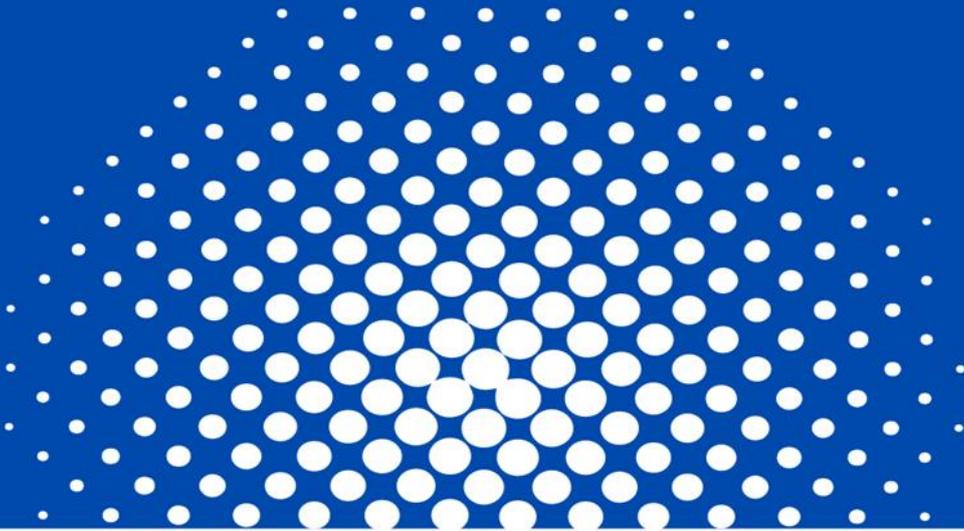


READING FOR CULTURES ACROSS BORDERS



READ-IN-CLUB E-MANUAL



PUBLISHED BY THE CONSORTIUM



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Introduction

Reading clubs are a special part of cultural preservation, perpetuation and intercultural exchange. Using books as a means of communication and personal development, members of reading clubs create a world in which they interact and learn, enhancing their creative expression and imagination. The importance of setting up a reading club lies in a multitude of different advantages. Firstly, it makes individuals more open-minded. Through in-depth discussions about a particular book and different perspectives, club members enrich their knowledge and gain an appreciation for the world around them. In addition, they will be more willing to appreciate other cultures, not only through the book, but also through exchanges between members who may have different backgrounds.

The reading club also leads to the discovery of new literary genres. By participating in a reading club, a person can discover other genres that they have never read before, thus becoming motivated to read again.

The reading club offers learning in its most playful and easy form. By discussing a book that all members are reading, it is easier for someone to explore their own thoughts and also to better retain information. Also, by participating in a reading club, the level of general knowledge will be higher. For example, with a book set in a specific time period, readers learn more about the dates and events that actually happened at that time in history.

The reading club develops communication skills. By participating in a reading club, a person learns how to express his or her views properly in front of an audience, learns to disagree better with an idea using logical rather than emotional arguments, becomes more honest and develops more eloquent skills.

Therefore, reading clubs are an important part of culture and the strengthening of the creative and cultural sector. For this reason the project *READ-IN-CLUB: READ-INg for CuLtUres across Borders* derives from the need to equip our society with those skills and competences which are specially essential in order to ensure a swift and smooth recovery from the pandemic crisis.

In READ-IN-CLUB, the art of literature and the institution of reading clubs and reading communities, together with the power of digital technology, comprise powerful facilitators of informal learning and dialogue and create a supportive cultural environment where people are encouraged to become innovators and effective lifelong learners. In this context, READ-IN-CLUB targets professionals of the book industry who organize and coordinate the operation of reading clubs or other educational activities related to literature: writers, authors, translators, directors and representatives of private and public libraries, moderators of reading clubs/reading clubs, managers of publishing houses and literary organizations, publishers, editors and generally professionals in the industries and fields of literature and culture.

The READ-IN-CLUB e-Manual

This READ-IN-CLUB e-Manual is the fourth and last tool of the more comprehensive and complete toolkit developed in the framework of READ-IN CLUB. Acting complementary to the other deliverables which are IO1_READ-IN-CLUB Research Report, IO2_Virtual Training Seminars for "Lit. Mentors", IO3_#Read-IN-ClubDigital platform, this E-manual aims to provide specific guidelines to the target group of the project on how to integrate the READ-IN-CLUB training package in their activities and how to use it as an educational element, in alignment with the capacities and needs of their reading groups.

Is it innovative?

YES: Its innovative potential stems from the holistic methodological approaches in relation to the guidance and training of different key players in the book industry, belonging to different cultural communities and geographical contexts in the EU.

Is it impactful?

YES: The READ-IN-CLUB (IO4) e-Manual has a practical impact on the target groups of the project, reading club coordinators, authors, writers, translators, managers and representatives of private and public libraries and other book industry professionals and literary organisations coordinating reading clubs, because it provides them with the appropriate guidelines to gain maximum value from all the tools and training materials developed during the project.

Is it transferable?

YES: It is characterized by a high potential for transferability, as it can be used by a wide range of stakeholders and at the same time applied to a wide range of stakeholders, in terms of intercultural dialogue and the field of education in general. As with any intellectual output, it will also be delivered in English and translated into the national languages of the partners.



Chapter 1. Guidelines for Virtual Training

Introduction

Virtual Training Seminars for "Lit.Mentors" is a series of digital training materials, which are aimed at book professionals - active in the coordination of reading clubs - who are committed to the role of "Lit. Mentors", in order to develop educational skills and intercultural competences and to train them in guiding their communities in order to transform "collective reading" experiences into lifelong learning environments that promote processes of intercultural dialogue but also a smooth transition to the digitalization of reading clubs in response to the new conditions defined by the pandemic crisis.

The course aims to provide an integrated learning experience, consisting of a wealth of material: videos, case studies, self-assessments, etc. The online course consists of 6 different modules:

1. LITERATURE, READING CLUBS AND INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE: THE INCLUSIVE CHARACTER OF LITERATURE AND HOW TO ENTER THE WORLD OF READING
2. DEVELOPING INTERCULTURAL INTELLIGENCE IN A READING COMMUNITY - UNDERSTANDING LITERATURE AS AN UPGRADE OF THE COMMON KNOWLEDGE
3. READING CLUBS IN A DIGITAL WORLD: READING AS MEANS OF COMMUNICATION AND THE EFFECT OF DIGITAL READING
4. DIGITAL TOOLS FOR ADULT LEARNING READ-IN-CLUB TRAINING FOR LIT. MENTORS
5. READING CLUBS AND LIFELONG LEARNING
6. THE PROSPERITY OF PHILANAGNOSIA THROUGH BOOK FAIRS IN THE POST COVID-19 ERA

