

What is the Tällberg Leaders Mentoring Leaders (TLML) program?

TLML aims to identify and nurture emerging leaders with outsized potential, leveraging the Tällberg Foundation's global network to accelerate their growth as impactful leaders.

The Tällberg Foundation has a deep commitment to encouraging global, values-based leadership wherever we can find it. In a world beset by existential challenges, we believe the only sustainable solutions are the ones imagined and pursued by leaders who operate with courage, creativity, persistence, commitment to universal values—but, above all, an understanding that global challenges demand global solutions.

The concept is simple: in our messy world, we need as many extraordinary leaders as possible. TLML matches emerging leaders from a wide range of countries and disciplines with equally diverse established leaders in a focused, year-long process of conversation and collaboration designed to accelerate the development of high-potential leaders.

How long has TLML been operating?

The current mentoring program, which has important antecedents during the Tällberg Foundation's 40-year history, was piloted during 2023.

Who are the mentees for the Class of 2026?

The 15 participants were chosen by a jury with a wealth of experience, diverse perspectives, and valuable insight.

This year, over 408 applicants from 96 countries were submitted.

The 2026 TLML mentees are:

- **Aline Telles Coelho (Brazil)** — Founder and Executive Director of the Agbara Fund, Brazil's first philanthropic fund for Black women, supporting over 4,000 women through programs in economic justice and well-being.
- **Aman Tripathi (India)** — Automotive strategist and sustainability advocate driving business transformation at Nissan Europe and championing diversity and inclusion across global teams.
- **Aysha Siddiqua Tithi (Bangladesh)** — Student activist recognized internationally for her leadership in her country's 2024 anti-discrimination movement and her advocacy for human rights and climate justice.
- **Gaurav Mehta (India)** — Founder and CEO of DharmaLife, a social enterprise empowering rural women entrepreneurs to deliver market-based solutions across clean energy, health, and livelihoods.

- **Hadijah Nankanja (Uganda)** — Founder and Executive Director of the Community Women's Enterprise Network Uganda, building entrepreneurial capacity among women and youth for inclusive economic growth.
- **Hanna Poikonen (Finland)** — Neuroscientist, dancer, and founder of WiseMotion Community, pioneering cross-disciplinary research at the intersection of movement, neuroscience, and mental health.
- **Hanna Valynets (Belarus/Lithuania)** — Journalist and media innovator focused on human rights, disinformation, and independent media, leading a cross-border network of freelance reporters.
- **Jubilian Ngaruwa (Nigeria)** — Documentary filmmaker and National Geographic Explorer using ethical storytelling to amplify local voices and preserve African cultural narratives.
- **Lili Sára Balogh (Hungary)** — Agronomical engineer and President of the Hungarian Agroecology Network Association, advancing regenerative and equitable food systems through research, advocacy, and practice across Europe.
- **Nitesh Kumar Jangir (India)** — Engineer and social innovator whose medical technologies for emergency and critical care have saved thousands of lives across Asia and Africa.
- **Sakina Bakari Mwinyimkuu (Tanzania)** — Director of Performance Monitoring and Evaluation in the Tanzanian government, co-founder of Emerging and Senior Women Leaders Tanzania, and a national mentor for young professionals.
- **Samah Hadid (Lebanon)** — Global Executive Director of Musawah and human rights advocate focused on advancing gender equality and justice across Muslim-majority countries.
- **Sohini Bhattacharya (India)** — Senior Advisor to the Accelerator for shifting Gender Norms Through Education and former CEO of Breakthrough, with three decades of leadership in gender justice, philanthropy, and movement-building in South Asia.
- **Surya Karki (Nepal)** — Global Pathbuilders Fellow and founding CEO of Christel House Nepal, transforming and leading efforts to build sustainable schools and expand access to quality education for underprivileged children.
- **Umama Fatema (Bangladesh)** — Youth leader and women's rights advocate who helped lead Bangladesh's 2024 student reform movement and continues to mobilize youth for social change.

Learn more about them on our website, tallbergfoundation.org/tlml.

Who are the mentors for the Class of 2026?

The mentors will be announced in January 2026. Please subscribe to our mailing list to receive the news in your inbox. tallbergfoundation.org/subscribe-to-our-mailing-list/

Why did the Foundation establish the TLML?

