

PAF

PRINCE
ALBERT
FUND

COHORT 2024-2026

**ONE YEAR
ONE CHALLENGE
ONE TALENT
ONE COUNTRY**

MANY LIVES CHANGED

**PRINCE ALBERT FUND
HOME TO HUNGRY MINDS SINCE 1984**

June 2026



Dear friends of the Prince Albert Fund,

This yearbook captures the journeys of twenty-nine laureates from our **2024–2026 cohort**, young Belgians who spent a year building, developing, and representing Belgian businesses across twelve countries. They arrived in a world that would not wait.

Despite shifting trade policies and economic uncertainty, fifteen candidates chose the United States. Others landed in India, Vietnam, Argentina, Kenya, Taiwan, Guatemala. Half of their host companies were participating in PAF for the very first time.

The sectors they worked in reflect where **Belgian business** is heading. Surgical AI in San Francisco. Autonomous rail technology in the American Midwest. Carbon markets in the Argentine pampas. Clean mobility in Nairobi. Offshore wind in Asia- Pacific. Across sectors and continents, these laureates became their company's eyes, ears, and hands in a new market.



Before departure, the PAFERs told us they wanted to master strategy, entrepreneurship, and sales. When asked after their return what skill they had actually developed most, the answer by far was **resilience**. A skill that almost no one had listed as a goal.

That gap between what you plan to learn and what life actually teaches you is not a design flaw in the PAF model. It is the model.

This cohort was no different: a sales team that collapsed overnight, a project cancelled before departure, tariff announcements that rewrote the economics of an entire market, a merger that shifted strategic direction mid-year. Others faced no market disruption but encountered something equally demanding: entirely new cultural codes and ways of thinking. Each time, the laureates found their footing building the kind of **leadership resilience that no classroom can teach**.

The data reflects what the stories already tell. **Nine out of ten** host companies would highly recommend PAF to other Belgian businesses, and **43% said their laureate exceeded expectations**. What companies consistently highlighted was the level of accountability: candidates who operated with initiative, navigated complexity independently, and left a tangible mark in just twelve months. Candidates rated the personal impact of their year at **4.8 out of 5**.

One number stands apart: **76% of this cohort are women**. Over forty years, PAF averaged roughly 40% female, this cohort tips that balance decisively forward.

With this cohort, our alumni community surpasses **600 members**. We are grateful to each of the twenty-nine laureates, their companies, their mentors, and their families.

Warm regards,

Emmanuel Caeymaex
Chairman, Prince Albert Fund



OUR STEERING COMMITTEE

The Steering Committee of the Prince Albert Fund is responsible for its strategic direction. We thank them for their inspiration and enduring support.

CHAIRMAN



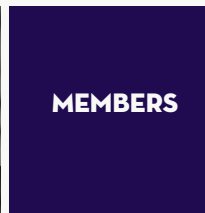
**Emmanuel
Caeymaex**

EVP, Patient Evidence,
UCB, Alumnus 1994



**Briec
Van Damme**

CEO, King Baudouin
Foundation



MEMBERS



**Kristel
Van den Bergh**

Managing Director,
Prince Albert Fund,
Alumna 2014



**Robosa
Gbinoba**

CHRO-Director Human
Resources,
World Food Program -
United Nations



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Executive Manager -
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International Affairs,
Federation of
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(FEB/VBO)



**Maarten
Libeer**

Expert EU Policy, VOKA



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Marketing,
Communications &
Admissions Director,
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President Global Auto-
Mobility Sector, DHL,
Alumnus 1988



**Katrien
Herdewyn**

Founder Elegnano,
Alumna 2018



**Paulina
Murrath**

Operations Strategy,
Nestlé, INSEAD x
Wharton MBA, Alumna
2020



**Yamina
Krossa**

Social Entrepreneur

COMPOSITION OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

OUR TEAM

The Prince Albert Fund team is responsible for the execution of the strategy and operations of the Fund.

OPERATIONAL TEAM



**Zyrine
LLanes**

Senior Project Manager

**Kristel
Van den Bergh**

Managing Director,
Prince Albert Fund,
Alumna 2014



**Nikita
Meer**

Strategic Project
Manager

OUR MISSION

ACCELERATING THE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT OF YOUNG BELGIAN TALENT THROUGH ENTREPRENEURIAL ASSIGNMENTS ABROAD.

At the Prince Albert Fund, we empower talented young professionals to unlock their potential as international leaders, while contributing to the global growth of Belgian business.

For more than four decades, we've offered top Belgian talent the opportunity to lead a 12-month strategic project for a Belgian organization outside Western Europe. These hands-on, high-impact experiences develop leadership skills, expand global perspectives, and strengthen entrepreneurial mindsets.

To date, over 606 alumni have launched successful careers in entrepreneurship, international strategy, and senior leadership roles. This is the Fund's enduring purpose: to cultivate changemakers who lead with purpose and create positive impact for society.

A PRINCELY TRIBUTE TO BELGIAN FOREIGN TRADE.

The Prince Albert Fund was created in 1984 by the Federation of Enterprises in Belgium (FEB) and the King Baudouin Foundation to mark the 50th birthday of His Royal Highness Prince Albert, later King Albert II.

It was born out of a shared vision from Belgian business leaders: to equip young professionals with the skills and experience to help grow Belgian business abroad. Since 2015, the Fund has operated under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Astrid.

OUR HISTORY

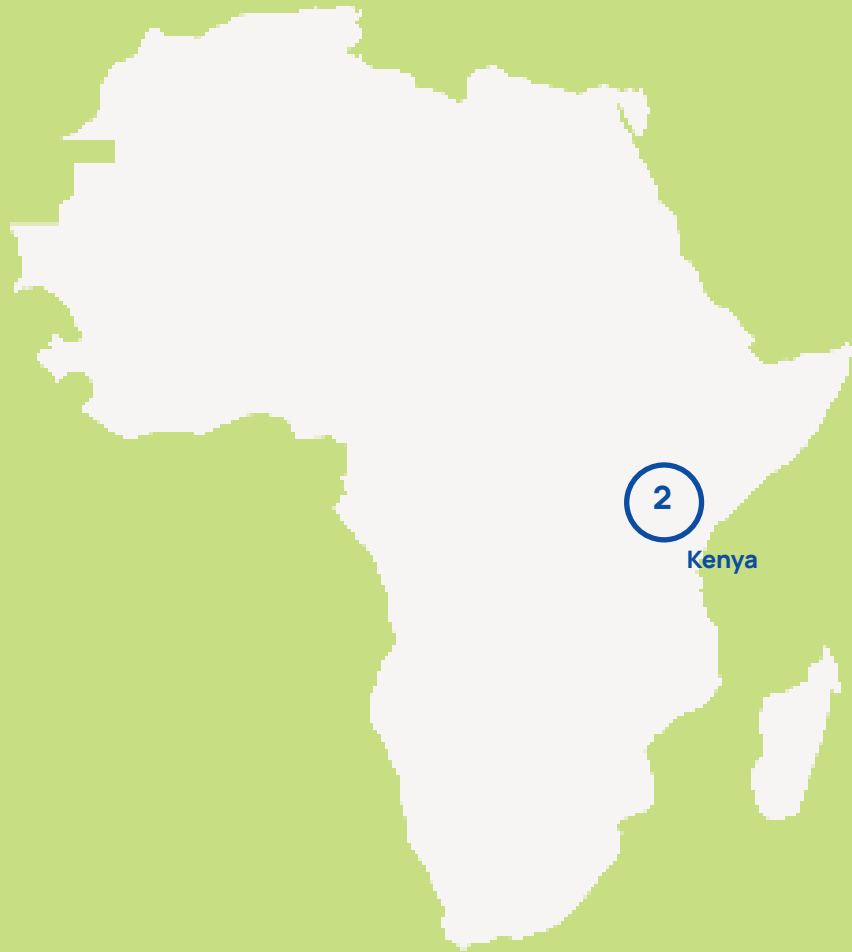
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AFRICA



Kenya

KENYA

Mylana Cohen
Laure Lammens

**“THE PAF SIGNIFICANTLY
INCREASED MY
WILLINGNESS TO TAKE
RISKS!”**

**MYLANA
COHEN**



**COHORT 2024-2026
PROJECT COUNTRY: KENYA**

ROLE

Mylna supported Jump Energy’s expansion in Kenya by combining grant management, business development, and operational coordination.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Mylna’s key objective was to strengthen ongoing projects, explore new customer segments, and build a foundation for future growth in a fast-evolving market. She managed several grant-funded projects, ensuring initiatives moved from concept to execution while remaining compliant with donor expectations.

