

YOUTH LEADERSHIP FOR EMERGING FUTURE – FINAL EVENT 28-29.11



SUMMARY

We believe that local young leaders have the capacity to respond to challenges through collective action and have the competency to collaborate and network in precarious, interdependent times in the paradigm of “Everyone a changemaker”. In the future humanity will face unpredictable social challenges including humanitarian crises. We cannot plan for them, but we can mitigate and prepare. The complex challenges will require collective action, where capacity to collaborate is a key.

This is why Ashoka joined forces with Humanitarian Leadership Academy and Save the Children to build a community of young leaders, who can step in. Supported by senior humanitarian leaders, they can recognize the value of collaborative processes in solutions generation. At the heart of the Youth Leadership for Emerging Future program lies not only the process of mapping and solution proposing but equally partnering exchange between senior and young leaders.

After almost a year of Youth Leadership for Emerging Future program, were 36 leaders joined offline and online meetings, working together to implement 4 projects, there was a time to meet again offline, in the welcoming space of IKEA (Al. Krakowska 61, Warsaw, Poland), discuss the results, collaborate and celebrate the learnings and impact.

28.11.2024 YOUTH FESTIVAL: A CHANGE STARTS WITH YOU

The first day was fully organized by Community Keepers (a core team selected from the participants who applied for the role back in April 2024) and reserved to YLEF participants only. We all wanted this day to be the space to connect again, be together and reflect on the journey.



The flow of the day was following: **getting back together again** (for many of them it was the first offline meeting together after months of online work);



Session about selfcare - this was a space where participants focused on wellbeing and self-development. Topics covered during part were: taking care of your state of mind and body, practical exercises for releasing stress, maintaining work-life balance, discussion on taking care of yourself and loved ones.



Session about lessons learnt - "You miss 100% shots you don't take" the motto of interactive and playful facilitation exercise and discussion with the aim of sharing their failures regarding YLEF projects as well as achievements. The aim was to exchange experiences and learn from each other.



As a result, the group created list of most important insights, examples:

- Don't keep everything in your head.
- Make everyday reflections to take lessons.
- Speak about finances – break this taboo, get compensation in nonprofit activities.
- Ask for help and be authentic.
- Plan in advance.
- Know the team – name the strengths of each team member.
- Failures are necessary for your personal growth.
- Communication is a key.
- Being open and personal, you will help others to be able to start sharing.
- Check and keep up your calendar (and notifications!)



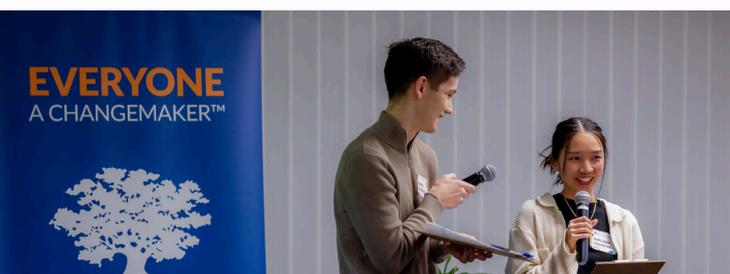
The day ended up with a session “**Emerging future – what's next?**” where everyone shared a message to other changemakers and the amazing video was created as a result!

[Check it out >](#)

29.11.2024 IMAGINE THE FUTURE: YOUTH LEADING THE WAY

An open day to Partners and Community. A celebration of the journey, appreciation of the results and planning for the future. The conference was led by Vee Tranová and Ondřej Nováček (YLEF Community Keepers). Sessions and panels were graphically recorded by Ola Krawczyk - thanks to her notes you may get back to the thoughts shared during the event.

This day started with a warm welcome from young leaders – Kasia Fesnak and Anton Slesarenko who shared their experience in the program and welcomed everyone on behalf of youth.



YOUTH LEADERSHIP FOR EMERGING FUTURE

Then it was Nancy Mureti (Head of Regional Centers, HLA), who welcomed everyone on behalf of Save the Children and Humanitarian Leadership Academy. During her speech, Nancy underlined how important it is not to compare yourself to others but just keep doing what you feel is right.



