

**Social Innovation Exchange**

Introduction 2018



**SIX is a social innovation exchange built on mutual value, relationships and knowledge. We work globally to facilitate purposeful cross-sector conversations, that challenge and inspire people to use innovation to increase social impact.**



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32 Cubitt Street  
London, UK  
WC1X 9LR

@si\_exchange  
@SICommunity\_EU  
socialinnovationexchange.org

Designed by Megumi Koyama  
Icons by Freepik  
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# The story of SIX



**“This exchange is more than a network and more than just talk, it improves societal wellbeing.”**

– Louise Pulford, Executive Director, SIX

“We live in unprecedented times. The challenges we face are more complex and more extraordinary than ever. Whether it is how to live in increasingly polarised societies, how to make AI work for everyone, or how to achieve the SDGs, everyone is affected.

We need a diverse set of actors and instruments to address the complexity of the world we live in. As diversity is essential to innovation, we curate exchanges between, and within, foundations, governments, businesses, universities and practitioners. Over the past ten years, SIX has created a lively, active, and impactful exchange between socially innovative thinkers and doers. This exchange is based on mutual value. It is more than a network and more than just talk, it improves societal wellbeing. We connect knowledge to action. And we do this through a diverse set of

activities: convening, capacity building and by creating knowledge and learning.

Our impact is currently most visible in five areas of expertise. We curate experiences to support the existing social innovation community, and to expand the movement by bringing in new players. We increase the impact of philanthropic funding, we influence policy to incorporate social innovation agendas, and we equip universities with the necessary capabilities for the future. As a result of all of our activities, we improve the way organisations work, influencing behaviour, process and culture in order to change systems.

In the coming years, SIX must continue to grow the social innovation movement and develop more thriving ecosystems around the world, so that more people are ready for the future.”



**“Linking the best practitioners around the world can generate new energy, new insights and new confidence about how to achieve change for the better.”**

– Geoff Mulgan, Chief Executive of Nesta and Founder of SIX

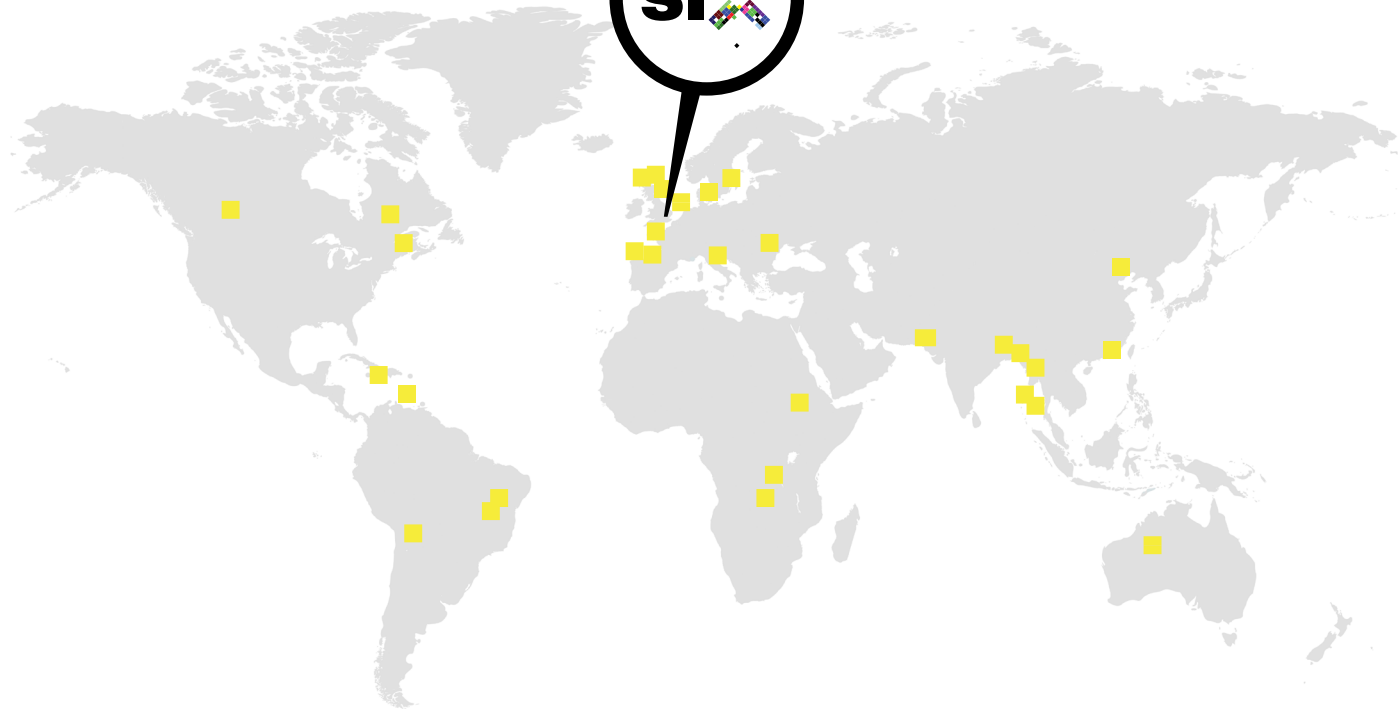
“SIX started with a very simple idea: that linking the best practitioners around the world in the right ways can generate new energy, new insights and new confidence about how to achieve change for the better. The aim was to break away from the glitzy conferences where over polished presentations told of successes - and instead encouraged a more open and honest discussion about the practical challenges of change: whether raising money, growing organisations, or handling the relations with governments and politics.