She also contributed to business development by identifying and engaging new clients and partners. In parallel, she conducted market research on microfinance institutions (MFIs), helping assess their needs and evaluate the potential for a pilot project.

HOW SHE BENEFITED

Moving from a legal background into a business and operational role pushed Mylna far outside her comfort zone. Working independently in Kenya strengthened her resilience, adaptability, and willingness to take risks, particularly while navigating business development without an existing local network.

The experience also gave her the confidence to pursue a long-considered career shift beyond law. This also extended into her personal life, leading her to launch a small food business in Kenya and reinforcing her ability to build something from scratch in a completely new environment.

THE COMPANY - JUMP ENERGY

Jump Energy develops solutions for electric mobility in emerging markets, helping improve battery management and support more sustainable urban transport systems.

“The collaboration with Mylna was a great success. As a fast-growing company, we couldn’t have hoped for a better match.”



ROLE

Laure's role was to support Hydrobox's expansion in Kenya by developing a new pipeline of hydro and solar-hybrid energy projects.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Laure worked on the development of "Pipeline II", Hydrobox's new portfolio of mini-hydro and solar-hybrid sites across Kenya. Faced with funding delays and shifting priorities, she helped restructure the pipeline by consolidating hydrological, commercial, and field data into a stronger site-selection framework. To validate commercial viability, she led 10 field missions across 16 Kenyan counties, assessing industrial clients and energy needs. In parallel, she stepped in as lead for the Yetu for Schools Fund, supporting the solarisation of rural schools, and contributed to the development of a new operation and maintenance offering.

HOW SHE BENEFITED

Working in Nairobi was one of the most enriching experiences of Laure's life. It reshaped how she thinks, works, and relates to others, while helping her define the kind of life and career she wants to build.

The PAF year also opened new pathways. She built a strong network across Kenya and gained exposure to sectors such as conservation, agri-tech, and hospitality. This sparked a strong interest in public-private collaboration and ecosystem building, leading her to join a strategy consulting firm focused on agriculture in Kenya after completing her PAF year.

“WORKING IN NAIROBI WAS ONE OF THE MOST ENRICHING EXPERIENCES OF MY LIFE.”

THE COMPANY - HYDROBOX NV

Hydrobox NV develops hydro and solar-hybrid energy systems that provide affordable and sustainable power to underserved communities in Kenya and the DRC.

“Laure showed remarkable resilience and adaptability throughout the project. Despite shifting priorities and operational challenges, she continued to create value and help move the company forward as an emerging energy player in Africa.”

ASIA



HONG KONG & CHINA

Samuel Van Bael

INDIA

Naële Marti

TAIWAN

Shelly De Groote
Maarten Hawinkel

VIETNAM

Lisa Van himbeeck



**PAF TAUGHT ME
HOW TO NAVIGATE
UNCERTAINTY
WITH CREATIVE
CONFIDENCE.**

SHELLY DE GROOTE
COHORT 2024-2026
PROJECT COUNTRY: TAIWAN



ROLE

Shelly supported Decontex's expansion in the APAC region by exploring and developing partnership opportunities in six countries.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Shelly contributed to establishing Decontex's presence across several APAC markets, including Singapore, Taiwan, and South Korea. She conducted market research, identified business opportunities, and engaged with potential partners and customers, pursuing both new and existing leads. She also participated in public tenders and supported the negotiation of partnership agreements, while preparing for potential local expansion in the region. In parallel, she contributed to corporate-wide activities, including the development of a general communication policy within the group.

HOW SHE BENEFITED

This project confirmed that Shelly thrives in international and dynamic environments, while strengthening both her practical and interpersonal skills. By promoting safety solutions for firefighters and other professionals, she added a strong social impact to her work. The PAF network also played an important role, providing inspiration, insight, and practical advice on her assignment.

"Exchanging with other PAF candidates and alumni really helped me navigate my project with more confidence."

THE COMPANY - DECONTEX HOLDING

Decontex develops solutions to decontaminate protective equipment, helping firefighters and other professionals reduce exposure to hazardous substances and improve safety.

"Shelly played a key role in supporting our expansion in the Asia-Pacific region, contributing to new partnerships and signing an agreement with a Singaporean partner."

**“THE PAF
STRENGTHENED
MY PARTNERSHIP-
BUILDING SKILLS
AND COOPERATIVE
MINDSET.”**

**MAARTEN
HAWINKEL**



**COHORT 2024-2026
PROJECT COUNTRY: TAIWAN**

ROLE

Based in Taiwan, Maarten supported DEME's strategic expansion in APAC, with a focus on offshore wind opportunities in Korea and Australia.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The project initially focused on validating DEME Offshore's long-term APAC strategy for the offshore wind market, with a focus on Korea, the Philippines, Vietnam, and Australia. This included assessing market opportunities, identifying stakeholders, and supporting early-stage tender screenings and feasibility assessments. Following this analysis, Maarten focused primarily on Korea, where he developed relationships with clients, potential partners, and other stakeholders in the offshore wind sector.

HOW HE BENEFITED

The PAF experience gave Maarten valuable insight into the differences between a small trading company and a large international group, while confirming how much he values finance and international trade. Through this assignment, he also learned that in a sector with relatively few market participants, long-term success depends more on collaboration than purely competitive thinking. Adopting this cooperative mindset became one of the project's main takeaways. The experience also helped him to clarify his strength and professional ambitions. As he reflects:

“I feel I evolved into a more mature, patient, and confident version of myself.”

THE COMPANY - DEME OFFSHORE

DEME Offshore is the offshore wind specialist within the DEME Group and a pioneer in the construction of offshore wind farms worldwide.

“Maarten exceeded all objectives of his PAF project. He identified Korea as a key growth market for DEME and successfully engaged relevant stakeholders and strategic partners, making an important contribution to the company's future industrial activities in the region.”

COHORT 2024-2026
PROJECT COUNTRY: INDIA
NAËLE MARTI



ROLE

Naële supported Trevi Environmental Solutions' long-term business development and operations in India.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Through operational execution and strategic market intelligence, Naële strengthened the company's local presence, developed local partnerships and supported the establishment of subsidiaries, and identified commercial opportunities.

To do so, she handled multiple roles, including business development, supplier sourcing, prospecting, and HR-related tasks such as recruiting a local sales engineer. As the only Trevi representative based in India, Naële also acted as a key bridge between the Belgian HQ and Indian stakeholders.

HOW SHE BENEFITED

Coming from an NGO and the public sector, this was Naële's first experience in an industrial B2B environment alongside engineers. Supported by her company mentor, she quickly built technical knowledge and credibility despite not having a technical background.

The project also challenged her culturally. While her communication skills proved valuable, adapting to India's more indirect style required patience and sensitivity. Over time, she learned to navigate local practices, adapt her networking approach, and build trust with the local team. She adds: "Living in India changed the way I perceive comfort, stability and opportunity."

Naële's efforts paid off: she created tangible value for the teams while gaining confidence in operating at a senior management level.

"ANYTHING FEELS POSSIBLE AFTER MOVING TO INDIA ALONE AND BUILDING SOMETHING MEANINGFUL."

THE COMPANY - TREVI ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS

Trevi Environmental Solutions is a Belgian environmental engineering company active in air, water and renewable energy solutions.

"Naële's presence in India allowed Trevi to better understand both the importance of the Indian market and the necessity of having a local presence to effectively enter and develop it."

**“I TRULY CHERISH THE OPPORTUNITY
PAF GAVE ME TO LEARN HOW
BUSINESS GETS DONE IN ASIA.”**

**SAMUEL
VAN BAEEL**



COHORT 2024-2026

PROJECT COUNTRY: HONG KONG & CHINA

ROLE

Samuel had a dual role: turning around Deltalight's business in Hong Kong while assessing China's long-term strategic potential for the company.

RESPONSIBILITIES

In Hong Kong, he focused on reversing declining revenues by building distributor and customer networks, generating leads, onboarding new partners, conducting product workshops, and supporting direct sales efforts. Despite difficult market conditions, his work helped stabilize performance and improve forecasts.