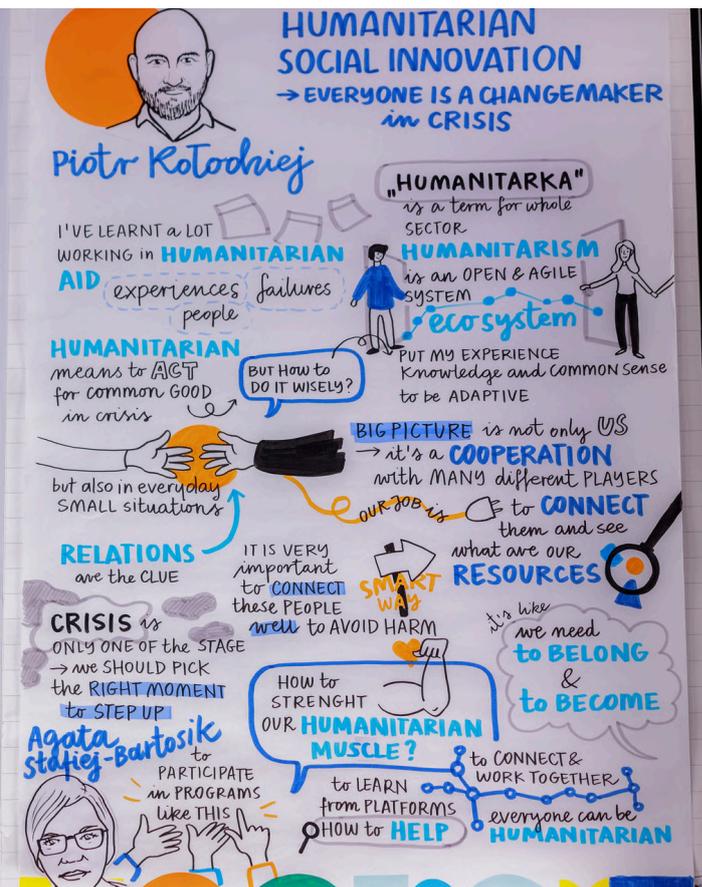
On behalf of Ashoka, it was Agata Stafiej-Bartosik (Co-Director of Ashoka Poland) who mentioned how important working with youth is and youth's place in Ashoka's strategy, as well as underlined the importance of partnership – as only working with the right partners, who share the same values, may lead us all to the results we are hoping for.



The first part of the event was about **PAST**, understood not as something that happened and is gone, but as a source of the next actions.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP FOR EMERGING FUTURE

Agnieszka Płoska, a coordinator of YLEF, reminded everyone what this project was about. Everything started with the Changemaker Journeys in Warsaw and Prague (back in March), then there was an online process with knowledge sharing. Based on problem trees prepared by all participants, there were 4 thematic groups created: care, forming experience, people on the move and inviting to participation. Young leaders were free to choose which group they wanted to work in and could initiate the project. As a result of this work 4 projects were implemented.



Agata Stafiej-Bartosik in a fireside conversation with Piotr Kołodziej (Regional Lead for Eastern Europe, HLA) discussed about the concept of Humanitarian social innovation and Everyone a changemaker in crisis.



To celebrate and appreciate young leaders who created and implemented the projects, there was a time to present the results as well as discuss them during the break.

1. Youth Dialogue Forum 2024

This project aims to create an innovative space for youth dialogue by combining modern technology with traditional forms of engagement. Through digital discussion modules and an offline live deliberative event, young people from three countries—Poland, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic—will have the opportunity to exchange views, discuss important topics, and collaboratively seek solutions to challenges related to their participation in communities.

[read more >](#)

YOUTH DIALOGUE FORUM 2024

WHO? YOUNG PEOPLE
• LEADERS • ACTIVISTS

WHEN? WHERE?

July - Sept. event 20-22.09

PL CZ SK

WHAT?

1 LIVE FORUM Kraków, PL

2 DIGITAL DISCUSSIONS

HOW TO ENCOURAGE YOUNG PEOPLE to GET involved?

OUR KEY to SUCCESS?

GAMIFICATION

WHY? TO BETTER understand the BARRIERS, THAT PREVENT to PARTICIPATE & TO EMPOWER this NEXT GENERATION to LEAD!

we've learnt that it's POSSIBLE to ENGAGE YOUNG PEOPLE

The infographic features a central illustration of a person with a megaphone, a calendar, flags for Poland, Czech Republic, and Slovakia, a group of people in discussion, and a key icon.



2. Universities FOR the Future

Universities FOR the Future is an attempt to design the world we would like to live in. Rooted in the belief that universities play a pivotal role in fostering civic engagement, this project is about taking concrete steps to craft a future envisioned by the next generation.

[read more >](#)

UNIVERSITIES for the FUTURE

WHO? STUDENTS,
AUTHORITIES
& UNIVERSITIES
mostly in PL & UA

WHEN? July - Sept
WHERE? KRAKŌW
Poland

WHAT?
RESEARCH & INTERVIEWS

What is the world you would like to live in?

→ AFTER PUBLISHING:

PUBLIC
DISCUSSION

PRESENTING
RESULTS

WHY? TO FIND THE WAY HOW
UNIVERSITIES CAN SHAPE CIVIL
SOCIETY, INITIATING LOCAL
CHANGE & DEVELOP FULL
POTENTIAL

THIS IS NOT ONLY
a PROJECT
→ it's a Journey
we WANT to GO to DISCUSS
this DIFFICULT TENDENCY
we've DISCOVERED



3. Community Activists' Workshop in Ukraine 'United'

From September 19 to 21, the "United" workshop in Mukachevo brought together young leaders from education, humanitarian aid, business, and NGOs. The event fostered knowledge exchange, collaboration, and solidarity among those working to address migration, support internally displaced persons (IDPs), and tackle pressing social challenges in Ukraine.

