



CoreNet Global Benelux Chapter Brings the CRE Community Together at Inaugural New Year's Gala

The CoreNet Global Benelux Chapter held its first New Year's Gala on January 15 at the Koninklijke Industriële Groote Club on Dam Square in Amsterdam. Willem van Ansem, Global Head of Workplace, Facilities & Real Estate at Flora Food Group and Chair of the Benelux Chapter: "More than one hundred leading figures from the real estate sector attended the cocktail reception and gala dinner. There was ample opportunity to connect and reflect on the successes of the past year. We sincerely congratulate the award winners on their outstanding achievements."

CoreNet Global is an international organization for professionals working in corporate real estate - a community that promotes leadership and personal development. To support this, CoreNet offers certifications, training programs, and events worldwide.

Heart of Amsterdam

The Koninklijke Industriële Groote Club is a social and business club located in the heart of Amsterdam. Anna Casemier, Managing Partner at CONTRAST and CoreNet board member: "As the gala committee, we deliberately chose this location. De Groote Club has a spirit that perfectly aligns with the innovation and progress that CoreNet Global stands for. Its entrepreneurial mindset and strong focus on connection and knowledge sharing also resonated with us. A special thank you to Patrick Goijaerts, who, as head chef, ensured an outstanding guest experience during the gala dinner."

Awards Presentation

Eve Wilkinson-Bell, Workplace Regional Manager at HERE Technologies and CoreNet board member, was among those who presented awards during the gala dinner for recognising exceptional leadership, strategic impact, and significant contributions to the field of corporate real estate.

The CRE Leader of the Year award was presented to Marnix Mali, Director of Real Estate & Workspace Services at Booking.com. He played a key role in the realization of the company's new global headquarters in Amsterdam, aligning workplace design with sustainability, innovation, and business performance.

The CRE Young Leader of the Year award was presented to Olga Filimonova. In her role as Global Senior Real Estate Portfolio & Transaction Manager at Versuni, she has delivered measurable value by aligning real estate transactions and workplace solutions with corporate strategy. She is deeply engaged in the industry, by speaking at the 2025 Amsterdam Summit and the Workplace Design Show, and embodies continuous professional development as a Qualified Professional of Corporate Real Estate (QPCR).

The Project of the Year award was presented to the development of the work environment by tech innovator Miro. In spring 2025, Miro opened its impressive headquarters, *Miro100*, in the iconic Edge Stadium in Amsterdam. The location showcases the future of workplace design, developed together with employees and built around community, learning, and personal growth. Daaf Serné, Head of Workplace & Sustainability: “What a wonderful compliment to our team. We’ve worked alongside our colleagues on this project for a long time, with enormous passion and energy, and we’re incredibly proud of the result.”

Continued in 2026

The CoreNet Global Benelux Chapter thanks the sponsors of the New Year’s Gala for their dedication and support. Willem van Ansem added: “This first edition was such a success that we have decided to make the New Year’s Gala an annual event. It will further strengthen the profile of our Benelux Chapter and offer real estate professionals another unique opportunity to connect.”

Would you like to know more about the CoreNet Global Benelux Chapter or become a member? Visit the Benelux Chapter website <https://benelux.corenetglobal.org/home> or contact Enrique Martinez Molina via beneluxchapter@corenetglobal.org.