For the Chinese market, Samuel evaluated whether it could become a profitable growth market. He developed a five-year strategy based on market analysis, competitive benchmarking, channel strategy, and in-market testing of key hypotheses. His work secured buy-in from top management for Deltalight's next chapter in China.

HOW HE BENEFITED

The PAF journey was transformative for Samuel. The experience ignited his entrepreneurial drive by teaching him how to navigate ambiguity, remain resilient, and continuously adapt strategy to realities on the ground.

The Asian markets also brought cultural challenges. Communicating effectively without a common language required simplified communication, strong relationship-building, and sensitivity to local business practices.

Overall, the experience clarified Samuel's career aspirations, particularly around operational ownership and entrepreneurship. As he puts it: "Going back to advising clients is not something I see myself doing anytime soon due to the lack of ownership."

THE COMPANY - DELTALIGHT

Deltalight is a Belgian company designing premium architectural lighting solutions for projects worldwide.

“Samuel's clear and actionable report provided valuable input for our strategic decision-making. His enthusiasm and drive also had a very positive impact on the team.”



ROLE

Based in Ho Chi Minh City, Lisa joined The Cocoa Project to improve restaurant operations, customer experience, and commercial performance.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Starting with customer journey mapping and operational analysis, Lisa's scope quickly expanded. She became the main point of contact between local operations and the Belgian culinary team, leading menu development, cost control, product sourcing, team training, and performance monitoring. She also developed 22 kitchen SOPs, helped structure restaurant operations, and coordinated the restaurant's grand opening.

HOW SHE BENEFITED

The Cocoa Project pushed Lisa to learn quickly. Working in a completely new cultural and professional environment taught her to stay solution-oriented under uncertainty, while gradually evolving from an operational role into a broader leadership position.

“One of the most important developments was my ability to influence people without direct authority,” Lisa reflects.

As the project progressed, she learned how to build trust across teams, adapt her communication style, and navigate complex situations with greater confidence. Following the project, Lisa extended her mission as Food & Beverage Director.

“PAF STRENGTHENED MY ENTREPRENEURIAL AMBITIONS IN THE FOOD AND BEVERAGE SECTOR.”

THE COMPANY - GRAND-PLACE HOLDING

The Cocoa Project is a chocolate and café concept based in Ho Chi Minh City and owned by Belgium's Grand-Place Holding. The company creates premium chocolate using locally sourced Vietnamese cocoa and promotes sustainable cocoa production across the supply chain.

“Lisa contributed in a way that we did not expect by establishing a perfect bridge between the F&B consultants in Belgium and the local team in Vietnam. She showed the proper level of resilience and managed to navigate a complex web of situations.”

NORTH AMERICA



CANADA

Féline De Pandelaere

UNITED STATES

Aurélie Coene
Julie Coorevits
Elise Desimpel
Lucie Gulcu
Anton Jongbloet
Sofie Lambert
Stéphanie Le Clercq
Valentin Lemaire
Vivian Rong
Max Rymen
Caydie Van Brabant
Tine van den Borne
Emmanuel Van Lembergen
Sarah Veeckman
Zeno Zobel

“I’VE GAINED THE CONFIDENCE TO TRY NEW THINGS AND CONTINUE MY TRANSITION INTO BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT.”

**AURÉLIE
COÉNE**



**COHORT 2024-2026
PROJECT COUNTRY: USA**

ROLE

Aurélie’s role was to spearhead Raw Stadia’s growth in the US, expanding the client base and setting up local operations.

RESPONSIBILITIES

As the first employee overseas, Aurélie wore many hats and worked towards a broad set of objectives. She conducted market research across the US and Canada, confirming a strong product-market fit. In parallel, she drove local sales by visiting potential clients across the country, opening doors for future contracts.

Through demos, events and field visits, she built relationships with potential clients and partners. She also structured sales processes by developing a pipeline, setting up CRM tools, and managing the customer journey. Finally, she acted as a key bridge between US accounts and the Belgian team.

HOW SHE BENEFITED

Aurélie had to manage a wide range of responsibilities independently, without having a physical team in the US. This pushed her to think and act proactively. She overcame multiple challenges, from building a network from scratch and stepping beyond her shyness to conduct cold outreach, to navigating a large market with a limited budget. The experience also led to strong personal growth. She overcame her fear of flying and became more confident stepping into new roles.

“Coming from an academic background, this hands-on PAF experience in the USA opened up new career opportunities and strengthened my ambition to pursue an international path.”

THE COMPANY - RAW STADIA

Raw Stadia is a sports technology company that helps professional clubs and leagues measure and analyse playing surface conditions through data-driven software and hardware solutions.

“Operating alone in a vast market, Aurélie proved both ownership and reliability, making decisions as if the company were her own.”



LIVING IN SAN FRANCISCO PUSHED ME TO THINK DIFFERENTLY ABOUT AI, TECHNOLOGY AND AMBITION.

JULIE COOREVITS
COHORT 2024-2026
PROJECT COUNTRY: USA



ROLE

At Barco US, Julie contributed to the development and market positioning of an AI-powered surgical display for the digital operating rooms of the future.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Julie focused on identifying and engaging AI startups and MedTech partners for Barco's new smart surgical display platform. She played a key role in onboarding the company's first third-party application partner, focused on AI-driven polyp detection, marking an important milestone for the platform. She also coordinated Barco's presence at major industry events such as NVIDIA GTC, managing partnerships, messaging, logistics, and lead follow-up across teams and time zones.

HOW SHE BENEFITED

Living and working in San Francisco immersed Julie in the fast-paced world of AI and tech innovation. Through hackathons, meetups, and industry events, she expanded her network and discovered new perspectives on technology and entrepreneurship.

"Being surrounded by people building the future pushed me to think bigger."

The experience also strengthened her independence and proactivity. Faced with the challenges of cross-time-zone collaboration, she introduced more structured ways of sharing information and improving alignment between teams in Belgium and the US.

THE COMPANY - BARCO

Barco Healthcare is a global leader in medical visualisation, offering high-precision display systems, surgical networking, and diagnostic software.

"The Prince Albert Fund year was a success for Barco. We greatly valued Julie's role in onboarding the company's first third-party AI application partner for the product, while her contribution was also felt more broadly across the organization."

COHORT 2024-2026

PROJECT COUNTRY: CANADA

FÉLINE DE PANDELAERE



ROLE

Féline's role was to support Lopos' strategic expansion into the North American market.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Working directly with the CEO in a two-person team, Féline helped build Lopos' North American presence from the ground up, based in Toronto. Her role combined business development, go-to-market strategy, client management, and the day-to-day operations of a newly established foreign entity.

On the commercial side, she focused on prospecting, outreach, direct account management, and representing Lopos at conferences and trade fairs across the US and Canada. This work contributed to building Lopos' first North American project pipeline and establishing initial commercial traction in the region.

HOW SHE BENEFITED

This experience gave Féline early exposure to responsibilities and strategic challenges typically associated with more senior business development and strategy roles. Working in a small, entrepreneurial structure strengthened her ownership, adaptability, and ability to operate in complex environments. More broadly, the project confirmed the direction she wants to pursue professionally. As she reflects:

"I feel most energized in environments where the challenges are systemic and the impact is meaningful, particularly in sectors such as energy or healthcare."

"PAF TAUGHT ME TO BUILD STRUCTURE MYSELF INSTEAD OF WAITING FOR SOMEONE ELSE TO PROVIDE IT."

THE COMPANY - LOPOS

Lopos is a Belgian tech scale-up developing AI-driven proximity warning systems for industrial environments. Its technology helps prevent incidents between forklifts, pedestrians, vehicles, and assets in warehouses, logistics hubs, and manufacturing facilities.

"Féline helped build a solid commercial foundation and played an active role in creating momentum for Lopos in the North American market."

“THE ENERGY AND PACE OF NEW YORK CITY REALLY PUSHED ME TO GO ALL-IN ON MY START-UP.”

**ELISE
DESIMPEL**



**COHORT 2024-2026
PROJECT COUNTRY: USA**

ROLE

Elise's role was to conduct market research for the US and introduce a new product, the Italian flatbread Schiacciata, into the US retail market.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The main objective of Elise's mission was to lay the groundwork for LLBG's entry with Schiacciata into the US retail market and develop a clear market entry strategy. This included product positioning, pricing, channel strategy, and building a long-term business case. In parallel, she supported the ongoing "Sweet-on-the-Go" initiatives through trade fairs, retailer pitches, and broader commercial and marketing activities. As the project evolved, her focus shifted towards operational readiness, including FDA approvals and evaluating new supply chain models.

