ASHOKA

YEARBOOK

ASHOKA BELGIUM

2024-2025

ABOUT ASHOKA

Bill Drayton founded Ashoka in 1980 on the idea that **the most powerful force for good in the world is the social entrepreneur**: a person driven by an innovative idea that can help correct an entrenched global problem. The world's leading social entrepreneurs pursue system-changing solutions that permanently alter existing activity patterns.

For four decades, Ashoka has been identifying and mentoring social entrepreneurs, learning from the patterns in their innovations, and mobilizing a global community that embraces these new frameworks to **build a world where everyone is a changemaker.**



Annual Community Retreat at Domaine Saint-Roch, Couvin.

A WORLD WHERE ALL CITIZENS ARE POWERFUL AND CONTRIBUTE TO CHANGE IN POSITIVE WAYS.

An **Everyone a Changemake**r world is, by definition, one where everyone has the capacity and opportunity to contribute and to create positive change. In this world, everyone is powerful, everyone has a voice, everyone has access to needed resources, and everyone can thrive.

When everyone is a changemaker, there is no place for systems of oppression and hierarchy because no groups dominate or exploit others.

When everyone is powerful the systems that perpetuate inequity get dismantled and rebuilt to enable equal access to opportunities and embrace the incredible range of perspectives, narratives, and lived human experiences.



BUILDING VERYONE
A CHANGEMAKER WORLD.



