



# Case Study Social Entrepreneurship: Scaling and Financing of a Social Innovation

**Business Model, Social Impact, Financing** 





"SchulePLUS significantly facilitates teacher 's search for high quality offers for everyday activities, lectures or project days. The goal is to provide a tool with transparent and accessible offers for teachers and cooperation partners"

Greeting at the Education Ministry Conference Udo Michallik, General Secretary of the Education Ministry Conference

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# Summary



SchulePLUS connects schools with regional medium-sized business, cultural institutions, experts and sport clubs through a social online-network tool.

This significantly facilitates teacher's search for local offers and expertise with the goal to improve to the teaching process (for instance, by use of a virtual pin board). This allows the **pupils to learn better and faster.** Simultaneously, the teachers will experience a higher job-satisfaction and the **burn-out rates will drop**.

Parallel to the free basis-offer, revenues will be generated through **fee-based supplementary offers** (e.g. premium profiles for companies). After a **successful 8-month-piloting** in Berlin, **45% of Berlin schools** are already active on the platform. For the German-wide roll-out **TEUR 450 is needed**.





## The Social Problem



#### The Social Problem: Structural overburdening of schools

SchulePLUS responds to the latest development in the educational scene: Global networking, change into a media based knowledge-society with socio-cultural heterogeneity describes the challenges for the modern schools. The schools are not sufficiently prepared for these changes and the results are unsatisfactory learning results and a strikingly high burn-out danger for teachers. The modern school needs to adapt and change into a multi-professional school – it has to provide a learning environment adapted to these changes. The goal is to:

- Make it easier for teachers to deliver a varied and modern learning structure –meeting the societal changes,
- Improve the learning results of the pupils,
- Bring the companies closer to the pupils and thus secure skilled young talent long-term.

## The Solution



SchulePLUS is a social network for all schools and all who makes offers to schools – businesses, educational providers, replacement teachers, non-profit organisations, volunteers and many others. There is no comparable online-network available in Germany. SchulePLUS solves four central problems in the school-cooperations:

- How can I easily, fast and efficiently find suitable school cooperations? With a notice on the pin board at SchulePLUS!
- How can it be guaranteed that my information will reach the people who might have an interest in them? With the theme rooms at SchulePLUS!
- How can I communicate successfully with teachers, who are mostly unreachable during the day and who rarely have a job-related email addresses? With the private messenger function at SchulePLUS!
- How can pupils be given direct access to sparetime activity offers as well as internship- and training offers? How can teachers prepare their pupils for the real working life through interactivity in the classrooms? With the pupil's world at SchulePLUS (in development)!





# The Social Entrepreneur and his Mission



#### Robert Greve - Initiator, Founder and Chief Executive

During his teacher training, Robert Greve founded his first social business SWiM Bildung. Since 2007, he is bringing teacher students directly to the pupils in order to train key qualifications in group workshops. SWiM Bildung is active in four German states ("Bundesländer") and employs 30 people. Since 2007, SWiM Bildung is generating positive annual results. In order to make schools even more flexible, Robert Greve simultaneously planned SchulePLUS. Through the financial support of Ashoka, it has been possible for Robert Greve to concentrate fully on the development of SchulePLUS since 2013.



Robert Greve is supported by a strong team with Julian Fürstenau, Christian Johann, Johanne Rothe, Anna Görg and Vasja Laharnar.



# Social Impact



The goal of SchulePLUS is to promote the concept of multi-professional schools. The targets of SchulePLUS are:

- By 2016, 5% of all teachers in Germany shall use SchulePLUS, by 2018 this number shall increase to 10%,
- Every participating school shall on average enter into five school partnerships annually via SchulePLUS.

The pupil's learning results should improve, the burn-out rate among teachers should drop. The social impact of the multi-professional school shall be measured on these two key performance indicators. For the evaluation SchulePLUS will use the following data:

- Potsdamer teaching study survey of teacher's burn-out rate and,
- The PISA study publishes a report on pupil's performance.

# Results from the 8-month pilot phase in Berlin - 45 % of schools and 750 teachers are active on the platform



**Achievement:** Eight-month piloting results:

45% of the Berlin schools are registered

650
external organisations make offers

**79** successful cooperations were announced

860

offers are currently published

14

organisations offers structural support to SchulePLUS 210

companies use the network

#### Examples:

- Pupils perform the school theatre play prior to the eveningperformance in the theater,
- A group of pupils go on a canoe-trip,
- One school organises a career day with lectures from human resource experts,
- A university organises a students counseling day at a school.

