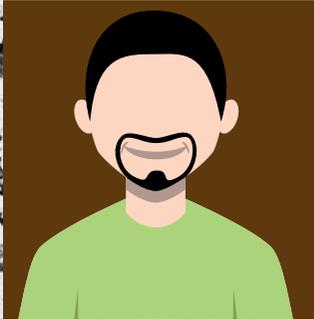




Interreg  EUROPEAN UNION
 North-West Europe
IMAGINE
 European Regional Development Fund



imagine
PORTRAIT
BOOK
Testimonies of young trainees



imagine PORTRAIT BOOK

Testimonies of young trainees

Editorial

ABOUT THE IMAGINE PROJECT...

IMAGINE is a social innovation project co-funded by the INTERREG North West Europe programme from 2019 to 2023. It includes a production team of ten partners in five countries: Belgium, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the UK.

IMAGINE aims to combat unemployment among young people aged 18-34 with low skills, no job, no education, no training - NEETs: Not in Education, Employment or Training - by offering them sustainable employment opportunities in the horticultural sector.

A PORTRAIT BOOK?

During its four years of development, the IMAGINE project has enabled many young people to discover the world of agriculture in its many forms, but also and above all has enabled them to find a rhythm of life, desire and new ambitions.

For some, this experience has been a real reconciliation with the world of education, training and work; for others, it has really allowed them to find a vocation and inner peace by getting involved with natural spaces and being in close contact with the land.

Some even mention the therapeutic virtues that they feel through the support and benevolence they were able to find alongside the professionals with whom they shared their daily lives, but also

their closeness to nature, the meaning brought by market gardening, the discoveries associated with it, as well as the special care taken to ensure the quality of a healthy and balanced diet.

Therefore, through this "Portrait Book", you can view a whole range of testimonies which reveal the richness and diversity of the experiences of young Europeans who are part of the IMAGINE project.

Some young people told us about their journey, the difficulties they encountered, the solutions they found, and what they learned from it; others, in a more reserved manner, in only a few words on some occasions, freely expressed their feelings about the IMAGINE experience they have had.

This book of portraits and testimonies is intended to encourage younger generations while at the same time sowing the seeds of ambition among decision-makers to create new initiatives or new projects in the field of social innovation within organisations in Europe and internationally.

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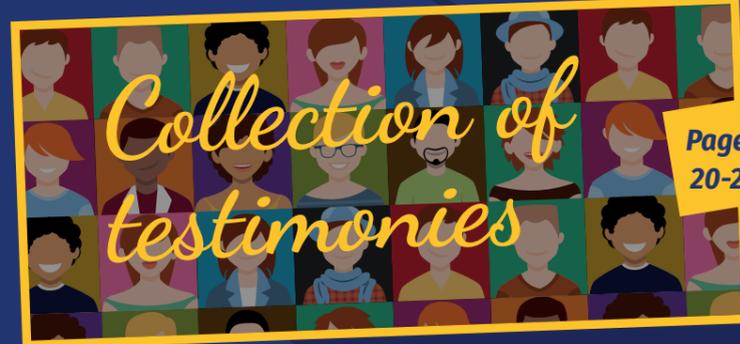
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Soizic

“ Since I was very young, from the age of about 14-15, I wanted to be an ethologist, to study animal behaviour. It's complicated. I repeated CM2 (Year 6 in England and Wales), première (Year 12) and terminale (Year 13). But I still got my baccalaureate, a science baccalaureate, without honours, when I retook it... but I got my baccalaureate! In 2016.

my journey

When I was in première (Year 12), a guidance counsellor advised me to go into agriculture. It didn't appeal to me. Working in the fields, raising livestock, cattle... it didn't appeal to me!

I went to university anyway. I completed one semester. The rest of the time I worked in a hotel in Normandy. Finally, I passed my other semester and was admitted to the second year. But in the second year, I found it hard to keep up. I had good marks in ecology, but not in the subjects I didn't like, it wasn't working... I had already been struggling with traditional schooling for a long time. **Was it time to reconsider? I was stumbling around!**

In any case, it was clearly through my civic service, through the **IMAGINE** project, that I was able to chart a new course. I was accepted into a BTS (vocational training certificate) in Nature Management and Protection, in the Jura region, on a sandwich course. I'm doing my work placement with the City of Paris, in the Bois de Vincennes, in the Green Spaces Department. **I am very happy to have had this apprenticeship. I am in the field I'm learning on the job. It's really all about practice! I like doing activities. I run activities in the floral park with schoolchildren. That's what I really like doing.**

