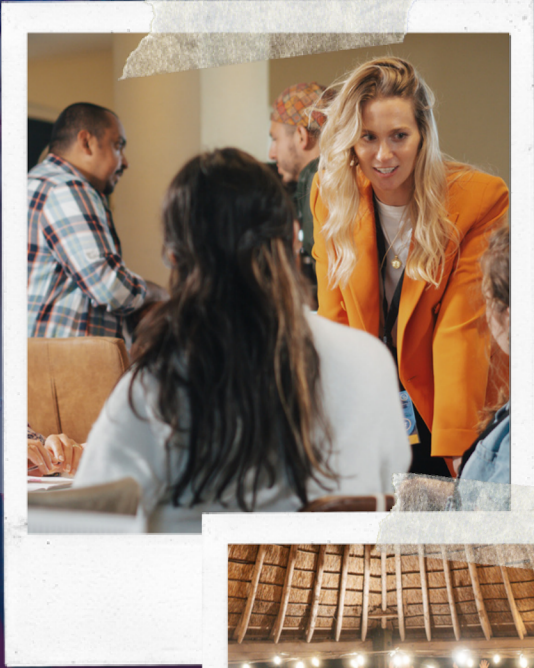
mini workshops



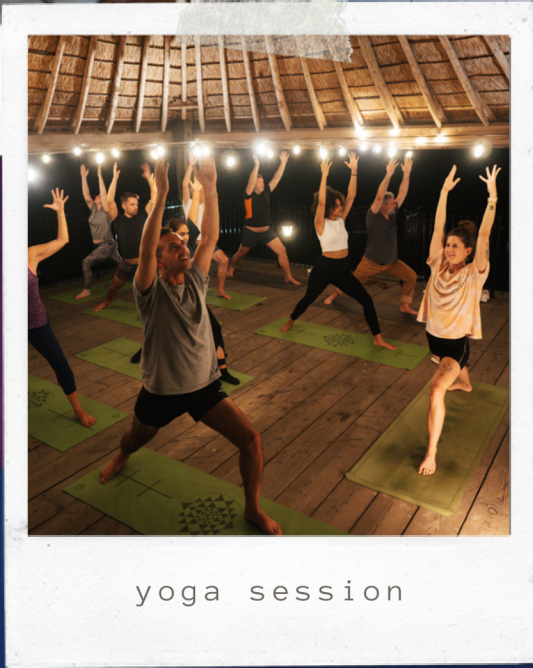




dining together



internal speakers



yoga session







# SEE YOU NEXT YEAR?

## RETREAT 2024

Europe



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