



**Press Release** 

# Encouraging young people to think at 360°about information technology for sustainable development

EVS and the Foundation for Future Generations are joining forces within the framework of the HERA Awards

<u>View the interview</u> with Serge Van Herck, CEO of EVS

**Namur, 9 February 2021** - Through <u>the "HERA Award Sustainable IT"</u> prize for excellence, <u>EVS</u>, the eminent Walloon company and global leader in live video production technologies, and the <u>Foundation for Future Generations</u> have joined forces to encourage young people to have a 360° perspective on information technology for sustainable development.

After three years of partnership, EVS has decided to continue - and double - its support for the "HERA Award Sustainable IT" for a further three years. This award is part of the "HERA Award" family of prizes, bestowed annually by the Foundation for Future Generations. The "HERA Award Sustainable IT" for students from Belgian French speaking universities is awarded in recognition of master's theses in the field of information technology that adopt a systems approach, with a 360° perspective, specifically in relation to sustainable development. The winners of the HERA Awards 2021 will present their inspiring dissertations via webinars and a virtual ceremony on 29 April 2021 at UCLouvain www.fgf.be/hera.

"Engagement has been intrinsic to the culture and values of EVS since its establishment. When we found out about the HERA Awards, we fully embraced the 360° approach. It aligns with social engagement, something that we have been involved in for some time, whether for the environment, with members of our team or in the communities in which we are active", explains Serge Van Herck, CEO of EVS. "Moreover, this award is a powerful tool to spur students to be interested in information technology and push technological knowledge forward".

"The continuation of EVS' support is clearly fantastic news in a year marked by COVID!" says Benoît Derenne, director of the Foundation for Future Generations. "Indeed, information technology opens up a new horizon of opportunities and profoundly transforms our ways of accessing information, communicating, teaching, buying, working, managing our towns, and our mobility... This transition, accentuated by the public health crisis that we are experiencing, gives rise to a number of challenges: the environmental impact of digital technology, fake news, security and management of information systems, privacy, data access and sharing, and predictive analysis (behaviour, health, etc.), amongst others. These challenges demonstrate the extent to which our sustainable responses must absolutely incorporate a 360° perspective, that is to say, simultaneously considering social, ecological and economic issues as well as questions relating to participation and governance. We hope that young people will seize upon these challenges with a more systemic vision of the consequences".





The HERA Awards encourage young people to incorporate this 360° approach into their master's thesis, as well as to think about the world of tomorrow. "The HERA Awards represent the first step toward a real continuum of support for young people, put in place by the Foundation for Future Generations. After this initial support at the ideas stage, our Foundation backs the transition to prototyping by awarding bursaries, then by the creation of sustainable start-ups at a very early phase and, finally, by strengthening more established social entrepreneurs. The challenges are monumental, and we are sure that other companies will follow in the footsteps of EVS", explains Benoît Derenne.

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### **About the HERA Awards**

The HERA AWARDS are prizes bestowed annually by the Foundation for Future Generations to prepare the minds of tomorrow to think and act at 360°. These awards showcase and recognise theses at the master's (prize of €2,500) or doctoral (prize of €7,500) levels which adopt a 360° perspective (systems approach) specifically for sustainable development to promote thought and/or practices related to various fields such as information technology, health, food systems, finance, economy, architecture, design and even engineering. www.fgf.be/hera

# **About the Foundation for Future Generations**

Founded in 1998, the Foundation for Future Generations is the Belgian foundation **dedicated exclusively to the transformation of our society towards a sustainable development mode, one of the biggest challenges of the 21st century.** This pluralistic, independent not-for-profit foundation operates in all three regions of Belgium. As a **transformative philanthropic platform**, it enables its many partners, patrons and donors to invest in future generations. It has **extensive experience in supporting project leaders who implement sustainable initiatives** in Belgium and Europe.

www.fgf.be

## **About EVS**

We create return on emotion.

EVS is globally recognized as a leader in live video technology for broadcast and new media productions. Our passion and purpose are to help our clients craft immersive stories that trigger the best return on emotion. Through a wide range of products and solutions, we deliver the most gripping live sports images, buzzing entertainment shows and breaking news content to billions of viewers every day – and in real-time. The company is headquartered in Belgium with offices in Europe, the Middle East, Asia and North America, and provides sales and technical support to more than 100 countries. EVS is a public company traded on Euronext Brussels: EVS, ISIN: BE0003820371. For more information, please visit <a href="https://www.evs.com">www.evs.com</a>