HOW SHE BENEFITED

Experiencing the US retail market firsthand broadened Elise's perspective and strengthened her strategic thinking. By engaging directly with retailers, trade fairs, and consumer trends, she learned to navigate a market that was larger, faster moving, and more complex than Europe. Living and working in New York also had a strong personal impact. As she reflects:

“The mindset of thinking bigger and being surrounded by entrepreneurial people pushed me to go all-in on my own start-up after PAF.”

THE COMPANY - LA LORRAINE BAKERY GROUP

La Lorraine Bakery Group (LLBG) is a Belgian family-owned bakery company producing high-quality bakery products for consumers, retailers, and foodservice professionals in more than 35 countries.

“The company greatly appreciated Elise's professionalism, curiosity, and ability to quickly adapt to a dynamic environment.”



**THE PEOPLE I MET
IN NEW YORK WILL
SHAPE MY FUTURE
FOR YEARS TO COME.**

LUCIE GULCU
COHORT 2024-2026
PROJECT COUNTRY: USA



ROLE

Lucie was responsible for developing the luxury brand Grimaud in the US for Cartamundi, the global leader in play solutions.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Her objective was to introduce Grimaud into the US premium retail landscape, targeting concept stores, luxury department stores, hotels, and niche retailers aligned with the brand's identity. This required a holistic, entrepreneurial approach across business development, marketing, operations, and brand strategy. Her work contributed to securing 12 new US accounts, including Printemps New York and Bloomingdale's, with distribution across 30 stores nationwide.

HOW SHE BENEFITED

Professionally, the project gave Lucie direct experience in transforming a heritage brand into a modern luxury proposition and launching it in a new market. Operating in a competitive environment like New York strengthened her agility and confidence in managing international brand development projects.

On a personal level, moving alone to New York pushed her far outside her comfort zone and became one of the most meaningful aspects of the experience. The project also expanded her network across the luxury retail ecosystem. As she recalls:

"I met incredibly inspiring people, entrepreneurs, designers, artists, and colleagues, many of whom became close friends and part of my daily life."

THE COMPANY - CARTAMUNDI INC.

Cartamundi is the world's leading manufacturer and distributor of playing cards and board games. Founded in Belgium in 1765, the family-owned company owns renowned brands such as Bicycle®, Bee®, and Copag®.

"Lucie has been a tremendous asset to the company's development and to the growth of Grimaud. Her professionalism and strong determination to succeed truly made all the difference."



ROLE

Anton developed EMPWR Nutrition's growth strategy, initially focused on Latin America and later redirected toward the US retail market.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Anton initially conducted market research for the Latin American nutrition market, analysing key players, import requirements, and regional opportunities through both desk research and a field mission in Brazil. Based on this analysis, the project evolved towards the US private label retail market, where Anton supported the onboarding of EMPWR Nutrition's first major retail clients. He coordinated cross-functional teams, contributed to supply chain adaptation, and helped establish the company's first large-scale footprint in the US retail sector. His work contributed to launching a new retail sales channel and partnerships with major US retailers.

HOW HE BENEFITED

This year marked a period of profound professional maturation for Anton. Moving beyond market research, he gained hands-on experience in strategic decision-making, operational execution and stakeholder management while coordinating a 20-person cross-functional team. The experience also strengthened his strategic agility. As he reflects:

"The realisation that a technically sound plan must sometimes be abandoned in favour of operational reality was a significant lesson in 'the big picture'."

"THIS YEAR MARKED A PERIOD OF PROFOUND PROFESSIONAL MATURATION."

THE COMPANY - EMPWR NUTRITION

EMPWR Nutrition Group is a global manufacturer of nutritional and protein bars, focused on the healthy snacking market.

"Anton's strategic insight helped redirect the project towards the US retail market, where he managed the onboarding of EMPWR Nutrition's first major retail clients, including Kroger and Walmart. This required coordinating cross-functional teams and adapting the company's supply chain model."

“I LEARNED TO RELY LESS ON EXTERNAL VALIDATION AND MORE ON INTERNAL CONVICTION.”

**SOFIE
LAMBERT**



**COHORT 2024-2026
PROJECT COUNTRY: USA**

ROLE

Sofie led the US market expansion of KAAI, a Belgian luxury handbag brand founded in Antwerp.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Sofie led KAAI's US market development from New York, focusing on brand visibility, community engagement, and wholesale expansion. She organized marketing activations and strategic partnerships, including a trunk show with Goop and a collaboration with Dress for Success New York, both aligned with KAAI's positioning towards professional women.

In parallel, she mapped relevant retailers, initiated outreach to department stores and premium multi-brand boutiques, and developed relationships within the luxury retail ecosystem. Her work contributed to KAAI's future launch on the Nordstrom marketplace and helped establish a strong foundation for the brand's long-term growth in the US market.

HOW SHE BENEFITED

This project has been one of the most formative professional experiences of Sofie's career. Leading a market expansion independently required her to operate simultaneously as a strategist, business developer, marketer, and brand ambassador. The independence of the role strengthened her self-leadership. Living abroad also gave her space to reflect on what truly motivates her and the kind of life she wants to build. As Sofie reflects:

“I learned to rely less on external validation and more on internal conviction.”

THE COMPANY - KAAI

KAAI is a Belgian luxury handbag brand that designs functional yet elegant bags for professional women, combining timeless design with everyday practicality.

“Sofie performed extremely well throughout the project. Her high level of professionalism and autonomy contributed to KAAI's future launch on the Nordstrom marketplace. She showed us what Prince Albert Fund candidates are capable of.”



**THE PAF OFFERED
ME EXCEPTIONAL
INTERNATIONAL
EXPOSURE AND A
TRULY LIFE-CHANGING
OPPORTUNITY.**

STÉPHANIE LE CLERCQ

COHORT 2024-2026

PROJECT COUNTRY: USA



ROLE

Stéphanie's role was to support Bluecrux's expansion in the United States by developing and executing the go-to-market strategy.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Stéphanie worked at the intersection of strategy, communication, and business development. She helped adapt the company's European messaging into a more value-driven US commercial approach, while aligning marketing and commercial teams across regions. She developed commercial materials, supported lead generation and partnerships, and contributed to new marketing initiatives, including webinars, podcasts, and events. Her work contributed to a strong increase in Bluecrux's US sales pipeline and the achievement of the region's sales target.

HOW SHE BENEFITED

Thanks to the project, Stéphanie transitioned from strategic communications into international business development. Working in this new role strengthened her ability to navigate ambiguity, align teams across regions, and influence stakeholders without formal authority. Relocating to the United States also boosted her confidence to thrive in fast-paced international environments. As she reflects:

"This experience confirmed how energising it is to create value across cultures and markets."

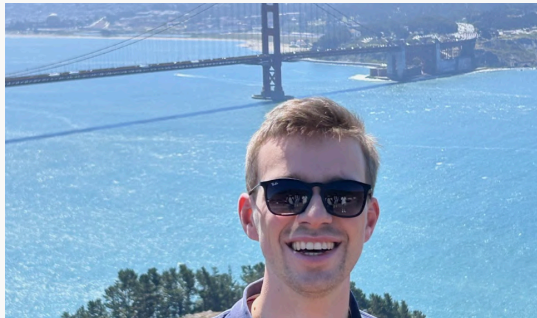
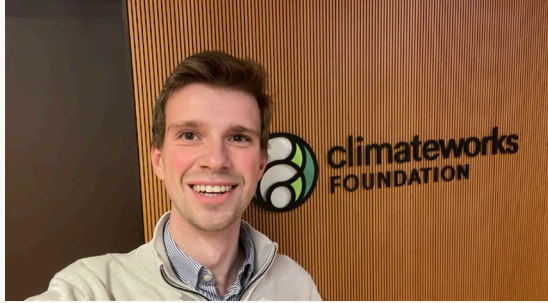
Following her PAF year, Stéphanie will continue at Bluecrux in a US-focused go-to-market role.

THE COMPANY - BLUECRUX

Bluecrux is an international value chain consulting and technology company that helps organisations transform supply chains into smarter, more integrated, and efficient operations.