SIX was set up to link practitioners with a hunger to learn, whether in civil society, business, government or universities. SIX has played an instrumental role in helping the social innovation movement gain ground on many fronts - with brilliant work on the ground all across the world, new funds, burgeoning

fields such as impact investment or digital social innovation, engagement from at least some governments and ambitious programmes in universities.

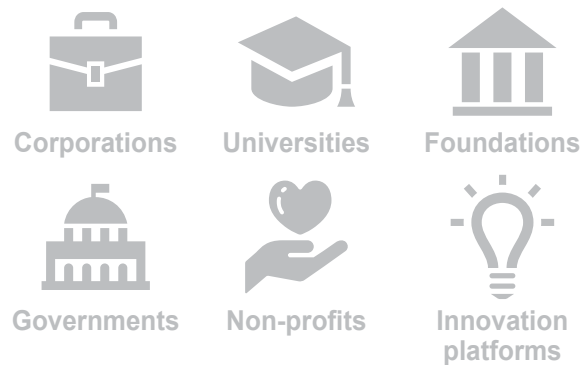
The bad news is that in many parts of the world the climate for social innovation is deteriorating - with authoritarianism, prejudice and lies all gaining ground, and fears that the gains of recent decades are being reversed. That makes it all the more important that everyone who cares about social change bands together and that we keep encouraging more and more people to join this exchange. However isolated and embattled you may feel, there are thousands of others who are willing to give and to share. Together we are always stronger than when we are apart. SIX is a practical expression of that simple but very powerful idea.”

