

Submission Name

Eve Wilkinson-Bell

Award Selection

Young Leader of the Year Nomination

Sub-Category

Job Title

Workplace Regional Manager (Western Europe)

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Number of years with postgraduate experience

7

Nominating Chapter

Benelux Chapter

Chapter Leader Position

Benelux Chapter - Sponsoring

By checking this box, I confirm that this is the one official entry of our Chapter. I also confirm that our Chapter verified that the nominee meets the required eligibility and selection criteria. I also confirm that our Chapter will support our official nominee by attending the Recognition dinner.

Developed and implemented initiatives that positively impacted the profession and how you used them in your current role (35 points)

When I first joined CoreNet Global Benelux, the Young Leader presence was virtually non-existent. I took it upon myself to change that. Since becoming actively involved, I've led the revitalization of the Young Leader network in our region, amplifying it from zero to a vibrant and engaged community. We now host multiple events per year and have grown our Young Leader membership by nearly 300%.

What drove me was a clear passion: to create opportunities for younger professionals in corporate real estate, especially those just starting their journey. I'll be candid, when I first attended a CoreNet event, it felt like a room full of older white men. While their experience is invaluable, it was clear that the future of the profession needed more diversity, not just in background, but in age, energy, and ideas. I'm proud to say we've changed that. Our Young Leaders are now among the most active members in the Benelux chapter, and our events attract a much more balanced mix of generations and perspectives. This shift has enriched the experience for everyone—fostering dialogue between early-career professionals and seasoned leaders, creating a two-way mentorship dynamic that strengthens the whole community.

This initiative has had a direct and positive impact on the profession by widening access, increasing engagement, and injecting fresh thinking into our network. It has helped young professionals feel seen, supported, and part of something bigger—exactly what's needed to sustain and grow the next generation of talent in our field.

Personally, taking on this leadership role—just one year into my own career in corporate real estate—pushed me well outside my comfort zone. It gave me visibility and credibility beyond my years of experience, and helped me cultivate a diverse and trusted network. I now have peers (and friends) I can call on for advice, consultants I can tap for support in projects, and access to knowledge that continues to inform and strengthen my current role. Every event we organize teaches me something new—whether it's market trends, strategic thinking, or people skills.

I believe that amplifying this network didn't just benefit others—it transformed me too. It turned CoreNet from a professional association into a meaningful part of my growth and purpose within the industry.

Demonstrated quantifiable achievements that contributed to the employer's success (35 points)

In my current role managing a diverse EMEA real estate portfolio, I've led several high-impact projects that delivered measurable value—both financially and experientially—for our people and the wider business.

One of the most transformative achievements was the relocation of our Amsterdam Global HQ, which I led singlehandedly from initial planning to final move-in. The result was a future-ready workspace that more than doubled our headcount and meeting room capacity, supporting business growth while staying on time and within budget. The new office piloted smart technologies and set a new benchmark for how we showcase our brand physically—elements now being replicated across other locations.

Complementing our physical transformations, I was also part of the global leadership team for Reconnect—a post-pandemic initiative to reinvigorate culture, community, and purpose across our offices. For the first time, we coordinated events in the majority of global offices, re-establishing local identity and engagement. From wellness programs to team-building activities, Reconnect became a catalyst for restoring energy and connection in a hybrid work model.

Beyond flagship programs, I've delivered several targeted initiatives with tangible results:

In London, I led the exit from an oversized, expensive office into a right-sized space aligned with local needs—achieving over €600,000 in annual savings. As Laurel, UK Senior Director & London Site Leader, shared: “This project delivered substantial savings while maintaining a great experience for our people—Eve made sure everyone felt heard and supported throughout.”

In Madrid, I relocated the team from a dated office to a dynamic serviced space—saving €15,000 annually, simplifying contract management, and improving the workplace experience.

In Brussels, I moved a small team of three into a brighter, more engaging office—cutting rent by one-third and creating an environment the team is proud of.

