



# ESSCA

## Press release

9 January 2024

### ESSCA obtains the DDRS label, confirming its positive impact strategy

ESSCA School of Management is proud to announce that it has obtained the DDRS (Sustainable Development and Societal Responsibility) label, confirming the commitments it has made to and the actions undertaken in favour of sustainable development and societal responsibility for the past 10 years. The committee in charge of awarding the label, which convened in December, reserved particular praise for the dynamic and cross-disciplinary nature of the steps taken by ESSCA on these issues.

This label serves as recognition for ESSCA's continued efforts across all activities, especially at teaching programme, research practice, governance, environmental policy, and social policy levels. The awarding from the very outset of the process of the maximum four-year label also underlines how far advanced ESSCA is in its sustainable development and societal responsibility culture and practices within the school.

"We are extremely honoured to be awarded the DDRS label. This is a tangible consequence of a decade of commitment and thinking on the part of the entire ESSCA community. Beyond recognition of the progress we have made thus far, it also marks a new beginning towards strengthened ambitions in terms of sustainability and societal responsibility. The times in which we are living makes collective commitment an absolute necessity, via impactful initiatives. Therefore, at the dawn of our strategic plan for 25-30, our institution is reaffirming its mission to train responsible leaders and harness its drive to contribute towards developing a more sustainable and inclusive society", states **Jean Charroin, Dean & CEO of ESSCA**.

#### Proof of sustainable and responsible commitment

For several years, ESSCA has committed actively to sustainable and impactful practices, notably via the recent renewal of the BSIS label. The approach of a multi-campus school such as ESSCA across the various local regions in which it is established acts as a vehicle for social inclusion, positioning itself close to the living spaces of its students while having to meet environmental challenges at an institutional level. This commitment can be seen via the various efforts praised by the committee, such as:

- **A strategy steeped in responsible values.** ESSCA has steered its development towards its many stakeholders out of regard for responsibility. Its strategy has been deployed concretely by application of the sustainable development-societal responsibility axes by members of the Executive Committee, as well as via a specific mission in place since 2014 and a dedicated department since 2023.

- **Incorporation of sustainable development into teaching programmes.** ESSCA has incorporated official sustainable development objectives into all its programmes, representing 46.6% of the courses concerned by the area. Beyond Ethics and CSR core courses, specific tracks such as the *Master ISMESS* and the *MSc Sustainable Management and Social Impact*, enable students to tailor their curriculum in order to specialise in CSR.

- **Research projects focussing on sustainability.** ESSCA faculty conducts research projects on the general theme of Responsible Leadership. Cross-disciplinary and multipartite research institutes have been set up in line with transition-related issues with a view to developing ideas and tackling the challenges at hand: [The “AI for Sustainability” Institute](#), [The Ethical Fashion and Ecological Consumption Institute](#) and [The Institute for Sustainable Transport and Mobility](#).

- **The growth of environmental demands.** ESSCA has committed via an ambitious and carefully thought-out real estate policy to new buildings in Bordeaux and shortly in Aix-en-Provence, meeting the recognised demand for complete certifications such as BREEAM and HQE.

- **Inclusion and equal opportunities as central concerns.** Since 2021, ESSCA has offered an alteration of tuition fees enabling the economic inclusion of students, regardless of their socio-economic background. This can also be seen via awareness-raising initiatives relating to discrimination, specifically adapted facilities for people with disabilities (among school staff as well as the student body), via various partnerships, and the creation of a Diversity and Inclusion Commission.

Our congratulations go to all schools to have received the label!

## About ESSCA

Based on its rich 114-year history, ESSCA School of Management is a renowned and firmly established French and European institution. A pioneering school since its foundation in terms of teaching innovation and social and economic inclusion, it has striven to evolve on a permanent basis to incorporate the demands and challenges of the modern world with a will to train responsible leaders and assist organisations undergoing change.

A private higher education institution of common interest built upon a not-for-profit associative structure and a member of the Conférence des Grandes Ecoles, ESSCA School of Management delivers an officially recognised 5-year post-secondary Master degree and also offers a fully accredited Bachelor in International Management degree programme, an MBA Business & Technology, a Specialised Master, and Master of Science programmes. The school also offers a range of training programmes designed specifically for senior executives, managers, and operational teams, with degree-awarding training (including an Executive Master in Global Management) and inter-company programmes. ESSCA is also developing on-line designed by ESSCA online campus.

Thanks to its AACSB, AMBA and EQUIS triple crown accreditation, a status held by only 1% of business schools around the world, the school is an internationally renowned institution. It features in 54<sup>th</sup> place among the top 100 Masters in Management programmes in the world in the 2023 Financial Times ranking.

Strengthened by a multi-campus identity that helps consolidate its appeal to local regions and the showcasing of French expertise in the areas of higher education and research, ESSCA can call upon a network of almost 20,000 alumni working all across the world and currently welcomes over 500 faculty and administrative staff and 7,000 students on its campuses in France (Aix-en-Provence, Angers, Bordeaux, Lyon, Paris and Strasbourg), Hungary, China and most recently in Spain and Luxemburg.

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