

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP FORUM

# YEAR IN REVIEW 2018



**seforum**  
SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP FORUM

## Letter from the Chair

**Welcome to the SE Forum Year in Review, with highlights from the past year and a peek into the future. It has been a momentous year, with new projects, partners, and people. We worked with social entrepreneurs worldwide and found our team in Nigeria, New York City (at a gala dinner with Joe Biden), Athens, Malmö, and Ekskäret.**

This year we started new initiatives to strengthen the ecosystem for social entrepreneurship, and had the opportunity to explore social innovation across communities affected by conflict and war. We also launched the SE Forum Impact Team, our network of seasoned experts and trainers who support our accelerators, workshops, training, coaching, and mentoring. We published a review of partnerships between social enterprises and municipalities in Latvia, Belarus, and Sweden and presented it to the Swedish Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation. Our work with Vinnova, Seeds of Peace, Impact Invest, and others continues in 2019, with tremendous potential.



At SE Forum, we help businesses and organisations unleash the potential of entrepreneurship to drive social impact. Heartfelt thanks to our brilliant and dedicated staff, board, Impact Team, and partners - and a special thanks to Thomas Kanestad for his steady hand of leadership during a critical time. There is an urgent need for this work in the world. We invite you to join us in it.

**Gregg Vanourek**

*Chair of the SE Forum Board*

## Letter from the Interim Executive Director

2018 was an exciting year in the world of social entrepreneurship and sustainable business as all sectors increased their interest and actions towards the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. But as we're approaching 2030 at high speed, we can also see the importance of continued urgency and dedication for developing a business environment that's good for people as well as our planet. And this goes for businesses in all parts of the world.

We had the opportunity to continue our international work through the GATHER Fellowship, a new partnership with the American organisation Seeds of Peace where we got to explore social entrepreneurship within a context of conflict and war.

And we were also able to focus more on the Swedish ecosystem as we were granted funding by innovation agency Vinnova to develop an impact accelerator over the next couple of years for entrepreneurs based in Sweden.

It's been an exciting year for me personally as I took on the role as Interim Executive Director in the summer and have enjoyed being part of developing SE Forum during this time,



and also, of course in finding the new ED who will take on the role in April 2019.

It's most definitely been an exciting year for everyone at SE Forum, which you can see clearly on the pages of this Year in Review - enjoy the read!

**Thomas Kanestad**

*Interim Executive Director, SE Forum*

**The SE Forum vision is to contribute to a more just and sustainable world by unleashing the potential of entrepreneurship to address society's most pressing problems.**

**Our mission is to promote, inspire and empower social entrepreneurs to start and scale businesses that address global challenges in Sweden and beyond.**

## Programme activity

Since launching in 2004, SE Forum has advocated responsible business solutions to address local and global challenges. We have promoted, inspired and empowered entrepreneurs all over the world to use business to do good and solve some of society's most pressing problems. We have carried out a varied range of programmes, training sessions, workshops, and accelerators to support social entrepreneurs with business skills, leadership training, impact measurement, and much more. In 2018 we started a new programme with a new partner, as we ran the 2018 GATHER Fellowship alongside US non-profit Seeds of Peace for social innovators building thriving communities in areas affected by conflict. We also kick-started a partnership with Impact Invest Scandinavia to set up an accelerator for impact entrepreneurs in Sweden over the next couple of years.

## Growing the ecosystem

We aim to create social impact through the entrepreneurs we support, but also to strengthen the ecosystem they operate in to allow for increased social impact. From previously having focused mainly on social entrepreneurs abroad, we were in 2018 able to develop our work to strengthen the ecosystem for social innovation and entrepreneurship in Sweden. The Swedish government launched a strategy focusing on this, with an open call going out via Swedish innovation agency Vinnova for initiatives and projects strengthening the support structure for social innovation. We put in a bid alongside Impact Invest Scandinavia and were, excitingly enough, successful. We started the work at the end of 2018 and will continue, at least, until the end of 2020.