IMPACT SNAPSHOT

4000+

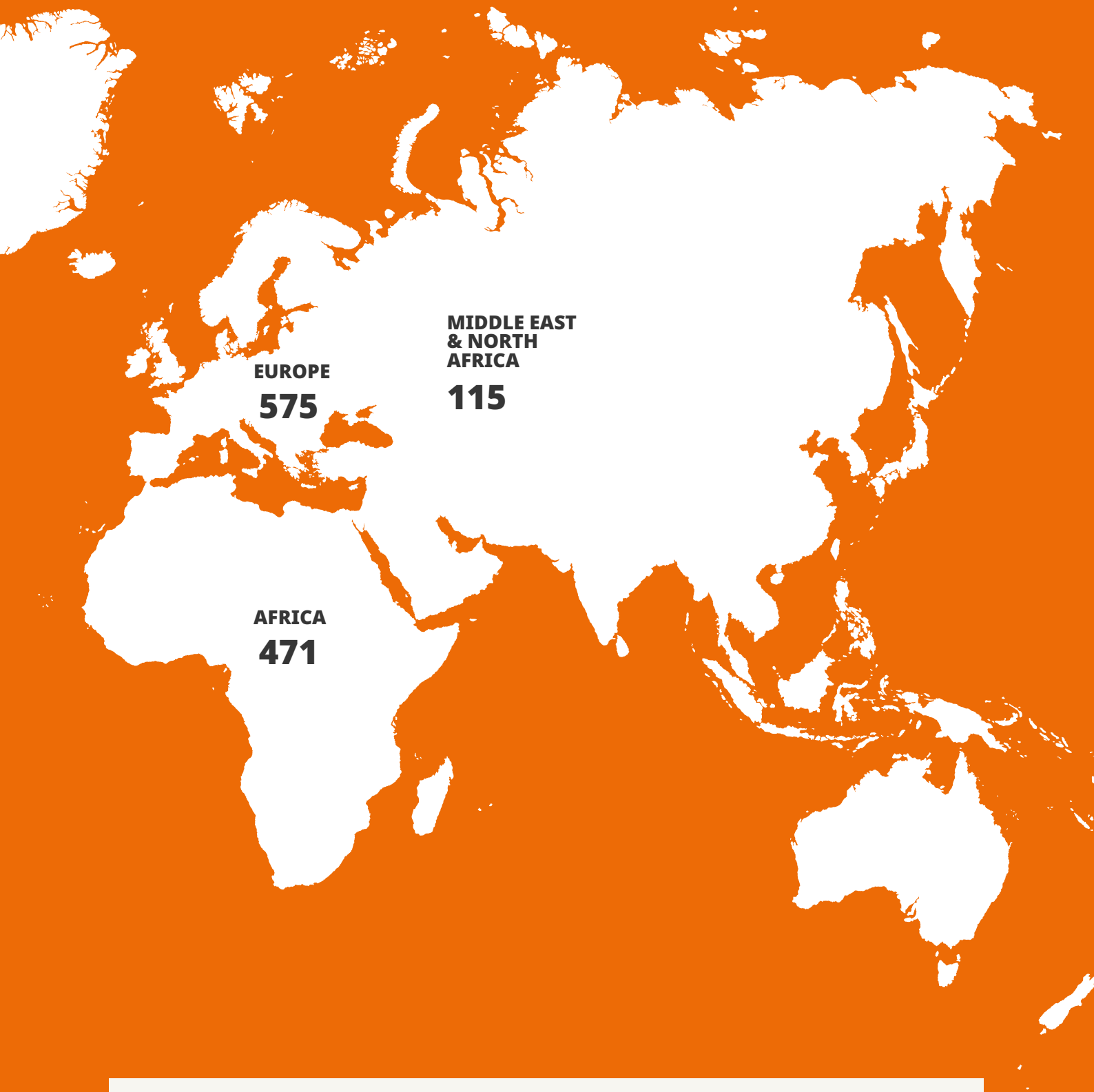
Ashoka Fellows

95+

Countries

7TH

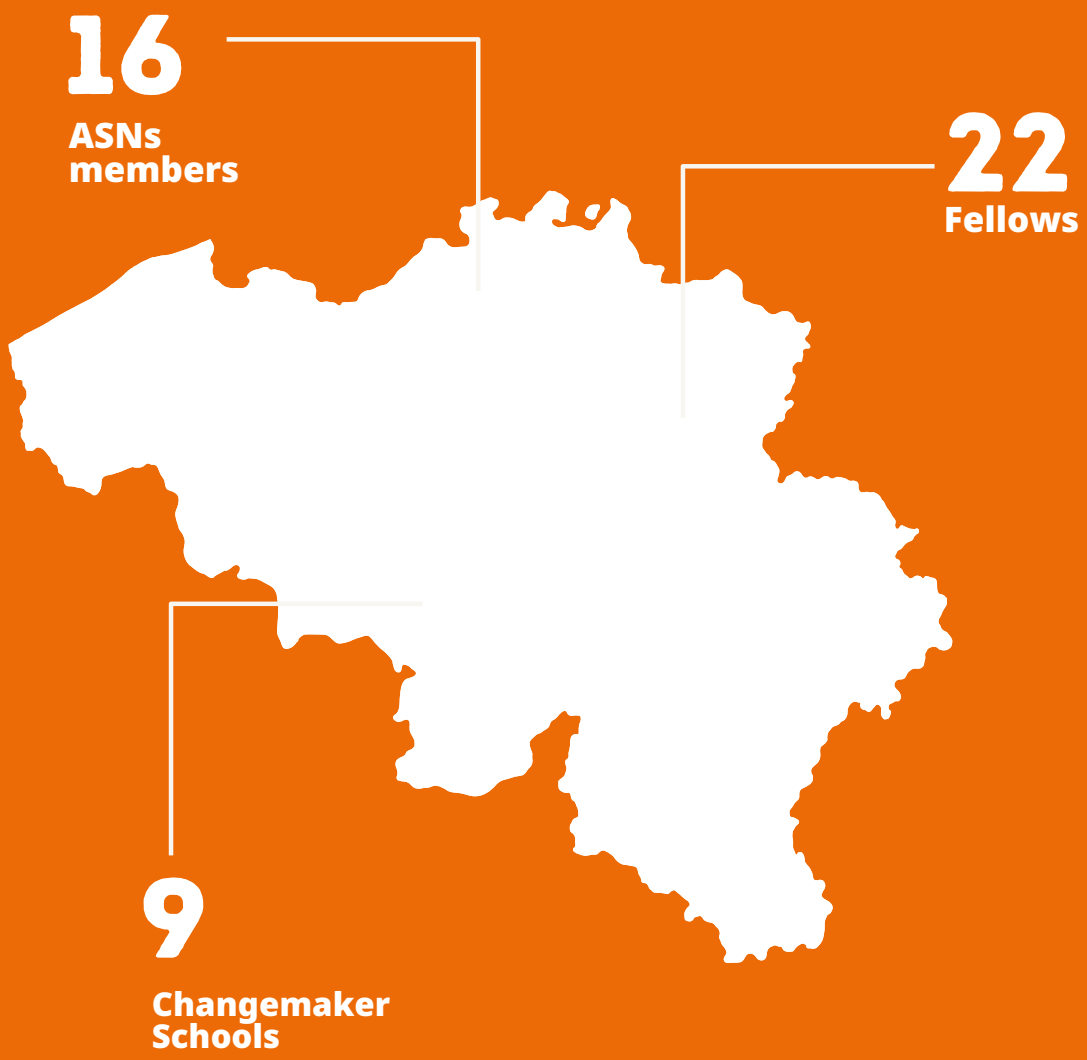
most influential NGO in the world
(thedotgood. 2024)



Our changemaker community consists of 4,000+ Fellows, 100+ Young Changemakers, 250+ change institutions, and 300+ partners across more than 95 countries. Together, we form **a strong, diverse, and vibrant ecosystem of change agents** collaborating and co-leading to positively transform societies and cultures around the world.

