Ashoka Belgium
Yearbook
2021
Ashoka Fellows Shaping Our Future in Belgium
# Table of Contents

- Who is Ashoka? ............................................. 1
- What makes an Ashoka Fellow? ...................... 2
- Our Graduate Fellows* .................................. 3
- Foreign Exchange Fellows .............................. 9

*Graduate Fellows refers to those who have graduated our selection process: our Ashoka Fellows!
Who is Ashoka?

Ashoka is the world’s largest network of social entrepreneurs addressing society’s most pressing problems by convening and supporting groups of Changemakers. We help identify and spread new frameworks of change to influence fields of work as a whole: education, youth, healthcare, migration, etc.

Since it’s foundation in 1980 by Bill Drayton, Ashoka’s Community of Changemakers has gathered 3600+ Fellows (active in 93 countries), 300+ Changemaker Schools, 350 visionary business leaders (Ashoka Support Network), as well as corporate partners, public influencers, universities and more than 40 Ashoka local offices.

Ashoka’s vision is a world where citizens have both the skill and the will to be a Changemaker.

Belgium
Since 2008
16 Ashoka Fellows
16 ASN Members
15 Partners and Co-Creators
25 Changemaker Schools

Want to know more about something? Links to websites are in orange!
What makes an Ashoka Fellow?

Ashoka has developed a rigorous selection process based on five criteria. Ashoka is looking for the combination of a powerful idea in the hands of a really good entrepreneur. In our selection process, we evaluate:

- **A New Idea:** Does the candidate have a new and potentially systems changing solution?
- **Social Impact:** Does the idea address the root cause of a social problem?
- **Entrepreneurial Spirit:** Does the candidate have strong entrepreneurial spirit to carry out large scale implementation?
- **Creativity:** Does the candidate have enough creative potential to solve unforeseen problems?
- **Ethical Fibre:** Is the candidate trustworthy and free of hidden interests? Does the candidate have the motivation to work on a solution for many years?

Our Ashoka Fellows are graduates of this process!
Our Graduate Fellows

Class* of 2006

With APOPO, Bart brings an effective solution to the problem of landmines. Bart has taught giant pouched rats how to detect mines in the shortest time, providing a new, low-cost and safe de-mining technique. In addition, Bart has also founded La Grande Terre, which aims to promote social engagement through sustainable well being.

Through APOPO, over 23 million square meters of mine-free land has been returned to local communities, including the return of farmland to one million subsistence farmers. The rats are also trained to detect tuberculosis, a cost-effective solution that has increased case detection by 40%. HeroRATs have detected over 14,000 missed patients already and helped prevent over 109,000 healthy people from getting infected with tuberculosis.

Class of 2008

Through Droits Quotidiens (DQ), Didier trains social workers as legal intermediaries to help disadvantaged groups to resolve legal disputes. This allows every citizen to find a solution and prevents the disadvantaged from unnecessary litigation. DQ also offers services to businesses and public administrations to produce documents in clear legal language.

DQ has provided more than 40,000 legal consultations to 850 social services. Over the last 10 years, 3,500 social actors were legally supported and 14,000 social workers have been trained. Didier also founded Helder Recht to expand his activities in Flanders and has launched an entity in France partnering with a French legal Tech to increase its social impact.

With RLKM, Ignace has found a way to enhance the environmental and economic value of nature reserves through development. He has encouraged calibrated investments that foster business opportunities while supporting local ecological quality. Ignace’s “Reconnection” model has inspired actors in Europe, China, US and South Korea.

In 2008, Ignace received the Goldman Environmental Prize in the USA. In 2017, he started a movement initiating the Climate Case in Belgium in order to sue the Belgian government to preserve our environment and force them to tackle climate change. He was selected in the top 25 of most influential Belgians in the world by Charlie Magazine, and is currently leading the development of a new park in the Netherlands.
Class of 2010

Through the Ethical Vegetarian Association (EVA), Tobias has developed high impact solutions to the issues related to meat consumption that can be achieved with modest changes in consumer lifestyles. He involves individuals, companies and local governments to change consumption habits worldwide.

