FOUNDATION
FUTURE
GENERATIONS



Believing in those who are building tomorrow
...to pass on a liveable world

ACTIVITY
REPORT
2025-2026

The Foundation for Future Generations is a Belgian public benefit foundation that has been exclusively dedicated to sustainable development for over 25 years. Independent, pluralistic and active throughout Belgium and internationally, it works to support positive societal change.

Our vision

The Foundation for Future Generations envisions a shared future where generations work together to imagine, create and pass on a liveable world.

A liveable world is one in which society can thrive sustainably, offering a high quality of life for everyone in a fair and equitable way. It is a society that meets present and future needs while respecting the limits of ecosystems and natural resources and ensuring that every individual can participate democratically in shaping its future.

Our mission

Founded in 1998, the Foundation for Future Generations promotes, supports and finances students, young researchers and student entrepreneurs developing projects that transform their research, prototypes and start-ups into drivers of positive societal change.

The Foundation's activities are guided by a 360° systemic approach, combining the four inseparable dimensions of sustainable development: People (social), Planet (environment), Prosperity (economic) and Participation (democratic governance). The Foundation also places its patrons, donors and partners at the heart of its mission; their commitment makes all of its work possible.



The Foundation for Future Generations embeds its 360° "4P" approach within the framework of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.



Our values

The Foundation's thinking and actions are built on four fundamental values that drive the transition towards a more sustainable future: trust, stimulation, positivity and autonomy.

Our key highlights

€1.2 million
invested in primary societal impact investments
(see pp. 15–16)

35
graduate theses and dissertations rewarded this year
(see pp. 5–8)

€439,000
in loans granted to support entrepreneurship this year
(see pp. 9–14)

10
philanthropic funds

146+
volunteer expert jury members this year

18
members of the Foundation's permanent team

Believing in those who are building tomorrow

In a world where crises are becoming increasingly interconnected and reinforcing one another, addressing a single issue is no longer enough. That is why the Foundation for Future Generations champions a **360° approach** that connects social, environmental, economic and democratic challenges. This systemic approach guides our decisions and shapes everything we do.

We believe in the ability of a new generation of changemakers to transform society. In the face of widespread pessimism, the Foundation chooses to invest in their creativity and their capacity to shape a better future. Every year, students, researchers, entrepreneurs and project leaders develop practical solutions to the challenges of our time. By supporting them, we give these initiatives the means to grow and maximise their positive, lasting and collective impact.

Our sincere thanks to our patrons, partners and donors for their trust. Thanks to your support, we can continue empowering these young talents and, together with them, build a more liveable world for future generations.



'Being entrusted with so much knowledge, energy and commitment, and passing it on for the benefit of present and future generations, is both a great privilege and a great responsibility.'
Benoît Derenne
CEO

