How to implement and monitor an incentive program with success?

dgenious Ultimate guide



## FINDING

In 2021, a surprising number of companies do not have sufficient analysis tools to carry out a successful incentive program. Whether to prepare them, to monitor them on a daily basis, or to analyze them in detail at the end of the challenge.

The result? The teams were not properly stimulated. The results are therefore disappointing. The company misses the whole point of its incentive strategy.

If you are reading our ultimate guide dedicated to incentive programs, you should recognize yourself in some way in this problem.

Don't panic, you have just downloaded the ideal guide to help you implement and manage incentive programs to truly generate results.

#### In this ultimate guide, you'll discover:

- 5 key steps to an incentive program that really works.
- You will also understand the value of using a powerful and specialized retail analysis tool that monitors all your point-of-sale transactions in real time.

## Why use an incentive program to boost your sales staff at the point of sale?

## To get out of the crisis.

Challenging your employees through an incentive is particularly relevant in a context of recovery. They need to be motivated and coached to achieve their goals.

## To motivate your teams around a particular issue or opportunity.

The launch of a new product, a new spring/summer campaign, or a loyalty program are ideal opportunities to stimulate salespeople and POS managers to improve their performance and reach new objectives.

## To motivate teams to increase upsell rates.

Incentive programs are an effective driver to increase cross selling. Selling paid appetizers to accompany the all-you-can-eat menu, selling a coffee with a sandwich, selling a facial with a matching body balm, selling a polo shirt with shorts, ...

# Why you are right to develop your employee incentives?

- 80% of companies notice an improvement in their turnover during an incentive program
- 56% of employees are more motivated during incentives.
- On average, 44% more productivity is measured during an incentive operation.

#### Source:

The 5 key steps of an incentive program that truly generate results.

# STEP 1 PREPARATION AND ANALYSIS.



To ensure the success of an incentive program, it is imperative to define the objectives clearly. Each goal must be supported by one or more key performance indicators (KPIs). You will be ensured that the objectives of your incentive programme meet the needs of your company and that they are relevant.

As mentioned earlier, an incentive program can serve a wide range of specific objectives:

- A product or product category campaign;
- The launch of a new product / a new product category;
- Acquisition of new loyal customers;
- Increasing sales performance at key times of the year as Christmas, Easter, Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, ...

Your mission during these key sales events is to translate the company's needs into relevant objectives in concrete KPIs, which will be monitored throughout the incentive program.

## Some examples of KPI's to motivate your sales force.

#### The average basket.

You can set a target to increase the value of the average basket per store, per salesperson, or per region and over a period of time.

It is tempting to set a common target for all teams, but it is highly recommended to set a target according to the hours of the day and the days of the week. The product mix sold in the morning may be different in the afternoon or on Saturdays. Your teams who only work in the morning can therefore be penalised or, on the contrary, benefit from a great advantage.

#### The number of items sold per transaction.

Increasing the number of items sold per transaction is usually not easy for sales teams. It is, therefore, preferable to set individual targets rather than a single percentage of increase for all.

## The number of different items sold per transaction.

If the number of different items sold per transaction is 2.2, set a goal of 3 by systematically offering the top product of your assortment in a certain region and a new item in another region. Indeed, some customers will be easily seduced by new products, while others will prefer a safe bet.

## The number of customers registered in the company's loyalty program or newsletter.

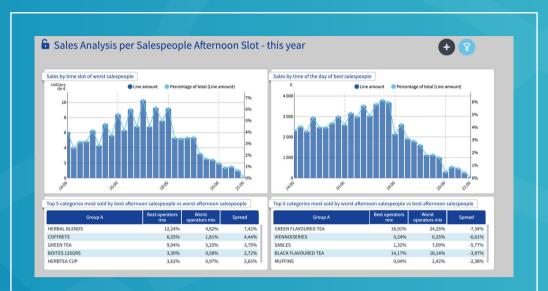
Being able to communicate in the most personalized way possible with your customers is essential. Why not incentivize your sales staff at the point of sale on the number of 'new' customers registered to the newsletter.