ASHOKA BELGIUM

Founded in 2008, Ashoka Belgium is part of this global network, and since then we have selected 21 social innovators as Ashoka Fellows, worked with 9 Changemaker Schools, and are supported by 15 philanthropic business leaders as part of our Ashoka Support Network. Together, we work to transform institutions and cultures so that they support changemaking for the good of society. We strive to make the global economy more socially responsible and respectful by creating meaningful collaborations with strategic stakeholders. Our key programmes are **Youth For Change**, the **Forward Impact** programme and **Changemaker Europe**.



THE PEOPLE



ROMAIN GUSTOT

Director of Ashoka Belgium



PERRINE DE LE COURT

ASN Global Leader

YANNICK FISCHER

Changemaker Europe co-Lead



LAURA BATALLA

Changemaker Europe Lead

Hello Europe Policy Unit Head





ASHLING HOARE

Finance & Operations Manager



ARIANNA D'ASCOLI

Community & Communication Manager

CYNTHIA FOTSING NGADJOU

Communication Intern



ASHOKA BELGIUM FELLOWS

Ashoka Fellows are the **world's leading social entrepreneurs**. They champion innovative new ideas that transform society's systems, providing benefits for everyone and improving the lives of millions of people. Once selected, each Ashoka Fellow embarks on a tailored timeline of investments and support over their lifetime.



KATIA MELIS

Co-founder of **Casa legal**, Katia and her colleagues are transforming Belgium's legal aid system by empowering pro bono lawyers to provide holistic support for legal aid seekers facing multi-faceted issues.



KOEN TIMMERS

Founder of **TAKE ACTION GLOBAL**, Koen uses climate education to empower students and teachers worldwide. TAG has already reached over 3.5 million participants from 152 countries, promoting global climate action.



MAXIME ZAIT

SAM ROSENZWEIG

Founders of **Communa**, Maxime and Sâm promote "Temporary Use with a Social Purpose," repurposing vacant buildings to support local communities, arts, and social enterprises, to create more resilient and inclusive cities.



THEO VAES

Founder of **ArmenTeKort (ATK)** and awarded Commander in the Order of the Crown, Theo aims to foster trustful relationships between people in poverty and volunteers to combat societal stigmatization. ATK shifts focus from treating symptoms of poverty to addressing its root causes.



ALBERTO ALEMANNO

Founder of **The Good Lobby (TGL)**, Alberto empowers citizens to participate in the policy-making process by sharing lobbying skills and resources. TGL fosters collaboration to create a more inclusive society and aims to give citizens equal access to political power.



FRÉDERIC SIMONART

MATTHIEU LE GRELLE

Founders of **DUO for a JOB**, Frédéric and Matthieu connect young people with immigrant backgrounds and 50+ mentors through a free intergenerational mentoring program, aimed at reducing job market inequalities and valuing elder expertise.



SANDRINO GRACEFFA

Founder of **La Coopérative Smart**, Sandrino aims to provide autonomous workers with social protection while they maintain independent activities. Sandrino also advocates for policies adapting to the evolving workforce.



GEERTRUI SERNEELS

Founder of **Solentra** and awarded Commander in the Order of the Crown, Geertrui pioneers culturally sensitive mental healthcare for refugees and migrants. Her approach, recognized across the EU, ensures that all professionals working with refugees are trained to meet their psycho-social needs.



BACH KIM NGUYEN

Founder of **BeeOdiversity**, Bach Kim redefines bees as biodiversity protectors rather than just honey producers. Through consultations and personalized services, he helps stakeholders understand the environmental role of bees and the impact of pesticides.



MARJAN GRYSON

Founder of **Touché**, Marjan helps inmates in Belgium re-channel aggression and set positive goals for life after prison. She also co-founded RESCALED, advocating for a new detention model that fosters community integration across Europe.



ISABELLA LENARDUZZI

Founder of **JUMP**, Isabella supports companies in aligning gender equality goals with implementation through consultancy, training, and resources to enhance business performance and social equality.



INGRID DE JONGHE

Founder of **TEJO**, Ingrid offers free, anonymous, and immediate psychological support to young people, helping them build resilience through brief, solution-focused therapy.



GENEVIEVE MOREAU

Founder of **SiiN** Institute, Genevieve promotes sustainable food behaviors by engaging experts and consumers to rethink food production and consumption, with certified training programs in health nutrition.



