ZOOM ON 2018
INSIGHTS, DATA, STORIES AND MORE.
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How does migrant-led innovation take form? Through entrepreneurship, public policy, the emergence of unexpected relationships, leadership, untapped talent pools for employment, representation.

13 Labs, 3 major European cities, 117 Innovators bringing forward innovative ideas, 7 PLACE Catalysts embodying their role as leaders, and an ever growing PLACE Collective of European actors: PLACE was equipped with an exceptional pool of talent to explore what migrant-led innovation can look like, and more importantly, what can it bring to host society.

Here, we share what we have learned, how we grew, the people we had the honour to grow with and where we are going in our quest to position migrant-led innovation as a source of renewal for Europe.

Paris, January 2019
THE PEOPLE OF PLACE IN 2018

PLACE Innovator: Innovators are people of diverse origins willing to address problems with innovative solutions through PLACE. They can be refugees, asylum seekers, migrants, and members of civil society - the point they all have in common is their motivation to be doers and creators in Europe.

PLACE Catalyst: Catalysts are the leaders of the PLACE Community. Former Innovators, they demonstrated motivation and a desire to take on a larger role in PLACE’s experimentations. Catalysts take a pivotal role in many of PLACE operations: Lab facilitation, sourcing, community animation, matching and public representation.

PLACEmaker: PLACEmakers are the enablers of the PLACE experiment. Actors from private, public and civil society - they invest resources in enabling migrant-led innovation to emerge.
They have been part of Place in 2018 as innovators, catalysts, placemakers, friends and family. Here they share their thoughts on what has defined their experience with Place in 2018.

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<td>Carlos - Impact Migrants, Placemaker</td>
<td>Mehdi - Place Innovator</td>
<td>Farid - Place Innovator</td>
<td>Mays - Place Catalyst</td>
<td>Binta - Konexio, Placemaker</td>
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“When you become a Catalyst, you become involved in an endless and continuous learning process with Place. Being a Catalyst is a real life example of Place’s outputs: leadership, facilitation, innovation, team work - for me it represents the real skills provided by Place. Being a Catalyst woke up the leader in me. I am so happy that I have it back now and I really found myself this year!”

“That is exactly what Place is doing, they are engaging the migrants, enabling them with skills, empowering them with tools and connecting them with organizations where they can work and create their projects. We were connected with an Innovator this year - you know I have been in education myself for 20 years and I had never seen what she came up with: instead of investing in costly teaching material she simply glued earphones inside seashells with a recorded voice of dolphins and asked the children to come listen to a message from the sea. This is what you can call creativity and rapid prototyping, no less!”

“PLACE is a community [that] is rich with different visions and cultures, which are so enlightening. You get exposed to so many views based on very different experiences and it gives you a truly global vision.”

“If I wasn’t confident, I wouldn’t be doing this, I am confident in my work and in my team. The project I am developing with Place is called PRD and is focused on public policy. For the project we need to find out the needs of diverse publics and how we can create a relationship between them. Over this past year we have run 15 small projects that mixed French and Asian cultures. We bring people together to exchange with each other and learn from each other.”

“In 2018, I have developed my self confidence to express my own hopes and dreams even more, and with Place I acquired the tools to make those a reality. These tools have given me a boost to push me forward.”

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“Koneksi and Place both nurture a global mindset that leverages differences in backgrounds and origins to provide even more learning and knowledge sharing opportunities, thus promoting the value of diversity and inclusion. In 2019 with Place we are moving from a purely recruitment/class offering partnership to seeing how we can use Place labs in our curriculum, we are going to be doing a Place lab with our full time students in the full stack code development program. We are excited to see how we can take our relationship even further.”
HOW PLACE WORKS: SPOTTING AND CULTIVATING DIVERSE TALENT

WELCOME: All Innovators are sourced based on their motivation, openness to innovation and their potential to bring value to dynamic actors. Prior to joining a Lab, every Innovator meets with the sourcing team in order to develop a foundation of trust, identify their needs and determine if there is a good fit with what PLACE can offer. In 2018 Catalysts started sourcing new Innovators directly, on top of our usual channels including social media, sourcing partners and open door events.

ENGAGE: Innovators joining the PLACE experience do so through an Engage Lab, where they are taken from curiosity to a clear idea of a possible product or service. Diverse teams are formed based on a common desire to solve a certain problem. Teams then explore the problem, develop empathy with the user and create early-stage solutions through the use of design thinking and human-centered design tools.