The Foundation's board believes that many societies, as well as the global system, are at or approaching inflection points. Institutions, paradigms, and societal norms are under enormous pressure to change, but old habits die hard, even if they no longer are adequate to deal with new realities. That puts great value on courageous leaders and innovative leadership.

The mentoring program leverages Tällberg's global network to accelerate the mentees' growth as impactful global leaders by enhancing understanding, skills, and readiness for values-based leadership in whatever professional trajectory unfolds for the individual participant.

Our hope is to leverage mentors' experiences and learnings—successes as well as failures—so that emerging leaders can seize their leadership opportunities as fully and as soon as possible.

Who is eligible for the TLML Program?

Anyone, anywhere. Mentee candidates must submit an application through an open, online process and are ultimately selected by a jury of international leaders. This year the application process began on March 1 and ended on May 1, 2025.

How are the mentees selected?

Potential mentees must submit applications online that will be reviewed and researched by Tällberg staff and then vetted by a pre-jury of leaders from Tällberg's global network. The mentees are ultimately selected by a jury that is comprised of global leaders. The selection process involves rigorous deliberation and assessment to ensure that the chosen high-potential mentees embody the program's overarching criteria: demonstrated courage, creativity, persistence, commitment to universal values, and, most importantly, an understanding of the need for global solutions to address global challenges.

What types of leaders are serving as mentors?

What's unique about Tällberg is the idea that while borders—between countries, disciplines, religions, thought systems, and cultures—are important to our identities, they are too often obstacles to the solutions demanded by the problems confronting our societies. Leaders active in the Tällberg network understand that, thereby positioning

them to help high-potential leaders grow their leadership skills in a world that demands global approaches and solutions.

How is the program structured?

In essence, TLML centers on leadership. The goal is to enhance participants' understanding, skills, and readiness for values-based leadership on their respective professional journeys. The method focuses on matching each participant with an accomplished global leader from Tällberg's worldwide network.

Mentors and mentees are matched through a process of interviews, surveys, and research—the key element of which is finding the right personal chemistry.

The 2026 program officially begins with an in-person kickoff workshop in Tirana, Albania, from January 27–29, 2026, hosted in partnership with the Social Contract Institute. That program will be designed to encourage conversation about leadership as well as about the global context in which leaders need to operate—today and tomorrow. The goal is to jump-start mentee/mentor relationships, as well as to generate insights into the complexities of leadership, and counsel on coping with the kinds of challenges that characterize the early 21st century.

Subsequently, mentors and mentees meet virtually at least monthly over the balance of the year. Those meetings are supplemented by group “pulse checks” as well as other meetings, typically virtual, to explore various leadership issues as a group.

Graduates of the program will receive a certificate of completion and become integral members of Tällberg's global network.

Who leads the TLML?

Tällberg's team leader for the development and management of TLML is Michael Niconchuk. Michael is a practitioner and researcher in mental health and psychosocial support, peacebuilding, and violence prevention. For 15 years he has worked alongside Syrian refugees and others affected by conflict in Southwest Asia and the Horn of Africa to develop and implement psychosocial support programs, with a focus on trauma and healing with persons involved directly in violence, including the reintegration of persons affiliated with ISIS. He is an author of *The Field Guide for Barefoot Psychology*, co-author of the US Institute of Peace's *RISE Action Guide for the Reintegration of Extremism-Affiliated Persons*, and the author of numerous publications on trauma-responsive peacebuilding. He is also a Tällberg Foundation director.

He receives support from Tom Cummings, who advises corporate and non-corporate leadership and is also a Tällberg Foundation director, as well as Ulla-Britt Fräjdin-Hellqvist, an experienced mentor to emerging leaders and professionals. In his capacity as Tällberg's chairman, Alan Stoga provides overall guidance to the team.

Who is the Tällberg Foundation's lead supporter?

The Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF) is one of the world's leading private, international philanthropic organizations, making grants to nonprofit organizations in the areas of arts and culture, education, health and sports, and social welfare. SNF supports organizations and projects worldwide that aim to achieve a broad, lasting, and positive impact for society at large, and exhibit strong leadership and sound management. The Foundation also supports projects that facilitate the formation of public-private partnerships as an effective means for serving the public welfare.

Since 1996, the Foundation has committed more than \$3.9 billion through over 5,600 grants to nonprofit organizations in more than 135 countries around the world.

Learn more at SNF.org.

Where can I find more information?

Information can be found on the Tällberg Foundation website: tallbergfoundation.org. In addition, contact info@tallbergfoundation.org.