

NEWS LETTER

 King Baudouin
Foundation
Working together for a better society

Under the Honorary Chairmanship of HM Queen Mathilde

AUTUMN 2021



Borderless giving
Myriad builds new connections



[Luc Tayart de Borms](#)
Managing Director

EDITORIAL

The formal launch in September of Myriad would, I had expected, give us an opportunity to explain in this newsletter the principles of our new global partnership in cross-border giving. As we go to press, what surprises me is how many practical examples we can already publish of our cooperation with Give2Asia. It is proof of how fast Myriad lets donors and beneficiaries connect across frontiers, and testimony to a real demand Myriad is meeting in a world in which money moves ever more unhindered – except when it is freely given.

I'm struck by the variety in transnational giving: Canadians with South Asian roots easing the Covid-19 pandemic in India via Myriad (p.30) show how global migration and a growing awareness that few problems end at our own borders are driving overseas philanthropy; so too are multinational businesses aiming to better align their corporate giving with the interests of customers and staff, as with Solvay's response to floods in China (p.5); and let's not forget the impact of increased leisure travel on donor choices – witness Belgian rail enthusiast Roland Bartholomé's bequest to industrial heritage sites in Germany (p.7).

That Myriad should respond speedily to so wide a range of motivations and causes should be no surprise here. Diversity and innovation are key to what our sector can offer the community and central to the King Baudouin Foundation's approach to philanthropy. Just look at the projects in this newsletter – from preserving our heritage to helping new generations flourish, from research into social, environmental, and healthcare issues to nurturing democracy. Our flexibility and independence are well highlighted (p.9) by Brieuc Van Damme, to whom I am delighted to be handing over in the spring.

In our next International Newsletter, in June, Brieuc will be able to introduce himself. For myself, I retire after 25 years as Managing Director grateful to the Belgian National Lottery and its players as well as our numerous donors for all their support - and confident in the knowledge that the Foundation will be in good hands to forge and explore new paths unfamiliar to my generation. That truly is something to look forward to!

The King Baudouin Foundation is an independent, pluralistic foundation working in Belgium and at European and international level. We are seeking to change society for the better, so we invest in inspiring projects and individuals. The Foundation was set up in 1976, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of King Baudouin's reign.

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TAKING PHILANTHROPY GLOBAL

Charity begins at home, they say. It can end there, too, due to multiplying obstacles to gifting across borders. The King Baudouin Foundation aims to break down those barriers to philanthropy; in September, with its partner [Give2Asia](#), KBF launched [Myriad](#), the alliance for borderless giving.

Our world is ever more interconnected. This century alone, foreign tourist travel and expat populations have doubled, world trade has trebled, and global currency movements have quadrupled. It's no wonder that growing numbers of individuals, corporations and other organisations take a planetary view when they consider whom to help – and whose help to enlist – in philanthropic actions.

Yet, from the single donor keen to support a project in another country, where they may have family ties or vacation memories, to the multinational business wishing to engage employees around the world to better align the geography of their social engagements with their operations, they find obstacles in their path: national tax regimes rarely encourage giving abroad; new laws to combat terrorist financiers and money-launderers pose legal risks, adding to due diligence concerns when screening potential grantees far from home; and many governments have grown wary of their citizens accepting favours from overseas.

Enter Myriad. The King Baudouin Foundation has been solving cross-border philanthropy conundrums within Europe for 20 years, through its founding engagement with Transnational Giving Europe, a network of

similar institutions in 19 countries. In autumn 2021, KBF greatly expanded the reach of this concept by partnering with Give2Asia, based in California and with a network of affiliates and offices across the Asia-Pacific region, to create Myriad.

By allying KBF's expertise and networks in Europe, Africa, and North America with Give2Asia's profile, Myriad brings nearly 100 countries on four continents into a virtual, single philanthropic space. And there are plans to expand further.





COMMON GOAL – MYRIAD SCORES FOR GENEROUS SPORTS STARS

Launched in 2017, Common Goal began when Juan Mata of Manchester United and Spain pledged 1% of his salary to support projects aimed at driving social change through football. Mata encouraged fellow players – as well as coaches, clubs, and other businesses – to join him. More than 350 now contribute to the Common Goal fund, managed by KBF. Players of 48 nationalities and playing in 60 leagues have used the global networking now launched as Myriad to ensure smooth, efficient donations. On the spending side, Common Goal is able to back football-based community projects around the world, promoting enterprise, alleviating conflicts, and combatting discrimination in pursuit of the United Nations' Global Goals.

AFTER THE FLOOD: SOLIDARITY WITHOUT FRONTIERS

Devastating floods hit Belgium and its neighbours this summer and extraordinary rainfall also struck central China; an outpouring of support among Belgians for all the victims of extreme weather, not just those at home, proved the value of the King Baudouin Foundation's networks.

When floodwaters tore through parts of Belgium in July 2021, many people, organisations, and businesses rushed to respond. But Belgium wasn't the only victim of this summer's extreme weather, and many were also keen to contribute to relief efforts in other countries, too.

With assistance from the expertise and connections of the King Baudouin Foundation, projects have been identified and grants extended to communities across the border in Germany as well as to victims of severe floods half a world away, in the central Chinese province of Henan.

Solvay Solidarity Fund

Launched in 2020 by Belgian-based chemicals multinational Solvay, the fund supports employees, their families and communities suffering hardship due to the Covid-19 pandemic. From the outset, the fund has relied on KBF's U.S. affiliate KBFUS and its network of European partners in Transnational Giving Europe (TGE) to help it collect donations from operations and staff based abroad. In summer 2021, it extended its remit to allocate two million euros to flood victims. By autumn, nearly a million euros had been spent in Belgium, Germany, and China.

When hundreds of people were killed in the floods in China's Henan province in July, staff at a Solvay site in Shanghai asked how the company's fund could

help there. The answer was not straightforward. A 260,000-euro grant was earmarked. But how to get the money to its destination?

Every donation from abroad needs Chinese government approval and to be channeled through an organisation registered locally. Give2Asia, which has a representation office in China, created a fund to carry out this transit. Its China office carried out the due diligence process and ensured the grant was properly processed.

The speed with which donor funds were able to cross national frontiers to reach recipients at the moment of greatest need highlighted Myriad's advantages in disaster relief.

solvay.com/en/solvay-solidarity-fund

East Belgium Community Foundation (Bürgerfonds Ostbelgien)

When the floods brought misery to eastern Belgium last summer, the German district of Hellenthal, on the other side of the border, was also badly hit. The East Belgium Community Foundation, managed by KBF, launched an appeal in cooperation with Vinzenz-Verein Eupen, which had raised some 1.4 million euros by October. The Foundation has a standing remit to offer aid across the German-speaking Community of Belgium and to Belgian, Dutch, German and Luxembourgish municipalities which border the region.

Among grants made to help flood victims, it provided 25,000 euros for relief in Hellenthal.

buergerfonds.be

EU Staff COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund

Established by EU civil servants to respond to the pandemic, this fund, managed by KBF, was another that pivoted to react to the floods in Europe. After raising more than 100,000 euros in a matter of weeks, the Fund worked with KBF to identify 11 grantees in Belgium and Germany, notably schools and a food bank.

eustaff4climate.info

eu-staff-support-to-floods-victims



LOCAL NETWORKS

KEY TO REACHING BENEFICIARIES ON THE GROUND

The knowledge and networks of KBF and its partners have helped investment company Sofina, one of Belgium's biggest corporations, to donate millions of euros to projects in Asia and Europe that focus on the Covid-19 pandemic's impact in healthcare and education.

When investment company Sofina set up a 20 million-euro Covid Solidarity Fund, it chose the King Baudouin Foundation to manage it. The Fund's aim is to help address the adverse consequences of the pandemic in two key areas related to sectors in which Sofina has a particular investment interest: challenges in healthcare systems and services, and the digital gap in education.

The Fund, set up to disburse over two years, has awarded grants of at least 500,000 euros to selected non-profit



initiatives. It is supporting 15 projects in western Europe, Singapore, and India – places where Sofina is active. Several projects focus on harnessing technology in education while tackling the digital divide – notably unequal access to remote learning. Others include a telehealth platform, psychosocial support for children, and addressing nursing shortages.

"Based on the excellent collaboration with KBF on the management of a

previous fund, Sofina decided to work again with the Foundation for many reasons," said Victor Casier, a member of the Brussels-based company's executive committee. "This includes their professionalism, their wide international reach and reputation for helping in sourcing projects, and their experience in dealing with the complexities of cross-border donations."

COMPLIANCE AND DUE DILIGENCE

When considering potential beneficiaries of the Fund in India, Sofina staff were impressed with ACT, a grant-making platform, and in particular by its EdTech programme. This aims to tackle problems in Indian education that have been aggravated by illness and lockdown. It also hopes to turn crisis into opportunity by leveraging the increased use of technology which Covid-19 has brought to help schools come back better than they were before.