GROW: Once their idea has matured and Innovators have a vision of how their solution will take shape, they are empowered with tools to prototype and test their solutions quickly in a Grow Lab. Through rapid testing and data collection, the Innovators receive formative feedback from the community, which pushes their projects to remain user-centric and sustainable. Innovators are also trained in pitching their solution to potential customers, investors and partners alike.

ENCOUNTER: When innovative ideas and raw talent cultivated in the PLACE Labs meet opportunities for further growth at a network scale. Through PLACE’s entrepreneurial support, consisting of a personalized and regular follow-up designed to accelerate Innovators’ project and personal development, Innovators position themselves to be matched with prestigious opportunities through universities, incubators, arts & cultural centres and in the scope of employment.
2018 has been an opportunity for PLACE to continue to learn from an exceptional pool of diverse talent; learn their stories, their innovative ideas, the value they bring to Europe and how they position themselves in complex spaces. Here are some of the key data and insights we have collected. The first set represents data from the people of PLACE in Europe. The second set represents the pool of innovators that the PLACE team directly sourced and supported through entrepreneurial coordination in Paris in 2018.
LABS IN 2018: As per our initial objective, 2018 has witnessed a rise in our impact, the merging of the worlds of innovation and migration, as demonstrated through our number of labs as well as number of innovators sourced and trained across 3 European capitals.

EMERGING PROJECTS & IDEAS: Not only is diversity at the core of our sourcing of innovators, but it also reflects in the type of innovation and projects happening through place across all geographies. This eclecticism perfectly illustrates the added value of migrant-led innovation.

GENDER REPRESENTATION of innovators who ideated and prototyped projects in Paris, London and Berlin in 2018. Each geography has started in different places in terms of gender representations but remains committed to balancing these numbers moving forward.
NATIONALITIES: 2018 saw a true diversity of cultures and countries of origins, which had a direct impact on the diversity of feedback and insights available in the place community. In 2018 Syria and Sudan continued to represent the largest proportion of the Place Community. However, new countries, such as Madagascar and Columbia, have further enriched the community.

AGES: Although innovation can happen at any age, the majority of innovators in 2018 were between 26–35, with 77.1% under the age of 35 – representing a population in the midst of professional transition and exploration as well as the prominent age group of recent migrants to Europe.

ADMINISTRATIVE SITUATIONS WHEN SOURCED: With the majority of innovators having refugee status, they are now in a position for professional exploration – with many of them enrolled in higher education. The asylum-seekers that Place has worked with bring in an outstanding level of motivation for change while international students increase exposure to cultural diversity and exchange.
The number of innovators in Paris who went through at least three labs and who experienced both Grow and Engage lab formats - these innovators received extensive training on Design Thinking & Human Centered Design tools and received personalized support from the Place team for matching with opportunities in Paris.

Some of the 17 projects that came forward via the Paris Grow Labs are currently being pursued through incubation. Grow lab innovators came out with more projects than expected as shown by the number of projects that emerged per innovator in Grow Labs. It was projected that 50% of innovators at the advanced prototyping stage would emerge with projects, but in fact it was 68%.

Once fully equipped with the needed technical skills, all projects developed in the labs demonstrated a strong will and capacity to grow through various opportunities in Paris.

Initial sourcing also looked to add diversity in the level of project development. Having innovators at different stages of their project development (from pre-idea to early-operations) in the labs provides an opportunity to learn from the experiences of others as well as increased peer feedback.

Graduating from their Place Lab experience at the end of 2018, these innovators have decided to further their project through an incubator, with a will to pursue the entrepreneurial lifestyle.
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<th># OPPORTUNITIES MATCHED IN CONTINUED EDUCATION: CODING, ENTREPRENEURIAL WORKSHOPS &amp; UNIVERSITIES</th>
<th>PROJECTIONS</th>
<th>OUTCOME</th>
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There was a large demand for punctual and flexible learning opportunities from innovator (typical profile being students and/or employed) mindful not to overload their already busy schedules. The breadth of the place collective enabled to match this abundant demand.

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<th># OPPORTUNITIES MATCHED IN LANGUAGE COURSES: FRENCH &amp; ENGLISH</th>
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The larger-than-expected outcome is a result of our language partner’s prestige combined with the accessibility of high quality online language courses suited for place innovators’ busy lives.

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<th># OPPORTUNITIES IN ARTS &amp; CULTURE</th>
<th>PROJECTIONS</th>
<th>OUTCOME</th>
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In addition to entrepreneurial resources, the innovators had access to a multitude of arts & culture spaces and events in Paris. Special access to exhibitions, conferences and events has been made possible through placemakers wanting to develop a deeper connection with place innovators.

