

ASHOKA BELGIUM
**Impact &
Activity Report**

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Introduction





The past few years of Ashoka Belgium, are years that challenged us, brought us together, but also offered new opportunities to connect and innovate under a lot of uncertainty. This report aims to be a reflection on how we coped during these years of unforeseen events, as well as how we managed to keep inspiring and supporting our ecosystem. It is a narration of our activities and key outcomes, an evaluation and presentation of our strategy as well as a summary of the overall impact of Ashoka Belgium and its network, as we continue to grow.

The report is structured into two main sections – a reflection on the past years and an outlook for the future. In the first section we relate our sector findings, detail our programs, experiences and initiatives together with our partners, process feedback from our ecosystem and our impact. Then, we get a dose of inspiration and empowerment from our Ashoka Fellows and Young changemakers, through a series of highlights of their achievements over the past few years.

We put these reflections on the whiteboard and started to prepare and design for the future. We allow for the past year's experiences to guide us towards improving our role in accelerating social change in Belgium.

As you will read, the period 2019-2022 has been another productive few years. We are proud of our work and grateful to everyone who has contributed and supported us.

Want to know more about something? Links to websites are in [green!](#)

About Ashoka

OUR VISION

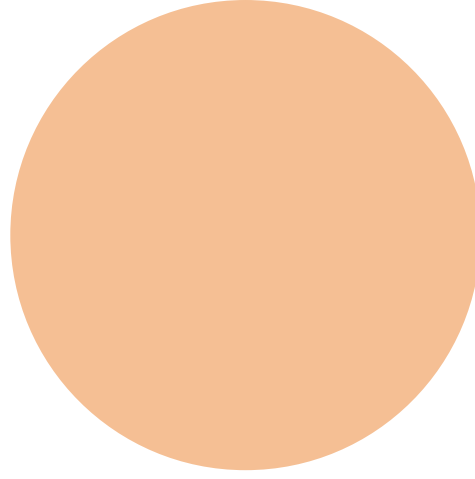
In an ever-changing world, Ashoka builds and animates a community of social innovators from all sectors: social entrepreneurs, committed youth, institutions and companies...

We seek to empower these social innovators by giving them the confidence, support and resources to do so. It is up to us to create the conditions to awaken the potential of each individual as a change agent to change the way we learn, live and work together, in a collaborative spirit! The solution also needs to be holistic, collective and systemic. Ashoka has a diverse network of leading social entrepreneurs, young changemakers, change leaders in education, philanthropists and businesses all united by a common goal of accelerating systems change.

OUR GOALS

Ashoka Belgium is part of the largest global network of social innovators, an organisation that for four decades has identified and supported social entrepreneurs whose impact changes the world for the better.

Our programmes are designed to unlock and better support the potential of these changemakers with the hope of producing a movement of changemakers that builds resilience and collective prosperity. Collectively, they encourage the emergence of a more inclusive, caring, and equitable society in which everyone can become an agent of change and has a role to play in the profound resolution of societal issues.



OUR MISSION Ashoka Belgium is part of the largest global network of social innovators gathered from all sectors: leading social entrepreneurs, young changemakers, change leaders in education, philanthropists and businesses all united by a common goal of accelerating systems change.

Collectively, we encourage the emergence of a more inclusive, caring, and equitable society in which everyone can become an agent of change and has a role to play in the profound resolution of societal issues.

It is up to us to create the conditions to awaken the potential of each individual as a change agent to change the way we learn, live and work together, in a collaborative spirit! The solution also needs to be holistic, collective and systemic

For four decades, Ashoka has identified and supported social entrepreneurs whose impact changes the world for the better. It has also designed programs to unlock and better support the potential of these changemakers with the hope of producing a movement that builds resilience and collective prosperity.

From supporting individuals to co-igniting coalitions. From “Social Entrepreneurship” as a playground to “Social Change” as a playground. From a community of social entrepreneurs that benefit from Ashoka’s support to a community of systems leaders that collaboratively achieve impact towards 'Everyone a Changemaker' (EACH).



ASHOKA AT A GLANCE

TODAY, THE WORLD'S FIRST AND LARGEST NETWORK OF SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS



4 000 + Ashoka fellows redefining norms in 95 countries



According to the NGO Advisor 2021 ranking, Ashoka is the 5th most influential NGO in the world



2 Ashoka Fellows are Nobel Peace Prize winners (M. Yunus and K. Satyarthi)



90% of Fellows feel connected to the Ashoka community



13 Ashoka Fellows are recipients of Goldman Environmental Prize



In 2019, Forbes ranked Ashoka as one of the most innovative organizations in the world

ASHOKA FELLOWS LEAD SYSTEMIC CHANGE



82% of Fellows have seen their idea replicated: 61% within their country, 42% internationally



72% of Fellows changed public policy at the national and/or international level*



90% of Fellows place the change of mindset at the heart of their impact strategy*

*Ashoka 2021 Global Impact Study, « Measuring Big Change »

OUR TEAM

A great team spirit

A coherent and cohesive team, which regularly questions itself and ensures that a good atmosphere is maintained in the group, is an undeniable bonus for keeping the engine running smoothly. Whether it is by arranging moments of relaxation devoted to nourishing the links between us, or via our yearly team retreat that aims to help us reflect on our needs, our limits and our desires in our respective and collective work.



Perrine De Le Court
Country director
Ashoka Belgium



Yannick Fischer
Venture and Partnerships
Manager



Olivier Orban
Senior advisor & ASN



Ashling Hoare
Finance and Operations
Manager Belgium and
Switzerland



Part One:



Our last Years
in review



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Our 2019-2022 highlights

Creating an ecosystem for EACH
via Inspiring Partnerships



Ashoka and community assisted to the [book launch event of Ashoka Fellow Ignace Schops](#)



Ashoka represents the Social Entrepreneurship sector during the [Single Market Forum Social Economy](#) (SPF Economy)



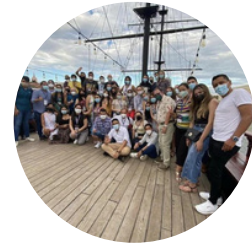
Our cooperation deepened with the [Sociale InnovatieFabriek](#)



Perrine appointed VP of [Be-Impact](#), sponsored by the King of Belgium



Finalization of 3 year project '[Accelerating Climate Change Solutions in Africa](#)' in conjunction with I-propeller, KPMG & Flemish Government



Ashoka Belgium collaborated with [Elanet](#) to develop an international platform in Latin America for social entrepreneurs



Ashoka co-animated the 2021 [Learning Planet Festival](#) with a focus on how to leverage networks in the education sector



Ashoka and Fellow Arnoud Raskin animated an [innovative sharing session](#) with [Amandine Englebert](#)



Ashoka and Fellow Arnoud HUBSI project: [ESF Flanders](#) and the Social InnovatieFabriek will work together on this competence center for social innovation



Ashoka co-founded Smart Network with other female entrepreneurs



Promotion of the Pierre Pirard Movie: "[Nous Tous](#)"



Impact House 'Open Doors Day': hosting of a Youth and Changemaking session



Ashoka Belgium's community brought a Key contribution to [Tomorrow Events](#) hosted by ABN AMRO



Ashoka Belgium & Poland's community brought a Key contribution to the Next Gen Polish Philanthropy Week we hosted in Brussels.



[Impact Monday: Meet the Future: the rise of a plant-based food system](#) with Ashoka Fellow Tobias Leenaert



[Impact Monday: Reimagining financial inclusion](#) with Ashoka Leader Erlijn Sie



2020 ACMS Session created: [The plea from social entrepreneurs and change leaders to Belgian political leaders](#)



2020 ACMS Session Created: [Transforming education through innovative changemaking projects in Belgian schools and beyond](#)



2020 ACMS Session Created: [Impact Programme 2020 - Strategies & Solutions to build a more sustainable and circular Belgian economy & society](#)



We are hosting the [2022 ACMS](#) in Bruxelles !

Specific Ashoka Belgium Milestones



Ashoka Changemaker Gathering 2021 with ASN/Fellows/Young Changemakers/Partners



Annual team retreat



After several years under Ashoka France, we obtained the status of Independent AISBL in 2022!