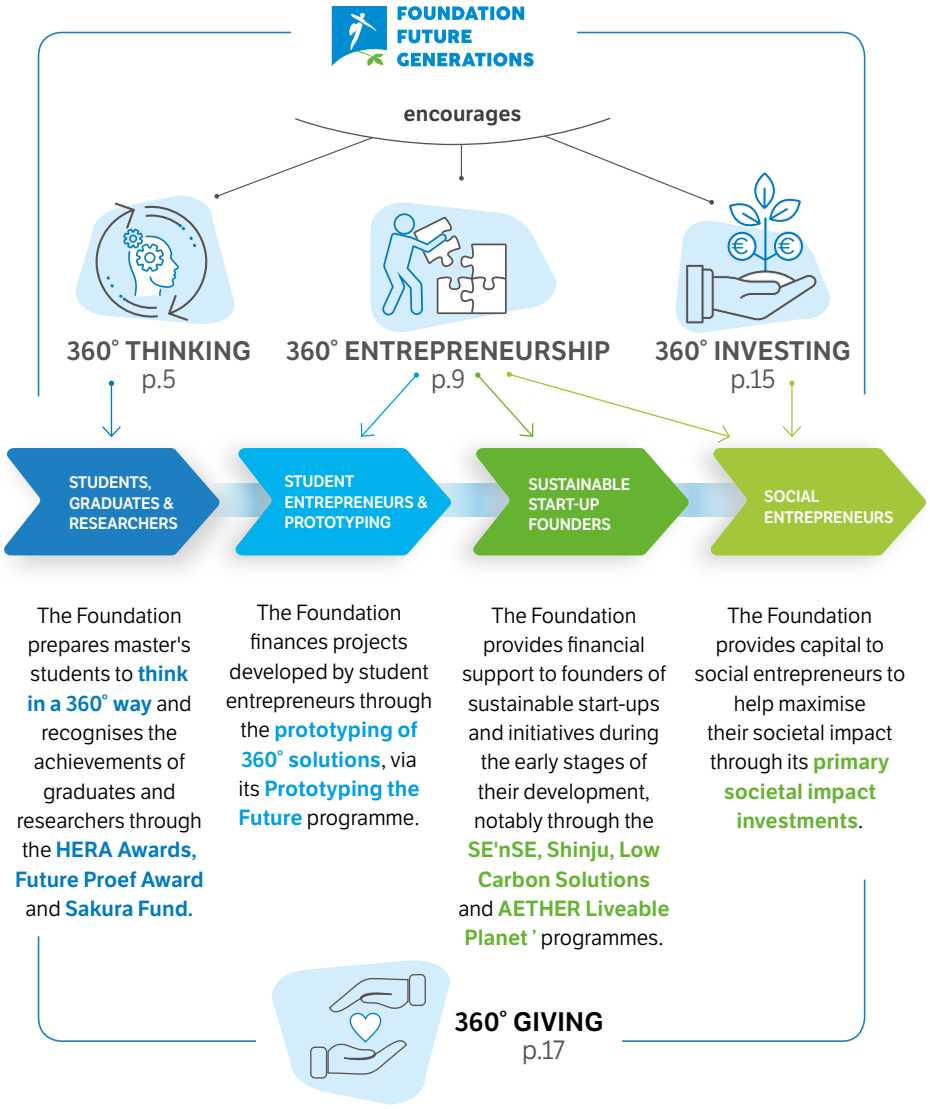


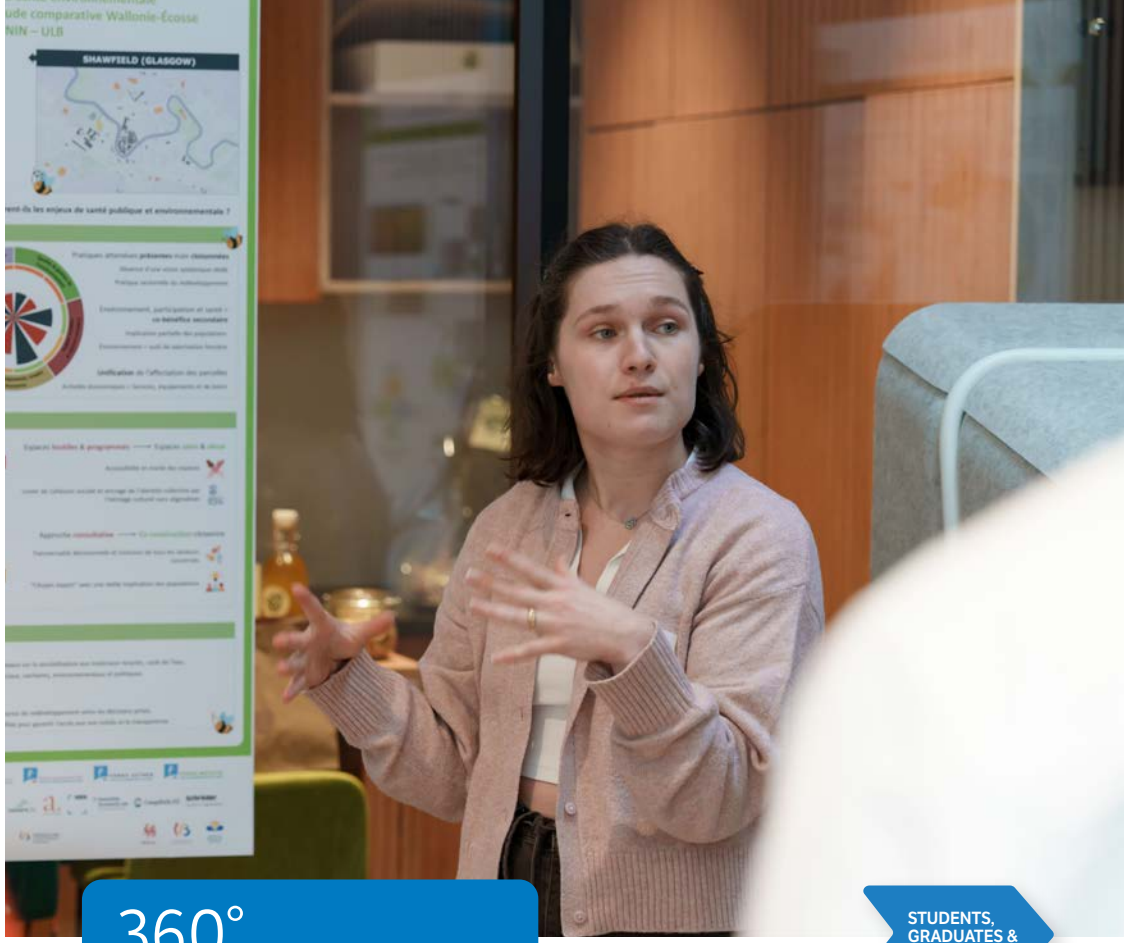
'Is the Foundation for Future Generations pessimistic or optimistic? Neither. It is realistic and determined.'
François Ost
Chair of the Board