ARNOUD RASKIN

Founder of **Mobile School**, Arnoud empowers street children by boosting their self-esteem and aiding their social reintegration, while also providing corporate training through StreetwiZe to sustain the program's growth.



EMILIE MEESSEN

Founder of **Infirmiers de Rue**, Emilie supports the dignity and rehabilitation of homeless individuals by using hygiene as a gateway to help them take charge of their lives and reintegrate into society.



TOBIAS LEENAERT

Co-founder of **ProVeg International**, Tobias promotes plant-based diets to address unsustainable meat consumption by engaging individuals, companies, and governments to shift eating habits and reduce environmental impact.



IGNACE SCHOPS

Founder of the **National Park Hoge Kempen** and winner of the Green Nobel Prize in 2008, Ignace enhances the environmental and economic value of nature reserves by promoting sustainable development models. He is now working to adapt this approach for reserves across Europe.



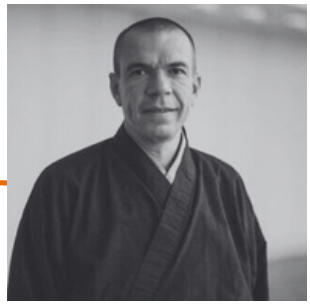
DIDIER KETELS

Founder of **Droits Quotidiens**, Didier aimed to simplify legal language to help marginalized communities resolve issues, empower social workers through training program and supporting businesses with clear legal language. Currently, he serves as the Director of ÉtreProf at Ecolhuma in Belgium.



OLIVIER GAILLARD

Founder of **Step Into Action** and the **Civic Service Platform**, Olivier works on empowering young people to become changemakers and advocates for a civic service in Belgium.



BART WEETJENS

Founder of **APOPO**, Bart is a pioneer of the use of trained rats to detect landmines and tuberculosis, offering a low-cost, efficient solution to global challenges. He now leads La Grande Terre, fostering social engagement and sustainable well-being through Zen philosophy.

DO YOU KNOW OF A LEADING SOCIAL ENTREPRENEUR WHO IS CHANGING THE WORLD?

Nominate them!

ASHOKA SUPPORT NETWORK

The **Ashoka Support Network** (ASN) is a global community of committed business leaders — men and women with a passion for creative and entrepreneurial change. 350+ members worldwide in more than 40 countries.

They share Ashoka's understanding that entrepreneurs are the engine for economic and social development. They meet and engage with phenomenal social leaders sharing their **skills, resources and networks** to create more transformative impact together.

ASN members value the role Ashoka plays in sourcing, selecting and supporting the worl'd social entrepreneurs as Ashoka Fellows, and commit to **an annual financial contribution** for three years in order to help sustain Ashoka's efforts.



BELGIUM ASNS MEMBERS



DOMINIQUE MOORKENS

Former CEO of Alcopa, Dominique steered its internationalization, structured its governance and family shareholding, consolidating the Acopa family business in the automotive distribution sector.



SABINE EVERAET

Sabine is a Technology and Digital Executive with consulting and extensive International FMCG experience (>25yrs The Coca-Cola Company). She serves on the board of ING Belgium, the Charities Aid Foundation and WAKO. She is Senior Advisor to Bain & Company, Sequoia Business Community and Equalytix, and coaches several women CIO's.



YVOINE REMY

Yvoine is in charge of environmental testing activities for Eurofins in Europe. She holds an MBA from HEC Paris, along with degrees from the University of Otago and the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Yvoine began her career by founding an education NGO in the Philippines and later worked in various Business Development and General Management positions, including some 15 years based in the Asia-Pacific region.



OLIVIER GILLEROT

Oivier is a partner in Bain & Company's Brussels office. He is a member of the firm's European Financial Services and Technology practices.



OLIVIER ORBAN

Olivier is a Business Engineer with a post-graduate in Insurance Laws and Economics (UCL Louvain). Olivier worked for +20 years in the Reinsurance Industry as an Underwriter and a Team Manager. Such responsibilities have enabled him to get deeply involved in topics including agriculture, natural perils, transport, accidents, etc.



SÉVERINE DE SADELEER

Séverine is an anthropologist and public health specialist from ULB, holds an MBA from the Hult Business School, and a degree in Innovation and Creativity from CASS. She has 10 years of experience in international development in Social Health based in Africa. She is the co-founder of 3 educational projects, a chairman of Nextgen Sibelco, and a board member in the family holding.



MYLEEN VERSTRAETE

Myleen is the co-founder of PYM and one of the organizers of PYM Impact Day Belgium. A committed philanthropist. As an impact investor, she is driven by her belief in systemic change and a new economy that is in harmony with our planet. Next to this, she serves as a board member at GoodPlanet Belgium.