E.g. Vattenfall, Siemens, Deutsche Bahn, Deutsche Post, Dussmann, Deutsche Bank, Tengelmann.

# The Business Model for SchulePLUS is based on the networking of teachers and external service providers

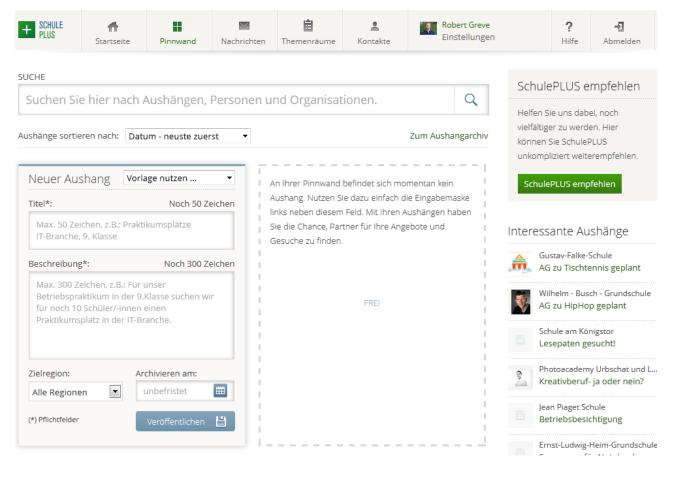




# The Business Model – the Pin Board



# The pin board

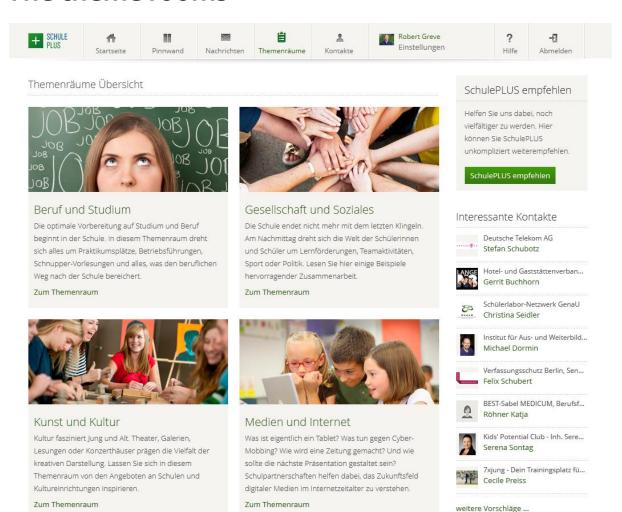


Queries and offers can be published on the pin board.

# The Business Model – the Theme Rooms



#### The theme rooms

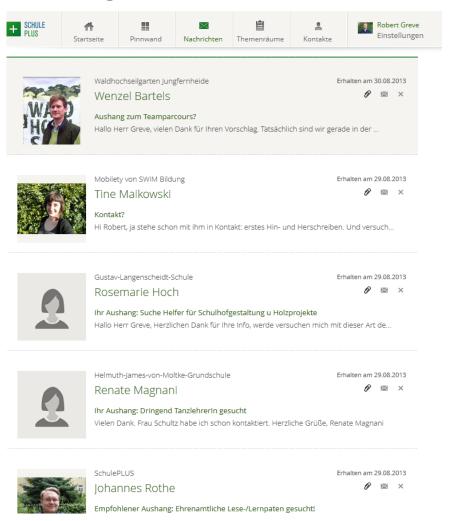


In the theme rooms, the user can comfortably search for offers.

# The Business Model – the Messenger Function



# Messenger function



Example: A teacher has found an offer and can now communicate with the provider through the messenger function.

# The Business Model – the Pupil's World (in development)



## The pupil's world (in development)



In this publicly accessible area, pupils have direct access to the offers from organisations, can contact them directly and download information about e.g. holiday camps, internships, studies, and apprenticeships.

For the pupil's world a new unit is developed to facilitate for teachers to directly work with their pupils on computers at themes such as work orientation. This makes SchulePLUS an integral part of the the work orientation guidance formed both at home and in school.