Empowering the next generation to transform the world

Confident in the ability of young people to drive profound societal change, the Foundation for Future Generations provides them with funding, connects them with key stakeholders, supports them throughout their journey and helps raise their profile among other changemakers and the wider public through four complementary levers.





360° THINKING

STUDENTS, GRADUATES & RESEARCHERS

HERA AWARDS
FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

HERA Awards: recognising master's theses and doctoral dissertations that help build the world of tomorrow. pp.6-7

FUTURE PROOF ☆AWARD

Future Proof Award: when Flemish students rethink the future. p.8

SAKURA

Supporting committed changemakers advancing gender equality in scientific and academic careers. p.8

HERA Awards: recognising master's theses and doctoral dissertations that help build the world of tomorrow

The HERA Awards are academic excellence prizes presented annually by the Foundation. Their objective? To recognise and shine a light on young graduates whose master's dissertations or doctoral theses address major societal challenges through an innovative, systemic approach. Their work helps advance thinking and practice within their respective fields.



During the ceremony held on **14 April 2026 at the Université libre de Bruxelles, 35 research projects** were recognised across **15 award categories**. Our expert juries praised their systemic approach and their positive contribution to society.

Save the date

Join us on 13 April 2027 for the HERA Awards Ceremony at the University of Namur!

HERA AWARDS AT A GLANCE...

870 students attended our workshops this year

276 research projects recognised

16 awards established over **14 editions**

368 expert jury members

5 partner universities

24 higher education institutions involved

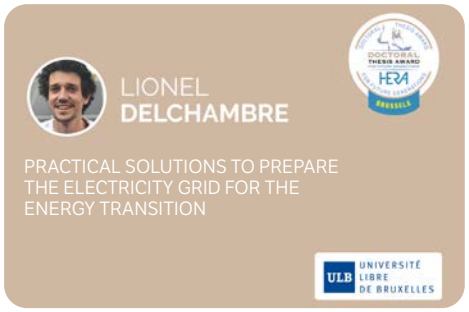
1.723 academic ambassadors

32 partners

Spotlight on some of the 2026 HERA Award winners



Winner of the **HERA Award Sustainable Media, Lola Fonta** explores the evolution of environmental journalism in French-speaking Belgium and the challenges facing newsrooms. Chaired by **Yasmine Boudaka**, the jury praised an innovative and thoroughly documented study on a key issue for today's media.



Winner of the **Special HERA Award Brussels for Future Generations, Lionel Delchambre** developed innovative tools to manage electricity grid congestion. Chaired by **Natacha Zuinen**, the jury praised practical research offering concrete solutions to the challenges of Brussels' energy transition.