1.1 Learning from the Virtual Seminars

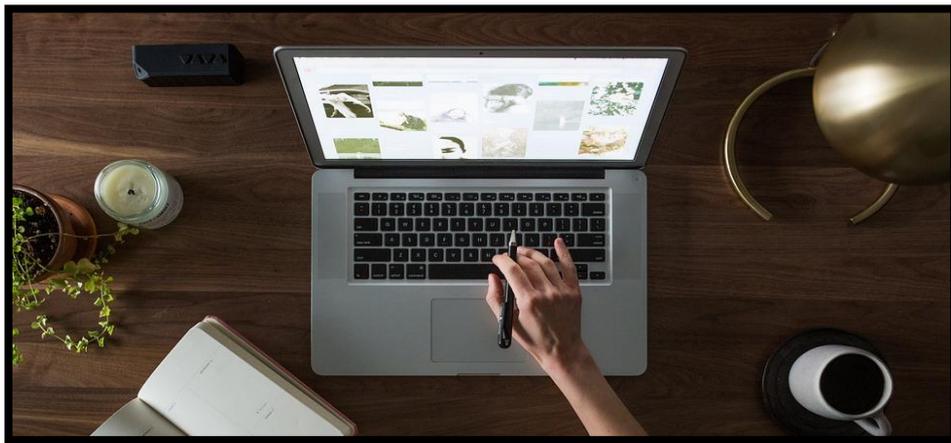
Attending the Virtual Seminars can be very effective if you want to develop your skills as a Lit. Mentor, as it is not only short, but also provides useful knowledge that can help you develop both personally and professionally. However, like any training program and knowledge process it requires different skills such as speed of learning as well as the ability to accurately remember the information you learn, recall it later and use it effectively in a wide variety of situations. For this reason, we provide you with tips and tricks to help you become a better learner and absorb the information more effectively.



1.1.1 How to prepare for the Virtual Seminars

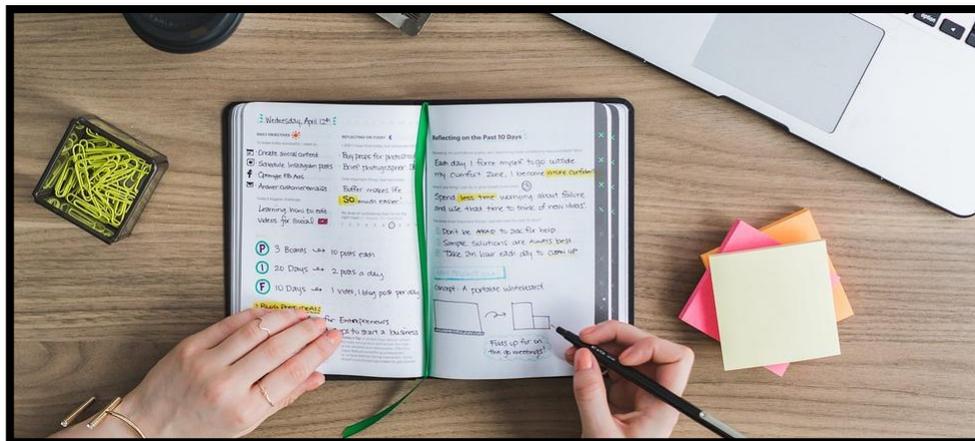
1. Do your research

Of course, you are not expected to have strong knowledge in all these particular fields, but a little preliminary research would be very beneficial to you. By knowing some basic information about the topics presented, you will feel more confident and be able to engage more with the course.



2. Gather your questions

If you have any questions regarding interculturalism, philanagnosia or lifelong learning, write them down. In this way, you will have all the time you need to gather your thoughts and highlight your knowledge gaps.



3. Organize the required materials

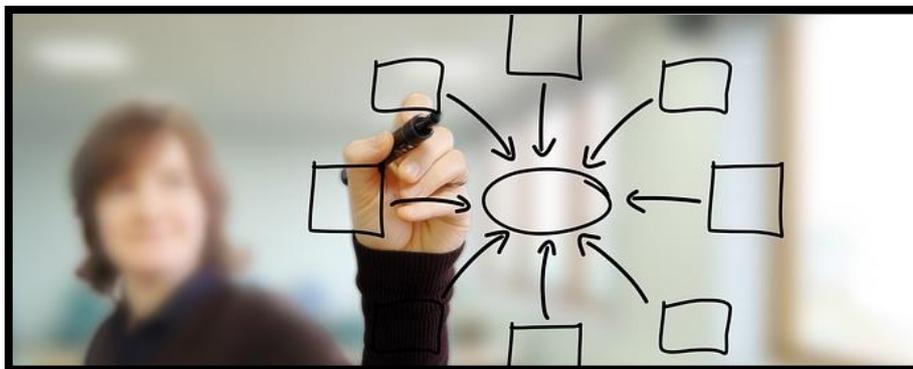
As in every training course, here too you will need note taking materials, electronic devices or good internet connection and anything else that can help you during the virtual seminar. So, be sure that you have all the required materials by organizing them from the beginning.



1.1.2 How to attend the Virtual Seminars

► **Have a clear idea of what you would like to get from it -**

Think about how the content fits with your personal development plan and your other objectives. Then, write down some objectives for the course.



- ▶ **Get Involved** - Many training courses (including ours) are designed to be interactive, meaning that it includes case studies, videos and assessments. The only way to get the best from this is to actively get involved.



- ▶ **Reflect** - Don't head back to your everyday ways, expecting things to change immediately. Take some time to consider what your approach to change will be. Most courses (including ours) will provide some time for action planning allowing this reflection to happen. Having a discussion with your reading club members is a really good way of doing this.



1.1.3 How to get the most out of the Virtual Seminars after it ends

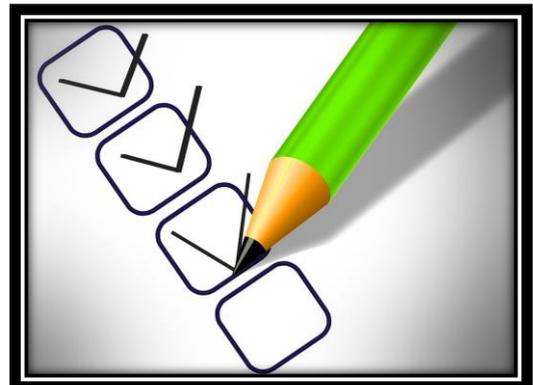
Develop a written action plan



At the end of the Virtual Seminars , it may be tempting to close the laptop and get some rest. Before you do, take a few moments to make some notes and outline an action plan (even include some deadlines for yourself) for how you will approach implementing your learnings from the course to your reading club. Organizing your thoughts while the content is still fresh in your short-term memory is a lot easier than trying to recall your ideas a few days later.

