



Just Innovate

Connect | Inspire | Learn

Annual Report 2015



Setting the Stage for Sustainability

Message from the Board

With this year's adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals, sustainability was a prominent theme around the world. Against this backdrop, the Just Innovate team spent a good part of 2015 reflecting on ways to be (more) sustainable. Our attention focused on two separate yet interlinked issues: the sustainability of projects created by participants on our Collaborate for Social Impact (C4SI) program and the sustainability of Just Innovate as an organization.

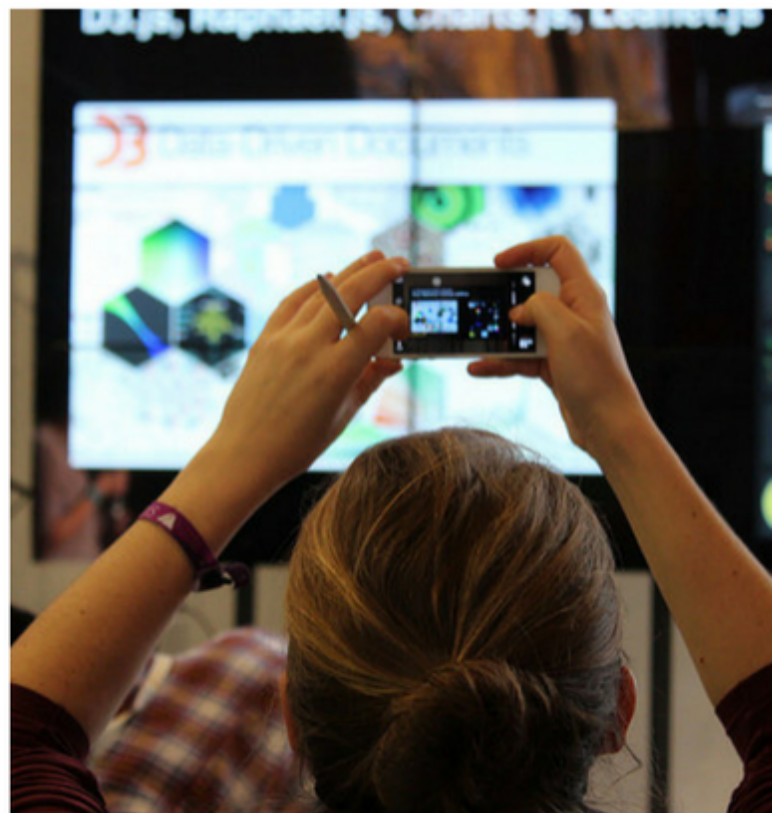
In the last two years, 21 teams have created 21 fascinating project ideas as part of our C4SI program. The fruit of many hours of diligent research and creative energy, these projects put forward novel approaches and mechanisms to tackle some of the most complex challenges of the 21st century. And yet – after the program had finished, we found that too many of these ideas ended up disappearing into the drawer. This begged the question: What might we do differently so that the impact of our program is not limited to providing participants with a learning experience but also with the tools necessary to implement their innovations? The bridge from design to delivery is one of the toughest parts in the innovation cycle and as an organization, we are committed to 'cracking' this nut. For the first time, we have offered seed-funding to teams who could show a realistic blueprint for implementation. We have worked with challenge-setter organizations to be more engaged in the innovation process of 'their' teams, keeping them accountable and aligned with their expectations. Looking to the future, we will continue to search for new ways to ease the path for C4SI teams to turn their ideas into reality.

Support for C4SI participant projects relies on Just Innovate's own sustainability as an organization. We fully depend on volunteers in our work and are continually confronted by the challenge of experienced staff leaving Geneva and thus curtailing their operational involvement. This makes it difficult to build long-term institutional memory and knowledge. In 2015, we have re-structured Just Innovate so as to build a strong Board of 8 members. Board members are typically Just Innovate alumni who are willing to provide leadership and mentorship beyond their graduation from academic studies, including from outside Geneva. Besides taking responsibility for the organization's activities as a whole, they support the successive C4SI Co-Directors and organizing teams in developing each year's program and can provide a stable point-of-contact for external stakeholders. We have also started to make better use of the experience that can be drawn from our Advisory Committee which has gathered for its first-ever plenary session in early 2016 and whose members have generously given us countless hours of their time and wisdom.