Winner of the **HERA Award Sustainable Democracy, Noé Hiernaux** explores social tensions in Wallonia's farming sector through interviews with farmers and trade union representatives. Chaired by **Elsa Ogien**, the jury praised a rigorous study highlighting the social, environmental and democratic challenges facing agriculture.



Nominee for the **HERA Award Sustainable Design, Camille Tarratte** rethinks waste sorting in high-rise housing through a participatory approach involving residents. Chaired by **Luc Deriez**, the jury praised an innovative, people-centred project combining social design, education and fieldwork.

Interested in discovering the other winners? Visit **futuregenerations.be/en/hera2026**

Future Proef Award: when Flemish students rethink the future

Now in its third edition, **the Future Proef Award** recognised **nine graduate projects** that contribute to a more sustainable world through a **360° approach.** The award is an initiative of **Duurzaam Educatiepunt** (Flemish Government, Department of Environment), in partnership with the Foundation and **17 Dutch-speaking higher education institutions.**

Meet two of the 2026 Future Proef Award winners

Discover all the winning projects at **futuregenerations.be/en/fpa2026**



Marta Meers explores PFAS pollution through a personal video installation inspired by her grandparents' contaminated vegetable garden in Antwerp. Projected onto a mycelium screen, her work examines the links between pollution, responsibility and our relationship with the living world.



Emilio Pepa, Jorn Steynen and **Sebastiaan Van der Veken** developed a sustainable monitoring system to better map flood risks in Uganda. Their project combines technological expertise, local collaboration and a strong understanding of on-the-ground realities.

Sakura: Supporting committed changemakers advancing gender equality in scientific and academic careers

On the initiative of

The **Sakura Fund** supports **three initiatives** promoting gender equality in academic and scientific careers through **three-year funding.** The selected projects are now entering their second year of support.

The **ISALA NOVA (UNamur & UMONS)** project brings together researchers from all disciplines and career stages to develop solutions addressing gender inequalities in academia.

The **Delta (ULB)** project tackles the underrepresentation of women in scientific careers by addressing the main structural barriers encountered during the postdoctoral stage.

The **Lifting Each Other Up (Hasselt)** project aims to break women's isolation by providing a safe, supportive and caring community.

Discover more at **futuregenerations.be/en/sakura2026**



360° ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Prototyping & Start-ups

STUDENT ENTREPRENEURS & PROTOTYPING

SUSTAINABLE START-UP FOUNDERS

FUTURE GENERATIONS Summit — Where changemaking entrepreneurs shape tomorrow p.10

PROTOTYPING THE FUTURE — Promising prototypes for a sustainable future p.11

SE'nSE — Sustainable start-ups ready to make a difference p.12

SHINJU — Sustainable start-ups reimagining food systems and forestry p.12

new!

LOW CARBON SOLUTIONS — Start-ups accelerating the climate transition p.13

AETHER — Solutions to protect aquatic ecosystems p.14

Future Generations Summit : where changemaking entrepreneurs shape tomorrow

More than 250 participants came together at the Future Generations Summit 2025, an evening celebrating impact entrepreneurship. We honoured our 2025 award-winning entrepreneurs, true drivers of change. Coming from the Prototyping the Future, SE'nSE, Shinju and Low Carbon Solutions programmes, these young changemakers impressed us with their commitment, positive energy and the tangible impact of their work. The evening also featured a vibrant Start-ups Fair.



Relive the event at **futuregenerations.be/en/summit2025**

SAVE THE DATE
Future Generations Summit 2026
3 December 2026



In partnership with the **Province of Hainaut**, the Foundation recognised an outstanding sustainable development initiative through the **Hainaut Horizons Award** in 2025. This year's award went to **Ma Ferme**, recognised for the quality and impact of its commitment.

Discover the Hainaut Horizons Award (FR): **futuregenerations.be/en/provincial-awards**

new!

Start-ups Fair at the Future Generations Summit

An opportunity to discover **the start-ups and visionary projects** supported by the Foundation. They are rethinking the way we produce, consume and live together to help build tomorrow.