"Stéphanie delivered a highly successful project, and we are excited that she will continue in her role at Bluecrux. Her drive, perspective, and execution power will be instrumental to our continued growth in the United States. The best is yet to come!"

COHORT 2024-2026
PROJECT COUNTRY: USA
VALENTIN LEMAIRE



ROLE

Valentin acted as lead business developer for CLIMACT, supporting the company's international expansion and developing its partnership with the ClimateWorks Foundation.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Valentin expanded CLIMACT's international network of partners and institutions. He spearheaded one of the company's largest projects of the year: a climate transparency platform supporting climate planning in Mexico.

In parallel, he advised the ClimateWorks Foundation on the role of artificial intelligence in climate action. He supported the implementation of AI tools to improve internal workflows and contributed to strategies exploring how emerging technologies can accelerate climate solutions while mitigating their impact on energy and water systems.

HOW HE BENEFITED

Based in San Francisco, at the heart of Silicon Valley, he worked at the intersection of sustainability and AI, combining a personal interest with his academic background. By stepping into a business development role for the first time, he developed a more commercial skillset and became a more "all-round intrapreneur." Working independently in a new culture also strengthened his resilience and appetite for risk. As he reflects:

"This experience made me grow professionally far more than I could have in a traditional career path."

**"PAF ALLOWED ME TO FULLY
IMMERSE MYSELF IN THE WORLD OF
SUSTAINABILITY."**

THE COMPANY - CLIMACT

CLIMACT is a Belgian sustainability consulting firm that helps organisations, cities, and public authorities accelerate the transition toward a zero-carbon and sustainable society.

"As CLIMACT's first US-based employee, Valentin delivered terrific work. Our objectives were ambitious, and he gave a strong first push to help achieve them. We look forward to continue working with him."

**“I BECAME MORE RESILIENT,
LEARNING TO PERFORM UNDER
UNCERTAINTY AND TIGHT
DEADLINES.”**

**VIVIAN
RONG**



**COHORT 2024-2026
PROJECT COUNTRY: USA**

ROLE

Vivian's mission was to strengthen investment relations between Wallonia and the Western United States in the life sciences sector.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Vivian had two main objectives for the Wallonia Export & Investment Agency (AWEX) in San Francisco. She supported the preparation and organization of the life sciences component of the Belgian Economic Mission (BEM) to California, led by Her Royal Highness Princess Astrid of Belgium. In parallel, she worked on attracting life sciences investments from the Western US to Wallonia by representing AWEX at key industry events.

HOW SHE BENEFITED

Through coordinating a high-stakes initiative with 500+ Belgian delegates, Vivian developed strong skills in event, risk, and stakeholder management. Although challenging at first, Vivian grew into a stronger leader by learning to delegate, prioritise, and give constructive feedback under pressure while supervising two interns.

Despite her non-scientific background, Vivian quickly built a solid understanding of a highly technical ecosystem, enabling her to engage confidently with stakeholders at specialized industry events. As she notes:

“Rapidly acquiring knowledge in the life sciences sector enhanced my analytical skills.”

Overall, Vivian believes these skills will be directly transferable to future roles in international cooperation and economic diplomacy.

THE COMPANY - AWEX

AWEX is the public organization promoting foreign trade and attracts investments to Wallonia, supporting exports and enhancing the region's appeal to investors.

“Vivian played a key role in the preparation, execution, and follow-up of the life sciences component of the Belgian Economic Mission to California in October 2025, one of the most complex and high-visibility initiatives led by our office.”

COHORT 2024-2026
PROJECT COUNTRY: USA
MAX RYMEN



ROLE

Max's assignment focused on building OTIV's presence in North America, a strategic growth market.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Max took on a holistic role across three main workstreams: business development, operations & legal setup, and contributions to OTIV's global activities. He drove commercial efforts in North America by engaging with key rail stakeholders, building a solid pipeline, securing pilot projects, and representing OTIV at major events.

In parallel, he supported the US setup by navigating legal and regulatory requirements, preparing the creation of a local entity. He also supported product management, pricing, and go-to-market initiatives.

HOW HE BENEFITED

Max moved from the structured world of consulting into the fast-paced reality of a start-up, where he quickly expanded his skillset in sales, product management, and decision-making with limited information.

The project required agility and frequent strategic pivots, including launching pilot showcases to overcome legal barriers and build relationships with regulators.

This entrepreneurial experience sparked his interest in the startup landscape and highlighted the importance of networks and mentorship – something he previously underestimated. He adds:

“As I start my entrepreneurial journey, I will actively lean on these relationships for advice, feedback, and support.”

“I LEARNED FIRST-HAND WHAT IT TAKES TO BRING INNOVATION TO MARKET.”

THE COMPANY - OTIV

OTIV is a Ghent-based start-up founded in 2020. Their mission is to increase the safety and efficiency of railway operations in complex environments by enabling rail vehicles to operate autonomously.

“Throughout the year, Max took full ownership of the project. He established a relevant industry network very quickly and built a solid US sales pipeline. Securing OTIV's first pilot with a Class I railroad was not a small feat.”



THE PROJECT CLARIFIED WHAT I NEED IN ORDER TO THRIVE.

CAYDIE VAN BRABANT
COHORT 2024-2026
PROJECT COUNTRY: USA



ROLE

Caydie's project focused on new market exploration and business development for Bingli in the United States.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Beyond pure market exploration, Caydie played a key role in helping Bingli make data-driven decisions on where and how to grow within the US healthcare market. She contributed to early go-to-market strategy and commercial prioritisation, while leading an in-depth product-market fit analysis to assess alignment between the product and market needs. This enabled her to identify key gaps and provide actionable insights to refine the company's positioning and growth approach.

HOW SHE BENEFITED

This experience proved highly formative for Caydie. Working in an evolving and fast-moving environment taught her how to operate in uncertainty, remain patient, and focus on what she could control. It also taught her to balance strategic thinking with execution, recognising that progress can still be achieved even as direction continues to take shape.

The different cultural and organisational environment also pushed Caydie to develop emotional intelligence, diplomacy, and the ability to influence without formal ownership. Above all, the project strengthened her growth mindset. She concludes:

"Growth does not always come from ideal circumstances. Sometimes, it comes from learning to navigate imperfect situations while staying true to oneself."

THE COMPANY - BINGLI NV

Bingli is a digital health company developing AI-driven pre-diagnostic tools to improve patient journeys and optimize medical consultations through structured data collection before appointments.

"Caydie contributed meaningfully to our company's objectives. She helped clarify our product-market fit and advanced our pipeline. She was curious, resourceful, and above all a tremendous team player."

“THE PAST YEAR WAS THE MOST INTENSE LEARNING EXPERIENCE OF MY CAREER.”

TINE VAN DEN BORNE



**COHORT 2024-2026
PROJECT COUNTRY: USA**

ROLE

Tine was responsible for accelerating Cyberwolf’s presence and growth in the US.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Tine’s role combined go-to-market strategy, sales, marketing, awareness creation, and customer experience. Working in a small team, she focused both on selling the product and building awareness in a market not yet fully familiar with Cyberwolf’s offering. She leveraged her marketing background to lead targeted initiatives, test outreach approaches, and focus on relationship-driven channels.

As direct sales proved complex in this market, she developed an indirect sales strategy by securing partnerships with leading US banks and wealth management firms, resulting in a solid pipeline for 2026. She also helped refine the onboarding process to ensure a premium client experience.

HOW SHE BENEFITED

Tine’s journey has been one of resilience. As she puts it, “building a startup in a new market means dealing with highs and lows in close succession.” She learned to reframe setbacks, stay consistent, and remain grounded under pressure, while gaining insight into her communication and adaptability.

She also combined her commercial and marketing skills to build strong networks within major American organisations and establish credibility in adjacent industries. On a personal level, she adds:

“Moving to Atlanta by myself reshaped me. It taught me to trust myself more and build a support system in a city where I initially knew no one.”

THE COMPANY - CYBERWOLF

Cyberwolf protects VIPs by securing their devices, accounts, and data 24/7. Founded in 2021 in Belgium, it expanded to the US in 2023 and continues to grow as a niche cybersecurity provider.

“Thanks to Tine’s work, we are now partners with three of the top 10 banks in the US. A great achievement that strengthened our brand recognition.”



MOVING TO A ONE-PERSON TEAM REQUIRED SELF-DISCIPLINE, OWNERSHIP, AND ADAPTABILITY.

