



foraus founder Nicola Forster appointed as new Ashoka Fellow

Zürich and Geneva, July 27th, 2016 / Ashoka Switzerland has elected Nicola Forster, founder and president of foraus as a new Fellow. foraus - Forum Aussenpolitik (foreign policy forum), is a “think- and do-tank” gathering independent ideas from a network of over 1000 foreign policy enthusiasts who work on a voluntary basis. foraus generates high-quality recommendations to policy makers and the general public. With his election as Fellow, Nicola will now be supported by Ashoka in the development and dissemination of foraus.

The election of a Fellow Ashoka, a long process

The heart of Ashoka’s work is to find and select innovators, men and women who not only have ideas powerful enough to change the situation in the area where they operate, but also possess all the qualities of an entrepreneur. The aim of Ashoka is to support the development and the eventual spin-off of their activity. They are selected through a long and rigorous selection process. This is to check that each candidate, in the field and during in depth interviews, corresponds well to the 5 criteria required for becoming an “Ashoka Fellow” and to ensure that the ideas put forward are innovative. If the candidate passes the selection process successfully, they will be financially supported by Ashoka through a grant and given access to professional advice in the development and diffusion of their idea(s).

Nicola Forster founder of foraus

Thanks to the Ashoka Fellowship, Nicola Forster is now part of the global Ashoka network of more than 3,500 social entrepreneurs in 81 countries. The son of a school teacher and a school psychologist, Nicola is studying law at the universities of Zurich, Montpellier and Lausanne. In 2008, Nicola campaigned with a young movement supporting the eastward expansion of the European agreement on the free movement of persons. Building on the success of this campaign, Nicola realized that young people have a strong interest in politics, but they are often discouraged by the structures of political parties and legislative bodies.

Bridging the gap between science and policy

It is this reason that prompted him to create foraus. Not only to motivate young people to engage in politics, but also provide opportunities to discuss impartially, trying to address the problem



ABOUT US

Ashoka Foundation

Ashoka is an international organisation with the aim of supporting and disseminating innovative and entrepreneurial solutions to current societal challenges. The desired outcome is that all actors in society will be inspired and will then become active Changemakers. Ashoka is the first and leading global organisation for the promotion of social entrepreneurs. The non-profit organisation founded by Bill Drayton in the US in 1980 is now operating in 85 countries and supports more than 3,200 Fellows. Since 2007, Ashoka is active in Switzerland and today supports 12 selected in Switzerland Ashoka Fellows and many international Fellows, who are active in Switzerland.

In addition to the identification, appreciation and support for innovation, Ashoka is also committed to building

scientifically. The think-tank is divided into 10 regional groups and 7 thematic groups and its members come from scientific, diplomatic, academic or economic backgrounds. foraus serves as a broadcasting platform for studies and innovative analysis, blogs and political articles, but is also a forum for high-level discussions. Foraus through these publications and reflections get a response from policy makers through informal recommendations. You can find more information at <http://www.foraus.ch/>.

bridges between different actors of society to build, to inspire for co-creation and to facilitate the creation of new joint activities for social change as well as equipping the young generation with the skills that it needs to "change the world".

More information about Ashoka, please visit our website:

<https://www.ashoka.org>

The receiving of Nicola Forster into the Ashoka network will be celebrated on 15 / 16 November with an evening event in Geneva / Bern. More information will follow at a later date.

Media representatives are cordially invited to this event. Nicola Forster and Ashoka will be available for questions or interviews. Please get in contact with us if you are interested in reporting.

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