



Alumni Infopoint

Learn more about the “Personal and Professional Development program” (PPD) organized by the Solvay Schools Alumni Association.

Interview with the Solvay Schools Alumni Association about the PPD program.

Why a Personal and Professional Development program?

Because we want to offer to our alumni more than great networking activities – which we do by the way very well :-). Of course, we have already the now traditional Career Services sessions on a *Strong CV*, an *Effective Job Search* and a *Good Job Interview*. We also want to satisfy the needs for personal and professional development of ALL our alumni, and not only of those looking for a new job.

How is this different than any other development program or training course?

Exclusively reserved for [Solvay Schools Alumni](#), these sessions offer a secure, friendly and intimate environment. Away from the professional surroundings, the only thing at stake is yourself. The personal insights experience creates long lasting and trustful relationships among the Participants who become and remain real buddies.

In addition, participants become members of the SSA Leadership Development Club.

What is the SSA Leadership Development Club?

Its purpose is to support the members in making real progress on what they have committed to themselves. They are regularly being reminded of their challenges to evolve personally and professionally. New insights are brought to their attention, discussions take place on our digital forum and special events are organized to nurture this very special relationship we have developed during the sessions.

Members of the Club meet “life” and interact on dedicated social channels, stimulate each other, share experiences, readings or advice, and are growing as individuals and professionals.

The LDC celebrates its 1st anniversary?

Our pilot year has been a real success. We received wonderful feedback from our participants. Today they are engaged in implementing the changes they want to see. Changing habits and behaviors is not easy. The Club offers (personal) support and attention. Everyone can engage the way she or he wishes.

What are the pillars of the PPD program?

The Personal and Professional Development program is deployed along the three leadership axes:

- leading myself,
- leading my team,
- leading in the organization.

How would you describe a typical PPD event?

A typical PPD event is organized as a residential seminar of 1,5 day. As we wish to share quality work and personal insights, groups are limited to 12 to 24 participants. Of course, there is always a theoretical support, but the most important part are the exercises the participants will do, mainly in small groups of 2 to 4 people. This allows in depth personal thinking and feeling, with the support and challenges of caring partners.

Depending on the topic, the PPD setting will be adapted to provide best opportunity for personal growth and development.

So what's going on in the next few months?

We just had a successful long event on *How to really change your behavior and avoid The New Year's resolution syndrome?*

Next upcoming events:

Month	Name of event	About the event
March	"Great, a crisis!"	Facing a crisis, do you want to feel falling like the leaning tower of Pisa or raise towards the sky, like the Eiffel tower, firmly anchored in the ground? How can NLP (Neuro Linguistic Programming) help you in turning a crisis into an opportunity?
April	The Art of Networking!	
May	Better playing the organization through framing my relationships differently...	
May 30th	Special Event : Ellen Petry Leanse the famous Silicon Valley influencer !	Based on the latest research in neuroscience, Ellen will explain how we can create healthy workplaces by "thinking differently" about productivity. Check out for more information www.ellenleanse.com
June	SSA Leadership Development Club Summer Event	

Testimonials of alumni about the PPD program



"Once again, this PPD seminar hit a home run. Both speakers mastered their subject in great depth, and the mix of frameworks and practical exercises in small groups created once again all the magic of these events. I have a much greater understanding of the forces that hold our changes back and how to overcome them. In addition, as for each seminar, I got to meet and interact deeply with new and wonderful people. I cannot wait for the next event."

Marc Coppens (SSA 2008) - Chief Financial Officer - Tessares

"A really interesting and plentiful day learning about new domains, enriched with a group of people open to listen, to share and to have fun. The fact that you spend a night outside your daily environment creates space to disconnect from your professional obligations and puts you in a relaxing learning mood. And finally, we are creating a network of people caring about people. That's great.

To be recommended at 120% for people who care about people."

Christiane Steegmans (SSA 1981) - Partner - Innovity





"I was a little skeptical about the PPD event in Waterloo. Could I really learn anything new about "how to implement change – in myself"? YES! Marianne & Isabelle taught me much about change and new approaches to human interactions. Much food for thought. Impressed."

Steve Laycock (SSA 2000) - Managing Director - Aeltari International

Useful Links

The Solvay Schools Association's [website](#)

For more information [contact the team](#)

The School's [website](#)