“ I had heard of the Action & Transition association. I was being told about civic service. A project to integrate young people without training or employment into urban agriculture. I was interested in that, especially the nature aspect.”

my training

The real link with urban agriculture was the launch of **IMAGINE** in November 2019 at the Mayor of Paris' 15th arrondissement. During my year of civic service, I did some fieldwork. It allowed me to question myself again, to find out if I really wanted to go in this direction. In my current training, at my CFA (apprenticeship centre), there are market gardeners. Perhaps I would like to explore it further. I'm not sure. I don't know if it's a passion, or if I just want to learn to work in my own garden one day...

my project

Maybe today I can say it, it's clearer! I'm a keen hiker and **I think I would like to be a mountain guide!** It combines hiking, nature protection, awareness raising, working in the open air... It also means I can assert my sensitivities and my values more. I practice mindfulness, meditation, I work on self-assertion. In Paris, people are anonymous. At school in the Jura, I have to confront different mentalities, I am in a class where there are hunters and I am the Parisian environmentalist, so I want to assert myself!

▶ SEE SOIZIC'S VIDEO INTERVIEW
<https://video.imagine-future.eu/soizic>





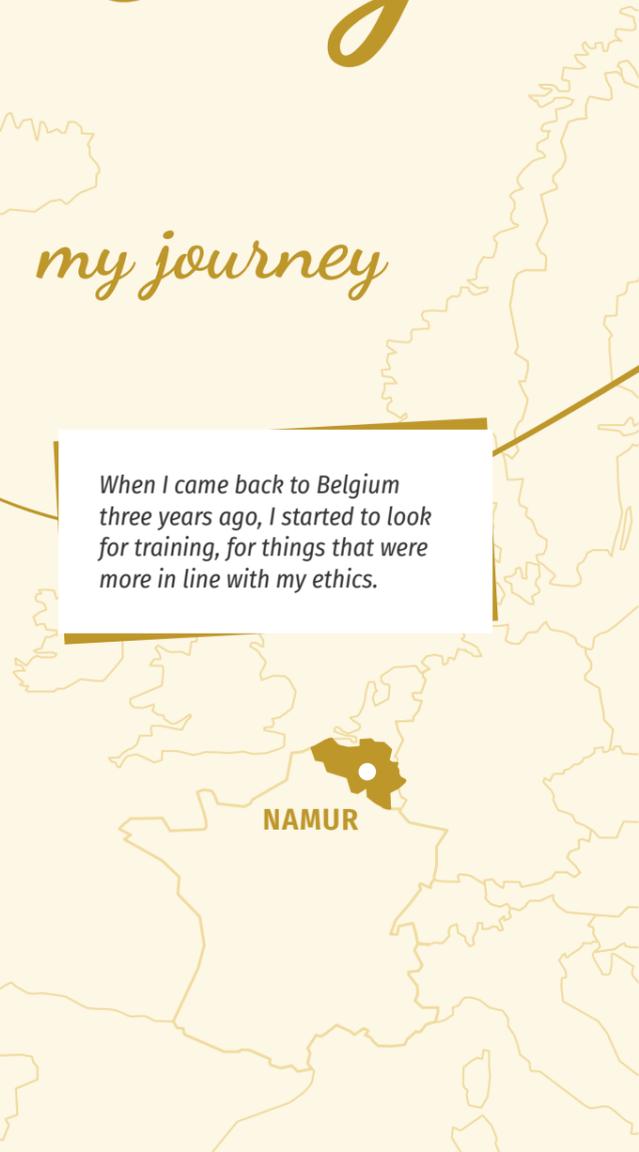
Aubry

“

I went to university at first, but it didn't really suit me. Then I travelled a lot in Europe. I was able to explore different ecological projects, travel to eco-villages and experience communities where I learned a lot about the ethics of the world.

my journey

When I came back to Belgium three years ago, I started to look for training, for things that were more in line with my ethics.



“

my training

The CPAS* here in Belgium found me this training. **I've been doing it for a month and a half now, and I have to say it's been pretty good.**

”

*Public Centre for Social Welfare

“

I didn't necessarily have any particular expectations. I had already done a lot of things before and for me it was an opportunity to experiment, to have a bit more practice. I have to say that things are going pretty well with the different partners I work with: **there is a very good understanding between us here.** And then, when I don't really believe in something, they are good teachers and they are able to explain it to me.