Evaluate the Learning Objectives

One of the most important things after completing the Virtual Seminars is to evaluate whether they were indeed effective. At this point you should go back to the objectives you had predefined at the beginning of the training. These objectives will have a twofold impact on the learning process: the first is that they will help you to identify the precise knowledge you received during the seminars, and the second is that through them you will understand how you can apply this knowledge practically, in your reading club.



Extra tips: How to Become a More Effective Learner

1. Be excited

Do not give in to a lack of enthusiasm. You do not have to look for what the Virtual Seminars can give you, but look for the exciting thing about each seminar. You will find that the material is much easier to learn. You do not need to "memorize" things that are exciting. You remember them automatically.

2. Learn in depth

Understand why you learn and what you learn. It is important to know your studies. Connect it with your practical life. Get real-life examples. Do not memorize it blindly. Create an image of the event.

3. Avoid distractions

When attendign the Virtual Seminars , close all distractions. Turn off music, do not text, do not log in social media. You need to focus exclusively on the material in front of you.

4. Set clear goals and plan how to achieve them

Set clear goals and set a plan. Find out what you want and find out how to get it. Use the knowledge you have acquired to develop a strong strategy.

1.2 How to apply the knowledge to you reading clubs

After attending the Virtual Seminars , you are now ready to use this knowledge to transform your reading clubs. During the seminars, you've gathered a wealth of information and it's now time to put it into practice. However, theory is much more different than application, especially when trying to carve out a new mindset, culture or upskilling process in an adult group. Therefore, we have put together here some tips that you can use in order to create a strong and positive atmosphere within your reading club, preparing it for receiving and processing new ideas.

1.2.1 Introduction

Before you introduce any new topic, idea or skill to be developed in the reading club, make sure you present its outline in a very clear way. This part is of great importance as it will help you capture the attention of members and provide the basis for effective integration of new practices.

A good introduction should:

- ▶ Provide a description of the topic and the main points to be covered
- ▶ Provide relevance to what you are doing in the reading club
- ▶ Provide the aim of the new elements and their significance

1.2.2 Warm-ups, energizers and ice-breaking activities

Warm-ups/ energizers and ice-breaking activities are means used in any team in order to encourage participation and interaction. These activities can be used also in a reading club to bring the team together and start your sessions in a positive note.

How to implement them successfully

- ▶ Do your research and choose activities that correspond to your members' needs and personal traits. Preferably link them to the new practice you want to introduce or to the book you had to read in each session.
- ▶ be prepared and completely understand the steps involved so that clear directions can be given.
- ▶ If icebreakers require a large group to split into smaller groups, it's recommended to split the groups first, then give instructions
- ▶ If possible, engage in the activities with the members. This builds a sense of community and eliminates barriers between the coordinator and the members.

1.2.3 Case studies

Case studies are a great mean of introducing new topics to discuss with your team. You can use the ones from the Virtual Seminars or you can make your own research and find new ones. You can either create one yourself if you wish. Case studies offer many ways of use depending on the team, the time, the resources available, and the topic of the case study. Below are suggestions for the application of case studies in the reading clubs.

How to use case studies

- ▶ Discussion: the case is presented to the members, either on the spot for immediate discussion, reflecting a real-life situation, or as a preparatory discussion for a later session. The discussion itself can take place in the whole group or else the club can be divided into smaller groups, each of which will analyze the case and present their findings to the wider group.
- ▶ Role-playing: the case study can be presented in its entirety or part of it as a role-play. Discussion and analysis will follow through the role play, in the form of a review.
- ▶ Interviews: this is a fun game even for adults. Here, members receive only a portion of the information and ask questions to elicit the remaining data needed and provide

their analysis and recommendations. The coordinator or other members can answer the questions.

- ▶ **Assignments:** The case study can be presented as an assignment, with the members being asked to write an analysis and provide recommendations.

1.2.4 Videos

Video from nature is a fantastically accessible medium. The powerful connection that a video production can have with the team makes it an extremely powerful upskilling tool. Has a unique ability to convey complex themes in a way that viewers can really interact and understand well.

How to use videos in your reading club

- ▶ **Introduce the Video to Your Club:** Videos can be a great communication tool, but you can't rely on videos alone to spark a conversation among your team. Before the video is shown, introduce the topics you want members to pay attention to and tailor the content based on your club's needs and interests. By making this brief introduction, you can ensure that all members are engaged and driven in a common direction.
- ▶ **Watch the Video:** Once you have introduced the video content, you should be able to watch it in its entirety without interruption. If a member needs to ask a question about it, be sure to pause the video and explain the content thoroughly, but always try to avoid too many breaks. Constant interruption will break the concentration of the members and commitment to the video content will be lost. A good way to keep your group focused is to give them mentally stimulating tasks to perform during the videos.
- ▶ **Reflect and Discuss the Content of the Video:** Try to leave enough time for a thought-provoking discussion when the video is over. If you can encourage discussion and reflection on the topics covered in the video, you can ensure that the club members will reinforce the knowledge they have just received. If you watch a video at the end of the club meeting, plan a short simple homework assignment with your group to return to at the next meeting to ensure that the messages in the video have been fully understood.



Chapter 2. Descriptions of the ICT Tools

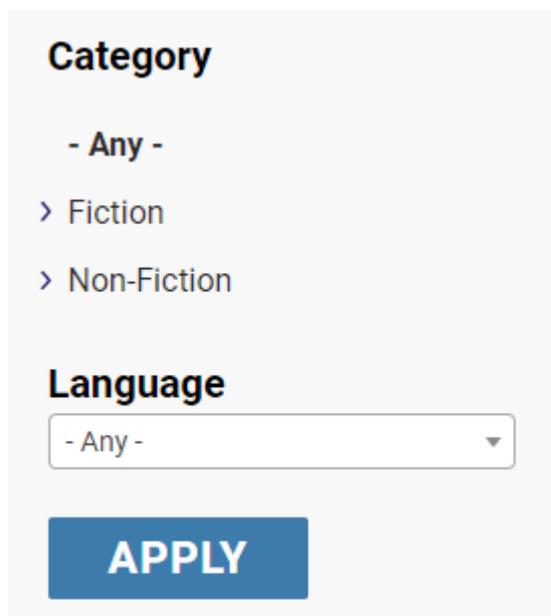
Introduction

The ReadINClubDigital platform unites the features of an easy-to-use professional social community website and an informative educational website. Visitors can search for books that they can read more about or reading clubs that they can join, while registered members can utilize the advantages of creating and operating reading clubs and manage club discussions online. Using the platform means removing all physical and geographical and cultural barriers that might separate people who love culture and reading. In the following section we present its functions and possible activities that can be performed here.