# SIX in numbers



**10** Years  
**26** Multi-day events  
**30** Cities  
**5,000** In-person participation  
**10,000+** Engaged online

**OVER 80** current partners



**FOUR** contributions to policy



**OVER 75** Philanthropic foundations engaged

**25** Universities

**10** Countries

Current work with universities

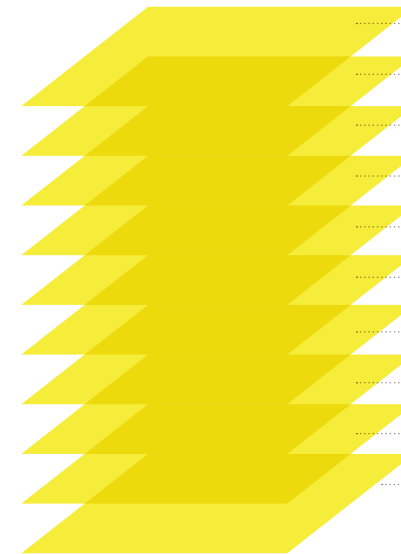


**10**

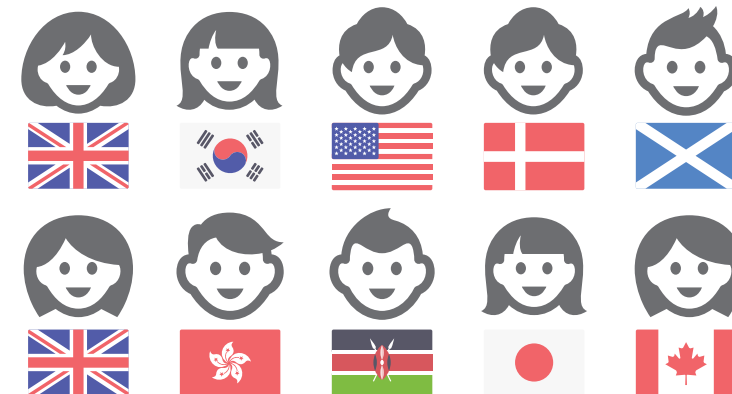
Social innovation reports published  
[Click to access](#)

**+ 30**

Collaborative social innovation reports published



- The role of philanthropy in using data
- How universities are organising to increase societal impact
- An introduction to social innovation for NGOs
- Aligning for impact: a view from global foundations
- Funding systems change: challenges and opportunities
- A reflection on strengthening social innovation in Colombia
- Developing Seoul City's social innovation strategy
- Financing social impact: funding social innovation in Europe
- Measuring social innovation in Europe
- Understanding network dynamics



SIX is delivered by a team of

**10 / 9**  
People / Nationalities

giving us a global outlook from our base in London

# Who we are & what we do

**We believe that the exchange of experiences and knowledge drives positive social change, and that everyone has something to contribute and gain from this exchange.**

Over the last 10 years, SIX has identified and connected isolated people and organisations within social innovation, and helped to establish a flourishing global social innovation movement. In 2018, we are looking to invite new people into the exchange to collaborate with us on our activities, to create a buzzing marketplace of ideas and experiences, and help advance the field of social innovation.

## Convening

**We curate connections between thinkers and doers, to drive purposeful conversations and facilitate engaging and interactive social innovation events.**

### Leader's Retreats

Exclusive expert gatherings to advance specific topic areas. Our retreats are spaces for specialists to help each other answer the questions keeping them awake at night.

### Wayfinder



A high level global event focussed on the future of social innovation. Wayfinders are designed to promote and advance social innovation in a particular region, and grow the global social innovation movement.

### Unusual Suspects Festival



An open, distributed city-wide series of events, hosted by different collaborators to highlight and empower organisations and people doing social innovation who don't necessarily think of themselves as 'social innovators'.

### SI-Live



Two-day international events that explore the future of social innovation research, incubation and action. SI-Live focuses on putting research and practice into dialogue.

## Capacity Building

**We build the capacities of individuals and organisations through the exchange of experiences and knowledge during interactive and immersive workshops and experiences.**

### Skills for Innovation

Tailored 101 skills and capacity building training, that takes place through workshops and webinars. The focus of this training can range from an introduction to social innovation, to ideation, prototyping, or any part of the social innovation process.

### SIC Summer School

Practical place-based learning experiences designed around case studies and local contextual challenges. Participants use service design tools to co-design ideas and solutions together over three days.