## The turnover of the targeted product during the campaign, per day, week, point of sale, region, country, ...

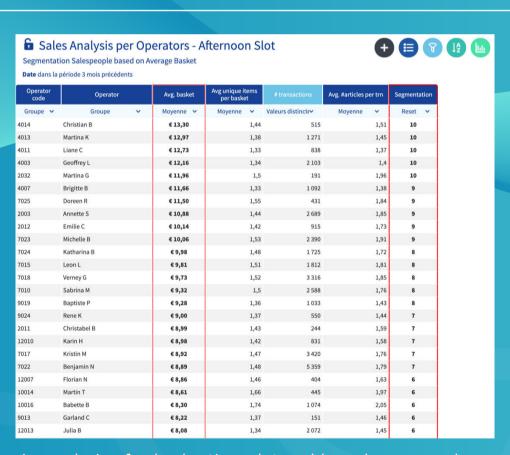
To increase your turnover per table, you have analyzed that it is necessary to increase your sales of appetizers. For this, we advise you to set up an incentive per waiter, so that an aperitif is systematically proposed.

Once the objectives have been determined, their relevance is optimal. By being based on a detailed analysis of the KPIs, you strengthen your link with your collaborators, it will then be very easy to communicate these objectives to the participants of the challenge. Well thought out, these objectives are achievable and motivate the teams to improve their sales performance.

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The sales and marketing departments decided to organise a "Boxes" incentive programme in April 2021 for sales teams who work in the afternoon.



An analysis of sales by time slot and by salesperson shows that the 'best sellers' in the afternoon (analysis based on the average basket) sell more boxes than the worst sellers.



## STEP 2

DEFINE THE MECHANICS
OF THE INCENTIVE PROGRAM.



During the preparation phase, you can choose to set up group or individual challenges. This decision will depend on your strategy, as well as on the analysis phase mentioned in the previous step.

Indeed, within your point of sales teams, several options are available to you:

- •Reward the 5 salespeople who reached the designated objective the fastest.
- •Reward all the salespeople who have reached the objective, within a given time limit.
- Reward the whole team for achieving a common goal.

The implementation of a collective incentive program can help you bond your teams by promoting group cohesion. The individual incentive program allows each employee to surpass himself to improve his own performance.

It is also possible to approach the incentive program in a collective and individual way. With this approach, the detailed analysis of the KPIs is very important in order to prepare the different objectives and to be able to explain the basis on which they have been defined.

This step is essential to motivate the teams and explain the efforts expected from each of them. The teams are framed and briefed to achieve their goal(s). The objectives are clear, motivation is at hand.

## Tip:

In the mechanics, it is possible to plan a succession of short sub-stages allowing each collaborator to resume the race on the starting line as often as needed.

Each sprint corresponds to a short period of performance and favours the adhesion and the stimulation of the teams, regularly challenged.

## Did you know?

Incentives are subject to several types of motivation for your team. Several are possible:

- The lure of gain;
- Winning a challenge;
- The desire to excel;
- The need to progress;
- The need for recognition;
- The need to participate in the adventure.



## STEP 3

COMMUNICATE WELL ON ALL ASPECTS
OF THE CHALLENGE.

## For your challenge to be a success, communication is golden.

To succeed in this step, here are the different aspects that we advise you to put in place.

#### Define the participants

Specify which teams are involved in the challenge. Is it all the sales outlets, certain regions, different countries...) It is quite possible to include the support services in contact with the customers. These back-office employees play a significant role in customer relations. They contribute to the quality of services delivered to customers.

#### Set a time frame

To be effective, the challenge must be limited in time. Indeed, the main interest of this type of operation is to obtain quick results in a short period of time.

It is therefore important to communicate this time limit so that your collaborators can have all the cards in their hands to reach the given objectives.

## • Set the KPIs and explain them to everyone

When sharing these KPIs with your teams, it is interesting to put them in perspective with current and past results. For example, explain these KPIs in relation to the results of previous actions.

Each participant must understand the purpose of the game, the context, and the objectives to be achieved. The importance here is to explain and show on the basis of what (which KPIs) the objectives have been set.

#### Announce from the start the end of the challenge and the date of the results announcement.

To have more impact and more commitment, the rewards must be well chosen, but also communicated to all. The results announcement date should be the day after the last day of the challenge. Too often, the results are announced, sometimes 1 month later, because the company did not know how to collect the figures earlier...

A monitoring throughout the challenge allows this quick announcement.

Indeed, no one likes to wait for the results of a contest in which we participated... At the risk of not doing it again the next time!

#### • Explain each step of the daily monitoring of this challenge.

To keep your collaborators motivated, you must keep them informed every day of the progress of the challenge, the figures of the other participants, etc... This in a positive and stimulating way to motivate them to push their limits with a real desire to do well. The way to communicate these results is essential!



## STEP 4

FOCUS ON THE DAILY MONITORING OF THE INCENTIVE PROGRAM!