Tobias has stepped out of his role as CEO of EVA, and is now an international speaker, trainer and consultant regarding vegan advocacy. He is also co-founder of the food awareness organisation Proveg International. Tobias' first book “How to Create a Vegan World” has been published in eight languages. Tobias is also one of the Belgian representatives of Effective Altruism, a movement that combines empathy with rationality and research to do good.

Through Infirmiers de Rue (IDR), Emilie is supporting homeless people's dignity and self-esteem while facilitating their social and professional rehabilitation. Emilie has successfully created a network of “watchdogs” that acts as an early warning system. IDR is empowering the long-term homeless by helping them to take charge of their own bodies and lives, using hygiene as a key stepping stone.

IDR has been involved in the re-housing of 119 people who were extremely vulnerable. IDR has implemented trainings on hygiene, insecurity and pharmacy basics for public transport companies and security agents mainly in Belgium, but also across Europe. In 2017, Emilie co-launched a campaign called “400 toits” which aims at finding 400 roofs and ending homelessness in Brussels by 2020. Since May 2019, IDR opened a new branch in Liège.

Class of 2011

With innovative educational programs, Arnoud valorises the qualities of resourcefulness that underprivileged children acquire in the street. Focusing on those strengths, Mobile School restores their self-esteem, a fundamental step toward successful social and professional integration. Arnoud also founded an executive training company, StreetwiZe, which translates the street survival skills of children into unconventional trainings for companies. All profits from StreetwiZe are reinvested in Mobile School programs.

In 2018, Arnoud developed StreetSmart, a tech startup bringing an impact measurement and case management solution to street educators and youth workers. An app helps educators register data on the streets. Automatically generated dashboards and reports show participation and empowerment level of children.
Class of 2012

Through Intelligent Nutrition (IN), Genevieve improves our understanding of the manner in which we think about and consume food. Intelligent Nutrition’s seminars engage nutrition experts, doctors, chefs, retailers, food producers, medical experts, and consumers throughout the food chain to build healthy and sustainable food behaviours for the planet.

SIIN training in health nutrition was recognised and certified by French Public Unemployment Organisations such as Pôle Emploi. In September 2017, 42 delitraiteur Stores adopted the IN approach to help consumers shop with respect to their health and the environment. To date, 120 chefs have adopted IN principles for +1 million meals, 3225 doctors and pharmacists have been trained.

With TEJO, Ingrid provides immediate, anonymous, and free access to psychological guidance by professional therapists to young people between 10 and 20 years old. This solution-focused therapy aims to build on positive qualities, and enables a renewed sense of competence, resilience and safety.

Since the launch of TEJO in 2010, Ingrid’s counselling model has engaged almost 500 volunteers, supporting 6579 youngsters, and an additional 1716 in 2017. In 2018, the first TEJO-house in the Netherlands opened its doors! There are now 11 functioning TEJO houses. Through TEJO lab, Ingrid is also exploring long-term solutions to combat unhealthy pressures that lead to mental health issues in young people. In 2018, Ingrid wrote new book, a plea to treat young people differently. In 2019, Ingrid received the “Education Prize” in Flanders for her commitment to the education of young people.

Class of 2013

With JUMP, Isabella works with organisations and individuals to close the gap between women and men at work, achieve sustainable corporate performance and create a more equal society. JUMP’s solutions, include consulting, training programmes and communication strategies on B2B and B2C levels with communication campaigns, editorial positioning, free online resources platform, handbooks, videos, studies and surveys that analyse women, men and corporate practices on gender equality to provide models for change.

JUMP is based in Brussels and Paris but works with organisations all over Europe. In 2019, 350 companies or institutions partnered with JUMP. JUMP has strengthened its consulting offer, working with companies such as the European Patent Office, Orange, National Bank of Belgium, Coca-Cola, etc. on their diversity plan and trainings programmes.
Class of 2015

Through Touché, Marjan works toward a positive aggressive society, by creating new opportunities for integration. Marjan has built pioneering programmes that transform aggressiveness into a positive force and attempts to break silos between different stakeholders working with her clients.