EMMANUEL VAN LEMBERGEN

COHORT 2024-2026

PROJECT COUNTRY: USA



ROLE

For Project Hollywood, Emmanuel's assignment was to develop Spantech's presence in the US soundstage industry. His role gradually broadened into a wider commercial expansion mission as market conditions shifted.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Emmanuel's project unfolded in three phases. He began with business development in the soundstage sector, before shifting focus to aviation hangars after the soundstage market proved oversupplied. Faced with very long sales cycles in the aviation market, Emmanuel proposed five new strategic directions to management. The approved path, focusing on Spantech's modular Viewbox product line, led to closing two major orders and building a local US supply chain to navigate steel and aluminium import tariffs.

HOW HE BENEFITED

Operating as a one-person team across the US without a fixed base, Emmanuel's year was defined as much by adaptability as by results.

"Learning not to take each disappointment personally, but to quickly reframe challenges and redirect energy into the next opportunity, was essential to navigating uncertainty."

It was also his first real exposure to sales: from cold outreach and relationship-building to managing rejection and understanding the cultural nuances of doing business in the US.

THE COMPANY - SPANTECH INTERNATIONAL SA

Spantech International is a modular construction company headquartered in Nivelles, Belgium, specializing in large-scale aluminium and steel structures across several end markets, including aviation hangars, soundstages for film and TV production, sports gymnasiums, and live entertainment venues.

"Emmanuel has shown great resilience, professionalism and business insight during his mission in the US."



ROLE

Sarah joined Lotus Bakeries US as Business Developer, with the mission of defining how Lotus Natural Foods could successfully enter the US bars category.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Sarah led the full strategic process from market research to launch planning. She conducted a deep dive into the competitive landscape, led consumer testing to validate a brand proposition, and built a go-to-market strategy covering product range, pricing, distribution and marketing. Working across US and global teams, she translated data-driven insights into recommendations for senior decision-makers.

HOW SHE BENEFITED

The project sharpened Sarah's entrepreneurial mindset. Operating far from headquarters and key decision-makers, she learned to anticipate stakeholder expectations, structure recommendations with clarity, and drive a project forward with limited direct authority.

"Navigating this complexity required me to challenge assumptions, explore new angles, and balance new ideas with data analysis to identify a viable opportunity."

Her resilience was equally tested: shortly before the project began, the geography and scope changed entirely, but she embraced the new direction with confidence. Following her PAF year, Sarah stepped into the role of Global Brand Manager Portfolio and Innovation for Biscoff.

"THE AUTONOMY PUSHED ME TO THINK LIKE AN ENTREPRENEUR."

THE COMPANY - LOTUS BAKERIES

Founded in Belgium in 1932, Lotus Bakeries is a global food company known for brands such as Biscoff, BEAR®, Nakt® and Trek®, with a growing focus on healthier snacking.

"Sarah is ambitious, intrinsically curious, and eager to make an impact. Her work laid the foundation for the commercial strategy and marketing launch plan."

**“THIS YEAR SHOWED ME WHAT
KIND OF WORK ENERGISES ME: REAL
OWNERSHIP AND TANGIBLE STAKES.”**

**ZENO
ZOBEL**



**COHORT 2024-2026
PROJECT COUNTRY: USA**

ROLE

Zeno joined Dewulf Group as Project Lead North American Expansion, tasked with building a local presence for the company in the US agricultural machinery market.

RESPONSIBILITIES

His first phase focused on building a business plan, incorporating the US subsidiary, securing the right legal and accounting partners, and becoming the daily bridge between North American customers and dealers and the factories in Belgium and the Netherlands. Six months in, his scope expanded: Zeno took on full sales leadership for North America, owning the dealer network, revenue forecast, trade show strategy, and a team of three sales representatives across the US and Canada.

HOW HE BENEFITED

Coming from an engineering background in a large corporate, sales was entirely new territory for Zeno. He built that skillset from scratch and eventually led a team of people with deep market knowledge and long-standing customer relationships. He says:

“I was new to the industry, to the country, and new to this level of responsibility. I couldn’t rely on experience or authority to establish myself. I had to earn it gradually, through consistency and follow-through, by being someone the team could rely on.”

Following his PAF year, Zeno continues as General Manager of Dewulf North America Inc.

THE COMPANY - DEWULF GROUP

Dewulf is a global manufacturer of agricultural machinery for cultivating potatoes and root crops, with production sites in Belgium, the Netherlands, and Romania.

“Zeno brought fresh momentum to the North American activities, while at the same time contributing to the development of the local team spirit and identity of the North American subsidiary.”

SOUTH AMERICA



ARGENTINA

Justine Verzini

BRAZIL

Anna Van Eupen

CHILE

Astrid Lebrun

GUATEMALA

Laura Fattouch

**“PAF BECAME A TRUE CAREER
SPRINGBOARD TOWARDS ROLES IN
START-UPS AND SCALE-UPS.”**

**LAURA
FATTOUCH**



**COHORT 2024-2026
PROJECT COUNTRY: GUATEMALA**

ROLE

Laura's role was to design and implement a business development strategy for FairFruit in the US market.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Although FairFruit already had a few US clients, it lacked a structured market approach. Laura's role was to build market intelligence, redefine the company's positioning, and develop a go-to-market strategy for the US market. She analysed market dynamics, mapped competitors, and researched retailers across the US East Coast, resulting in a targeted distributor strategy aligned with FairFruit's positioning.

In parallel, she redesigned the marketing funnel, developed sales acquisition tools, optimised logistics flows between Guatemala and the US, and coordinated two new vegetable launches for the American market.

HOW SHE BENEFITED

This project became one of the most formative experiences of Laura's career. She built market intelligence from scratch and quickly adopted new tools and strategic frameworks along the way. Previously working as a marketing consultant, Laura expanded her scope into business strategy, operations, and market expansion. Laura concludes:

“It has been a true career springboard, positioning me for more strategic roles in start-ups, or who knows, maybe even my own company one day.”

THE COMPANY - FAIRFRUIT (DURABILIS)

FairFruit is a B2B fresh produce company specializing in high-quality vegetables, with market leadership in peas and beans across the EU. The company focuses on making regenerative and fair agriculture accessible and affordable, working with production sites across Latin America and Africa.

“Laura's analytical approach and ability to turn complex information into actionable insights were of great value. Her project will have a lasting impact on FairFruit's US growth strategy.”



**THE PRINCE ALBERT
FUND OPENED DOORS
I WOULDN'T HAVE
ACCESSED OTHERWISE.**

ASTRID LEBRUN
COHORT 2024-2026
PROJECT COUNTRY: CHILE



ROLE

Astrid's role was to drive product innovation and brand development for Puratos Chile's plant-based and chocolate portfolios.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Astrid initially led a strategic project for Puratos Chile's plant-based portfolio. She managed a major product relaunch involving new packaging and local production changes, while maintaining stable sales performance. She also supported the start of export production to markets such as Peru, Colombia, and Ecuador, and coordinated the inauguration of the new production plant.

In the second half of the year, she became Chocolate Product Manager for a portfolio of more than 60 products. In this role, she led the brand refresh of Belcolade, improved the communication strategy for Cacao-Trace, and supported the modernisation of the Carat brand through innovation and packaging redesign.

HOW SHE BENEFITED

The steep learning curve of this project allowed Astrid to discover a deep affinity for product and innovation management, where she could combine creativity with business acumen. Working across cultures also challenged her to rethink her leadership style and balance strategic drive with empathy, trust-building, and cultural sensitivity. More broadly, the experience strengthened her confidence in pursuing long-term ambitions within the food industry. As she reflects:

"This experience gave me the confidence to one day launch my own healthy food venture."

THE COMPANY - PURATOS CHILE

Puratos is an international food ingredients company providing innovative products and services for the bakery, patisserie, and chocolate sectors in more than 100 countries worldwide.

"Astrid successfully managed multiple strategic initiatives in parallel while maintaining a high level of creativity and execution. That was truly impressive."



ROLE

Anna joined Puratos Brazil as a Digital Strategist, focused on improving customer experience and strengthening the company's digital ecosystem.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Anna combined strategic planning with hands-on execution across Puratos Brazil's digital ecosystem. She helped improve the rollout and adoption of digital tools such as MyPuratos and Pitcher, aimed at strengthening customer experience and supporting closer alignment between sales and marketing teams. Through training sessions, customer visits, and communication campaigns, she helped drive digital adoption both internally and among clients. Following organisational changes, Anna progressively evolved into a more independent role, taking broader ownership of the company's digital strategy in Brazil.