”

my project

I would like to achieve a certain degree of food autonomy, so that I can, why not, share it with my family and friends.

At the moment, **I'm working in a watercress farm: the work ranges from preparing the ground, that kind of thing, to harvesting the watercress.** One day a week, I also work in the catering service: it's mainly cooking, putting things in jars. **Two other days a week I do market gardening:** here, it's really a complete apprenticeship, from planting vegetables to harvesting, including preparing the soil, and preparing and installing the greenhouses...

Although I first encountered two or three small problems, let's say of an organisational nature, everything eventually fell into place. **Things are going rather well now: things are going in my direction, that is to say in the direction I want to go.**

my dreams

I am most interested in market gardening. **But beyond market gardening, I would like to grow mushrooms,** because it's quite easy, from what I've seen, and it's a very productive crop. I would also like **to go a little further to gain experience in growing fruit, harvesting from trees.**

▶ SEE AUBRY'S VIDEO INTERVIEW

<https://video.imagine-future.eu/aubry>





Sofia

my journey

I have a professional baccalaureate in management and administration, obtained at the Beaugrenelle high school in Paris' 15th arrondissement. I continued my studies in a notary's BTS (vocational certificate), in a private school. **With the public health situation, it became very complicated, it required an autonomy that I had not acquired before. So I cut my BTS short and did not continue.**

In my final year, I did a two-month work placement at the Créatéo IDF association in the 15th arrondissement in Paris. I liked it very much and I stayed in touch with the Action & Transition association. I got back in touch as I was looking for a job to have some financial stability and be independent. **I was offered civic service work to learn new things, to stabilise myself and to get back into a certain rhythm of life and work: to wake up every day with a goal in sight! Of course I accepted it!** I was very interested in the previous course: it really made me want to get up in the morning and go to work!



▶ SEE SOFIA'S VIDEO INTERVIEW

<https://video.imagine-future.eu/sofia>



“

I started my civic service in March. **I learned a lot and met a lot of people!** I didn't know before that relationships were so important in life: **talking to people, learning things from people, being able to pass on our knowledge to other people.** I am very happy to know about this **IMAGINE** project and to be able to take part in it: it is a process that I did not know about at all. Being able to look at new things has opened my mind a bit more.

“

For young people of our age, anything to do with urban agriculture, market gardening and so on is not something that appeals to us. **Agriculture in the broadest sense, and urban agriculture in particular, is an area that we tend to ignore:** we don't necessarily care about that, about planting, about cultivating, about caring for the land, about fruit and vegetables. **I, for one, learned a lot about tomatoes!**

my training

By continuing my civic service, by continuing and learning from the **IMAGINE** project, maybe later on I will move into this field. For the moment at least, I'm interested, and I hope to learn even more so that, over the years, I can pass on my experience to other young people, other people: that's my plan for the future, so why not?

Unfortunately, because of coronavirus, we have not been able to do any manual activities for the time being, but we have had a lot of video call exchanges. So I learned a lot about this field that was totally unknown to me and its importance.

my project

I see myself either continuing my studies which I'm enjoying so that I can achieve something in the future, in five years' time - maybe not even five years - practising my profession... A steady job! **I hope to find a permanent job, to get a permanent contract, to have my own flat.** I want to be financially independent, and not dependent on my parents anymore. Having my own place and doing something I enjoy is very important to me! I need to like it, because if I don't, I'll never do it with a good heart and I'll never be happy in my life.

What I like most about this training is the group dynamics, the cohesion. In fact, we were all in the same situation: it has a real support to meet and learn from people who know as little as I do. **Not being alone: I share what I know with people, and they share what they know with me, so I can learn from them.** Talking, being able to discuss, discovering places, developing unknown subjects. I think it's something very important in everyday life, being with people who are a bit like us, and others who are not. **We can lift each other up, mutually.** Not feeling alone, but moving forward with those who are at the same stage as us - or even a little further - and helping those who are not. Personally, this is all very important to me in the future..

Collection of testimonies

A collection of anonymous testimonies and video portraits of young people who have attended the IMAGINE training courses.

I started with 8 hours a week, then moved to 12 hours a week, and recently decided to do two 10-hour days week.

