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THE LEADERSHIP COMPETENCIES OF NEWSPACE ORGANISATIONS

**Abstract**

The social context worldwide has never been under greater volatility and uncertainty, with requirements to influence behavioural change displaying extensive discussions. With an urgent need to commit to advocating for joint action on delivering on Paris Agreement and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs), the growing sector of NewSpace organisations and initiatives of non-governmental, privately owned, and public entities are being developed to answer the critical global matters, such as response to disasters both natural and man-made, protection of biodiversity and natural resources, development of innovative technology for weather forecasting or telehealth services and securing food through the development of precision agriculture technology and practices.

However, managing the social context and enabling the development of New Space organisations and initiatives demands not only high investments in the space technology that, according to Euroconsult, throughout 2021, have been estimated to be 92 US Billion dollars but also needs to address the development of empowered and inspired generations of highly-skilled space workforce, willing to take the initiative and cross-collaborate to develop a deep understanding of sustainable use of planetary natural ecosystems.

This study presents that through democratising space access and enabling space tourism for everyone, the NewSpace organisations must address the management of the unseen social context. Malcolm Gladwell (The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference, 2000) argues on this point that human character has more to do with the environment it is part of than who innately humans are. Therefore, addressing how the situational and conscious leadership practices are being implemented within NewSpace organisations and initiatives, together with what role the women and underrepresented genders would have in this transition, is highly required, especially in the current social context of V.U.C.A. times.

The study considers as well the psychological aspects and the concerns of students and young professionals in the space sector as they will eventually become space leaders, shaping the future of our world. Our research does not constitute a final blueprint but suggests the impacts of the NewSpace emerging trend, marked with unprecedented development, could bring remarkable growth into the global markets through emotional intelligence management.