By investing in products and platforms that can improve access to quality learning

among poorer Indians, it is striving to improve literacy, life skills, and youngsters' readiness for the job market.

Convinced by the concept, Sofina still needed expert advice on two critical issues that mark much of cross-border philanthropy: first, conducting due diligence on the potential grantee to ensure its suitability; and second, ensuring compliance with national laws, which in India notably includes a vetting system for grants coming in from abroad – the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act. For this, KBF turned to its U.S.-based partner Give2Asia.

Give2Asia's India country adviser Parul Sachdeva said identifying quality Indian non-profits that are eligible to receive foreign

funds is a "moving target" due to changing regulations. "In this case," she said, "Give2Asia reviewed how recent changes could impact grantmaking decisions for funders in Europe and elsewhere."

ACT EdTech programme manager Aashrey Tiku said Sofina's support was very welcome: "ACT EdTech has helped more than 15 million children and it is rapidly extending its support to reach even more," he said. "EdTech solutions are developed through WhatsApp and mobile apps that can ensure quality content reaches the students in need and that there is no gap in learning."

- sofinagroup.com/about-sofina/sofina-covid-solidarity-fund
- actgrants.in/education

A LEGACY OF LOVE FOR GERMANY'S INDUSTRIAL HEARTLAND

Belgian railway employee Roland Bartholomé's lifelong passion for heavy engineering fuelled a desire to help preserve for future generations the vast industrial and mining heritage of Germany's Ruhr valley. The King Baudouin Foundation made that a reality.

Visitors touring the disused mines, factories, and reclaimed parks of Germany's renowned Industrial Heritage Trail may be unaware that the enthusiasm and generosity of one of their Belgian neighbours is contributing to their cultural experience. But thanks to a KBF-managed fund established in his name, Roland Bartholomé's commitment to this key part of European history lives on.

Bartholomé, who lived in Welkenraedt, near the German border, was a technical enthusiast. Not only did he work for NMBS/SNCB, the Belgian national rail operator, but in his spare time he had also collected more than 50 miniature railways.

When his health deteriorated, and having no children, he formed a plan that after his death he wanted his assets used to conserve, restore and promote European mining and industrial heritage, principally in Germany's Ruhr valley. His banker put him in touch with KBF, who guided him through the simple process of setting up a Named Fund.

"He was clear that the most interesting projects were in Germany," said KBF Honorary Director Dominique Allard, who was involved in establishing the Roland Bartholomé Fund four years ago. "He had a very concrete vision of what he wanted."

Dozens of sites celebrate the Ruhr's manufacturing past. A 400-km route around the area between Duisburg and Hamm, takes in former coal mines, steelworks, factories, and power stations which have been transformed into museums, monuments, art installations, leisure parks, green spaces, and event venues.

On his death in his 60s, the Fund lost no time in approaching projects in places Bartholomé had indicated should be priority beneficiaries. In 2020 and 2021, the Fund supported four sites on the Industrial Heritage Trail (Route Industriekultur), with a total of 172,000 euros.

Zollverein Coal Mine Industrial Complex, Essen

The Bartholomé Fund has supported an app providing virtual and augmented reality tours of what was once the world's biggest coal mine.

zollverein.de

INDIVIDUAL PHILANTHROPY WITH KBF

A Named Fund managed by the KBF is a flexible way of making a long-term contribution in an area close to the donor's heart. The founder chooses the fund's aims, duration and strategy.

[kbs-frb.be/en/
Centre-for-Philanthropy](http://kbs-frb.be/en/Centre-for-Philanthropy)

HELPING RUBENS SHINE AGAIN



A much-loved work by the Flemish master Peter Paul Rubens will be restored, better lit and brought closer to the public at a church in Mechelen, thanks to funds from the Léon Courtin-Marcelle Bouché Fund, administered by the King Baudouin Foundation.

The Miraculous Draught of Fishes, a triptych portraying Jesus and his fishermen disciples, was painted for the town's fishmongers' guild in

1618–19 and hangs in the Church of Our Lady Across the Dyle. The Fund, established by a couple of passionate collectors of Belgian art, is contributing to repairs to the parquet, the painting's wooden frame, and to the paint itself.

The triptych will then be rehung elsewhere in the Church, lower to the ground, giving the public a closer look.

The painter positioned it to catch sunlight coming from a particular window. The move will deprive it of Rubens' light source, but it will be thoughtfully replaced by – less damaging – artificial lighting from the same angle. Visitors to the town, 20 km north of Brussels, should be able to wonder at the work from autumn 2022.

kbs-frb.be/rubens.htm

GIVING VOICE TO GREEN ENERGY WORRIES

Fair Energy Transition for All (FETA), a consortium project coordinated by the King Baudouin Foundation, has been listening closely to some of Europe's poorest and most vulnerable citizens. In FETA focus groups, they have voiced questions and concerns over the coming upheaval in energy markets as the EU phases out fossil fuels.

Sessions run by partner organisations were held in nine EU countries through 2021. In October, an EU Task Force of experts was established with the

European Policy Centre in Brussels. Based on the grassroots research, this will craft policy recommendations in 2022 for the European Commission and national governments.

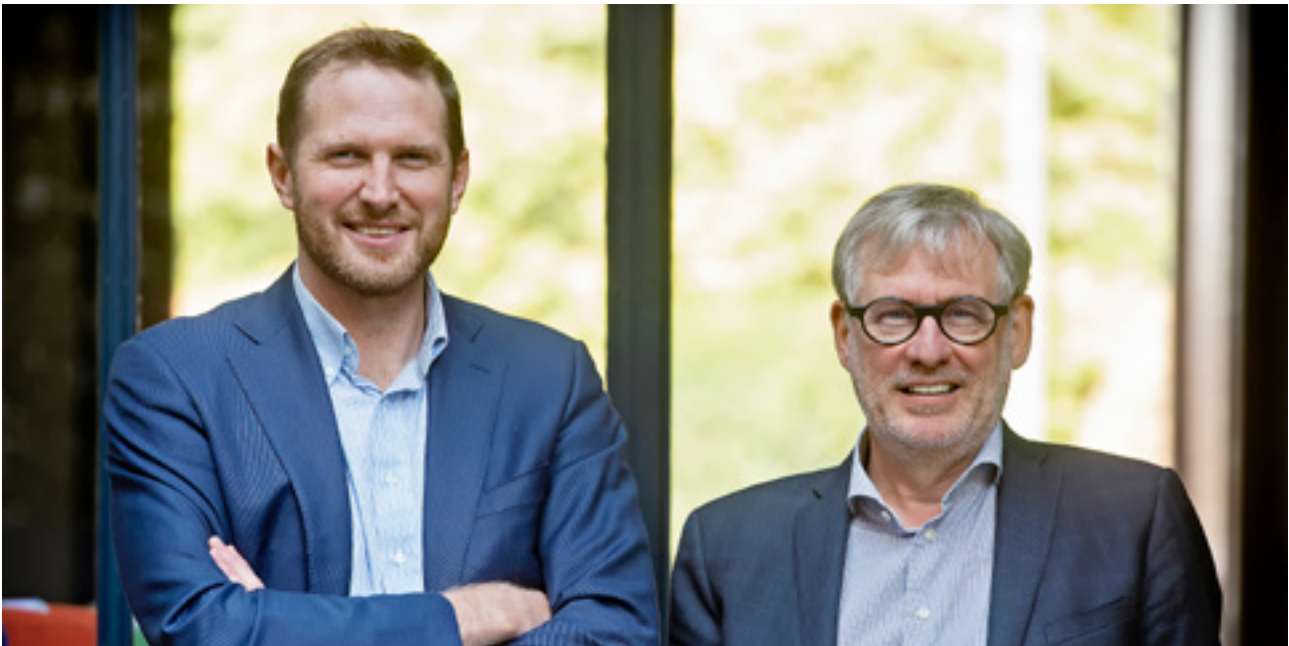
Focus group participants have spoken of a lack of information about future energy policies and worries about rising heating and transport costs. Many view with suspicion their political leaders and their motivations for setting green goals.

FETA aims to propose strategies that can both foster social cohesion and avoid Europe hitting popular resistance to efforts to become a carbon neutral economy.

KBF's partners in FETA are Fondazione Cariplo, Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt, the IKEA Foundation, Stiftung Mercator and Open Society's European Policy Institute.

fair-energy-transition.eu

KBF BOARD NAMES NEW EXECUTIVE HEAD



MEET BRIEUC VAN DAMME

- Economist, trained at Namur University, Leuven University (KUL), College of Europe; age 37
- Director General Healthcare, INAMI (since December 2020)
- Lecturer in health economics, Free University of Brussels (ULB)
- Adviser on Covid-19 to Alexander De Croo, Belgian Deputy Prime Minister, then Prime Minister (March-November 2020)
- Founder, Baere, Craft Consulting, Tromsø, Norway. Healthcare consulting (2017-2020)
- Co-founder and Chair, The Friday Group, a think-tank for Belgians under-35, supported by the KBF (2013-2017)
- Has previously lectured at the universities of Antwerp and Ghent and at the École Nationale d'Administration in Kinshasa
- Author of numerous publications, opinion pieces and articles

kbs-frb.be/managingdirector.htm

Brieuc Van Damme, an economist specialising in healthcare and social policy, will succeed Luc Tayart de Borms as managing director of the King Baudouin Foundation in the spring of 2022.