2.1 How to use READ-IN CluB Digital Platfom

Visitors may:

- Browse the clubs by clicking on Reading clubs in the main menu. They can filter reading clubs by category and language in the left sidebar:



Category

- Any -

> Fiction

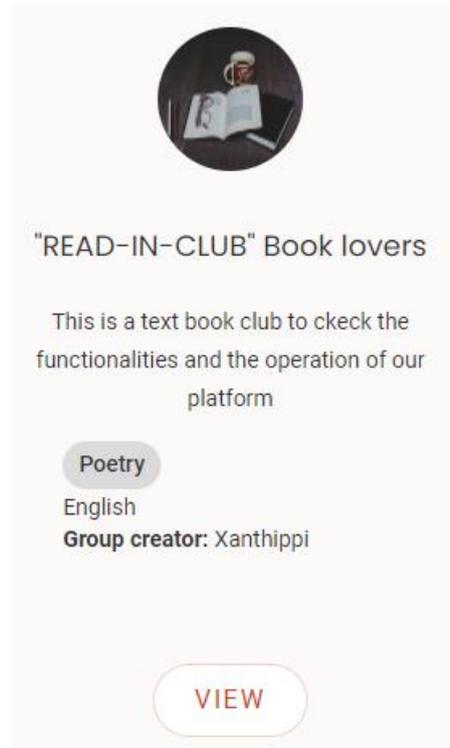
> Non-Fiction

Language

- Any -

APPLY

- View the profile of each club by clicking on the **View** button:



- view the books assigned to the club, by clicking on **Books** in the sidebar of the club's profile page,



- view the webpage of a book by clicking on its title,
- view the author's profile page with all the books written by that author, by clicking on **Read more** under the description of the author, in the right sidebar of the webpage of a book:

About the author

Default Author

Default Author was born in Default City, Default Country on Default Date. Not much is known about Default Author's childhood, but it is known that they were an avid reader and loved writing stories from a young age. Default Author attended Default University, where they studied Default Subject.

It was during their time at university that Default Author wrote their first novel, Default Book. The novel was an instant success, and launched Default Author's career as a writer. Default Author has since gone on to write many more novels, all of which have been widely praised by critics and loved by fans.

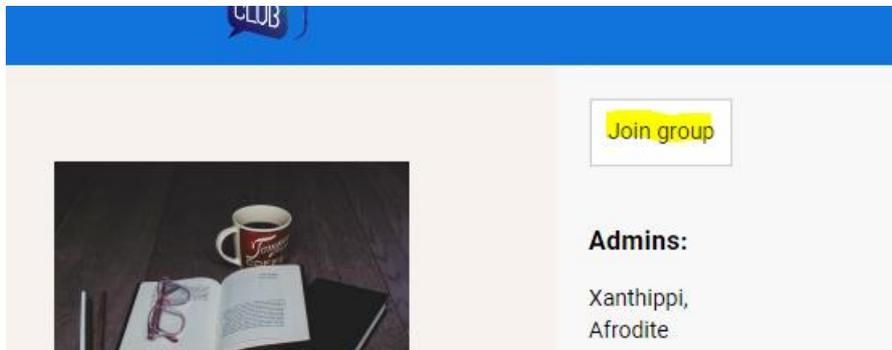
[Read more...](#)

- register by clicking on **Sign up** at the right of the menu bar:

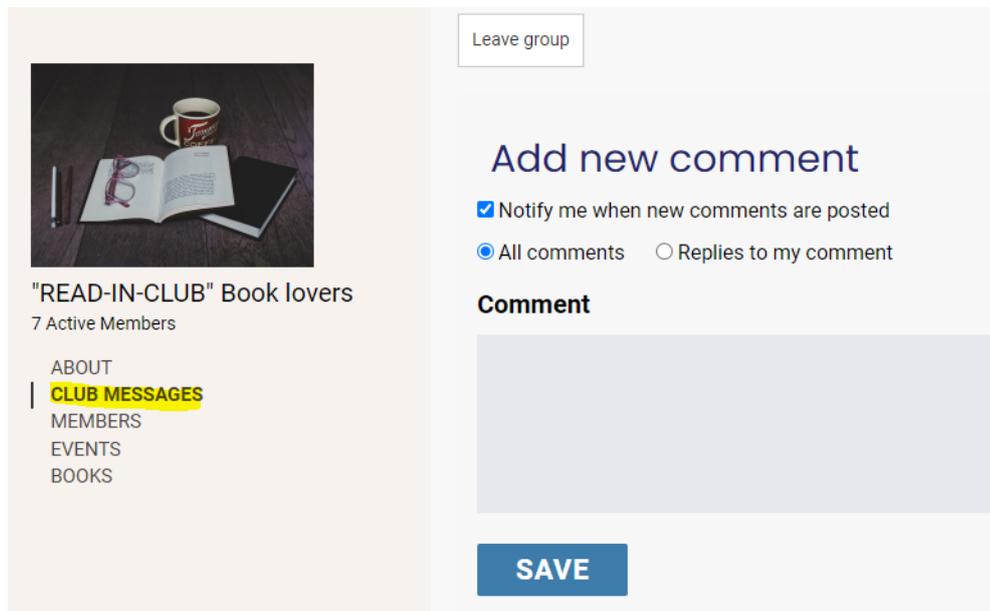


Registered users may also:

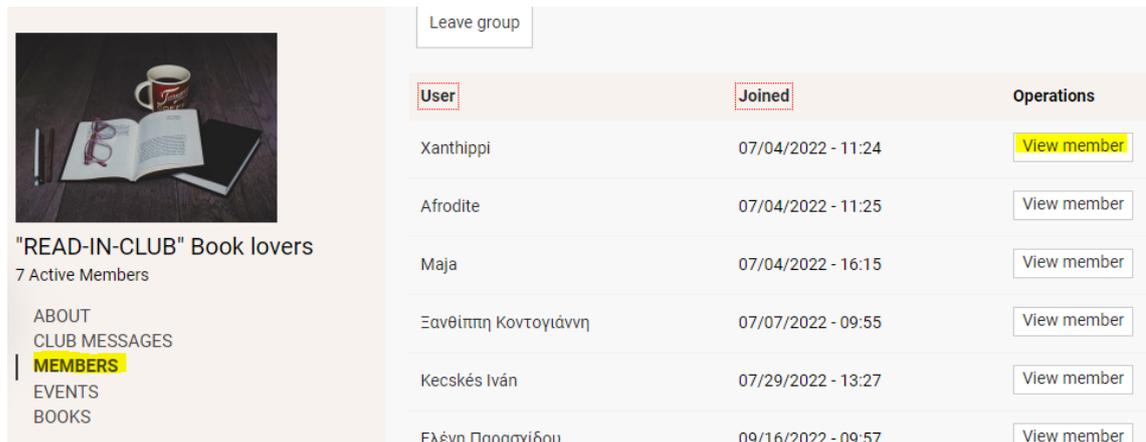
- join the clubs by clicking on the **Join Group** button on the profile page of a club:



