# Session 5A – Panel

## Barriers in implementing data strategies and how to overcome them

**Moderator:**

**Alice Vaskova**

Data & Analytics Specialist and Evangelist

*Bio:* Alice has 27 years' experience in corporate business. She profits from a unique multinational and multifunctional perspective covering data and analytics, information systems, organizational development and HR. She has gained a lot of practical experience from leading large-scale systems implementations and organizational transformations. Most recently her focus is on data strategy, data capability and data literacy development, and how to balance technical and people side of the transformations towards data driven organizations. Alice holds master's degree in Computer Science.

**Panelist:**

**Maija Nikula**

Chief Data Officer

KONE

*Bio:* In her role as Chief Data Officer at KONE, Maija Nikula is responsible for Data Management operating model practices, covering data quality, data sharing and access, data governance and data definitions. Data Management is part of KONE digital transformation, serving new digital services for customers and partners, lean business processes, analytical use cases and also legal and compliance.

In her previous roles she been working both for data management and enterprise architecture in KONE and other Finland based international companies. Prior to KONE she has worked manufacturing, telecommunication and mobile phone companies.

*Working in Data Management and previously with enterprise architecture has given a great view to data through both business and technology.*

*Usable data has always been her professional ambition and driver: do proactive actions to improve data quality, to ensure efficient processes and help analytics perform better. But it is not only about data quality, it is also about data asset and its democratization and protection. These are fundamental enablers for lean business processes, analytical innovations, collaboration with ecosystem partners and new digital solutions, but also practical support for compliance and legal requirements*

*Maija holds Master of Economics Science degree in Information systems from the University of Jyväskylä. In her spear time she likes to hike and practice contemporary flamenco.*

**Panelist:**

**Eloy Sasot**

Group Chief Data and Analytics Officer

Richemont

*Bio:*

**Panelist:**

**Jennifer Belissent**

Principal Data Strategist

Snowflake

**Bio:** *Jennifer Belissent joined Snowflake in 2021 as Principal Data Strategist to help customers develop and implement strategies to promote data use and increase its business value. Prior to Snowflake, Jennifer spent 12 years at Forrester Research as an*

*expert in the data economy, and how to succeed through data leadership, enterprise-wide data literacy and well-coordinated data and knowledge sharing. Jennifer is widely published and a frequent speaker at business, academic and government events.*

*Previously, Jennifer held management positions in the Silicon Valley, designed urban policy programs and advised governments in Eastern Europe and Russia, and taught math as a Peace Corps volunteer in Central Africa. Jennifer earned a Ph.D. and an M.A. in political science from Stanford University and a B.A. in Econometrics from the University of Virginia. She currently lives in the French Alps, and is an alpine enthusiast and intrepid world traveler.*

**Panelist**
**Stijn Christiaens**
Co-founder and Chief Data Citizens
Collibra

***Bio:*** *Stan leads Collibra's Data Office and is responsible for overall data strategy, data infrastructure and translating internal learnings into value for our customers and partners. He is also Collibra's product evangelist and drives future innovation. Previously, Stan launched various departments within Collibra including Product, Presales, Postsales, Partnerships, Marketplace, and Research and Education. Prior to cofounding Collibra, he was a senior researcher at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, where he focused on application-oriented research in semantics. Stan holds a Master of Science degree in Information Technology, a Master's degree in Artificial Intelligence from Katholieke Universiteit Leuven and a Postgraduate in Industrial Corporate Governance from Europese Hogeschool Brussel. He is a sought-after expert resource, industry speaker and author on the topic of Data Intelligence.*

**Panelist:**

**Dennis Kessler**

Global Data Governance Lead

Amazon GREF

*Bio:* *Dennis has worked in international financial information systems, enterprise content management, information management and data governance for many years. He has lived and worked in London, Hong Kong, Osaka and Basel (Switzerland), before relocating to Luxembourg in 2016 to serve as the Head of Data Governance at the European Investment Bank, the public-sector financing arm of the EU and the world's largest multilateral lending institution.*

*In 2021 Dennis joined Amazon (still based in Luxembourg) to serve as Global Data Governance Lead, focused on global commercial real-estate management.*

*Dennis is passionate about improving the way organisations value and treat their data as a true asset. He has rich experience in building and strengthening data governance teams and nurturing a data-aware culture across complex organisations.*

*He is a regular chair and keynote speaker of various European data and analytics conferences. He was included in the '2020 Global Top 100 Innovators in Data & Analytics' list by Corinium Global Intelligence. Dennis is a member of the governing board of the Certified Information Governance Officer (CIGO) Association, and is helping to lead its AI Governance Task Force to develop and publish a new governance model for ethical oversight of AI applications.*