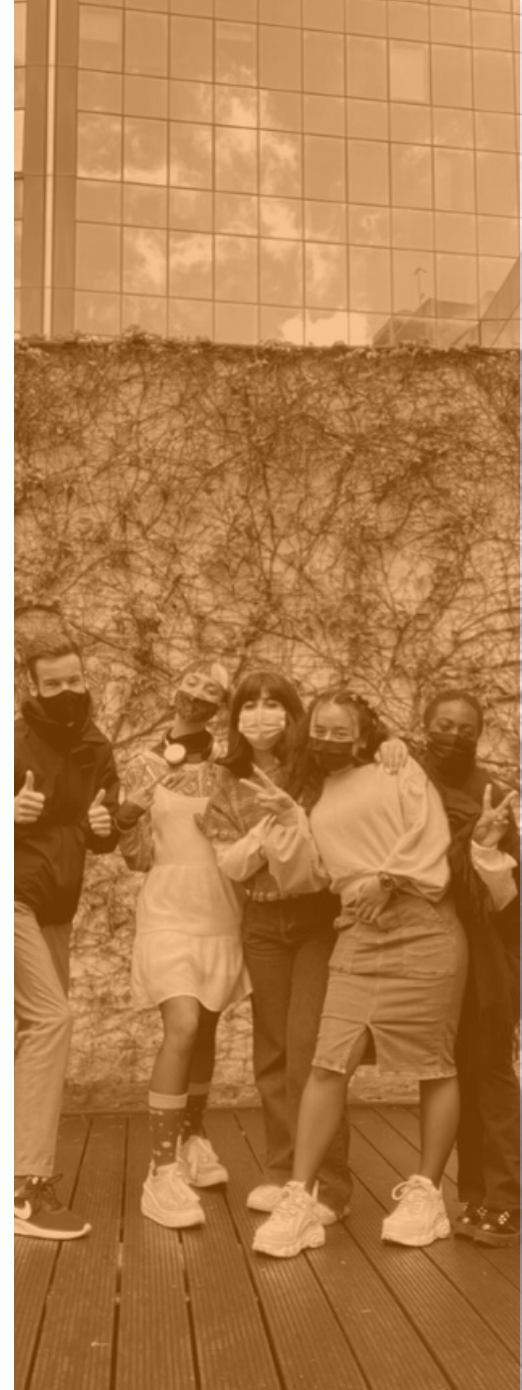
The Young Changemakers

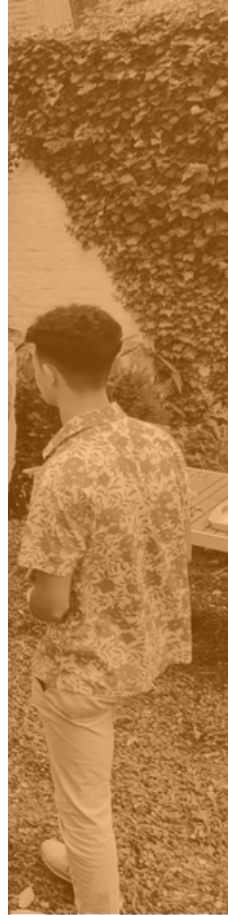
The Youth For Change Programme 2021-2022

Over the past year, the programme has nurtured changemaking in youngsters across Belgium and from all walks of life. We worked on youth empowerment both inside and outside the school context.

Youth for Change is Ashoka Belgium's program for young Belgian Changemakers, impacting positively our world. Aged from 12 to 20 years old, they all have innovative ideas to change the world around them. The program inspires and supports them, equips them with the skills to devise solutions to social problems they want to tackle. It focuses on empowering youth as we fully believe in their potential as active agents of social change. They are experts in their own lives and experiences.

Ashoka Belgium launched the Youth For Change programme in January 2021 with its first selection panel.





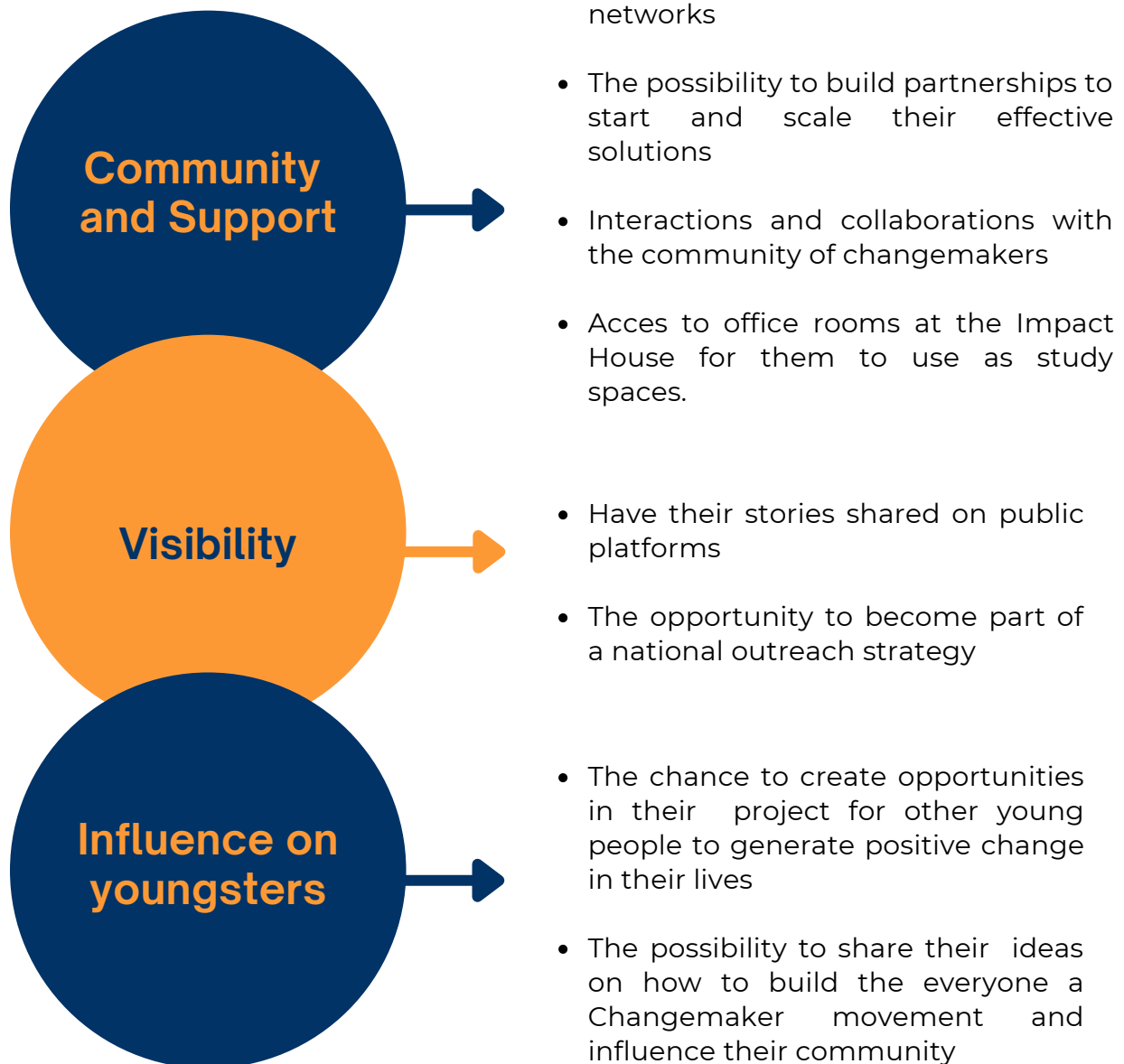


THE YOUTH FOR CHANGE PROGRAMME

2021-2022

What do they gain?

Youth for Change members gained access to workshops, adult allies (noncontrolling advisors), a global network of like-minded young changemakers, and various tools. We established frameworks for youth to meet, to promote each other's resilience and to participate in initiatives that strengthen social cohesion:



The Youth for Change Programmes Partners



Ashoka Belgium's youth ecosystem partners





YOUNG CHANGEMAKERS.

