



SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP FORUM 2019

MAY 24, RIGA

*Can social
entrepreneurship
be a successful
business?*

SPEAKERS

Christoph Hantschk

Founder and CEO at "goodbag", Austria



Christoph Hantschk is economist and serial entrepreneur. After finishing his degree in behavioural economics at WU Vienna and the University of New South Wales in Sydney he worked for several corporates and start-up companies. His real passion was always to create a positive impact on society. To follow his passion, he decided to quit his regular job and dedicate his time and energy to tackle the social and ecological challenges of our time. With his company "goodbag" he uses his expertise as a behavioural economist to build a platform that motivates its users through direct feedback and incentives to improve their environmental footprint. Since he founded the company it has been a rollercoaster ride with lots of ups and downs but always going forward.

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Andrei M. Georgescu

Social Entrepreneur, Co-founder at "Mesteshukar ButiQ" /MBQ/, Romania



Andrei M. Georgescu is the person behind the success of "Mesteshukar ButiQ" /MBQ/, a social enterprise that brought a new meaning to traditional Roma crafts and has generated significant income for vulnerable Roma communities in Romania. Besides his work with "MBQ", Andrei has been advising a number of socially oriented enterprises in Europe on how to build bridges between traditional and social businesses, bringing added value to both markets.

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Miks Celmiņš

Latvian change maker in Europe, Asia and Africa, Director of European Affiliate for Global Social Change Ecosystem "Make Room"



Since 2014, Miks Celmiņš runs projects supported by the European Commission in rural areas in Europe, Asia and Africa. In above mentioned regions, Miks together with the world's most influential social entrepreneurs and organizations, has developed and implemented more than 35 international mobility projects addressing societal challenges through social innovation. Developed projects promote the development of rural areas in such areas as agriculture, education, health, reducing inequality and social entrepreneurship. In 2015, Miks was one of the co-founders of the European Union Global Social Change Ecosystem "Make Room", which has been expanding since 2017 and also operates in Latvia, Italy, Romania, India and Nigeria. He is currently managing the European Affiliate of "Make Room", as well as being the Chairman of the Global and African Forums for the "Make Room" initiative "Changemakers' Room". In 2016, Miks was given the World Economic Forum's "Iconic Leaders in Social Empowerment" award, and in 2017 he was selected among 8,000 applicants as one of the 50 young leaders in the European Union – Asia under 30.

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Valters Krētainis

Author of the idea of "KK Original Design"
Co-founder and designer of company



"KK Original Design" is a social enterprise that creates special mobility aids for people with disabilities. After graduating from Liepāja Secondary School of Music, Art and Design, Valters Krētainis developed a qualification paper "Step by Step", creating a crawler for a child with cerebral palsy, on the basis of which the new social enterprise was founded. Valters runs it together with his friend, the company's co-founder, Ģirts Toms Klampis. With their work, young people want not only to make life easier for people with reduced mobility, but also to raise public awareness of the lifestyles these people lead. Currently, the company offers a series of "Step by Step" products that include three functional design mobility aids – "LemonSlice", "LemonHalf" and "Crawler". The devices are bright, attractive in their shape, suitable for individual workouts both at home and in therapy sessions.

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Ģirts Toms Klampis

Co-founder and designer of "KK Original Design"

Inga Muižniece

Founder of “Sonido” call center and Creator of social project “Let’s talk?”



“Sonido” call center is a social enterprise that provides job places for social risk groups, providing customers with multilingual information. Call center profit are redirected to social project “Let’s talk?” that offers an opportunity for lonely people call to special phone number and be heard. “Working everyday in the call center, there have been times when people are calling to info phone not to actually get information, but to talk, feel and be heard. There have been cases when people even put aside a certain amount of money to make a phone call and talk to “Sonido” payphone. Consequently, this is how the idea of “Let’s talk?” was born — a free conversation call, where everyone can be heard, attesting that every conversation is vitally important. In addition, conversation is the basis for both our emotional and physical well-being. This form of easy communication must be used as it is the most effective way how to receive emotional well-being and to be a good companion whilst talking out your problems” - Inga Muižniece.

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Agnese Pilsuma

Director of “Cesis’s New Primary school”



The goal of “Cesis’s New Primary school” is the availability of high-quality and modern pre-school and primary education in the region, outside the capital. The school’s learning approach and specially created environment are designed to make education accessible to any child, regardless of his/her abilities, needs or personal characteristics, and to let everyone achieve their personal highest possible result. The school also offers educational activities for both parents and professionals, who work with children on a daily basis, and school representatives are actively involved in public discussions about the quality of today’s education, opportunities to improve it, encourage the involvement of professionals and society in implementing changes in the education. “Cesis’s New Primary school” is becoming the center of a socially active community, thus creating positive changes in local society. Agnese Pilsuma joined the school in 2017 with her experience and knowledge. She sees that “Cesis’s New Primary school” will exist while families will be in need of such an educational approach.

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Fionn Dobbin

Lecturer and Creative Industries Program Director at the “Stockholm School of Economics”, Creative Director and Co-Founder of the social business fashion company “MAMMU”



Fionn Dobbin is a Partner and Creative Director at the Design Consultancy “AGE5” and the social business production company “MAMMU”. As an innovation designer and creative consultant has worked for more than 30 brands such as fortune 100 companies like General Motors, BASF and ADIDAS. Since more than 10 years he is involved in the field of social business, established an accelerator in the Baltic’s, developed social business events and workshops formats for the “Grameen Creative Lab” and “Yunus Social Business”. He frequently teaches creative confidence and social business at several leading business schools around the globe also. His Design Agency “AGE5” applies transformation design processes to create impactful change within individuals, systems and organizations.

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Ernestis Štāls

Start-up expert, Co-founder and Chairman of the Board of “Techhub Riga”



Ernestis Štāls is an entrepreneur, start-up environmental expert and activist. In the event “Startup Sauna” organized by the Finnish accelerator in 2016, Ernestis’ start-up project “Dripit.io” was chosen as the “superhero” of the accelerator and received a € 100,000 investment from the Finnish venture capital fund “Superhero Capital”. Ernestis is also one of the organizers of the start-up conference “TechChill”, founder and chairman of the board of the new technology coworking space “Techhub Riga”.

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Vita Brakovska

Business Expert and Practical Creativity Trainer, Head of NGO “Zinis”



Vita Brakovska has 10+ years of experience in the field of state and local government, 9+ years of international experience in promoting creative thinking in the Baltics and NVS, 18+ years of practical experience in working with the development of NGO’s human resources. Managing 1000+ events to activate an individual’s entrepreneurial abilities. Vita fulfills an important social function for the Latvian economy — provides advisory support to authors of ideas, youngsters and young entrepreneurs, helping them “test” their ideas and create a “road map” for a better implementation of the idea. Vita’s conclusion: “I believe that Latvia still is a Land of Opportunities for anyone who is brave enough to let its own “creative genie” manifest and abandon the “staircase” syndrome. By combining education and entrepreneurship, everyone can get there where others are just dreaming to get! I wish everyone to experience the “taste of victory”, allowing sometimes to think and act differently — thus gaining freedom over their works and decisions!”

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