

Empowering Equity Academy

*Women in STEM
and Equity*

September 2026



Why the Empowering Equity Academy?

We want to improve the European Investment landscape and offer real, tangible opportunities to women in STEM & Sustainability areas

The current European venture capital and private equity space is suffering from certain market gaps

Skills are missing

Specifically in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics areas – as well as Sustainability – we are missing mindsets and skillsets that can really drive the investment space

Diversity is limited

Women are underrepresented in EU private equity, venture capital and private debt markets. It's time to change that.



Empowering
Equity Academy
2026 edition

We want to empower women studying STEMs & sustainability subjects to consider entering the equity investment markets. We do this by offering:

- 1 ***Real world learning***
We offer a free and specialised course in how Europe's private equity markets work
- 2 ***Networking & career opportunities***
We provide a platform for career networking with some of the best fund managers in Europe

What does the Empowering Equity Academy offer me?

Up to 40 spots are available for those studying STEMs and sustainability-related subjects

Learn Online

Attend a fully-fledged training programme, laying the ground on the activities of the EIB Group, principles of finance and covering investment in venture capital and private equity and specific strategies like impact investing.

Meet a wide range of investment professionals from the EIF and deep dive into the investment world.

All lessons will take place online.



“I encourage you to sign up to this opportunity, the equity investment space is where we can truly turn innovation into tangible results for society at large”

Silvia Manca, Head of Competitiveness, Cohesion & Social Impact

Engage Onsite

Participate in the EIF’s flagship Empowering Equity event. Attended each year by high level market players, will get the chance to attend coaching sessions, workshops and focus on concrete case studies.

In addition, you will benefit from direct mentorship and be able to network and meet with industry professionals who might be actively recruiting.

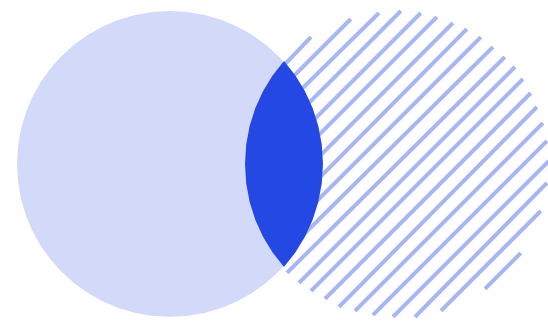
“Join our programme to connect with like-minded peers, explore new career horizons and apply technical skills towards innovative sustainable solutions. Become part of a vibrant, supportive community!”

Anna Canato, Head of Youth Engagement and Society Division, EIBI



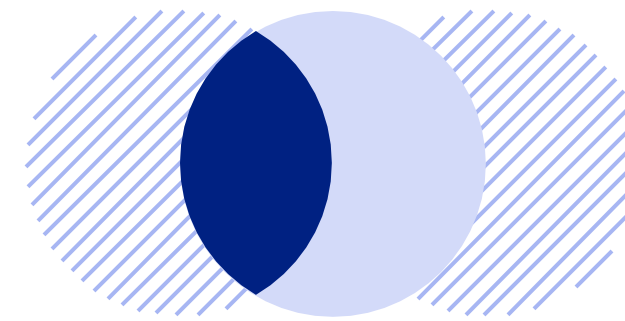
Indicative syllabus (for online learning)

Exact course structure may be subject to adjustments



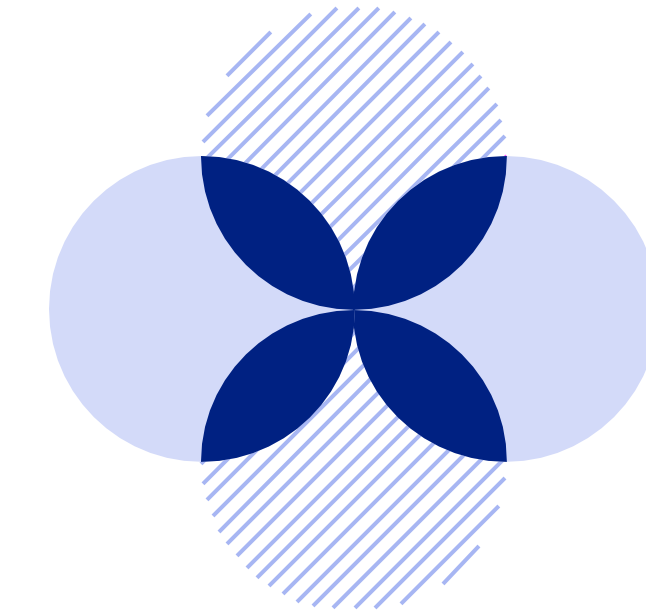
Introduction to equity markets

- The difference between Venture Capital (VC) and Private Equity (PE)
- How does a VC/PE fund work and key features
- Why invest in VC and PE
- Who is the EIB Group and how do they fit into the investment space?



