

# THE VUB CHAIR OF SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP



## INVITES YOU TO BECOME A FOUNDING PARTNER

[www.vubsocialentrepreneurship.com](http://www.vubsocialentrepreneurship.com)



*"Let's grow together and make the world a better place"*

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Chairholder

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[vubsocialentrepreneurship](https://www.facebook.com/vubsocialentrepreneurship)

The Chair of Social Entrepreneurship at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel supports social entrepreneurs to realize their dreams. The passionate projects of social entrepreneurs need all kinds of support, including yours, to achieve their social mission and make the world a better place.

To facilitate as much as possible support to social entrepreneurs, the Chair launched a platform in May 2017: <https://platformse.com/>

To date, 54 projects benefitted from this platform, and the pipeline of new projects is growing thanks to the different events organized and the local and international partnerships initiated.

The founding partners of this Chair (Euroclear, BNP Paribas Fortis and Close the Gap) have committed to fund the chair until September 2020.

We are happy that Euroclear and Close the Gap are extending their support with 2 more years (2021 and 2022). To continue and increase our impact in Belgium and abroad we are looking for additional chair partners. If you are interested, don't hesitate to contact me to discuss what's in it for you and for the VUB.

With your support, we will be able to increase our outreach in support of social entrepreneurs, and thus contribute to making this world a better place. Thanks in advance!

The **MISSION** of the Chair is to become an internationally recognized center of excellence through its scientific research and hands-on support of social entrepreneurs

## ▶ Our goals in the future

For the next two years, we aim at :

- Strengthening our role as a center of excellence in social entrepreneurship;
- Strengthening our relationship with corporates to jointly support social entrepreneurs and sustainable business models;
- Having an active role in the development on national and international ecosystems in support of social entrepreneurship;
- Strengthening research, international publications and involvement in international projects.

**We want to achieve this through an extended network and solid partnerships in Belgium and abroad!** ▶

## ▶ Network partners



# Achieved Milestones for Mission and Goals

# A PLATFORM IN SUPPORT OF SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS

[www.platformse.com](http://www.platformse.com)

54 projects  
10 events per year  
40 - 550 people per event  
ca. 25k EUR collected



*This platform has been implemented in 6 Universities in Bolivia, Ecuador, and Colombia*

## Research

- Current research topics on social entrepreneurship: business models and their scalability, support ecosystems, international support and the Base of the Pyramid.
- Four full-time Ph.D. students in Belgium and Joint Ph.D. students in Bolivia (2), in Ecuador (1) and Bulgaria (1);
- Involved in 2 special issues in internationally renowned academic journals ;
- Co authors of the book "A Financial Guide for Social Entrepreneurs"

## Events and visibility

- The Chair organizes 10+ events on social entrepreneurship each year, in Belgium and abroad;
- *The VUB Social Entrepreneurship Fair* about 550 participants and 50+ social projects (at VUB);
- The Social Entrepreneurship Summit
  - SES2019 (Santa Marta, Colombia) : 90 participants from 15 countries, 70 presentations, 30 Fair Stands of Social Entrepreneurs;
  - SES2020 (virtual) : 205 participants from 26 countries, 85 presentations, 30 Social Entrepreneurship Projects on an Online Fair.
- The social media community of the Chair counts 3K+ followers and 8K reach with posts.

## International network

- Prof. Dentchev is a board member of professional associations such as the New Business Models Conference (NBM) and the International Association of Business and Society (IABS), where he is the Conference Chair Elect for 2021.
- The chair is also member (through its team) at the EMES International Research Network on Social Entrepreneurship and the Academy of Management (AoM)
- In Belgium, the chair is involved in sector marking initiatives in social entrepreneurship : *Belgium Impact*, *Solifin*, and *Enactus Belgium*.



BASEL

## The Circular Economy Challenge



The VUB Chair of Social Entrepreneurship, together with its partners, wanted to stimulate the creativity of students, entrepreneurs, and employees from corporates to [develop innovative solutions for the circular economy](#).

With the Circular Economy Challenge, [the Chair attracted 16 wonderful ideas with great potential](#) to resolve several sustainability issues of our planet. One of the highlights of this challenges was the [Design Thinking Bootcamp](#) at DigitYser provided by Euroclear. The bootcamp reunited all participants from different projects, and also employees from Euroclear, BNP Paribas Fortis, Close the Gap, VUB, and key-note speakers from Enactus and Zero Gaspi. As a result, [10 projects made it to the finals](#). Our closing event (virtual) counted with more than 2600 visitors and 1500 votes to select the three best ideas.



## VUB becomes first Belgian University to join the BoP global network

The BoP Global Network was established by Prof. dr. Stuart L. Hart to bring together global leaders to share knowledge, develop tools, and disseminate experience regarding the theory and practice of sustainable businesses at the BoP. This is an excellent opportunity for the Chair to join efforts with all other members of this BoP network, to join efforts in the generation of knowledge and hands-on support of business development of those communities in greatest needs.

## Involvement in international projects

The VUB Chair is project coordinators of the following international projects:

- **ELANET:** Erasmus + Capacity Building project (36 months) aimed at developing an international platform in support of social entrepreneurs including 17 consortium partners and 36 associated partners from Europe and Latin America.
- **SEfficiency:** VLIR Joint project (24 months) aimed at developing university centers to support Social Entrepreneurs in Bolivia, Uganda and Ecuador
- **VLIR UOS IUC in Bolivia:** Project leaders (P5) in development cooperation develop social entrepreneurship in Bolivia with the Universidad Catolica Boliviana (UCB).

Currently, the Chair is also participating as partners in the following project:

- **ERMIScom:** Aimed at developing a common curriculum in the field of journalism and social media among involved HEIs in order to facilitate the social integration and inclusion of vulnerable groups. This is an Erasmus+ KA2 (36 months) project led by the National Kapodsitrian University of Athens (Greece)



**THINK,  
CREATE &  
CONNECT**

## ▶ **What is in there for you?**

Your organization can benefit in various ways thanks to its partnership with the VUB Chair of Social Entrepreneurship, such as:

- **KNOWLEDGE:** the Chair is happy to discuss with its partners the gathered knowledge on social entrepreneurship and the creative solutions of wicked problems;
- **INSPIRATION:** the cases of social entrepreneurs could be quite inspiring for the strategic management and innovation departments of your organization;
- **VISIBILITY:** Through the multitude of events and projects of the Chair, through its extended networks, media channels and wide recognition;
- **ACCESS TO TALENT:** We have noticed that social entrepreneurs and students interested in our activities have interesting leadership profiles, with a solid focus on sustainability;
- **OUT-OF-THE-BOX HR TRAINING:** Employees of your organization can be engaged in different activities that support social entrepreneurs, which could well fit as HR training in leadership and community engagement;
- **STRENGTHENING YOUR CSR INITIATIVES:** the interaction with social entrepreneurs can substantially strengthen the CSR initiatives of your organization;