...

I like working in a natural environment, gaining skills to get paid work, doing something with colleagues.

...

*I am enjoying working again (...) I feel I have grown as a person, now there is more clarity for me and **there is space to express what I like.** (...) I feel good and valued by others, I feel like part of the team.*

...

I'm glad I had the chance to start something new and would like to continue working with plants in my future jobs.



I was looking for a place to work and this seemed like a good place!



Alpha

HIS VIDEO TESTIMONY
<https://video.imagine-future.eu/alpha>



I discovered market gardening and I know I'm not cut out for it, but I really enjoyed the communal canteen.

...

*I don't know if I'm going to go down this route but I **enjoyed learning about different jobs** and the people on the course were really nice.*



Marcia

HER VIDEO TESTIMONY
<https://video.imagine-future.eu/marcia>



I have found the job I love!



I really liked the canteen because I want to work in the kitchen, I also liked market gardening and green spaces even if I know that I won't make a profession out of it.

...

*But I think I did my best to satisfy the people who came with me (...) it also allowed me to learn more about vegetables and how they are grown. I even got to try what I harvested. **I would like to work as a cook in a canteen!***

...

All the people I met were kind and took the time to explain the work to me.



It's going better than I expected, honestly. I try not to form too many expectations about things I don't know, but the worst case scenario seemed much worse.

...

*I have been here for almost a year without any incidents or bad experiences, and I feel that I **am making progress towards my goals**, although it is slow (...) my suggestions and ideas are taken seriously even when they do not just involve me.*



I heard about the project through a friend who offered to come with me because he thought it would help me.

...

*I'm glad I came because I know I can do this job. Before I didn't know what to do but now I know what I want to do. **I really found my place in green spaces and with market gardening.** I even met a company during my work experience that asked me to submit my CV to them.*



Alain

HIS VIDEO TESTIMONY
<https://video.imagine-future.eu/alain>





Ephraïm



I took my CAP (vocational qualification) in multi-skilled trade and I passed. This year I wanted to do a professional baccalaureate in business, but business is very much in demand among young people, so it was complicated, there weren't many places. I was a bit stuck at home, I had to go out - I walked a lot! - looking for jobs, sending CVs and not receiving any responses. The instructors at the educational centre where I was placed told me about IFAC.

my journey

IFAC* helps young people to find work experience, to do training courses. Thanks to them, we can see how things are going in other professions, find out what might interest us or not.

*Institut de formation, d'animation et de conseil
[Training, leading and consulting institute]



my training



I started out as a market gardener. Market gardening was a bit complicated, that's normal, I was working in the soil, but it was also a bit of fun. We think it's easy. We eat the food, but in fact it's a complicated job: cultivating, getting the vegetables out of the ground, sometimes it goes wrong, animals come and eat the crops... it's hard! **But at the same time it was "cool": I took out carrots, sweet potatoes, I went to fill the boxes.** In Moussy-le-Neuf, it's a bit like the countryside, they have automatic checkouts to place their products. Whoever wants the products can come and tap the checkouts and the doors open: they choose what they want and pay.



I worked in the communal canteen, I had never done that: there were a lot of children, too much noise - my ears were ringing - but it was a good team, it went well. It's not the same as in the city: they receive deliveries, and it's up to them to cook what's to be prepared directly. It's a bit hard, but it's going well. They are motivated, they laugh with each other, it fits well. **I ate at the canteen, the chef prepared the food for us, it was good!**

Then a counsellor from IFAC helped me to look for work experience. I went to drop off a CV at a car accessory shop, and another at a Coccinelle supermarket. After everything went well, Coccinelle accepted me and told me to do a trial day: I did it, **they thought I was good, motivated, and they took me on!** At first I didn't believe it, but then I got the contract documents, went to see the manager, and it was a no-brainer!

my project, my ambitions



My project is to get my baccalaureate, in two years, a professional baccalaureate in business. Afterwards I don't know: either I will work directly or I will listen to my relatives who are telling me to do a BTS.



It's all go, go, go! As long as I can, I want to move forwards. I'll see, if everything goes well, the baccalaureate is not too complicated, I can manage to get it, so I'm going to move forwards. I said the same thing with the CAP and when I got it, I moved forwards and that was it.