## Knowledge & Learning

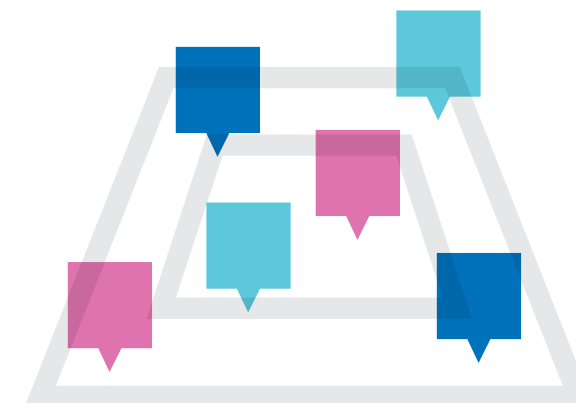
**We utilise our extensive social innovation experience and network in order to advance and expand the field of social innovation.**

### Horizon Scanning

Tracking and reporting on the current global state of innovation, focusing on pressing challenges and innovation opportunities.

### Study Tours

Bespoke learning journeys that are designed around the needs of organisations, leveraging SIX's experience to navigate the global social innovation community.





# SIX around the world

As a global organisation, our work has taken us all over the world; from three-day social innovation Summer Schools in India and Australia, to workshops with university students in Panama and Myanmar. We are always looking to expand the global reach of our work and bring new individuals and organisations into the social innovation field.

We never work alone. We always develop strong local partnerships to ensure that our work is relevant and impactful to the context or culture of where we work. These partners may be well-versed in the practice and theory of social innovation, or entirely new to the sector, in places where it is an emerging field. Our work connects people who wouldn't usually meet, both within and across sectors. We ensure our programmes and events create long-lasting change in a place, and we enable individuals and organisations to build their capacity so that they can continue to advance

the field of social innovation. This map shows the events and programmes that SIX has run across the globe, but it doesn't include the many more to which we've contributed.

**Curating** experiences to grow the social innovation movement

**Increasing** the impact of philanthropy

**Influencing** policy to incorporate social innovation

**Challenging** universities to rethink their purpose

...through all of our work we **empower** organisations to innovate [\(see page 20\)](#).

## SIX impact

# Curating experiences to grow the social innovation movement

## At SIX, we are experts in creating engaging and immersive events and learning journeys.

We work with different partners to create spaces that facilitate exchanges between people who are unlikely to have met otherwise. These exchanges aren't just talking shops - they increase and broaden the impact of social innovation, and leave a local legacy wherever they are held.

We ran nine SIX Summer Schools over nine years across six continents before updating the model. Through our European projects - SIE and SIC - we've curated events and experiences all across Europe. We also run the SIX Wayfinder, and the Unusual Suspects Festival. Some of our events are open, some are invite only. All SIX events are multi-day, focussed and immersive experiences.

## Roehampton R.O.C.K.S.



**"It's often people's voices on the ground that don't get heard, and that's what SIX enables."**

"Working with SIX has enabled me to put the work that I do within a framework and I have left meetings with SIX feeling really energised. When you are working in isolation, being able to connect with someone helps to give you a fresh perspective."

The Unusual Suspects Festival 2017 was a celebration of London and social innovation across the city, and brought in voices from around the world. There were opportunities to meet with a variety of different people and it was all accessible and free. That is something that is invaluable to people whose projects need that sort of a network. It's often people's voices on the ground that don't get heard, and that's what SIX enables. There was a really good range of practice, tangible ways to connect and to understand what social innovation is all about."

– Orode Faka, Community Organiser



## imece



**"Participants felt powerful and part of the global community, they were not just passive listeners but active contributors."**

"By working with SIX on the Istanbul Wayfinder, we were able to host influential social innovators from all over the world. Normally, you work limited by the policy, mindset and know-how that you have in your own ecosystem. When you realise that you are part of the global system, it makes you a more powerful and motivated social innovator. The SIX Wayfinder showed social responsibility is the responsibility of all sectors, and it was engaged with the business world as well, which is especially critical for Turkey as policy in this field is not comprehensive."

