



ASHOKA

YEARBOOK

ASHOKA BELGIUM

2025-2026



ASHOKA IS A LIVING ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SOCIAL INNOVATION IN EVERY FIELD AROUND THE WORLD.

Jimmy Wales

Founder of Wikipedia,
Ashoka Fellow







THE MOST POWERFUL FORCE FOR GOOD IN THE WORLD IS THE SOCIAL ENTREPRENEUR.

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.

Our mission

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.

BUILDING AN EVERYONE A CHANGEMAKER WORLD

An Everyone a Changemaker 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.

What does this world look like?

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

A Changemaker

A changemaker is someone who imagines a new reality, takes action and collaborates with others to bring that new reality into being for the good of others.





CHANGE MAKERS CLUB
I AM A
CHANGE
AMBASSADOR

Handwritten notes on lined paper:

Year	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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IMPACT SNAPSHOT

3900+

Ashoka Fellows

100

Countries

7TH

most influential NGO in the world
(thetodgood)



Our changemaker community consists of 3900+ 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 changemakers 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 22 social innovators as Ashoka Fellows and + 25 Young Changemakers, worked with 12 Changemaker Schools, and are supported by +20 philanthropic business leaders as part of our Ashoka Support Network.

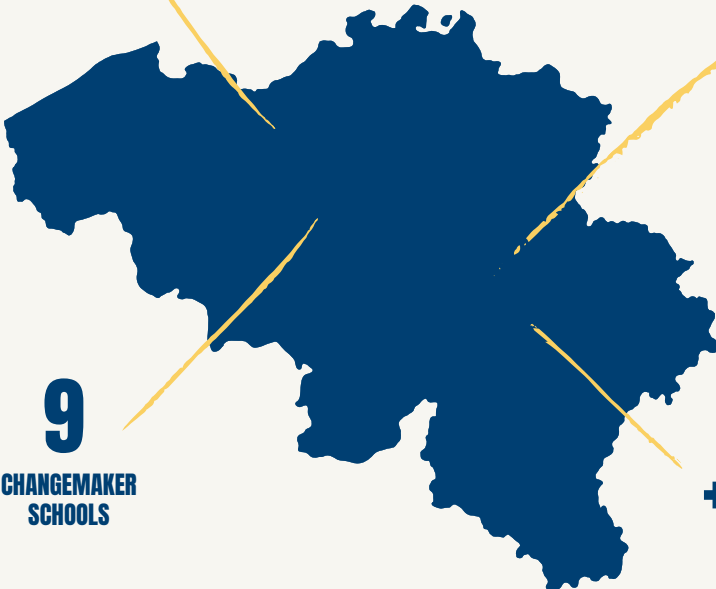
Together, we work to transform institutions and cultures so that they support changemaking for the good of society. We strive to make the global economy more socially responsible and respectful by creating meaningful collaborations with strategic stakeholders. Our key programmes are Ashoka Participation Hub, Youth For Change, and the Forward Impact programme.

18
ASN MEMBERS

23
FELLOWS

9
CHANGEMAKER
SCHOOLS

+25
YOUNG
CHANGEMAKERS





Images

- 01 Ashoka Social Impact Night
- 02 Community Retreat
- 03 Systemic Change Workshop
- 04 Community Thanksgiving Dinner



02



03



04

PARTICIPATION HUB: CO-CREATING THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY

The Participation Hub is Ashoka's new flagship initiative designed to accelerate systemic change through collaborative policy and democratic innovation.

Our vision

Our vision is for every citizen and resident in Europe to drive positive change, for governments to actively collaborate with changemakers, and for innovative solutions to be co-created by the people and for the people.

To do so, we work closely with our community of changemakers to create pathways for social innovations to become policy reality, with true participation at the core of decision-making at local, national and European level.

NEXT STEPS

1

Identifying and scaling proven innovations

2

Building a powerful cross-sector community

3

Unlocking youth leadership at scale

4

Transforming public institutions

5

Redesigning democracy in practice



COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

- AGISSONS
- Bertelsmann Shiftung
- Brand New Bundestag
- Build Up
- Center for Future Generation
- Center for International Studies
- DEMDIS
- Es geht LOS
- European Alternatives
- European Capital of Democracy
- FIDE
- Forum Apulum
- Funky Citizen
- ifoK
- INES
- Irish Council for Civic Liberties
- Joint Research Centre - European Commission
- Lasy i Obywatele
- Make.org
- Metro_Polis
- Missions Publiques
- MOBILE.das Freiluftparlament
- Multitude Foundation
- My Polis
- ParlamentWatch
- Political Watch
- Politics Relaxed
- Pro Futuris
- Real Impact Hub
- Re-Imagine Europa
- SINGA
- Sitra
- Staatslabor
- Statefree
- The Good Lobby
- Universal Reading Foundation
- University of Geneva
- YEPworks
- Zentrum für Demokratie Aarau

MEET THE TEAM



**ROMAIN
GUSTOT**

Ashoka Belgium
Director



**PERRINE
DE LE COURT**

ASN
Global Lead



**LAURA
BATALLA**

Participation Hub
Lead



**YANNICK
FISCHER**

Participation Hub
Coordinator



**ASHLING
HOARE**

Finance & Operations
Manager



**ARIANNA
D'ASCOLI**

Venture & Community
Manager

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. Ashoka Fellows define the new roadmaps that allow people to thrive in this new environment, while providing solutions and demonstrating the how-tos. Once selected, Ashoka Fellows join a lifelong community with tailored financial and strategic support to scale their impact.



