BARCELONA

17ᵗʰ Annual Global Conference

14-17 October 2015

ila

International Leadership Association

LEADING ACROSS BORDERS & GENERATIONS

Call for Submissions Now Open

www.ila-net.org/conferences/2015

2015 Barcelona Global Conference Concept Note

While you are in San Diego, we hope you'll begin planning for Barcelona. The Call for Submissions is open and you are today surrounded by hundreds of potential co-presenters. This concept note focuses on the theme but, of course, submissions on all areas of expertise are invited.

The 2015 conference theme, *Leading Across Borders and Generations*, may at first appear simplistic; however, further consideration underscores its inherent complexity. Leading refers both to the persons leading (the leaders) and the processes that they and others engage in together (leadership). While borders and generations might seem unrelated, their pairing draws attention to how each generation perceives and experiences the concepts of borders and leading.

Borders can be physical or invisible, natural or constructed, crossed casually or cautiously, associated with pride or defeat. The experiences of each generation arguably impact their perceptions concerning the relevancy of borders. Compare, for example, the experiences of younger Europeans who have always traveled easily between EU countries, with those elders who remember challenges crossing some of the same borders during WWII, to others who live within newly created or erased borders. Now, those traveling through cyberspace may question the relevance of borders entirely.

Every day, wicked problems – epidemics, climate change, terrorism, and scarcities of water, food, and energy – confront humanity without regard to borders. At the same time, breakthrough research is advancing the human life span to over 100 years, creating a population that spans not three but five generations. Identifying, respecting, and engaging the mindsets and skillsets of each generation will greatly improve the chances of discovering and successfully implementing solutions.

Whether considered literally or metaphorically, the challenges associated with *Leading Across Borders and Generations* are often significant, requiring an understanding of and attention to history, cultures, attitudes, and laws. These same factors can complicate leadership processes and transitions. An emerging emphasis on cross-sector leadership approaches requires new levels of understanding and cooperation.

Strategically located in the south of Europe and the western Mediterranean region, Barcelona is the perfect place to explore our theme. Capital city of Catalonia and one of the main cities in Spain, it is also one of the most important ports on the Mediterranean Sea, site of the 1992 Olympics, and headquarters of the Union for the Mediterranean – an innovative institution that aims to transform the Mediterranean into an area of peace, democracy, cooperation, and prosperity. It is a place where many different cultures have lived together throughout centuries, a place capable of extracting and incorporating all the good things from them in order to be better.

Innovative and reflective, it is a culture that thrives in duality, embracing at the same time the most creative genius (rauxa) and the most realistic common sense (seny). Historically a home to artists, scientists, and thought-leaders, Barcelona shares with the world the genius of Gaudi and took in Picasso and Garcia Marquez. With many excellent universities and the offices of major Hispanic publishers, it's a city dedicated to study and research with an important business and industrial fabric. In short, Barcelona is the perfect setting for the next ILA Global Conference.

We look forward to seeing you in Barcelona!

Michael Brandenburg, 2015 Global Conference Chair; IESE Business School, University of Navarra
Mireia Tintoré, 2015 Conference Theme Program Chair; Universitat Internacional de Catalunya