# SchulePLUS is based on a freemium model with offers both free of charge and fee-based



# Offers and pricing

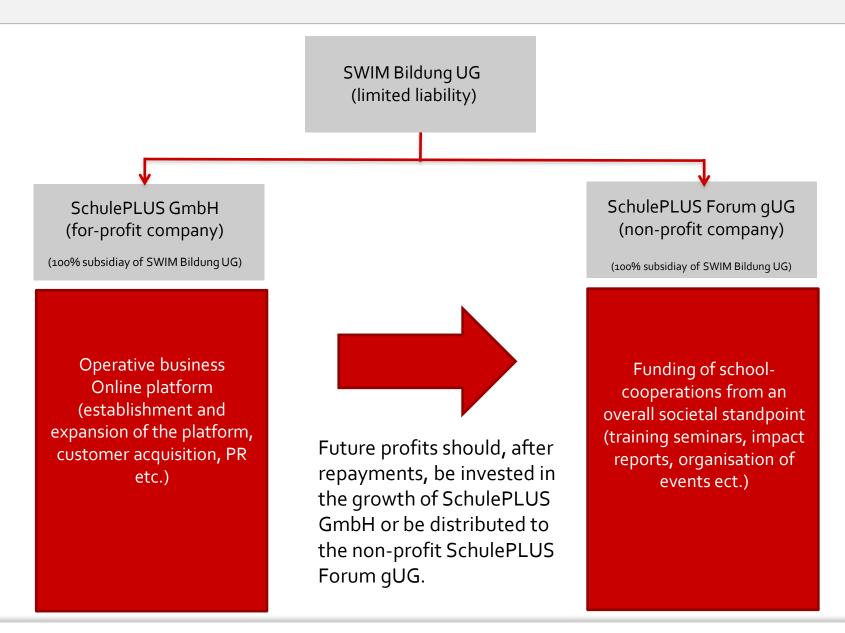
| BASIS            | PROFESSIONAL   | PREMIUM          |
|------------------|--|------------------|
| Recommended for: | Recommended for:  · SMBs  · Educational Provider  · Foundations  · Coaches | Recommended for: |
| Free             | Annual Fee   | Annual Fee       |

Basis Version: The above version

**Professional/Premium:** Extended organisation profile. This allows for an individualised portrayal of the user (company) and makes it possible to bundle the company's activities on school cooperations. It is possible to upload videos, insert a picture gallery, publish existing school partnerships and use an upload-center for information material. Above all the company is visible in the pupil's world.

# The Hybrid Business Model





# The Challenge of Funding



#### Retain sponsors and supporters – attract investors

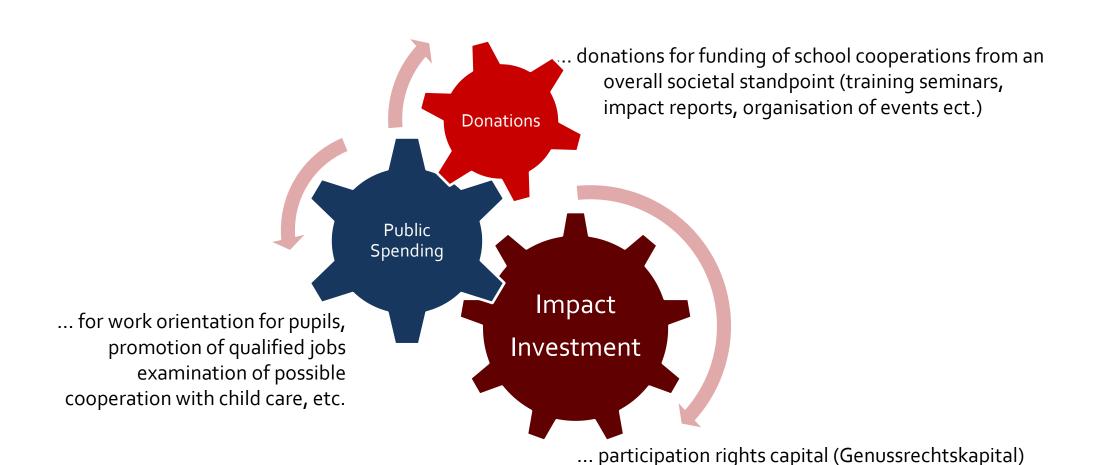
SchulePLUS will build up a solid network of philanthropic supporters, who will contribute to promote school cooperations from an overall societal standpoint –through financing and in an advisory capacity. These includes among others the Ministry of Education, various school-and teachers unions and universities, who in their capacity will contribute to the development, distribution and quality assurance of the SchulePLUS concept . In order to avoid potential conflicts between philanthropic supporters and the for-profit financing activities of SchulePLUS, as well as to achieve **positive synergies**, a hybrid structure has been created; with a for-profit and a non-profit organisation.

