



## LEADING ORGANIZATION FOR SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP ELECTS FIRST NORWEGIAN SCHOOLS INTO GLOBAL NETWORK

**Ashoka Scandinavia is proud to announce the selection of three Norwegian schools to be part of Ashoka's global network of innovative schools. *Nordahl Grieg Videregående Skole, Ung Invest Arbeidsinstituttet Buskerud* and *United World College Red Cross Nordic* have officially become Ashoka Changemaker Schools after a thorough evaluation.**

Each school's work with what Ashoka calls changemaker skills such as empathy, creativity, leadership and team work has been explored by Ashoka and the experts within our network throughout the selection process. The schools' different approaches towards incorporating problem-solving into education and strengthening students' ability to develop ideas have also been assessed.

“When we started our search for the first Changemaker Schools in Norway, we heard over and over again that it would be impossible to find innovative schools here – that they did not exist. We refused to believe that, and our rigorous selection process proved us right: *Nordahl Grieg Videregående Skole, United World College Red Cross Nordic* and *Ung Invest Arbeidsinstituttet Buskerud* are world class educational institutions. They are motivated to lead the way as we show Norway – and a global audience, how young people can and should be empowered to create a positive impact in the world, by practicing changemaking at school,” says Helga Øvsthus Tønder, Director of Ashoka in Norway.

For the selected Norwegian schools, becoming a part of the global network of Ashoka Changemaker Schools will mean that they are connected with each other and with Ashoka's community of social entrepreneurs and supporters from different sectors with the aim of reshaping the traditional education system. Building on Ashoka's extensive experience with social entrepreneurs and young people, the schools will get the chance to discuss and develop ideas and ultimately contribute to shifting society's view on education. Ashoka believes that in our rapidly changing modern world, children and young people need to be equipped with skills that enable them to reflect on these changes. They need to be able to identify the most pressing issues for our society and to act on them to make the world better.

### **About the Schools**



While all three schools actively put emphasis on empowering their students and staff members, in line with Ashoka's "Everyone a Changemaker" vision, their methods are very unique and differ from each other. Below are some examples on the schools' best-practices:

- **Nordahl Grieg Videregående Skole** holds an annual conference which focuses on technology, sustainability and human dignity. The conference encourages the students to imagine a better future and to create projects that they are passionate about, in collaboration with teachers, students from different academic tracks and external participants
- To practice empathy and strengthen students' self-knowledge, **Ung Invest Arbeidsinstituttet Buskerud**'s educational practices are based on positive psychology, where everyone is encouraged to work through their personal challenges in a welcoming environment. This influences students to approach themselves, as well as other individuals, with an empathetic perspective and ultimately shifts their prior judgements on psychological problems or diagnoses.
- **United World College Red Cross Nordic** has a strong focus on securing diversity among the student body. Students are being selected from various regional, cultural, social and economic backgrounds in order to create a multicultural environment at the school. As a result, the 200 students represent 95 nations. The school seeks to remove the cultural boundaries through training students in social justice and provides a space for them to celebrate their differences while being respectful to other cultures.

For more information, contact:

**Insert details to contact person. Email and telephone.**

Read more about Ashoka and the school network here:

<http://www.changemakerschools.org>

<https://www.ashoka.org>