**“GATHER was a big motivating force in my accomplishments this year and it was incredibly important in helping me overcome the challenges I faced.**

GATHER Fellow

**“Seeds of Peace’s background in conflict transformation benefits enormously from the complementary relationship it has with SE Forum. SE Forum’s expertise and guidance on all elements of the GATHER program – from fellow selection, to curriculum development, to mentorship, and evaluation – is truly invaluable. The SE Forum business know-how brings the work of the GATHER program and its participants to a truly international level.**

Jonah Fisher, Seeds of Peace

**“SE Forum’s international experience and acceleration expertise is a great asset to the Swedish ecosystem for social entrepreneurship. Vinnova is proud to contribute towards SE Forum’s work to develop and strengthen social innovation in Sweden.**

Judit Wefer, Vinnova

## The programme

The GATHER Fellowship is a programme supporting changemakers, social innovators and entrepreneurs who are working to build thriving communities and sustainable peace in areas affected by conflict. They work across diverse fields – business, non-profits, technology, education, art and culture – and receive support to identify their professional goals and connecting them with the resources needed to reach these goals and scale their work, and thus measurable impact. The Fellowship kicks off with an incubator week in Stockholm where the Fellows go through a multitude of learning, skill-building and networking opportunities relevant to their professional development and initiatives. They then get online support over the year and we finished the 2018 Fellowship with reflections and social innovation study visits in Athens, Greece in December.

## The partnership

GATHER is the social innovation arm of Seeds of Peace, a US non-profit focusing on dialogue to transform conflict. The GATHER Fellowship was launched in 2015 with the partnership between SE Forum and Seeds of Peace being developed in 2018.



## The Fellows

The GATHER Fellows are skilled in dialogue across conflict and they use social innovations, initiatives and enterprises to build stronger, thriving communities in areas divided by conflict. They work across the Middle East, South Asia, Europe and the US, making a social, economic or political impact. They work in various fields but are all united in their optimism and unwavering commitment to transform conflict, despite the tensions in their regions.

The 16 inspiring 2018 GATHER Fellows all increased their knowledge, widened their network and built a community of changemakers. 85% were able to increase their social impact, some highlights were:

- *Lilly* in the UK developing a Minecraft script to use the popular gaming platform to counteract negative perceptions of refugees to teach empathy amongst adolescents in host European communities.
- *Pooja* from India continuing to develop Letters of Love, spreading smiles to refugee children through handwritten letters, and registered an NGO in the US to have the possibility to fundraise there.
- *Majd* being recognised as one of the most creative people in 2018 by Fast Company for her work creating building blocks out of rubble and ashes to help re-build ruined homes and buildings in Gaza.
- And *Ahmed* completing a successful crowdfunding campaign to scale his work educating girls living in poverty in Pakistan.

As part of our work to strengthen the social entrepreneurship ecosystem, we use events, workshops and other activities to promote good business solutions and initiatives where possible. In 2018, we had the opportunity to host events of our own and attend others, as well as travel to explore social entrepreneurship and social impact.

## Nigeria follow-up trip

Our colleagues Svitlana and Tove travelled to Nigeria in January to follow up with alumni to explore what they brought home with them from our SE Outreach Accelerator, how they have progressed since, and to see the impact they're having on the communities around them.



## GATHER event at Norrsken House

To end an inspiring week of conflict transformation with our 16 GATHER Fellows, and to celebrate the start of the Fellowship, we hosted an event at Norrsken House in Stockholm in March, where we heard from all the Fellows, presenting their initiatives and reasons for wanting to create positive change in their communities. We also heard from former Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Jan Eliasson, who highlighted the importance of collaborations and sustainable peace.



## Launching a Baltic collaboration

In March we also launched the review we had done with Baltic partners from Latvia and Belarus, exploring our respective countries and learn from each other in order to support a growing social entrepreneurship sector in the Baltic region. The review focused on partnerships between social enterprises and municipalities and we had the opportunity to hand over the review to Stina Billinger, State Secretary to the Minister of Enterprise and Innovation.



## Social entrepreneurship and IKEA

We had the pleasure of designing and running a two-day workshop with IKEA Group in May to explore how they can increase their work with social entrepreneurs globally, regionally and locally. We had 14 nationalities and five social enterprises in the room and it was great to see such passion and engagement.



## Dialogue for peace and integration

Ung Dialog is a Swedish initiative bringing together young leaders against antisemitism and islamophobia, hosting a summer academy in the Stockholm archipelago. Our Communications Lead Tove joined a panel at the academy to discuss social entrepreneurship in a context of integration, employment and the Sustainable Development Goals.

## Sustainology conference

Hosted by the Swedish-American Chamber of Commerce in New York, the Sustainology conference focuses on innovation, tech, and food. Our Interim ED Thomas and Board Member Katarina joined in November to host a workshop on creating value by caring for soft values.



## Social Innovation Summit

The biggest social innovation event in Sweden is the annual SI Summit in Malmö in November. Our Communications Lead Tove joined and took part in a session hosted by Vinnova to present our upcoming project to develop a Swedish accelerator for impact entrepreneurs with Impact Invest.



