



Sustainable partnerships between companies and society in the spotlight

Brussels, June 3, 2014 - On Tuesday, June 3 leading figures from business and the non-profit sector gathered in Brussels for the presentation of the Sustainable Partnerships Award 2014. The sustainability networks Business & Society Belgium and KAURI were given the honor to distribute this award for the second consecutive year for the most inspiring collaborations between business and civil society in Belgium. This year, three partnerships were bestowed the honor: “Changing the e-waste Cycle” by Recupel and WorldLoop amongst others, “Innovating with a Heart” from Cera and RVO Society and others, and Biodiversity Partenariale of Hesbaye Fros , by Natagora and Apligeer.

The first of the three winning partnerships was developed by Belgian organizations, but its impact is most apparent in the South. Through [Changing the e-waste cycle](#) WorldLoop, Recupel, Umicore, Coolrec, Galloo, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and others are working together to address the environmental risks of electronic waste (e-waste) in Africa. Recupel provides its expertise in the collection and processing of waste electrical appliances to WorldLoop while also providing financial support to facilitate the creation of e-waste recycling centers in Africa. WorldLoop projects combine a best-of-two-worlds¹ approach: local collection and manual dismantling of e-waste through formal and informal networks on the one hand, and use of international infrastructure and expertise for the end-processing of complex and hazardous e-waste fractions. Since its start in 2011, 954 tons of e-waste has been collected and properly recycled and these projects have created over 50 local jobs. To make recycling certain e-waste environmentally WorldLoop has partnered with end-processors and refiners Umicore, Coolrec and Galloo.

The second partnership that appealed to the jury was the project “[Innovating with a heart](#)”. Again, technology plays an important role as a lever for greater independence and a better quality of life for vulnerable groups in our society. “Innovate with heart” brings social entrepreneurs with a real demand for technological innovation in contact with students from scientific and technological training. Within the context of their master’s theses, these future engineers, architects and computer scientists seek out innovative solutions for the social profit. For example, some students developed special toys for paralyzed children from the Institute Dominiek Savio, who can only move their neck muscles. Each year, about ten to fifteen projects are implemented. This partnership is a collaboration between Cera, the Roger Van Society , the umbrella organization of employers in the sector of social entrepreneurs Verso and a group of Flemish universities and colleges , including the University of Leuven and Thomas More.

And last but not least, the partnership [Biodiversité Partenariale](#) received an award. This is a collaboration between producer frozen Hesbaye Frost, nature organization Natagora and the local farmers' cooperative Apligeer. They joined forces to protect bird nesting sites that have appeared in the huge

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reservoirs of the former Hesbaye Frost Factories. The company claims that the 26 hectare site is at the disposal of the environmental association and supports the conversion of the area into nature reserve. Natagora manages the conservation efforts and supervises the local cooperative of farmers and Hesbaye, ensuring sustainable water management in the reserve. With this exceptional cooperation between farmers, environmental organizations and business, the nature reserve could become an area of 100 hectares over time.

These three winners were honored at an awards ceremony at Brussels KVS. Along with the 30 other partnerships submitted this year, Jury chairman and KVS - director Jan Goossens praised all participating organizations for "their courage to dare to look back at the creation of shared value across organizational boundaries."

This year, our National Sustainable Partnerships Award cooperated with the European Social & Business Co-creation competition of Ashoka, enabling social entrepreneurs, businesses and government to address challenges that no single party could solve alone.

All partnerships that participated at the Belgian level were automatically registered for this European competition. The 15 finalists of the Social & Business Co-creation competition were announced on June 2. You can discover them on <http://www.changemaker/co-creation>. The finalists have been invited to the Zermatt Summit in Switzerland, June 25-27.

You can learn more about the winning case studies along with all submitted partnerships at www.sustainablepartnerships.be. For more information on the Sustainable Partnerships Award and this year's winners, please contact Oriane de Vroey of Business & Society and Jan Ockerman of KAURI.

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KAURI : Belgian venue for sustainability

KAURI the Belgian venue for sustainability. It includes a wide network of companies, NGOs, governments, universities and other organizations that provide unique diversity. The purpose of KAURI : is to bring different parties together and provide them with inspiring consultation, where they can think and work together to address social challenges.

KAURI , Fiennes 77, 1070 Brussels

www.kauri.be

Business & Society Belgium

Business & Society is the reference network for companies that strive for the development of an inclusive, green economy and responsible for a sustainable society in collaboration with various stakeholders. As a reference point for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in Belgium, we offer companies support and tools to share by developing new solutions on CSR and by informing on various aspects of CSR. Our network provides an exchange platform and a sounding board so that the community involvement at all levels of the organization is alive and constantly improving.

Business & Society Belgium , Stuiversstraat 8 , 1000 Brussels

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Ashoka Belgium

Ashoka is the global association of the world's leading social entrepreneurs - men and women with structural solutions to the most critical social problems in the world. Since 1981, Ashoka has nearly 3,000 leading social entrepreneurs named "Ashoka Fellows." Ashoka provides these entrepreneurs with a stipend, professional support , and access to a global network of peers in 80 countries. Ashoka is the seventeenth most influential NGO in the world according to the Global Journal. Ashoka Belgium, member of the Ashoka France - Belgium - Switzerland - cluster, started operations in 2007. Ashoka Belgium currently supports eight social entrepreneurs in Belgium.

ⁱ Bo2W is a concept developed by the multi-stakeholder Solving the E-waste Problem (StEP) Initiative hosted by the UN's research arm, the United Nations University (UNU) which provides a network and pragmatic solution for e-waste treatment in emerging economies. It seeks technical and logistic integration of 'best' pre-processing in developing countries to manually dismantle e-waste and 'best' end-processing to treat hazardous and complex fractions in international state-of-the-art end-processing facilities.

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