



## ESSEC hosts the first edition of TEDxESSECBusinessSchool, “Taking Off”

**Cergy, May 23, 2017** — On Wednesday, May 3, ESSEC Business School hosted the first edition of the TEDxESSECBusinessSchool. The event was organized by the ESSEC Initiatives student association and revolved around the theme, “Taking off.” During the event, nine speakers from a wide variety of backgrounds spoke about their individual, unique journeys for an audience of 100 attendees.

Take a look at all of the videos from [TEDxESSECBusinessSchool](#).

ESSEC’s mission is perfectly aligned with that of TED; both institutions are committed to promoting the dissemination of knowledge. TEDx was created in the spirit of TED's mission, "ideas worth spreading." It supports independent organizers who want to create a TED-like event in their own community and therefore stimulate debate and dialogue on a local level. With more than 10,000 conferences in 167 countries, TEDx has transmitted inspiring initiatives and testimonies throughout the world which are all made visible on YouTube.

For the first time, ESSEC, together with the student association ESSEC Initiatives, organized a TEDx conference on the Cergy campus in order to bring the TEDx experience to the ESSEC community - students, professors and staff - but also to the general public.

Bringing together a panel of nine speakers, the conference revolved around the theme of "Taking off." For 10 minutes each, the speakers were able to share their vision and expertise, but they also succeeded in inspiring the audience and generating excitement around their disciplines.

*“In order for us to ‘Take off,’ it means we abandon our comfort zone, our daily life and our history and moves towards the unknown; it means taking a risk. Taking off means freeing yourself and letting go of the labels that society imposes on us; it means establishing a new vision of how things ‘should’ be and breaking with norms.”* explains Flore Desal, an MSc in Management student at ESSEC and the lead organizer for the TEDx conference.

The nine TedxESSECBusinessSchool speakers were:

- **Benoit Vodinh:** An ESSEC alumnus, he passionately recounted his family trip around the world that was completed by various means of transport: sailboat, motor home and bicycle.
- **Elhadj Touré:** Finalist of the student eloquence contest, Eloquentia, Touré spoke about how his mastery of words and how oratory skills have proven to be an excellent everyday tool.
- **Guillaume Holsteyn:** Guillaume Holsteyn decided to leave everything and set out on a four-year journey to meet the poor and homeless in Latin America. He spoke about his experience, which upon his return resulted in the co-founding of Le Carillon, a solidarity network for the homeless.
- **Michaël Jérémiasz:** A French Paralympic tennis champion, Michaël Jérémiasz has been a spokesperson for diversity through his career and experiences.

- **Hubert Jaoui:** A specialist in creativity, Hubert Jaoui has delivered his methods and secrets to initiate a path of personal development and to create innovative ideas.
- **Alice Barbe:** *Singa* is an organization that creates opportunities for collaboration between refugees and their host society. A member of the association and a refugee who benefited from the program came to speak about their experiences.
- **Shams Radjabaly:** Winner of the internal competition for ESSEC students, Shams Radjabaly recounted the journey that marked his history and that of his family.
- **Adèle Galey:** A graduate of ESSEC, she co-founded *Ticket For Change*, a program intended for those who wish to embark on entrepreneurial projects.
- **Guila Clara Kessous:** artist, researcher, director, actress and teacher, she brought an artistic dimension to the reflection around the theme of "Taking Off".

To see all of the videos of the talks, click [here](#).

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#### **About ESSEC Business School**

ESSEC, founded in 1907, is one of the world's top management schools. With 5,330 students; a faculty comprised of 158 full-time professors, 19 of which are emeritus professors, in France and Singapore, recognized for both the quality and influence of their research; a wide range of management training programs; partnerships with the world's best universities; and a network of 47,000 alumni, ESSEC continues to foster a tradition of academic excellence and a spirit of openness in the fields of economics, social sciences and innovation. In 2005, ESSEC opened a campus in Asia. ESSEC's operations in Asia Pacific, strategically located in Singapore, present the perfect foothold for ESSEC to be part of the vibrant growth of Asia and to bring its expertise to the expanding region. Additionally, in 2017 ESSEC opened a new campus in Rabat, Morocco. ESSEC's international expansion allows students and professors to study and understand the economic forces at work in the different regions of the world. For any additional information, please visit [www.essec.edu](http://www.essec.edu) or [www.essec.edu/asia](http://www.essec.edu/asia).

#### **About ESSEC Initiatives**

Created in 1989, ESSEC Initiatives is the entrepreneurship association at ESSEC. It is a professional association specialized in supporting young entrepreneurs as they set out on their entrepreneurial journeys. Above all, ESSEC Initiatives promotes the start-up spirit on the campus by organizing round tables, meetings with entrepreneurs and other larger events. The association has a total of 35 members.