

**PRESS RELEASE 10/06/2009**

**AN OPEN DIALOGUE CAN IMPROVE THE WAY YOU ARE PERCEIVED AT WORK!**

**NEW EVALUATION SHOWS THE STRONG IMPACT OF DIALOGUE IN THE DARK WORKSHOPS**

A new evaluation\*, based on a survey of people who have experienced Dialogue in the Dark business workshops over the past few years, was presented at the [U.S. Business Leadership Network's Annual Conference](#) in Washington DC in Sept 2009. The USBLN is a national business-to-business organization that recognizes and promotes best practices in hiring, retaining and marketing to people with disabilities. Co-presented by DSE member Meena Vaidyanathan along with Martha Artiles, Chief Diversity Officer at Manpower Inc., a world leader in employment services, the evaluation showed the impact of [Dialogue in the Dark business workshops](#) on participants.

Dialogue in the Dark business workshops take place in a pitch-dark room. In two-three hours in the dark, participants solve a number of exercises and reflect their experience and lessons learned in a subsequent debriefing session in the light.

The evaluation was based on the analysis of more than 300 questionnaires and a sample of 20 interviews, Dialogue in the Dark business workshops were assessed both concerning their immediate and their long-term impact on participants.

- > Dialogue in the Dark business workshops provide participants with an impulse to reflect on themselves and on their relation to their social environment. The vast majority of those reflecting on matters concerning their relation to their social environment (82%) appreciated the value and importance of cooperation and collaboration with trust and empathy at the core.
- > Seeking for coping mechanisms in an extraordinary situation, participants shift their attention towards their social environment.
- > The Dialogue in the Dark experience inspires most participants to enhance their way of interacting with others and to pursue a more cooperative and collaborative approach.
- > Dialogue in the Dark business workshops achieve high rates of participant satisfaction – a critical base for sustained impact. Nine out of ten questionnaire respondents would recommend the workshop.
- > Dialogue in the Dark business workshops have a sustained impact on participants.

\* Please visit: [http://www.dialogue-in-the-dark.com/wp-content/uploads/DiD\\_2009\\_08\\_31\\_BusinessWorkshopsEvaluation\\_Report.pdf](http://www.dialogue-in-the-dark.com/wp-content/uploads/DiD_2009_08_31_BusinessWorkshopsEvaluation_Report.pdf) to view or download the complete evaluation.

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