EDHEC and EDHEC Foundation launch “Up to Us,” a €60 million fundraising campaign to advance strategic ambitions

The campaign will rally alumni and partners behind four priorities: opening access to education, advancing research, boosting entrepreneurship, and building the sustainable campuses of tomorrow

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

18 NOVEMBER 2026—To celebrate its 120th anniversary, EDHEC Business School is launching the "Up to Us" fundraising campaign to raise €60 million over the next five years (2026–2031). Led by EDHEC and the EDHEC Foundation, the campaign will bring together the entire EDHEC community—alumni, corporate partners, and strategic allies—around four strategic priorities: giving everyone the opportunity to succeed, advancing research, accelerating entrepreneurship, and shaping the campuses of tomorrow.

Money raised through the campaign will fund nearly a quarter of the €270 million in investments and actions planned under EDHEC’s Generations 2050 strategic plan. The Up to Us campaign will be co-chaired by EDHEC alumni **Michael Burke** (EDHEC 80), CEO of LVMH Americas, and **Damien Gros** (EDHEC 93), Co-founder and Partner at Accuracy.

120 years of history serving the transformations of tomorrow

Since its founding in 1906, EDHEC has trained generations of decision-makers. Through its teaching and research, it has helped transform the economy and society. Building on its history and international growth, the school intends to stay on this course and strengthen its contribution to today's major challenges. This ambition is part of the **Generations 2050** strategic plan, which sets the school's development course through 2050.

"We are not only preparing students to enter the world as it is, but to take part in the one that has yet to be invented. That is what Generations 2050 is about: educating women and men who can understand the major transitions underway, challenge established models, and act to bring about new solutions. EDHEC plays a decisive role in this transformation through impactful education and research, entrepreneurship and its commitment to society and the common good. With Up to Us, we are giving this ambition the means to scale up," says **Emmanuel Métais**, Dean of EDHEC Business School.

Four priorities to support EDHEC’s long-term development

Unleashing talent—offering everyone a path to success: €30M

Social inclusion is the campaign's priority, with €30 million, or half of the funds raised, dedicated to this goal. EDHEC aims to help more students enter its programmes and succeed, regardless of financial background, and to connect with more young people before they decide that, for financial reasons or otherwise, top business schools are out of reach.

EDHEC already devotes nearly **€15 million** a year to scholarships and financial aid. This budget has tripled over the past decade, and one in three students now receives some form of support. The campaign will go further, notably by expanding the **EDHEC For All** programme, which offers free tuition based on the financial needs of young people and their families. The campaign also aims to support the rollout of ten international scholarship programmes in target countries.

EDHEC's equal opportunity mission starts before students even enter higher education. Launched in 2023, the **EDHEC Talents Lycées** programme supports secondary school students through needs-based grants, helping them prepare for university and choose their diploma path. This programme also provides counselling to high school students who might otherwise never consider a top business school because their parents didn't attend one, or because they think they might not be able to compete. EDHEC aims to expand the programme, which has already supported 212 pupils from 51 secondary schools, to reach 500 young people by 2031.

Pushing the frontiers of research—in pursuit of knowledge and teaching excellence: €12M

With **190 professors** and researchers and **14 centres of expertise**, EDHEC draws on an international academic community. Its research capabilities focus on major economic, technological and societal challenges, including climate finance, quantum science and technologies, connected health, artificial intelligence, geopolitics and net positive business. This work aims to generate new knowledge and inform decision-making by businesses and public bodies.

The €12 million earmarked for this priority will expand the school's research capacity and strengthen its international scientific reputation. By 2031, the campaign aims to create **five to seven new research chairs**, welcome 20 international visiting researchers a year, and hold 60 scientific workshops and conferences each year. A portion of the funds will also go toward EDHEC Foundation's permanent endowment to support specific research activities in the long term.

Thinking bigger in entrepreneurship—inventing tomorrow: €8M

Founded by industrialists and entrepreneurs from northern France, EDHEC has had entrepreneurship in its DNA from the start. The school now wants to make it even more central to its programmes and community, by giving more students the means to develop their startup projects and by backing ventures that tackle social and environmental challenges.

Each year, the **EDHEC Centre for Responsible Entrepreneurship** supports more than 60 start-ups. It does this through a network of **EDHEC Entrepreneurs** incubators and programmes in Paris (Station F), Sophia Antipolis (TechForward), Roubaix (Campus Jean Arnault) and University of California, Berkeley (SkyDeck). The Centre has also developed the Responsible Entrepreneurship by Design (RED) methodology, which more than 1,200 entrepreneurs worldwide have adopted.