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<th># OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONAL SUPPORT</th>
<th>PROJECTIONS</th>
<th>OUTCOME</th>
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In a striking difference from 2017, the place team received little demand for personal support – in the form of housing, financial and psychological support. Deeper analysis showed that the place catalysts had in fact become the go-to people for these types of needs. A strong signal to the power of the catalyst model within Place.

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<th># IDENTIFIED FOR THE CATALYST ACADEMY</th>
<th>PROJECTIONS</th>
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Active identification and coaching of future potential catalysts by catalysts through 2018 has generated an even larger pool of talent that we will work with in 2019 as part of the catalyst academy.
PLACE MOMENTS IN 2018

1. PLACE CO-FOUNDER, CHARLOTTE HOCHMAN, EXPLORES NEW APPROACHES TO BOOSTING MIGRANT-LED INNOVATION AS A FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR IN SAN FRANCISCO FROM JANUARY TO APRIL 2018

2. CATALYSTS CONTINUING THEIR LEARNING JOURNEY IN LA GAÎTÉ LYRIQUE AND ÉCOLE DES PONTS BUSINESS SCHOOL FROM FEBRUARY TO MAY 2018

3. APRIL 2018, PLACE TEAM MOVES INTO THE HALLES CIVIQUES, A CO-WORKING SPACE IN THE BEAUTIFUL PARC DE BELLEVILLE IN PARIS THAT UNITES ACTORS IN THE PUBLIC INNOVATION SPACE

4. MAY 2018, KICKING OFF SEASON 2 WITH A PLACE LAB IN NEW PLACEMAKER, THE MUSÉE DE L’HISTOIRE ET DE L’IMMIGRATION

5. PLACE JOINS THE EU MIGRATION POLICY SUMMIT IN BRUSSELS TO BRAINSTORM ON CITIZEN-DRIVEN INNOVATION IN POLICY DESIGN IN JUNE 2018

6. THE FIRST PLACE LAB TOOK PLACE IN LONDON WITH PLACEMAKER, TERN, WHERE PARTICIPANTS OF THE ICE ACADEMY TESTED AND PROTOTyped THEIR BUSINESS IDEAS IN THE MUSEUM OF MIGRATION IN JULY 2018
PLACE MOMENTS IN 2018

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THE FIRST CATALYST-LED PLACE LAB IN BERLIN HAPPENED AT THE MITTE FACTORY WITH THE INCUBEES OF SINGA BUSINESS LAB IN AUGUST 2018

8

PLACE WAS SELECTED AS ONE OF 25 PROJECTS TO PITCH THEIR SOLUTIONS FOR REFUGEE INCLUSION LIVE FROM THE TECHFUGEE GLOBAL SUMMIT IN OCTOBER 2018 IN STATION F

9

DOUBLE PORTRAIT, PLACE’S FIRST ARTISTIC PROJECT, MADE IN COLLABORATION WITH MANIFESTO AND ARTIST TINA MERANDON, PREMIERED AT LE CENTQUATRE-PARIS IN OCTOBER 2018

10

IN DECEMBER 2018 THE PLACE TEAM WAS ACCEPTED TO THE STATION F FOUNDERS PROGRAM, WHERE WE WILL BE INCUBATED AT THE WORLD’S LARGEST START-UP CAMPUS

11

PLACE CELEBRATED THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE 2018 PLACE INNOVATORS, CATALYSTS AND PLACEMAKERS (NOT TO MENTION 2 YEARS IN PARIS!) AT LES HALLES CIVIQUES IN DECEMBER 2018, A DAY FILLED WITH SHARING MEANINGFUL STORIES, DELICIOUS FOOD AND JOYFUL DANCING WITH MEMBERS OF THE COLLECTIVE.
At the crossroads of social innovation and design, WowLabs’s founders brought their expertise and experience to create and co-invest in PLACE.

The City invited us to carry out our experiment in Paris in 2016 and has since co-invested in the experiment to let it take full form and breadth. Mayor Anne Hidalgo’s resounding support in the graduation party in 2017 has been echoed by the different cabinets with whom PLACE works closely.

Archery, endowment fund of the global infrastructure company Meridiam, supports young talents of metropolitan areas. PLACE was one of the first projects supported by Archery over the last 2 years.

The US Embassy in Paris has supported PLACE right from the onset. Apart from co-investment, their continued presence in PLACE Labs has been a source of inspiration for Innovators whose business projects are often connected to other parts of the network.

