

## CXC Climate Action Summit in Europe • FAQs



Are you considering applying for our Climate Action summit in Italy on 26–30 September 2022? We have collected the most Frequently Asked Questions to help you assess whether this summit is a good fit for you!

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## 1. Application & Selection

### 1.1 What is CXC's definition of climate action?

The triple planetary crisis (climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution) is the result of complex and interdependent systemic issues and inequalities. Identifying and implementing strategies which tackle the root causes as well as responding to the changes which will affect society in a variety of ways requires an intersectional and coordinated approach between numerous stakeholders working on climate.

In recognition of this, ChangemakerXchange's **definition of 'climate action'** will be deliberately **broad to be inclusive of the diversity** in this field. To find out more, read our blog post ["Now or never: ChangemakerXchange focuses on climate action"](#).

### 1.2 Who can apply for this summit?

We welcome applications for this Climate Action summit from **changemakers from a variety of backgrounds** working to address the planetary crises, including community builders and weavers, social entrepreneurs and innovators, social change agents and activists, civil society leaders. Examples of climate action changemakers include (but are not limited to):

- Changemakers working for climate justice and tackling issues such as environmental racism and just transition.
- Changemakers working on climate adaptation and resilience, such as energy transition and renewable energy, carbon capture, carbon neutrality, etc.
- Changemakers working on sustainable futures targeting issues such as waste management, water management, air pollution, soil depletion, etc.
- Changemakers working on education for climate action, teaching climate literacy, cultivating skills for a just transition to a green economy, and building the capacity to adapt.



Please check Q1.3 for detailed selection criteria. As a general rule, we are looking for climate action changemakers, aged between 18 and 35, who run a social or environmental initiative addressing the climate & biodiversity crises in one of the eligible countries.

### 1.3 What are the selection criteria?

#### KNOCK-OUT CRITERIA

1. **Country:** You must come from or be currently living in one of the eligible countries: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kosovo, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom.
2. **Age:** You must be aged 18–35. Due to permission reasons, we focus on over 18s.
3. **Role:** You are the founder/co-founder, leader/co-leader, manager/co-manager (or hold an influential position with decision-making power, e.g. intrapreneur) of a social/environmental venture/organisation/community which is up and running and addresses the climate, biodiversity, and air pollution crises.
4. **Language:** You must have a command of English which is strong enough to participate in small group conversations and collaborate with international changemakers.
5. **Complete application:** The application form must be fully completed – with no open questions or very obviously insufficient answers remaining.

#### ORGANISATIONAL CRITERIA

1. **Stage:** The venture/organisation/community is beyond the idea stage and currently active.
2. **Impact:** The venture/organisation/community addresses a problem related to the climate & biodiversity crises and has some evidence of impact.
3. **Innovation:** The venture/organisation/community shows some elements of newness and innovation for the specific context.

#### PERSONAL CRITERIA

1. **Values:** You demonstrate an alignment with the [CXC values](#).
2. **Character:** You show an entrepreneurial and creative mindset.
3. **Motivation:** You show motivation to take part in the summit, the follow on programme and join our global community of changemakers to collaborate and co-create.

#### DIVERSITY CRITERIA

The planetary crises disproportionately affect society's most at-risk individuals and regions. As such, we are putting a strong emphasis on curating **cohorts that are diverse**



**in terms of demographics and types of initiatives.** Applicants from marginalised contexts and those with intersectional initiatives are a great fit for this programme and encouraged to apply!

⚠️ Demographic data is not used in a discriminatory way, but merely to benchmark our numbers and report our progress (in aggregate). All information is processed in line with our [Privacy Notice](#) and is GDPR compliant.

#### **1.4 Do I need to be the original founder or co-founder?**

No, we also welcome applications from changemakers, etc. who might have joined at a later stage. However, it is important that you are in a **clearly defined leadership position**.

#### **1.5 Is there an interview as part of the selection process?**

Given the high number of applications we receive and the limited staff capacity, only candidates who are being considered for the final shortlist will be invited to a **short informal interview** to ensure their suitability in the programme and their fit with the community. This informal interview will take place online and will be conducted by a member of the CXC core team or community member.

#### **1.6 I did not receive a confirmation email after applying – how do I know if my application went through?**

You should have received a **thank-you message** when submitting your applications successfully and a short **notification email** from [notifications@typeform.com](mailto:notifications@typeform.com) with a summary of your responses (please check your junk folder). If you did not see either, please contact us at [info@changemakerxchange.org](mailto:info@changemakerxchange.org).