In 2015, we have set the stage for sustainability. In 2016, we will push forward in supporting the best innovations to go beyond the drawing board. We will also ensure that Just Innovate remains a lean and flexible organization while making full use of lessons learnt and mistakes made previously. Thank you for your continued support on this journey!

Members of the Board of Just Innovate
September 2016





Who we are

Our mission and approach

Just Innovate is a non-profit organization devoted to fostering creativity and inspiring social change within student communities and beyond. We are a team of young professionals and students from across the world, who believe passionately in the power of communities to generate innovative solutions for today's challenges. Drawing on tried and tested human-centred design methodologies, we develop unique educational programs for students, organizations and companies. Our programs are focused on the fields of international affairs and development, drawing on the strengths of our base within International Geneva.

We train Geneva's social innovators

Since 2014, we have successfully hosted an annual two-month educational programme, Collaborate for Social Impact (C4SI), bringing together over 40 students from a variety of disciplines from universities across Switzerland. We have also run several challenge-based skills-sharing workshops for world-renowned organizations including the International Trade Centre and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

From its base at the Graduate Institute, Just Innovate seeks to develop environments conducive to social innovation by adopting a “Connect | Inspire | Learn” approach:

- **Connecting** individuals from different educational and professional disciplines through collaborative educational programs that bring together experts from universities, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and private enterprises.
- **Inspiring** individuals to collaborate and co-create social innovations by developing educational programs that draw on tried and tested design-thinking methodologies, which encourage participants to break out of existing molds and instill an innovative spirit in their university, organization or company.
- Developing unique inter-disciplinary **learning** environments, in which participants can strengthen their soft skills such as leadership and team-building, as well as enhance their knowledge of ideation techniques, prototyping, and presenting.



What we do

Our programs and activities

Collaborate for Social Impact (C4SI)

Our flagship program



C4SI

C4SI is Just Innovate's flagship program. 2015 saw the 2nd iteration of this two-month program which challenges participants to engage innovatively with social issues. We connect students and young professionals from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds and help them to come up with creative social solutions to real-world challenges provided by leading international affairs and development organizations. Run *by* students, *for* students, C4SI operationalizes the concept of experiential education – in short, we want students to learn by doing.

Workshop with the International Trade Center (ITC)

Just Innovate partnered with the newly launched Innovation Lab at the International Trade Centre (ITC) to bring together student innovators with the ITC's technical experts. Participants prototyped solutions to a real-life ITC challenge focused on expanding tourism in Liberia following the Ebola crisis. 15 students from the Graduate Institute and the University of Geneva collaborated with ITC staff to develop and propose solutions. The ITC followed up directly with the teams who presented the most promising ideas.



