Our mission is to grow talented, underprivileged youth into fearless developers.
Opportunities untapped due to skills gaps

23% of Belgian youth are unemployed

€36,600 cost/person/year of unemployment

30,000 vacancies in Belgium in 2020 due to shortfall of e-skilled workers

€9B can be added to Belgian GDP by 2020 by increasing the use of digital tech

Note: 17% unemployment rate in BE in 2000; 13% worldwide in 2014
Belgium’s Coding School

A school to address the skills gap

70% of employers blame inadequate training for the shortfall of skilled workers.

We want to create a school that trains youth & underprivileged to become sought-after software developers.
VISION

We aim to provide competitive and responsible coding school programs, accessible to all. The programs provide individual support for securing a sustainable profession.

Phasing:

- Brussels campus launched as pilot
- Scaling to a nation-wide network of coding schools within 3 years
Powered by Simplon, a methodology with a proven track record

Simplon.co

2056 Personnes formées
77% Sorties positives
691 En cours de formation

be</code>

29 Graduates
78% Positive outcome (after 2 months - final measurement after 6 months)
127 In training
Graduates gain skills required to become developers in startups, SMEs or large organizations

- Intensive 7-month coding school program
- Learning to create mobile applications and websites and turn that into a profession
- Free-of-charge training, open to all, with motivation as key driver
**Approach to recruiting students**

- **Focus on** underprivileged youth and on diversity

- **4 paths to candidates**
  - Social media (Instagram, Facebook, chat apps)
  - Social enterprises (We For Work, Duo for a Job, Les Petits Riens, Rotary)
  - Roadshow in local townhalls and youth associations
  - Employment agencies (Actiris, VDAB, Forem)

- **Selection process based on** Simplon methodology, with emphasis on motivation and logic
  - Online application form (incl. Codecademy)
  - In-person interviews
Funnel approach - based on motivation

Open call:
- (social) media
- Employment agencies
- Partners
- Roadshow
- Info sessions

Applications:
- Online form
- F2F interviews + serious game

Prairie (2 weeks)

Training (6 months)

Internship (1 month)

Job

80% employment rate after 3 months

Technical skills + soft skills
Project based
Learn by doing (life-long learning)
Learn by teaching - boosting self-esteem

80% employment rate after 3 months
Our ambition

● Locations:
  ○ 2017: Brussels
  ○ 2018: Charleroi & Ghent
  ○ 2019: ...

● Graduates:
  ○ 2017: 29 (+110 in training)
  ○ 2018: 350
  ○ 2019: 750
  ○ 2020: 1,500
A HANDS-ON, MISSION-DRIVEN TEAM
The most motivated & eager students
CURRENT PARTNERS
Resources

- Philanthropy
  - Telenet, Orange Belgium, 4Wings Foundation, Degroof Petercam Foundation

- Subsidies
  - Digital Belgium Skills Fund
  - Social impact bond (pending application)

- Company engagement programs
  - Remote internships: early engagement projects with students during training (applied learning based on real-life cases & interaction)
  - Upskilling of loyal employees motivated to shift careers within the company
  - Thought leadership & employer branding campaigns
Ready to Engage?

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