Appointed by the Board of Governors in September after a search for candidates launched in 2020 under Chair Thomas Leysen, Van Damme, 37, said he saw the move as a "once in a lifetime opportunity" to lead an independent institution that can help build a better society.

"The flexibility and independence of how KBF operates will enable it to contribute to making our country inclusive and highly effective in the post-Covid period, thanks to the many innovative projects and initiatives likely to improve policies," he said. Stepping down as Healthcare Director of the Belgian social security agency, INAMI, Van Damme, who also lectures in health economics, will join KBF on 1 February 2022. After a three-month transition, Luc Tayart de Borms will retire on 1 May.

After 25 years in the post, he said he was "delighted" by the choice of his successor: "Brieuc Van Damme's skills and experience – notably in the fields of politics, economics, healthcare, and education – are all huge assets for the Foundation. At both local and international level, KBF can benefit from a person such as Brieuc, who is so resolutely looking to the future of our society."

KEEPING THE MAGIC ALIVE



As Brussels' [BELvue Museum](#) presents a new exhibition of his life's work, Belgian film-maker Raoul Servais, a pioneer of fantastical imagery on screen, says he feels reassured that his personal archive is now in the care of the King Baudouin Foundation and available for future generations.

When you are a global pioneer of animated film-making with a vast archive spanning nearly 70 years, what's the most effective way to ensure future generations can enjoy and learn from it?

It was a decision that occupied the mind of multiple award-winning Belgian film-maker Raoul Servais, now 93. Two years ago, he chose to donate much of his personal collection to the King Baudouin Foundation, aiming to preserve its unique material and to make it available to the wider public, at home and abroad.

Servais's act of philanthropy has borne fruit this year with an exhibition organised by the KBF Heritage Fund.

Currently being hosted at the BELvue Museum in Brussels – which is managed by the Foundation – the exhibits will then head off on an international tour in 2022.

Speaking at the launch of the exhibition, Servais said of his donation: "I'm relieved and reassured to find a solution that suits me, to ensure the continuity of my work."

The more than 200 items on display from his groundbreaking career include original drawings, celluloid prints, props, Servais's animation tables, photographs and posters related to his



work in the cinema, including the surrealist short Harpya, winner of a Palme d'Or at Cannes in 1979, the 1998 short film Nocturnal Butterflies and his 1994 feature Taxandria.

RAOUL SERVAIS: A LIFE IN PICTURES

- Born in 1928, Ostend, Belgium
- After graduating from art school, worked as René Magritte's assistant on a series of wall paintings "Le Domaine Enchanté" in Knokke Casino.
- Best known works include Chromophobia (1965), Operation X-70 (1971), Harpya (1979), Taxandria (1994), Nocturnal Butterflies (1998) and Atraksion (2001).
- Has won 60 international film festival awards, including the Palme d'Or at Cannes, in 1979, for his surrealist short film Harpya.
- Created Europe's first animation school (at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts – KASK – in Ghent) and taught in Belgium, France, Canada, the United States and Brazil.

raoulservais.be

Servais, whose fascination for the surreal and fantastical brought him accolades from around the world, is particularly keen for his archive to be available beyond Belgium.

"It is a great advantage to be able to count on the experience and capabilities of a foundation that has connections not only in Belgium but also abroad," he said. "I'm very grateful to the King Baudouin Foundation for agreeing to let my work travel."

Starting in the 1950s, Servais brought to cinematic life whole worlds inspired by Belgian surrealist painters such as René Magritte and Paul Delvaux.

He spent many years perfecting Servaisgraphy, a method that blends real actors with hand-drawn animation – an idea captured in the exhibition's title, "A world between magic and realism". The kind of spectacle that Servais created as a visionary in an analogue age have gone on to become staples of today's digital cinema.

Throughout his career the filmmaker has had an enduring commitment to passing on his knowledge, and with his donation to the Foundation he hopes to perpetually inspire and teach future generations.

Raoul Servais. **A world between magic and realism**

The free exhibition is at the BELvue Museum, place des Palais 7, 1000 Brussels, until 6 March 2022 (English, Dutch and French, with audio tours also in German).

It will then travel to Canada before returning to tour other European cities.

For more information see belvue.be

An accompanying publication, 'Raoul Servais. Between magic and realism', is available in French, Dutch and English for 7 euros.

For more about KBF's heritage work, go to
<https://www.heritage-kbf.be/>



IN HIS OWN WORDS



Raoul Servais spoke to KBF at the opening of the exhibition:

What do you think of the exhibition?

It's incredible what the organisers have managed to put together! I found drawings that I had forgotten about and hadn't seen for decades. I was very moved by the way that they managed to bring all these works together and present them in a magnificent setting.

Where were these works kept?

Some were scattered around here and there, others were kept together in a warehouse. It gives me great pleasure to see works that I made half a century ago.

How was the donation process to the KBF?

It was very easy, without any problems. I would certainly recommend it to other artists.

Is it important to you that your work remains based in Belgium?

Absolutely. I remain a true Belgian and I am happy that my work will remain here for the nation, and also that it will be able to travel the world.

What would you like people to remember about your work?

The humanist side, which is reflected in many of the themes that run through my work: resistance to totalitarianism, social and political commitment.

Young people and passing on your knowledge are important to you. What's your message for today's youth?

Be courageous, be stubborn, persevere, don't give up!

NURTURING YOUNG TALENT IN DR CONGO

A decade of committed support from KBF for Congolese start-up incubator [I&F Entrepreneuriat](#) has helped it develop hundreds of job-creating businesses, while gaining national and international recognition for its work.

Directing philanthropy towards nurturing grassroots entrepreneurs so they can make a sustainable contribution to their society is one of the key missions of the King Baudouin Foundation.

The Foundation's backing for an organisation that 'incubates' businesses started by young people in the Democratic Republic of Congo has shown that seeing things through for the long term helps get results.

KBF has supported I&F Entrepreneuriat via a substantial legacy fund since 2012, with grants totalling more than 570,000 euros. Now the Congolese non-profit has

gone from being a modest local organisation to national and international recognition.

Set up in 2007 by CEO Val Masamba, I&F is today coordinating more than 1,000 businesses in incubation, 40% of which are run by women. After initial support and mentoring, the best projects are selected to go into a 'nursery' phase to move them from the idea stage to being a business entity. They then enter a specially created industrial zone at Mbanza-Ngungu, between the capital Kinshasa and the country's main port of Matadi, which has premises and shared facilities to further scale up these nascent enterprises. Since 2020,

a consortium that includes global professional services firm Deloitte, fellow start-up incubator Kivu Entrepreneurs and I&F has been supporting a Congolese government programme for the promotion of economic initiatives. Known as PADMPME and with 100 million dollars in financing from the World Bank, I&F is the operational coordinator for the consortium.

Also through PADMPME, I&F is working with consultants KPMG and ESP to set up small business zones in other towns, drawing on the Mbanza-Ngungu model. Emphasising that he is, above all, a coach, Masamba (below) says



Val Masamba set up I&F in 2007

the key to succeeding is to truly listen to the young people, right from the beginning of their projects: "A company is an adventure they launch with the people around them," he says. "Very quickly, young entrepreneurs have to be made to face up to choices. Who to keep and who to let go? What training do they need? What to sacrifice first? Because, in the end, a coach is a friend."

FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH, THANKS TO I&F

Plastic ban sparked start-up

When the government banned production of traditional plastic packaging, Yedidia Mbengalikita realised there were no local alternatives. He is now managing director of Ishango, which makes biodegradable packaging in Kinshasa, employing a dozen young people.

"I said to myself that we had to set up a company to produce packaging that met the environmental standards that the government wanted. Under the guidance of I&F, I started in my bedroom more than three years ago. I had no idea how to write a business plan," he said. Also thanks to the incubator, Ishango is part of an entrepreneurial network whose partners account for more than 30% of the firm's 10,000 U.S. dollar turnover.

From hobby to food business

The commitment of I&F shows in the evolution of Sivi Malukisa Diawete from hobby entrepreneur to founder of a company selling 100% Congolese food products. She began making homemade jams, peanut butter, sauces and honey in 2013 but kept her day job as a human resources manager at DHL. That changed after she met Val Masamba.



Sivi Malukisa Diawete has grown Manitech from a hobby into a flourishing food business

Over four years, I&F then mentored her business. "Val really convinced me. I decided to quit my job and become a 100% entrepreneur," Malukisa Diawete said. She is now founder and CEO of agro-industrial firm Manitech Congo.



