



SOCIAL INNOVATION FOR REFUGEE INCLUSION

Social Innovation for Refugee Inclusion: Maintaining Momentum and Creating Lasting Change

16-17 November 2017

Venue: European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)
Rue Belliard 99, 1000 Brussels

Draft Agenda

Following the arrival of large numbers of migrants and asylum seekers in Europe from 2015 onwards, many non-traditional actors—from tech start-ups to social enterprises—have pioneered innovative solutions to foster the social and economic inclusion of newcomers. In the context of this experimentation, business has played a fundamental role, with companies on both sides of the Atlantic leveraging their potential as employers, donors, and partners in innovative alliances.

The aim of this conference is to reflect on how innovative initiatives for refugee inclusion can grow beyond pockets of good practice and inspire large-scale, long-term change. To encourage new partnerships and synergies between different stakeholders, the event will bring together a diverse group of public officials, business leaders, service designers, social entrepreneurs, civil society organisations, and refugee initiatives from Europe, the United States, and Canada.

Day 1: Thursday 16 November 2017

13:30 – 14:30 **Registration, coffee**

14:30 – 14:50 **Welcoming remarks**

- *U.S. Mission to the EU*
- *Mission of Canada to the EU*
- *Migration Policy Institute Europe*
- *European Economic and Social Committee*

14:50 – 15:15 **Keynote speech**

- *Gideon Maltz, CEO, Tent Foundation (TBC)*

15:15 – 16:30 **Panel session:**

"How the field has matured: A progress report, one year on"

- *Eric Young, The Social Projects Studio / Distinguished Visiting Professor of Social Innovation at Ryerson University*
- *Luisa Seiler, co-founder and director, SINGA Germany*
- *Josephine Goube, COO, Techfugees, UK (TBC)*

16:30 – 17:00 **Coffee break**

17:00 – 18:30 **Panel session:**

"Business, not as usual: Private sector innovation for refugee inclusion"

- *Pastora Valero, Vicepresident, Government Affairs, EMEAR, Cisco*
- *Airbnb (TBC)*
- *Samuel Engblom, TCO Swedish Confederation for Professional Employees*
- *Kavita Brahmhatt, co-founder, Action Emploi Réfugiés, France*

18:30 – 19:45 **Evening reception**



Day 2: Friday 17 November 2017

8:30 – 9:00 **Registration, coffee**

9:00 – 9:30 **Refugees as agents of innovation**

One-on-one interview with moderator

- *Monis Bukhari, founder of Syrian House and managing director at Integration HUB, Berlin, Germany (TBC)*

9:30 – 10:45 **Workshops**

1. *New approaches to financing social innovation*
2. *Not an urban legend: Welcoming refugees in small and rural communities*
3. *Improving the visibility of refugees' skills*
4. *Employer engagement: Innovative approaches to training and hiring refugees*
5. *Refugee entrepreneurship: A fast lane into work?*

10:45 – 11:00 **Coffee break**

11:00 – 11:30 **Discussion of workshop results**

11:30 – 12:45 **Interactive panel session:
"From niche to mainstream: Unlocking the potential of innovation for lasting change"**

CHAIR: *Elizabeth Collett, Director, Migration Policy Institute Europe*

SPEAKERS:

- *Louisa Taylor, Director, Refugee 613, Canada*
- *Ben Mason, Project lead on digital innovation around refugees and migration, Betterplace lab, Germany*
- *David Manicom, Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM), Settlement and Integration Sector, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada*

12:45 – 13:00 **Wrap up of the conference discussions**

13:00 – 14:30 **Lunch**