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| **PYSI projects funded in 2023** |
| **Organisation** | **Project title** | **Summary of the project** |
| **zero.brussels** | levv Prescaling Validation | levv heat & cloud is a new way of designing digital infrastructure in a way that complies with the Paris Agreement on climate change. In the IT sector, this would require a 45% reduction in emissions. levv heat & cloud data centres are smaller, placed in various locations and are installed in pre-existing buildings right in the heart of the city. The symbiotic relationship between the need for a data centre in infrastructure and the need for heat in buildings allows this start-up to provide access to computing power with a significantly lower environmental impact, coupled with positive externalities (rooted in the region, digital sovereignty, digitalisation, etc.). At the same time, this model also offers property companies (such as public service property companies, or Sociétés Immobilières de Service Public – SISPs) access to a low-cost heat source, without management constraints, additional charges or maintenance, of which they are very demanding, in view of the energy context and the regional energy efficiency objectives.  |
| **Mazette** | Mama (Marolles & Mazette) | Mazette meets various social needs, including eating and drinking well, socialising, laughing and having fun, all by running a friendly organisation, where guests are invited to eat and drink delicious products produced by the cooperative's own craftsmen and workers. The establishment was opened in March 2022 on the "place du jeu de balle" in the Marolles neighbourhood and has become increasingly popular with local Brussels residents ever since. A small programme of activities (lectures, concerts, workshops, etc.) is held in what is known as a cultural third place.The MaMa project (Marolles & Mazette) aims to develop the neighbourhood cooperative aspect of the Mazette café-brasserie co-op. The objective is twofold:- Propose and approve a programme of activities held in Mazette that is in line with the demand from Marolles residents and users.- Propose and approve a specific pricing system for the food and/or drink that is tailored to the incomes of Marolles residents.  |
| **Unago** | Réisertion professionnelle de personnes avec un passé judiciaire | Unago helps businesses to find high-quality, motivated staff and also supports people with past convictions to reintegrate into society. Despite their motivation and skills, this group of people is often alienated from the job market. Businesses are able to benefit from shortlisted candidates tailored to the company's needs, can take part in a social mission with real meaning, and improve their diversity and inclusion policy. As we place great importance on the human aspect of our work and on the success of the placement, we provide coaching in advance of employment for our various candidates, as well as supporting them throughout their employment contract to ensure everything runs smoothly over the long term. The support provided by Innoviris helped us to set up our first candidate placements in "pilot projects".  |
| **NANSEN**  | Pour une approche interdisciplinaire de l’asile | According to NANSEN, a high-quality asylum procedure includes a truly interdisciplinary approach to processing international protection requests. The project involves testing and possibly approving two hypotheses. One concerns the possibility of promoting an interdisciplinary approach to asylum among those involved in the procedure (lawyers and authorities). The other concerns the possibility of bringing together those working in the field of refugee law and those involved in academic research into international protection and human rights law. The project is aimed at decompartmentalising expertise and theory and practice, with a view to having a direct impact on the fundamental rights of people in need of international protection. |
| **Empowork Culture** | An Employers’ Grouping for the Cultural Sector - Feasibility Study | Empowork Culture is a shared employment agency project, destined to serve the Brussels and Walloon cultural operators. Taking the form of an “employers’ grouping”, its goal is to create permanent, full-time contracts based on the part-time and/or temporary opportunities of its members, in order to both reinforce their operations and to improve their staffs’ working conditions.The strength of Empowork Culture’s project lies in its inherent ability to respond to several pain points of cultural employment, including work precariousness, the lack of diversity in the cultural operators’ staffs, and the lack of more widespread shared management information systems that could allow organizations to operate more efficiently. The proposed programme objective is to provide an in depth research into these pain points, as to then best be able to develop a brand new kind of employment system that serves the organizations, their staffs, and society at large. |
| **CinéCité**  | P.E.R.C.H.E. (Projections Et Rencontres pour Cinéphiles en situation de Handicap ou d’Empêchement) | P.E.R.C.H.E. (Projections Et Rencontres pour Cinéphiles en situation de Handicap ou d’Empêchement – Screenings and meetings for cinema-lovers with disabilities or facing barriers) is a project offering inclusive cinema screenings. Born out of the realisation that there are implicit standards and technological deficits that exclude certain audiences, P.E.R.C.H.E. aims to put in place a technical system and reception mechanism that brings together different types of audiences. It will also develop tools (online platform, vademecum, training, etc.) for cinemas in collaboration with specialised associations. |
| **MolenGeek** | SideGeek: An inclusive recruitment pipeline | The aim of this project — SideGeek — is to prove the viability of an inclusive recruitment mechanism, which solves two key issues in the IT sector and society more broadly: that of (i) unemployment and/or exclusion from the technology sector, and (ii) skill gaps that lead to challenges recruiting digital profiles.SideGeek is an innovative new recruitment pipeline, which supports employers and job candidates throughout the hiring, digital training, and onboarding process. Through SideGeek, MolenGeek supports the matching of our incoming trainees with an employer looking for specific digital skills.Following this selection process at the beginning of the training, we provide professional support of both candidates and employers all the way through the onboarding of the new candidate, to ensure that the candidate integrates successfully into their digital role.This funding will support the placement of our first 105 placements through the SideGeek programme, allowing us to test the economic viability and effectiveness of this recruitment pipeline.MolenGeek has emerged as an expert in the domain of activating young NEETs (not in education, employment, or training) from diverse backgrounds, through inclusive digital training that is aimed at developing digital skills that are in high demand on the labour market. The SideGeek programme is a natural extension of our existing work and impact, as it provides a tangible HR solution for employers who seek to recruit talents with digital skills, all while increasing the diversity of their workforce. |