Ashoka Belgium aims to empower youth by providing them with the skills and tools they need to become the future social entrepreneurs, the future workforce, and the future leaders. Together with our partners and network, we help them get the support they need to realise their goals.



Benjamin
Repair Café

Alarmed by the number of objects thrown away each day, Benjamin and his classmates, with the support of his teacher, created a Repair Café at his school to give a second life to everyday objects. The repair café is a project aimed at reducing waste production, teaching people about anti-waste practices, providing repair options to the community as well as creating new social connections.



Anceline & Anaïs
The textile/fast fashion industry

Anceline and Anaïs decided to challenge fabric waste, micro-trends, impulsive purchases, and mentalities. The two started creating outfits made entirely from second-hand materials. With these creations, they aim to show people fun and creative alternatives to fast fashion. As well as in the future, share their creations and raise awareness via social media. In the long term, they want to reverse the norm and make mass consumption out of fashion.



Anaïs, Caroline & Shahad
Needie Paddie

Needie Paddie was created by Anaïs, Caroline, and Shahad to respond to an alarming issue: menstrual precariousness. By raising awareness on their Instagram page and collecting sanitary products for redistribution to people in need, the three girls try to normalize menstruation and get rid of the societal taboos associated with it.



Wannas

Covid-19 and its impact on youth

Wannas witnessed how students around him were slowly getting depressed and were having issues attending online courses. There was also a lack of socialising opportunities due to the pandemic. So, he started organising meetings with students using creativity to connect and share about wellbeing.

He supports teachers and students in their interactions, tries to ease the communication between them, and evaluates the students' level of mental health to see how his project is impacting people's lives.



Noor

Wellbeing at school

Noor has always worked tirelessly for the causes dear to her heart. She was elected as the winner of the Lion's Club Young Ambassador Award for 2021.

Her current mission is to normalise student's wellbeing discussions at school. Her ongoing project is the placement and furnishing of a small house in her school's playground, a cosy and safe place for students to come share and discuss about their wellbeing.

She coordinates operations, trains teachers and future trainers to speak about those topics and loves to embark other young people in her movements.

YOUNG CHANGEMAKERS HIGHLIGHTS

IMPACT MONDAY : YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH JUNE 2021

NOOR

This online event, hosted by the [Impact House](#), was a discussion on how the pandemic has affected young people mentally, what creative ideas have surfaced that may point to a new culture of health, and what support mechanisms were put in place by families, associations and the government and their outcomes.

Three of our inspiring changemakers led the conversation: Noor, a member of the Youth for Change program, Ashoka Fellow Ingrid De Jonghe, founder of TEJO, and Nicolas Janssen, Deputy Member of Parliament (education & environment) & member of the Ashoka Support Network.



FESTIVAL OUT OF THE BOOKS OCTOBER 2021

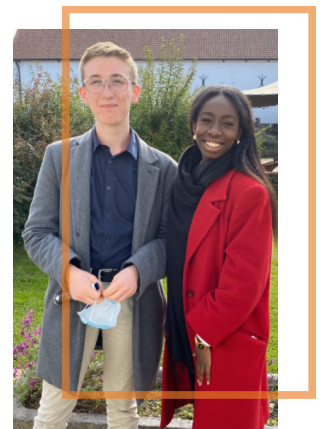
ANAÏS & BENJAMIN



Who or what has been inspiring you lately?

This was the central question of the workshop at the [Festival Out of the Books](#).

Two Young leaders, Anaïs and Benjamin, from the Ashoka Youth for Change Program went to share their inspiring entrepreneurial journey and their ideas to make the world a better place.



FULL COMMUNITY RETREAT DECEMBER 2021

This retreat with the community of Fellows, ASN's and Youngsters was held in person at the [Impact House](#) in Brussels.

The purpose was to bring together the whole community to connect and share. A total of 25 people were present.



PITCH AT THE P&V FOUNDATION FEBRUARY 2022

NOOR

At this event, Noor was able to present her project briefly to the P&V foundation's youth forum and the young people had the opportunity to ask her questions about the objectives, the feasibility, and the impact of her project. Other organisations were also present and at the end of the session, there was room for a general discussion.



IMPACT MONDAY: LEADING THE CHANGE THROUGH ACTION MARCH 2022

NOOR & NEDDIE PADDIE

Beyond taboos: How young changemakers are leading the change through action.

Two of our very inspiring Ashoka Youth For Change program participants, Anaïs and Noor, had the opportunity to tell their story at the Impact House on the topic of leading the conversation through action.



CHANGEMAKER DIALOGUE WITH NOOR JUNE 2022

NOOR

Ashoka Youth For Change program participant Noor had the opportunity to share her inspiring story during the Changemaker Dialogue session with Jimmy Westerheim: Ashoka Nordic Fellow and CEO of The Human Aspect and Susana Caires: Emotional health and well-being specialist. They talked about how to take care of young people's well-being and mental health while creating the next generation of changemakers.



The Impact Programme

Social entrepreneurs

The Impact Programme is an accelerator for high-potential social entrepreneurs. Through a four to six months process of training and mentorship, Ashoka's Impact Programme helps social entrepreneurs to take a step back and build a sustainable business model around them so that their solutions can ultimately have a greater impact on society.



In partnership with





THE IMPACT PROGRAMME

| Missions |

Through the programme we want to identify & support leading Changemakers who aim to scale their systemic solutions to achieve more depth in fighting the profound planetary crises the world is facing today. In order to achieve this, the Impact Programme is supporting entrepreneurs through different levels linked to developing and refining their scaling strategy.

In this year's edition, after a jury selection, 11 chosen entrepreneurs benefited from individual coaching, workshops, access to circular economy experts, networking opportunities and pitching opportunities to new partners. The entrepreneurs showing the highest development curve received continued support provided by Accenture, ABN AMRO and Ashoka.

| Milestones |

- To identify the most promising social entrepreneurs in Belgium, the partnership first focused on developing an accelerator program to scale these nascent organizations.
- The resulting Impact Programme has become an important cornerstone of Ashoka's activities.
- The first edition of the Impact Programme welcomed social entrepreneurs in all domains.
- This was followed by two editions dedicated to Integration and Employment, one of them in partnership with the US embassy and Ashoka's Hello Europe initiative, a global program focused on supporting migrant entrepreneurs.
- The last two editions were focused on the Circular Economy and Climate Change in partnership with ABN AMRO Private Banking Belgium.
- These experiences resulted in the "7 Key Questions for Social Entrepreneurs", a guide for social entrepreneurs
- In parallel, Accenture has provided dedicated strategy and technology consulting services to these ready to scale organizations