People were fed up with having conferences in the 'one to many' format where you just listen. If you want to have valuable interactions between people, then you need to have interactive moments in the event. At the SIX Wayfinder, participants felt powerful and part of the global community, they were not just passive listeners but active contributors."

– Duygu Kambur, Head of Strategy, Business & Partnership Development





## SIX impact

# Increasing the impact of philanthropy

**The Funders Node is a SIX programme to support funders as they move away from traditional grantmaking practices and support social innovation to create systemic change.**

This programme addresses the lack of shared knowledge and connections globally between foundations; the need for deeper, peer-led learning opportunities; and the absence of social innovation discussions in existing philanthropy forums.

We design and curate focussed, intimate global retreats for foundations, helping them to help each other to answer the questions keeping them awake at night.

We also produce insights for funders to prompt new approaches, challenge funders to address new issues, and push the field forward. These topics include how to use data to address complex challenges, how to support systems change, and the role of strategic foresight.

## Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

**“By asking different questions and working with your peers, it can give you more confidence or change your approach.”**



“The best thing about the SIX Funders Node has been getting to know individuals and organisations that have similar challenges or questions to those I have. They bring a whole host of experiences and perspectives from their own contexts.

I now ask different kinds of questions, mindful of different models that other funders have explored or implemented and then adapt them to our context. We are all very different organisations with different cultures and different ways of operating. Our own practice in areas - such as labs - is still in the early stage. But the Funders Node is like our own wisdom council to work through problems. By asking different questions and working with your peers, it can give you more confidence or change your approach. For example, JW McConnell Family Foundation and Rockefeller Foundation have been invaluable in shaping our thinking about what ‘labs’ mean and how best to ensure that they are generative, not prescriptive, and responsive to the needs of the stakeholders and community.”

– Katie Wehr, Senior Program Officer



## McConnell Foundation



**“Tracking and reporting on the current state of innovation around pressing challenges is one of SIX’s core strengths.”**

“At last year’s SIX Funders Node gathering, participants identified the opportunity to improve evidence-based decision making, strategic foresight and outcomes measurement using digital data. We also surfaced a concern to protect the ‘digital commons’ - with implications for the governance of social media and democratic decision making.

SIX has recently conducted a global scan of foundation-supported work around the uses and misuses of digital data. The picture is one of diverse and complementary initiatives that, if connected, could augment the effectiveness of individual foundations, and the global practice of systems innovation. It points to a critical need to assert the public interest in the face of accelerated privatization of algorithms.

If tracking and reporting on the current state of innovation around pressing challenges is one of SIX’s core strengths, another is convening the essential conversations that enable natural partnerships to emerge and for our strategies to enable progress toward the UN SDGs.”

– Stephen Huddart, President & CEO





## SIX impact

# Influencing policy to incorporate social innovation

## SIX works to incorporate a social innovation agenda into policy at local, national, and regional levels.

We use a people driven approach to act as translator between practitioners and policy makers; to create forums for purposeful dialogue and exchange; to communicate practical examples of social innovation and its impact globally; and to drive new debates and help stakeholders coordinate and communicate effectively. Creating a supportive policy environment ensures that

the impact of our work continues beyond SIX projects and broadens the impact of social innovation practice worldwide. We have worked particularly closely with the European Commission and the Seoul Metropolitan Government over the past ten years, helping embed social innovation in policy at local, national and regional levels.

### Seoul Metropolitan Government



**“SIX provided me with a resource to help me manage the problems and challenges of the city.”**

“Even before becoming Mayor, I was very impressed by SIX and I could grow my capacity to think as a social designer and social innovator through my association with SIX. I have participated in global SIX meetings many times, in Lisbon, Singapore and in Seoul. SIX provided me with a resource to help me manage the problems and challenges of the city, and develop policies that enable this. Seoul has a population of 10 million, it's a big metropolitan city but still the wisdom comes from very simple secrets of social innovation. SIX have provided such an impression and inspiration to me, enough to be an innovative Mayor and drive innovation across this city.”

