



# ESSCA

## Communiqué de presse

15 December 2025

### European Space Policy: ESSCA awarded Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence with the STARS Project

Space is no longer merely a technological matter: it now involves power and global balance, and behind every European space programme lies a key question: what role does Europe want to play? More broadly, it is the full range of issues related to Europe's role as a civilian and peaceful space power that the STARS project – *European Space Policy: Taking Europe to the Stars*, led by ESSCA School of Management, will explore over the next three years. The project has just been awarded the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence label, the most prestigious recognition granted by the European Union for research on European policies.

#### Understanding Europe's position in space

The project is led by Professor Thomas Hoerber, a political scientist specialising in European policies, who works on a simple idea: Europe is neither a military superpower nor a marginal player. It is something else. And in space, this uniqueness is even more evident. While others rely on domination or deterrence, the European Union has developed a model based on civil programmes, international cooperation and the construction of common rules. **STARS seeks to understand how Europe strives to stabilise the global space arena, not through force, but through norms.**

STARS is part of the work of the EU\*Asia Institute (a research institute on European integration, EU-Asia relations, sustainable development and innovation at ESSCA) and strengthens the School's position in European studies and global governance issues – not only as an academic institution but as a place where the blind spots of European policies are analysed, narrated and questioned.

#### A scientific inquiry at the crossroads of geopolitics, industry and culture

The STARS project is not a technical study on launchers or orbits. It is a political investigation. Researchers will explore **five dimensions**: public decision-making, the economics of the space sector, cultural narratives related to space, social representations and the history of European choices.

**The objective:** to trace the political trajectory of European space policy and understand how the European Union builds a so-called "civil" power in a world dominated by power relations.

#### Angers: A laboratory for political Europe

Europe is not only shaped in Brussels; it also plays out in the regions. Part of the project will take place in **Angers** and **Maine-et-Loire**, where a study will measure the real impact of European integration in the department – not in speeches, but in the life of local authorities, institutions and projects.

In parallel, STARS will support work related to Angers' bid for **European Green Capital 2030**, in collaboration with the **Maison de l'Europe Angers & Maine-et-Loire – EUROPE DIRECT** and the think tank **Anjou Lab**.



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### **Making invisible political choices visible**

One of the project's aims is to bring space policy out of expert circles. The research will result in academic publications, but also in open formats: public conferences, debates and hybrid formats. The **Space Power and Politics** book series (Routledge) will form the scientific backbone.

A dedicated platform, **Euroglopaedia**, will be developed to make content accessible in the form of interactive resources, regularly updated and peer-reviewed.

The idea is simple: to offer a credible alternative to superficial sources without compromising on rigour.

### **About ESSCA**

With a 115-year history, ESSCA School of Management is a recognised French and European institution. A pioneer in pedagogical innovation and social and economic inclusion, it is committed to continuous development, integrating the demands and challenges of the contemporary world, with the ambition to train responsible leaders and entrepreneurs to support organisations in their transformations.

A private higher education institution of general interest (EESPIG), operated by a non-profit association and a member of the Conférence des Grandes Écoles, ESSCA offers a Bachelor in International Management (state-recognised and awarded the grade of licence), a Grande École Programme (state-recognised and awarded the grade of master), Masters of Science (awarded the grade of Master), and an MBA in Business & Technology (state-recognised). The School also provides a range of programmes specifically designed for executives, managers, and operational teams, including degree programmes (such as an Executive Master in Global Management...) and inter-company training courses. Finally, ESSCA develops online programmes through its ESSCA Online Campus.

Thanks to its triple accreditation (AACSB, AMBA, and EQUIS), which brings together less than 1% of the world's top business schools, ESSCA is an internationally renowned institution. It is ranked among the top 100 Masters in Management worldwide by the Financial Times and 53rd globally for customised executive education programmes. In terms of impact and research, ESSCA appears in the Times Higher Education and ARWU (Shanghai Ranking) listings.

With a multi-campus structure, ESSCA contributes to strengthening the attractiveness of regions and promoting French expertise in higher education and research, both nationally and internationally. The School relies on a network of more than 22,800 alumni across the globe and currently welcomes over 500 faculty members and staff, as well as 7,800 students across its campuses in France (Aix-en-Provence, Angers, Bordeaux, Lyon, Paris, and Strasbourg), China, Spain, Hungary, and Luxembourg.

[www.essca.eu/en](http://www.essca.eu/en)

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