

NEWS RELEASE

Natixis Investment Managers Celebrates the Finale of “The Students Challenge”

The fifth edition of the competition was defined by a wide range of participant backgrounds, strong international engagement, and a particularly challenging market environment.

BOSTON, June 5, 2025 – Natixis Investment Managers (Natixis IM) concluded the fifth edition of its competition, The Students Challenge, on Thursday, May 22, 2025, with a final round held in Paris. The event brought together three finalists teams composed of six students, selected from nearly 350 registered candidates across 70 teams representing universities and business schools worldwide. This edition underscored the unique positioning of the Challenge within the educational and financial landscape, offering students a unique, immersive experience in asset management.

Diversity of profiles and international dimension

Launched in 2019 by a collective of committed employees, The Students Challenge has established itself over the years as a recognized program for knowledge transfer, inclusive participation, and professional development. Initially focused on students from France, the competition now attracts a wide range of international profiles from various educational backgrounds: business schools, engineering schools, and university programs. For example, this year’s competition welcomed international teams from New York University, Boston University and University of Massachusetts (United States); Rabat Business School (Morocco); EBS Universität (Germany); and Università Bocconi (Italy). They competed alongside students from leading French institutions such as HEC Paris, ESSEC, Centrale Supélec, SKEMA, Paris Dauphine, EM Lyon, Bordeaux University, Paris 2 University, Sciences Po Paris, IESEG, IAE Paris-Est, NEOMA, and KEDGE—illustrating the program’s broad academic reach and global appeal.

Experiential portfolio management in a particularly volatile and demanding market environment

After an initial selection of 12 teams to participate in the Challenge, students managed a virtual multi-asset portfolio of \$100 million over a three-month period, from February to April 2025. This edition of the Challenge took place in a particularly unstable and demanding market environment, characterized by rising interest rates, tensions in bond markets, and high volatility. Each team had access to tools from the FactSet platform and ESG data from Morningstar | Sustainalytics—partners of the competition—as well as mentorship from two managers from representing affiliated management companies within the Natixis IM group. This year, the finalist teams were supported by specialists from Ossiam, Ostrum Asset Management, and Ecofi. In addition to applying technical skills in asset management and ESG analysis, the experience also fostered the development of essential interpersonal

NEWS RELEASE

competencies for future portfolio managers, such as teamwork and collective decision-making in a complex environment. In line with the profession's requirements, evaluation criteria included not only financial performance but also the soundness of the investment thesis presented, its coherence with the macro-financial context, and the rigor applied in risk monitoring.

Another noteworthy innovation of this edition was a half-day workshop dedicated to the 18 finalists. It included testimonials from employees of Natixis IM and its affiliates, an interview preparation session led by human resources and an external agency, a LinkedIn optimization module with a specialized agency, and a professional photo session to enhance each finalist's professional profile.

"TCP Investment Managers" wins the 2025 edition

At the end of the grand finale, the team "TCP Investment Managers," sponsored by Émilie Huot and M'hamed Fenniri, both fund managers at Ostrum AM, won the 2025 edition. The three finalist teams – TCP Investment Managers, EM Capital, and The Riskies – all achieved positive performance over the three-month investment¹ period, with respective returns of +2.95%, +3.64%, and +2.97%, while strictly adhering to all management constraints, including a volatility of less than 10%, integrating ESG criteria, and respecting at a minimum the principles of the United Nations Global Compact for the selection of securities. As in previous years, the winning team is offered an employment opportunity on a fixed-term contract in one of Natixis IM's affiliated management companies.

Badr-eddine Tahir, a winner of this 5th edition, reflected on his victory: *"I am very proud to win this competition which is the result of three months of intense work and exceptional collaboration. During The Students Challenge by Natixis Investment Managers, my team, TCP Investment Managers, implemented a global macro strategy aimed at combining performance and strong integration of ESG criteria. This competition, rich in learning, would not have been possible without the support of our mentors at Ostrum AM and the commitment of the organizers. Our victory marks the beginning of a new adventure in responsible finance for my team and me."*

The feedback from **Anne-Sophie Santos, a winner of the 2022 edition and now a portfolio manager at VEGA Investment Solutions, an affiliate of Natixis IM**, illustrates the concrete impact of the Challenge: *"The competition's very realistic approach allowed us to understand real management conditions, especially in a tense bond context at the time with rising interest rates across Europe."* Following this competition, she joined Natixis IM on a fixed-

¹ Past performance does not predict future results.

NEWS RELEASE

term contract as an assistant portfolio manager, before being offered a permanent contract as a portfolio manager a year later. This year, Santos participated in the selection of finalist teams as a jury member, highlighting *"an exceptional level of preparation and remarkable maturity among the candidates."*

Christophe Lanne, Global Chief Human Resources Officer and Global Chief Operating & Transformation Officer of Natixis IM stated: *"A concrete illustration of the entrepreneurial spirit and talent-oriented culture we cultivate at Natixis IM, The Students Challenge reflects our vision of the profession: demanding, collaborative, and open to the world. This initiative goes beyond simply passing on our know-how; it also enriches us with the ideas and new perspectives brought by these young talents."*

Registrations for the sixth edition of the program will open in autumn 2025.