THOMAS DE GROOT

Thomas, founder of River Cleanup, has mobilized over 300,000 volunteers across 100 countries to stop plastic pollution from reaching rivers and nature. His holistic Clean River Model combines education, waste collection, and policy advocacy, with the goal of making rivers plastic-free.



KATIA MELIS

Katia, co-founder of Casa Legal, created Belgium's first nonprofit law firm to address a gap she witnessed as a lawyer: people seeking legal aid faced a fragmented system unable to address their interconnected problems. Casa Legal offers holistic support under one roof, with lawyers, social workers, and psychologists working together.



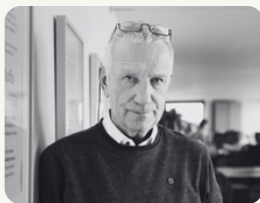
KOEN TIMMERS

Koen, founder of TAG, connects students across borders to share how climate change affects their lives and what solutions they can create together. His Climate Action Project, a six-week global learning journey, has reached over 10 million students and teachers in more than 145 countries, turning classrooms into a worldwide movement for climate action.



MAXIME ZAIT & SAM ROSENZWEIG

Maxime and Sâm, co-founders of Communa, noticed cities full of empty buildings while vulnerable people struggled to find affordable housing. They pioneered "Temporary Use with a Social Purpose," transforming vacant properties into community hubs that combine housing, workspaces, and social projects..



THEO VAES

Theo realized that people trapped in generational poverty often lack the self-esteem to break free. He founded ArmenTeKort to pair them with volunteer buddies who support them in rebuilding their confidence, and launched Kanzo, Woonderwijs and Athena to address the other structural roots: housing insecurity and access to education.



ALBERTO ALEMANNO

Alberto, founder of The Good Lobby and professor of EU Law at HEC Paris, recognized that lobbying skills and resources were concentrated in the hands of corporations, leaving civil society outmatched. He democratizes advocacy by equipping citizens and nonprofits with the tools and expert support to shape public policy.



FRÉDÉRIC SIMONART & MATTHIEU LE GRELLE

Frédéric and Matthieu, co-founders of DUO for a JOB, noticed that young migrants lacked the networks to enter the job market, while experienced professionals craved purpose after retirement. They pair them as mentors and mentees, doubling employment rates while building bridges across generations and cultures.



SANDRINO GRACEFFA

Sandrino saw that autonomous workers were falling into a precarious gap between traditional employment and unprotected self-employment. Under his leadership, he transformed SMART into a European cooperative offering shared services and social protection, proving that freedom and security can coexist.



GEERTRUI SERNEELS

Geertrui, founder of Solentra, realized as a clinical psychologist that refugee and migrant children were falling through the cracks of a mental healthcare system blind to their cultural context and war trauma. She brings culturally sensitive therapy into communities, training thousands of professionals to provide support.



BACH KIM NGUYEN

Kim co-founded BeeOdiversity to transform bees into environmental sentinels. Each hive collects billions of samples yearly, providing low-cost, large-scale data on biodiversity and pollution that empowers farmers, cities, and companies to improve their local ecosystems.



MARJAN GRYSON

Marjan, founder of Touché, saw as a prison psychologist the limits of treating aggression as something to suppress. She re-channels inmates' aggression toward positive goals, helping them set concrete plans for life outside prison walls and building bridges for reintegration into society.



ISABELLA LENARDUZZI

Isabella, founder of JUMP, saw how women struggle to legitimize their leadership in male-dominated environments. She transforms workplace culture by engaging corporations, equality managers, and professional women to close the gender gap and redefine what success looks like in the professional world.



INGRID DE JONGHE

Ingrid, as a therapist, saw young people in mental distress facing months-long waiting lists for public counseling. She founded TEJO to offer immediate, anonymous, and free therapy sessions for youth aged 10-20, mobilizing professional therapists as volunteers.



GENEVIÈVE MOREAU

Geneviève, founder of SIIN, realized as a general practitioner that she was only treating symptoms. She transforms doctors, chefs, and food producers into ambassadors of intelligent nutrition, creating a system that translates nutritional science into accessible everyday choices across the entire food chain.



ARNOUD RASKIN

Arnoud, founder of Mobile School, noticed that shelters failed street children. He meets them where they live, equipping street educators with a fold-out blackboard on wheels and over 300 educational games. Today, his methodology has trained youth workers across 30 countries to shift from assistance to empowerment.



EMILIE MEESEN

Emilie, founder of Infirmiers de Rue, noticed as a nurse that homeless people resisted traditional health centers and only received care in emergencies. She meets them on the streets, using hygiene as a stepping-stone to rebuild self-esteem and autonomy. .



