

Chaire Entrepreneuriat Social

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ESSEC, a top French business school, launched the Social Entrepreneurship Centre in January 2003. ESSEC is the first French business school to establish a centre of expertise in this field.

The Social Entrepreneurship Centre aims to mobilise and train entrepreneurs and managers capable of offering innovative solutions to social problems, of establishing trans-sectoral partnerships and of maximising the social impact of their initiatives.

To achieve this, the Centre has implemented:

- 3 courses for the full-time ESSEC MBA Programme: Building a Social Business Plan, Social Entrepreneurship, Enterprises and Sustainable Development, and Social Economy Issues;
- a Social Entrepreneurship Seminar, which consists of a set of activities complementing the courses (professional meetings, in the field visits, team-building weekends and a one-week trip abroad);
- an executive education programme, General Management for Social Enterprise;
- applied research activities with the help of Centre partners;
- awareness raising (through activities such as conferences and round tables); and
- innovative projects, such as Antropia, the first French Social Incubator, supporting and, if necessary, financing social entrepreneurs from the region Ile-de-France.

ESSEC has recently received European financing from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), aiming to develop and strengthen its activities in the social innovation and social entrepreneurship fields. The Social Entrepreneurship Centre will thus grow to become an Institute within the next months.

ESSEC aims to raise awareness of social entrepreneurship and venture philanthropy in France as innovative ways to finance and develop social enterprises. ESSEC's membership of EVPA will help it to improve its Social Incubator project, strengthen its network and offer new opportunities to its partners.