This structure allows investors to invest in the for-profit business SchulePLUS GmbH and sponsors may donate to the non-profit gUG. Hence the **hybrid financial structure nurtures and accelerates the social mission - a self-sustaining financing system.** 

SchulePLUS GmbH is organised as a profit-oriented "social business" and will be managed profit orientated. The generated profits will be exclusively invested in the expansion of the business or distributed to the non-profit SchulePLUS Forum gUG.

# The Hybrid Financial Structure





to finance investments in a self-sustainable

business model (SchulePLUS platform with

free and fee-based offers)

# Conditions of Participation Rights Capital



#### The financial model supports the social mission

The mezzanine-financing with conditional revenue participation meets the special demands of the business model, allowing the entrepreneur financial flexibility in early years, when most needed, and allows the investor to participate in the company's success.

The financial structure - participation rights capital with a qualified subordination clause – amounting to €450k and a duration of 7 years, allows the investors to participate in the company's revenues at a predefined percentage. The annual compensation is limited by a cap on the nominal amount, providing the social entrepreneur with the necessary liquidity, especially needed in the first years of its operations. Through limitation of disbursements and the very flexible repayment options valuable liquidity is kept in the company, being used for expansion of the business activities.

Hence the chosen financing instrument and structure substantially supports the **social mission** and the **scaling up of the business model**.

# Financing the New Social Business



#### Participation rights capital with subordination agreement

Structure

 Revenue participation rights capital ("Genussrechtskapital") with qualified subordination clause ("Nachrangabrede"), but without loss participation.

Renumeration

Revenue participation model with an annual variable compensation based on a fixed share of revenues. The annual compensation is limited by a cap on the nominal amount and as compensation, there is a catch-up payment in the end in order to achieve a pre-defined target IRR.

Duration / Repayment Disbursement in two tranches, conditional upon pre defined milestones

Seven year maturity with the option for an early repayment.

Investor rights

- Appropriate information, participation and confirmation rights, but no shareholder rights.
- Establishment of an advisory board with appropriate representation of the investors, supervising and controlling financial and strategic issues.

#### The Investors



Co-investments from a private business angel, an institutional investor and KfW

SchulePLUS was financially supported by a private business angel and an institutional investor. Together their participation accounts approximately 70% of the total financing amount.



The KfW (German Development Bank) offers capital to medium sized and small businesses committed to tackle social problems in Germany through market-based innovative business models. The capital is provided as a coinvestment within the KfW program og1. The KfW covers 30% of the total investment amount.



#### Consulting by FASE and Hogan Lovells

The Financing Agency for Social Entrepreneurship (FASE) consulted Robert Greve in the creation of the business structure and financing model. In addition, the international law firm Hogan Lovells, supported SchulePLUS in all legal matters on a pro bono basis.



# Major Insights



- Social impact and a successful business are neither mutually exclusive, nor exclusively related however in this specific case they are the more successful the social business model, the higher the social impact.
- The higher the social impact of the social business, the more likely it is to attract sponsors and supporters. Social innovations have the potential to redefine a whole sector.
- A hybrid business model (incuding legal structuring) facilitates the combination of various financial instruments creating a self sustaining financial system.
- The mix of investments and philanthropic capital accelerates the social impact.
- Scaling up the concept through a national roll-out allows SchulePLUS to approach the social problem on the whole German market, achieving structural improvements on a larger scale.
- Social entrepreneuers should obtain professional advice, both when preparing for investment readiness and for the financing process itself.

#### Contact



The **Financing Agency for Social Entrepreneurship GmbH (FASE)** was launched by **Ashoka**, to make **growth** for social enterprises financially viable. FASE allows **co-investments** by impact investors and philanthropists through an **open pipeline** of investment ready social entrepreneurs, and develops **innovative financing models** specifically suitable for social enterprises. The objective is to create an **ecosystem** for the financing of social enterprises.

| FASE  | SchulePLUS   |
|---|--|
| Financing Agency of Social Entrepreneurship GmbH Prinzregentenplatz 10 81675 Munich Email: info@fa-se.eu www.fa-se.eu | SchulePLUS GmbH Sachsendamm 93 10829 Berlin E-Mail: robert.greve@schule-plus.de www.schule-plus.de |