

Nova SBE and novobanco strengthen their partnership for the promotion of economic, environmental, and social sustainability

Lisbon, 25 October 2023: Nova School of Business and Economics (Nova SBE) and **novobanco** have announced a significant expansion of their partnership, marked by the signing of a 3-year protocol dedicated to the broad scope of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG). The partnership will focus on two main initiatives.

The **novobanco** ESG Chair, led by Professor Melissa Prado, will be established. The chair will focus on research and education in the field of Finance, with an emphasis on ESG topics, including research on the impact of sustainable investment on pollution reduction. In a second aspect, **novobanco** will become the founding partner of a program aimed at empowering leaders of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), to be announced later this week.

The program will provide innovative theoretical and practical management training, combined with personalized mentoring, to managers in this segment, which represents the majority of the national economic fabric.

The partnership underscores the commitment of Nova SBE and **novobanco** to addressing contemporary challenges, from sustainability and environmental responsibility to leadership and innovation.

According to Pedro Oliveira, Dean of Nova SBE, "*The significant expansion of this protocol is the culmination of a process in which two entities recognized the need to combine research and education with the pressing issues of our society through the renewal of a Chair. ESG practices are among the most current challenges for our companies, so the*

integration of these new aspects is a commitment to supporting companies in achieving environmental, social, and governance goals." He also emphasized that "Nova SBE has the responsibility and opportunity to have a positive impact on our country by equipping decision-makers in SMEs with tools and routines that will help improve their future growth."

On the other hand, **novobanco' s Chief Legal Compliance and Sustainability Officer** Luisa Soares da Silva, stated that *"The partnership with Nova SBE is an important component of **novobanco's** sustainability strategy. Through this collaboration, we support not only the development of knowledge in the field of sustainability and sustainable finance but also the training of a new generation of leaders in the Portuguese business environment. We are confident that this partnership will help us achieve our sustainability goals and make a real difference in the national economy."*

Carlos Brandão, **novobanco' s Chief Risk Officer**, also emphasized that *"Supporting Portuguese companies, especially SMEs, is an inseparable part of our mission, and this partnership is a unique opportunity to support the growth of Portuguese companies. Through this initiative, we will support the capacity of managers and business leaders, helping Portuguese SMEs thrive and contribute to the economic development of the country."*

Melissa Prado, who leads the **novobanco** ESG Chair, further mentioned that *"The new aspects of the renewed protocol are the result of a concerted strategy aimed at promoting transparency at the corporate level and empowering potential opportunities related to sustainable development to create a lasting impact in Portugal and beyond."*



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With approximately 1.5 million customers and assets of 43.8 billion euros, it is currently the 4th largest bank in Portugal, with a market share of about 9.6%.

Novobanco continually endeavours to offer the best customer experience through an omnichannel relationship based on transparency, simplicity and security in all its products and services.

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