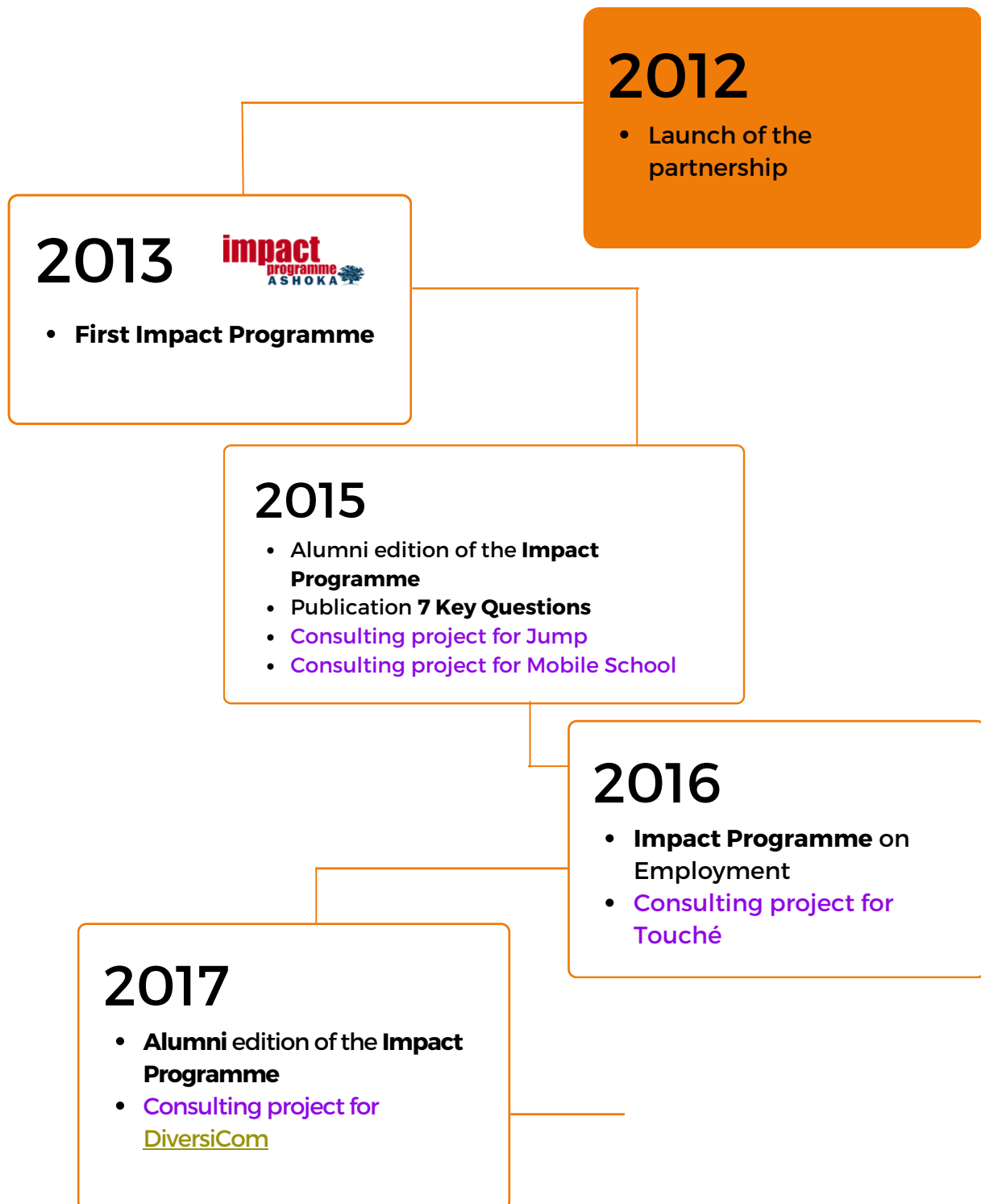




THE IMPACT PROGRAMME

| Timeline |

The journey started in 2012 to shape & launch the first Impact Programme together with Accenture, and continuously evolves to bring more partners together and scale impact.



2018



- **Impact Programme on Integration and Employment** in partnership with US Embassy and Ashoka [HELLO Europe](#)
- 10 participants

2019

- **Alumni** edition of the **Impact Programme**
- **Consulting project for The Good Lobby**

2020



- **Impact Programme on Climate Change & Circular Economy** in partnership with ABN AMRO
- **Consulting project for BeeOdiversity**
- 9 participants

2021

- **Alumni** edition of the **Impact Programme**
- **Consulting project for PermaFungi**

2022



- **Impact Programme on Climate Change & Circular Economy** in partnership with ABN AMRO
- 11 participants

| Past success stories |

Ashoka Fellows and winners of the Impact Programme can benefit from strategy, consulting and technology services from Accenture, working with a dedicated project team during three to six months and being connected to the full Accenture ecosystem. Most of them have grown their impact since participating in the programme.



| Awards 2021-22 |



Natura Mater won the Ready to Scale Award and will receive 100 staff days' worth of consultancy from Accenture Belgium to continue working on the scaling strategy.

Natura Mater aims to fasten the transition of the building industry by advising professionals on the choice, purchase and use of sustainable building materials.



Happy Hours Market won the Ready to Invest award and will be prepared by ABN AMRO Private Banking Belgium to raise funds to continue their scaling journey.

Happy Hours Market fights against food waste by allowing access to retailers' food that often ends up unsold. Their application provides daily access to supermarkets and wholesalers' food products near the end of their shelf life, at a very attractive price. All the goods that are not sold via the app are delivered, on a daily basis, by Happy Hours Market directly to charities and food banks.



| Urbike | **urbike**

Urbike won the Crowd's Favourite award and will be invited to a global training provided by Ashoka's global- training facility!

Urbike is a cycle logistics cooperative that positions itself as a change accelerator in urban logistics by stimulating the use of cargo bikes instead of vans and light trucks for last-mile deliveries. Its mission is to transform mobility and quality of life in the heart of cities by making bike delivery innovative and competitive. In addition, with its meaningful cooperative model, urbike shows that it is possible to combine logistics innovation, operational efficiency and the guarantee of respectful working.

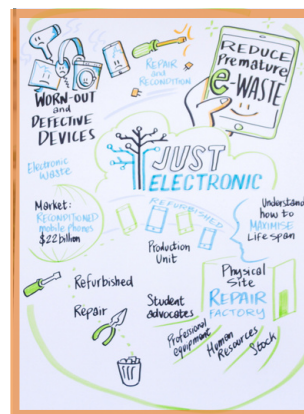


| Just Electronic |



Just Electronic won a second Ready to Scale Award for their outstanding learning curve throughout the programme! They will be supported by Accenture's staff to continue their amazing journey!

Just Electronic is a start-up that aims to reduce premature electronic waste by extending the life of electronic devices by reconditioning worn devices and repairing defective devices. They remove electronic and electrical equipment from "the trash" which can still be used before they go to the recycling stage. Via their work, they also fight against planned obsolescence.



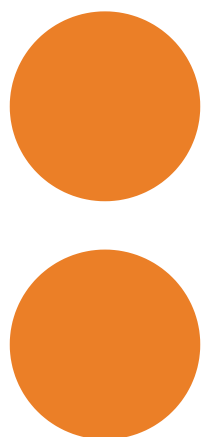


The Changemakers

Ashoka Belgium Fellows

Since its inception, Ashoka's mission has been to identify and support pioneering social entrepreneurs with ideas that aim to initiate ambitious social change. Based on careful analysis of the unique qualities observed in these entrepreneurs, Ashoka has developed a precise and demanding selection process to accompany them and integrate them into the Ashoka Fellows network.

Our Ashoka Belgium Fellows are graduates of this process!





Class of 2006

| Bart Weetjens – [APOPO / La Grande Terre](#) |

Leftover landmines and explosives threaten more than a third of the world's countries while hampering the development of vulnerable communities. With [APOPO](#), Bart Weetjens brought an effective solution, where giant pouched rats are taught how to detect landmines in the shortest time, providing a new, low-cost and safe de-mining technique. The rats are also trained to detect tuberculosis, a cost-effective solution that has increased case detection by 40%.

Since APOPO, he founded [La Grande Terre](#), which aims to promote social engagement through sustainable well-being. Currently, Bart, as a Zen Monk, accompanies individuals, groups, organisations and corporations alike, to foster a harmonious connection between people and nature.



Class of 2008

| Didier Ketels – [Droits Quotidiens \(DQ\)](#) |

Nearly one in five people in Belgium live under the poverty threshold and these marginalized people often face legal problems that arise unbeknownst to them. Didier Ketels founded [Droits Quotidiens](#) to train social workers as legal intermediaries who simplify the law and help disadvantaged groups resolve legal disputes quickly and fairly. DQ also offers services to businesses and public administrations to produce documents in clear legal language.



| Ignace Schops – [National Park Hoge Kempen \(RKLM\)](#) |

Hundreds of nature reserves in densely populated areas across Europe are falling into public neglect and are threatened because of the limited resources engaged in their promotion and maintenance. Ignace developed a model to dramatically enhance both the environmental and economic value of these areas through concerted development. In Belgium, Ignace led the first European citizen movement, acquiring the management of 6000 hectares of a nature reserve and transforming it into a national park: [National Park Hoge Kempen](#). He is now using this park to embed an economic development model that can be adapted to reserves of all sizes in densely populated areas across Europe.