| **Collectiv-a** | La Mutu  | La Mutu is a community of shared governance organisations\* (see Glossary in appendix) working in the health sector. This community will firstly enable cooperation and sharing between organisations and secondly, will identify common issues\* (see Glossary in appendix) in governance and will work together with collectiv-a in developing models\* (see Glossary in appendix) to address these issues. In the PYSI project, we will focus on organisations with the following characteristics: working in the health sector and taking a multidisciplinary approach, with between 5 and 50 employees, in operation for at least 1 year, operating under shared governance and located in the Brussels Region.  |
| **Communa** | Accompagnement des propriétaires de bâtiments vides à les transformer en hub d’hébergement d’urgence | For several years, through the practice of Temporary Occupation with a Social Objective (Occupation Temporaire à Finalité Sociale – OTFS), Communa has been working on designing an innovative model to address the consequences of the housing crisis in the BCR. If we bring together public policies, OTFS players and owners of unoccupied properties, the city has more resources to address the housing crisis than you might think, whether we're talking about emergency accommodation or poor housing. Drawing on several years of experience and experimentation, Communa offers training and consultancy services aimed at relevant and competent players to help improve the housing and accommodation situation in Brussels, making the BCR an inspiring model capital in this field. Communa provides consultancy services to public and private owners, as well as training for existing or future OTFS operators, in order to increase the implementation of hybrid and innovative housing and accommodation projects, adapted to the realities of the BCR, and to today's challenges.  |
| **Le Début des Haricots** | Test d’activité agricole en îlot | The "Graines de Paysans" (Farmers' seeds) testing area, run by the non-profit organisation Début des Haricots, supports Brussels-based farmers who don't come from an agricultural background in their progressive business creation journey, by allowing them to test their viable agricultural model, in harmony with the social and natural environment, in a secure context and for a fixed period of time, with a view to installing long-term, independent facilities. To achieve this, the producers testing their businesses can benefit from the provision of production resources and support (technical aspects, viability, marketing, collective momentum, etc.). |
| **Green Fabric** | Precious Fibers | Project to recycle and transform textile waste and raw wool into felt.By taking an approach that aims to save natural resources, reduce waste, pool tools, knowledge and experience to support the ecological transition, the purpose of the project is to:- develop a mechanical process for manufacturing felt panels from textile waste and raw sheep's wool, which is currently not recycled and is considered a waste product.- develop and build the machines involved in this process, and make the construction plans for these machines available to the public, together with details of the process.- assess the possibility and viability of local custom manufacturing of felt, involving people with disabilities in the team. |
| **PLOUF** | Café-laverie social | Installation d’un café-laverie dans les anciennes cliniques Sainte-Anne en cours de rénovation par Raphaël asbl à Anderlecht | The non-profit organisation PLOUF aims to facilitate access to hygiene for people in vulnerable situations and to ensure laundrettes play a role in forging links among the residents in a neighbourhood. To achieve this, we design spaces to pool equipment such as washing machines, which also offer people the chance to meet others over a coffee and to take part in activities enabling emancipation and promoting well-being. After launching our first project in Evere, we're striving to create a turnkey solution for AISs (Social Housing Agencies), SISPs (public service property companies), and more generally, any stakeholders interested in setting up spaces for pooling equipment and offering high social value. |
| **brupower** | brupower : du partage d’énergie vers la fourniture citoyenne, locale et renouvelable à Bruxelles | The brupower citizen cooperative is aiming to explore a new green, renewable citizen electricity supply service in the Brussels Region. This service will be based on the experience that brupower gathers through sharing projects within the energy communities currently being developed in the Region. This new service will be co-constructed with Brussels residents, so it can be tailored to their household habits and includes the key requirements for an environmental and social transition.  |
| **Pensions for Change** | Making pension money serve social and sustainable real estate | Pensions for Change is an ambitious project aiming at true systemic impact using the leverage of pension money. 5 to 10% of the 200 bn EUR in Belgian pension contracts is invested in real estate, mostly in listed assets of companies that cause skyrocketing house prices in cities like Brussels, due to their speculative behaviour. At the same time, more and more people have trouble finding affordable housing. Urban development that contributes to green, healthy and inclusive neighbourhoods becomes inferior to the power of money (this process is called financialization). Pensions for Change wants to conduct the necessary research to develop a real estate fund that would gather a pool of alternatives in one fund, like housing cooperatives, social housing companies, funds for urban development focused on as much societal as financial return. This fund of funds will be large enough to offer pension providers the opportunity to invest in local, sustainable real estate for resilient neighbourhoods. |