In Paris and Tampere, I negotiated directly with landlords to downsize within existing leases—achieving €500k in annual savings in Paris and €250k in Tampere. In both cases, I ensured a small portion of savings was reinvested into the existing spaces to maintain a positive employee experience.

Across all these projects, I've shown that smart, people-centred real estate strategy can drive meaningful cost savings,

Actively involved in real estate industry organizations and/or CoreNet Global over the previous 12 months. What was the biggest takeaway or learning achievement you experienced? (15 points)

Since joining in 2022, I've significantly deepened my involvement with CoreNet Global, formally joining the Benelux Chapter board in late 2023. This transition from an active member to a board-level role has allowed me to contribute strategically—shaping programming, broadening our network, and advocating for more inclusive, future-focused industry conversations.

As already mentioned, I've played a pivotal part in expanding the Young Leaders network. What began as a small group with no structured activity has grown into a thriving, engaged community that now hosts multiple events each year and has tripled in size.

This experience taught me that networks don't build themselves—they need people to champion them, shape the tone, and make space for others. It's also reminded me that change doesn't have to be loud or immediate to be meaningful; consistency and authenticity are just as powerful. I've learned to lead from the middle—not as the most senior voice in the room, but as someone who brings people together and opens doors for others.

A standout moment was hosting a panel debate at the 2024 CoreNet Global EMEA Summit titled "Nurturing Next-Gen Success: Empowering Young Talent Through Workplace Connections." I developed the concept and curated the panel. It brought together a diverse range of voices and started a great debate exploring exactly how important connections and networks such as Corenet are for supporting and retaining young talent.

The biggest learning I've taken away from all these experiences with Corenet so far is that effective leadership in our industry doesn't just mean having the answers—it means creating space for diverse perspectives, asking the right questions, and building bridges across generations and disciplines.

Serving on the board has also given me a broader view of how our chapter functions and evolves. I've had the unique opportunity to advocate for initiatives that reflect the changing face of corporate real estate. It's deepened my understanding of the industry—and reinforced my belief that community is one of the most powerful tools we have to drive progress.

Actively pursuing professional development. Provide 1 goal or more you would like to achieve. (15 points)

My primary professional development goal is to continue growing into a more senior leadership role within the corporate real estate industry. I'm passionate about the impact that real estate and workplace experience can have—not just on business outcomes, but on how people feel, connect, and thrive at work. To support this, I've been actively seeking mentorship—both internally within my company and externally through industry networks like CoreNet. These conversations have helped me broaden my strategic perspective, sharpen my communication skills, and build confidence navigating more complex organisational dynamics.

At the same time, I'm investing in hands-on leadership opportunities. I regularly facilitate workshops and internal team building or engagement sessions, which helps me build my voice and presence as a leader within the business.

Beyond my organisation, I'm passionate about supporting the next generation of real estate professionals. We've already achieved so much in a relatively short space of time with the CoreNet Benelux Young Leader community, my goal is to continue growing this impact: build a solid community that can empower the next generation through events and networking.

Ultimately, my development is about scaling my impact—developing the strategic and leadership skills needed to influence not just the offices I manage, but the people and cultures they support. That's the kind of leader I aspire to be: thoughtful, connected, and committed to creating value in every sense of the word.

The review panel consist of a diverse mix of members across the globe. To make the judging fair and equal to all chapters, we ask you to provide historical information as well as context around the distinguishing characteristics and challenges in your chapter:

1. Involved in innovative strategies and/or projects that changed the conversation with the C-Suite and other business leaders with the goal to align the objectives of the organization. Describe the solutions and how these were implemented as part of your organisation's CRE strategy. (35 points)

2. Demonstrated a diverse set of skills that helped the CRE function gain status as an equal partner in a collaborative role either with key support functions in the company, e.g., HR and IT and/or business groups within the enterprise (35 points)

3. Developed and implemented strategic initiatives and goals that have a companywide impact, such as fostering an inclusive workplace culture, advancing environmental sustainability, leveraging innovative technologies like generative AI, and adopting transformative practices in corporate real estate. Describe the implementation and the impact. (30 points)