



Press Release

## **Cofidis and the IÉSEG Foundation commit to equal opportunities with a three-year partnership agreement**

**Lille, November 19, 2024 – In a joint effort to promote social inclusion and employment opportunities for everyone, Cofidis and the IÉSEG Foundation have signed a three-year partnership agreement to support social inclusion. This initiative includes a financial contribution from Cofidis of €100,000 per year over three years, enabling students from underprivileged backgrounds to access the high-quality education offered by IÉSEG.**

With the support of the Cofidis Group, European leader in online financial services, this partnership aligns fully with the company's social mission. In a context of economic, climate and social challenges, Cofidis is dedicated to a responsible future, a mission that this collaboration actively supports.

Aligned with the values of Responsibility, Solidarity and Engagement upheld by IÉSEG, Cofidis also fully shares the School's Vision, which is to *"empower changemakers for a better society"*.

Together, Cofidis, the IÉSEG Foundation and IÉSEG will focus on three main areas:

- **Guidance and support activities for French final-year high school and first-year post-baccalaureate students** to facilitate access to IÉSEG. This will include presentations of the School in Lille-area high schools, visits of the Lille and La Défense campuses, privileged interactions with faculty and current students, and promotion of available scholarships.
- **Around twenty Cofidis scholarships will be awarded to incoming students from low-income families** in the *Hauts-de-France* region, covering 75% of their tuition fees. This aims to remove financial barriers to studying at IÉSEG for students facing financial challenges.
- **Cofidis Group, IÉSEG and its Foundation will organize joint events** to engage their stakeholders (students, alumni, staff, partner companies, clients, public authorities, etc.) in supporting equal opportunities in higher education. For example, a roundtable on this topic will be held on December 3 for Giving Tuesday, the International Day of Solidarity.

By partnering with the IÉSEG Foundation, Cofidis is committed to supporting young people in their education and career pathways while contributing to the development of the Lille area, where the company is headquartered. With 2,700 employees in the metropolitan area, Cofidis Group boosts local growth through job creation and by enriching the entrepreneurial ecosystem. Through this sponsorship, Cofidis aims to promote social inclusion and cohesion in the region.

On their side, the IÉSEG Foundation and the School strengthen their support programs for financially struggling students.

*“IÉSEG is fortunate to have a network of committed alumni who continue to identify throughout their careers with the values of achievement, responsibility, solidarity, and engagement that the School upholds daily,” says **Caroline ROUSSEL, Dean of IÉSEG**. “I am especially proud that **Nicolas WALLAERT**, a 1995 graduate of the School, chose IÉSEG and our Foundation to support young people in our region and give them the best chance to grow, succeed academically and thrive as adults.”*

*“The IÉSEG Foundation is proud to count Cofidis as its first major partner focused on social accessibility. The Foundation’s mission is to make a positive impact on the lives of the School’s future students by granting them access to quality education. This collaboration fully aligns with that mission and will, I hope, inspire other sponsors to help broaden social access at IÉSEG,” adds **Laure QUÉDILLAC, the School’s Corporate Relations Director, who is in charge of the IÉSEG Foundation**.*

*“As an IÉSEG graduate with a deep connection to the Hauts-de-France region, I am especially proud to see Cofidis partner with the IÉSEG Foundation and IÉSEG in its Equal Opportunity program. We firmly believe that by facilitating access to quality education, challenging stereotypes, and offering tailored support, we can build a more equitable and supportive future for all,” explained **Nicolas WALLAERT, CEO of Cofidis France**.*

*“For Cofidis Group, fighting exclusion also means making higher education more accessible. This partnership with the IÉSEG Foundation embodies our commitment to equal opportunity, marking a strong statement of our vision and commitment within the Group’s HR strategy: to support social inclusion and skills development,” concluded **Katia CANIOT, HR and Communications Director of Cofidis Group**.*

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### **About Cofidis Group**

*Cofidis Group is a subsidiary of Crédit Mutuel Alliance Fédérale. Through its three commercial brands, Cofidis, Monabanq, Creatis and its GEIE SynerGIE, Cofidis Group creates, sells and manages a wide range of financial services for private individuals and partner retailers. Operating in 9 countries, Cofidis Group has been one of Europe’s leading consumer credit providers for over 40 years (personal loans and consumer credit, payment solutions, banking services, insurance, debt purchase and partnerships). With its positioning centered on the symmetry of attentions, Cofidis Group’s ambition is to provide its employees, customers and partners with a unique experience that gives pride of place to emotion. A highly committed player, Cofidis Group is working for a responsible future: in the way it does business, inclusive and collaborative in its projects, resolutely protective of the planet.*

*Find out more: [cofidis-group.com](http://cofidis-group.com)*

### **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 8,540 students, across its two campuses in Lille and Paris-La Défense, a wide variety of programs: Bachelor, Grande École Program, Specialized Masters, 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 208 permanent professors representing 54 different nationalities all hold a doctorate or a PhD. IÉSEG also has a network of 331 partner universities in 74 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.*

*<http://www.ieseg.fr/en/>*

### **About the IÉSEG Foundation**

Created in 2013 under the aegis of the Foundation of the “Université Catholique de Lille” (the largest private university in France) and recognized as a public utility, the IÉSEG Foundation's mission is to support IÉSEG in its sustainable and global transformation, focused on the quality of teaching and research, at the service of young people, companies and society.

Since 2022, the IÉSEG Foundation has sought to promote, guide and dedicate its philanthropic actions to social inclusion and access to higher education for all. By placing equal opportunities, excellence and entrepreneurship at the heart of its development for its students, the IÉSEG Foundation positions itself as a catalyst for synergies and collaborations with its graduates, corporate partners, parents and IÉSEG supporters.

In 2023, 200 scholarships were awarded thanks to 20 corporate sponsors and 180 individual donors.

<https://fondation.ieseg.fr/>

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