▶ SEE EPHRAÏM'S VIDEO INTERVIEW

<https://video.imagine-future.eu/ephraim>





Justine

my journey

Before starting my studies, I stayed with a host family in England. Then I continued to travel by myself, to be completely free.
I wanted to try out WWOOFing* in Italy, to film the whole experience and take pictures.

*Worldwide Opportunities on Organic Farms

In the end, I got caught up with working in communities, eco-villages, and I wanted to go towards nature. I stayed in one place for a long time and I go back all the time now. They practised permaculture there. The community I was in had people from all over the world, but it was mostly young Italians who had studied agricultural engineering and wanted to reclaim the land and do things their own way.

It was very different every time. In every place I go it's always different actually, it depends on the intention, the starting project, and the goal.

NAMUR

my project

I think I'm getting very close to the market gardening business. But for the winter months, clearly, I realised that I might not like being outside all the time, from morning to night. I love being outside and being able to practice, but I was unsure about just doing that. In the end, it may not have been what I was looking for.

So I prefer to focus on learning to be self-sufficient in food one day!

When I came back to Belgium, I wanted to go back to school, but it didn't really work out for two years. I also did voluntary service in the meantime. **It was during the Covid pandemic, during this difficult time, that I realised that I could have been out there somewhere working normally, instead of looking for work or doing nothing.**

So I looked around a bit and finally I said to myself: « Okay, I'm off on my bike and I'm going to continue WWOOFing in France and Italy! » and finally, I got on well with the people who work at Paysans-Artisans in the shop...

my training

Spending a year in training, no longer, being able to change producers, not always staying with the same one, was enough for me. Being able to benefit from training that takes into account different themes was clearly complete. It was perfect for me at that time. **It's a good thing I was able to do this training!**

...and they told me about a market gardening course. I called, I wanted to test it out to see what it was like and if it was possible. When I was told what the IMAGINE training course would be like, **I thought it was perfect!**

my dream

No matter what we do, our passions, our aspirations, for me it's still the future we have to think about. Having the skills to be independent, or at least acquiring those skills. And if you don't have the land to start with, keep learning and find a place to settle down one day. You want to be able, precisely in an eco-village or in a place like this one, to find the freedom to produce one's own food and to be, to live in peace too...
In the end, I want to have access to land to produce my own food. That's my goal!

SEE JUSTINE'S VIDEO INTERVIEW
<https://video.imagine-future.eu/justine>





João

I come from Portugal: from Figueira da Foz, near Coimbra, in the centre. It's a beautiful country. I go back from time to time, for holidays.

my journey

I have lived here for ten years. I did all my schooling here from primary school to high school. Then I started my professional life. **After some small personal problems, I managed to get into the IMAGINE project I was told about, related to agriculture and market gardening.** It was something that interested me. I've wanted to go into this field for a few years now, but I couldn't because of the language: I don't speak Luxembourgish, I've already had a few short courses but I can't speak it fluently yet.

LUXEMBOURG

▶ SEE JOAO'S VIDEO INTERVIEW

<https://video.imagine-future.eu/joao>



my dream

My dream was music, instruments, writing lyrics: that was my passion when I was younger - and still is! I continue to compose music, especially in my mother tongue. Actually, I don't really play an instrument. It's more of a remix that I do: I like to look for old records, and I try to create something new with small pieces. It's the sampling technique, that's it, that's what I like to do.

But you have to find something to do as a profession, don't you, so I thought and thought and thought... **there's nothing prettier than that for me: nature!**

my training

I arrived in Bastendorf in March 2021. I started the training in Esch-sur-Alzette. I wanted to follow the path of market gardening, or something related to gardening, to plants. My advisor suggested I go to Lintgen **to join the IMAGINE project, because it was really just for market gardening.** So I spent a month or so in Lintgen and then I came here.

I was first shown the places where we were going to work, what we were going to do, why we were going to do it: **in relation to the preparation of the tree protections, for example. Or in relation to our tasks, such as removing weeds to help the plants grow a little. And now we are harvesting!**

my project

Once I have finished my course, my aim is to go to the agricultural college in Ettelbruck, to train for three years and get a diploma. **Then I want to do an apprenticeship in this field and be able to continue afterwards in a more stable way, to confirm this profession in my life...**

It was something that interested me long before the training: plants, nature, everything in general, and I really wanted to try to follow that path. I have a period of two years where I can still work here, and learn some German and Luxembourgish. **This is really a great opportunity!**

Collection of testimonies

A collection of anonymous testimonies and video portraits of young people who have attended the IMAGINE training courses.