#### **1.7 When will I hear back if I was selected?**

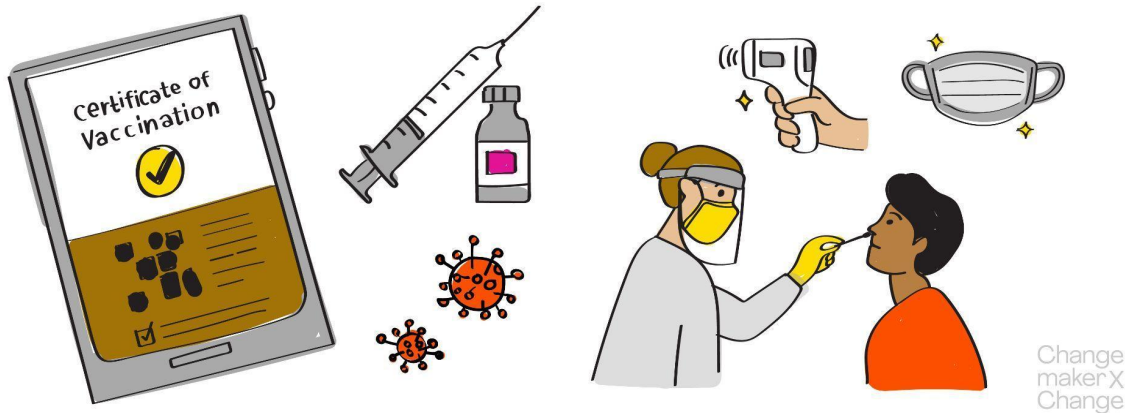
We aim to get back to ALL applicants, whether successful or unsuccessful, by **25th July 2022**.

#### **1.8 Can I receive feedback on my application?**

Unfortunately, **we cannot provide individual feedback** on each application. But we do send a thorough email to all applicants outlining the full application and selection process, as well as sharing useful resources for changemakers, which has always been appreciated by applicants in the past.

#### **1.9 Can my co-founder join instead of me?**

ChangemakerXchange invests first and foremost in the person, aka you. In the event that you cannot attend the summit anymore, **we unfortunately cannot accept your co-founder** as there are other candidates who went through the whole application process and have been waitlisted.



## 2. COVID-19

### 2.1 What is the COVID-19 situation in Italy?

Italy ended the COVID-19 state of emergency on 31st March 2022 and started to gradually lift the various restrictions. More information can be found at the Ministry of Health's [website](#). The **restrictions that remain in place** (from 1st May 2022) are:

- Protective face-masks are mandatory on public transportation (FFP2 marks on trains, buses, ferries, planes, underground trains, etc.), in cinemas, theatres, event and sport venues, hospitals, and schools until 15th June 2022. Face masks are no longer required (but recommended) for public and private offices, shops and grocery stores, coffee shops and restaurants, banks and post offices, museums and bars, hair and beauty salons, etc.
- The “Super Green Pass” (full vaccination or recovery) is required for visits at hospitals and retirement homes until 31st December 2022.

### 2.2 What are the requirements to enter Italy?

Until 31st May 2022, all travellers to Italy **must present proof** through the [EU digital COVID certificate](#) that they meet one of the following conditions:

- **Full vaccination** with the vaccines authorised by the European Medical Agency (9 months validity for primary cycle and unlimited validity for the booster dose);
- **Recovery** from COVID-19 (validity of 180 days from the day of testing positive);
- **Recovery** from COVID-19 after receiving the first dose or at the end of the primary vaccination cycle or after the booster; or
- **Negative rapid or PCR test**, respectively 48 and 72 hours before your arrival to Italy.



### 2.3 What if my country doesn't have the EU digital COVID certificate?

The [Italian Ministry of Health](#) **recognises COVID certificates that are equivalent** to the EU digital COVID certificate. Such certificates must include the following information:

- Personal details (first name, last name, DOB);
- Vaccination details (vaccine name, vaccine batch, and vaccination dates); and
- Details of the authority releasing the certificate (e.g. country, health authority).

The certificates (paper-based or digital) must be in one of the following languages: Italian, English, French, or Spanish. In all other instances, you will need a sworn (certified) translation in Italian.

