

SOPHIE BUYSSE

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Experienced director in the non-profit sector, social entrepreneur and elected member of Belgium's 40 under 40. Member of the board of directors of Flagey and member of the Friday Group. Ex-curator of the Global Shapers of the World Economic Forum. Passionate about social innovation, inclusion and quality education for all.



Professional career

Debateville

Founder & director
2019 - current

Empowering teenagers to attain their full potential through an innovative debate program

- + Development and implementation of the strategy and vision
- + Overseeing the complete operations, leading & motivating the team
- + Design and implementation of the organizational structure & people management framework
- + Fundraising and financial management
- + PR and partnerships

ToekomstATELIER - delAvenir

Strategic project manager
2018 - 2019

Supplementary society-oriented education for children in low-income communities

- Responsible for the indirect impact strategy
- + Setting up a scaling strategy with Bain & Company
- + Launching a new program 'TADA Basic' in partnership with primary schools
- + Giving workshops and trainings to different educational professionals

Pedagogical team manager
2017 - 2018

- Responsible for the bilingual antenna in Sint-Joost-ten-Node
- + Managing a weekend school of over 160 children and their parents
- + Leading a team of six pedagogical coordinators
- + Building a network of volunteers and coaching guest teachers

Teach for Belgium

Head of partnerships
2016-2017

Expanding educational opportunity by enlisting talented future leaders to teach for 2 years in high-need areas.

- Responsible for the public and private sector partnerships
- + Design and implementation of a successful PPS strategy
- + Evaluation and selection of candidates for the Teach for Belgium program
- + Hiring, leading and motivating several teams

Director Flanders
2015 - 2016

- Responsible for the regional expansion to the Flemish community
- + Conducting market research & writing a business expansion plan
- + Establishing a strategy to finance the organization
- + Building and sustaining relationships with key stakeholders in the public and private sector such as school principals, institutional partners and donors

Education and skills

Languages

Dutch: native speaker

French: bilingual proficiency

English: bilingual proficiency

German: basic

Education and skills

EHSAL Management School

2016 - 2017

Royal Conservatory Brussels

2011-2014

Ghent University

2006 - 2011

Hofstra University

2009

General Management [post university program]

Strategic management, finance, marketing and business communication, human resource management, business economics

Bachelor in Music

Jazz vocals [three years completed]

Courses in ensemble, harmony, music analysis, music history, piano and voice

Master of Laws

Cum Laude

Master in financial and economic law

Law School Exchange program New York, USA

Grade point average: 3.36

Personal commitments

Flagey

Member of the board

2020 - current

Friday Group

Member

2019 - current

Build

Member of the board

2016 - current

Global Shapers

World Economic Forum

Founding member and former curator

2011 - 2017

One Bird Orchestra

Founder, composer and vocalist

2012 - 2017

Leading cultural venue in Brussels

Classical music, jazz, daily cinema, conferences & programs for children.

Housed in an iconic art deco building.

Belgian policy think tank for young people from various back-

grounds supported by the King Baudouin Foundation.

The Friday Group publishes policy advice and monthly op-eds.

Opeds: bit.ly/opedsb

Belgian private conference network of over 200 members

Speakers such as Herman Van Rompuy (former president EU council), Kumi Naidoo (CEO Greenpeace), General Adrian Bradshaw (Deputy Supreme Allied Commander at NATO) and others

Community of city-based hubs led by young leaders

+ Representing the voice of youth at events of the World Economic Forum: annual Curators Meeting Geneva 2014 and 2015

+ Undertaking projects to improve our local community:

projects in education, ecological awareness and community outreach

Experimental pop band: vocal harmony and electronic music

+ Laureate of the TAZ young music award 2015

+ Concert tours in Belgium, the Netherlands, Hungary and Iceland

Legal skills

De Wetswinkel

Legal advisor

2012 - 2016

First line affordable legal aid in different fields of law

+ Permanence each Saturday

+ Legal advice and referral to legal and social services

Legal skills

INTACT

Intern
Oct 2014 - Jan 2015

Legal center of expertise for female genital mutilation (FGM)

+ Intake interviews asylum seekers
+ Legal research

FRESHFIELDS BRUCKHAUS DERINGER LLP

Intern 2010

Corporate and financial law

+ Preparing advisory note on insider trading
+ Documentation review

LIEDEKERKE WOLTERS WAELEBROECK KIRKPATRICK

Intern 2011

Corporate and competition law

+ Conducting due diligence
+ Writing a memorandum on MiFID

Honors & awards

Belgium's 40 under 40

2021

Elected member of a community of societal leaders committed to addressing Belgium's most pressing societal challenges.

Queen Paola Foundation

2020

First Laureate of the Queen Paola price for innovation in non-formal education

TAZ Theater Aan Zee

2015

Youth Music Award