PLACE has been a global partner with The Human Safety Net from the very beginning, bringing our unique approach to cultivating newcomer talent by leading Labs with local partners in France and Germany.

Fondation RATP continues to co-invest in PLACE to ensure that young refugee talents have the networks to kickstart their projects in Europe and increase their employability.

The Fund for Action and Innovation by Refugee Entrepreneurs FAIRE is a key actor supporting refugee entrepreneurship in France. Together we work to support newcomer entrepreneurs at the ideation stage of their projects to prepare them for incubator integration.

Le Préfet de la Région Ile-de-France joined the PLACE collective in 2018, renewing our commitment to bring PLACE Labs and Migrant Led Innovation where they are most required.

NEW PARTNERS ALSO JOINED PLACE IN 2018:

PLACEMAKERS: TOGETHER WE MADE IT HAPPEN

STRATEGIC PLACEMAKERS: THEY RENEWED THEIR CONFIDENCE IN PLACE IN 2018
La Gaîté Lyrique joined the PLACE Collective in 2017. Their involvement has varied from being a part of the PLACE LabCrew, to hosting Catalyst trainings to inviting Innovators to explore their special exhibitions.

Odeon joined the movement in 2017 by providing their iconic and historical Théâtre de l’Europe Ateliers and Terrasse to host 2 Labs in 2017 and a Lab in 2018 which also introduced the MarketPLACE to Innovators.

La Cité des Sciences et de l’Industrie has been a constant member of the PLACE Collective since 2017, as a key source of newcomer talent as well as a resource for cultivating said talent.

Mab’Lab, a co-working space in Paris’ iconic Latin quarter, has played an active part in PLACE’s work since 2017. They hosted PLACE Open doors during our sourcing period and continue to provide access to entrepreneurship workshops to PLACE Innovators.

Le CentQuatre-Paris joined the PLACE Collective right in 2017. They hosted 3 PLACE Labs and the graduation party in the presence of City Mayor, Anne Hidalgo. Access to their unique and eclectic space allows Innovators to experience the city in a new way.

Ecole des Ponts Business School has provided 8 scholarships to PLACE Innovators for their Certificate in International Management program since 2017. The MBA students of EdPBS have also taken part in PLACE Labs and the executive campus welcomed Catalyst Training session in Spring 2018.

MATCHING & LOCAL DELIVERY PLACEMAKERS

Finkela, the SINGA Incubator, has been a PLACEmaker since 2017. In 2018 alone, 4 projects having been ideated and tested in PLACE Labs have gone on to be incubated with Finkela.

Konexio is a coding-program that aims to break the digital divide by teaching newcomers valuable coding and computer literacy skills. Many PLACE Innovators have gone on to sharpen their digital skills with Konexio in 2017 & 2018.

Impact Migrants became a part of the movement in 2018. They run special programs that make it easier for businesses to hire migrants and refugees. Impact Migrants was a constant support for guidance in PLACE Labs and mentored two PLACE Innovators in prototyping their projects outside the Lab environment.

The Entrepreneurial Refugee Network (TERN) is a social enterprise that supports refugees in the UK to develop their own businesses. In collaboration with Ice Academy, PLACE hosted a 2-day prototyping Lab for their participants.

SINGA Business Lab is an inclusive incubator based in Berlin that supports newcomer entrepreneurs and aims to break the homogeneity of the Berlin start-up world. Joining the PLACE Collective in 2017 we have since three Labs for introducing new incubees to their incubation program.
The British Council joined the PLACE collective in 2018. With a global presence, they understand the importance of diversity in their work and welcomed 5 PLACE Innovators to their full-time English course and 17 to their flexible online learning platform.
PLACE INNOVATORS

They are PLACE. They are the future of work. They took part in PLACE’s fellowship in 2018 and participated in Labs, where some of their ideas for challenge-driven solutions became a reality. They have flourished in the opportunities that PLACEmakers have offered. They have made all this possible: they are changing the narrative around migration. We selected eight profiles, representing the diversity of the group, in terms of ideas, implication in PLACE, demographics.

