

## PARTNER INFORMATION FILE: PARTNER PROFILE

### OUR ORGANISATION

|                                     |                                        |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Full legal name (National Language) | vzw Edushakers                         |
| Full legal name (Latin characters)  | vzw Edushakers                         |
| Acronym                             | Edushakers                             |
| Organisation ID (OID)               | E10273906                              |
| Personal identification code (PIC)  | 890206637                              |
| National registration Number        | 21329390                               |
| VAT number                          | BE 0767.934.845                        |
| Address (main office)               | Sint-Maartenstraat 27                  |
| Operational address                 | Diestsestraat 253 (www.campuscorso.be) |
| Country                             | Belgium                                |
| Region                              | Flemish-Brabant                        |
| Post Code                           | 3000                                   |
| City                                | Leuven (Louvain/Löwen)                 |
| Website URL                         | www.edushakers.eu                      |
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### LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE

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|-------------|-------------------------|
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| Gender      | M                       |
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| Family Name | Staf                    |
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### CONTACT PERSONS

Contact person 1

|                   |                         |
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#### Contact person 2

|                   |                                  |
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## CAMPUS CORSO: A THIRD SPACE FOR ENTREPRENEURIAL LEARNING

Campus Corso is more than a meeting place - it's a **third space** where formal education, informal learning, and real-world entrepreneurship converge. Housed in a renovated former dance hall in Leuven's city centre, our 'sticky' learning station attracts people of all ages and backgrounds who choose to stay, connect, learn, and grow together.

As a non-profit organization, Edushakers operates Campus Corso as an intergenerational entrepreneurship hub guided by three E's: **Entrepreneurship, Education and Encounters**. We bridge the gap between classroom learning and market realities by creating authentic opportunities for young people (also those with fewer opportunities) to develop entrepreneurial mindsets and practical business skills through real experiences with real consequences.

[Campus Corso: Nurturing entrepreneurial spirit and know-how in Belgium | Open Space](#)

### The Third Space Concept

Campus Corso transcends traditional educational boundaries. It's neither purely academic nor entirely commercial - it's an innovative intersection where:

- VET students run actual businesses (hairdressing salon, tourism and catering services, hospitality operations) three to four times per week, serving real clients and managing authentic business challenges
- Young entrepreneurs test business ideas in a supportive environment with access to mentorship, workspace and a built-in community of potential customers
- Makerspace markets provide low-barrier entry points for first-time sellers to learn pricing, customer relations and sales techniques in an informal atmosphere
- Permanent residents (research centre, social-cultural organizations) and occasional co-habitants (schools, special educational needs support...) create natural mentoring relationships across generations and sectors

- All Leuven schools participate, bringing together primary, secondary and higher education in collaborative, cross-institutional projects

## **Entrepreneurship Skills Development**

Campus Corso specializes in developing entrepreneurial competencies through our 'tinkering' pedagogy: investigating, connecting, trying, adjusting and trying again. Our approach cultivates:

- Business planning and customer relationship management through actual client interactions
- Problem-solving in unpredictable real-world situations without safety nets
- Communication skills across diverse age groups, languages and cultural backgrounds
- Digital competence using professional tools including our custom-developed Trackngrow competence evaluation platform
- Executive functions (planning, organization, self-monitoring) through managing appointments, inventory and service delivery
- Cross-curricular thinking by connecting theoretical knowledge from multiple subjects to practical business applications

## **The 'Sticky' Learning Station**

Unlike traditional educational spaces where learners come and go on fixed schedules, Campus Corso is designed as a 'sticky' environment - a place where people naturally want to linger, return and embed themselves in our community. This stickiness emerges from:

- Authentic purpose: Students aren't simulating entrepreneurship - they're doing it, with real stakes and real rewards
- Intergenerational wisdom exchange: Senior professionals share decades of practical knowledge while learning fresh perspectives from youth
- Cross-cultural encounters: Our diverse community naturally fosters inclusivity and broadens worldviews
- Low barriers to participation: Whether you're a student testing your first product or a retired professional sharing expertise, Campus Corso welcomes all levels of experience
- Continuous learning opportunities: Workshops, mentorship sessions and peer learning happen organically through daily interactions

## **EDUCATIONAL EXPERTISE AND INNOVATION**

Edushakers brings 15 years of international experience in Erasmus+ projects across over 20 schools and organizations throughout Europe. Our expertise spans general, technical and vocational education, with particular strengths in:

- ICT-driven didactics with emphasis on blended and hybrid teaching methodologies
- Cross-curricular subject analysis through our Tracknteach platform ([www.tracknteach.eu](http://www.tracknteach.eu))
- Competence-based assessment via Trackngrow ([www.trackngrow.eu](http://www.trackngrow.eu)), developed with young programmers
- Non-formal learning environments that connect practice with pedagogy
- Student agency, autonomy, and executive function development
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) integration across curricula

We support all education stakeholders - pupils, students, parents, teachers, counsellors, school managers and policymakers - in their pursuit of quality improvement, entrepreneurship development and professional growth.