For recovery certificates, they must include the following information:

- Personal details (first name, last name, DOB);
- Details about the COVID-19 infection (e.g. positive test); and
- Details of the authority releasing the certificate (e.g. country, health authority).

All recovery certificates (paper-based or digital) must be accompanied by a sworn (certified) translation in Italian.

### 2.4 Which are the accepted vaccines?

The European Medical Agency has authorised the following COVID-19 vaccines:

- **Comirnaty** by BioNTech Manufacturing GmbH (Conditional marketing authorisation issued: 21/12/2020, annual renewal issued: 03/11/2021).
- **Jcovden** by Janssen-Cilag International VC (Conditional marketing authorisation issued: 11/03/2021, annual renewal issued: 03/01/2022).
- **Nuvaxovid** by Novavax CZ, a.s. (Conditional marketing authorisation issued: 20/12/2021).
- **Spikevax** by Moderna Biotech Spain, S.L. (Conditional marketing authorisation issued: 06/01/2021, annual renewal issued: 04/10/2021).
- **Vaxzevria** by AstraZeneca AB (Conditional marketing authorisation issued: 29/01/2021, annual renewal issued: 09/11/2021).

Equivalent vaccines accepted by the [Italian Ministry of Health](#) include:

- **Covishield** by Serum Institute of India (AstraZeneca licence).
- **R-CoVI** by R-Pharm (AstraZeneca licence).
- **COVID-19 vaccine-recombinant** by Fiocruz (AstraZeneca licence).

### 2.5 Do I have to be quarantined upon entering Italy?

If you fail to show the aforementioned proof of vaccination, recovery, or negative test (refer to question 2.2), you will be subjected to a **5-day quarantine** period at the location assigned by the relevant authorities and a PCR test at the end.





## 2.6 What happens if I test positive a few days before the summit?

You must inform us of this immediately and unfortunately, **you would not be able to attend** the CXC Climate Action summit. If this were the case, we would keep in close touch with you and see if you can join another CXC summit and the CXC community at some point in the future.

## 2.7 What happens if I start showing COVID-19 symptoms during the CXC Climate Action summit?

If you start showing COVID-19 symptoms (feverish pathology with a temperature over 37.5°C or 99.5°F, dry cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue or muscle aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, conjunctivitis, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhoea) during the summit, you should inform the CXC hosting team right away.

- **Isolation room:** You will be asked to isolate in your bedroom right away to avoid contact with other people.
- **Quick test:** You will then be asked to complete a quick test, which will be available on site.
- **PCR test:** In the event that the quick test is positive, you will be transported to complete a PCR test and will be given guidance and support on how to seek further treatment if this is also positive.
- **Contact tracing:** We would attempt to contact all people (team members, summit participants, and suppliers) who are at risk of infection through contact with infected persons.
- **Deep cleaning:** We would conduct deep cleaning and disinfection anytime an active team member or summit participants tests positive for COVID-19. This is a more comprehensive cleaning done by a third party.

## 2.8 What COVID-19 precautions are you taking for the summit?

We take your health and safety extremely seriously. This is why we are taking the precautions below to minimise any risk of COVID-19 transmission during the event.

- All participants must show proof of valid travel and health insurance that covers the region of travel and includes COVID-19 treatment.
- All participants must show proof of vaccination, recovery, or negative test (refer to question 2.2) to be able to join the summit and travel to Italy.
- All participants must fill out and sign a [COVID-19 self-declaration form](#) no longer than 48 hours before the CXC Climate Action summit.
- Depending on the virus circulation in the region at the time of the summit, participants might be asked to complete a 'rapid test' before boarding the bus to the retreat location and a self-test on Day 3 of the summit at the location.
- Any participant who shows COVID-19 symptoms will be asked to self-isolate, take a rapid test, and if positive, take a PCR test.
- All participants will be asked to complete regular temperature checks during the summit.





- All participants are asked to follow local guidelines on the use of facemasks (to be confirmed depending on advice at the time of the event) and FFP2 masks will be provided by ChangemakerXchange.
- Summit activities will be facilitated outdoors (whenever possible) or in large and well-ventilated meeting rooms.
- Summit activities that will take place indoors will avoid close physical proximity or physical touch between participants. Participants are asked to refrain from shaking hands, high-fiving, or hugging.
- Hand sanitiser dispensers and tissues will be visibly displayed around the venue.
- All participants will receive a briefing at the start of the summit on the COVID-19 measures taken to make the summit safe for everyone.