[read more >](#)

UNITED

WHO? YOUNG LEADERS from EDUCATION NGO'S HUMANITARIAN AID BUSINESS

WHEN? July - Sept. event 19-21.09

WHERE? MUKACHEVO Ukraine

WHAT? WORKSHOP to explore topics:

- MENTAL HEALTH
- COMBATING MISINFORMATION
- COLLABORATION MODELS
- NEW IDEAS

WHY? to DEVELOP a NETWORK of SUPPORT to connect to work together to BUILD PARTNERSHIPS

we want TO CREATE network that WILL LAST - to UNITE PEOPLE & SUPPORT each other!



4. Innovation in crisis intervention - piloting Socialeasator

Socialeasator is an innovative platform that empowers individuals in crisis with easy access to counseling and community support. To expand its impact, we conducted extensive research across 28 target groups to explore its potential for piloting in a new country.

[read more >](#)

INNOVATION

PILOTING SOCIALEASATOR

WHO? PEOPLE FROM 5 MAJOR ORGANIZATIONS, that WORK with SPECIFIC VULNERABLE GROUPS

WHEN? WHERE?



SLOVAKIA

WHAT? RESEARCH & PLATFORM to CONNECT SOCIALLY engaged PEOPLE



WHY? TO BUILD SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY

where YOU CAN EASILY GIVE & RECEIVE HELP and SUPPORT



WE WANT to WORK on it & MAKE a GREAT IMPACT



This was also a great occasion to present a "Participate" report - a result of work of young changemakers that took part in Ashoka Changemaker Summit (ACMS). YLEF participants went there thanks to HLA support. Young changemakers from the community could participate in the ACMS thanks to the support from The Foundation for Polish-German Cooperation

[check the report](#) ➔



The second part of the conference was about **PRESENT**. We aimed to embrace the current situation of youth in the changemaking and humanitarian sector and answer why it is important to make space for such conversation.

Luca Solesin, Youth Programme Manager and European Education Coordinator in Ashoka Italy talked about what it really means to be a young changemaker and why it is a key part of Ashoka's mission.





After the powerful speech, there was a very interesting moment of the conference – fishbowl conversation, where everyone who felt like sharing their thoughts and opinions was invited to do that. The session lead by Martyna Rubinowska, Co-Director of Ashoka Poland and resulted in many emotions.

Participants wanted to share their definition of success which led to the conversation about freedom and sharing different perspectives on these topics.



This part was completed with the video made the day before – a message from young leaders to other changemakers just stepping into their mission answering the question “What is a message you would like to give to another young changemakers?”



After a very tasty lunch and never-ending discussions, we opened the last part of the conference – **IMAGINE THE FUTURE**. Here, Martyna Markiewicz, a Co-Director of Ashoka Poland, guided us through a visualization exercise. Guests could imagine the future and see how they want it to become.



All the participants of the conference were divided into 5 groups in which they were trying to answer the following questions: what do you expect the future to look like? What is the role of leadership/followership? What does it mean to be prepared for the emerging future (what is preparedness and adaptability)?



The insights from the group work were shared with other participants. We reflected on the fact that there is always someone who cannot see the future (because of various reasons) and leadership is also about embracing this.

The results of the group work were the fundamentals for the panel discussion with: Florentine Roth, Europe Leadership Team Member, Diamond Strategy Integrator, Partner Ashoka Globalizer, Paweł Mania Deputy Director for Impact & Influence, Humanitarian Leadership Academy, and Wiktoria Dudek, MEAL Officer in Community Center and Coordinator of projects in Homo Faber, facilitated by Martyna Markiewicz.



During the entire day everyone could answer a question: “Do you feel prepared for the emerging future?” with answers: A not at all, B a little, C pretty confident and D totally ready. The panelists were saying that normally they would expect the answer to be “B” but in this room it was either “C” or “D”. And they were right, the majority answered “C”.



This was the end of the substantive discussion, and we started the celebration: the participants received certificates and congratulations for completing the program. We enjoyed the cake and endless discussions!



We would like to thank our Partners Save the Children and Humanitarian Leadership Academy, IKEA, who hosted us during these two days, all YLEF participants, guests and ASHOKA Team who co-organized this event! These were truly amazing two days of being together, deep conversations and insights.



**Michal
Horsky**



**Vee
Tranova**

What we can say for sure is that thanks to YLEF and Ashoka's kind approach, our lives went through a positive and deep change.

I would like to thank you very much for the opportunity I have been given. I got a great experience, a lot of meetings with like-minded people, a huge portion of inspiration, and what is most tangible and important is care and support.



**Alona
Kravchenko**

To see all the pictures and feel the energy of these days
Photos: Olena Herasym

[go here](#) >

To learn more about the YLEF project

[go here](#) >

We are looking forward to the next steps!

For any questions, please contact Agnieszka (Aga) Płoska

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