

DreamSpace Academy  
Co-Creating The Dreams

# Why do we do what we do?

Three decades of **civil war** in Sri Lanka caused a massive impact on **socio-economy** and **environmental ecosystems**

**International aid** provided significant support, but **imported solutions** couldn't solve fundamental **local problems sustainably**

We set out to **empower locals** to solve complex **local challenges !!!**

# Who are we?



DreamSpace Academy is a **non-profit social enterprise** tackling local **socio-economic** and environmental challenges through **challenge-based learning**, grassroots innovation and **impact venture building**

# What is our mission?

Our mission is to achieve **sustainable development goals** in Sri Lanka by empowering **underserved communities**, protecting **environmental ecosystems**, facilitating **peacebuilding** and fostering **sustainable startups**

# What are our verticals and activities?

## SOCIAL MISSION

Personalised Empowerment  
Peacebuilding  
Community Building  
Wellbeing Advocacy

## BUSINESS VENTURE

Social Enterprises  
Capacity Building  
International Aid Projects  
Service Providing

# How do we empower with DreamSpace Lifecycle?



## Candidate Discovery

A candidate is identified by the motivation to tackle local environmental and societal challenges



## Maker Education

The candidate is trained in anything from photography to biotechnology with interdisciplinary workshops



## Grassroots Innovation

The candidate's lifelong interest and immediate project are identified to solve a complex local challenge



## Domain Expertise

The candidate's knowledge-base is amplified by collaborating with international experts and organisations



## Venture Building

The candidate's solution is graduated as a startup for socio-economic & environmental development.