– Park Won-soon, Mayor of Seoul



### European Commission

#### Mapping & Understanding



#### Community building Sharing skills & knowledge



#### Connecting diverse groups



#### Growing



#### Influencing



2009 ..... 2010 ..... 2011 ..... 2014 ..... 2015 ..... 2017 ..... 2018 ..... ➔



SIX Chair and Founder participate in a workshop with President Barroso, and explore including 'social' in the traditional innovation policy.



SIX prepare the first study on social innovation in Europe, influencing the 2011 innovation union's first recognition of 'social' in their innovation strategy.



SIE launches, SIX runs the first social innovation project under the Innovation Union and produce reports on financing and measuring social innovation in Europe.



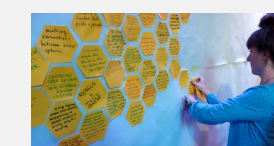
SIX brings together the different Innovation Unit strategy projects during SI-Live, and connect research and incubation projects to encourage community building across Europe.



Horizon 2020 launches and SIX becomes part of a new social innovation consortium, the Social Innovation Community (SIC).



The European Commission hosts 'A New Era' event in Lisbon.



SIC launch their #Declaration to ensure the continued embedding of social innovation in European framework programmes.



## SIX impact

# Challenging universities to rethink their purpose

**SIX works across all levels of universities to help them become more than academic institutions.**

Our work with universities not only helps prepare the next generation to be effective social innovators, but encourages universities as institutions to play a greater role in their communities and to be more than just academic hubs.

The projects, programmes and events we run with universities focus on connecting researchers and practitioners to accelerate social change. We create exchanges between people who are not usually in communication, both within universities and the wider community. Alongside this work, we consistently provide support to universities so that they can make internal institutional changes and innovate their practice and processes.

## MARA University of Technology

**“What I learnt from SIX during the South East Asian Social Innovation Network studio was that in creating solutions, you need different sets of eyes.”**



“Students can be the generator of possible ideas and creators of innovation that could actually be used in solving certain social problems. I think universities have educators and students that not only act as the workforce, but also universities can act as hubs in creating ideas and solutions to the problems at hand. What I learnt from SIX during the South East Asian Social Innovation Network (SEASIN) studio was that in creating solutions, you need different sets of eyes to help create ideal solutions. It definitely introduced me to brilliant ideas and new ways of working and thinking that really gave me different perspectives on social innovation. Different perspectives bring out different angles that need to be looked upon, which is impossible to do alone.”

– Farah Syunhada Roslan, Student



## TU Dortmund University



**“SIX continuously helped us connect with partners from civil society, governments, and businesses - and of course other universities.”**

“The role universities are playing in social innovation has recently evolved. In order to address the growing societal and economic challenges, there is a growing demand for universities to use their knowledge and teaching to fulfil their “Third Mission”: taking responsibility, actively and consciously, for the society on whose behalf they are working.

TU Dortmund University has worked on numerous projects in the field of social innovation, using new research concepts such as design thinking or transformative research with an active participation of stakeholders. SIX, the world’s leading social innovation exchange, continuously helped us connect with partners from civil society, governments, and businesses - and of course other universities. With the inspiring people behind it, it is also a great platform for exchanging research results and developing new ideas. As a knowledge and network hub, SIX promotes our capacity to tackle society’s biggest challenges in new and innovative ways.”

– Jürgen Howaldt, Director of the Central Scientific Institute





## SIX impact

# Empowering organisations to innovate

**Working within and in addition to our other areas of impact, we enable and support organisations to innovate their culture and capacity in two ways.**

We run several targeted training programmes that provide capacity-building training and support. We also build innovation capacity through partnerships.