Tisya Mukuna has great ambitions for La Kinoise coffee

Injecting buzz into coffee

I&F is supporting coffee producer Tisya Mukuna to grow her business by industrialising production. Founder of the La Kinoise brand, she grows coffee on a 20-hectare plantation south of Kinshasa, where much work is still done by hand. Unlike most Congolese coffee farmers, Mukuna's company also turns the crop into the final consumer product. With a grant awarded through the PADMPME programme, the firm plans to expand from turning out 200 packs of coffee per day at present to 40 packs per minute, and work towards becoming the leading coffee producing company in the country.

Among future plans are a harvesting machine and a wholly local 'mochaccino' blend, using coffee and chocolate both grown by La Kinoise.

From river to roads

Luc Maboti's company EMAVAS takes sand from the river Congo and supplies it to construction sites in the port city of Matadi, including roads, schools, and hospitals. Support from I&F has enabled him to create a formal corporate structure and to double his number of motorised canoes, from two to four. Production has increased from 40 tonnes of sand per day to up to 120 tonnes. "I&F's support has really allowed me to sit down, plan, and structure a real company," Maboti said. He has also benefited from the PADMPME programme, including a 50,000 U.S. dollar loan to help buy a vehicle for delivering supplies to customers.

INVESTING IN AFRICA'S YOUTH

I&F Entrepreneuriat has been supported since 2012 by the KBF-managed [Marie-Antoinette Carlier Fund](#). With an annual budget of 500,000 euros, the legacy fund supports initiatives that improve the living conditions of young people and their families in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

OBSERVING EUROPE'S NEW DEMOCRATIC EXPERIMENT



Building on 15 years of active contribution to the development of citizens' participation in European Union policymaking, the King Baudouin Foundation and its partners have set up an Observatory on the Conference on the Future of Europe. It aims to watch, learn – and also advise.

A grand experiment in listening to 450 million EU citizens is in the process of delivering recommendations on the future of the European Union.

But will they be heeded? Whether or not the Conference on the Future of Europe (CoFoE) offers the bloc a clear way forward in final proposals due in spring 2022, the Conference Observatory will have a role to play. Established by KBF, the Bertelsmann Stiftung, the European Policy Centre (EPC) and Stiftung Mercator, its aim is to learn lessons and put forward proposals on how to develop “participatory democracy” and recommend actions in key policy areas.

“Nobody knows how it will work and what kind of output it will generate. But it will definitely be interesting!” says Janis A.

Emmanouilidis, Director of Studies at the EPC. The crunch will come this spring, he says, when initiatives the EU has sought from European Citizens' Panels (ECPs) drawn from across the 27 member states are fed into the Conference Plenary, where representatives of EU institutions, national parliaments, and governments are in the majority.

Four Panels of 200, selected to reflect the Union's demographics and including members as young as 16, have been spending multilingual weekends thrashing out recommendations on a broad range of challenges facing the EU. About 100 of them will sit in the 450-member Plenary, where they can try to convince the politicians.

Change, yes. But how?

Few question the need for change. After multiple internal crises over the past 15 years, including the eurozone debt crisis, the 'refugee crisis', Brexit and governments that are defying European values, the Union must tackle climate change, further digitalisation and a shifting world order, not to mention Covid-19. But what to change? And how?

There could be a "pressure function" on politicians to support recommendations from the Panels, says Emmanouilidis. But all the divisions that have often hobbled change in the EU will be present in the Plenary, between federalists and nationalists, liberals and conservatives and so on – not to mention resistance from some governments to any change that might oblige them to hold unpredictable referendums to alter the EU Treaties.

Looking ahead

Prime goals for the Conference Observatory, whatever the result of next year's exercise, are to be in a position to monitor proceedings and to offer advice to the Conference and to EU leaders. It will propose ways to further pursue and improve the integration of citizens into EU decision-making and to make sure that recommendations coming out of deliberative processes are actually translated into action at the EU level.

The partners have a history of contributing to similar processes in the past, stretching back to a gathering of 200 EU citizens in Brussels in 2006, organised by KBF and the EPC as part of a European Commission initiative known as Plan D.

Recommendations from the Conference Observatory to EU leaders will also come from a High-Level Advisory Group

(HLAG) co-chaired by former European Council President Herman Van Rompuy and Professor Brigid Laffan.

"If it's a success, we'll play a role. If it's a failure, we'll also have to play a role," HLAG member Emmanouilidis said of CoFoE. "This process won't be over when the Conference ends."

Find more on the Conference Observatory here:

conference-observatory.eu

And on the Conference on the Future of Europe here:

futureu.europa.eu



STRASBOURG SCRAPBOOK

For the Conference Observatory, Corina Stratulat and Johannes Greubel of the EPC attended the first European Citizens' Panel in September at the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

"The mood of the citizens... was overwhelmingly positive," they reported. "The democratic function of such deliberative processes should therefore not be underestimated."

We pulled some quotes from their notebooks*, which respected the anonymity of the participants.

* "Una casa para todos": Observations from the first European Citizens' Panel of the Conference on the Future of Europe epc.eu/content/PDF/2021/1st_CoFoE_Citizens_Panel.pdf

"I am sceptical ... I hope that this Conference will not be swept under the carpet."

 Participant

"Politics should become much more about people's participation."

 Participant


"I'd never heard about this Conference before... and none of my friends knew about it either."

 Participant

"I am very tired but so happy for all the people I met this weekend and all the discussions I had with them. It was incredible."

 Participant

"Una casa para todos." (A home for all)

 Title of a drawing by a Spanish participant named Eduardo illustrating his hopes for the EU.



Unlock Your Energy! gave thousands of young Belgians a chance to burst out of Covid-19 lockdown. The King Baudouin Foundation wanted to help 15-25 year-olds, the generation worst affected by confinement and social distancing. A simplified call for projects, with light requirements, spread funds widely and quickly, to let youngsters' creativity run wild over the summer.

IN FIGURES

- Call for projects launched: **March 2021**
- Applicants: **472**
- Grantees: **102**
- Grants under 5,000 euros: **26**
- Grants 5-10,000 euros: **69**
- Grants 10-20,000 euros: **7**
- Total funds provided: **800,318 euros**

CLEAR YOUR MIND!

That was the title that the Maison des Jeunes youth club in Yvoir, near Namur, gave to their project for Unlock Your Energy! With 4,126 euros from the King Baudouin Foundation they threw themselves into kayaking, paintballing and (a change of pace...) visiting a snail farm. The goal? Smashing out of their pandemic bubbles, renewing and making friendships, and simply freeing body and spirit.

After careering down a steep, two-kilometre track at top speed on a rented mountain bike during one activity, 15-year-old David couldn't contain himself. "Wow!" he yelled. "That was great!"

What a difference from lockdown. "For months, I played football in the garden with my brothers, but

in the end, I got bored," recalls Elliott, another teenager in the group. Youth worker Pauline remembers efforts to get club members together – but always just online.

The joy of being together was clear at every event – just what the doctor ordered: "For young people especially, communal activities are essential," says Vincent Yzerbyt, the professor of social psychology at the Catholic University of Louvain, who chaired KBF's selection panel. "Through the group, they create, imagine and construct their own identity."



GIVING YOUTH A VOICE

Young people get frustrated when they feel their voices aren't heard, or they are misunderstood. A year of pandemic disruption didn't help. That's why the youth workers behind the "Humans of... Flemish Brabant" used 8,500 euros from Unlock Your Energy! to run workshops in Leuven and three nearby towns to explain how to get their message across – including through film and photography.

"Every young person has a voice," says Zakayo Wandoloh of StampMedia, a local news agency for young people, and one of the workshop organisers. "We give them the confidence to make themselves heard."

Sam Deckers of Arktos, a youth organisation also involved in the project, says Covid-19 added to feelings of powerlessness and despair among local youth, making it more important than ever to go out and contact those from vulnerable groups in particular, to better understand them and encourage them to be "active citizens".

As an example of how misunderstanding can leave such groups isolated, he recalls making one video of boys engaged in a fierce public argument in a foreign language. It seemed intimidating to some passers-by. But in fact, says Deckers, there was no danger. They were simply debating what should go into your breakfast bowl first: the milk, or the cereal...



FROM BUBBLE TO SPEECH BUBBLES

Comic strip is a great Belgian tradition and one to which teenagers in the Brussels borough of Schaerbeek turned to explore how they experienced the pandemic – including frustrations with mask-wearing, social-distancing and being confined to mixing with only those in their household “bubble”.

In workshops organised by the Bakayaro youth club, which was granted 6,500 euros from Unlock Your Energy!, they learned how to construct storyboards, capture images and use creative software as they produced a series of storylines about life with Covid-19.

Speaking to Brussels newspaper The Bulletin, which ran a series of articles profiling grantees over the summer, Bakayaro organiser Yassin Bahri said: “Their real-life stories inspire the comic strip.”

