

# Ace Foundation



## Activity report 2021

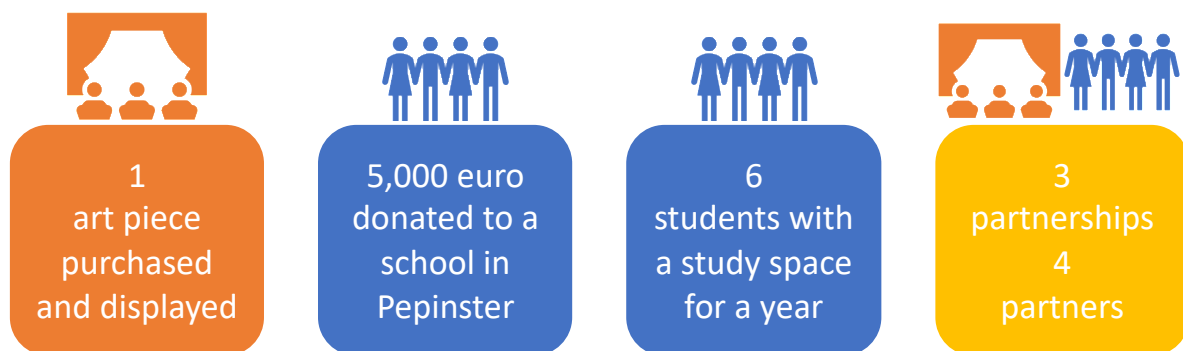
## 1 TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	Table of contents.....	1
2	Introduction.....	2
3	Impact realized by the Ace Foundation in 2021 in a nutshell.....	2
4	Team.....	2
5	Mission of the Ace Foundation .....	3
6	Activity in 2021.....	3
6.1	Bahati Simoens.....	3
6.2	School of Pepinster.....	4
6.3	Study spaces.....	5
7	Partnerships .....	6

## 2 INTRODUCTION

The Ace Foundation was established by Ace Law ([www.ancelaw.be/](http://www.ancelaw.be/)) in support of their commitment to contribute to a sustainable society for the future, after which a board with a majority of independent directors was established to guarantee the autonomous and independent functioning of the foundation (see Section 4 below). Funding of the Ace Foundation comes through charitable donations, events and 1% of the gross revenues of Ace Law that are re-routed to the Ace Foundation. In this activity report, we look back on the realizations of the Ace Foundation during the year 2021, being the first working year of the foundation.

## 3 IMPACT REALIZED BY THE ACE FOUNDATION IN 2021 IN A NUTSHELL



## 4 TEAM

In May of 2021, Ace Law entrusted the management of the Ace Foundation to a new team consisting mainly of professionals active in legal, compliance and/or ESG related functions. They act as independent board members of the Ace Foundation, ensuring an independent management and devote a part of their time to realize a positive impact for the society and the planet. This marked the actual start of its activities. Since May 2021, the board of directors of the Ace Foundation consists of:



**Vincent Van Bueren**  
Independent board member Ace Foundation since May 2021 and Compliance & ESG Manager at Gimv



**Wouter Verhelst**  
Executive board member Ace Foundation since September 2020 and Ace at Ace Law



**Erik Voets**  
Independent board member Ace Foundation since May 2021 and Chief Legal, ESG & Communications Officer & Executive Committee member at Alter Pharma Group

## 5 MISSION OF THE ACE FOUNDATION

The Ace Foundation's mission is focused on three key areas:



### Supporting the arts & culture

*"If art is to nourish the roots of our culture, society must set the artist free to follow his vision wherever it takes him."*

(President John F. Kennedy)



### Contributing to a better environment

*"Surely it is our responsibility to do everything within our power to create a planet that provides a home not just for us, but for all life on Earth."*

(Sir David Attenborough)



### Creating chances for youth in the society of today and tomorrow

*"It's not enough to train today's workforce. We also have to prepare tomorrow's workforce by guaranteeing every child access to a world-class education."*

(President Barack Obama)

## 6 ACTIVITY IN 2021

In 2021, we have been fortunate to be able to support three initiatives within the ambit of the Ace Foundation's mission.

### 6.1 Bahati Simoens

At the Ace Foundation, we strongly believe that art is a universal language providing inspiration and beauty across barriers and communities. Support of the cultural and creative sector is therefore key to us. As a first step in realizing such mission, we have added the beautiful work "Deep South" of the Ghent-based artist Bahati Simoens to the Ace Foundation Collection.

In line with our mission, any work from this collection is to be displayed in a place for the public to enjoy its beauty and be inspired by it. By doing so, we wish to bring people in contact with art and introduce them to talented artists as well as to give young artists an opportunity to build and meet their public. The Ace Foundation is therefore proud that it could partner with Antwerp Management School to display the painting in the hallways of their brand new campus in the heart of Antwerp city.



For those who want to know more about Bahati and her work, do follow her on Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/accounts/login/?next=/bahati.simoens/>) or check her website (<https://bahatisimoens.com/>).