The CXC hosting team has a detailed preparedness and response plan with detailed scenarios in the event that any participant tests positive for COVID-19 during the Climate Action summit.

### **2.9 What happens if I test positive a few days after the CXC summit?**

If you experience COVID-19 symptoms after the event (up to 14 days after), it is very important that you complete a PCR test wherever you are based (costs to be reimbursed by ChangemakerXchange). If the test result comes back positive, **please inform the summit hosting team ASAP** so we can start the contact tracing and inform all other participants so they can take any necessary steps.

### **2.10 Who covers the costs of the rapid tests and PCR tests?**

ChangemakerXchange will cover the costs of the rapid and PCR tests associated to the Climate Action summit once you enter Italy (i.e. rapid test upon arrival and on Day 3 of the summit if needed, rapid test during the summit if you show any COVID-19 symptoms, PCR test if the quick test shows a positive result, and PCR test after the summit if you show any COVID-19 symptoms).

### **2.11 Who can I contact if I have more questions about COVID-19 precautions at the CXC Climate Action summit?**

Please reach out to us at [healthandsafety@changemakerxchange.org](mailto:healthandsafety@changemakerxchange.org).



### 3. Travelling

#### 3.1 Who covers the cost of my transportation to the summit?

Participants are asked to **cover their own transportation costs to Milan (or Bergamo), Italy**. ChangemakerXchange will cover all other costs associated with the summit, such as: accommodation, catering, local transportation, room hire, equipment & material, COVID-19 rapid tests, FFP2 masks, facilitation & hosting compensation, programme manager compensation, carbon emissions offsetting derived from the local hosting, post-summit capacity-building programme, post-summit community engagement activities, etc.

Please note that your spot in the summit will be fully confirmed only AFTER we have received confirmation of your transportation to Milan/Bergamo (⚠️ **deadline:** 24th August 2022).

#### 3.2 What happens if I cannot afford the trip?

We always strive to make our summits accessible and inclusive so if your circumstances do not allow you to afford the trip to Italy, please state so in the application and confirmation form. We will evaluate the possibility of offering you a **partial or full stipend** to ensure you can join the summit.

#### 3.3 Can I arrive earlier / stay later?

Yes, you are welcome to arrive earlier and/or stay later, but bear in mind you are **100% responsible for any expenses on these extra days** (e.g. lodging, food, transportation, etc.). The only exception is if there are no suitable connections and you have to arrive the day before or depart the day after the summit dates. In this case, ChangemakerXchange would cover the lodging cost for the extra night.



### 3.4 Can I come by train / bus?

**Yes, absolutely!** We highly encourage you to seek alternative travelling routes that do not include flying (or minimise it). Here are a few guiding principles:

- **Is the route safe?** If not, please avoid travel by road as your safety is important to us!
- **How long does it take?** If it is up to 9-hours during the day or 12-hours with a night journey, it's doable!
- **How much does it cost?** Sometimes trains are more expensive than planes and whilst you can pay more for a more sustainable choice, it does not make sense to pay an outrageous amount because with the money you would be saving from the flight vs. train ride, you can not only offset emissions, but also make other sustainable choices during the summit.

### 3.5 Can I travel with my spouse / partner / child?

We generally **advise against this** because the summit is an intense experience that requires your full presence and contribution. However, exceptional circumstances may require exceptions to this rule to ensure inclusivity. Please reach out to the summit hosting team if this is your case, but please bear in mind that CXC will not cover the costs associated with their travel, lodging, and catering.

### 3.6 Can I join only part of the summit (e.g. arrive later or leave earlier)?

**Unfortunately, no.** The ChangemakerXchange summit is an intense and enriching experience that makes sense if undertaken from start to end. This means we can only accept applicants who can commit to the full duration of the summit. Also, we will only allow participants who have joined all sessions on all days into the ChangemakerXchange community.

### 3.7 What happens if I miss my flight/train/bus?

If you miss your flight/train/bus connection because of a problem with the first flight/train/bus, the airline/train/bus company should rebook you on the next first available flight/train/bus. If this requires an overnight stay, the company should also provide you with accommodation options and food.

However, if you miss your flight/train/bus for your own doing (e.g. alarm didn't ring and you woke up late, you got stuck in traffic and arrived late, etc.), it will be **your responsibility to book** (and cover the cost of) another ticket. Importantly, if you miss the flight/train/bus to the country of the summit, it is imperative you reach out to the airline/train/bus company to prevent them from cancelling your return ticket too (usually that's what happens).