In 2017, Touché published and presented the book ‘Positive aggressive’ about their vision and methodology. In addition, Marjan has co-launched RESCALED, a bottom-up movement that aims to bring an innovative and sustainable detention concept in Europe fostering community integration, differentiation and a radical shift within the European penal context.

Through BeeOdiversity, Kim has redefined the role of bees in our ecosystems from honey producers to biodiversity protectors. He promotes bees as a core resource to the environment and to humans. With unique consultations methods and an integrated board, he offers services and personalised advice to all stakeholders.

BeeOdiversity’s service has already been replicated in cities in Belgium, France, US, UK, Switzerland, and Wales. Kim’s assessment method has also inspired similar projects in 22 countries. His achievements include European BeeWeek, which unites international scientists and presents their findings at the European Parliament and the International Day for Biodiversity. As of 2019, BeeOdiversity has surpassed more than 100,000 plantations thanks to their projects.

Class of 2017

Through Solentra, Geert trains community professionals to become more attuned to the cultural differences of diverse populations and the psychosocial aspects of migration, such as the impact on mental health. Solentra broadens the support network of refugee and migrant families by training and mobilising professionals.

Solentra’s PACCT methodology has impacted over 3,000 migrant and refugee children. PACCT was elected as one of the top 3 most promising practices by the International Organisation for Migration. Solentra is also working to develop an online course to scale their project, fostering refugee and migrant populations through community based care outside of Belgium.
With labour patterns evolving, there are more and more ‘autonomous workers’ who have limited access to social security. SMart Cooperative, a new form of organisation, salaries these workers and allows them to practice their own independent activities while benefitting from the secure conditions of salaried work, such as social protection.

SMart is active in 9 European countries and has over 120,000 members. The SMart model has garnered interest from various places in the world such as Africa, Asia and Canada. Sandrino is working to create an ecosystem of support for autonomous workers. He also engages in advocacy work to ensure that Belgian and European politicians are sufficiently prepared for the individualisation of the workforce.

DUO for a JOB is a mentoring programme which encourages an inter-cultural and inter-generational exchange between people over 50 years old who have professional experience, to share with young people from immigrant backgrounds - facilitating the future employment of these young people while recognising the mentors’ experiences. DUO for a JOB seeks to erase disparities and inequalities in labour market access for these young immigrants.

DUO for a JOB has so far created 2000 duos, producing twice the insertion rate of non-EU migrants into the labor market, and enjoys a 91% mentor re-enrolment rate. Matthieu and Frédéric are keen advocates of more holistic and inter-cultural employment policies towards refugees and migrants. DUO for a JOB has already spread across Belgium, and is expandering throughout Europe.
Class of 2019

Through The Good Lobby (TGL), Alberto helps people to contribute to a more inclusive and equal society by sharing advocacy skills, resources and collaboration opportunities, with the ultimate goal of redistributing political relevance by giving citizens equal access to power.

The Good Lobby has inspired thousands of individuals to start their own citizen battles and accompanied them along the way! Since 2017, TGL has reached more than 2000 individuals across Europe by offering more than 30 free workshops to assist them in becoming citizen lobbyists. On average, each workshop generated 5-6 high-impact citizen projects consisting of citizen-driven lobbying projects, impact journalism and social media awareness and mobilisation campaigns.

--

Class of 2020

Armentekort (ATK), an action research organization offering a new space for poor people and volunteering citizens to meet and create trustful relationships on an equal footing. By sourcing and training these volunteers on how to empower someone trapped into poverty, he is making available a new resource for the social sector’s work on poverty alleviation, who, unlike social workers, is able to entirely focus on building self-esteem.

Through a 2-year so-called “buddyship” program, the volunteer’s mission is to provide an unconditional presence to his/her buddy. As friends and even coaches, they help their buddies regain confidence, and are trained to neither judge nor give advice but rather enable them to find the right solutions for themselves. This is done by (re)creating social connections with existing or new networks and identifying opportunities for positive change.
Foreign Exchange Fellows
International Fellows that have scaled in Belgium

Elected in the USA in 2008

Wendy Kopp
Teach for All/ Belgium

Wendy is working on reducing education inequalities by training young graduates to become teachers in the most disadvantaged schools, in collaboration with the world's education actors.

