



Press release

20 May 2025

ESCP Business School and Fondation Prospective & Innovation (FPI) launch the *École du Leadership de Paris*: shaping and teaching a new vision of leadership

This morning marked the official launch of the **École du Leadership de Paris** (Paris School of Leadership) with the inaugural Forum hosted jointly by the Fondation Prospective & Innovation (FPI) and ESCP Business School. This new “Think & Do Tank” is dedicated to redefining and promoting a renewed model of leadership.

An initiative spearheaded by ESCP Business School and FPI, and chaired by **Henri Giscard d’Estaing**, the *École du Leadership de Paris* is founded on two core objectives: to define leadership through strong values and to develop a method for teaching it effectively.

As **Jean-Pierre Raffarin, former Prime Minister of France and President of FPI**, noted in his opening remarks: *“A leader is someone who aligns a destination with a path. This forum marks the beginning of a vital dialogue between practitioners and academics to lay the groundwork for a pedagogy of leadership.”*

Chaired by **Henri Giscard d’Estaing, President of Club Med**, and moderated by **Maria Koutsovoulou, Professor at ESCP**, the event brought together nearly 250 participants, including students, policymakers, business leaders, scientists, and athletes, for two roundtables exploring today’s key leadership challenges: “Leading Through Complexity: Vision and Method” and “Leadership with Values: Ethics and the Challenges.”

High-profile speakers, among them José Manuel Barroso, General Pierre-Joseph Civre, Muriel Pénicaud, Giuseppe Lavazza, Francesco Profumo, Marlène Schiappa, and Alain Fischer, shed light on the challenges facing today’s leaders, be they politicians, business leaders or scientists.

*“In a time of profound transformation in our societies and organisations, the *École du Leadership de Paris* aspires to empower leaders who seek to combine*



performance with harmony, in service of the common good,” said **Léon Laulusa, Executive President and Dean of ESCP Business School.**

This first forum laid the foundation for a broader mission: to examine and structure new models of leadership.

The participation of a delegation of 30 executives and leaders from ASEAN countries, currently attending an executive programme at ESCP, brought an international dimension to the event.

The event was followed by a closing lunch, providing a space for continued exchange in a more informal setting.

The École du Leadership de Paris’s inaugural forum marks the beginning of a new cycle of reflection and action, which will continue in the fall of 2025.

The next major gathering, set for spring 2026, will be an opportunity to deepen the work already underway and build a community committed to responsible and courageous leadership.

Chairman Henri Giscard d’Estaing closed the forum with a clear roadmap for the future: *“Today’s discussions highlighted the urgent need to define a distinctly European leadership — one rooted in humanist values and equipped for the transformations of our world. The École du Leadership de Paris is committed to shaping that vision, rethinking how leadership is taught, and sharing it broadly.”*

Press Contacts:

ESCP

Sera Royal
sroyal@escp.eu
+33 (1) 49 23 27 66

About ESCP Business School

ESCP Business School was founded in 1819, making it the world’s oldest business school. Throughout its 200-year history, ESCP has remained committed to educating accountable, bold and creative leaders who launch trends, bring new solutions and initiate the codes of tomorrow.



ESCP's six campuses in Berlin, London, Madrid, Paris, Turin and Warsaw are the stepping stones that allow students to experience ESCP's European approach to management grounded in multiculturalism.

Every year, ESCP welcomes 11,000+ students and 6,000 managers from 136 different nationalities. Its strength lies in its many business training programmes, both general and specialised (Bachelor, Master, MBA, Executive MBA, PhD and Executive Education), all of which include a multi-campus experience.

With innovation as our cornerstone, we are accelerating academic research and business education to forge new pathways for a better future for all.

It all starts here.

Website: www.escp.eu

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About the Fondation Prospective & Innovation

The Fondation Prospective & Innovation, chaired by Jean-Pierre Raffarin, was founded in 1989 by René Monory and François Dalle, and is recognised as a public-interest organisation. Its mission is to foster reflection on the major transformations shaping the contemporary world and to inform French decision-makers, business leaders, policymakers, and opinion shapers, to help them better anticipate and act. The foundation also supports companies in their efforts to expand into new markets and strengthen their competitiveness.