### 3.8 Shall I book refundable or non-refundable tickets?

Considering the unpredictability of the pandemic, we advise you (if possible, and if there is not a significant difference in cost between regular and flexible tickets) to **book refundable tickets** so that you have more flexibility in the event that you test positive and



cannot travel anymore or your trip is cancelled due to COVID-19 entry restrictions to the country.

### **3.9 What happens to my travel costs if the summit is cancelled or restrictions change for me?**

In the event that the Climate Action summit is cancelled by the summit organisers and you cannot get a refund for your transportation, CXC would **reimburse you the full cost** of your ticket. In this case, we would run an online summit instead (3.5 hours / day over 5 days).

### **3.10 Shall I book travel and health insurance?**

**Yes!** Please ensure you have valid travel and health insurance that covers the region of travel and includes COVID-19 treatment. You will be asked to send a proof of your insurance to the summit hosting team.

### **3.11 My luggage is delayed, what should I do?**

The airline/train/bus company should inform you of when they can deliver the luggage to you when they find it. However, to minimise the inconvenience created by this eventuality, we advise you to **pack a few clothes in your hand luggage** so that you have a few clean changes!



## 4. Visas

### 4.1 Can you call the embassy / consulate to push for my application?

Whilst we do everything we can to support your visa application by providing you with an invitation letter and hotel confirmation, please know that we cannot call the embassies / consulates to push for your visa. **You are responsible for your visa application process.**

### 4.2 Can you translate the invitation letter into Italian?

Yes, some embassies and consulates require the invitation letter to also be translated in the language of the hosting country. If necessary, we will provide you with a **translation** of the invitation letter **into Italian**.

### 4.3 Can you reimburse my visa expenses?

No, **you are responsible for covering the costs** associated with the visa processes. However, we have made exceptions for participants who have received a stipend and would incur in high visa costs. If this is your case, please contact the summit hosting team.

### 4.4 Which visa should I apply for?

From past experience, the best visa type you should apply for is a **tourist visa**. Sometimes, you may decide to apply for a business visa, but usually this requires additional documents from the hosting organisation. Make sure you check with the summit hosting team before applying!

### 4.5 I didn't get my visa, what should I do?

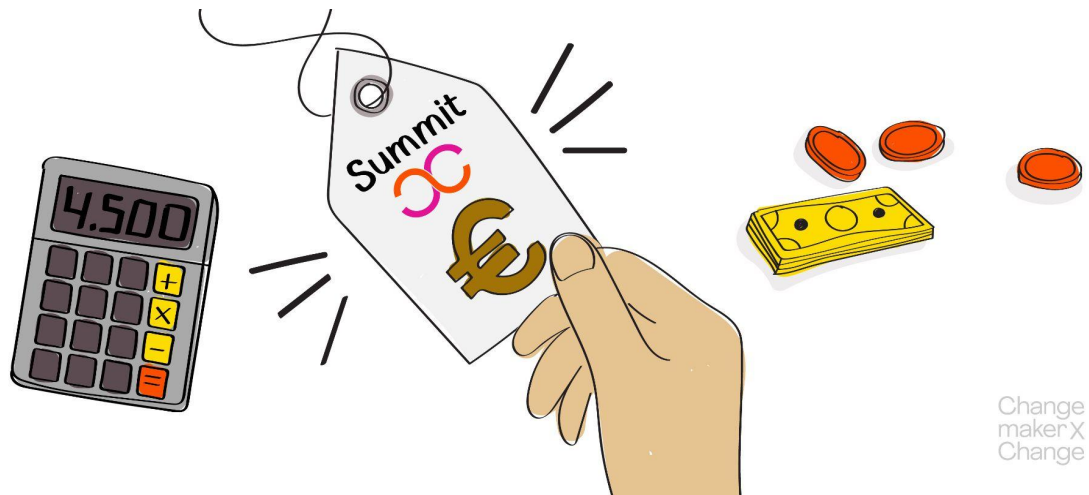
Unfortunately, at times participants do not get their visa approved. If you have enough time to re-apply, please try again (as long as you were told why your application was rejected and what you can do to overcome the issues). If not, you will need to **withdraw**



**your participation** in the summit. We will consider you for a future summit, should you wish to attend again in the future.

