



Doing Not Trying:

THE INCLUSIVE JOURNEY

12 - 13 OCTOBER 2023 | DÜSSELDORF

#LEADNetwork23 #DoingNotTrying #TheInclusiveJourney



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LEAD Network announces Annual Conference: "Doing Not Trying: The Inclusive Journey"

Amsterdam, 3 July 2023 — LEAD Network announces the 11th edition of its Annual Conference, set to take place on October 12th and 13th, 2023, in Düsseldorf, Germany. This is the largest diversity and inclusion event for the European FMCG and retail sector, with 800+ attendees in person, and 1000+ participants joining online.

The theme for this year's event is **"Doing not Trying: The Inclusive Journey,"** highlighting the collective effort in fostering more equitable workplaces. Attendees, who find themselves at varying stages of this journey, will have the opportunity to gain insights from authentic stories and personal experiences and knowledge, while also drawing determination from actionable insights and celebrating accomplishments.

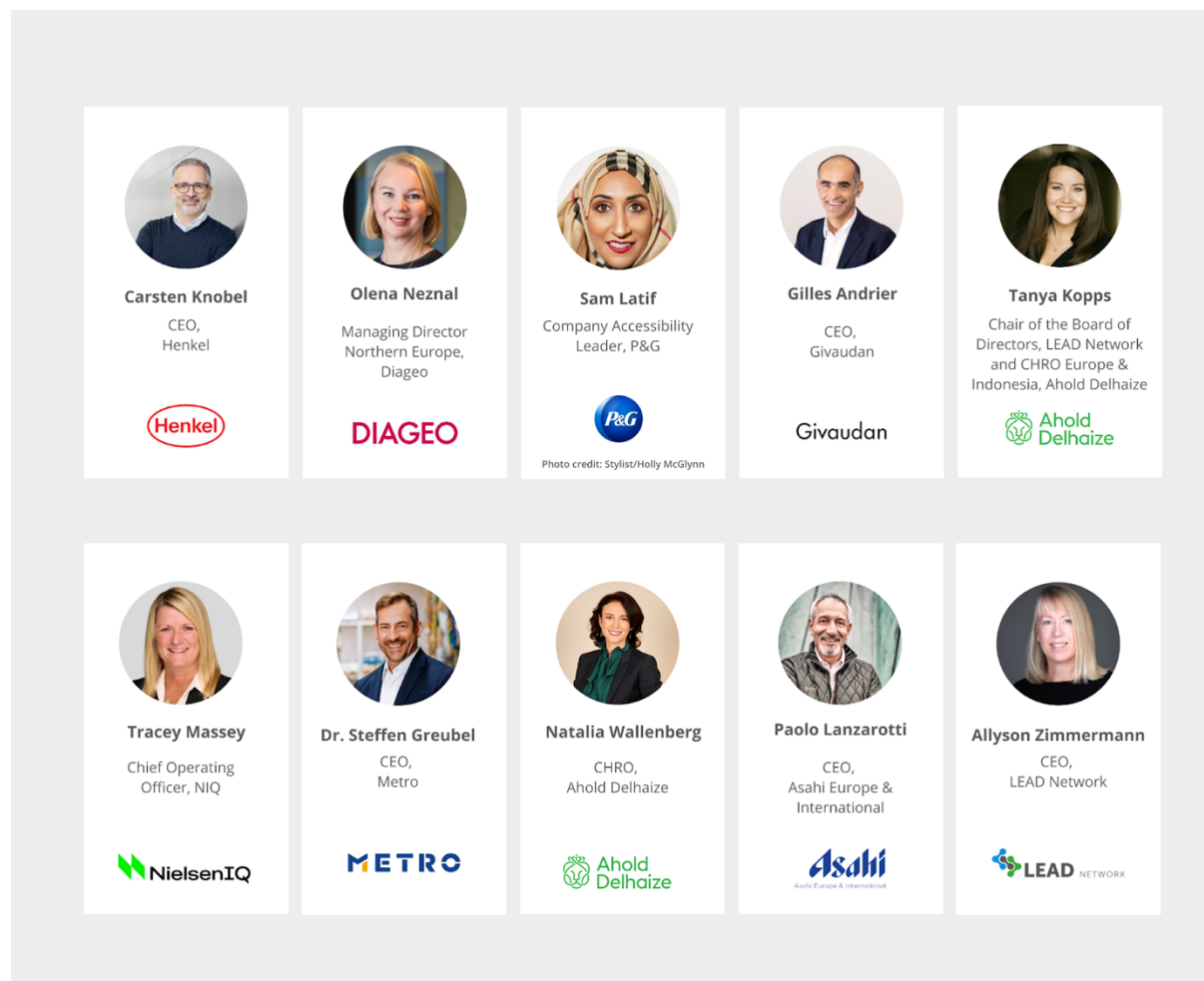
The event will cover a range of topics including gender and inclusive leadership, and will feature inspiring stories from dedicated and authentic leaders and companies committed to promoting and advancing gender diversity within their organisations.. The aim is to facilitate knowledge-sharing and provide a platform for attendees to embark on their own personal journeys. The event encourages exploration and the identification of solutions to address the challenges of Diversity and Inclusion.

