



EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

Event Report

Women Talent Pool Leadership Programme Opening Ceremony

1ST MARCH 2021
10:30-12:00 CET



On the 1st of March, WIL Europe launched the 6th edition of the Women Talent Pool (WTP) leadership programme, with a special Opening Ceremony for our 49 new Talents, as well as our Members, Partners and Alumni. There were introductory remarks from WIL President, Thaima Samman, and WIL Board Member, Nathalie Wright, followed by an inspiring exchange between WTP Programme Patron and WIL Member, Petra de Sutter, and WIL Member, Milena Harito. In part two of the event, former WTP participant, Chloe Jones, recounted her experience as a talent in the WTP4. This was followed by an ice-breaker networking session between our new Talents.



Exchange with Programme Patron, Petra De Sutter



5 inspiring speakers



1 Networking Session



90 participants, including 49 talents

Silver Partner



WTP Partners



In-Kind Partners



Opening words from Thaima Samman, Partner of SAMMAN Law & Corporate Affairs and WIL President



Thaima Samman, WIL President and Partner at SAMMAN Law & Corporate Affairs, opened the session with introductory remarks. She noted that year after year, WIL Europe sought to build on the experience of running the WTP to offer, for each new cohort, an ever stronger programme. Thanks to the creativity of the WIL network, this edition, online for the first time, was set to be very rewarding for the new talents.

Presentation by Nathalie Wright, WIL Board Member & Representative of WTP Partner, Rexel

Nathalie Wright, Group Digital and IT Transformation Director and Nordic Region General Manager, and WIL Board Member, gave an overview of the activities of the WTP programme this year, as well as the profiles of the 49 new talents. She encouraged the talents to be active and engaged throughout the 12 months of the programme, noting that this would enable them to make the most of the activities on offer.



Interview and exchange with Petra De Sutter, Deputy Prime Minister in the Belgian Federal government, WIL Member and WTP6 Patron



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Key in leadership is authenticity. Never try to be someone different from who you are.

Petra De Sutter
Deputy Prime Minister of Civil Service, Public Enterprises, Telecommunication and Post | Belgian Federal Government



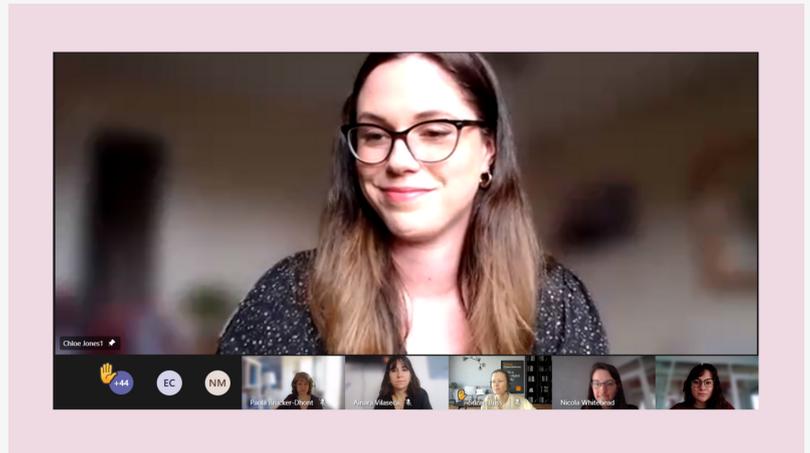
Milena Harito introduced Petra De Sutter, who gave an impassioned account of what leadership meant to her. She argued that leadership was, above all, a question of authenticity, and recommended a book which had provided her with useful food for thought, *The Seven Things You Should Know About Being a Leader*. Responding to a question about the impact of networking on her career, Ms De Sutter spoke about being inspired by the wisdom of Buddhism, which said that rather than dependence or independence, we needed 'interdependence' - in other words, we needed each other to progress, and this was why, in her view, building networks was so fundamental. Following her interview with Ms Harito, Ms De Sutter responded to questions from our Talents on a range of issues, including the power of mentoring.



IN CONVERSATION WITH
MILENA HARITO,
ADVISOR-SHERPA OF THE
CHAIRMAN AND CEO OF
ORANGE, AND WIL
MEMBER

Words from WTP4 participant **Chloe Jones**, Content Manager for Gaming Marketing in Europe Middle East and Africa at Lenovo

Chloe Jones, who benefited from the 4th edition of the WTP Programme, shared her words of wisdom about the impact that participating in the programme in 2018 had on her. She encouraged the Talents to be active, to reach out to each other and others in the network, and to participate in as many initiatives as possible so as to fully reap the benefits.



Ice-breaker Networking Session for our Talents



The Opening Ceremony ended with a 30-minute networking session for our Talents. This was an opportunity for them to get to know each other and share their impressions from the exchange with Petra De Sutter, ahead of the first workshop with Marina Niforos on 23rd March.

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