He added: “The aim is to recount their suffering. Kids don’t always understand what has happened... It’s frightening for them.” Now the young creators hope to show off their work to the public.



TAKING TO THE AIRWAVES

Young people from the central Brussels neighbourhood of Marolles, where often cramped living conditions made lockdowns particularly uncomfortable for them, have been able to broadcast their ideas and emotions across the internet, thanks to a series of web radio projects organised by local youth club Le Foyer des Jeunes des Marolles.

Granted 7,558 euros, about a dozen youngsters, many from North and West African backgrounds, were trained to plan out programming for the radio and choose music playlists for the station, dubbed “Radio Los Mar”. They were also instructed on writing scripts for broadcasts exploring their experience of the pandemic, mixing and recording the results and, of course, presenting from behind the microphone.

One experience which inspired a discussion was that of a young man of 23 who found himself having to share a bedroom with younger siblings during lockdown. The aim, say the organisers, is to let youngsters share their emotions in a place where they can feel confident.



SPRING OF PHILANTHROPY

Philanthropists, policymakers, wealth advisers, asset managers, representatives of family offices, and NGOs, from Belgium and around the world, will gather in Brussels for the Spring of Philanthropy 2022. The date will be announced shortly.

Hosted by the King Baudouin Foundation, the event will feature debate and discussion on trends and opportunities in philanthropy. Generally held every three years, it is an important European rendezvous for those working in the sector. The Covid-19 pandemic prompted the postponement of the spring 2020 edition.



FRESH LOOK FOR FOUNDATION WEBSITE

The King Baudouin Foundation's website has had a makeover. Readers can more easily (re)discover the Foundation's activities and services in Belgium and abroad.

The new site details how to request support and has a revamped section on the various ways to work with KBF to fulfil philanthropic projects. It also reports regularly on the Foundation's latest news, inspiring stories about supported projects, events, publications, and data.

Readers are invited to send their comments and suggestions about the new website.

To be kept informed about KBF's activities, subscribe to our e-news and follow us on social networks.

kbs-frb.be/en

BAAAA! FARMYARDS COME TO PARISIAN KIDS

More than half of humanity lives in cities. It will be two thirds by mid-century. For children, that can mean a lack of space to play and of contact with the natural world - serious problems that Timberland, the U.S. outdoor outfitter, is working with the King Baudouin Foundation to relieve in some of Europe's densest metropolitan areas.

So don't be surprised if, while strolling through the streets of Paris today, you hear the sound of sheep or goats bleating, or spot schoolchildren tending to crops of vegetables. "Urban farming" projects in the French capital were among 18 grantees, along with inner city gardens, to share over 80,000 euros in funding for 2021 to create or upgrade spaces to improve the lives of youngsters in their neighbourhoods.

The My Playgreen initiative has previously benefited young Berliners, Londoners, and Milanese, while grants have just been made for 2022 to projects in Madrid. The Parisian children are enjoying the taste of the outdoors. And the sheep, we hear, are happy too...

Les Bergeries en Ville (Shepherds in the City) received 5,000 euros. bergeriesenville.org



"We would like our global neighbours to see us not as (often unwilling) champions of the sober, low-carbon lifestyle that others might do well to emulate, nor (as some might quietly prefer it) as peoples best kept poor and pre-industrial for the sake of the planet. Rather, Africa should be seen as a substantial region of the globe where wit, desire and necessity are driving change that shares benefits across society and can inspire humanity around the world."

Laureates of the King Baudouin Africa Prize in an open letter to Alok Sharma, President of COP26, offering examples of African ingenuity in combatting climate change, including those of prizewinners Wecyclers from Nigeria, Farmerline in Ghana and Adisco from Burundi.

Read the full story on kbafrika.org.

"The Business Partnership Facility (BPF) ... has proven to be an appropriate and relevant instrument to grant financial support for private sector involvement contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in developing countries. It ... is a successful model that is responding to a clear need and interest of the private sector as shown by its enormous success. Strategic choices will be needed to reduce the number of applicants."

Mid-term Evaluation Report on the Belgian government's 5-year, 12-million euro Business Partnership Facility, managed by the King Baudouin Foundation, to fund business projects in developing countries which promote sustainable development.

businesspartnershipfacility.be

"After the initial shock, you will be able, over time, to start taking a number of decisions: about your health; on how to organise day-to-day living; and about your assets. You can adapt your lifestyle, seek help and let those close to you know your wishes. Quite simply, by facing up to reality, you can remain in control of your own life, with the support of those you love."

From *La maladie d'Alzheimer... Que faire ?* (Dementia: What to do?), a new edition (in French) of a practical guide to coping with dementia published jointly by the King Baudouin Foundation and the Royal Federation of Belgian Notaries (Fednot). It can be downloaded at notaire.be or ordered in print from KBF at kbs-frb.be/en/contact.



CLIMATE CRISIS

A ROLE FOR THE NATION STATE

Author and academic Anatol Lieven says we should tap the strong emotions stirred by national sentiment to inspire countries to tackle climate change. In the latest KBF Connect for Climate debate, other panellists cautioned about reinforcing an “us against them” mentality.

When it comes to facing the climate crisis head on, demanding radical changes to public policy and individual behaviour, what will actually work to change minds? A focus on the threat to a particular nation state, or a truly global, collective approach? Emphasising the catastrophic local consequences of doing nothing, or promoting the vision of a future better life for all in a carbon-neutral society?

These were among the key debating points at the 7th King Baudouin Foundation Connect for Climate webinar in October, co-hosted by the European Policy Centre (EPC). The KBF has been hosting the events as part of its programme on climate change and biodiversity. The debates are aimed at broadening discussions on the tools and methods needed to drive genuine action and strengthen climate solutions.

A particular focus is on behavioural change – and how to foster it, given slow progress toward climate goals in societies across the world. The series draws on diverse perspectives from the social sciences – a field that tends to be overlooked in the climate debate. While communicating scientifically accurate information is clearly important, paying attention to human behaviour, values and identities is vital, too. Seeking links between target groups and identifying shared needs, concerns, and interests is also a crucial way of promoting more sustainable action.

October’s speaker was Anatol Lieven, senior fellow at the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft in Washington. A former foreign correspondent for British newspapers, he is a professor at Georgetown University and King’s College London.

Author of *Climate Change and the Nation State*, he calls for global warming to be “redefined” as an existential threat to nation states. To combat it, he says, they should mobilise national security elites and nationalistic sentiment of the kind that has in the past inspired great sacrifice to achieve common goals in war and peace.

Lieven was joined on the panel as respondents by Heather Grabbe, executive director of the Open Society European Policy Institute, and Annika Hedberg, head of the EPC’s Sustainable Prosperity for Europe programme. The livestreamed debate was moderated by Ricardo Borges de Castro, associate director and head of the Europe in the World programme at the EPC.

CLIMATE CHANGE, NATIONALISM, AND THE STATE: A REALIST RESPONSE – TALKING POINTS:

A systemic approach to ecological security is needed that is not fragmented along national or regional borders, because it does not stop at borders. When nationalism defines security policy in terms of 'us versus them', of protection against foreigners and foreign threats, it reinforces a mindset of insecurity

and fear about material deprivation that lowers people's openness and sense of solidarity globally.

Heather Grabbe, Open Society

Why not change the narrative to a positive one, which recognises that we are in a race to the top for better solutions and better lives within the boundaries that the planet has given us? It takes more than nation states, however, to make this happen. Many changes are already driven by communities, businesses, cities – despite national governments. The EU can provide guidance and coordination when nation states are slow to act.

Annika Hedberg, EPC

The task must be to convince elites and people that climate change really is a threat, and that protecting people in their countries also means helping countries elsewhere to mitigate and adapt or fear the consequences of inaction. Threat perception is a prime mover of human effort. I agree that we must focus on an end state of a zero-carbon green economy, a green new deal and social solidarity, but I fear that without using the language of sacrifice we will play into the hands of the opposing camp who will exaggerate the cost and use it as an argument against radical action.

Anatol Lieven, Quincy Institute



CONNECT FOR CLIMATE

- Videos of the Connect for Climate webinars can be found on YouTube: youtube.com/user/KBFvideochannel
- Summaries of the webinars are available on the KBF website: kbs-frb.be/en/climate
- A live closing debate will be held in early 2022 to complete the series. Watch out for announcements.

The ideas and opinions expressed during the webinars are the responsibility of the speakers and do not necessarily reflect the position of the King Baudouin Foundation.

kbs-frb.be/en/



**connect for
climate**



'IT'S A WIN-WIN': BUILDING A WAY OUT OF POVERTY IN DISASTER-PRONE NEPAL

Affordable and climate-friendly earth bricks designed “like Lego” are the key building blocks for a social business in earthquake-hit Nepal that has created thousands of homes and jobs, and income for local entrepreneurs. Build Up Nepal has been expanding thanks to funding from the Business Partnership Facility (BPF), managed by the King Baudouin Foundation.