“ Finally I have a work rhythm. Before, I suffered because there was no rhythm in my daily life (...) **the project is good, I am delighted to be part of IMAGINE!** ”



Walid



▶ HIS VIDEO TESTIMONY
<https://video.imagine-future.eu/walid>

“ After the COVID-19 pandemic, I could not see myself going back to school. The labour market is a difficult world to enter, because in addition to my lack of experience and my disability, I have not had any job offers. ... ”

The overall project support suits me because it is adapted to my pace and difficulties. ... ”



I am interested in urban agriculture and green space maintenance, there are job opportunities and I want to consolidate my knowledge in order to enter the working world. ”

“ I had my ups and downs. But the support of the team around me gives me reference points in time. **I have taken over with regularity, I like the alternation of group work and individual follow-up.** Each of us has the possibility to act and plan what we want to do. It's a very free process and it accommodates us. ... ”

The integration adviser was able to give me some ideas on how to get back to work in an alternation via a market gardening association. I am pleased that I was able to be supported in my uncertainties. ... ”

I discovered mobility, and for the first time, I'm going to go alone during the summer in the south to help harvest courgettes, tomatoes, peppers, salads, melons, etc... ”



“ I love everything that has to do with nature, both plants and animals, and both come together in this business. I also like to learn new things for which I can achieve change in this company too. ... ”

With practice, things become easier/quicker to do. I also deliver products to customers from time to time. I'm learning more about farming, growing micro vegetables and mushrooms than I thought I would. ... ”

I think it's a great project and the coaching couldn't be better than it is now. They are open to all ideas and will adopt new ones if they are relevant to the business. ... ”

Everyone here feels and acts on an equal footing, which you don't see in many other companies. ... ”

I think it's a great project to be involved in and there should be more companies like this that are both good for the people who work here and good for the climate in the way they work here. ”



“ When I heard about the market gardening profession, I asked around and **I was immediately interested in the IMAGINE project** (...) I learned new things, met new people, yes it corresponds to my expectations. ”



“ I didn't finish high school because I had a lot of problems at home and I had problems with alcohol and drugs. ... ”

For the last six years I have been in therapy and now I am in a rehabilitation programme because I want to see if I am fit to work again (...) **It is a big step for me to go back to work!** ... ”

I realised that I was not the only one who had problems with regular jobs. ... ”

I think it was a perfect place for me to start. **I can gradually develop a certain self-confidence** (...) I feel like I can be part of society again. ”



Bintou

▶ HER VIDEO TESTIMONY
<https://video.imagine-future.eu/bintou>





Robin

my journey



After high school, I started studying biology for a year, unfortunately I did not finish my studies, nor the others I tried after. Eventually I started working but had to go on sick leave. It was this difficult path that brought me here: **thanks to a friend, I discovered a social enterprise that deals with the reintegration of young people in difficulty.**

Now, slowly but surely, I'm starting to get back on my feet and really see what I really like to do and what really gives me energy.



my experience

I was attracted to Phood Farm. They specialise in aquaponics and I liked their production system straight away. In aquaponics, plants grow in a different way than we are used to: they grow on water, and their food comes from fish manure converted into usable plant food. This system is really very environmentally friendly, the technologies are new and their production hyperlocal. It's better for the environment! I like it very much. So we are exploring new options that are progressive and not only the traditional type of agriculture that we know in the Netherlands and that is on a large scale but that we consider as alternatives because the Netherlands is a small country, we have a lack of space and it is of course a nice way to make agricultural production compact so for me it is an excellent way! **This new way of doing things really spoke to me, especially for its ecological aspects.**



It is all this together, all this alchemy that interested me, **in this project where people's growth is as important as plant growth!**



my projects, my dreams

I am currently training to be a coach and it would be great if I could develop more skills in this area, so that I can work with people in a motivating and coaching way. Will the biology aspect be able to find its place? I don't know yet where or how, or exactly how, but ideally this is my plan.

I have been working here for about six months. I started by delivering orders. Every day, I develop more and more interactions with people. Beyond the work aspect itself, my experience is growing with time in the relational, support and help area where I can get more involved. **Because here I also have the opportunity to support people, so it's great to be able to combine these two aspects, the biology side and the fact that I can help people. It's very enjoyable.**

Ideally, I would like to live in a cabin, in the woods, just in nature with my family, but on the other hand, I also want to work with people. It may not sound very realistic but I would actually really like to combine these two aspects in the future. Contact with people gives me energy, so yes, I would really like to be able to combine work in this sense with the calmness that I can only find in nature.

