As the Turkey pillar of Ashoka’s efforts on migration and integration of refugees, Innovative Solutions for Refugees Conference brings together international social entrepreneurs working with refugees and local stakeholders for the first time in Turkey.

The conference aims to inspire about the role of social entrepreneurship in working with refugees, to empower local organizations and social entrepreneurs with new tools and approaches, and to catalyze a multi-stakeholder, action-focused community.
Ashoka is the largest network of social entrepreneurs worldwide, with nearly 3,000 Ashoka Fellows in 70 countries putting their system changing ideas into practice on a global scale.

Ashoka Fellows remain the core of the community, and their insights show how the world is moving and what is needed next. Working in partnership with private, philanthropic and citizen sector players Ashoka is achieving large-scale social innovation that is grounded in decades of entrepreneurial experience.
Part 1: Get Inspired
09:30 – 10:45

Opening Words by
Zeynep Meydanoglu | Host of Innovative Solutions for Refugees Conference
Country Director, Ashoka Turkey
Seçil Kınay | Special Projects Manager, Vehbi Koç Foundation
Markus Hipp | Director, BMW Foundation
Didem Altop | Member of Board, Ashoka Turkey

Inspirational Stories by International Social Entrepreneurs
Nathanael Molle (Ashoka Fellow) | SINGA
Mary Nally (Ashoka Fellow) | Third Age
Tareq Alsaleh | Capoeira 4 Refugees
Dave Levin | Refugee Openware
Penny Travlou | Options Food Lab
Mohsin Mohu Ud Din | Ashoka's Youth Venture and #MeWeSyria
Anne Kjær Riechert | ReDI School of Digital Integration

Showcase of Solutions from Turkey
Talin Kdikian | Dubarah
Phil Dexter Weidmann | Kiron Open Higher Education
Celal Karadoğan (Ashoka Fellow) | Genç Engelliler Spor Kulübü
Nebahat Akkoç (Ashoka Fellow) | KAMER
Ercan Tutar (Ashoka Fellow) | AYDER

#InnovativeSolutions for Refugees Conference
Part 2: Learn
11:15 – 12:45

Uncovering Invisible Potential
Hosts: Celal Karadogan & Mary Nally (translation will be provided)
Venue: RCAC Auditorium

Scaling to New Geographies
Hosts: Talin Kdkian & Nathanael Molle
Venue: 3rd floor small meeting room

Innovative Employment Models
Hosts: Nebahat Akkoç & Penny Travlou (translation will be provided)
Venue: 3rd floor big meeting room

Sports as an Empowerment Tool for Refugees
Hosts: Tarek Alsaleh & Ercan Tütal
Venue: 5th floor small meeting area

Utilizing Digital Technologies
Hosts: Dave Levin & Anne Kjær Riechert
Venue: 5th floor big meeting area

12:45 Lunch at Divan Beyoğlu Brasserie on the 6th Floor of Koç RCAC

#InnovativeSolutions for Refugees Conference
Part 3: Act
14:00 – 17:00

Children and Early Education @ 6th Floor
Facilitator: Yiğit Aksakoglu | Bernard van Leer Foundation

Empowering Youth @ Oditorium
Facilitator: Özlem Ezgin | Community Volunteers Foundation

Women Employment & Empowerment @ 5th Floor Small Room
Facilitator: Sibel Yücesan | Professional Women Network

Entrepreneurship & Economic Integration @ 5th Floor Big Room
Facilitator: Didem Altop | Endeavor Turkey

Solidarity Networks & Community Centers @ 3rd Floor Big Room
Facilitator: Ayşen Üstübici | MiReKoç

Supporting Civic Movements @ 3rd Floor Small Meeting Room
Facilitator: Suat Özçağdaş | Centre for Social Innovation

17:00 Concert by Istanbul Mosaic Oriental Choir
17:30 Workshops Report-back at the Auditorium
18:00 Networking Cocktail at Divan Beyoğlu Brasserie

#InnovativeSolutions for Refugees Conference