Prototyping the Future : Promising prototypes for a sustainable future

An initiative of ALBERT VANHEE FUND FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

With the support of HELIOS FOUNDATION

Through its Prototyping the Future programme, the Foundation supported 19 student-led entrepreneurial initiatives in 2026. With grants of up to €5,000, participants can develop a prototype of a product, service or technology with a positive societal impact. The programme is an initiative of the Albert Vanhee Fund for Future Generations (created by Marguerite Vanhee within the Foundation), with support from the HELIOS Foundation.

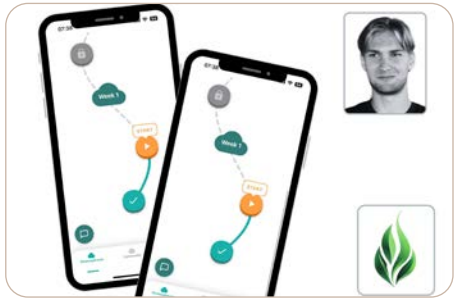
Meet some of the 2026 Prototyping the Future winners



Les Culottées (E. Dronsart, C. Binon, L. François, C. Michotte) is developing **a 3-in-1 menstrual brief combining protection, comfort and pain relief**. The project aims to improve women's well-being through a practical, sustainable solution tailored to their needs.



Living Sculptures (A. Stradiot) develops **living artworks** incorporating microalgae **capable of capturing CO_2 and purifying the air**. The project raises awareness of climate challenges by making photosynthesis visible and reintroducing living systems into our everyday environments.



revOnc (Y. De Smet, Y. Mervillie, O. Debeuf De Rijcker) is developing **a digital support platform for people living with cancer**. The app provides a personalised journey combining physical and mental support to strengthen motivation and sustainably improve quality of life.



Heat Sight (C. Lefebvre, J. Ledoux Vander Espt, Q. Piérard et M. Ladry) **simplifies energy audits to help identify and reduce energy losses**. By making energy data more accessible, the solution helps organisations prioritise concrete actions to accelerate the energy transition.

Discover all the projects at **futuregenerations.be/en/proto2026**

SE'nSE : Sustainable start-ups ready to make a difference

An initiative of

The SE'nSE call for projects supported three early-stage start-ups with a positive environmental impact in 2025. They received seed funding in the form of subordinated loans of up to €50,000, along with media visibility. The call is an initiative of the SE'nSE Fund, established within the Foundation by Pierre Mottet.

Meet one of the 2025 SE'nSE winners



Terra Alter (Wallonia) is developing **a vegetable processing facility** supplying schools, hospitals and other collective kitchens with organic, locally grown, ready-to-cook vegetables. The project promotes sustainable food systems while supporting local producers and strengthening short supply chains. *It is an initiative of La Cuisine des Champs and the non-profit organisations Groupe Terre and Crabe.*

Visit: **futuregenerations.be/en/sense2025**

Sustainable start-ups reimagining food systems and forestry

An initiative of

The Shinju call for projects selected three innovative sustainable start-ups in 2025, active in the food, agriculture and forestry sectors. They were offered subordinated loans of up to €50,000, together with guidance and recommendations from an expert jury. The programme is developed in partnership with AgroParisTech (France) and is an initiative of the Shinju Fund for Future Generations, established within the Foundation by Jérôme Partos.

Meet two of the 2025 Shinju winners



BioFerm'Tech, founded by Thibaut (Wallonia), is developing a solution that enables **farmers to produce their own microorganism-based bio-inputs**. The project reduces dependence on synthetic inputs while strengthening the autonomy and sustainability of farms.

Visit: **futuregenerations.be/en/shinju2025**

Low Carbon Solutions : Start-ups accelerating the climate transition

An initiative of

With the support of

In operational partnership with SE'nSE

Launched in 2025, the Low Carbon Solutions call for projects supported two start-ups helping to reduce our carbon footprint. They received seed funding in the form of subordinated loans of up to €50,000, along with tailored support, access to a network of committed stakeholders and media visibility. This new initiative was launched by the Foundation, with the support of the HELIOS Foundation and in operational partnership with the SE'nSE call for projects.

Meet the 2025 Low Carbon Solutions winners



Bloom Biotech, founded by Pedro and Aravind (Flanders), develops **sustainable textiles made from microalgae**. Using bioprinting technology, the project offers a low-carbon alternative to leather, combining innovation, circularity and high performance.



