

Innovation and growth through responsible leadership – Round Table Silicon Valley

November 8, 2017

Background and purpose

In the last decade questions on growth and innovation have been linked to questions on sustainability and social corporate responsibility. To create growth, reinvention and innovation is not enough. More actors express that growth and profitability must go hand in hand with sustainable solutions and expanded responsibility. This puts new demands on leadership and leaders in different parts of the organization.

Swedish companies have a long history of doing business nationally and internationally and an extensive experience of creating trust, with customers, employees, suppliers, partners, etc. To a large part this success comes from the ability of these companies to understand and adapt to new innovation and emerging values, without renouncing their own cultural core values. Like other strategic recourses the governance model (owners, boards and management team) and the leadership that holds the market positions in severe competition, need to be reinvented and developed.

With this as a background, researchers at Stockholm School of Economics (SSE) initiated together with Vinnova a series of Round Table seminars on the theme 'Innovation and growth through responsible leadership'. The purpose was two-folded; firstly, to support and deepen the exchange of experience between executives and experts in a small number of companies, a group of researchers and policy-makers from Vinnova and secondly, to generate concrete examples of responsible leadership implementation of innovation and growth. Consequently, participating companies had already proven their dedication to the topic. To this day, 4 round table seminars have taken place. One important outcome of the seminars is examples (mini-cases) of Responsible leadership for innovation and growth identified within the participating partners e.g. Telia Company, Stora Enso and EQT.

In a second step, Round Tables in Silicon Valley are now arranged to contrast the learnings and experiences with a group of companies that operate in an intensely innovation driven context. The focus will be on how the sustainability issues becomes a part of the strategic agenda in an environment where constant innovation is the core of the business models, and the role of leadership in such contexts.

The purpose of Round Tables in Silicon Valley is to generate knowledge of leadership of responsibility – and sustainability issues in highly innovation driven organizations by - in the spirit of the project - initiating and facilitating meetings between managers, researchers and policy-makers operating in Silicon Valley.

The Round Table meeting in Silicon Valley is thus expected to create insights about a company environment that represents the forefront regarding innovation and possibly also sustainability. In addition, Stanford University offers a research environment in

absolute world class for these topics.

The Round table seminar is part of a 3-days workshop, including company visits, a research seminar and small group discussions.

For more information contact Ingalill Holmberg or Pernilla Petrelius Karlberg