TOBIAS LEENAERT

Tobias, founder of EVA and Thursday Veggie Day, saw that reducing meat consumption was essential but moralizing wasn't working. He co-founded ProVeg International, now active in 12 countries working to halve global animal product consumption and transform the food system.



IGNACE SCHOPS

Ignace led the first citizen movement in Europe to create a national park from the bottom up. He founded Belgium's Hoge Kempen National Park and developed the (Re)connection Model now inspiring communities across Europe, the US, and Asia. In 2008, he was awarded the Goldman Environmental Prize.



DIDIER KETELS

Didier founded Droits Quotidiens after seeing, as a lawyer, that disadvantaged people were getting trapped in legal bureaucracy for problems that could be solved without ever needing a court. He trains social workers as legal intermediaries, helping them resolve housing, debt, and family issues quickly and fairly.



OLIVIER GAILLARD

Olivier founded Trans-Mission to bridge the gap between Belgian youth who wanted to engage in social projects but didn't know how, using peer-to-peer inspiration in schools. He co-founded the Civic Service Platform, and today leads the IA Days, helping creatives navigate artificial intelligence critically.



BART WEETJENS

Bart founded APOPO after seeing that landmine detection in Africa relied on expensive imported technology. He trained African giant pouched rats to sniff out explosives—a low-cost, locally sourced solution that helped Mozambique declare itself mine-free in 2015. Today, he co-founded Innerpreneurs to support the inner wellbeing of changemakers.

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS CHANGING THE WORLD?

Submit your nomination via the form on our website, or contact adascoli@ashoka.org.



ASHOKA SUPPORT NETWORK

The Ashoka Support Network (ASN) is a global community of +300 committed business leaders, philanthropists and entrepreneurs with a passion for creative and entrepreneurial change.

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 world's social entrepreneurs as Ashoka Fellows, and commit to an annual financial contribution for three years in order to help sustain Ashoka's efforts.

For more information, please visit ashoka.org/en-be/ashoka-support-network

ASHOKA BELGIUM ASN MEMBERS



HAROLD BOËL

Harold is the CEO of Sofina, a Belgian investment holding company with a strong global footprint. He brings a strategic mindset grounded in business planning, concrete challenges, problem solving, ROI evaluation, and a clear international focus; making him a valuable contributor to initiatives that aim for systemic impact.



MARINE DE WAZIERS

Marine, founder of ROOM, a network empowering women investors through curated connections and shared values. Her unique blend of strategic vision, entrepreneurial spirit, and deep understanding of social dynamics makes her a powerful catalyst for initiatives aiming to unlock systemic change through investment.



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. 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 Equalytx, and coaches several CIO women.



YVOINE RÉMY

Yvoine leads environmental testing activities for Eurofins in Europe. 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

Olivier is an External Advisor and Independent Board Member with over 30 years of experience in consulting, technology, and industry. He was formerly a senior partner at Bain & Company, specializing in financial services and technology.



OLIVIER ORBAN

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. 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 co-founder of PYM and organizer of PYM Impact Day Belgium. She is a committed philanthropist and impact investor. Passionate about systemic change, she leverages her network to unite communities for transformative impact across sustainable fashion, gender equality, and the circular economy.



MIGUEL DEL MARMOL

Miguel's career spans leadership roles across the global energy industry, including PetroFina, Total, and CEPSA in cities like New York, Singapore, and Madrid. Starting as a refinery economics planner and petroleum product trader, he now focuses his efforts on renewable energy.



GÉRARD BLOCH

Gérard graduated as an Engineer from ENSEIHT (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, chief Financial Officer of D'Ieteren Group, is a Solvay Brussels School graduate with an MBA from INSEAD. With experience at the European Commission, European Investment Bank, and Morgan Stanley London, he co-founded Trusted Family and worked in Corporate Finance at Solvay.



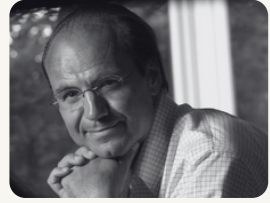
MICHEL VANDENKERCKHOVE

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.



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.



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.



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, Etex Group, Marley Eternit, and Bone Therapeutics. He was previously a Manager in the Engineering Department of Petrofina and an Associate by McKinsey.



BERNARD MEEUS

Bernard 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.

WANT TO BE PART OF OUR VIBRANT COMMUNITY?

Reach out to Perrine de le Court at pdelecourt@ashoka.org

LET'S DO IT TOGETHER

Looking to supercharge your organisation's impact?

Ashoka is your ideal partner! Together with the world's leading social entrepreneurs, we'll explore new possibilities and turn bold ideas into lasting change.

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



PARTNERS

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.

ASHOKA BELGIUM SUPPORTING PARTNERS



IMPACT ECOSYSTEM PARTNERS



ASHOKA EUROPE & GLOBAL PARTNERS



**LET'S CHANGE
THE WORLD
TOGETHER.**



ASHOKA



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