# How does DreamSpace Lifecycle work?



Candidate Discovery



Source: dreamspace.academy

# How does DreamSpace Lifecycle work?



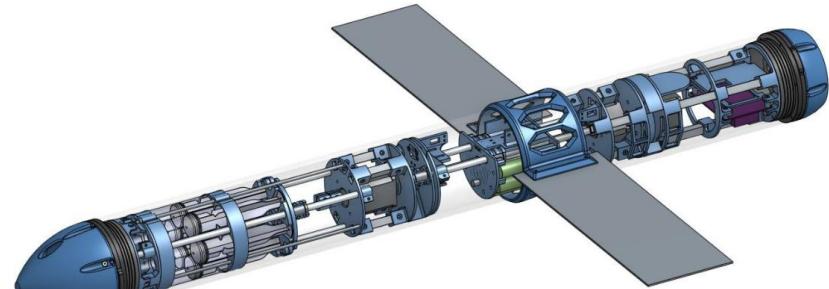
Candidate  
Discovery

Maker  
Education



Source: dreamspace.academy

# How does DreamSpace Lifecycle work?



Candidate Discovery

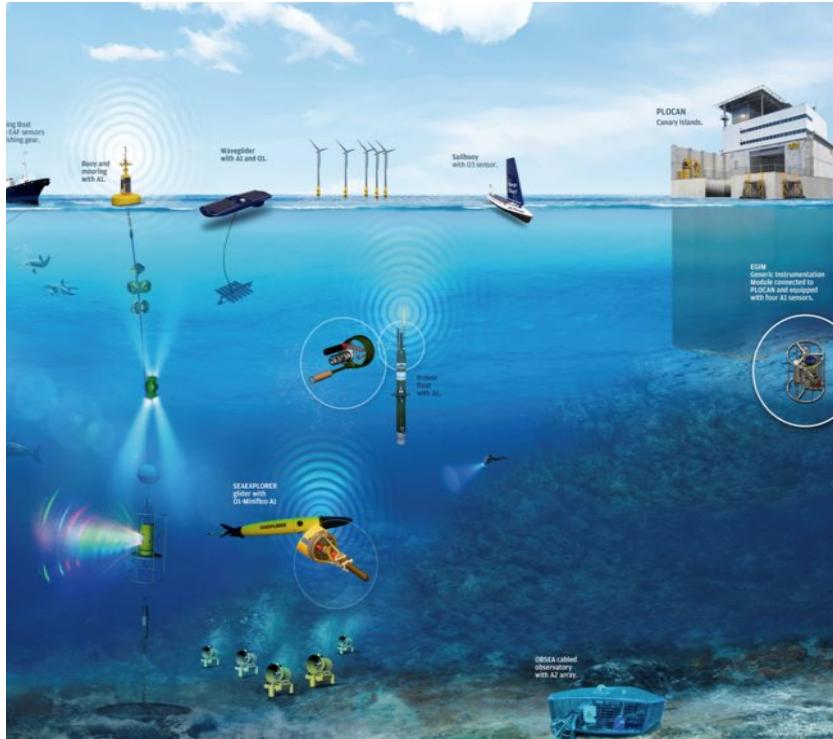
Maker Education

Grassroots Innovation



Source: dreamspace.academy

# How does DreamSpace Lifecycle work?



Candidate Discovery

Maker Education

Grassroots Innovation

Domain Expertise



Source: plocan.eu

# How does DreamSpace Lifecycle work?



Candidate Discovery

Maker Education

Grassroots Innovation

Domain Expertise

Venture Building



Source: dreamspace.academy,oceanswell.org,generationunlimited.org

# What impact have we co-created?



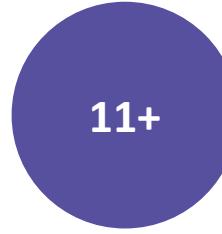
## Candidates

empowered from the underserved communities



## Labs

built for interdisciplinary learning and co-creation



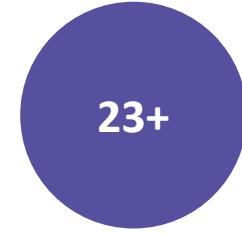
## Innovations

developed to tackle complex local challenges



## Ventures

built by our empowered changemakers



## Medals

received from The Duke of Edinburgh & international organisations



**Behind The Scenes**  
More about us ...

# How do we innovate?



## Local Challenges

A fleet of fieldworkers identifies local socio-economic and environmental problems. We question challenges and solutions first with Design Thinking



## Open Innovations

Open innovations are chosen as the foundational solution for the identified challenges. Collaboration with original authors is established



## Research & Development

With the support of external experts, further research and development is done on the chosen solution, thereby contributing to open innovations



## Local Manufacturing

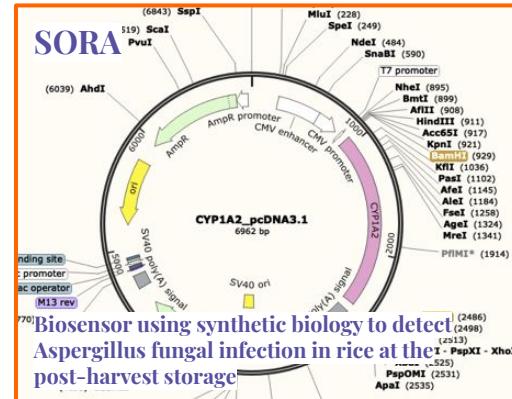
Produce with local materials and service providers to create awareness of regional products. Build manufacturing capacity to provide job opportunities



## Go To Market

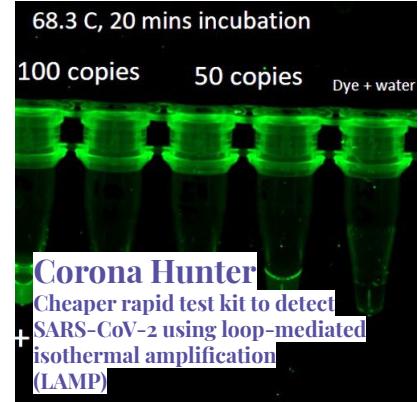
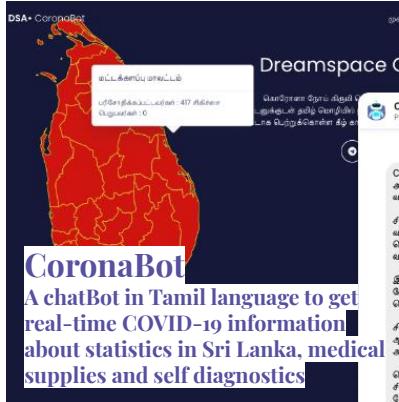
Pilot the solution with relevant stakeholders to validate the market potential. Build an inclusive business model to share the benefits with all contributors

