

Anuschka Mahieu and Geert Serneels

Solentra

Solentra stands for “Solidarity and Trauma”, and is a not-for-profit organization aiming at making mental health care more accessible and effective to persons with a migrant or refugee background in Belgium while guaranteeing quality. Solentra is specialized in treating (war) trauma-related psychological problems and has developed its intervention methodology that adopts an ecological framework, referred to as Psychiatry Assisting a Cultural diverse Community in creating healing Ties (PACCT®).



Anuschka and Geert would like to help to build resilient communities, open to social transitions, where everyone, no matter their background and history, can thrive, and put migration in the positive spotlight it deserves, opposed to the growing political climate in Europe. They can share Solentra's experience and methodology, how integration is empowering communities and vice-versa, and how to change power relations around clients by seeing them as part of the large ecosystem and by involving all relevant actors in the community.

Values and expertise

Governance team

Solentra is based in Brussels and has 3 regional branches in the provinces of Antwerp, Limburg, and West-Flanders. The diverse team consists of 24 full-time employees, the majority of whom are licensed clinical psychologists with various academic and professional backgrounds, 4 of them being ethnotherapists from Syria, Iran, DR Congo, and Cuba.

Solentra also proactively involves persons with a refugee background in its team.

- How to measure the social impact of our methodology more effectively?
- How to convince policy-makers of the benefits of community-integrated / trauma-informed care?
 - How to involve volunteer organizations in influencing policies (without professionalizing them)?
 - How can we learn from other community-integrated care models?

Questions to the Forum