Class of 2010

| Tobias Leenaert – [ProVeg International](#) |

Recognising the lack of awareness surrounding the problem of unsustainable meat consumption and the challenges to shift deeply culturally and socially rooted eating habits, Tobias has embarked on a quest to subtly shift market forces and incentivise a higher demand for vegetarian food and a stronger implication for businesses. EVA, the organisation Tobias founded (in 2000) and for which he was selected as a fellow, is now called Proveg Belgium, becoming part of Proveg International, the international organisation which Tobias co-founded. Through [ProVeg](#) (amongst other initiatives), 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.



| Emilie Meessen – [Infirmiers de Rue \(IDR\)](#) |

With nearly 3 million + homeless people living on the streets of European cities, and these numbers continue to rise, street social workers struggle to find adequate answers to help the most excluded change their situation. Through a revolutionary process that bridges life on the streets with the traditional health care system, Emilie is supporting homeless people's dignity and self-esteem, while facilitating their social and professional rehabilitation. This initiative is called [Infirmiers de Rue](#), where a successful network of "watchdogs" act as an early warning system. Using hygiene as a stepping-stone, they are empowering the long-term homeless by helping them to take charge of their own bodies and lives.



Class of 2011

| Arnoud Raskin – [StreetWize/Mobile School](#) |

Observing that 90% of street kids that enter a shelter drop out after 2 days, Arnoud started revolutionising the assistance offered to them in order to multiply their chances of successfully reintegrating into society. By reaching them in their environment - the street - and focusing on their strengths, [Mobile School](#) restores their self-esteem, a fundamental step towards successful social and professional integration. Arnoud also launched a for-profit company in Belgium to provide companies with [StreetwiZe](#) trainings, which translates the street survival skills of children into unconventional teachings. Through this endeavour he also aims to transform society's perception of vulnerable people, and simultaneously create an economic model to sustain the growth of the Mobile School programs.



Class of 2012

| Genevieve Moreau – **SiiN Institute/ Intelligent Nutrition (IN)** |

We face ecological damage resulting from transportation patterns, packaging, meat production, mistreatment of animals, and the disconnect between food production and consumption. Through **SiiN Institute/Intelligent Nutrition (IN)**, Geneviève improves our understanding of the way we think about and consume food. **IN** 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. Additionally, SiiN'S training in health nutrition was recognised and certified by French public unemployment organisations such as Pôle Emploi.



| Ingrid De Jonghe – **TEJO** |

Since 2000, the number of young people with mental health problems has increased dramatically. While private services are available, they are expensive and difficult to access without an adult taking charge. Many public and private therapists recognize the problem of accessibility and are eager to contribute, but they lack the structure to do so. This is where **TEJO**, founded by Ingrid, has its role to play. **TEJO** offers psychological counselling by professional therapists to young people aged between 10 and 20. They also cover requests for help at an early stage. The sessions are anonymous, immediate, short, and free of charge. This solution-oriented brief therapy helps to build up the qualities and strengths of the adolescents, aiming to make them more resilient.



Class of 2013

| Isabella Lenarduzzi – **JUMP** |

In response to many activists and studies around the missed economic opportunity of gender equality, most large companies have developed gender equality programs. However, there is often a discrepancy between the goals of these programs and what is implemented.

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, communication strategies on B2B and B2C levels with communication campaigns, editorial positioning, a free online resources platform, handbooks, videos, studies, and surveys that analyse women, men, and corporate practices on gender equality to provide models for change.



Class of 2015

| Marjan Gryson – **Touché / RESCALED** |

Through **Touché**, using a method to re-channel aggression in inmates throughout the Belgium prison system, Marjan Gryson is creating opportunities for inmates to set positive goals, chart a course for a more constructive life outside of prison and reintegration into society as full citizens. Marjan also co-launched **RESCALED**, a bottom-up movement that aims to bring an innovative and sustainable detention concept to European fostering community integration, differentiation, and a radical shift within the European penal context.



| Bach Kim Nguyen – **BeeOdiversity** |

Beekeepers often consider bees as a product that makes them money and not necessarily as a manager of biodiversity. The problem also touches everyday citizens: honey is still viewed as a pure and natural product; an average citizen may not understand the level of pesticides used to fight bee diseases and thus the amount of remaining pesticides in honey for human consumption. 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. Via unique consultations methods and an integrated board, he offers services and personalised advice to all stakeholders.



Class of 2017

| Geertrui Serneels – **Solentra** |

Since 2011, Europe has witnessed a heavy influx of refugees and migrants, with many European cities becoming “super-diverse.” In response to this, Geertrui has pioneered a culturally sensitive and community-based mental healthcare system for refugees and migrants with **Solentra**. Her methodology was recognised as one of the top 3 practices across the EU by the International Organization for Migration. Geertrui is ensuring that all professionals who work with refugees are trained to meet their psychosocial needs and is working to prove that first-level mental health support for refugees (or mentally distressed people) should be provided by all professionals working with them.

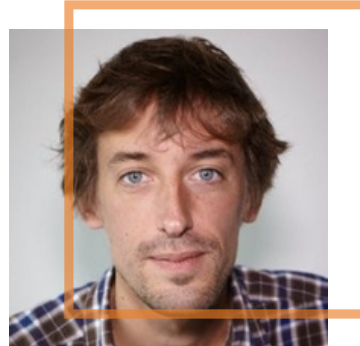


Class of 2018



| Sandrino Graceffa – **Smart** |

Globalization, digitalization and the rise of the platform Economy have opened the ground for new forms of work organization. With labour patterns evolving, there are more and more 'autonomous workers' who have limited access to social security. Founded by Sandrino, [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. 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.



| Matthieu Le Grelle & Frédéric Simonart - **DUO for a JOB (DUO)** |

[DUO for a JOB](#)'s mission relies on a double observation: on the one hand, young people with an immigrant background are confronted with unequal access to the job market in Europe; and on the other hand, the experience of "50+" is not sufficiently valued. In response to this, DUO for a JOB was created in Belgium in 2012. The association brings together those two groups and, through their free and qualitative intergenerational mentoring programme, they aim to reduce inequalities in accessing the job market, value the skills and experience of our elders and strengthen social cohesion across Europe.

In concrete terms, as soon as the duo has been matched, the young mentee and his/her mentor meet for a minimum of two hours a week over a period of six months. 7 out of 10 find a positive solution following their duo (job, internship or training), and 9 mentors out of 10 start a new duo again!

Class of 2019

| Alberto Alemanno – [The Good Lobby \(TGL\)](#) |

75% of policy-making meetings include shareholders and corporate elites but fail to represent the wider population. In parallel, civil society lacks the resources and knowledge, to create powerful lobbying campaigns, leaving their potential untapped. While many citizens associate lobbying with a "dirty activity" reserved for professionals with incredible influence and economic power, Alberto found that lobbying can become a key strategy for citizens to enter the policy-making process. 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 goal of redistributing political relevance by giving citizens equal access to power.



Class of 2020

| Theo Vaes – [ArmenTeKort \(ATK\)](#) |

Theo involves thousands of citizens in his effort to change the condition of people living in poverty by raising their self-esteem and stop their societal stigmatization. He measures every step of this journey to build economic and social arguments aimed at changing policy-makers' behaviour doing so, he is building a case to move away from funding approaches that retroactively heal symptoms of poverty in favour of preventing its root causes. Theo created [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.



Welcome back! Class of 2007

| Olivier Gaillard – [Civic Service Platform](#) |

Olivier Gaillard, the very first Belgian Ashoka Fellow, was elected back in 2007 for his [work in education](#), focusing on empowering youngsters to become changemakers. He is the founder of Step Into Action (annual gathering to equip young people to change the world) and the Civic Service Platform (lobbying NPO to create a civic service in Belgium).



CLASS OF 2022

We announced our latest duo of social entrepreneurs in March 2022. Because of the pandemic, they were selected by Ashoka as a Special Relationship (Virtual) using an online process.



| Maxime Zaït and Sâm Rosenzweig – **Communa** |

THE OBSERVATION

In Brussels alone, there is a shortage of about 50,000 housing units.

