

Final event “My Future, Our Society”

8 May 2019 – BO
ZAR

With simultaneous translation to English

Context

Only 16% of young adults believe they can **rely on the political system** to help them solve their problems or achieve their dreams. This feeling of political alienation was clearly present among the 2,000 young adults interviewed for the book "Beyond the Narrative of Decline" of Mark Elchardus (2015). For the most part, they rely on themselves, their family and a bit of luck. Yet **politics loses its meaning** if people do not realise that having a good job, a comfortable home, a nice neighbourhood, safe streets and decent healthcare are **strongly tied to collective conditions**.

Therefore, the Foundation P&V launched a multi-annual project to reconcile young people with social engagement and the political system in general. The first phase was a **call to organisations** in the broadest sense of the word (non-profits, schools, de facto associations, ...) that work with and for young people and are able to coordinate a project that brings young people together to find a solution to a problem they are experiencing or to realise a dream within the areas of work, housing, health, sport, etc. Our general aim: **make young people aware** that through collective action and starting dialogues with (local) authorities and public institutions, they can solve personal problems or achieve their dreams. We also hope to encourage **political institutions** to be **more responsive** to young people's problems and dreams.

By October 2016 we had received 137 candidatures. A **jury of experts** selected **eight laureates** which received a grant and were monitored for one year and a half. Four projects come from Flanders (J100, Cachet, EW32 and Vrienden van de Put), two from Brussels (Scouts des Marolles and Ades) and two from Wallonia (Couleur Café asbl and Maison de Jeunes de Jalhay-Sart).

Since the start of our project, various conferences and debates have been organised, projects have been supported and progress has been made. **To conclude** “My Future, Our Society” we will bring together the different laureates of the call to organisations, invite several inspiring speakers – each specialised in a particular field regarding collective action – and organize multiple workshops.

With this final event we want to present the experiences of the 8 best practices and our whole project, as well as bring together researchers, experts, field practitioners, youngsters and politicians and the broader public, from Belgium and abroad, to **discuss and to identify policies** that could help in the fight against political alienation of youngsters and the **revitalisation of collective action** in our society.

About the foundation P&V

The cornerstone of the Foundation P&V is the promotion of active citizenship and the fight against the exclusion of young people. The Foundation aims to guide young people regarding different aspects of social life. By giving them the necessary opportunities and by actively involving them, it helps them take their lives into their own hands.

The four main values of social economy drive the actions of the Foundation:

solidarity, emancipation, citizenship and participation



Timing

10 am: WELCOME

10.30-11 am: INTRODUCTION: Olivier Servais, president of the Foundation P&V

11.-12 am: INSPIRING SPEAKERS

*Pepijn Kennis, vzw Toestand
Julie Foulon, MolenGeek, Girleek
Victoria Anderica, City of Madrid
Michel Pradolini, City Pirates*

12-1.30 pm: LUNCH

1.30-3.30 pm: WORKSHOPS: 

- Workshop 1: **Youth (re)making the neighbourhood.**

Vrienden van de Put, Scouts des Marolles, Maison de Jeunes de Jalhay-Sart

- Workshop 2: **Youth influencing (local) policy making.**

Couleur Café asbl, Cachet vzw

- Workshop 3: **Ways to give youngsters a voice and resources to take action.**

Serious urban games EW32, participatory budgets from ADES2.0 and youth summit J100

- Workshop 4: **Encouraging collective action of youngsters via sport.**

Two cases from Antwerp and Brussels: City Pirates and Kraainem Football Club

3.30-5 pm: BREAK

- Music from *De Troubadours*
- Visit of “*Next Generation, Please*” in Bozar
- Project booths

5 pm



DEBATE: moderated by Béatrice Delvaux, *Le Soir*, and Han Renard, *Knack*

7 pm

*Anne Muxel, Professor at Sciences Po Paris
Gary Pollock, Professor at Manchester
Metropolitan University*

7-8 pm: RECEPTION