- then click on **Club Messages** in the left sidebar of the club's profile page and read and join the conversations in the clubs:



- view the list of the club members by clicking on the **Members** menu in the left sidebar of the club's profile page, then click on the **View member** button next to each member to view their profiles:



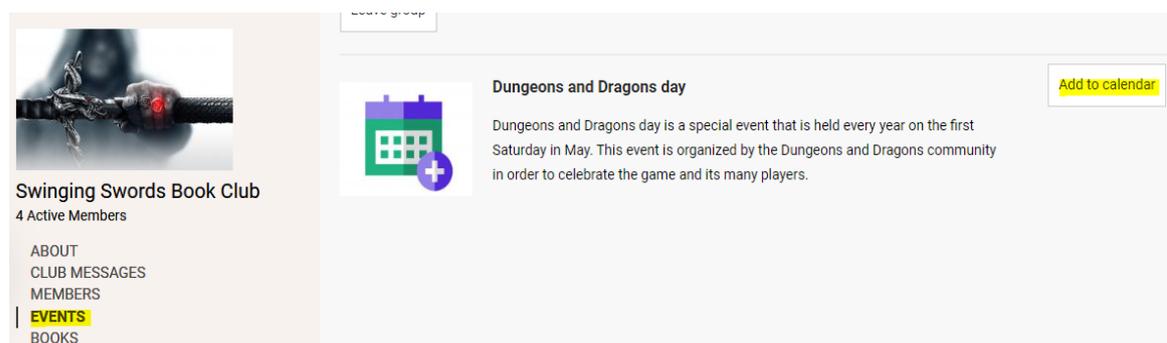
"READ-IN-CLUB" Book lovers
7 Active Members

ABOUT
CLUB MESSAGES
MEMBERS
EVENTS
BOOKS

Leave group

User	Joined	Operations
Xanthippi	07/04/2022 - 11:24	View member
Afrodite	07/04/2022 - 11:25	View member
Maja	07/04/2022 - 16:15	View member
Ξανθήπιη Κοντογιάννη	07/07/2022 - 09:55	View member
Kecskés Iván	07/29/2022 - 13:27	View member
Ελένη Παρασχιδου	09/16/2022 - 09:57	View member

- view club-related events by clicking on **Events** in the left sidebar of the club page, and to add events to their own calendars,



Swinging Swords Book Club
4 Active Members

ABOUT
CLUB MESSAGES
MEMBERS
EVENTS
BOOKS

Leave group

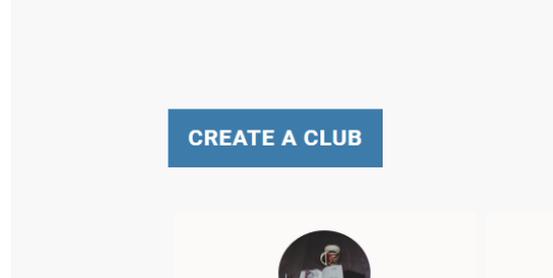


Dungeons and Dragons day [Add to calendar](#)

Dungeons and Dragons day is a special event that is held every year on the first Saturday in May. This event is organized by the Dungeons and Dragons community in order to celebrate the game and its many players.

- create a club by clicking on the **Create a Club** button on the Reading clubs page:

your favourite reads. Plus, it's a great way to discover new books across. So why not give it a try? You might just find your new f



- join the conversations about each book, in the Comments section under the book descriptions:

whether the poem implies a broader background, often a mythical landscape, or whether the poem is interwoven into an arch of associations. Reading Veronika Dintinjana's poetry is a profound, fulfilling but also inexhaustible activity.

Comments

Tommy James - Hello???

Reply

2 months 1 week ago

Add new comment

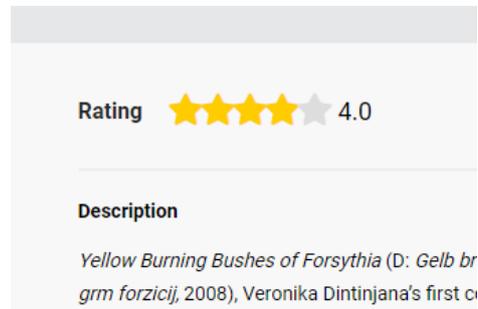
Notify me when new comments are posted

All comments Replies to my comment

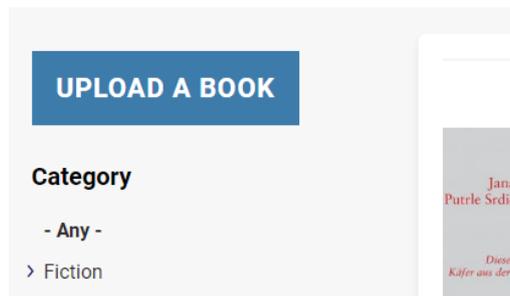
Comment *

SAVE

- rate books by clicking on the stars under their title on their web pages:

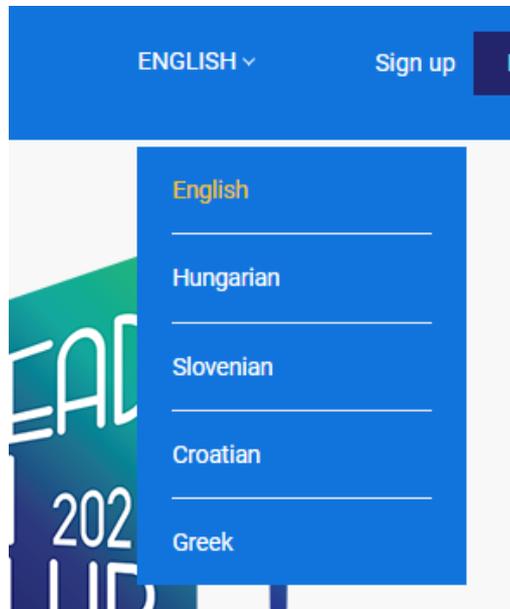


- add new books and authors, by clicking on the **Upload a book** button on the Books page:



- When uploading a book, users create a piece of content within the website.

