

Next Generation Leadership Program

Preface to Impact Report

Charly Kleissner, 9/29/21

All significant issues of our times are systemic in nature, be that climate change, social injustice, inequality or poverty. Major design-flaws of our current economic and financial systems are at the core of the multi-systemic crisis that humanity finds itself in. Superficial solutions, that tackle the symptoms as opposed to the root causes, will not be sufficient to get us out of this mess. Linear extrapolation from the past, that perpetuates the current systemic flaws, will not allow us to reach the other side of the great transformation that has already begun.

Humanity now needs new, innovative and out-of-the-box thinking to fundamentally change the financial and economic systems to become regenerative systems - driven by the principles of circularity, regionality, resiliency, equality and social justice. We know what to do. The big question is: Why are we not doing it? What is preventing us from demanding systemic solutions? The answer to that question is a lack of consciousness and awareness, that allows us to believe the assertions of our brains that we are special, that we are outside of nature - which then gives us the permission to dominate and to control.

We need a new cadre of leaders, who take a systemic view of the wicked problems of our times and who co-design and co-develop the emerging impact economy, which is based on regenerative principles and a non-anthropocentric level of awareness and consciousness. We have designed the Next Generation Leadership Program for these leaders, who come from diverse backgrounds and who are all personally committed to helping us move towards a regenerative humanity.

We have partnered with Ashoka and the European Alpbach Forum to deliver the first two programs, which attracted brilliant change-makers from all over the world. We have engaged world-class experts like John Fullerton and James Arbib to challenge, inspire and work with these leaders. We explored the challenges and opportunities of conscious leadership. And we designed the program to maximize opportunities for peer-to-peer learning, tapping into the richness of diverse experiences from the participants.

I take this as an opportunity to thank all participants and partners for their invaluable contributions to create this unique and one-of-a-kind program. You are all an inspiration to me.

In gratitude

-charly Kleissner
Co-Curator