Dear world,

The ways we work and create value are rapidly changing. The businesses that have long been household names are now being held to a different standard. Employees, consumers and investors alike are calling for major companies to shift from business as usual to business for a better world. New voices, new points of view, new skills and new ideas will be key in building this new normal.

Fortunately, migrants and refugees have all of these. With an ambition to unlock the potential of newcomer talent for our societies, PLACE and Ecole des Ponts Business School created the Certificate in Innovation and Technology Management (CITM). A certified program for newcomers to acquire the skills needed for tomorrow – today.

On Friday March 5th, the Catalysts of the CITM program will be graduating after 6 months of hard work and exemplary collaboration with peers and experts. In this special edition of The Loudspeaker, we will be diving into this exciting program.

Accelerating newcomer talent through the Certificate in Innovation and Technology Management

The Certificate in Innovation and Technology Management (CITM) is a joint program between PLACE and Ecole des Ponts Business School, one of France’s top business schools. Launched in September 2020, the program is now coming to close on Friday, March 5th, having created a multitude of stories of growth, learning and rich new connections.

Join us for the CITM Graduation

This intensive program has been multifaceted for our 19 Catalysts. Over the past 6 months, they have been logging in weekly for immersive online Challenges with PLACE. Supported by the PLACE Crew, a collective of newcomers trained in online facilitation and collaboration, the Catalysts have developed key future of work skills that have been validated by 16 industry experts.

Through modules with Ecole des Ponts Business School, the Catalysts have been creating dynamic business models, strengthened with the latest disruptive technology, under the guidance of Dean and Assistant Dean Alon Rozen and Dr. Saman Sarbazvatan. The Catalysts have also had access to multiple networking events to learn first-hand how major corporations are evolving, thanks to our partner L’Oréal. Throughout this professional development journey, the Catalysts were all supported by individual coaches through bi-weekly sessions.

It is with deep pride that we present the 19 Catalysts of CITM. These individuals from diverse backgrounds have collectively and individually demonstrated their capacity to inspire growth, change and better business. 57% of them have already taken their career path forward through internships, employment, studies or entrepreneurial pursuits – all before the program has even come to an end!

CITM has been a wonderfully enriching program, bringing together 63 professionals – coaches, experts, Catalysts and Crew – from across the world, all sharing in a desire for new leaders, new points of view and new sources of innovation in our rapidly changing economies. Curious to know more? You will have an opportunity to learn even more about CITM, and other cutting-edge programs that PLACE ran over this unprecedented last year, in our upcoming annual publication the PLACE ZOOM on 2020.

We are excited to keep pushing the conversation around newcomer leadership in business in 2021 and onwards. We are actively looking for corporate partners who are interested in investing in new, innovation-boosting talent for the private sector. Want to be a part of the future of CITM? Drop us a line - we’ll be happy to tell you what we have planned and the role you could play.