When the founders of Build Up Nepal were deciding on the best way to help in the aftermath of a devastating earthquake in 2015, they “took a big gamble instead of the safe path”.

More than 800,000 homes had been destroyed by the disaster and subsequent floods, with poor rural families worst affected. But instead of using fundraised cash to re-build a few schools or houses, founders Björn Söderberg and Bina Shrestha formed a sustainable business model that would spread its impact wider.

Build Up Nepal's method helps facilitate the building of ecological, low-cost, earthquake-resistant homes while creating jobs and

harnessing the investment and effort of local entrepreneurs and residents. At the core of the social business is a low-tech interlocking earth brick that is 20–40% cheaper to make and uses up to 60% less CO₂ than conventional fired bricks.

The micro-enterprise model has so far resulted in the building of more than 6,000 homes across 287 communities, and the creation of nearly 3,000 jobs.

And it has been growing thanks to funding from the BPF Enterprises for SDGs programme, which provides support for innovative enterprises that share at least one of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

In 2020, it awarded 130,000 euros to Build Up Nepal so they could scale up production, support more than 100 new entrepreneurs, and expand geographically. The money is also being used to build a supportive market system, train more masons, and improve the brick machines.

“If we want to build with something scalable, it has to be something that people don't just accept living in, but they dream and really aspire to live in.”

Andreas Kölling

'Bricks, not bamboo'

"It wasn't an easy beginning", explains Build Up Nepal's deputy managing director and co-founder Andreas Kölling. They began by training locals in a marginalised community to build bamboo homes, but when they returned a month later no one had done it.

"We said, 'why do you want to live in this tiny shelter when we've just shown you how to build a beautiful house?' They didn't want that; they wanted a brick house because bamboo is used for building a cow shed or small storage unit and is seen as very sub-standard," says Kölling.

"So, our first big learning was that if we want to build with something scalable, it has to be something that people don't just accept living in, but they dream and really aspire to live in."

Knowing little about the technicalities, the founders "Googled day and night" to find out how the houses could be built well, and affordably, using local people and materials. That's when they found the existing earth brick technology they use today.

Interlocking Bricks (CSEB) are made by mixing and compressing sand, soil – or stone-dust – and cement in a machine. They are cured and the cement sets and bonds with the sand to stabilise the brick, so no burning or fuel is needed. They are stacked, interlocking "just like Lego" and then a combination of cement and bars and horizontal bands bind them to create a strong structure.

"It's very easy and fast to build with," adds Kölling.

Local economic engine

After the Nepalese government approved the technology, in 2017, they started working on the entrepreneur model on which the BPF project has been focused.

The model aims to "ignite an economic engine" in each village. Build Up Nepal sells the brick-making machine to entrepreneurs who can invest money and time in a local building operation – this might be a husband-and-wife team, an individual, a youth association or women's group.

Build Up Nepal then works with NGOs and other partners to offer support such as masonry training, funding quality assurance checks, and other back-up.

Low-income families can save 25% of the usual cost of a small house and make more savings by sourcing materials or doing some of the unskilled labour. Fully-funded houses are occasionally provided for the most vulnerable families.

"Our village has many youths who aspire to go abroad for employment. But seeing this, many are motivated to stay."

Parbati

Build Up Nepal also offers incentives to ensure that women entrepreneurs have the opportunity to invest in the machine.

Saraswati, from Jogidada, has built 35 houses via her micro-enterprise and says demand is growing quickly. "Many women ask me how they can become independent earners like me," she says.

Another, Parbati, says she recovered her investment in three to four months and has been convincing others of the cost savings and job opportunities it brings: "Our village has many youths who aspire to go abroad for employment. But seeing this, many are motivated to stay."

Invested in the future

Kölling adds: "We are driven by the social, environmental and economic impact, but in the conversation with potential entrepreneurs the focus is on how this is a good business.

"To make long-term scalable reconstruction and recovery work, you need to get the private sector on board. The majority of the investment has to be from the local person.

"That also gives it more impact for BPF. Entrepreneurs from that area can operate very cheaply; they already have a strong social network, they know where to get the materials at the cheapest cost, and where to get local masons, and they know how to convince the local government to build using this material... It's a win-win."

THE BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP FACILITY

The Business Partnership Facility Enterprises for SDGs support programme, run by Belgian Development Cooperation (DGD) and the KBF, provides grants to enterprise projects that are working towards at least one of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

The selection process focuses strongly on job creation and improving the position of women, alleviating environmental impacts, sustainable economic feasibility, and opportunities to grow or disseminate the business model. So far, the BPF has supported 36 enterprise projects with almost 5.8 million euros in funding. The current call for proposals is open until 15 February 2022.

businesspartnershipfacility.be



BALANCING PAST AND PLANET

An ambitious project in the King Baudouin Foundation's Heritage Fund portfolio tackles the renovation of a centuries-old castle and its grounds while giving them a lighter ecological footprint, improving biodiversity and supporting the community.

Preserving and celebrating our historical sites while securing them a future that is environmentally and economically sustainable is a complex balancing act. After almost a decade of careful research and painstaking work, that is what is being achieved at the sprawling Domaine de Freÿr, which hugs the banks of the River Meuse at Hastière, near Dinant, in southern Belgium.

Thanks to the ambitious Zero Emissions Château project, the castle, its gardens and surrounding land have been renovated to both restore elements of the estate's past glory and reduce its carbon footprint, notably in its heating systems.

The works have also restored land to historical uses, to present the estate closer to its earlier form and to enhance biodiversity. And the project aims to feed into the local economy.

The initiative has been supported by the KBF-managed Laubespín Lagarde Fund, as well as the regional Wallonia Heritage Agency and Wallonia Rural Development Programme. In all, they have given nearly 1.5 million euros since the Fund was launched in 2012.

Classified as an exceptional heritage site in Wallonia, the non-profit Domaine de Freÿr welcomes tourists to enjoy its landscapes, its formal gardens in the French 17th-century

WHAT IS THE LAUBESPÍN LAGARDE FUND?

Managed by the King Baudouin Foundation, the Fund aims to support initiatives that bring more sustainable quality to the restoration and development of the Château de Freÿr. Each year, it makes nearly 500,000 euros available to these projects. The money also contributes to maintenance of the gardens, the sustainability of the estate and its tourism endeavours.





style of Le Nôtre and its family-owned stately home. Those living there today are the 20th generation to live at Freyŕ since the 14th century.

Eléonore Desclée, a member of the family closely involved in the management of the estate, said they remain attached to their ancestral home and committed to continuing its traditions:

"We brainstormed with the whole family to provide an interesting and emotional cultural experience to the visitor. We are forward-looking and sustainability is one of the aspects that deserves all our attention," she said, noting that the fund which helped pay for the works was left by a relative, Jean de Laubespin.

"It's still a work in progress," Desclée added. "One of the biggest challenges is taking the time for a strategic reflection about the estate, as well as involving the various generations in the project and making it accessible to the public while also keeping the family character to it that people enjoy."

Highlights of the Zero Emissions Chateau project include:

- **A lighter footprint**

The estate's CO2 emissions have been reduced by replacing vintage oil-fired boilers with high-performance wood chip systems, which heat the entire castle – all 4,000 square metres of it. The chips are recycled from the estate's own forests.

A treatment plant has been installed to purify the castle's wastewater, and a particle filter also helps reduce the château's impact on the environment.

- **Authentic and local restorations**

Working with local companies and craftsmen, the roofs, framework, facade cladding, and other woodwork were restored using traditional craft techniques. "We limited our interventions to the strict minimum so as not to alter what was originally built," says Bertrand Dierckx, the architect in charge of the restoration.

- **Reclaimed land and biodiversity benefits**

The surrounding countryside is being returned to its former use as a meadow orchard, with benefits for biodiversity and the local economy. A detailed study of historical documents, photographs, and postcards revealed that the wooded hillsides around the château had originally been filled with fruit trees, explains landscape engineer Denis Mirailhé: "We wanted to recover the semi-open

character of this area by replacing the wood with a grazed meadow orchard. Its natural maintenance is ensured by 20 sheep belonging to a local farmer." Now cleared and re-planted with apple, pear, plum, and cherry trees, the orchard's fruit will be turned into juice and an agreement has been made with a local cider factory.

The meadow orchard is beneficial to pollinating insects, birds that nest in tree trunks, and small mammals, says conservation expert Mathieu Halford. He adds that it is also an "ideal habitat and hunting ground" for colonies of bats at Freyŕ, including two rare and threatened species.