- The language of the content will be the language selected in the language selector in the top right corner:



- The language of the book itself may be different from the language of the content—the language of the book can be specified when uploading the book, by selecting a language from the **Book's language** drop-down:

Book's language

- None -

The language the book has been written in

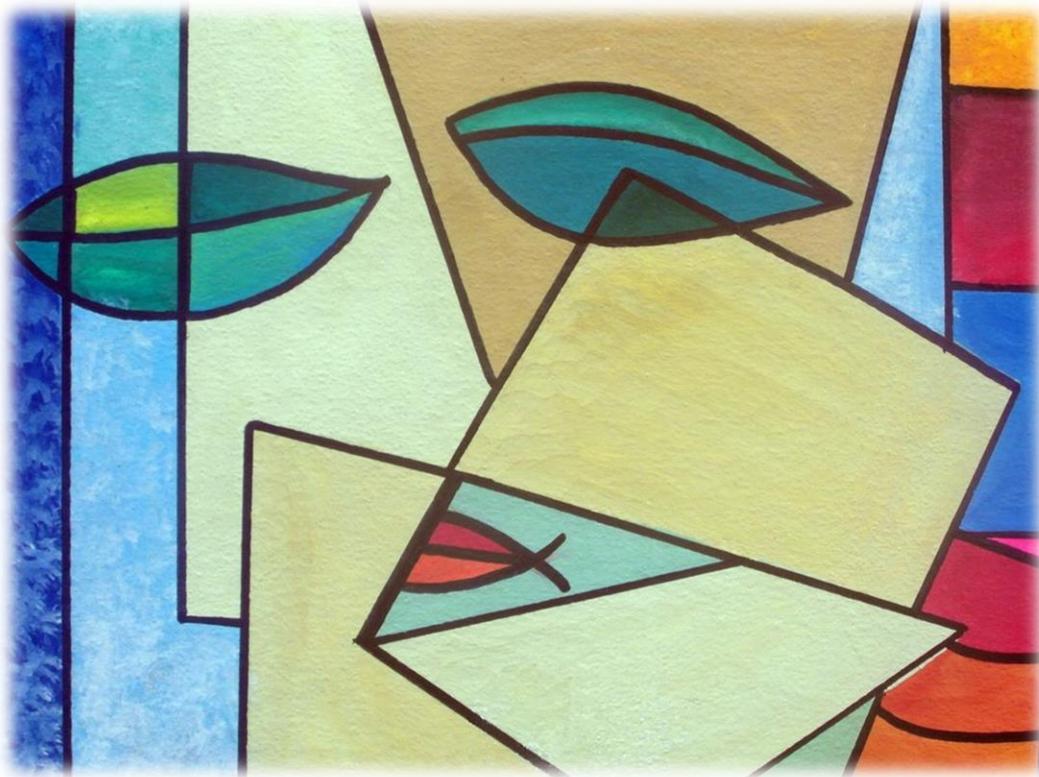
- The language of the content determines the language in which the book will appear in the list of books when you browse the site.
- The language you set for the book will be used when filtering the list of books found.

Chapter 3. Exemplary scenarios guidelines for reading clubs

Introduction

In this chapter we will explore good practices and guidelines that can be useful for running reading clubs. The practices cover a wide geographical area, with countries across Europe and worldwide, demonstrating that reading clubs are ceasing to be a leisure hobby and becoming a great tool for promoting interculturalism and inclusion.

It is important for every reading club to realize the potential and opportunities available to it and to use its resources to achieve a broader, societal goal and vision. Reading club members are a special group, sharing views and ideas, exchanging experiences and discussing at length different perceptions and understandings of a book. Diversity is an integral part of a reading club and it is important that it is consciously perceived in order to be promoted and valued. Below are some examples of literacy activities from which we can draw inspiration for our own reading club.



© Terence Jackson

Facts...

Besides the main activity of reading and discussing books, the members of the Multicultural Women's Book Group organise activities to build relationships with each other. These activities include attending lectures together, meeting for dinner, hiking, bowling, etc.

Find out more: <https://www.mwbgdallas.com/>

3.1 Multicultural Women's Book Group (MWBG) of Dallas

The aim of the **Multicultural Women's Book Group (MWBG) of Dallas** is to foster understanding and connection among its community through reading. The members of the group meet every month to read and talk about books that promote diversity in all its forms — race, ethnicity, age, culture, perspective, religion, sexual orientation, education.

The main focus of the Multicultural Women's Book Group is to increase understanding of the "other" regardless of race, ethnicity, culture or religion and to **promote cultural diversity**.

Based on the themes that are discussed in the books the members of the reading club share relevant personal experiences. The moderators of the reading club use the themes of fiction and non-fiction books to set difficult issues for exploration and conversation between its members, such as intercultural understanding and diversity.



® Multicultural Women's Book Group

Lessons learned...

It fosters intercultural understanding/understanding of the “other” highlighting the common features and similarities that cultures of Balkan countries share.

Find out more:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/640924342730846>

3.2 Reading Club of Komotini

The main focus of the Reading Club of Komotini concentrates on Balkan countries' literature aiming to get people familiarized with the cultures of a region which is characterized by many conflicts throughout the years but has also many common features between its nations. The members of the reading club meet in the Municipal Library of Komotini once a month.

During the year 2022-2023 the theme they are examining is : “Knowing the Balkans Through their Literature”. In this context they are reading books of Greek, Albanian, Bulgarian, Serbian and Turkish literature. Additional to that, they have organized lectures and presentations (open to the public) by university professors in the fields of History, Anthropology and Literature on topics relevant to the Balkan cultures and the intercultural dialogue between them.

The aim of this practice is the understanding of the Balkan identity through reading.

Reasons for this activity- How did it originate

The Balkans is a region with special characteristics and great geopolitical and historical significance and consists of an admixture of cultures with both similarities and differences. Although, its literature is not very well-known to the broader public. Through this practice the members of the Reading club of Komotini seek to investigate how the Balkan identity was formed in this particular context.



® Reading Club of Komotini

Lessons learned...

This example shows how the process of reading can get people from different social, educational or cultural backgrounds together, encourage them to express ideas and feelings and form relationships with other people who may seem different to them at first sight but in fact they share many common features

Find out more:

<https://www.sietar.bc.ca/events/sietar-book-club-launch>

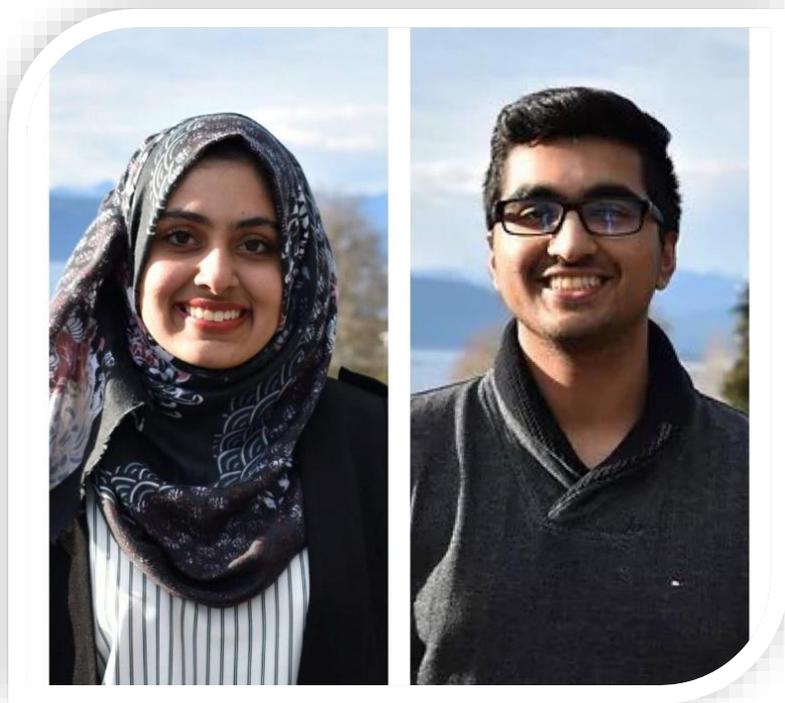
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/376239476992896>