Whether we are hosting an event together or designing a long term collaboration, our approach allows organisations to reflect on their internal structure, processes and strategies, and develop stronger networks and more collaborative, effective working cultures. For every partner, we provide and demonstrate a deep knowledge of network dynamics, tools, frameworks and trends of social innovation in both local and global contexts.

## The University of Northampton



**“Our work with SIX enabled us to review our curriculum across all subject areas and informed the embedding of social innovation in every one of our undergraduate programmes.”**

“Working with SIX has been inspirational in engaging our students in the world of social innovation. Their ability to reach a global community of innovators has not only provided complex examples of what can be achieved through social innovation, it has sparked new ideas and commitment within our students to be the changemakers of the future. SIX’s openness to do things differently has helped structure our approach to social innovation across our student experience.

Our work with SIX enabled us to review our curriculum across all subject areas and informed the embedding of social innovation in every one of our undergraduate programmes. This means that all of our students will have the opportunity to experience what social innovation means to their subject area, and understand how they can address social problems through their applied learning. Our work with SIX has been instrumental in shaping our approach and informing this development.”

– Wray Irwin, Head of the University Centre for Employability and Engagement



## Zorlu Holding



**“Working with SIX was a way to kick off a new way of thinking, collaborating and working.”**

“What is critical for Zorlu Holding is to become a business that has profound meaning to the young people of Turkey. We are perceived of as pioneers in technology and energy, but we aspire to relate to young people’s dreams, passions and values.

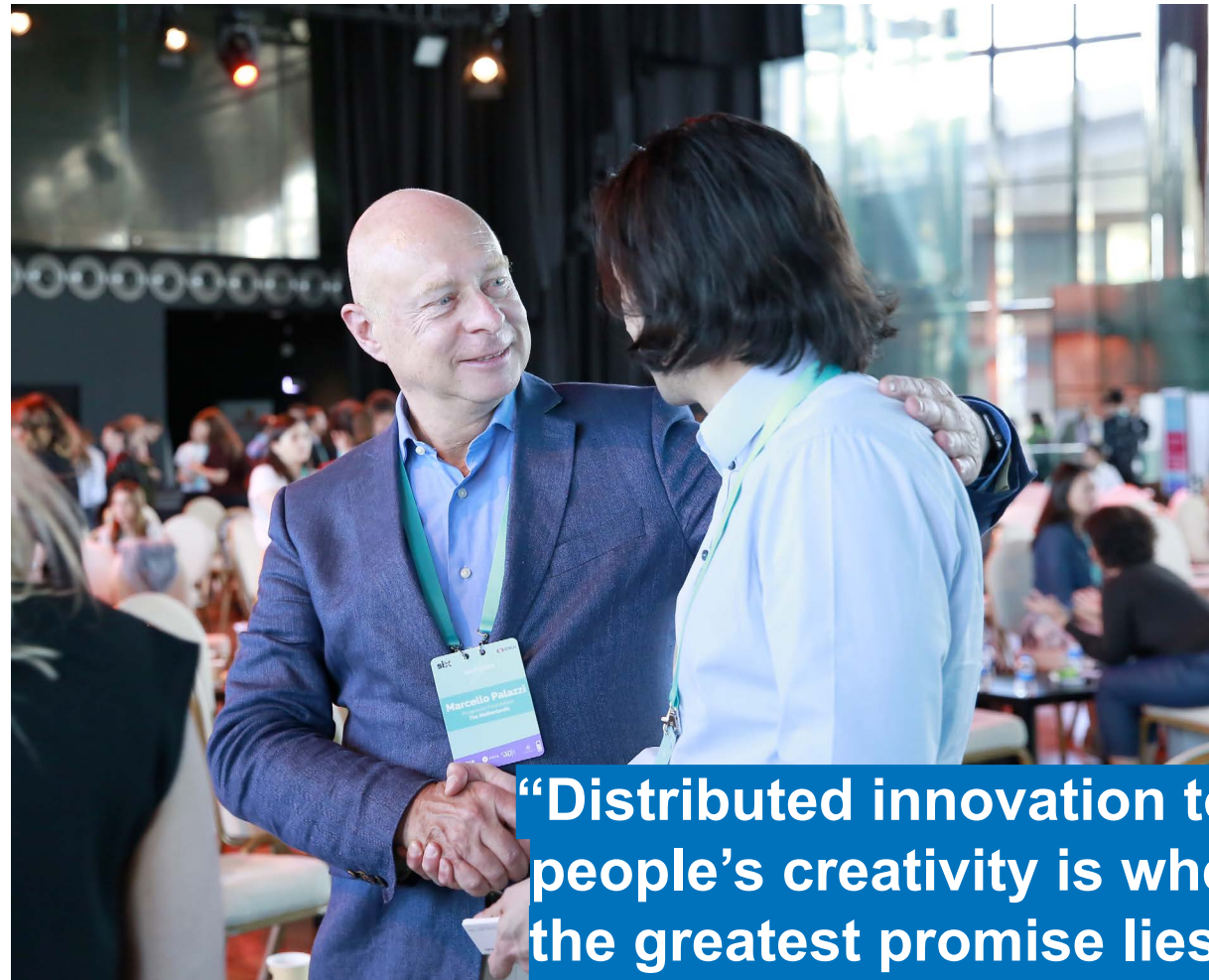
Everyone needs to find a new way of doing things, the old methods don’t allow people and organisations to progress into the future. Working with SIX on the Wayfinder was not just the start of a new way of doing business and collaborating with different stakeholders, but it also opened up and helped transform our internal culture. It was a way to kick off a new way of thinking, collaborating and working. This will not happen overnight, but the Wayfinder definitely triggered this new mindset within the Zorlu organisation. We are very keen on sustaining the collaboration with SIX and making social innovation the daily practice of our company.”