The conference features dynamic plenary and breakout sessions, the highly anticipated Networking Celebration Dinner & Awards Ceremony, where awards ranging from Volunteer Excellence to Inspirational Leader to the Partner Ambassador Excellence Award will be presented. And this year, the Volunteer Recognition Breakfast will pay homage to the hard work of LEAD Network's 370+ volunteers in the past year.

In addition, The CEO Roundtable and CIO Roundtable, both exclusive and by invitation only, are eagerly anticipated as highly impactful events. These gatherings bring together top-level executives and decision-makers, fostering invaluable discussions and strategic collaborations

The line-up of speakers for the event includes **over 60 inspirational leaders** from various backgrounds and areas of expertise from companies like METRO, Ahold

Delhaize, Henkel, P&G Givaudan, Diageo, NielsenIQ, METRO or Asahi Europe & International among many others.



"We are thrilled to host this extraordinary event in Düsseldorf, where attendees will engage in inspiring conversations, gain fresh perspectives, and forge meaningful connections. Together, we are driving impactful change." - said **Neha Lagoo Ratnakar**, Head of Education and Content at **LEAD Network**.

Saskia Schmaus, Global Human Resources, Center of Expertise – Diversity, Equity & Inclusion at **Henkel** said: "we are deeply convinced that gender diversity plays a decisive role when it comes to our success. Therefore, we have set ourselves the ambitious target to reach gender parity across all management levels by 2025. Stepping up our efforts with targeted programs and initiatives will help us to be an even more inclusive and diverse company. And the LEAD Network Conference offers a great opportunity to foster women's empowerment in the industry, support men's allyship and build cross company networks. Because by discussing the challenges and by sharing best practices, we can learn from each other to leverage the full potential of diversity."

More information about the Conference please visit the [Conference Website](#).

Attendance can be either in person at the venue (Crown Plaza Hotel) in Düsseldorf or through virtual participation in the plenary sessions.

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ABOUT LEAD Network

[LEAD Network](#) is a non-profit and volunteer-led organisation whose mission is to attract, retain and advance women in the Consumer Goods and Retail sector in Europe through education, leadership, and business development. LEAD Network has a fast-growing membership of more than 19,000 people – both women and men – drawn from 81 countries. Members have the opportunity to build their leadership skills, to widen their circle of contacts, and to be inspired by female role models and male champions in the industry. To date, over 65 companies have signed the LEAD Network CEO Pledge on gender diversity. The pledge outlines a specific set of actions CEOs will take to cultivate a trusting environment where courageous conversations about ways to create inclusive cultures are welcomed. The [CEO Pledge](#) aims for significantly increasing female representation at director level and above, as well as building a plan to achieve gender parity over the next decade.

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To download materials please visit the Media page at the [Conference Website](#)

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