When we analyze the differentiating features of successful organizations, we often come across a surprise: the people who lead them are not arrogant. On the contrary, they are people with a considerable level of humility.

“The happiness of all these who you see walking with arrogance is temporary.”
Seneca (4 BC - Rome, 65)

Humility encourages effort, and success is always preceded by hard work.

These successful leaders, being humble people with a great capacity for work, give less importance to material goods and are not very ostentatious.

Humility is accompanied by empathy (putting yourself in the shoes of the other) and favors a better relationship with everyone.

The Covid-19 pandemic is having a very negative impact on the majority of people and organizations. The different research projects to develop a vaccine (and effective medical treatments) are advancing very fast, but the end of the tunnel is not yet in sight.

Suddenly, we have realized that we are much more vulnerable than we thought. We must recognize our limitations; and humility is essential to better prepare ourselves for the future challenges that we will have to face.

The shock caused by Covid-19 is a great opportunity to improve as individuals and as organizations. Humility fosters exploration and innovation.

In the midst of the crisis we can fall into the temptation of selfishness and populism, and there is the risk of self-locking-up. But precisely, this is the time for cooperation and solidarity.

Links:
A Lesson in Humility and an Opportunity for Sagacity and Hope
Leadership in a COVID-19 World: The Power of Humility
Diriger et manager avec humilité pour lutter contre l’incertitude du Covid-19