# What are our grassroots innovations?



Source: trashfortrade.com, siwi.org ,igem.org

# What are our grassroots innovations?



# What capacities do we build?



Electronics Lab



Software Lab



Mechanics Lab



Business Lab



Art Lab



Bio Lab

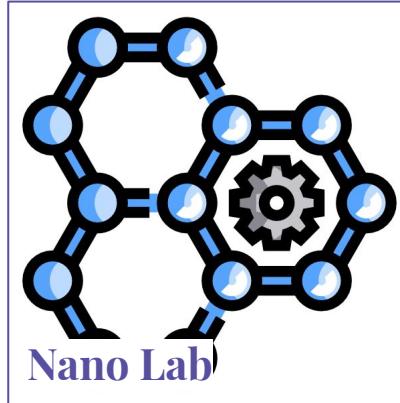


Story Lab



Space Lab

# What capacities do we build?



Source: dreamspace.academy

# How do we build domain expertise?



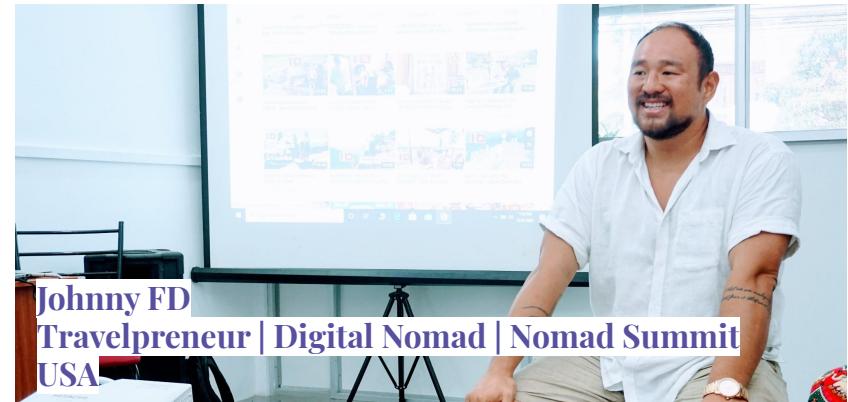
**Maite Hernandez Zubeldia**  
Design Thinking Expert | Hasso Plattner Institute  
Germany | Cuba