Meet the PLACE innovators.
DIOR

THE PROJECT: Neosafar - curated travel experiences to change the perception of Lebanon through meaningful interactions with locals

PASSIONATE ABOUT: sustainable tourism, immersive experiences, Lebanese food

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Lebanon

AGE: 32 years old
AAMER

PROJECT SUPPORTER: adapted PLACE methodology to supporting various projects during each Lab

MATCHING: Ecole des Ponts Business School, Cité des Sciences, Catalyst Academy

PASSIONATE ABOUT: gender equality, women’s rights, life-long learning

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Pakistan

AGE: 36 years old
MATHIEU

THE PROJECT: LetsPlan - making group coordination easy action with an integrated planning tool to all major messaging platform

MATCHING: MabLab, Catalyst Academy

PASSIONATE ABOUT: Leadership, working in diverse teams, tech startups

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Madagascar

AGE: 26 years old
MEHDI

THE PROJECT: TimeCaps - making memories of those far away an accessible and daily source of joy

MATCHING: MabLab, Catalyst Academy

PASSIONATE ABOUT: prototyping, lean start-up, human-centered design

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: France

AGE: 23 years old
SABIR

PROJECT SUPPORTER: adapted PLACE methodology to supporting various projects during each Lab

MATCHING: Konexio, British Council

PASSIONATE ABOUT: Connecting people together and finding solutions

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Afghanistan

AGE: 23 years old
THE PROJECT: For Tomorrow - travelling education centre equipped with hands off lessons for children to learn about environmental sustainability

MATCHING: Impact Migrants

PASSIONATE ABOUT: early childhood education, prototyping, writing, creative arts

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Pakistan

AGE: 20 years old
TUN TUN

THE PROJECT: Coding Classroom - Building the tech capacities of Burmese youth for economic integration

MATCHING: British Council, Schoolab

PASSIONATE ABOUT: tech startups, entrepreneurship, education reform

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Burma

AGE: 38 years old
THE PROJECT: Le Bercail - inclusive community learning space building resilience in Villejuif

MATCHING: Impact Migrants, SINGA Incubator

PASSIONATE ABOUT: early childhood education, community engagement, film

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Switzerland

AGE: 39 years old
WHAT'S NEW FOR 2019
THE CATALYST ACADEMY


Through the Catalyst Academy, the Catalysts will develop skills in innovation, design, leadership, creative problem solving, public speaking, and experience with highly diverse teams - all essential skills in changing the dynamic of migrant led innovation at a continental scale. Through the Catalyst Academy they will have the opportunity to deliver Labs, access training on the Future of Work and public speaking and make connections with PLACEmakers.

During the final PLACE Lab of 2018, the Catalysts came together with the PLACE Team to co-design the Catalyst Academy based on their needs and experience. This design will feed the creation of the Catalyst Academy, which will enable PLACE to remain as close to the needs of its users as it has been since its creation.
Ice Academy is a European program created by Ben & Jerry’s, that aims to support early stage refugee entrepreneurs with high quality training and financial autonomy. A unique program that merges access to part-time employment through Ben & Jerry’s international presence and regular entrepreneurial support, participants are supported to go from idea to soft launch over a five month period. The Ice Academy will be taking place in Paris for the first time, deployed by PLACE, and will be run in parallel in London and Amsterdam with long-time PLACEmakers TERN and DELITELABS.
DOUBLE PORTRAIT IS TRAVELLING

Following the success of the first Double Portrait exhibition, which was produced by Manifesto in collaboration with Tina Mérandon and Le Centquatre-Paris, PLACE’s first artistic project will continue to travel to new spaces and countries in 2019. Double Portrait, a series of 12 striking portraits of PLACE community members, puts the concept of identity into question - the identity given by societal perceptions and the identity we choose ourselves. As a nomadic exhibition, it will continue to travel throughout PLACEmaker locations, starting first with strategic PLACEmaker Meridiam who will bring Double Portrait to its Paris offices, then across Paris’s Mairies d’Arrondissements in collaboration with the City of Paris.
After two years of merging the worlds of migration and innovation to alter the rhetoric around the “migrant crisis” in Europe, we are happy to see how far things have come. Two years of experimentation have enabled us to meet countless actors working in their own unique way to enable Europe to embrace change and diversity to build resilience.

In 2018, the PLACE community demonstrated the importance of migrant-led innovation not only through the form of innovative solutions, but through the relationships formed between PLACEmakers and Innovators, and the leadership roles embodied by the PLACE Catalysts. Going into 2019 the matching of newcomer talent with organizations in need of open minds and new ways of finding solutions, be they incubators, universities or employers, will be key in PLACE’s work.

We are looking forward to a year of continued exploration and experimentation on changing the migrant narrative and bringing forward the talented sources of migrant-led innovation.

The PLACE Team
THIS IS WHAT TWO YEARS OF MIGRANT-LED INNOVATION LOOK LIKE.

Credits for design, artwork and photography: Michele Caleffi - Wow Labs Ltd.