Graduate Institute (IHEID) Alumni Reunion

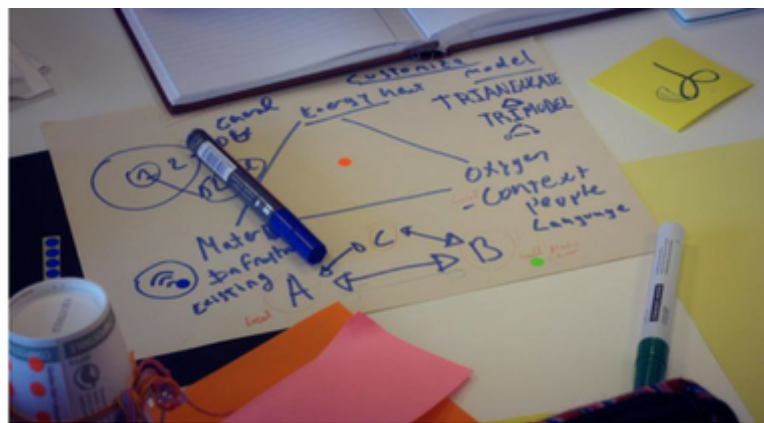
Just Innovate delivered a presentation to the IHEID alumni association and alumni attendees at the annual IHEID Alumni Reunion event. Our facilitators not only introduced the work of Just Innovate, but involved the audience in an interactive ideation intervention to provide insight into the methods of Just Innovate's programs. The presentation concluded with an outline of Just Innovate's vision to unleash the full potential of International Geneva through broad collaboration. The presentation helped Just Innovate strengthen and consolidate our ties with the Graduate Institute and its alumni network.

Problem-Solving Skills Workshop with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Just Innovate hosted a half-day problem-solving skills workshop in collaboration with Jacobo Quintanilla and Farha Bhojroo from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Participating students tackled the challenge of how the ICRC could rapidly deploy emergency hotlines after a disaster. The Just Innovate facilitators guided the students with exercises utilizing design thinking methodology. The ICRC staff members gave feedback on the newly developed ideas and confirmed that they would return to their work with new energy and fresh perspectives.

November Recruiting Event

Just Innovate hosted an evening event for incoming students at the Graduate Institute to introduce the organization and its activities. Two students were invited to share their personal stories of creating social change and leading an organization. Participants engaged in conversations about what might inspire them to get involved with Just Innovate. In pairs they developed an idea for a new social venture - no boundaries were set for the students' creativity. The event ended with a presentation of opportunities to get involved and invited students to continue their conversations over drinks and snacks.



Just Innovate Voices

Inspiring Moments

"Do it, just do it! Joining the C4SI program immensely enriched my university experience because you actually get to apply what you learn. I had the chance to work on a very interesting migration challenge with the best team I could imagine... Everyone was so motivated to contribute something valuable to the solution. Also, we collaborated with inspiring mentors and workshop leaders, who taught us how to manage challenges so that the needs of the users are optimally addressed. However, having an idea, and taking it to the next level collectively; this is definitely the most important takeaway from this exciting programme."

**Anna Walka, C4SI 2015 alumna,
Co-Founder of THRIVE Association**

"My favorite C4SI moment was at our kick-off event. After months of hard work, it was amazing to see all stakeholders finally come together. It was like completing a huge puzzle of participants, mentors and challenge setters, and until that moment I wasn't sure if all the pieces would fit."