**Dr. Nico Meißner**  
Storyteller | Deputy Director | Griffith Film School  
Australia | Malaysia



**Femke Kroes | Janene Liston**  
Business Mentor | Pricing Strategist | BookBridge  
Switzerland | Netherlands



**Johnny FD**  
Travelpreneur | Digital Nomad | Nomad Summit  
USA

Source: dreamspace.academy,bookbridge.com

# How do we build peace and advocate well-being?



Fine Arts | Painting



Performing Arts | Vocal | Instrumental | Music



Handcrafting



Mind Sport | Critical Thinking

Source: dreamspace.academy

# How do we build peace and advocate well-being?



Environmental Advocacy



Youth Empowerment



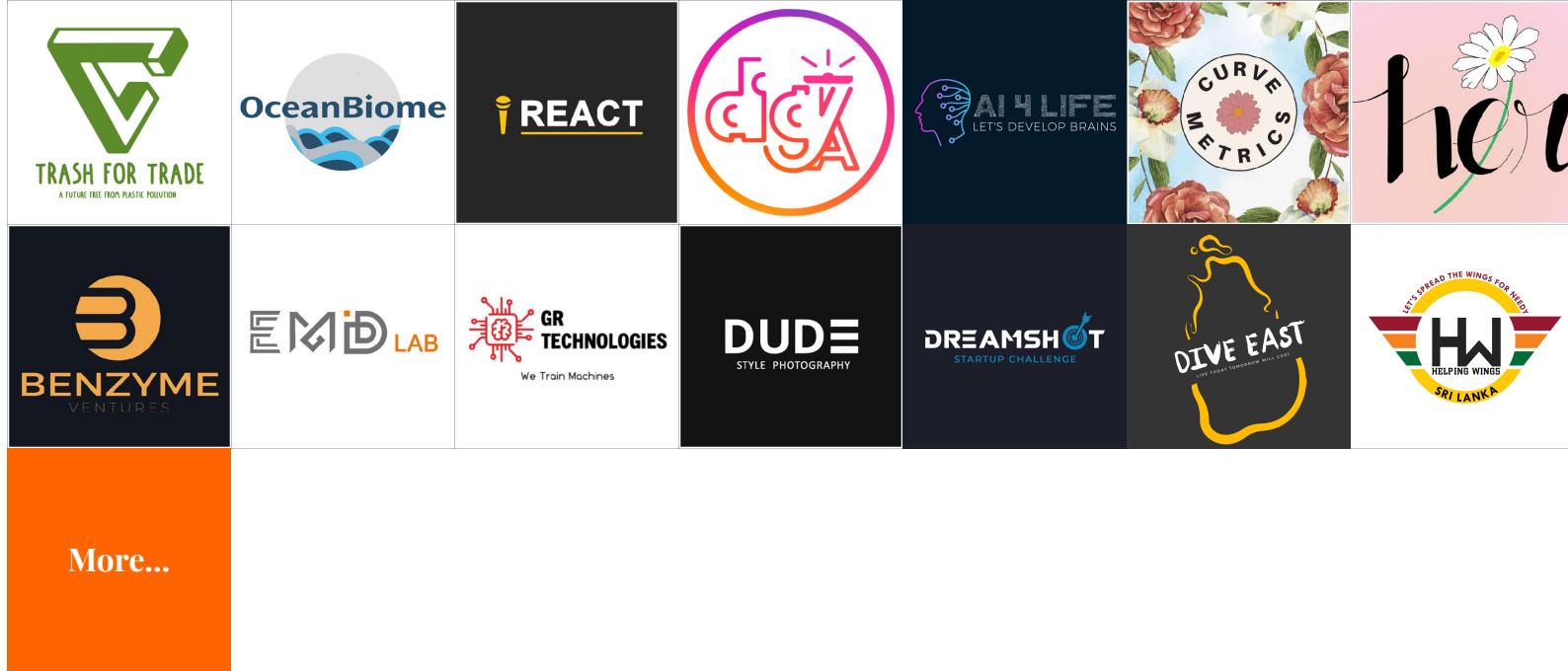
Peacebuilding and Reconciliation



Rural Development

Source: dreamspace.academy

# What are our ventures?

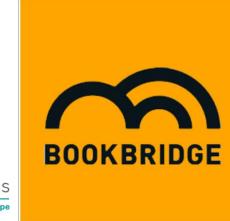


Source: [trashfortrade.com](http://trashfortrade.com), [oceanbio.me](http://oceanbio.me), [ireactsrilanka.org](http://ireactsrilanka.org), [sylcls.org](http://sylcls.org)