The effects of this lack of affordable living spaces are dramatic, resulting in increased precariousness and even homelessness due to high rent prices. In addition, the commercialisation of the housing market has contributed to a lack of space to innovate and provide public spaces for arts and culture. Artists and social entrepreneurs often find it difficult to find affordable spaces to operate in. They are therefore pushed out of urban areas, where they contribute to the dynamics of gentrification.

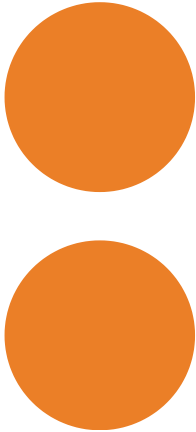
THE IDEA

Sâm and Maxime founded **Communa** in 2013, an ASBL that is spreading the concept of “Temporary Use with a Social Purpose” across Europe, as a new norm of using vacant buildings at the service of local communities and citizen sector organization. They strive to create more resilient, inclusive, and citizen-run cities.

THE IMPACT

Thanks to Communa, the temporary use of empty buildings allows, beyond responding to short-term needs, the promotion of new tools and ways of thinking to conceive housing, art, culture, social action, and solidarity-based economic activity. These places make it possible to test alternatives, to improve them, and to collectively solidify a societal project. Communa, therefore, relies on transitional use to influence the final use of the building and to raise awareness among the building's owners, so that the temporary use is transformed into a transitional and co-designed use that resonates with the needs of a community, providing low-cost places to live and experiment in neighbourhoods where many citizens feel excluded from society due to the lack of affordable living spaces .

The Fellows Highlights



AWARDS

LEGAL TECH SOCIAL PRIZE 2019

DIDIER KETELS – DROITS QUOTIDIENS

In 2019, Didier and his project DQ won the [Montpellier Bar Association's Legal Tech Social Prize](#). They presented their first digital project for better access to law for everyone. Their work targets the protection measures of adults losing their autonomy.



RECEPTION OF THE TITLE OF BARONESS 2019

INGRID DE JONGHE – TEJO

Ingrid De Jonghe, received the title of baroness by the King of Belgium, for her impactful work, on Belgian's national day. The king awarded various honours to a wide range of Belgian personalities on that day.



ETION LEADERSHIP AWARD 2021

IGNACE SCHOPS – NATIONAL PARK HOGE KEMPEN

Ignace Schops, was the winner of the 2021 ETION Leadership Award. The [ETION Leadership Award](#) honours a leader who sets people in motion towards a common goal.



SOCIAL INNOVATOR OF THE YEAR 2022

ALBERTO ALEMANNI – THE GOOD LOBBY

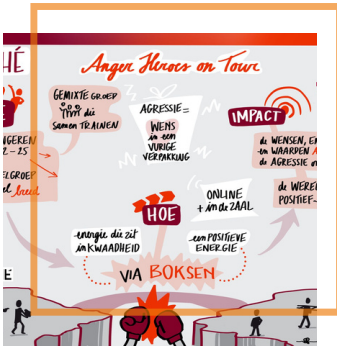
Alberto Alemanni was recognised as Social Innovator of the Year 2022 by the [Schwab Foundation](#) for Social Entrepreneurship and the World Economic Forum. He was the only academic rewarded in this category this year!



SOCIAL INNOVATION TOURNAMENT 2020

BACH KIM NGUYEN – BEEODIVERSITY

In 2020, BeeOdiversity came in second in the [Social Innovation Tournament](#) which recognises and supports the best European social entrepreneurs.



PROJECT CALL CONNECTING YOU(TH) 2022

MARJAN GRYSON – TOUCHÉ

In 2022, Touché was the laureate of the project call [Connecting You\(th\) by the Foundation P&V Stitching](#). The Anger Heroes project bridges gaps through sport, connection and positive aggressiveness.

RADICALE VERNIEUWER 2022

THEO VAES – ARMENTEKORT

Theo Vaes and his project ArmenTeKort won the [Audience Award Radical Innovators](#) founded by De Sociale InnovatieFabriek. They believe that because we are in a Decade of Action, we need to make existing solutions mainstream.



SOLAR IMPULSE EFFICIENT SOLUTION LABEL 2020

KIM NGUYEN – BEEODIVERSITY

In 2020, BeeOdiversity received the [“Solar Impulse Efficient Solution Label”](#) designed to highlight existing solutions such as BeeOmonitoring, which are both clean and cost-effective and have a positive impact on the quality of life.



REIMAGING HEALTH CHALLENGE 2022

GEERTRUI SERNEELS – SOLENTRA

Geertrui and her initiative PACCT by Solentra, was one of the winners of the [Reimaging Health Challenge](#) by Ashoka and The Johnson & Johnson Foundation.



PROVEG INTERNATIONAL & THE UN

TOBIAS LEENAERT – PROVEG

[ProVeg](#) has permanent observer status with the UNFCCC, special consultative status with ECOSOC, is accredited for UNEA, and has received the United Nation's Momentum for Change Award.

PARTNERSHIPS

INNERPRENEURS.ORG

BART WEETJENS X VINCENT DE CONNICK

Fellow Bart Weetjens, together with Vincent de Connick, created [Innerpreneurs](#). Together they offer a 360° consultation where they discuss the person's motivation, journey as an entrepreneur as well as the obstacles and successes.



SIIN & MOSA BALLET SCHOOL 2022

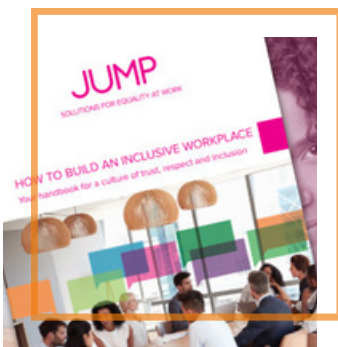
GENEVIEVE MOREAU – SIIN

In 2022, Siin partnered up with the international [Mosa Ballet School](#) to offer them support in terms of durable health nutrition and the well-being of the dancers.

TOMORROWLAND FOUNDATION 2019

ARNOUD RASKIN – MOBILE SCHOOL

Arnaud Raskin was chosen to [work with the TomorrowLand Foundation](#) in collaboration with the Belgian musician Lost Frequencies. Thanks to the support, Mobile School was able to expand and open 5 new mobile schools in countries around the world.



JUMP & *BEIERSDORF (CARE BEYOND SKIN) 2021

ISABELLA LENARDUZZI – JUMP

NEW FRENCH PARTNERSHIPS

MATTHIEU LE GRELLE & FRÉDÉRIC SIMONART - DUO

DUO for a JOB has joined the [Collectif Mentorat](#) whose mission is to unite all the public interest organizations that work in favour of mentoring. They are also a partner of the foundation [La France s'engage](#) launched by François Hollande.

**COLLECTIF
MENTORAT**



**LA FRANCE
S'ENGAGE**



MOBILE SCHOOL & GOOGLE.ORG 2019

ARNOUD RASKIN – MOBILE SCHOOL & STREETSMART

Google announced the [Google.org Impact Challenge on Safety](#) and decided to partner with [StreetSmart](#), by providing them with €490.000 and coaching by Google's IT experts.

PROVEG & CARREFOUR 2022

TOBIAS LEENAERT– PROVEG

ProVeg has been working with retail giant Carrefour for the last few years, and they joined Carrefour's newly developed [Plant-Based Contest](#) as part of the jury.



DUO FOR A JOB X BENJAMIN FERRE 2024

MATTHIEU LE GRELLE & FRÉDÉRIC SIMONART - DUO

DUO for a JOB will have its boat, the MONNOYEUR, participate during the next [Vendée Globe 2024](#). The young sailor [Benjamin Ferre](#) will carry high the colours of DUO during the race, offering visibility to the organisation



WHITHIN ASHOKA

IN THE EYE OF THE STORM 2021

MARJAN GRYSON & BART WEETJENS

Marjan and Bart partnered together to create a set of online sessions, Titled "[In the Eye of the Storm](#)", to help people cope with the frustration linked to Covid-19.