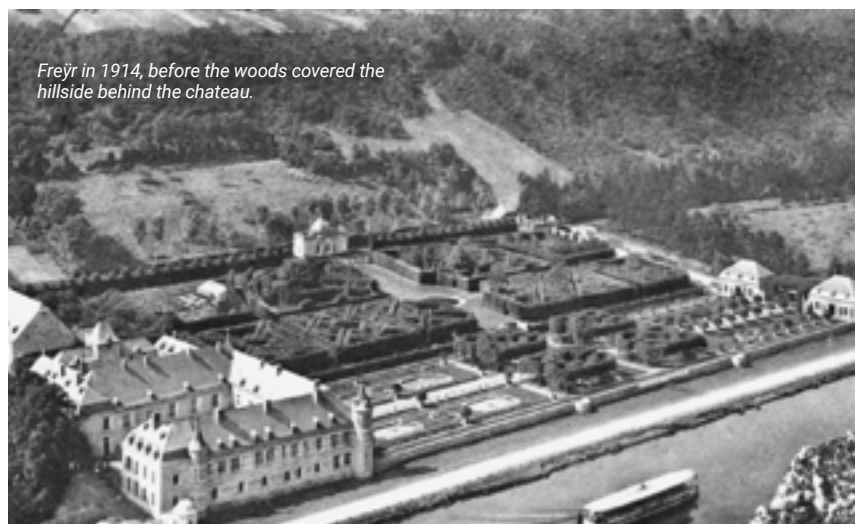
The orchard is particularly well situated because it is next to the castle's barn, where the bats breed in the attic.

www.freyr.be

HOW KBF HELPS PRESERVE HERITAGE

The King Baudouin Foundation contributes to the safeguarding of Belgium's heritage. Through the Heritage Fund, it seeks to acquire relevant works and testimonies, to promote them and make them accessible to the general public. The Centre for Philanthropy encourages patronage and provides support for anyone with a project designed to safeguard and promote our heritage. The Heritage Fund oversees all initiatives within the sphere and seeks to maximise the impact of the funds active in this field, of which the Laubespin Lagarde Fund is one.

<https://www.heritage-kbf.be/>



Freyŕ in 1914, before the woods covered the hillside behind the chateau.

MYSTERIOUS MONEY

GAMING HELPS TEENAGERS LIFT THE VEIL



If it costs more, will it be better? What's the point of taxes? Do I really need to save? Why read the small print? How do you work out a budget? What does Social Security mean? Not all teenagers ask those questions about the world of money, and fewer have the answers. BELvue's new interactive exhibition offers them the insights they'll soon need as adults.

"We get tokens to spend. But we don't all get the same amount." That comment, from a Brussels high school student during an immersive visit to The Mysteries of Finance exhibition at BELvue, goes to the heart of the experience: life may seem like a game when you're young but, unlike those we play at home, we don't all get dealt the same number of chips.

The idea behind the project is to give 12–18-year-olds a better understanding of how to deal with their own future finances, as

consumers, workers, and citizens. But it also demonstrates the ways in which personal choices play a role in today's society – how public services, taxation, welfare, or environmental issues bind us together in a collaborative enterprise.

It's not, they discover, a zero-sum game. And there are plenty of difficult decisions to make. They get to experience a range of real-life dilemmas, from ordinary families who want to spend now but also have something set aside for later,

to those of ministers wrangling over how to apportion the national budget with limited resources. The driving force behind the exhibition, developed with the support of the KBF-managed





"It seemed vital for us to develop a tool that helps them understand these," she says. "And understand that these are man-made constructions that are not set in stone; they have evolved through time and will continue to do so in the future."

The seven modules, set up with a pleasingly retro look, are designed to be tried out in turn by groups of three or four, prompting debate and discussion along the way. The modules challenge opinions and prejudices and encourage youngsters to question themselves and others.

"More than half of 15-year-olds in developed countries have a bank account. But two in three cannot interpret a statement."

OECD, PISA financial literacy test, 2017

Reactions have been positive from both students and teachers. "The visual displays and the elements you can handle are fun," says Nour, who is in her final year at the Karel Buls high school in Brussels. Economics teacher Olivier Leroy says: "It's interesting to bring students face to face with what happens in real, everyday life. There's often a money element there and they hear a lot about it."

Supported by the Financial Literacy Fund, created by ING bank with partners Amundi, AXA Investment Managers, BlackRock, NN Investment Partners and Franklin Templeton and managed by KBF, The Mysteries of Finance is now a fixture at BELvue for every autumn school term.

In between, it will be on the road around Belgium. Local authorities and other bodies can contact BELvue if they would like to host this stimulating experience for young people.

Financial Literacy Fund, is research showing how many teenagers lack even basic skills to manage money. In 2017, an international survey by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), found that one in four 15-year-olds is incapable of making rational decisions about everyday spending. While more than half have a bank account, nearly two in three cannot interpret a monthly statement.

BELvue manager An Lavens said that, over many years running civics workshops at the Brussels museum run by the King Baudouin Foundation, staff had noticed a widespread lack of understanding among teenagers about financial aspects of society, such as taxation, government budgets and social security:

IT'S UP TO YOU!

A selection of challenges from The Mysteries of Finance to test even the wisest heads...

Wheel of fortune

You're 25. You have two savings tokens. Do you put them under the mattress or in the bank? Spin the wheel forward. You're 30, 35, 40 and so on. At each turn, do you open a pension account, buy a house, take a gamble on a tech start-up? By 65, you've learned whether you prefer to play it safe or relish taking a risk.

What's my worth?

You're looking at four houses. Each represents an imaginary country, rich or poor, where wealth is shared, quite fairly, or not. In each house, there are a number of jobs and professions. Now match a salary to each one. Are you right? Then imagine yourself switching between jobs, and countries...

Juke box judgement

You're a Belgian apple wholesaler. You want your local suppliers to keep prices as low as possible – and for the costs of your foreign competitor to rise. Step up to the juke box of fate and press a button to see the effects of a good harvest, bad weather, environmental problems, health scares...

You're the minister

At the cabinet table, you must defend your ministry's budget. But for 15 minutes, your government colleagues are pitching for their departments, too. No holds barred. But then, ding! You have five minutes to agree a national budget that works for everyone in the room.

belvue.be (FR/NL only)

KENYAN WOMEN BREAK BARRIERS TO BUILD CAREERS

By preparing East African women for higher-paying jobs in the ‘non-conventional’ fields of construction and tech, two Kenyan non-profits are challenging the cultural assumptions around gender and work that exist in much of the world.

Kenya’s growing sectors of construction and technology provide well-paid jobs that are overwhelmingly filled by men. The exclusion of women from these fields is nothing new; most in the region work for lower pay in the informal sector. However, the proportion of women working in the formal economy in Kenya is forecast to grow dramatically.

The female co-founders of non-profits Buildher and AkiraChix are catching this wave and pushing back against gender stereotypes to

ensure more women take their higher-paid place in the country’s developing economy. Influenced by the needs of poorer communities and the lack of gender diversity they saw in their sectors, they are training underprivileged women to work in the country’s three-billion U.S. dollar construction industry and thriving technology ecosystem known as Silicon Savannah.

Life skills and work readiness

Buildher equips disadvantaged young women with accredited construction skills, such as

“We need more women in growing sectors such as construction, not only so that their voices are incorporated in critical areas of our development, but also to ensure that they benefit from higher-paying jobs and fare better in the future.”

Tatu Gatere



carpentry, plastering and painting. This leads to earning more, shifting attitudes, and promoting gender equality in the industry.

Its co-founder and CEO Tatu Gatere is an entrepreneur, architect, and built-environment enthusiast who left Nairobi at 21 to study in the United States. A decade later, she returned to work for a construction firm building commercial properties.

She honed her architectural craft during the day, catering to some of the city's wealthiest residents. But on her way home she would pass informal settlements and low-income neighbourhoods.

"I would see people who couldn't afford to live where I lived, for whom the city of Nairobi was certainly not designing or building," Gatere says.

Three years after leaving to join a non-profit that managed public spaces in a Nairobi slum, Gatere launched Buildher with co-founder James Mitchell.

She is driven by the belief that, when meaningfully supported, women can succeed in male-dominated fields. Buildher's participants typically come from challenging home environments, so the programme also includes life skills training, work readiness, mental health coaching, and nutritional assistance. But the bulk of its focus is on technical skills in carpentry, joinery, painting, plastering, and partitioning.

Participants then go to one of Buildher's employment partners as semi-skilled paid labourers, at the end of which they can join the labour market as skilled workers.

"We need more women in growing sectors such as construction, not only so that their voices are incorporated in critical areas of our development, but also to ensure that they benefit from higher-paying jobs and fare better in the future," says Gatere.

Bridging tech's gender gap

In the field of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics), AkiraChix provides women with skills to enable them to move out of the cycle of low-skilled, low-wage employment and into the fast-moving tech sector. Its signature codeHive programme trains women tech leaders, building their expertise and helping them develop networks.

"We tried to find where the women were but couldn't find them. So, we decided to bring them to the tech industry."

Linda Kamau

The Nairobi-based non-profit was founded in 2010 by a group of women who were passionate about technology and wanted to challenge the status quo by encouraging and facilitating more women to take up careers in related fields.

Co-founder and managing director Linda Kamau is a software engineer.