HOW SHE BENEFITED

Working in a Portuguese-speaking environment pushed Anna far outside her comfort zone. Over time, she progressed from basic understanding to confidently leading meetings and training sessions in a new language. Brazilian work culture also taught her to communicate more openly, embrace flexibility, and place greater value on human connection in professional environments. As she reflects:

“Brazil taught me to go with the flow a little more.”

Meeting entrepreneurial PAF alumni in São Paulo also gave her fresh perspectives on career paths and opened new professional opportunities.

“BRAZIL TAUGHT ME TO GO WITH THE FLOW A LITTLE MORE.”

THE COMPANY - PURATOS BRAZIL

Puratos is an international group offering products and expertise to the bakery, patisserie, and chocolate sectors, with operations in more than 100 countries.

“This was undeniably a difficult project, yet Anna reached the core of her objectives through her maturity, positivity and impressive adaptability.”

“THIS EXPERIENCE INTRODUCED ME TO A SECTOR THAT TRULY ALIGNS WITH MY VALUES.”

**JUSTINE
VERZINI**



**COHORT 2024-2026
PROJECT COUNTRY: ARGENTINA**

ROLE

As the first member of Soil Capital's new internationalization department, Justine's mission was to introduce and integrate the company's carbon program into the Latin American market, with a specific focus on Argentina.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Justine spent the first months acquiring expertise in regenerative agriculture and carbon markets tailored to the Argentinian context, a highly regulated and localized market. In the second phase, she focused on business development, proposal drafting, and the design of Soil Capital's first regenerative project in Argentina, launched at the end of 2025. Throughout the year, she also acted as a bridge between the European and LATAM teams.

HOW SHE BENEFITED

Operating with a high degree of autonomy in a startup environment, Justine learned to navigate uncertainty without letting it become a source of frustration. She strengthened her business development and project management skills, while building the resilience that comes from developing a project from scratch in a market where the company was still unknown.

“I am leaving this experience with more than just professional skills. I have gained the confidence that comes from navigating outside of my comfort zone and the emotional intelligence required to bridge cultural gaps.”

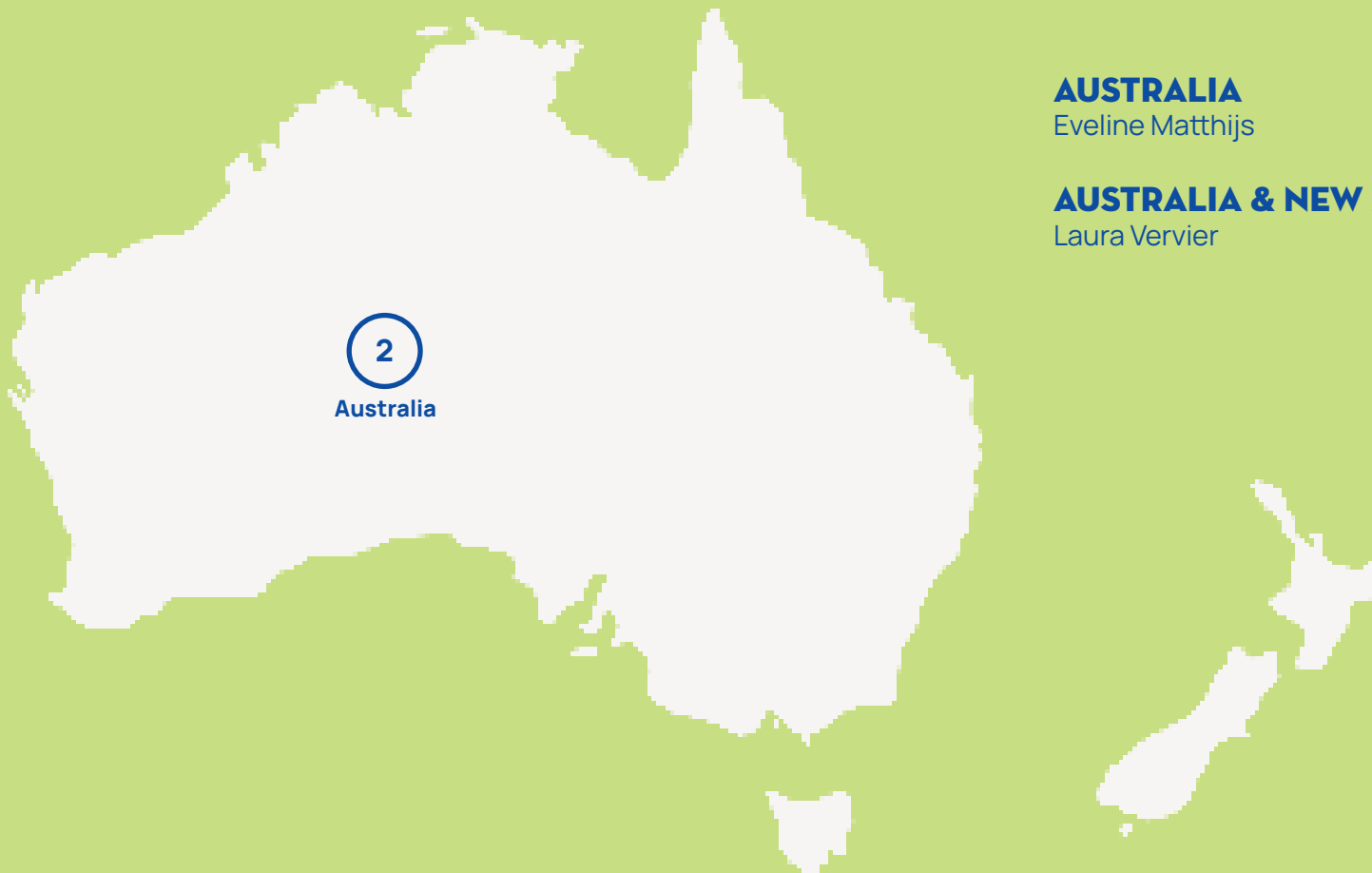
Following her PAF year, Justine extended her mission to oversee the next phase of Soil Capital's expansion in Latin America.

THE COMPANY - SOIL CAPITAL

Soil Capital is a Belgian B-Corp company connecting farmers and agribusinesses to build regenerative and resilient supply chains through carbon farming programmes.

“Starting from scratch, Justine successfully moved the needle from market research to business development and played an instrumental role in the conversion of our first real project on the continent.”

OCEANIA



AUSTRALIA

Eveline Matthijs

AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

Laura Vervier



I GREW FROM IMPOSTER SYNDROME TO CONFIDENCE IN MY SKILLS AND MY ROLE IN THE COMPANY.

EVELINE MATTHIJS
COHORT 2024-2026
PROJECT COUNTRY: AUSTRALIA



ROLE

Based in Melbourne, Eveline supported the development of Joe White Maltings' craft business in the APAC region.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Her project focused on three pillars: identifying growth opportunities, improving processes at the Ballarat plant, and leading the company's rebranding. Each pillar required a different approach and skillset. She developed a priority market matrix based on market research, distributor feedback, and country visits. She also coordinated cross-functional discussions to improve alignment and simplify processes within a complex, multi-stakeholder plant. In parallel, Eveline contributed to the rebranding and launch of the premium "Signature Range", including positioning, messaging, and go-to-market activities.