3.3 SIETAR BC Reading club

The SIETAR BC Reading club is part of the Society for Intercultural Education, Training and Research (SIETAR). The SIETAR organization aims to advance cultural competency and racial literacy and to foster inclusivity and cross-cultural relationships. Among its several activities it has also launched the SIETAR Reading club to promote intercultural dialogue and understanding of the “other”.

The SIETAR Reading club addresses people from different social and cultural backgrounds who love books and reading but are also interested in different cultures.

The members of the club meet and read both fiction and non-fiction books related to various themes such as women’s rights, people with disabilities, the LGBTQIA+ community, indigenous heritage etc. In the first meeting of every year the members set the reading club process and make their suggestions.



© SIETAR BC



Facts...

The Club is present on the Internet, with a website and a Facebook group.

They count 135 members and are striving to catch the interest of the younger generation.

There is a need for such civil organizations especially in rural towns or villages that are devoted to preserving and popularizing local historical and cultural values for youngsters.

Find out more:

<https://szoboszloolvasok.or.hu/>

3.4 HAJDÚSZOBOSZLÓI POLGÁRI OLVASÓKÖR

The aim of the organization is to strengthen the spirit of their hometown, Hajdúszoboszló, based on the traditions of the flourishing readership movement that used to operate in the city for more than 100 years as well as the cultivation of local and national knowledge, education for patriotism regardless of parties and ideological currents.

The Club's predecessor, the thriving readership in the town functioned as a civil organization supporting public education during the era of urbanization. Based on this, the Club serves as a community that takes account of the city's values and presents them through lectures, making them come alive at events.

Above these, the Club organizes specific cultural events like for example, a reading marathon, it invites speakers of public interest topics. The Club organizes writer-reader meetings regularly and invites students to the events for reciting poetry.

Sometimes the Club installs exhibitions related to some actual topics.



® Hajdúszoboszlói Polgári Olvasókör

Facts...

The Club regards it a very important task to involve the youth in the work of the readership and it has more than 20 core member.

Find out more:
<https://matyasutcaiolasokor.hu/>

3.5 Mátyás Utcai Olvasókör

The Club started operation in 1905. It organizes community programs, celebrations, competitions, tries to keep the traditions alive. It organizes trips to historical places to commemorate historical events and keeps in touch with Hungarians living beyond the border

Being convinced that modernization of the IT equipment of the reading circle also serves to raise the operational level the Club had a successful proposal for the Hungarian Government and was funded by more than 3 million HUF to update their technical equipment. Among others, they built in an air condition system to make their events more appealing and convenient.



© Mátyás Utcai Olvasókör

Facts...

Many times a session is offered to discuss actual topics of public interest.

The club also operates on Facebook.

Find out more:

<http://konyvtar.veresegyhaz.hu/node/994>

3.6 MÉLYOLVASÓ KLUB



® Freepik

The Club is related to the public library operating in a rural town in the agglomeration of Budapest. It organizes “deep reading” sessions on the last Wednesday of each month.

The number of members is usually fluctuating.

Club members are also entitled to participate in author-reader encounters organized regularly as well as film club sessions where they can discuss about the film seen in the presence of a qualified critic or film esthete.



® Mélyolvasó Klub

Lessons learned...

Reading clubs and reading groups can significantly contribute towards the social inclusion agenda within society.

Find out more:

<https://www.knjiznica-velenje.si/za-odrasle/>

3.7 Moč branja (The Power of Reading), a reading club for adults

The reading club operates under the auspicious of the Velenje Library. Adults who are no longer regularly employed, pensioners, adults with special needs (blind, visually impaired, deaf, physically challenged, etc.), unemployed, etc., are especially invited to join the club. The purpose of the club, in addition to getting to know the world of literature, is to involve people in public life, especially those who find it difficult to get involved and expand their social network.



® Velenje Library

The reading group has been operating since 2016. It is held once a month in the morning hours. At the beginning of the meeting, the two moderators prepare a presentation of the selected author and his oeuvre, then they focus on the selected title of which is agreed upon at the previous meeting, and read a few excerpts, which they then discuss with the participants. They raise a topic and debate it.

At the end of the meeting, the members agree on a book to read or discussed at the next monthly meeting. The reading club also established cooperation with the local elderly home.

Lessons learned...

This example shows the importance of the reading clubs for the social inclusion. Reading clubs and reading groups can take place in different ways, so everyone can find a suitable format for hanging out with a book and socializing with the others.

Find out more: <https://silentbook.club/pages/about-us>

3.8 Silent Reading club

Silent Reading club is a global community of readers and introverts, with 300 chapters around the world led by local volunteers. SBC members gather in person and online to read together in quiet camaraderie.

Silent Reading club started in 2012 with a couple of friends—Guinevere de la Mare and Laura Gluhanich—reading in companionable silence at their neighborhood bar in San Francisco. They believe that reading with friends enriches our lives and makes us happy and it's important to put down our phones and be social. Silent Reading club is about community. Everyone is welcome, and anyone can join or launch a chapter. Members meet up at a bar, a library, a bookstore or any venue that will host them. Once the bell rings, silent reading time commences. After an hour, the bell rings again. The designated silent time and built-in conversation topic make for a safe space in which introverted individuals can feel comfortable.



© Silent Reading club

Lessons learned...

This example shows an innovative model of active participation of different stakeholders of the book industry that resulted in a successful project that is addressing reading communities with members of various needs.

Find out more:

<http://www.knjiznicapodkrosnjami.si/en/>

3.9 Knjižnica pod krošnjami / Library under the Treetops

In Library under the Treetops people can read, browse through books and relax in pleasantly dense shades on city lawns, in stairwells and courtyards. The reading islands spring up all over Slovenia, conquer mountains, and in some places even proudly peek over the borders. The Library under the Treetops invites the readers to venture into the pleasant shade, exciting letters, colourful languages, ideas, thoughts, and to enjoy the ever-good company of the treetops' soothing embrace.