## Gather for GATHER

As we decided to run the GATHER Fellowship incubator in Stockholm for another year, we hosted a breakfast briefing at the end of the year to gather partners, trainers and others interested in the programme to discuss how we can make the 2019 edition for conflict transformation even better.



Following a successful 2018 GATHER Fellowship, we will once again host a one-week incubator in Stockholm in April 2019. We will also continue developing a Swedish accelerator alongside our partner Impact Invest and will kick things off with a pilot programme in Spring 2019 to then develop programme offers for regions in Sweden, to support the social entrepreneurship ecosystem across the country.

We will continue working for sustainable and responsible business to be the norm, and we are passionate about leading the work on improving and growing social entrepreneurship. We will therefore also in 2019 continue exploring future collaboration opportunities and ways to improve business as a force for good.

### Become a partner or member

Are you interested in workshops, incubators or accelerators? Is your company or organisation looking for ways to achieve the SDGs? Would you like to know more about social entrepreneurship? Get in touch with us to discuss becoming a partner or a member.

**To find out more, check out our website [www.se-forum.se](http://www.se-forum.se) or send us an email at [info@se-forum.se](mailto:info@se-forum.se)**



## Seeds of Peace

Seeds of Peace (US) inspires and cultivates new generations of global leaders in communities divided by conflict. The GATHER Fellowship is Seeds of Peace's social innovation arm and SE Forum partnered with the organisation on the 2018 edition and will do so again in 2019.

## Sigtuna Foundation

Sigtuna is a conference and meeting venue that also houses an extensive library of Sweden's largest press archive. The Foundation annually awards scholarships to scholars, writers, translators and teachers. We were able to spend time during the GATHER Fellowship incubator in the inspiring and relaxing atmosphere of the Foundation.

## Postkodstiftelsen

The Swedish Postcode Lottery's belief is that the world is getting better with the help of strong nonprofit organisations. The Postcode Foundation's goal is to carry out that vision by supporting projects that challenge, inspire and promote change. The GATHER Fellowship was kindly supported by the Postcode Foundation in 2018.

## Norrskan House

Norrskan House is Europe's biggest hub for impact and technology, run by the Norrskan Foundation, and SE Forum's home. We were also able to host training sessions and events on the premises during the GATHER Fellowship.

## Vinnova

Vinnova is Sweden's government agency for innovation with a mission to contribute to sustainable growth by improving the conditions for innovation. This is mainly done by funding innovation projects and the research needed to develop new solutions. Vinnova is the main funder of the project we're running to develop an accelerator to support social entrepreneurs in Sweden.

## Impact Invest

A membership network with the mission to promote the growth of social and sustainable enterprises in Scandinavia and around the world by supporting investments in companies that deliver measurable social as well as financial returns. Impact Invest is SE Forum's partner in developing a Swedish accelerator for impact entrepreneurs.

## Ung Dialog

A Swedish initiative deriving from the ideas of Seeds of Peace, using dialogue amongst young leaders to explore peace and conflict, islamophobia and antisemitism. A programme partner during the GATHER Fellowship.

**We would also like to thank our trainers, mentors, board members, team and others who have all helped support entrepreneurs doing good in 2018.**

## Team

Nicklas Wallberg, Executive Director  
 Thomas Kanestad, Interim Executive Director  
 Fiona Hazell, Programme Director  
 Tove Nordström, Communications & Coordination Lead  
 Svitlana Pinchuk, Social Impact Coordinator  
 Oscar Ohlström, Programme Assistant

## Board

Gregg Vanourek, Ingrid von Konow, Johan Carrick, Johan Eliasson, Katarina Strandberg, Maria J. Bustamante, Ola Jönsson, Stefan Eriksson, Ylva Hansdotter

## Impact Team

Ruth Brännvall, Bo Tonnquist, Karin Sharma, Lasse Lychnell, Lena Ramfelt, Pernilla Bard, Lena Eriksson Åshuvud, Ruben Brunsveld, Susanna Nissar, Maria Erdmann, Oren Ipp, Peter Roland, Anna Ljungbergh, Camilla Backström, Shail Gupta, Tom Schlossman, Rich Nadworny, Jenny Fürstenbach, Luciana Oliveira

## Mentors, trainers and partners

Richard Berman, Anna Lidbom, Johan Berggren, Matthew Courey, Rickard Damm, Judit Wefer, Lena Flykt-Rosén, Ebba Åkerman, Eva Jarlsdotter, Anton Berg, Oscar P. Ridell.

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