WEAVING FOR A THRIVING PLANET 2021-2025

IGNACE SCHOPS & BACH KIM NGUYEN

Ashoka Netherlands, together with Ashoka Fellows and partners, launched [Weaving for a Thriving planet](#), a 5-year program that aims to regenerate the natural systems that support all life on this planet. Ignace and Kim partnered with 16 other social entrepreneurs to leverage the potential of their innovations and weave them together to increase their collective impact.



ARMENTEKORT (ATK) & ASHOKA ROMANIA 2021

THEO VAES – ARMENTEKORT (ATK)

Theo and his ATK team organised an impact transfer process on social inclusion with the Romanian Ashoka ecosystem. The process was built on the view that only by finding synergies with social changemakers across Europe and beyond will, ATK move closer to eradicating endemic poverty.



PUBLICATIONS

GERED DOOR DE BOOMKIKKER 2022

IGNACE SCHOPS

In this [new book](#), Ignace shares his changemaker story with cases that he has helped to realise in recent decades. Based on those success stories, it discovers what we can do to turn the tide together and offers an innovative look at our dependence on nature for a healthy society.



DUO FOR A JOB : REPORT & PODCAST

MATTHIEU LE GRELLE & FRÉDÉRIC SIMONART - DUO

The association published a new edition of their [experience report](#) as well as their very first podcast series entitled "[Mode d'emploi](#)" (French). Two different formats with one common objective: to carry the voice of the young people the association accompanies.



PAN-EUROPEAN SURVEY

TOBIAS LEENAERT – PROVEG INTERNATIONAL

ProVeg International, in partnership with Innova Market Insights, the University of Copenhagen, and Ghent University, as part of the Smart Protein project, published a new [pan-European Survey](#) that investigates consumers' attitudes towards plant-based foods.

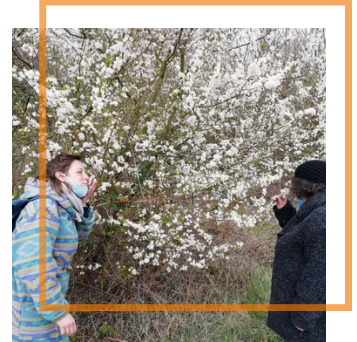


SCALING & INITIATIVES

INFIMIERS DE RUE : "MY WAY" 2021

EMILIE MEESEN – INFIRMIERS DE RUE (IDR)

In order to prevent a relapse into street life, IDR launched a fully-fledged prevention project called "[My Way](#)". This new aspect of their work is aimed at anchoring people firmly in their homes, with a focus on their long-term development.



SMART IN EUROPE

SANDRINO GRACEFFA – SMART

Over the past ten years, the Smart project has been [exported to Europe](#), with today a network of partners in eight countries.



PROVEG INTERNATIONAL IN CHINA 2022

TOBIAS LEENAERT – PROVEG INTERNATIONAL

As of May 2022, the Shanghai Representative Office of ProVeg International Incorporated was formally approved as an [International NGO in China](#), the first such approval for a plant-based non-profit. ProVeg's presence in this major global market is a historic milestone.



LAUNCH OF ANGER HEROES 2022

MARJAN GRYSON

Marjan launched the [angerheroes.com](#) platform, aimed at empowering people to turn their anger stories into a positive tool. Through Anger Heroes, Marjan wants to make sure everyone, worldwide can get the best out of their anger and perceive it as their superpower.



SCHOOL PLATES

TOBIAS LEENAERT – PROVEG UK

[School Plates](#) aims to make UK school meals healthier and more sustainable by using fewer animal products. To date they have turned 6 million school meals meat-free or plant-based through newly-introduced meat-free days.



MODULE HOMES: CREATING HOUSING 2021

EMILIE MEESEN – INFIRMIERS DE RUE (IDR)

In 2017, the ["modular housing" project](#) was launched as part of the 400 Roofs Campaign. Since then, six modules have already been installed and in 2022, at least 6 more modules will be installed.



DUO FOR JOB IS GROWING

MATTHIEU LE GRELLE & FRÉDÉRIC SIMONART - DUO

Since 2021, DUO for a JOB has been scaling across Europe opening 9 new (sub)branches in France, the Netherlands and Belgium.



BRUSSELS SLEEP OUT 2021

EMILIE MEESEN – INFIRMIERS DE RUE (IDR)

In December 2021 IDR organised the [Brussels Sleep Out @Home](#), challenging people to spend one long night outside to raise awareness about homelessness in Brussels.



WE(LL) ARE YOUNG! 2022

INGRID DE JONGHE – TEJO

To support young people in an even more preventive way, TEJO developed a traveling experience expo together with some other organisations. The exhibition [WE\(LL\) ARE YOUNG!](#) focused on three important themes: the personal well-being of young people, their rights, and where they can find help when they are struggling.

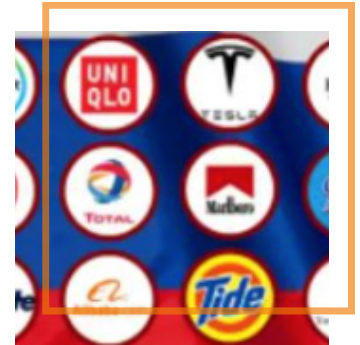


INITIATIVES IN RESPONSE TO UKRAINE

UKRAINE CORPORATE INDEX 2022

ALBERTO ALEMANNO – THE GOOD LOBBY

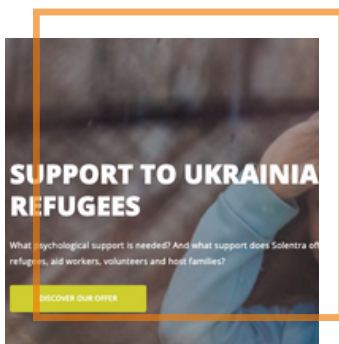
The Good Lobby and Progressive Shopper, founded by Mark Hanis, established together the [Ukraine Corporate Index](#). This Index regularly tracks corporations' stance vis-à-vis Russia in the aftermath of its invasion of Ukraine.



FREE HELPLINE FOR UKRAINIAN REFUGEES 2022

GEERTRUI SERNEELS – SOLENTRA

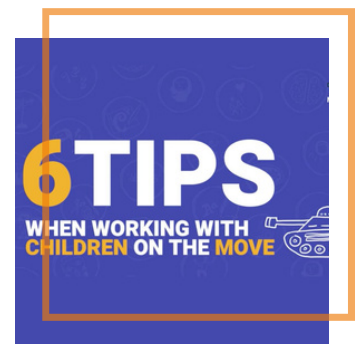
Solentra set up a [free helpline for Ukrainian refugees](#) in need of psychological support. Through a Ukrainian interpreter, they would receive transcultural psychiatric help, tips and exercises to reduce stress and tap into resilience. In addition, Solentra also opened a helpdesk to all professional and voluntary aid workers who receive refugees to receive tools on how to psychologically support them.



6 TIPS & TRICKS TO WORK WITH CHILDREN ON THE MOVE 2022

ARNOUD RASKIN – MOBILE SCHOOL

StreetwiZe and their branch Mobile School created [a video](#) that gives volunteers 6 basic tips to consider when it comes to working with refugee children. The video was made available in 10 languages.



IMPACT OF THE WAR ON THE PLANT-BASED SECTOR

TOBIAS LEENAERT – PROVEG INTERNATIONAL

ProVeg International carried out a [survey](#) revealing the impact the ongoing war in Ukraine has had on the plant-based sector.



DUO FOR A JOB'S MENTORING PROGRAMME

MATTHIEU LE GRELLE & FRÉDÉRIC SIMONART - DUO

DUO for a JOB's mentoring programme is accessible to all Ukrainians aged between 18 and 33 and willing to work and rebuild their future in their host country. DUO is ready to work hand in hand with associations, public services, and companies to guide young Ukrainians into the job market.

Ashoka Support Network

The Ashoka Support Network (ASN) is a global community of committed leaders who share, support, and advocate for Ashoka's values and vision, while unleashing their own potential as changemakers.

Founded in 2004, the ASN is composed of 350+ members worldwide in more than 40 countries.