– Aslı Alemdaroğlu, Corporate Communications General Manager





## Next five years



**“Distributed innovation to tap people’s creativity is where the greatest promise lies for the planet’s future: this is SIX at its best!”**

**– Marcello Palazzi, Co-Founder of B Lab Europe and Chairman of SIX**

“As an organisation and a powerful exchange, SIX is always looking ahead. Over the next five years, we want to run bigger connected programmes and engage more stakeholders from different sectors. We do this by expanding the field of social innovation (it is everyone’s business!) and to bring new individuals, organisations and other networks into the fold. For the future, this means working with more corporates and demonstrating to them how they can engage with social innovation, and the positive impact this has on both their

business and the wider society. We have already started to grow the field geographically and to tap into regions where social innovation is an emerging sector - like our work in the Middle East, which we have significantly developed in 2018. We'll continue this regional expansion over the next five years. Distributed innovation to tap people's creativity is where the greatest promise lies for the planet's future: this is SIX at its best! Nothing less than a truly global reach will satisfy us in our pursuit of a socially innovative society."

# How you can work with SIX

**We believe that change is more effective when people work collectively.**

This is why we are always looking to work with new partners, who are interested in increasing the social impact of their work, and who have the strategic intent to make sustainable social change.

If you want to build social innovation in your organisation, city, country or region - wherever you are in the world and no matter which sector you work in - **SIX can help you find your way in the complex challenges we face today.**

All challenges are unique, so we use our decade of experience and unique skills to **work collaboratively with you to develop bespoke programmes**, and harness the power of our extensive network of smart ideas and global leaders.

Whether you and your organisation are interested in the systemic approach to addressing society's most pressing challenges, or you are simply interested in learning more about the global social innovation movement, we'd love to hear from you.

Please get in touch with Sophie at  
sophie@socialinnovationexchange.org

**Working with SIX, you access the power of the world's global social innovation exchange.**

