

EU EXECS GO OFF SCRIPT AT INSIGNIAM ROUNDTABLE

Senior leaders share candid thoughts on how executives must evolve to succeed in the face of growing challenges during a breakfast networking event hosted by Insigniam in Paris.

On June 13, 2023, Insigniam hosted an exclusive executive breakfast at the Châteaufort City Les Jardins de Saint Dominique in Paris, bringing together a distinguished group of European business leaders, eager to delve into the critical

topics that would shape the new future; from the shifting paradigm for effective leadership to how to re-enchant businesses following irrevocable disruptions brought about by the pandemic.

Participants were encouraged to explore the concept of 'how to create a new era in leadership,' one that will enable businesses to accomplish their goals in a rapidly evolving environment. The event was an opportunity for collective thinking and ideation, with no predetermined answers but a shared desire to uncover fresh insights.

Those who gathered engaged in brainstorming sessions, seeking to identify

the qualities and characteristics that define an effective leader.

"The future paradigm for leadership necessitates that we authentically care for our teams whilst transferring energy and momentum into our businesses to move them forward. As leaders, we must remain positive and optimistic regardless of how stressful or volatile an environment may be," said Henri-Xavier Benoist, SVP and head of supply chain parts and services at Stellantis.

Executives in attendance were also challenged to identify three essential conversations they must have within their respective organizations, but perhaps have not prioritized or avoided. These discussions aimed to bridge the gap between existing leadership practices and the transformative approaches required for the future. By honing in on these conversations, attendees could visualize the steps they needed to take in order to shape the future today. It was a call to action, urging leaders to identify their commitments and standpoints in the face of evolving challenges.

Survey Says

Attending executives were asked to answer four questions: (1) What qualities must a leader possess? (2) What does the future paradigm for leadership look like? (3) What will it take to succeed in the future and how can we close the gaps to get there? (4) What excites you most about the future?

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—Véronique de La Grandière

Executive Director, FIG Advisory & Coverage (FraBeLux & Switzerland)
Natixis Corporate & Investment Banking



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Head in the Clouds
When asked to define the qualities leaders must possess in order to succeed in our current business climate, participants offered a medley of assessments, captured in the word cloud above. Top of the list—of which 42% of respondents listed—was *vision*. Tied for second were *accountability* and *humility*, with *authenticity* coming in third.

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During the event, Insigniam also shared forward-thinking perspective

on the future, from exploring the undeniable influence of technology and data in shaping business creation and delivery. However, facilitators emphasized that the true magic lay in the convergence of human beings, data, and technology, transcending the mere existence of information and tools.

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF INSIGNIAM

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overwhelming sense of kindness toward other people,” said Mr. Benoist.

The discussions acknowledged the complexity of persistent global issues, such as environmental concerns, social equity, and energy transitions. By viewing these challenges as opportunities for reinvention, leaders were encouraged to explore innovative solutions by visualizing concepts on whiteboards and through group exercises designed to promote ideation.

Lastly, the significance of corporate culture in driving performance was another key point emphasized during the event. Participants agreed that purpose-driven organizations with a positive culture would gain a competitive advantage, as employees increasingly sought environments aligned with their values.

As the event concluded, several participants indicated a newfound perspective and a deeper understanding of the evolving leadership landscape. The insights gained will hopefully guide their future endeavors as they venture into uncharted territories. **IQ**

Captive Audience
Attendees, alongside Insigniam partners and consultants, discuss what will be expected of leaders in future—and how to create an environment for lasting success.