About Natixis Investment Managers

Natixis Investment Managers' multi-affiliate approach connects clients to the independent thinking and focused expertise of more than 15 active managers. Ranked among the world's largest asset managers¹ with more than \$1.3 trillion assets under management² (€1.2 trillion), Natixis Investment Managers specializes in high-conviction active investment strategies, insurance and pension solutions, and private assets, and delivers a diverse offering across asset classes, styles, and vehicles. The firm partners with clients in order to understand their unique needs and provide insights and investment solutions tailored to their long-term goals.

Headquartered in Paris and Boston, Natixis Investment Managers is part of Groupe BPCE, the second-largest banking group in France through the Banque Populaire and Caisse d'Épargne retail networks. Natixis Investment Managers' affiliated investment management firms include AEW; DNCA Investments;³ Dorval Asset Management; Flexstone Partners; Gateway Investment Advisers; Harris | Oakmark; Investors Mutual Limited; Loomis, Sayles & Company; Mirova; Naxicap Partners; Ossiam; Ostrum Asset Management; Seventure Partners; Thematics Asset Management; Vauban Infrastructure Partners; Vaughan Nelson Investment Management; Vega Investment Solutions and WCM Investment Management. Additionally, investment solutions are offered through Natixis Investment Managers Solutions and Natixis Advisors, LLC. **Not all offerings are available in all jurisdictions.** For additional information, please visit Natixis Investment Managers' website at im.natixis.com | LinkedIn: [linkedin.com /company/natixis-investment-managers](https://linkedin.com/company/natixis-investment-managers).

Natixis Investment Managers' distribution and service groups include Natixis Distribution, LLC, a limited purpose broker-dealer and the distributor of various US registered investment companies for which advisory services are provided by affiliated firms of Natixis Investment Managers, Natixis Investment Managers International (France), and their affiliated distribution and service entities in Europe and Asia.

NEWS RELEASE

¹ Survey respondents ranked by Investment & Pensions Europe/Top 500 Asset Managers 2024 ranked Natixis Investment Managers as the 19th largest asset manager in the world based on assets under management as of December 31, 2023.

² Assets under management (AUM) of affiliated entities measured as of March 31, 2025, are \$1,361.4 billion (€1,260.2 billion). AUM, as reported, may include notional assets, assets serviced, gross assets, assets of minority-owned affiliated entities and other types of nonregulatory AUM managed or serviced by firms affiliated with Natixis Investment Managers.

³ A brand of DNCA Finance.

About FactSet

FactSet (NYSE:FDS | NASDAQ:FDS) supercharges financial intelligence, offering enterprise data and information solutions that power our clients to maximize their potential. Our cutting-edge digital platform seamlessly integrates proprietary financial data, client datasets, third-party sources, and flexible technology to deliver tailored solutions across the buy-side, sell-side, wealth management, private equity, and corporate sectors. With over 47 years of expertise, a presence in 20 countries, and extensive multi-asset class coverage, we leverage advanced data connectivity alongside AI and next-generation tools to streamline workflows, drive productivity, and enable smarter, faster decision-making. Serving more than 8,600 global clients and nearly 220,000 individual users, FactSet is a member of the S&P 500 dedicated to innovation and long-term client success. Learn more at www.factset.com and follow us on X and LinkedIn.

About Morningstar Sustainalytics

Morningstar Sustainalytics is a leading ESG data, research, and ratings firm that supports investors around the world with the development and implementation of responsible investment strategies. For more than 30 years, the firm has been at the forefront of developing high-quality, innovative solutions to meet the evolving needs of global investors. Today, Morningstar Sustainalytics works with hundreds of the world's leading asset managers and pension funds who incorporate ESG information and assessments into their investment processes. The firm also works with hundreds of companies and their financial intermediaries to help them consider material sustainability factors in policies, practices, and capital projects. Morningstar Sustainalytics has analysts around the world with varied multidisciplinary expertise across more than 40 industry groups. For more information, visit www.sustainalytics.com.

###

Press Contacts:

NATIXIS INVESTMENT MANAGERS
Stéphanie Mallet Dufour
stephanie.mallet@natixis.com
06 23 94 60 61

Géraldine Mateos
geraldine.mateos@natixis.com
07 78 11 56 15

STEELE & HOLT
Esteban Mayan
esteban@steeleandholt.com
06 31 92 22 82

Rosalie Porquet
rosalie@steeleandholt.com
06 84 81 65 60

NIM-06052025-pttxzjlw