## RECENT ERASMUS+ PROJECTS (2022-2025)

### As Coordinator:

- Young Musicians In Action: 2023-1-BE05-KA152-YOU-000136134
- Culture Ambassadors in Action: 2023-1-BE05-KA152-YOU-000136025
- Sustainable Agriculture for a bright future: 2023-2-BE05-KA152-YOU-000168203
- No Hate Yes Love: 2022-3-BE05-KA152-YOU-000094874
- Young Inventors: 2022-3-BE05-KA152-YOU-000094935
- Music for the Brain: 2022-2-BE02-KA210-SCH-000099481
- Mash-up for young entrepreneurs: 2023-1-BE02-KA210-VET-000165932
- Breedtesport als verbindende Kracht ('Grassroots sports as a bridging force'): 2024-2-BE02-KA182-SPO-000287130
- Microcredential-Linked Evaluation and Assessment of Professional Skills: 2024-2-BE02-KA210-ADU-000285049

### As Partner:

- The Animal Footprint: 2024-1-ES02-KA152-YOU-000205943
- Empowering Vocational Educators for AI-Driven Education: 2023-2-LT01-KA210-VET-000177677
- Empowering Minds: 2024-1-SE01-KA210-ADU-000245972
- Solidaritown: CERV-2023-CITIZENS-TOWN-NT
- Agriculture 5.0: CERV-2024-CITIZENS-TOWN-TT
- City voices: CERV-2025-CITIZENS-CIV
- Pulse: Participation and Learning through Solidarity and Involvement: 2025-2-DE04-KA210-YOU-000383879 (PAR)

[www.edushakers.eu](http://www.edushakers.eu) | [www.campuscorso.be](http://www.campuscorso.be)



*A pioneering learning hub where VET students operate real businesses, serve real customers and build the skills, confidence and connections that classrooms alone can't provide.*

What if the best way to prepare young people for the world of work was simply to let them work? In a repurposed former dance hall on a busy street in Leuven, Belgium, that idea has become a reality. *Campus Corso* is not a school project or a simulation – it's a community hub where

vocational students run actual businesses, serve genuine clients and confront the kind of unpredictable, real-world challenges that no textbook can replicate. Students from hairdressing, tourism, catering and hospitality pathways share the space with tutors, local entrepreneurs and professionals, creating a place where generations can genuinely learn from each other. And the real innovation? *Trackngrow*, the self-developed online formative assessment tool that captures each student's growth in a way that traditional grading simply can't.

*Campus Corso* sits at the heart of the Leuven Learning Ecosystem (LLES), a city-wide network of community organisations, cultural venues and educational institutions united by a shared belief that learning belongs to everyone and happens everywhere. By immersing students in real work situations, the project simultaneously develops the entrepreneurial, digital, and social and civic competences that employers need and that young people need to thrive.

"Thanks to working here, I discovered talents I didn't even know I had. Look at me - serving coffee and preparing bagels for customers, When I started here, I didn't even dare speak to people I didn't know." Kyana Vanherwegen, dual VET learner, Campus Corso

Read on to find out why this initiative was selected as one of the nine finalists of the New Learning Award 2026.



## The project

Across Europe, vocational education and training (VET) often struggles to provide students with the practical confidence or real-world skills that employers actually need. *Campus Corso* was designed to close that gap, not by talking about work, but by doing it.

*Campus Corso* is a working community hub, operated by non-profit Edushakers, where students run real businesses with real consequences. Hairdressing students manage a professional salon open to the public three times a week. Tourism students provide genuine visitor information and city guidance services. Students with special educational needs run hospitality and catering operations for the wider community. Every appointment made, every customer served and every complaint handled is a learning moment that no classroom exercise can replicate.

Teachers work as facilitators and coaches rather than instructors, guided by the "tinkering" approach: investigate, connect, try, adjust, and try again. Professional mentors and entrepreneurs complement this, sharing industry expertise and introducing real-world perspectives into the learning environment. At the heart of this approach is *Trackngrow*, a self-developed online tool that sets *Campus Corso* apart. Rather than rely on traditional end-of-year assessments, *Trackngrow* continuously tracks each student's development across technical skills, entrepreneurial behaviours and key digital and citizenship competences.

*Campus Corso* is part of a much bigger vision – the Leuven Learning Ecosystem (LLES), a city-wide network of creative maker-spaces, cultural venues, community organisations and educational institutions united by the belief that learning is lifelong and belongs to everyone. Within this ecosystem, *Campus Corso* is a "third space", where formal VET education, non-formal community learning, and informal everyday encounters all come together naturally.

## Why this practice stands out

The ETF and its partners have selected this initiative as one of the nine finalists for the New Learning Award 2026. Here is why this learning practice stands out:

- Real work, not role play: VET students run actual businesses, creating a unique and authentic life experience. Many participants have gone on to launch their own ventures or secure employment through connections made at *Campus Corso*
- Innovative formative assessment: *Trackngrow*, *Campus Corso*'s self-developed online tool, continuously tracks student progress across key competences, making individual growth both visible and meaningful throughout the learning journey
- Innovation and inclusion built in: From students with special educational needs to senior professionals and local entrepreneurs,

*Campus Corso* brings together people who would rarely share a learning space. Up to 100 learners per year benefit from *Campus Corso*

- A cross-cutting model to scale: With documented methodologies, the innovative *Trackngrow* competence tracking tool, and a replicable community-hub model, *Campus Corso* is an inspiration for similar initiatives across Europe and beyond.

"Our students have learned and strengthened more job-related soft skills at Campus Corso in four weeks than over a whole school year's timespace." Sofie Vervloet, Joblab Coordinator, Campus Redingenhof

### The future

*Campus Corso* sits at the heart of Leuven's growing learning ecosystem, demonstrating what becomes possible when education, community, entrepreneurship and culture come together around a shared physical space. It is a model that other cities and regions could – and should – adopt.

The ambition is to grow: reaching more VET students, welcoming more community partners and deepening the intergenerational connections that make *Campus Corso* so distinctive. The *Trackngrow* tool and learning methodologies have been developed with replication in mind, ready to be adapted by schools, community organisations and local authorities committed to reimagining learning spaces of the future. Above all, the goal is simple – to improve the journey from education to employment for every young person who walks through the door.

- Back to: [ETF New Learning Award 2026](#)
- Learn more: [Campus Corso](#)

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