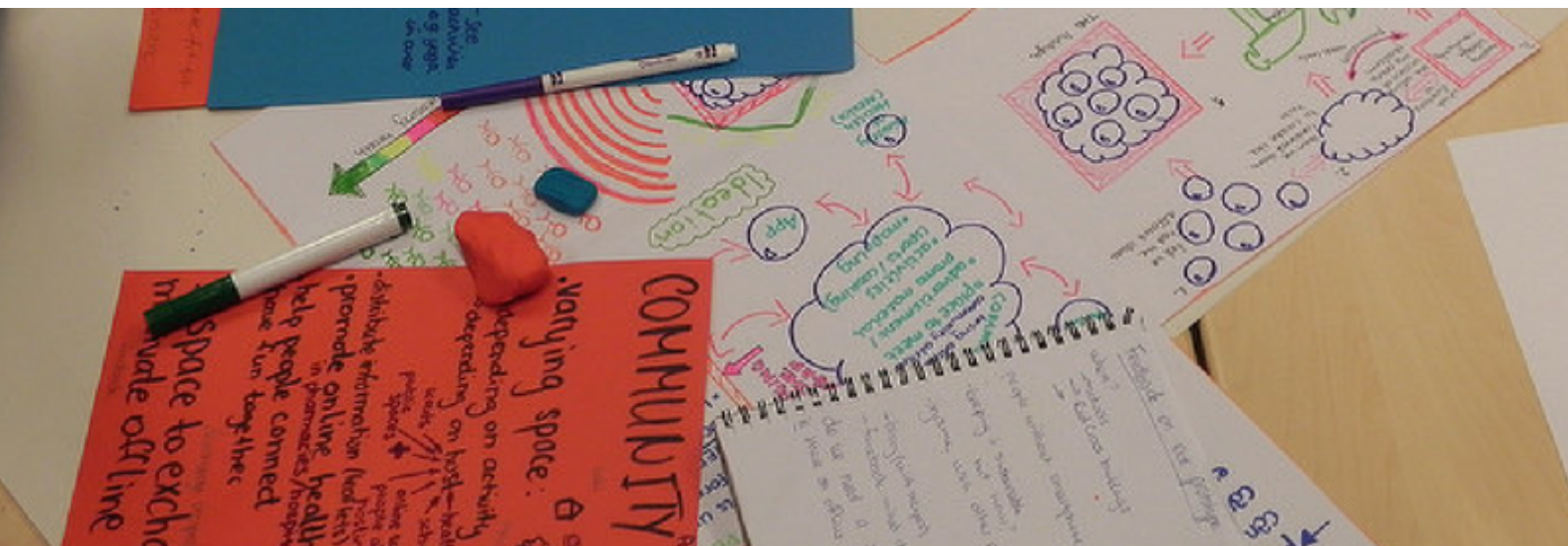
Nitzan Army, Co-Director C4SI 2015

"I loved that moment when Danaé [Member of the Board, Just Innovate] pretended to interrupt my talk at the Alumni reunion to insist that we should engage the audience in an exercise. She went on to tell them to get up, talk to their neighbor and develop an idea on how to improve the commuting experience. After the talk, many people walked up to us and congratulated us for adding more activity and surprise to this event."

Andrina Beuggert, Co-Founder and Board Member

"It's been inspiring watching Just Innovate grow as an organization over the course of the past year, developing structures to ensure its sustainability and continuing to build on the momentum of its previous programs. The energy and dedication of everyone involved has been fantastic and I look forward to seeing what the next year holds!"

Barrie Sander, Co-Founder and Board Member



Financial Information & Supporters

Our accountability to the public

Just Innovate would like to extend an enormous thank you to our supporters. Without their generous support, we would not be able to connect and inspire students in their innovation and collaboration.

The following organizations provided important financial support for Just Innovate's 2015 activities.



REPUBLIQUE
ET CANTON
DE GENEVE

POST TENEBRAS LUX



—
INSTITUT DE HAUTES
ÉTUDES INTERNATIONALES
ET DU DÉVELOPPEMENT
GRADUATE INSTITUTE
OF INTERNATIONAL AND
DEVELOPMENT STUDIES



With the mind and the heart

Conclusion

Just Innovate is only as strong, and as sustainable, as our people. From our members to our Board, and most importantly, the participants in our programs, 2015 witnessed incredible projects develop from incredible people. Students challenged themselves to flex their innovative capacities while building new skill sets and working directly with leading organizations throughout International Geneva. Challenge setters gathered new ideas and refreshed the innovation approaches of their respective organizations. And our Advisory Committee and Board of Directors continued to work towards our goals of connecting and inspiring students and young professionals to co-create innovative solutions to social problems while promoting a hands-on, interdisciplinary learning environment.

The energy, enthusiasm and dedication of the Just Innovate community will form the foundation for our sustainability in 2016 and beyond. As we reflect on our challenges and successes in the past year, we renew our belief in the power of communities to generate innovative solutions to global and local social challenges.

We hope you join us as our journey continues. Please visit our website at www.justinnovate.org for additional information and updates.



Just Innovate

c/o Michael Bimmler
Place Cornavin 16
CH-1201 Geneve

www.justinnovate.org

info@justinnovate.org
Twitter: @Just_Innovate