W'Ice, founded by Laure and Cedric (Flanders), develops a sprayable **biological biostimulant that protects crops against frost**. This sustainable solution helps reduce agricultural losses while lowering the environmental impact of conventional methods.

Discover the 2025 Low Carbon Solutions winners at **futuregenerations.be/en/lowcarbon2025**

AETHER Liveable Planet : Solutions to protect aquatic ecosystems

An initiative of AETHER FUND FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Since 2018, the AETHER Fund for Future Generations, established within the Foundation at the initiative of Christian Simonard, has provided financial support to sustainable initiatives focused on water and the protection of aquatic ecosystems, including pollution prevention projects and technologies, as well as biodiversity conservation.

Meet some of the AETHER Liveable Planet initiatives supported in 2025



Je navigue'RAIE, founded by **Célia and Julia** (France), studies and protects **Mediterranean rays and sharks**. The project combines scientific research with public awareness, using innovative methods and sailing expeditions to better understand and protect these threatened species.



River Cleanup, founded by **Thomas** (Belgium), uses **drones and artificial intelligence** to map waste along rivers. The project identifies the most polluted areas to optimise clean-up operations and accelerate the fight against plastic pollution.



Vela Lab, founded by **Zoé and Paco** (France), uses **sailing boats as scientific platforms** to collect climate and marine biodiversity data. The project develops instruments adapted to sailing to address the lack of ocean observations, while raising public awareness of marine challenges.

Discover more at **futuregenerations.be/en/aether**



360° INVESTING

Financial investments driving the sustainable transition p.16

Financial investments driving the sustainable transition

Our financial system must evolve towards funding a sustainable society based on 360° solutions. This requires levers including research, skills strengthening, financial innovation, raising the awareness of the public and professionals, collaboration between players and advocacy actions for suitable regulations.

The Foundation for Future Generations aims to act as a lever for positive change. It finances several initiatives embodying a 360° sustainable economy through loans or direct investment. In 2025, the Foundation invested in 32 companies and funds in 7 key industries:

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

Coprosain

Les Paysans Bouchers – supported by the Lucie Price–Levêque Fund

Paysans Artisans Invest

Terres du Hayon

FAIR TRADE AND SOCIAL COMMERCE

Fairtrade Belgium

Oxfam

My Fair Diamond

La ferme Nos Pulps

CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE

Batigroupe

mundo LAB

Espace Kegeljan

Indrani

ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGIES

energie 2030.be

Ecopower

Beauvent

Think CORE

clearspace today

CÖCITER

CoopHub.EU

FINANCE

crédal

Financité

Trividend

NEWB

f'in Common

Banque Triodos

hefboom

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Certified B Corporation

B Lab Europe

Nova Civis

La Smala

Regenero Impact Fund by QUADIA

MOBILITY AND TRANSPORT

urbike

OTHER

imagine coop



360° GIVING

Transforming philanthropy to address the challenges of the 21st century p.18

Thanks to you, the Foundation supports a growing number of sustainable initiatives and ideas for tomorrow p.19

Transforming philanthropy to address the challenges of the 21st century

Today's world is undergoing profound change. Philanthropy must evolve to help address the challenges of the 21st century. Together with many national and international philanthropic organisations, the Foundation contributes to this transformation by fostering collaboration, knowledge sharing and peer learning across the sector.

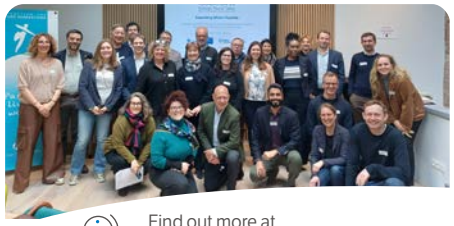
An active role within the FBFP

Since 2016, **Benoît Derenne**, Director of the Foundation, has served as a Board Member of the **Belgian Federation of Philanthropic Foundations (FBFP)**. Created by the foundations sector, the Federation promotes its shared interests and strengthens its visibility. Benoît Derenne also advocates for the appropriate use of the term foundation, helping preserve its philanthropic purpose.