Elected in Portugal in 2018

Hugo Menino Aguiar
SPEAK

Hugo fosters the emergence of local communities where migrants, refugees and locals develop relationships which creates informal support networks to enable the integration of newcomers.

Elected in France in 2018

Emilie Schmitt
Activ’Action

Emilie is working to help unemployed people seize opportunities. She came up with a unique framework for the unemployed to self-organize in local communities.
John Marks
Search for Common Ground
Elected in US in 2008

John has pioneered the use of TV and radio soap operas to facilitate peacebuilding and conflict resolution around the world. SFCG is specialized in the use of popular culture to create understanding among ethnic communities and to achieve measurable changes in behaviors and attitudes.

François Marty
Chenelet
Elected in France in 2008

François is setting new standards and redefining what public housing should look like: aesthetic, high quality, ecological, and economically viable.

Jane Davis
The Reader Organisation
Elected in the UK in 2012

The “shared reading” model, which seeks to redefine reading as a therapeutic tool, runs weekly throughout care homes, libraries, hostels, schools and prisons. In Belgium, the project has reunited 600 participants since 2014.

Guilhem Chéron
La Ruche Qui Dit Oui
Elected in France in 2013

Guilhem has created an alternative to France’s industrial agricultural production system by using peer-to-peer marketing to transform the economics of sustainable food production.

Frédéric Bardeau
Simplon/BeCode
Elected in France in 2013

Frédéric launched Simplon, a free coding programme for the disadvantaged youth, long-term unemployed, and seniors citizens. Named “BeCode” in Belgium, the organisation also includes refugees, prisoners, and people with disabilities.

James Thornton
ClientEarth
Elected in the UK in 2013

Working at the intersection of Europe’s environmental challenges, government institutions, and country-specific agendas, James is using a legal approach to defend an environmental agenda across Europe.
BSF strives to ensure that every woman and man in the world can have easy, open and free access to libraries, information and education. In Belgium, BSF is operating in the Wallonia-Brussels Federation, developing digital education programmes through Khan Academy.

SINGA creates opportunities for refugees and their host communities to meet and cooperate. The organisation aims to build bridges between people, encouraging dialogue, fostering cultural enrichment and creating job opportunities.

makesense is an international community of “Sense-makers” that rallies social entrepreneurs and their supporters. By putting together skills and ideas, makesense helps them create and develop their businesses, scale their impact and solve issues.

The Transition movement provides solutions to the twin challenges of climate change and reaching peak oil, the maximum rate of global petroleum extraction. He is accomplishing this goal by helping communities build a resilient, localised alternative.

Sena is building an environmental movement the develops the leadership and eco-citizenship of young people to promote the sustainable development of communities. He encourages young people to become the forefront of sustainable development.

By creating self-sustaining, immigrant-led financial groups, Jean Claude Rodriguez-Ferrera is addressing the basic financial and networking needs of immigrant populations and ensuring their full citizenship and participation in the economy.
Get Involved

**NOMINATE!**
Know an extraordinary social innovator that has Ashoka Fellow potential? Submit a nomination here:
https://www.ashoka.org/en-BE/engage/recommend/fellow

**PARTNER!**
We work with companies, organisations and individuals. Become a partner! More information here:
https://www.ashoka.org/en-BE/partner-us

**BECOME ASN!**
Join the Ashoka Support Network, and play a part in addressing society’s most pressing problems!
https://www.ashoka.org/en-BE/program/ashoka-support-network

**SHARE!**
Share our stories of impact and change on your social media! (and don’t forget to follow us on ours!)

Visit our website HERE for more information, or reach us here:
ashokabelgium@ashoka.org
Everyone a Changemaker

Ashoka Belgium
Rue Joseph II 20 Jozef-straat II
Brussels, - 1000, BE