HOW SHE BENEFITED

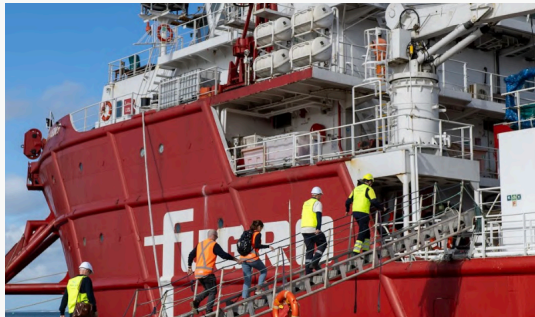
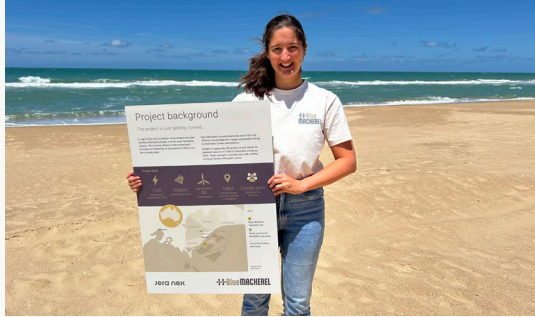
Managing a multi-pillar project strengthened Eveline's communication and project management skills. She also learned to adapt her direct European communication style to a more nuanced Australian approach. Over time, she overcame self-doubt and grew more confident in her abilities, role, and place within the company. Supportive colleagues reinforced the importance of building a strong network when tackling complex challenges. On a personal level, Australia's culture reshaped Eveline's perspective on work-life balance. She concludes:

"I learned not to underestimate my own abilities, to trust the process, and to have confidence in the support system around me."

THE COMPANY - BOORTMALT

Boortmalt is a global malting company with a 3 million tonnes production capacity. The group is present on 5 continents with 27 malting plants.

"Eveline delivered significant and tangible added value across all three core project areas. She strengthened our value proposition and supported our growth in an increasingly competitive market."



ROLE

As Business Development Officer for Parkwind, Laura supported offshore wind projects in Australia and New Zealand.

RESPONSIBILITIES

In Australia, she worked on the Blue Mackerel project, a proposed 1 GW offshore wind farm off the coast of Victoria, with the potential to become Australia's first offshore wind farm. She attended government meetings, coordinated project deliverables, and represented Parkwind in industry forums. In New Zealand, where the regulatory framework was still taking shape, she took on a more strategic role: managing public affairs, leading lobbying efforts, engaging with Māori communities, and contributing to the review of draft offshore renewables legislation.

HOW SHE BENEFITED

The project was Laura's first in-house experience after several years in private legal practice, and it opened an unexpected door. She discovered a genuine interest in public affairs and found real purpose in contributing to legislation that could shape New Zealand's energy future. She also learned to translate complex regulatory issues for engineers and project teams, bridging cultural expectations between Belgian headquarters and local teams.

"I learned to be patient, to navigate internal politics, and to anticipate when to push and when to hold back. These are aspects of business I had only observed from the outside and now I understand them from within."

"THE PAF IS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO PRACTICE PATIENCE, FLEXIBILITY, AND CULTURAL AWARENESS IN REAL LIFE".

THE COMPANY - PARKWIND

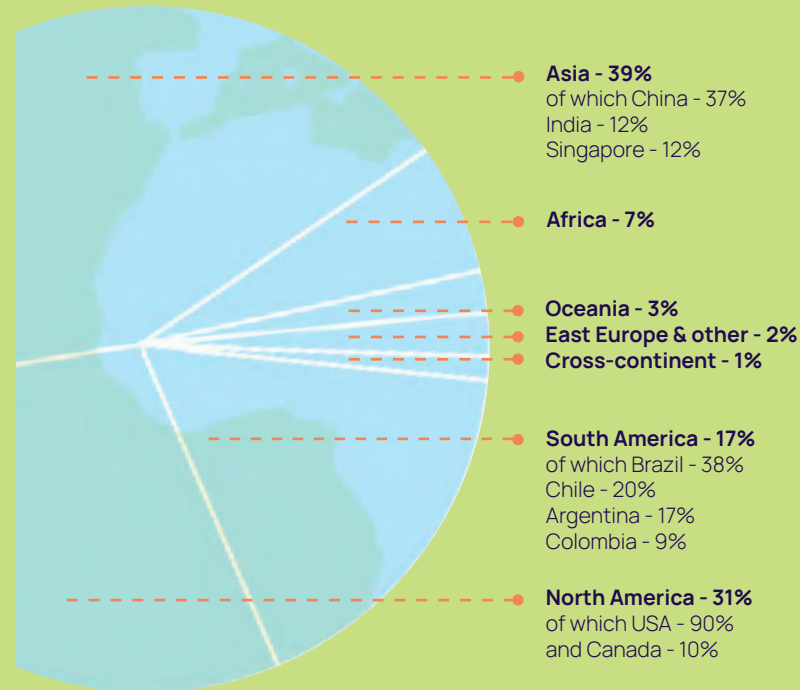
Parkwind, headquartered in Leuven, is a Belgian offshore wind developer with more than 1 GW operational and over 4.5 GW under development across Europe and the Asia-Pacific region.

"Her strong sense of commitment, reliability and maturity make her stand out. She has consistently communicated in an honest, open and thoughtful way, ensuring her insights are not only clear but resonate with others."

KEY FIGURES: 1984 - 2026

606 alumni around the globe
40% women, 60% men

PROJECT DESTINATIONS



**A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR
CANDIDATES AND COMPANIES ALIKE**

FOR CANDIDATES

READY TO LAUNCH YOUR INTERNATIONAL CAREER?

If you're interested in expanding your horizons and taking on a new challenge, the Prince Albert Fund could be the perfect opportunity for you. This unique leadership program allows you to manage a year-long strategic project outside of Western-Europe, for a Belgian company of your choosing. You will receive support from an Alumni mentor and your cohort of peers throughout the year. After graduation, you will gain lifelong access to a select alumni community of leaders and entrepreneurs. Year after year the fund has proven to be a lifechanging experience which significantly accelerates the professional career of its participants. Apply and it might have the same impact for you!

HOW IT WORKS

Applications open each November and close mid-January. Top candidates are invited to a final jury round in March.

You don't need a project when you apply: our first focus is you. If selected, you'll receive leadership training and individual coaching before designing your mission. You can pick from a list of company opportunities or propose your own project and destination.

The Fund provides a **tax-free grant of €27,500**, while the company covers housing, travel, and work-related expenses. If your project succeeds, you'll become a Prince Albert Fund Laureate - a distinction recognized across Belgian business circles.

WHO CAN APPLY?

The ideal candidate:

- Are Belgian nationals or have resided in Belgium for at least 5 years
- Hold a master's degree
- Are under 30 years old and have a minimum of 2 years' work experience
- Are fluent in English
- Have a strong interest in business and management
- Show maturity, motivation, and an entrepreneurial mindset
- Demonstrate resilience, drive, and a desire to learn and lead
- Aim to make a positive contribution to society

INTERESTED?

Visit www.princealbertfund.be

Or join our annual info session in November to see if you're ready to take off.

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WE ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO OUR CORPORATE DONORS, ALUMNI AND PARTNERS WHOSE SUPPORT MAKES THESE OPPORTUNITIES POSSIBLE.



FOR COMPANIES

LOOKING FOR HIGH-POTENTIAL TALENT TO DRIVE YOUR INTERNATIONAL GROWTH?

The Prince Albert Fund offers Belgian companies access to top-tier young professionals who are eager to take on meaningful challenges abroad. Whether you're expanding into new regions or deepening your presence in existing markets, PAF can connect you with the right talent, at low risk and high return.

We're always looking for ambitious international business projects to match with our grantees, especially during the highlight periods in **March** and **September**, when our candidates choose their assignments.

HOW IT WORKS

The Prince Albert Fund carefully selects the best candidates each year. Once selected, they will be able to choose a company, project and destination. As high potentials, they are not junior trainees: they should be given decision-making power and autonomy to encourage initiative and allow them to acquire relevant international experience.

The project must offer a clear business challenge, and the company appoints a local mentor to guide the candidate throughout the assignment.

The Fund provides a €27,500 grant to the candidate. The company covers housing, flights and other mission-related expenses.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Eligible Companies:

- Are Belgian or create added value for the Belgian economy (employment is key)
- Have international expansion outside the EU as a strategic priority
- Can offer a challenging, well-defined international project
- Are committed to coaching and supporting the candidate during the assignment
- Are prepared to secure work permits and insurance as needed

INTERESTED?

Find out more on www.princealbertfund.be



For fifty years, the King Baudouin Foundation has pursued one mission: working together for a better society.

The Prince Albert Fund is one of the most powerful expressions of that ambition, offering exceptional young talent a pivotal chance abroad to grow as leaders and drive real impact through their projects.

The stories in this yearbook are proof that trust was well placed. To the Class of 2024–2026: you are now part of a community of over 600 leaders who carry that experience forward. Use it well.

Briec Van Damme
CEO, King Baudouin Foundation

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Dear PAF alumni and friends,
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