

## IÉSEG School of Management and the Global Reporting Initiative sign a unique partnership in Europe

*IÉSEG School of Management, one of Europe's top Business Schools, and the [Global Reporting Initiative](#) (GRI), provider of the most widely used standards for sustainability reporting (the GRI Standards), announce a unique partnership for the students of IÉSEG's new [MSc in Management for Sustainability](#).*

### **A timely partnership**

A new law, passed last year in the European Union, requires large or stock-market listed companies to report on their non-financial performance. Starting next year, the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive will apply to over 50,000 companies doing business in Europe, introducing requirements to report against EU standards for environmental, social and governance (ESG) metrics.

For 25 years, GRI has defined the standards for how companies report their sustainability impacts. Currently, 73% of the top 250 global companies use the GRI guidelines to communicate their ESG performance to financial markets, shareholders, customers, employees and other stakeholders. More than 10,000 companies around the world use the GRI Standards, which are provided as a free public good. GRI is currently working with the EU to co-construct the new European Sustainability Reporting Standards.

As [IÉSEG School of Management launches its Master of Science in Management for Sustainability](#), designed for students who want to implement solutions that address the world's toughest sustainability challenges, this partnership with [GRI](#) is timely. This collaboration aims to equip students with the qualifications to be part of how companies address, measure, and communicate their ESG achievements.

Caroline Roussel, vice-Dean of IÉSEG School of Management, explains: *"I'm very proud that IÉSEG is the first Business School in Europe to sign such a partnership with the Global Reporting Initiative. Our MSc in Management for Sustainability aims at equipping our students with the fundamental science, technology and policy know-how for meeting all sustainability challenges, combined with a very good command of management and strategy insights and tools. The partnership with GRI is ideal. It will give our students the right tools to make an impact."*

Mirjam Groten, GRI Chief Business Development Officer, adds: *"We are delighted to enter into this innovative collaboration with IÉSEG School of Management. Integrating the GRI Professional Certification Program with the MSc in Management for Sustainability will help ensure that students develop a comprehensive understanding of the importance of corporate accountability for sustainability impacts. This illustrates IÉSEG's commitment to addressing the growing needs in Europe for business professionals that have a strong understanding of sustainability reporting, as supported by GRI's world-leading standards."*

### **A certification fully integrated in the pedagogical thinking of the MSc**

To help IÉSEG students in the MSc in Management for Sustainability become fluent and competent in a sustainable business workplace, they will qualify for the GRI Professional Certification Program. Successfully completing this program results in a recognized qualification for sustainability professionals: the *GRI Certified Sustainability Professional*. Such certification has great value in the job market

and is a key differentiator among job applicants. IÉSEG students will thus gain a competitive edge by showing their expertise and by earning a trusted recognition in sustainability reporting through this professional certification.

The GRI Professional Certification Program will be integrated into the program of the MSc in Management for Sustainability and will enable students to work on all relevant facets of sustainability reporting. All students in this Master's program will have the opportunity to acquire this sought-for qualification.

Frank De Bakker, professor of Corporate Social Responsibility at IÉSEG School of Management and Academic Director of the MSc in Management for Sustainability, concludes: *"From an academic point of view, this new program offers a much-needed combination of sustainability insights and business knowledge and skills. Our innovative collaboration with the GRI Professional Certification Program allows our students to become recognized professionals and aligns well with IÉSEG's ambition to empower changemakers for a better society."*

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#### > About IÉSEG School of Management

Founded in 1964 in Lille (France), IÉSEG School of Management is a member of the 'Université Catholique de Lille' and the 'Conférence des Grandes Écoles'. IÉSEG features among the top international management schools and has been awarded the triple crown of international accreditations: AACSB, AMBA, and EQUIS.

With a mission to empower changemakers for a better society, the School offers its 7,000 students, across its two campuses in Lille and Paris-La Défense, a wide variety of programs: Bachelor, Grande École Program, Master's of Science, MBAs and Executive degree programs, as well as customized executive education program for companies. IÉSEG draws on the expertise of a high-level international faculty. The 175 permanent professors representing 48 different nationalities all hold a doctorate or a PhD. IÉSEG also has a network of 323 partner universities in 76 countries.

Finally, its research center (IÉSEG Research) is an essential component of a CNRS (the French National Centre for Scientific Research) joint research unit, the LEM (Lille Économie Management – UMR CNRS 9221), which brings together over 150 researchers.

[www.ieseg.fr/en](http://www.ieseg.fr/en) - <https://www.ieseg.fr/en/programs/masters-science/msc-management-sustainability/>

#### > About GRI

GRI (Global Reporting Initiative) is the independent, international organization that helps businesses and other organizations take responsibility for their impacts, by providing them with the global common language to communicate those impacts. It provides the world's most widely used standards for sustainability reporting – the GRI Standards. The GRI secretariat is headquartered in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, and has a network of seven regional hubs ensuring it can support organizations and stakeholders worldwide.

[www.globalreporting.org](http://www.globalreporting.org)

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