



Brussels, October 2nd, 2024

Impact Expansion has taken a majority stake in Helper to fuel its growth ambitions. Helper, a sharing economy platform, provides assistance to individuals with reduced autonomy, helping them with daily activities. This partnership marks Impact Expansion's second investment in Belgium and its first in the field of social inclusion.

Founded in 2017, Helper operates across Flanders, Belgium, offering vital support to people with a loss of autonomy by connecting them with helpers from their local communities. Through its innovative platform, Helper facilitates peer-to-peer home assistance, combining a marketplace for finding assistants with an administrative framework for processing reimbursements.

With this transaction, historical investors Carevolution and Shaping Impact Group will exit the company. Pieter Oostlander, Partner of Shaping Impact Group, commented: "We are very pleased that Impact Expansion will guide Helper through its next phase of growth. Their involvement ensures the preservation of Helper's impactful mission while providing the expertise and resources needed to scale the business and extend its reach beyond the Flemish region."

Helper's work directly contributes to Sustainable Development Goals #3 (Good Health and Well-Being) and #10 (Reduced Inequalities), making everyday assistance accessible and affordable for vulnerable individuals.

Leslie Vlerick, CEO of Helper, expressed excitement about the new partnership: "Helper has enormous potential to expand its services and become the go-to platform for individuals in need of assistance with daily living tasks, as well as for those looking to contribute to their communities."

François de Borchgrave and Karen De Vits, Partner and Investment Manager at Impact Expansion, respectively, shared their enthusiasm for the collaboration: "We are thrilled to support Helper in the coming years and contribute to building a more inclusive and healthier society. Under the leadership of Leslie, and with the foundation laid by founder François Gérard alongside investors Carevolution and Shaping Impact Group, Helper has become a

robust organisation. It empowers people to maintain their independence for as long as possible without overburdening the formal care system. Beyond addressing this critical challenge, Helpper fosters local community engagement and promotes a warmer, more connected society."

This is the fifth investment for Impact Expansion Fund I, following investments in Potential Project (Skilling), SomniPlanet (Healthcare), Mon Kit Solaire (DIY solar panels), and BeliVert (Energy solutions).

About Impact Expansion

Impact Expansion is an investment manager sponsored by KOIS, a pioneer in impact investing, which currently manages over €400 million in impact-focused private equity. Impact Expansion operates from its offices in Brussels and Paris, with the mission to invest in businesses that align with three strategic themes:

1. **Skilling & Inclusion** – investing in sectors like education, training, social inclusion, and youth employment to combat long-term unemployment and isolation.
2. **Climate & Nature** – supporting companies that offer solutions to environmental challenges related to the climate crisis, pollution, and biodiversity loss, while promoting the circular economy.
3. **Health & Well-being** – focusing on improving access to high-quality care.

Impact Expansion takes both minority and majority stakes, investing between €5 and €30 million in companies based in Western Europe. By leveraging deep expertise in impact investing alongside disciplined private equity practices, the team aims to achieve outstanding social and environmental outcomes while delivering top-tier financial returns.

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