

HOW DID THE SIX WAYFINDER CONTRIBUTE TO THE SOCIAL INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM IN TURKEY?

From the perspective of Istanbul Wayfinder partner, imece, a social innovation platform in Istanbul.



By bringing together different players of the ecosystem to focus on the next 10 years, the Wayfinder has begun to catalyse the social innovation ecosystem in Turkey. It created both tangible outcomes, but also more invisible mindset and approach - the connective tissue that is needed for any tangible outcome to be sustainable and effective.

Concrete actions:

Encouraged new funders and funding for social innovation and social entrepreneurship, including:

- New champions for impact investing from the venture capitalists and governments.
- Creation of a coalition of cross sector actors to explore hybrid impact fund which will work with different kinds of capital and entities.

This funding will further support social entrepreneurs and innovators, in particular,

- Supporting intermediaries to reach more people and catalyse social innovation.
- Funding initiatives and enterprises at different stages by working to create a more holistic pipeline of support from ideas to scaling initiatives.

Accelerated the need for new policy mechanisms:

Following the Wayfinder, diverse ecosystem players are aligning to develop policy recommendations which include the mechanisms for a clear road map to better support social innovation and entrepreneurship.

Generated support for intermediaries - The Wayfinder reinforced the role of enabling platforms and hubs in Turkey:

- imece is launching a new strategy in the autumn, influenced by and builds on the energy of the Wayfinder. This includes a focus on alternative finance mechanisms, cross-sector collaboration, storytelling and open innovation.
- There is increased awareness of the importance of maintaining the local and global connections and collaborations fostered at Wayfinder.
- There is a collective commitment from across sectors to engage new stakeholders, such as the creative industries, and strengthen the capacities of young people.

Reminded us that we are all part of a system:

There were perspectives from every sector and region —from Beirut to Cairo to China. Despite where people came from, we all share the same challenges. Participants celebrated looking beyond their individual projects, and gained the sense of belonging to a bigger ecosystem.

Outcomes relating to mindset and approach. The Wayfinder also:

Created a sense of urgency that the time for collaborative action is now:

Both ahead of the Wayfinder, through pre-meetings including a co-design workshop, during the 2 day event and after the Wayfinder.

Re-prioritise whole system thinking:

The Wayfinder encouraged people to think beyond their individual initiatives to how we can create an impact greater than the sum of our parts by focusing on the ecosystem as a whole.

Renewed sense of hope:

Participants left inspired with a renewed sense of hope for the future. Social innovation provides a way to connect across generations, sectors and communities to pursue a better and more just future.

Recognised the importance the storytelling:

There are plans to develop the creative capacity of the social innovation field to better tell its stories and consistently develop impact-oriented communication to help create a shared narrative of impact and innovation.