Foundation 3.0: 20 foundations gathered in Namur to accelerate the transition

Launched by the Foundation in 2013 and made possible through a partnership between **11 foundations, the Foundation 3.0 Strategic Round Tables** bring together European foundations each year to foster systemic change through peer learning. **This 14th edition** welcomed **20 European foundations** to Namur to exchange experiences on non-financial support, governance and organisational adaptation in response to today's systemic challenges.



Find out more at
futuregenerations.be/en/foundation3.0

Our Foundation, your partner in philanthropy

Organising your philanthropy to maximise its impact can be both complex and time-consuming. Thanks to its expertise and public benefit foundation status, the Foundation is ideally placed to support you. We work with individuals, families and companies wishing to structure their philanthropy.

Together, we explore the causes that matter most to you. We identify the most appropriate approach and establish governance tailored to your philanthropic project, in line with the Foundation's values and priorities.

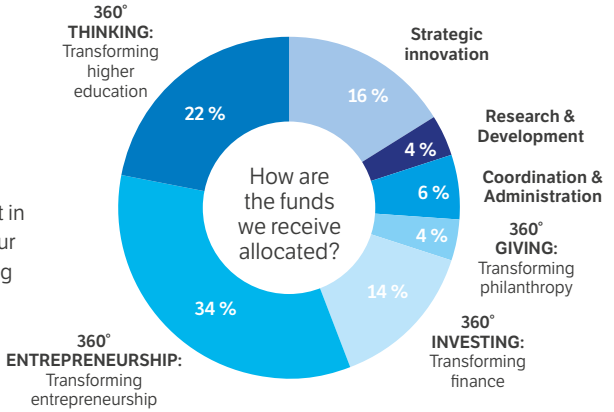
Find out more at
futuregenerations.be/en/philanthropic-fund

Thanks to you, we support an ever-growing number of sustainable ideas and initiatives for tomorrow

The Foundation's 2025 annual budget: €2.7

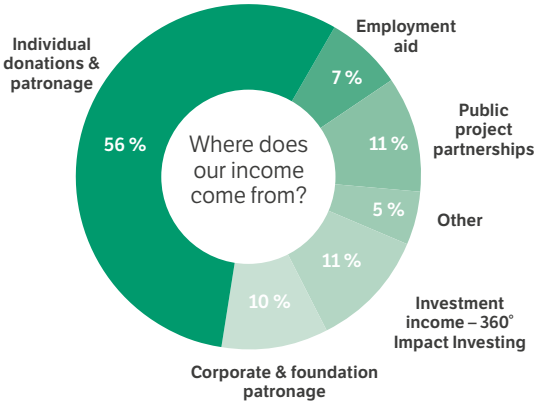
How do we allocate the funds we receive?

In 2025, more than half of our available resources were dedicated to supporting young graduates, prototype developers and 360° start-ups (see below). We also made an exceptional strategic investment in philanthropic innovation to help secure our long-term resources at a time of increasing pressure on public and private funding.



You give us the means to act!

More than half of the Foundation's financial resources – a proportion that continues to grow – come from you: individual donors and patrons of our hosted funds; income generated by our partner companies and other foundations. In doing so, you help preserve our independence. Thanks to you, we support more projects and more young people building the world of tomorrow every year.





YOUR MONEY IS WELL MANAGED... WITH COMPLETE TRANSPARENCY

Every year since its creation in 1998, the Foundation's accounts have been audited in accordance with the applicable legal and statutory requirements. The statutory auditor appointed by the Foundation is **iAuditors**.









Do you want to pass on a liveable world to our children?

Support the future generations

by making **a gift*** to

FOUNDATION FUTURE GENERATIONS

* Make your donations to the account of the Foundation: IBAN BE98 5230 4030 5393 – BIC TRIOBEBB

Foundation for Future Generations
Non-profit Foundation

Head Office:
Rue de l'Arsenal 4 – 5000 Namur
Phone: +32 (0)81 22 60 62
fgf@fgf.be

Brussels Office:
Rue de l'Industrie 10 – 1000 Bruxelles

A digital version of this report is available at www.fgf.be/en/report

Statutory filing: D2026-8490-02

ISBN : 978-2-931199-11-4

Printed on Circle Silk 100% recycled paper

www.fgf.be