**4.6 If I didn't get my visa and, therefore, failed to participate in a summit, would I secure my place in the future CXC summit?**

It is a bit ad-hoc as it depends on the type of summit, but we either forward your application to future hosts to consider you, or ask you to re-apply entirely. Unfortunately, **we cannot guarantee** that you will be accepted again.



## 5. Summit costs

### 5.1 What costs does ChangemakerXchange cover?

ChangemakerXchange covers the **majority of costs** associated with the summit such as:

- Lodging:** 4-night accommodation during the summit.
- Catering:** All meals during the summit (breakfast, lunch, dinner, coffee breaks).
- Local transport:** Ground transportation to/from retreat venue.
- Venue hire:** Workshop rooms hire.
- Material:** Summit equipment & material, including COVID-19 material (e.g. rapid/PCR tests, FFP2 masks, hand sanitiser...).
- Compensation:** Compensation for summit hosts & facilitators, online interviewers, programme manager.
- Offsetting:** Carbon emissions offsetting derived from the local hosting.
- Post-summit:** Capacity-building programme, community engagement activities, etc.

Please note that the total is an **average of €3,500 per participant**.

### 5.2 What costs am I supposed to cover?

We ask participants to cover the following costs (unless otherwise specified by the local hosts):

- **Transportation:** Your own transportation to/from the summit city (including local transport from the airport/train/bus station to the designated meeting point).
- **Visa:** Costs associated with your visa application.
- **Travel insurance:** Costs associated with a valid travel insurance which covers treatment for COVID-19 in Italy.
- **Extras:** Costs associated with your stay should you decide to arrive earlier / stay later.





### **5.3 What if I cannot afford to cover those costs?**

We always strive to make our summits accessible and inclusive so if your circumstances do not allow you to afford the trip to the summit country, please state so in the application and confirmation form. We will evaluate the possibility of offering you a **partial or full stipend** to ensure you can join the summit.

### **5.4 What happens if I withdraw from the programme?**

We of course hope that this won't be the case; but if you withdraw from the programme, **you will not be reimbursed any costs** you incurred in.



## 6. Post-summit

### 6.1 What happens after the summit?

Attending a ChangemakerXchange summit is the first step to joining a global community of ~900 changemakers from all over the world. Once you are part of the community, there are **several engagement opportunities** you can benefit from, including:

- Joining our private Facebook and Linked groups where you can engage with the rest of our community members from all over the world.
- Joining the Bosch Alumni Network to access various opportunities such as job vacancies, workshops, seminars, travel grants, etc.
- Joining an online programme which focuses on building your changemaking capacity as well as facilitating ongoing connections, collaborations, and knowledge transfer between climate action changemakers from across the globe. The programme is strongly recommended though not compulsory.
- Joining additional community engagement activities to expand your network, connect with other members, and collaborate to amplify your impact.
- Joining our Global Facilitation Pool to facilitate CXC-like experiences for other changemakers around the world.
- Becoming a Community Host to bring the CXC summit experience to your country.
- Becoming a Community Advisor to give feedback to the CXC core team on all-things strategy.
- Getting access to a range of offerings and platforms offered by our partners, including everything from learning exchange grants to pro-bono coaching and law support.
- Attending the Global Co-Creation Summit to shape the future of the community.

The beauty of ChangemakerXchange is that it is a very dynamic and constantly evolving community, continuously shaped by the needs and feedback of its members.



## 6.2 What is the value of joining ChangemakerXchange?

We believe the words of our community do a better job at highlighting the value of joining ChangemakerXchange:

- ★ *“I have wanted to change the world for the better since I was 14. But everyone around me would tell me ‘be normal, go to college, get a job, don’t try to do more than you can.’ **After CXC, I realised that I don’t want to have a ‘normal’ life.** I want an extraordinary life. I want to fully realise my mission to paint the world in bright colours of peace, unity, and love. And ChangemakerXchange catalysed the process of realising my mission. Thank you!”*
- ★ *“CXC is an incredible platform to change the mindset and perspective on many things (to the best of course). I can definitely say that **I’ve been transformed** and I now have a much better understanding about what it takes to be a social entrepreneur, scaling impact and opening yourself to others.”*
- ★ *“CXC gave me a feeling of belonging. I have been part of many conferences and different communities, but **CXC still feels like home** because of the genuine values, the genuine goals and long-lasting friendships.”*

