



Press Release

Social Innovation to Tackle Fuel Poverty: the best European practices awarded in Rome

Ashoka and the Schneider Electric Foundation, under the aegis of the Fondation de France, in partnership with Enel, present the most innovative solutions to promote energy sustainability in Europe at the final summit of the 2017-2018 “Social Innovation to Tackle Fuel Poverty” programme, on the 24th May 2018 in Rome.



EUROPEAN SUMMIT
ROME, 24TH - 25TH MAY 2018



In November 2017, 15 social entrepreneurs were selected by the Schneider Electric Foundation, under the aegis of the Fondation de France, and Ashoka for the 2017-2018 “Social Innovation to Tackle Fuel Poverty” programme, launched in June 2017 to select the most creative and systems-changing solutions to tackle fuel poverty and promote energy sustainability in Europe.

The **15 selected social entrepreneurs** will gather in Rome for a two-days acceleration programme, and **the 5 most innovative projects** will be presented at Istituto dell'Enciclopedia Italiana **in Rome, on Thursday the 24th May at 5 pm**. The Schneider Electric Foundation and Ashoka will introduce the effort made to promote energy sustainability in Europe and discuss the best practices currently available, with the speakers: Arnaud Mourot (Ashoka Europe Co-Director), Alessandro Valera (Ashoka Italy Director), Gilles Vermot Desroches (General Delegate of Schneider Electric Foundation), Fabrizio Furbini (Enel) and Marilyn Smith (The Energy Action Project). The 5 most outstanding social entrepreneurs will be awarded with an extra grant to further develop their projects. The event is open to the public. Link to registration: <http://bit.ly/tfp24may>.

Fuel poverty is a major issue in Europe, whereby tens of millions of people struggle every day to ensure adequate heating, light, and cooking power in their dwelling at an affordable price. This severely affects their health and wellbeing and ultimately has a negative impact on society. Ashoka



and the Schneider Electric Foundation are building a community including a diverse cohort of social innovators from Germany, Greece, Italy, Portugal, and Spain, committed to tackling fuel poverty and promoting energy sustainability in their countries and in Europe.

The event is part of a two-day European Summit, not open to the public, that gather the 15 social entrepreneurs working on fuel poverty who were selected for an intensive 12-week advisory process: Marlene Potthoff, Marco Borghesi and Stephanie Kosbab from Germany; Apostolos Dimopoulos and Argyro Stavroulaki from Greece; Marina Varvesi, Giulia Detomati, Alberto Gastaldo and Fabio Gerosa from Italy; António Bello, Nuno Brito Jorge and João Pedro Gouveia from Portugal; Cecilia Foronda, José Luis López Fernandez and Juan Sancristan Antoni from Spain. The mentors and additional strategy thought-partners will take part in the summit to provide the entrepreneurs with feedback on their scaling-up strategies. This powerful exchange will elicit experiences that help the social innovators to solve critical issues as well as to begin to build connections and opportunities to collaborate to advanced common causes.

Network Partners

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Should you have any questions, feel free to contact:

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