# What are our achievements?



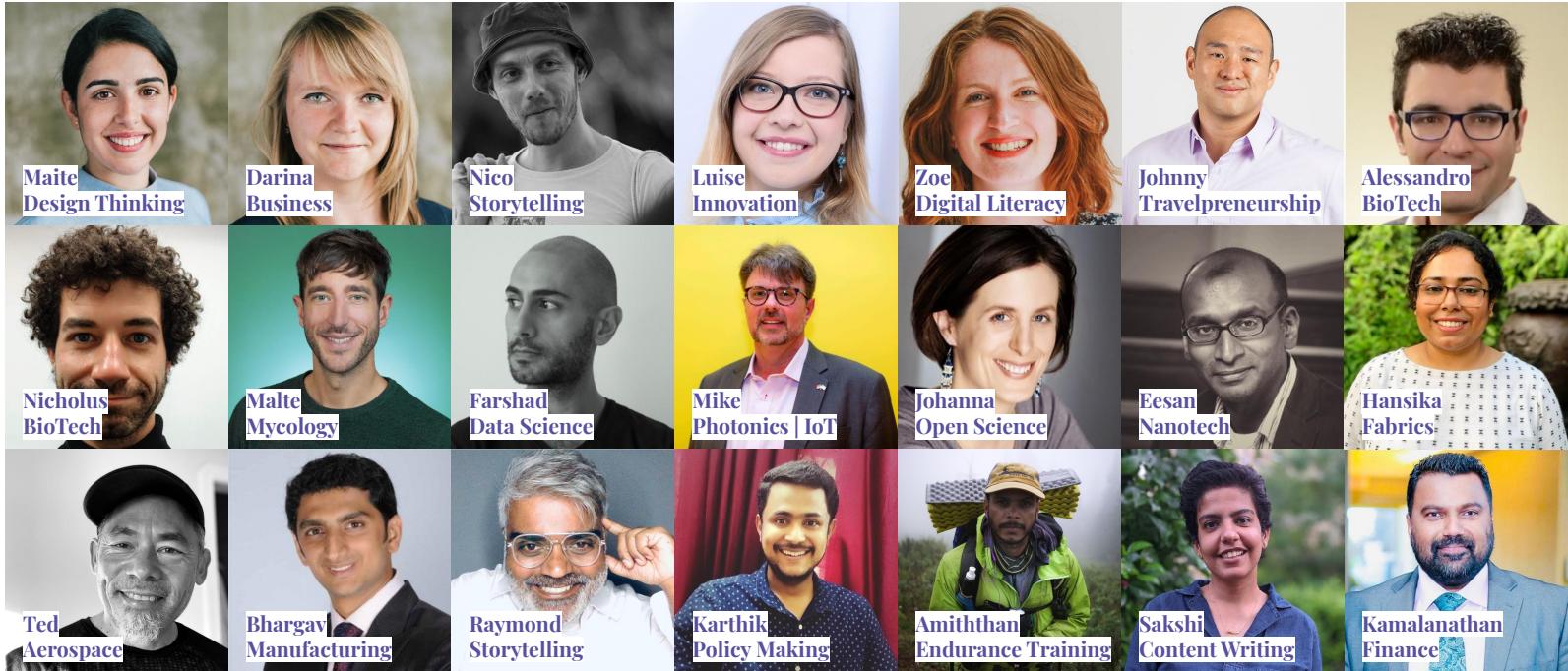
# Who is talking about us?

