Why connection and friendship are the secret ingredients of a successful online business



The challenge:

a sense of isolation and lack of communication

Aliénor wasn't always location independent. So when she made the switch, she realized that the ability to travel and work from anywhere in the world came with a price.

64% of freelancers say they feel lonely. Whether traveling or working from home, most location-independent entrepreneurs agree they miss the sense of connection that comes from working alongside others.



Aliénor Salmon is an independent consultant for the UN, and specializes in education. It is not the usual digital nomad job, and projects can be complex and hard to work on alone.

Aliénor soon found out that being a freelancer can be quite lonely, not just socially but also professionally. Suddenly, she didn't have anyone to bounce ideas off, or get feedback or support. Plus, due to the highly specialized type of work she was doing, finding anyone to collaborate with was almost impossible.



"I wanted to have a community and a support system to help me deal with the difficult situations that come while running an online business, I wanted to meet other people who just get it."

The solution:

an online community for location-independent

Aliénor discovered the DNG Inner Circle in 2019, and decided to give it a try. And it turned out it was exactly what she'd been looking for. A community of like-minded women. The shared experience of on-going learning and support. People who knew being a digital nomad wasn't all about "insta-perfect" pictures or the aspirational 7-figure lifestyle.

While the Inner Circle offered many types of events, including casual chats, coffee roulettes or a book club, Alienor was more attracted towards things like:

- **Coworking:** accountability and companionship to get difficult tasks out of the way quickly, without distractions.
- **Feedback sessions:** collaborative opportunities to bounce ideas off whenever she had a new initiative.
- **Goal setting sessions:** to review the month that had just ended and plan the month ahead.

During these events, Aliénor made new friends, including Laura Puttkamer, a writer passionate about all things urban. They decided to become accountability buddies, meeting weekly on Zoom. Together, they worked through the Expert Packs, mini-courses available through the Inner Circle.

The result:

new business partners and exciting projects

Aliénor and Laura realized they worked really well together. Laura had always wanted to work on a project for the UN, she just didn't know how to get one. And Aliénor had been looking for someone to help her with her projects for ages.

With Laura's great analytical thinking and capacity to quickly summarize hundreds of pages of information, plus Aliénor's experience with the UN, they successfully completed the project. Laura's experience as a freelancer was another bonus. She had knowledge of tools that aren't commonly used by others in Aliénor's line of work.

Their collaboration was so successful that they became business partners. Laura is a native German speaker, with expertise in urbanism, which allowed them to apply for a project that required an understanding of the German development cooperation.

Due to the Inner Circle, Aliénor was also able to find a coach, someone she might have never been able to meet otherwise. Plus, with the support and feedback of the community, she



"The Inner Circle doesn't help me just at a technical level, but to also believe in what I'm doing. So many of us have ideas but then we don't act upon them because we worry they won't work or that we won't succeed."

Are you looking for real connections, people to learn from, work with, refer clients to, make friends with, travel with?

Then join the amazing community of the DNG Inner Circle.

And if you don't like it, there's a 30-day money-back guarantee, no strings attached.