"We tried to find where the women were, but couldn't find them. So, we decided to bring them to the tech industry," she says.

A one-year paid residency, codeHive offers students training in market-ready technology, entrepreneurship, life skills, and leadership. Students receive mentorship from East Africa's leading names in technology and business, as well as work experience and support for work placements.

Incomes jumped

Gatere says Buildher has trained 170 women since launching in 2019. Before joining, most participants earned the equivalent of less than nine U.S. dollars a week. After four months with the organisation, their incomes jumped to around nine dollars per day – an increase that has the capacity to change the trajectory of their lives.

With a goal of training 10,000 African women this decade, AkiraChix has trained 240 to date and its class of 2020 boasts a 95% work placement rate. The average wage of its codeHive graduates has risen from 100 U.S. dollars to 350 dollars a month – higher pay than 54% of Kenya's formally employed population.

Partnership with KBFUS

Both Gatere and Kamau decided to open an American Friends Fund with KBFUS to channel donations from U.S.-based donors seeking to support their organisations.

"With KBFUS, we now have a reliable partner to receive tax-deductible donations in the United States," Gatere explains. "Without their support, we would be totally locked out of the U.S."



The King Baudouin Foundation United States (KBFUS) is the leading resource for philanthropic giving to Europe and Africa – a trusted adviser for US donors seeking to support their favourite causes and non-profits overseas.



To learn more about our donor-advised funds, legacy funds and KBFUS ART, please visit www.kbfus.org. Or contact us at (212) 713-7660 or info@kbfus.org.

RALLYING RELIEF : CANADIANS HELP INDIA FIGHT COVID-19



When a second wave of Covid-19 engulfed India in the spring of 2021, Canada's South Asian communities mobilised and joined forces with KBF CANADA to provide much-needed relief and support.

Indian officials had declared victory over Covid-19 when they lifted the lockdowns imposed in 2020. But in the spring of 2021, a second wave hit with breath-taking speed and severity, pushing the healthcare system beyond its limits and claiming hundreds of thousands of lives.

"We've been doing humanitarian work for about 20 years, so we're used to a lot of trauma – but this was so much in such a short period of time," said Jatinder Singh, Canada

National Director of NGO Khalsa Aid International. "People truly felt that Covid was at their doorstep."

Mobilising the Indo-Canadian community

India's unfolding catastrophe was felt keenly in Canada's South Asian communities. In response, a group of Canadian leaders of Indian descent formed a coalition to mobilise relief: "India touches Canadians in many ways. In the group that we pulled together, everyone had family going through different challenges," said Narinder Dhami, member of the coalition and President of the Sonor Foundation.

The coalition joined forces with KBF CANADA to create the India Covid-19 Relief Fund. Leveraging its collective international networks, the Foundation helped to identify and vet partner organisations and ensure funds were efficiently deployed with

minimal management costs. The urgent needs expressed by local organisations included emergency medical equipment, preventive and diagnostic tools to relieve the burden on the healthcare system, and food and other basic supplies for vulnerable populations.

Maximising impact

The KBF CANADA India Covid-19 Relief Fund selected four initial partners – all Indian or Indian diaspora-led: SNEHA and GOONJ have large grassroots networks allowing them to provide efficient direct relief to vulnerable communities, while Khalsa Aid and GlobalMedic have the capacity to deliver large quantities of medical supplies.

"We're very grateful to KBF CANADA for the partnership and the trust, for rallying people around a problem and raising funds for organisations

like us who are really well positioned to respond,” said Rahul Singh, Executive Director of GlobalMedic.

More than 1,000 Canadians responded to the appeal.

“We filled a need for people who wanted to give in a transparent and impactful way,” said Dhama. “The coalition and KBF CANADA provided a pathway to people who wanted to give more directly to affected communities.”

The Fund has raised more than 550,000 Canadian dollars (380,000 euros). It has also collected millions of donated masks to protect against Covid-19.

SNEHA: protecting the most vulnerable

SNEHA works in 15 of the most precarious slum communities of Mumbai to improve health outcomes for vulnerable women and children. The support has let them: do more community work on Covid-19 prevention; offer mental health support to women suffering from an increase in domestic violence during lockdown; provide food and hygiene products to more than 3,900

vulnerable families; offer health information and online schooling to youngsters through their Smartphone Library.

GOONJ: caring for left-out communities

GOONJ engages marginalised communities to alleviate poverty while emphasising local autonomy and dignity. As well as daily-wage and migrant workers, GOONJ also focused on those with HIV or leprosy, the transgender community, sex workers and other marginalised groups. It used KBF CANADA funds to provide rations, medicine, and hygiene support to more than 1,600 families in these “ignored” communities.

Khalsa Aid: ears on the ground, partners in the sky

Khalsa Aid International is a UK-based humanitarian charity with a Canadian office that provides support globally to victims of disasters. KBF CANADA's support allowed them to deliver 100 oxygen concentrators and six ventilators to more than 10 clinics and hospitals in the Punjab region.



GlobalMedic: agile approach for maximum impact

GlobalMedic is a Canadian organisation that provides short-term, rapid response in the wake of disasters and crises, at home and abroad. With KBF CANADA's support, the organisation provided healthcare centres with high-quality protective equipment as well as oxygen concentrators and diagnostic tools.

New dangers on the horizon

The worst of the outbreak has now passed, but the crisis is far from over. NGOs continue to respond to critical food and health needs and face an education crisis of unknown proportions. To meet these challenges, the Relief Fund will continue to mobilise relief, raise funds, and identify new partners.



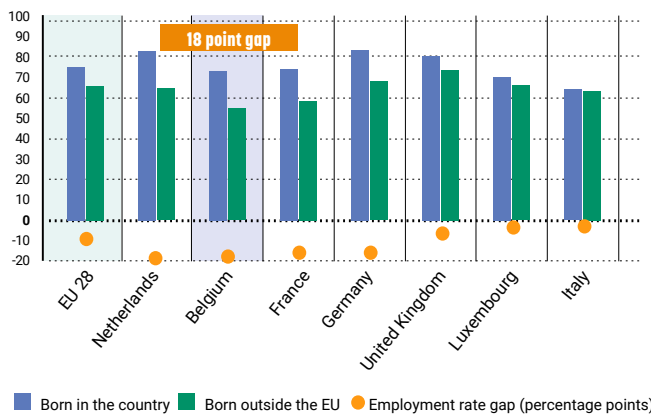
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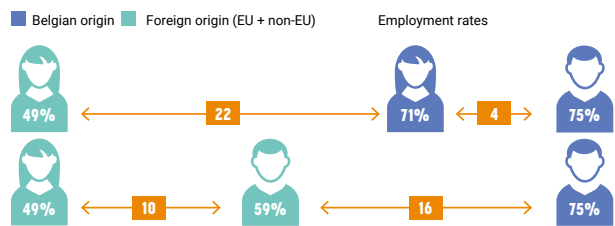
WORKERS OF FOREIGN ORIGIN IN BELGIUM

More than one in three working age residents in Belgium has foreign roots. The gap in employment rates between second-generation immigrants and those of Belgian origin is almost 20 percentage points. The gap is even greater for those whose roots lie outside the European Union, especially for women. Analysis by the King Baudouin Foundation has shone a spotlight on the disparities, which speak to great untapped potential in the labour market.

Belgium shows one of the highest gaps in the EU between employment rates for native or foreign-born 20-64 year-olds¹



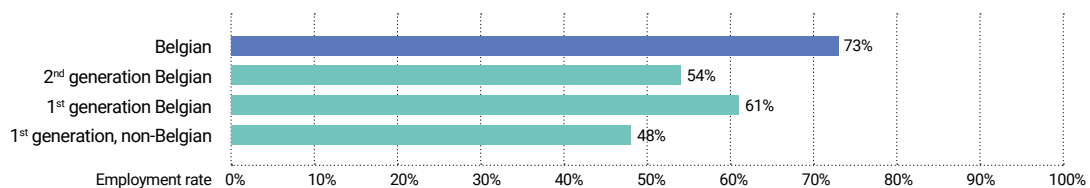
Women face a double difficulty³



Women of non-EU origin face the greatest difficulties in the job market⁴



Even for the second generation the labour market remains difficult to access. For the first generation, acquiring Belgian citizenship helps²



Sources :

1: Eurostat (2019) - 4b: Eurostat (2018), Data analysis: BIRMM - VUB.
 2, 3: Datawarehouse marché du travail et protection sociale (2019), Data analysis: BIRMM - VUB.
 4a: Datawarehouse marché du travail et de la protection sociale (2016), Data analysis: SPF Emploi/Unia.
Person of foreign origin: a person, or the child of a person, who holds, or held at birth, the nationality of another country
Belgian: born Belgian and with two Belgian-born parents
2nd generation Belgian: born Belgian but with a parent having had another nationality
1st generation Belgian: acquired Belgian nationality after birth
1st generation non-Belgian: yet to acquire Belgian nationality