# The advantages of monitoring and communicating daily with the incentive program participants are multiple:

## Value the efforts made with real-time monitoring of their results.

Monitoring your team's results in real time will allow you to quickly notice an improvement in performance and you will be able to value your collaborators' successes. Monitor without monitoring: you need to manage effectively by providing support and experience.

## Keep your teams motivated.

By keeping an eye on the evolution of their performance, you can react immediately if a drop in performance is observed in one of the team members.

Usually, these situations are analyzed at the end of the challenge. However, only a daily analysis can help you to detect these variations and to solve them directly, thanks to a discussion with the employee in question, for example...

## Adapt the objectives if necessary.

It is not outdated to readjust the contest if you notice that the objectives are too ambitious, or that a logistical problem has appeared, or others... If the challenge is not working, it must be reviewed to avoid a drop in participation and therefore lower results. The action would be counterproductive.

Share what works best via testimonials, best practices, etc.

Do not hesitate to coach each participant in a personalized way if necessary.

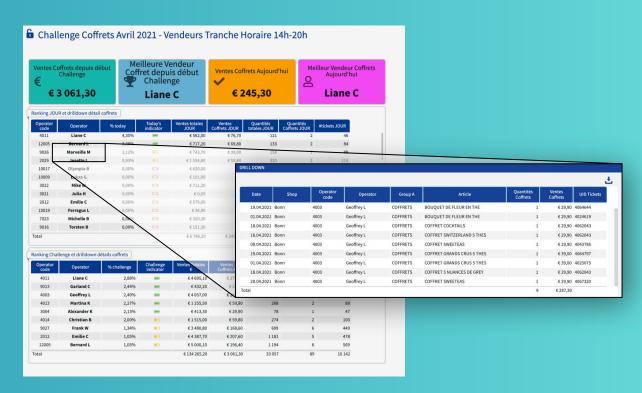
Stimulate mutual help between participants.



To put this daily monitoring into practice, it is necessary to use a modern monitoring tool adapted to retail.

#### How to do this monitoring?

- •Follow up on the progress of the objectives, in the form of daily points by means of a nice and friendly mailing. For example, with a best practice from a collaborator, remind the stakes, ...
- Use a powerful and modern analytics platform like dgenious
- •Involve the sales managers in the follow-up of the incentive program and its design. Their knowledge of the men and women in their team is invaluable in order not to make mistakes.



Follow up on the progress of the objectives in daily updates with, for example, a mailing.

Next step:

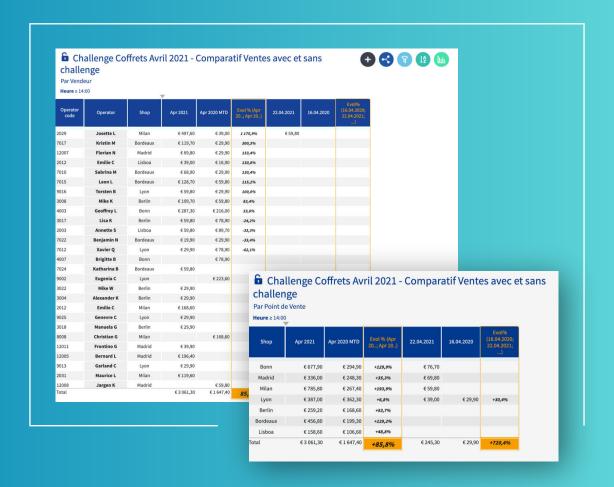
## STEP 5

FINAL ANALYSIS OF THE INCENTIVE PROGRAM AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS.



The announcement of the results must be done quickly. Ideally, the day after the last day of the incentive program and within 3 days maximum after the challenge. This date must be known by everyone.

When announcing the results, explain them by arguing them, showing the progress for the company (sales, product categories, customers, etc.) and the individual progressions, putting them in perspective with the reality without the challenge (based on kpis excluding incentives). Ask the winners to explain how they did it, their tips and best practices, ...



Then award the different prizes and communicate via the intranet. Eventually, you can share this info via Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, to show the internal life and personify your employees, ...

## CONCLUSION



"dgenious is the leading analytics platform for real-time monitoring of your physical and virtual stores. Easily analyse customer behaviour, promotions, launches and inventory in all dimensions. Juggle with your data, easily, quickly, without IT knowledge. Available on iOS and Android."

## LET'S DISCUSS WHAT DGENIOUS CAN DO FOR YOU.

Book your 15 minute call