# Who are our team members?

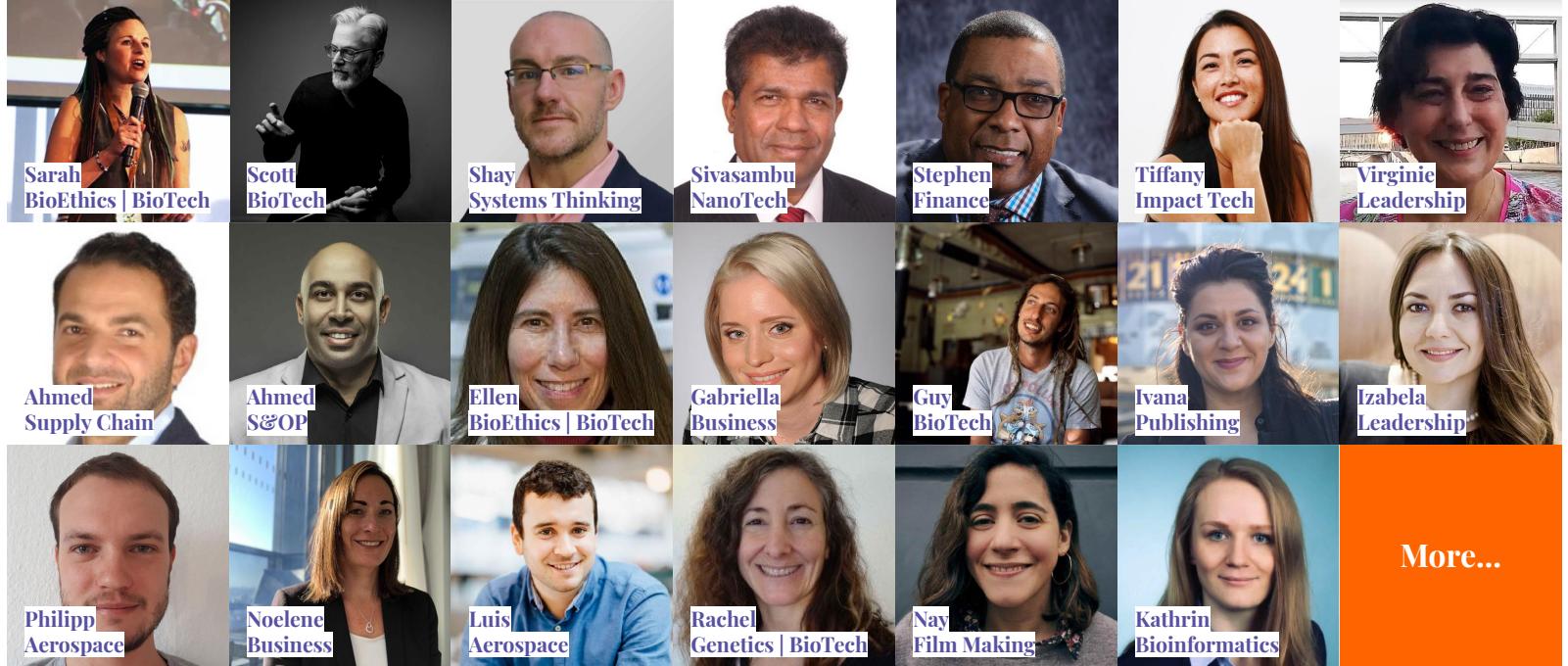


# Who are our subject-matter mentors?



Source: linkedin.com

# Who are our subject-matter mentors?



Source: linkedin.com

# How can you support us?



## Personal Engagements

Engage with us personally by one-to-one mentoring, training our trainers, advising, coaching, sharing your time and heart



## Impact Investments

Invest in us with fundings & grants, buy or donate us hardware & software tools, materials & services for impact as return



## Project Collaborations

Collaborate with us on international aid projects on peacebuilding & reconciliation, rural & women empowerment



## Service Bookings

Book our services in capacity building, design, research & development, digital fabrication, software & hardware product development



## Empower Us

Empower us by talking about us, connected us with like-minded people, nominating us to awards, challenges, fellowships

# Impact Investments



## DreamSpace Ecovillage

Co-invest in building our innovative Ecovillage for incubating local and international innovators and startups



## Modern Infrastructure

Fund us to buy hardware & software tools, materials & services to create complex community innovations



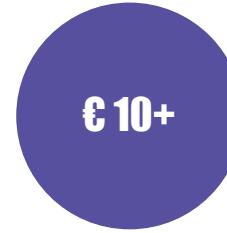
## Startup Innovation

Fund a locally developed grassroots innovation project to become a startup innovation with a focus on commercialisation



## Personalised Empowerment

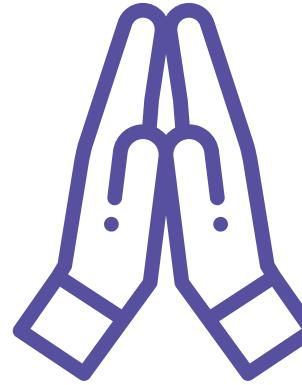
Fund an underprivileged candidate's Lifecycle program consisting of 5 stages spanning 18 months



## Lifeline Support

Fund our basic operational and utility costs by smaller monthly or larger one-time donations to keep us alive

# Co-Creating The Dreams



Join our mission to **co-create the dreams !!!**

**Story Deck at**  
[http://storydeck.  
dreamspace.academy](http://storydeck.dreamspace.academy)

**Support Deck at**  
[http://supportdeck.  
dreamspace.academy](http://supportdeck.dreamspace.academy)

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