Dierke Houben Associates

Consultation in Leadership Dynamics

Dr. Kai W. Dierke

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Professional positions

2003 Dierke Houben AG, Managing Partner & Co-Founder, Lucerne & Engelberg/ Switzerland

1999 Winterthur Insurance, Group Executive Board Member, Winterthur/ Switzerland

Credit Suisse E-Business, Executive Board Member, Zurich/ Switzerland

1995 McKinsey & Company, Project Manager, Financial Services, Berlin/ Germany

Professional degrees and diplomas

INSEAD, Fontainebleau/ France, Psychodynamic Consulting and Coaching for Change
Harvard University, Cambridge MA/ USA, The Art and Practice of Leadership
MIT Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge MA/ USA, Systemic Foundations for Leadership
Tavistock Institute, London/ UK, Group Dynamics
Koenigswieser & Network, Vienna/ Austria, Systemic Training Group

Kai Dierke (1963; German) is a Leadership Consultant and Executive Coach on board level, working in German and English. He is Co-Founder and Managing Partner of Dierke Houben Associates, a leadership consulting practice focusing exclusively on enhancing leadership and collaboration effectiveness of Top Management Teams throughout Europe. Together with Anke Houben, he is Co-Author of the highly recognized book, published in German: "Gemeinsame Spitze. Wie Führung im Top-Team gelingt" (Collective Leadership. A successful team approach at the top), Frankfurt, Campus 2013. He publishes regularly on Leadership in Top Management Teams – the Dierke Houben Blog in Harvard Business Manager, in Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Die Welt, and professional HR Journals. He is Lecturer on Leadership Experience at the HHL Leipzig Graduate School of Management and holds Memberships of the SOL Society for Organizational Learning, the ISPSO International Society for the Psychoanalytic Study of Organizations, and the ILA International Leadership Association.

In his work he draws from 20+ years of business experience in international management and strategy consulting as well as from profound professional expertise in executive coaching, leadership practices, and organisational psychodynamics. Knowing the board room from within, Kai is a trusted advisor and sparring partner asked to step in for enhancing top team collaboration and leadership effectiveness, CEO on-boarding, and executive coaching. Business-driven and to the point, he offers thought-provoking perspectives by connecting leadership behaviour, team effectiveness, and his clients' business performance. His clients in coaching and consultation on leadership, team performance and culture transformation are executives and teams on board level of Euro Stoxx 50/ Dax 30 companies – covering a broad range of sectors like financial services, telecommunications, technology, pharmaceuticals, transportation, private equity, consulting, and public sector.

Prior to his professional career, he earned a PhD (1995; summa cum laude) and a Masters degree (1990) in Social Sciences at Goettingen University/ Germany, focusing on International Relations and Comparative Sociology. In his PhD, he worked on War and Order in the Middle East. He was Research Assistant to Prof. Dr. Bassam Tibi at the Center for International Relations at Goettingen University (1990-92), Associate of the Center for International Affairs at Harvard University (1991), and Research Fellow at The American University in Cairo (1992/93).