

CONCLUSION

Lucia Sinapi-Thomas, Executive Director of Capgemini Ventures

We have nearly reached the end of the session so I would like to ask you to say in 30 seconds what change would you make to foster new leaders and facilitate their growth in the next decade?

Mehdi Benchoufi, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer of EchOpen

For me, as I said earlier, common thinking is critical for what we have to build. I think that is something very useful from an academic, technological and political point of view where we would help young generations to contribute to something that they are part of the same history. There are tensions between France and other countries in Europe at the moment for a lot of political reasons, but I think we should develop something out of this.

Clément Tonon, Member of the French Council of State

Will all due respect, I do not think that there is such a thing as a young leader. There are talented people in every sector, public and private, and also women and I see that there are only male speakers for this session. We need more places like the WPC because we have the chance to speak out and I am really grateful to be here and able to talk. There are talented people everywhere and we only need to detect them and give them the opportunity to speak out.

Faruk Tuncer, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Polyteia

I will try to give a straight answer to your question. Looking at Europe's demographic trees we have a big boomer generation that is now in all the power positions, in society, business and government especially. I think that is a big problem because if you want to have young leaders you have to promote young people to positions. I might have stayed in government if the prospects had been different; good luck in the civil service. It is not very easy to move up if you are in the minority in Europe and there is a benefit from young, dynamic leaders because they look at a role with less experience, they may be naive, but they bring dynamics to the table. We need to deliberately put people into positions of responsibility otherwise we will not have them.

Lucia Sinapi-Thomas

Thank you, those are very authentic statements.