Dear world,

Representation, influence and change - there is an untapped potential that newcomer leadership brings to host societies.

Newcomers can be found at the frontlines of many transversal subjects in host societies – including climate change, access to education and gender. When newcomers can become thought leaders in strategic networks, their first hand experiences can create practical, applicable and innovative solutions that have a scope far beyond migrant communities.

It is with the desire to tap into this potential of newcomer leadership that the Emerging Leaders program was created. In this special edition of The Loudspeaker, we are exploring how this exciting program has taken us one step closer to the diverse representation, influence and change that our societies need.

Accelerating newcomer leadership with Emerging Leaders 2020

In the presence of cherished partners and champions for change, Emerging Leaders was launched on March 4th, 2020 at the Canadian Embassy of Paris. The launch of the Emerging Leaders program has been an exciting chapter for PLACE. Created in collaboration with the German Marshall Fund of the United States, this program has been a first of its kind in Europe - exploring the potential of newcomer leadership in strategic networks and on transversal issues that go far beyond the scope of migration.

Finally, after 9 months of immersive learning, networking and growth as leaders, on October 24th we celebrated the growth of the Catalysts during the Emerging Leaders Retreat. In a rare moment of physical togetherness, the Catalysts spent the day analysing and sharing how they grew as individuals and as a group through a multifaceted program that included immersive online Challenges, expert evaluation, individual coaching on leadership and a strong backbone of peer support.

Through Emerging Leaders, we had the honour to work with 11 Catalysts from 5 countries, all bringing their individual drive to influence and change on a subject of public interest. It is with deep pride that we share the change making, barrier breaking and increasingly influential Catalysts of Emerging Leaders 2020.

Looking back, 2020 was the right time to launch this bold program. Taking shape in a time of a global pandemic and growing discourse on social justice and representation, Emerging Leaders was conceived and designed in a time that proves its necessity.

We are looking forward to continuing to push the conversation around newcomer leadership in the public space in 2021. With ambitions to widen the scope of Emerging Leaders to new geographies and networks, we welcome other actors to join us from different horizons. An exciting consortium of partners is already co-conspiring to scale this unique impact. Interested in being a part of the adventure of Emerging Leaders 2021? Drop us a line - we’ll be happy to tell you more about what we are preparing and how you might play a role in its success.

Keep well,

PLACE network, 27 rue piat, Paris, France

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