MIGUEL DEL MARMOL

Miguel's career is characterized by an impressive journey through the global energy industry. Starting as a refinery economics planner and petroleum product trader in the UK, he went on to hold various leadership roles in PetroFina in New York, Singapore, Brussels, TotalFina in Paris, Total Belgium, and CEPSA in Madrid.



GÉRARD BLOCH

Gérard graduated as an Engineer from ENSEEIHT (France) and got his Master's degree from the California Institute of Technology. He has been Vice-President of the French Chartered Institute of Patent and Trademark Attorneys and lectured at the University of Angers and the Paris Institute of Research in Industrial Property.



EDOUARD JANSSEN

Edouard graduated from Solvay Brussels School and holds an MBA from IN-SEAD. After a gap year to do social work, he worked at the European Commission, the European Investment Bank, and Morgan Stanley London (investment banking). He co-founded Trusted Family and has been working in Corporate Finance for Solvay.



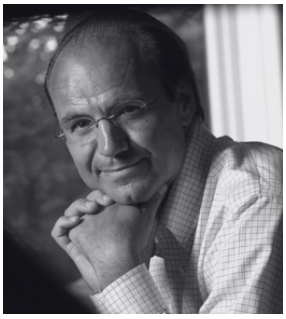
MARC NOLET DE BRAUWERE

Marc is the Chief Executive Officer at PhysIOL and Independent Director at Bone Therapeutics. He is on the Board of Directors at Mymicroinvest, Endo Tools Therapeutics, Biotech Coaching, Ashoka, Etex Group, Marley Eternit, and Bone Therapeutics. Marc was previously a Manager in the Engineering Department of Petrofina and an Associate by McKinsey.



NICOLAS JANSSEN

Nicolas, a public sector professional, is passionate about education. He co-launched Ashoka's Changemakers Schools program and led comprehensive youth mental health audits for the Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles Parliament, resulting in 100+ recommendations. He holds degrees from the Brussels Schools of Economics and Management and the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.



MICHEL DELLOYE

Michel has been involved in the media business, as Managing Director of RTL Group, the European leader in radio and television, and the Central European Media Enterprises. Michel was CFO and General Director in Group Brussels Lambert and has been active in sever global growth companies.



MICHEL VANDENKERCKHOVE

Michel graduated from ICHEC Brussels. Co-founding partner of Capital & Finance in 1989. He joined Delen Bank in 2007 as CEO of its asset management company Cadelam.



BERNARD MEUSS

Bernard Meeus is a mechanical engineer (University of Louvain) and holds an MBA (University of Chicago). He is Co-Founder and Chairman of Alcogroup SA, a Belgian company that produces and distributes worldwide ethanol (including bioethanol).



PIET COLRUYT

Piet graduated from KUL, in architecture and philosophy. He is an impact funder, co-founder of several impact funds, and Board member of companies such as Korys, Colruyt Group, etc. He founded Impact Capital, an investment holding that focuses on social impact projects and the Impact House, an impact co-working hub.



LET'S DO IT TOGETHER.

Looking to supercharge your organisation's impact?

Ashoka is your perfect partner! Together with the world's top social entrepreneurs, we'll explore fresh possibilities and turn big ideas into lasting change.

The insights we've gained are universal and ready to drive transformative social and environmental change in every sector. Our passionate Fellows are eager to collaborate with industry leaders and ignite a collective movement toward a better future.

We're proud to be supported by a group of forward-thinking companies. From financial backing to hands-on collaboration, these partners are vital in turning our shared vision into action. Here's a glimpse of who's already on board:

MAIN PARTNERS

ABN·AMRO · eurofins foundation · Life Is On Schneider Electric · accenture · alco · PORTICUS · BAIN & COMPANY · CANDRIAM INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT · ATOLO · Bash Management

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

zalando · IKEA · Steelcase · McKinsey & Company · LATHAM & WATKINS LLP · Boehringer Ingelheim

ECOSYSTEM PARTNERS

Deloitte. · Nestlé · IMPACT HOUSE · BE IMPACT · TALENTED YOUTH NETWORK · Be education · Impact Finance Belgium · PATHWAYS INSTITUTE FOR NEGOTIATION EDUCATION · THE SHIFT · SOCIALE INNOVATIE FABRIEK · SQ · ELANET · LJE LES JEUNES ENTREPRISES · A SEAT AT THE TABLE · Les Ambassadeurs d'expression citoyenne · M

LET'S CHANGE THE WORLD. TOGETHER.



ASHOKA

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