The €8 million allocated to this priority will fund several complementary initiatives. The campaign will support the rollout of **L'Étincelle**, a certified entrepreneurship course designed to introduce up to **10,000 learners** a year to entrepreneurship and its ecosystem. It will also support the creation of a **Student Startup Studio**, designed to become the first studio in France dedicated entirely to student entrepreneurs, with room for 40 students a year.

The campaign also seeks to fund **Women in Business & Tech** excellence scholarships. These scholarships will support **10 to 20 female students and alumnae** each year with their entrepreneurial projects and careers. Finally, it aims to fund scholarships that let students focus on developing their ventures, as well as a fund to support the early stages of the most promising initiatives.

Building places for success and exchange—matching the world's leading institutions: €10M

Campuses are an essential part of the student experience and of learning at EDHEC. The school continues to transform its main campuses in Lille and Nice into spaces that are best suited to modern learning; spaces that encourage exchange, teamwork, and well-being while taking environmental challenges into account.

EDHEC plans to strengthen student support, most notably by funding **health and well-being centres on each of its campuses**. In Lille, this will include a **Care Hub** at the heart of the campus in an area called the **Agora** (scheduled to open in 2027). The Care Hub will bring student support services together in one place—health, well-being, sport, student life, diversity and disability, as well as financial aid and administrative support—to better serve the roughly **7,000 students** on campus. The Agora will also house a **24/7 learning centre** and an expanded student club village. In Nice, a new **7,500 m² building** on the Promenade des Anglais, due for completion in 2030, will accommodate up to **3,000 students**.

EDHEC is paying for these building projects itself, and the campaign will add funding for teaching facilities and student services. It plans to create around 20 modular, interconnected learning spaces suited to active teaching methods and digital use. Finally, the campaign will support biodiversity projects, including restoring and renaturing green spaces.

An independent model, powered by its community

A nonprofit association recognized under French law, EDHEC has developed an original model that turns its research into scientific ventures and companies. Proceeds from the sale of these companies are reinvested in new research projects, academic programmes and student support. The sales of **Scientific Beta** in 2020 and **Scientific Infra & Private Assets** (SIPA) in 2026 illustrate this model, which turns the fruits of research into a resource for the school's long-term development.

The Up to Us campaign builds on this approach by giving EDHEC more resources to deliver on its ambitions and invest for the future.

Anne Guillon (EDHEC 1990), Director of EDHEC Foundation, says: "For 120 years, EDHEC has been built and reinvented by those who commit to it. The loyalty and generosity of its alumni have always been a great source of strength. Now it is our turn to keep this legacy alive and pass it on to future generations. With Up to Us, we are taking this commitment to a new level: enabling the school to continue its development, preserve its independence and keep opening up new possibilities for those who will carry it forward."

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Press Contact

Lynn Anderson Davy – Head of International Press Relations
lynn.davy@edhec.edu – +33 7 68 89 98 42

About EDHEC Business School

Founded in 1906, EDHEC Business School has been a driving force in European business education for nearly 120 years. Ranked among the Top 10 European Business Schools by *The Financial Times*, EDHEC is recognised both in France and internationally for the quality of its research and thought leadership. At the heart of its approach is a distinctive, impact-driven research model—one designed to inform and support businesses, society and students as they navigate the defining challenges of our time. An independent institution where excellence, innovation, and diversity converge, EDHEC is uniquely equipped to shape the next generation of leaders for a world in profound transformation.

Fast Facts

• 10K students, 190 professors and researchers, 14 centres of expertise, 130 nationalities

• A portfolio of 30 transformative higher education programmes: Bachelor (BBA and BSc), Master in Management, Master of Science (MSc), MBAs (Full-time,

Executive MBA and MBA Online), PhD in Finance and an Executive PhD in Business Management, EDHEC Executive Education (for managers, executives, and entrepreneurs), EDHEC Online, created in 2018, for distance learning

• 3 campuses: Lille, Nice and Paris, and 3 entrepreneurship campuses: the Jean Arnault Campus in Roubaix, EDHEC Entrepreneurs at Station F in Paris, and Techforward at Sophie Antipolis in Nice (in partnership with Eurecom and Institut les Mines-Télécom, two of France's top schools in technology and engineering)

• 2 research campuses in London and Singapore dedicated to research and development in climate finance, in infrastructure finance, and in private equity

Find out more at: https://www.edhec.edu/en.

About EDHEC Foundation

The EDHEC Foundation leads corporate giving and philanthropy for EDHEC Business School. It works through the EDHEC Endowment Fund, the school's fundraising vehicle, which is chaired by Philippe Léopold-Metzger (EDHEC 1977). Gifts from alumni, companies, and friends of the school fund student scholarships, high-impact research, cutting-edge teaching tools, and innovative degree programs, supporting EDHEC's growth and ambitions. The Foundation now counts 2,800 individual donors and some thirty corporate sponsors and foundations.