## 6.2 School of Pepinster

In July 2021, the Walloon region in Belgium was hit by massive floods. Pepinster was one of the municipalities in the province of Liège that was most affected, and many buildings were ordered to be demolished as they were badly damaged. Amongst those buildings was the local school in Pepinster. Of the three school buildings, one was completely destroyed and in the others, all furniture and materials were unusable or washed away.

With the Ace Foundation, we wanted to support the local community and make a real and direct contribution. We learned of a funding action for the school in Pepinster set up by Modero, a well-known Belgian bailiffs' office. One of Modero's bailiffs, Maryline Langer, is part of the local Pepinster community and actively involved in the school's working, both as a former pupil and as a parent. For the Ace Foundation, supporting the children and school community of Pepinster was an obvious choice. The Ace Foundation decided to make a direct contribution of 5,000 euro to support rebuilding the school in Pepinster.

The Ace Foundation's team also had the opportunity to speak with Maryline Langer and Laurent David, director of the affected school. We were very impressed by Laurent and Maryline's involvement, resilience, sustained effort, and drive to get the school in Pepinster back on track as soon as possible after the flooding. With their actions, they were able to welcome the children and their families back in a safe and familiar environment on September 1<sup>st</sup>, which was very important in the context of their coping process. We are happy that the Ace Foundation could help them with its contribution. Below, you can find pictures of one of the school's new container classrooms which they were able to purchase with the funds raised.





## 6.3 Study spaces

Ace Law uses a fully furnished private office in the premises of Silversquare, a Belgian coworking pioneer. This service allows members to access such private office while also enjoying the full service of the Silversquare's open space. Since Ace Law was not using its maximum member capacity, it was willing to make its excess capacity available to the Ace Foundation for realizing its mission.

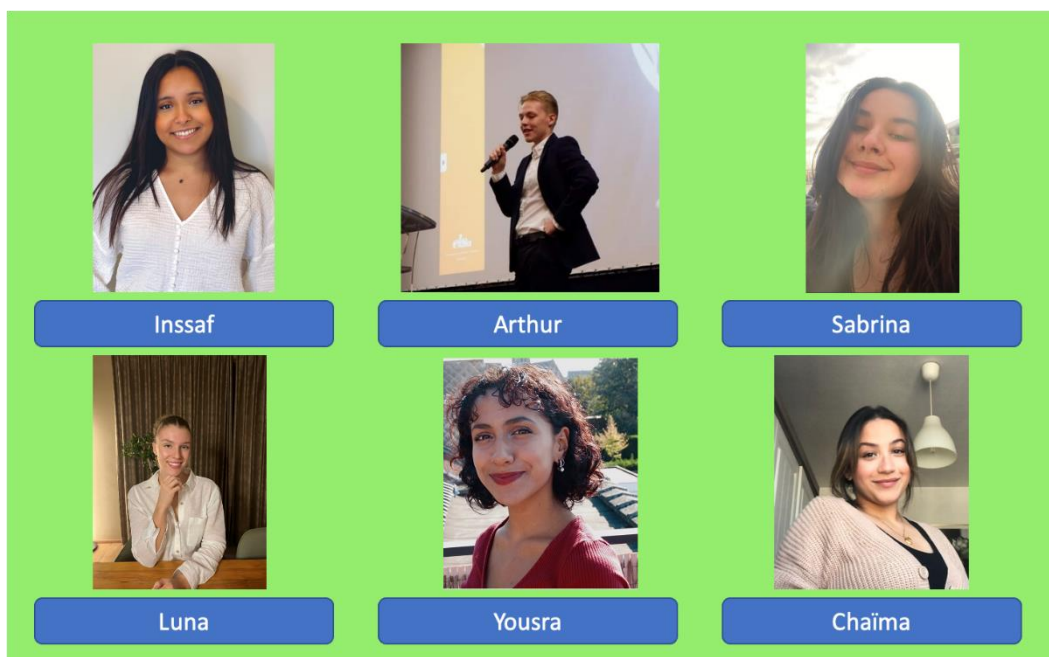
As we strongly believe that a suitable study location is key for well-focused studying and good results, we were grateful that we could join forces with Silversquare and Brik, the service desk for students in Brussels, to offer six students a place to study for the rest of the academic year.

The "Study Spaces" initiative of Brik offers students three times a year the occasion to prepare for exams in a focused way by giving them access to pleasant and stimulating study spaces that are provided by both public and private partners with space to offer.

During the December 2021 exam period, Silversquare opened two of their co-working spaces to offer students the opportunity to get to know the unique Silversquare environment and to submit their candidacy for one of the six spaces.

The response was overwhelming, and the Ace Foundation selected six students who are now able to enjoy a place to study for the rest of the academic year.

Meet the **6 selected students**:



## 7 PARTNERSHIPS

The Ace Foundations could not have realized the abovementioned projects without the support of and collaborations with the following partners: Ace Law, Antwerp Management School, Brik, Modero and Silversquare. The Ace Foundation wishes to express special thanks and gratitude to these partners for the positive collaboration during 2021 and is looking forward to further building thereon in this and the next years to come!



<https://www.ancelaw.be/>



<https://www.antwerpmanagementschool.be/nl>



<https://brik.be/>



<https://www.modero.be/nl>



<https://silversquare.eu/nl>