I am convinced that if there was real global cooperation, between all countries, all continents, there would be no famine. If it wasn't always about money... No one should go hungry... But the question is obviously how do we achieve this? I could have a supporting and mediating role. I think people are quick to get into conflict, and I would like to see situations looked at from a different angle, from a calmer point of view. **Yes, it's a mediation role I would like to have: to be able to show two parties that it is possible to achieve the same result together. It's really something that's close to my heart, a dream that I want to see come true.**

▶ SEE ROBIN'S VIDEO INTERVIEW

<https://video.imagine-future.eu/robin>





Gadou

“

As far as my studies are concerned, I got as far as the baccalaureate, which I passed a few years ago now. Then I started a DUT (technology degree) in computer and industrial engineering, but I told myself that I would not necessarily focus on the logical next step - i.e. to continue in this direction - but rather discover more about other professions. I went into the service industry: secretarial work, security guard, market gardening, road worker.

▶ SEE GADOU'S VIDEO INTERVIEW
<https://video.imagine-future.eu/gadou>



my journey

In some of the jobs that involve handling, such as market gardening, I was very comfortable. I didn't mind working with my hands, or working long shifts. So I worked a lot, even during the last holidays! Then I wanted to take a break and still be dynamic, so that made me want to do work experience.



“ my training ”

I found out about IFAC* by word of mouth and I immediately joined the course. Marine, our guide, was always present when we travelled, she followed our work, we could meet up in the field: **this really enabled me to stay and continue the training until the end.** There was no difficulty in doing the tasks that were asked of us, **it was dynamic, rigorous, but at the same time very professional: that's it, it was really fun!**

*Institut de formation, d'animation et de conseil
[Training, leading and consulting institute]

Then I worked in the green spaces. In fact, this was the part of the training where I really got into it: it was new, fun! Once the arrangements are well defined, we start working and it becomes natural to do it, as if I had done it before! This is an area I enjoyed.

I discovered the catering business in communal kitchens. It's something I've never done before: a fast pace but a great team! **Then I did market gardening: it was a pleasure - I had already put my foot down. Here too I worked with some wonderful people.** It was very rewarding to taste the freshly grown fruit directly: it gives another view of the actual trade, the buying and the selling. You can see the link between all the jobs: the market gardener grows vegetables that are cooked in the communal canteen, worked on to feed everyone - it may not have been a five-star canteen, but all the consumers were delighted, the feedback was always positive.

The employees of the green spaces, those who maintained communal rooms, also met at the canteen with our activity leaders: the atmosphere was very communal, there was this chain of communication and it was perfect, because everyone worked with a smile.

“ my project, my ambitions ”

In the short term, I would like to start a new work experience project: it corresponds perfectly to my desire to discover new things, especially in the service sector.

I really liked this training: I did it with a smile, it was very human, there was a lot of exchange. And I would like to maintain this dynamic, to acquire a methodology, to open up perspectives... In the long term, I would now like to make the most of my studies, i.e. to take up an actual training course in electronics and IT.



Pierrette

“

I had a bit of a bumpy ride at university. So I chose to stop because it didn't suit me. I didn't really know what to do at first, so I wanted to do voluntary service. But then came the health crisis. I wasn't studying at the time, so it didn't really impact me in that way. I was going to start my voluntary service so this just delayed it. But it had a big impact on me in the sense that I live in a flat, and I didn't have an outdoor area. **Living indoors all the time has been really hard for me to deal with**, especially as I really, really, really need to move and exercise

my journey

I was finally able to do my voluntary service. I was in an ASBL*, "Ekikrok" in Bossière. It's a place that promotes healthy and sustainable food, but it's also really about raising awareness. **As time went by, I realised how much I loved nature!**

*Non-Profit Association

NAMUR

“

Of course, I knew that for a long time, but now I wanted to be really in it, to work in it. I also imagined being able to welcome people with disabilities or even nature courses for children.