We are lucky to count on 18 highly supportive ASN members in Belgium





Current ASN members

Piet Colruyt

Joined ASN in 2009



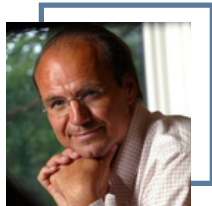
Bernard Meeus

Joined ASN in 2009



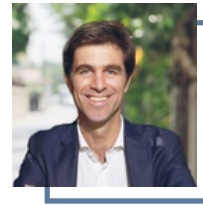
Michel Delloye

Joined ASN in 2010



Nicolas Janssen

Joined ASN in 2011



Michel Vandekerckhove

Joined ASN in 2011



Marc Nolet

Joined ASN in 2012



Edouard Janssen

Joined ASN in 2013



G rard Bloch

Joined ASN in 2013



Myleen
VERSTRAETE

Joined ASN in 2018



Miguel
Del Marmol

Joined ASN in 2014



Séverine
De Sadeleer

Joined ASN in 2019



Michiel Deturck

Joined ASN in 2020



Liselotte BAEIJAER

Joined ASN in 2020



Olivier Orban

Joined ASN in 2020



Newest ASN members

Charles-Antoine
Bodson

Joined ASN in 2021



Charles-Antoine
Leunen

Joined ASN in 2021



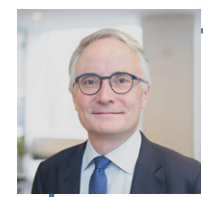
Yvoine Rémy

Joined ASN in 2022



Olivier Gilerot

Joined ASN in 2022





Part Two:



Looking Forward



Our vision moving forward

Looking forward, Ashoka Belgium will become an ever more integrated actor in the European activities of Ashoka. With our strategic physical positioning in the heart of EU policymaking, we will aim at building more capacities in bringing our Everyone a Changemaker Vision to the EU's institutions and those decision makers and influencers that circulate around them.

In our work in engaging social entrepreneurs in our network, we will focus our support work on unlocking the potential for systems change through our acceleration programme but also via a deeper focus on eco-systemic work. For this, we will build a systems change working group to come to more alignment on what Systems Change means and how we can fund systems change initiatives. If you are interested in becoming engaged in this work, do not hesitate to reach out to us!

Moving forward, our work will focus on the following themes & purposes. They will also be discussed in more details during the Ashoka Changemaker Summit 2022, taking place for the first time in Belgium.



Funding Systems Change > Finding, funding, and supporting transformative solutions at a far greater pace than ever



Public Policy > Connecting social innovation with public policy



Young Changemaking > Transforming how young people grow up so they have the power to lead and be in charge



Planet & Climate > Rebalancing humans' relationship with nature



Tech & Humanity > Anticipating, mitigating and managing the consequences of technological development



New Longevity > Reversing age segregation and addressing the loneliness epidemic affecting all generations



Gender > Building a gender equal world, where everyone can be their authentic self



Health > Creating a healthier world for individuals, animals and their communities



Migrations > Creating a better society for people on the move as well as for those who meet them



Equity > Enabling a fair treatment, access, opportunity, and advancement for all people



Changemaker Companies > Putting social innovation at the core of social transformation in the private sector

ASHOKA'S PARTNERS

Our learnings are applicable to any sector interested in generating transformative social and environmental change and our fellows are eager to collaborate with leaders from all sectors.

If you are looking to expand the impact of your organization or portfolio, Ashoka is the right partner to think it through, together with the world's most influential social entrepreneurs.

Dozens of companies are already financially contributing and collaborating with us all around the globe. We thank each one of them to make our work possible!

FINANCIAL PARTNERS



STRATEGIC PARTNERS



INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

Steelcase[®]

 **Boehringer
Ingelheim**

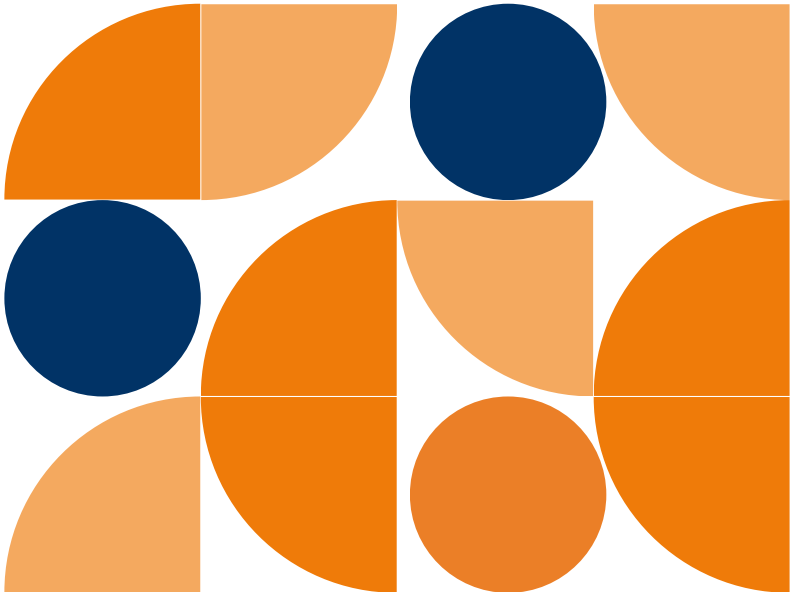
Deloitte.

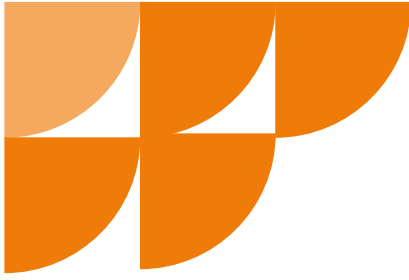
**LATHAM &
WATKINS** LLP

McKinsey
& Company

 **Nestlé**

 **zalando**





As an Ashoka ally you can be an engine for change in Belgium:

Deepening Impact

Support Belgian social innovators in investing the time to scale their operations and maximize impact.

Form Partnerships

Become a strategic partner to Ashoka to build an ecosystem prone to social innovation.

Improve Branding

Positioning as a thought leader committed to identifying and supporting the most impactful social entrepreneurs.

Peer-to-Peer Exchange

Engage with an ecosystem of entrepreneur's part of the Ashoka Fellow Network.

[Join the Ashoka Support Network](#)

Global community of 450+ successful and innovative professionals in 25 countries who invest in Ashoka and support Fellows.

[Become a Strategic Partner](#)

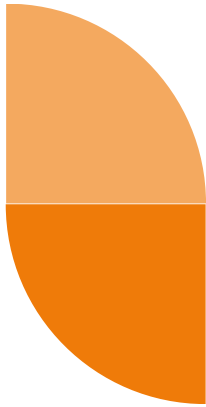
Our Strategic partners are forward thinking and leading companies / organisations who invest in Ashoka to increase our collective impact.

[Become a Pro-bono Partner](#)

Connect your services to the greatest network of social entrepreneurs to inspire your organisation and to contribute to systemic change.

[Become a Volunteer](#)

Support us in increasing our impact and reach our objectives in accelerating social entrepreneurship in Belgium.



Invite Fellows into a Lifelong Community

Committing one's life to developing individuals, forming collaborations, and disrupting unjust systems is as demanding as it is rewarding. Some even say it can be a lonely journey. Knowing this, Ashoka invites Fellows into a global network of social entrepreneurs who can provide lifelong support and resources.

Fellows gain key resources from this community including **strategic guidance, wellbeing, new partnerships, mentorship and more.**

What You Can Do Right Now

Subscribe to [our newsletter](#)

[Become an Ashoka Fellow nominator](#) and help us identify and elect a new Ashoka Fellow. Check our criteria and nominate an Ashoka Fellow here (add link).

Become an ambassador. Talk about us to your network, put us in contact with people or organisations that might be interested to find out more about us, and help us spread the word that everyone can become a changemaker.

Ressources

Initiatives, publications and reports Ashoka global

- [Next now](#)
- [The Unlonely Planet 2022](#)
- [Influence for Good 2022](#)

Publications and reports Ashoka Belgium

- [10 years partnership with Accenture](#)

Online courses

- [Systems Change Masterclass](#)





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[www.ashoka.org /en-be](http://www.ashoka.org/en-be)