© Knjižnica pod krošnjami

The Library under the Treetops is a project of the Divja Misel institute which runs among others the coordination office as part of the permanently acquired title Ljubljana, UNESCO City of Literature. The Library under the Treetops is a protected brand that already for 18 years connects a multitude of diverse committed organizations and individuals. With an imaginative and attractive infrastructure, a well-thought-out choice of locations, and a selection of quality literature, they establish recognizable free reading islands in the capital, throughout Slovenia, and abroad. The books and periodicals on the shelves of this outdoor library are almost entirely donated by many publishing and newspaper houses, which support the project with new, current editions every year. The books are selected with a great deal of care. The library strives to promote quality literature and design the content of each unit with the space and diverse visitors in mind. Among the collected books, newspapers and magazines, all genres and many formats are represented, especially those best suited to the quiet environments of the chosen urban areas.

Facts...

If you're looking for evidence and ways to respond to those who firmly believe that men and women are born so different that inequalities between us are, at some point, inevitable (or if you believe so, more or less firmly, and you), this is the reading club that will help you see your arguments and opinions in a different perspective.

Find out more:
<https://womenontop.gr/sto-rafi-book-club/>

3.10 On the shelf Reading club by Women on Top

In January 2020, Women On Top launched a new initiative - a project they have been planning for a long time and is for them the best way to launch a new year of networking, training, mutual support, creativity and meaningful impact: the "On the Shelf" reading club.



® On the shelf Reading club

At the beginning of each month they will recommend to club members a book, usually non-fiction, usually related to women's empowerment and equality in public life. At the end of the month, they will invite you to the welcoming space of the Equality and Gender Library, to exchange views about the book, to discuss the issues it deals with, to talk to people related to its creation or thematic, to discover more books together and create a community where their love of books meets their vision for the equal participation of women and men in all aspects of our lives.

Women On Top is an inclusive organization and they are particularly happy to have women, men and non-binary people with them in their actions, who are interested in the issues that touch them most: equality in public life, the future of work, empowering women and others who are discriminated against at work because of their gender, work/life balance, highlighting alternative leadership models, inclusion and diversity in education.

Facts...

There's no cost to join, which is definitely something. To become a member, you simply download the 'Reese's Reading club' app and set up your profile.

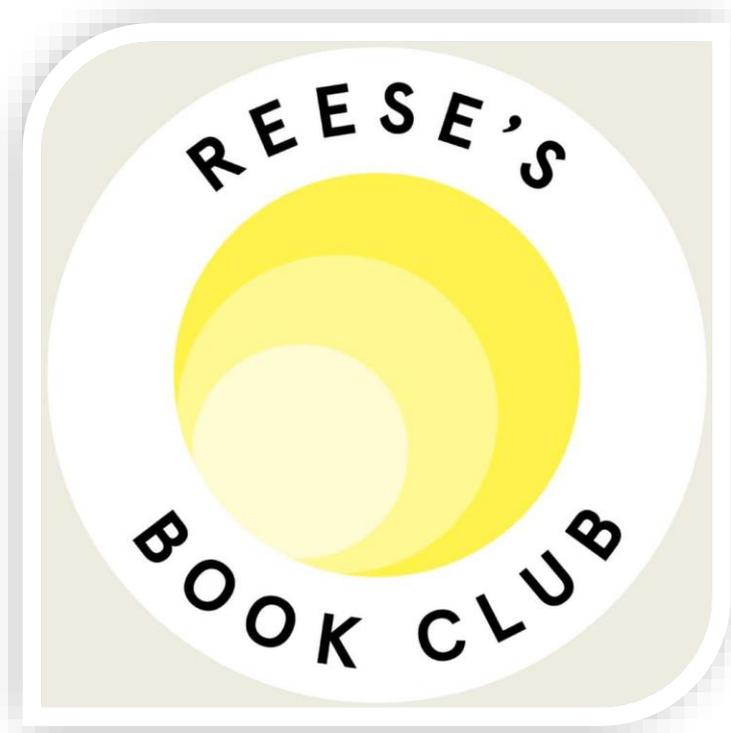
Reese Witherspoon was inspired to create Hello Sunshine because of her deep passion for telling women's stories and connecting women through storytelling.

Find out more:
<https://reesesbookclub.com/>

3.11 Reese's Reading club

Each month, Reese Witherspoon, the founder (and book-lover-in-chief) chooses a book with a woman at the center of the story. There's not a formula to the books they spotlight, and they like it that way. They make their choices thoughtfully and look for ways to deepen their connection to books, authors and themselves.

Reese Witherspoon started her reading club in 2017 and currently ranks as one of the most popular celebrity reading clubs today. She focuses on women authors and picks a variety of genres from literary fiction, romance, thrillers, and even some nonfiction too. The Home Again actress picks one book that celebrates female protagonists, both real and fictional, and then shares said novel with her club every month. Picks are announced on the first Tuesday of each month. According to Sarah Harden, the CEO of Hello Sunshine, Reese picks each book herself. To become a Reese pick, the narrative must center on a woman and it must give readers hope.



© Reese's Reading club

Facts...

PYRNA is governed by the General Assembly of the Founding Members and a seven-member Board of Directors. Its work is self-financed and relies on the participation of members and friends, sponsorships and voluntary work.

Besides the main activity of reading and discussing books, the members of the PYRNA organize donations and other ways of supporting refugees and people suffering from poverty and lack of education.

Find out more: <https://www.pyrna.gr/>

3.12 PYRNA Reading Club

PYRNA is an urban cultural company with the aim of lifelong learning and personal development, and is in its 26th year of operation. On its roof, a single-family house with a garden in Kifisia, Athens, there are daily talks, workshops, screenings, while creative activities await the children. Pyrna's lectures and workshops are mainly held online through a tele-education platform due to the pandemic, while the Art Workshop and book presentations take place in person at Pyrna's premises. Along with their personal development, they created an important public benefit project at PYRNA.



® PYRNA

Since 2015, PYRNA has stood by the refugees. At the beginning with shipments of basic necessities and, since 2016, with the cooperation of the Refugee Education Management Group of the Ministry of Education, in the field of education, the only way for smooth integration of children in their new environment. To date they have formed and equipped six kindergartens in Refugee Reception Centers and they are continuing. Athenian high school and high school students voluntarily participate in these actions, gaining valuable life experiences.

PYRNA is funded by subscriptions and donations from members and friends. BOOKS ON WHEELS started with a donor, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, and continued with sponsorships from foundations, companies and organizations.





READ-IN-CLUB: READ-ING for CuLtUres across Borders



Društvo slovenskih pisateljev
Slovene Writers' Association



HELLENIC
FOUNDATION FOR
CULTURE



institute of
Entrepreneurship
Development



ITSTUDY
Oktató- és Kutatóközpont

Sandorf

For more information, see <https://www.readinclub.eu/en/about>