”

my goals

Initially, I would like to be employed in a place that I like, where the atmosphere is such that I don't actually feel like I'm working at all! On the other hand, **I would like to organise nature activities for children, or even work experience for adults. I'd especially like to do nature birthdays, I'd love it if the kids could do nature activities with me**, rather than going to Quick or McDonald's!

my project

Well, maybe later, when I have the strength - not the physical strength, but the mental strength to say to myself, **“Yes, you can do it, you are legitimate now!”** - so why not have my own project? With other people too, people I get on well with. **Why not have a pitch like this and go for it? Being in nature and organic market gardening. That's my project.**

“

my training

At the end of my service, **I realised that I really wanted to do market gardening.** I spoke to the person in charge of monitoring young people in voluntary service, and it was she who directed me to the IMAGINE training at Paysans-Artisans. **That's how I got started!** Here the nice thing is that we are outside all the time - of course we had to observe mask-wearing but, well, we are never very close to each other - and that feels good!

I think I would first like to continue my training, maybe follow the CRABE training in Jodoigne, I don't know yet exactly, to become a part-time self-employed worker.

my dreams

I also think that it is very important to raise awareness among young people, whatever their age, but from the earliest age, on the fact that the planet is our first home! I think that's important to convey. We don't respect nature, at least most people don't. A lot of people are making efforts and it's really great, but I'm most interested in teaching them that there is another way to consume, another way to simply LIVE. **These are my dreams, my ambitions!**

▶ **SEE PIERRETTE'S VIDEO INTERVIEW**
<https://video.imagine-future.eu/pierrette>



Acknowledgements

The creation of this book and all the videos associated with it would of course not have been possible without the valuable contributions of each of the young people it highlights.

For this reason, we feel it is essential to thank very warmly Soizic, Aubry, Sofia, Ephraïm, Justine, João, Robin, Gadou, Pierrette, Alain, Marcia, Alpha, Bintou, Walid as well as all the young participants in the IMAGINE training courses who gave us their contributions and lent themselves to the unusual exercise of giving testimonies and other video interviews, always with great enthusiasm, good humour and authenticity during the time that they kindly granted us.

This work has been an opportunity to meet many beautiful people, and we would like to thank all the people we met in the field, professionals and trainers, who always welcomed us in a joyful and good mood, even during the sometimes difficult periods in the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thanks also to each of the IMAGINE project partners for their commitment, their welcome, their ideas, and their proposals for the creation of this "Portrait Book"!

*Thank you all,
this book is above all yours!*

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Are you between 18 and 35 years old, unemployed and interested in moving to another region or country for work experience, volunteering or finding a job?

This online guide, designed within the framework of the IMAGINE project, aims to provide a non-exhaustive list of the various international mobility schemes set up in Belgium, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom to promote the mobility of young people between the ages of 18 and 35 as part of their professional integration project (voluntary work, immersions, work experience, jobs, etc.).

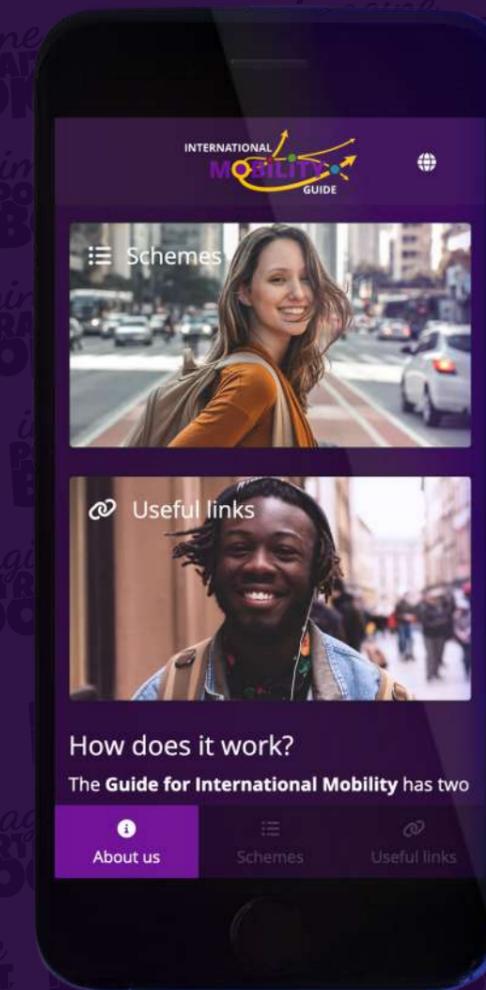


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