Deep dive on fund structuring

- Typical fund setup
- Life cycle of a fund: from setting up the team to executing an exit strategy
- Aspects of Investment selection
- Investment risks



Measuring impact

- Performance measurements (multiple and IRR)
- Value creation strategies
- Key success factors
- Focus on impact investing as example of investment strategy

A range of case studies to help illustrate real world examples

How to select participants

The Empowering Equity Academy is open to both students as well as young professionals covering a range of studies

Type of applicant

Masters Students, PhD candidates & young graduates from European Universities (up to 30 years and EU nationals)

Young professionals in line with EIF's Early Career Programme criteria, with up to 2 years of full-time working experience (excluding internships and traineeships)

Field of studies

STEM subjects

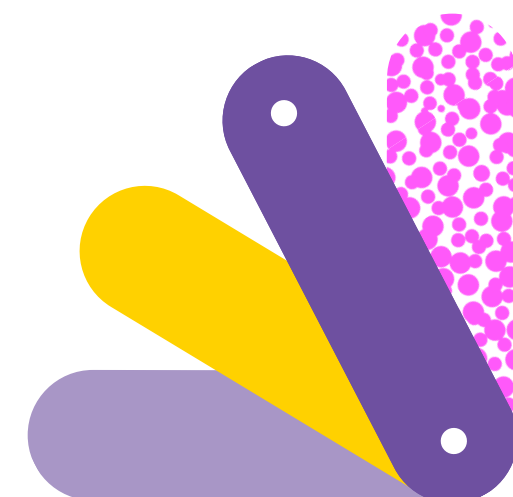
• Biomedical Engineering • Computer Science • Artificial Intelligence • Chemistry • Physics • and many more...

Sustainability subjects

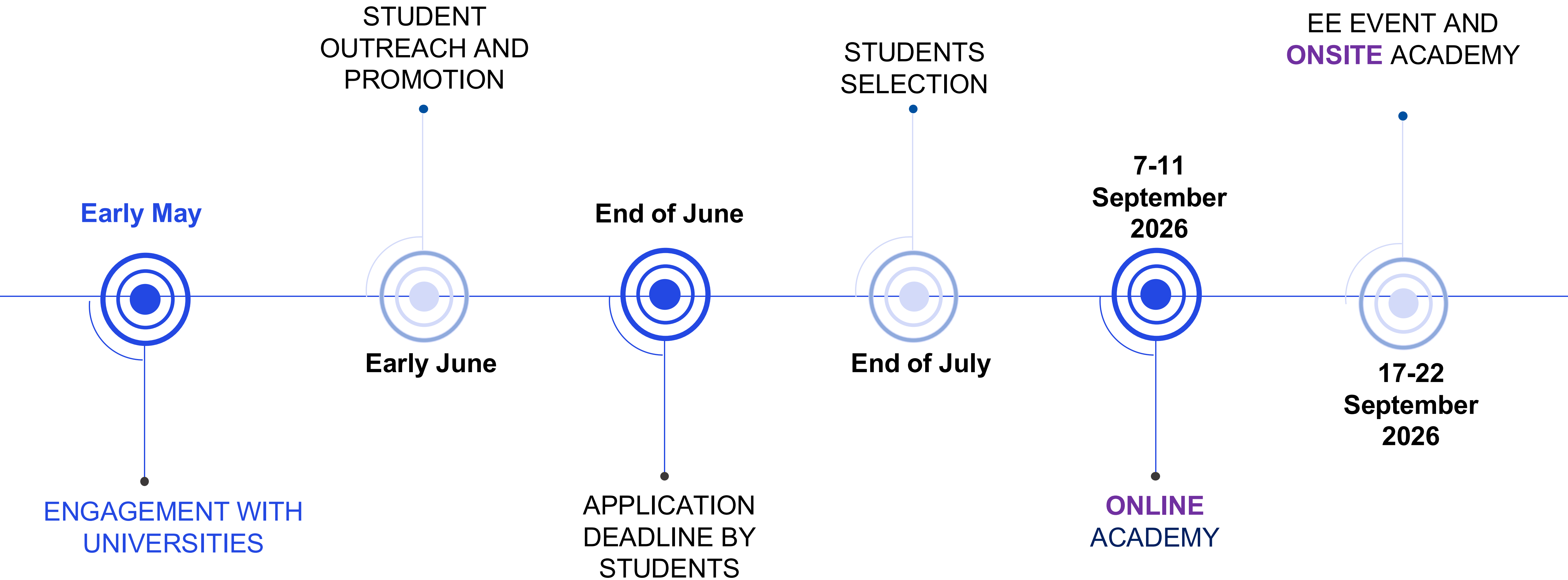
• Environmental Sciences, Policy, and Management • Earth Sciences • Environmental Engineering (and related)

Future job & career prospects

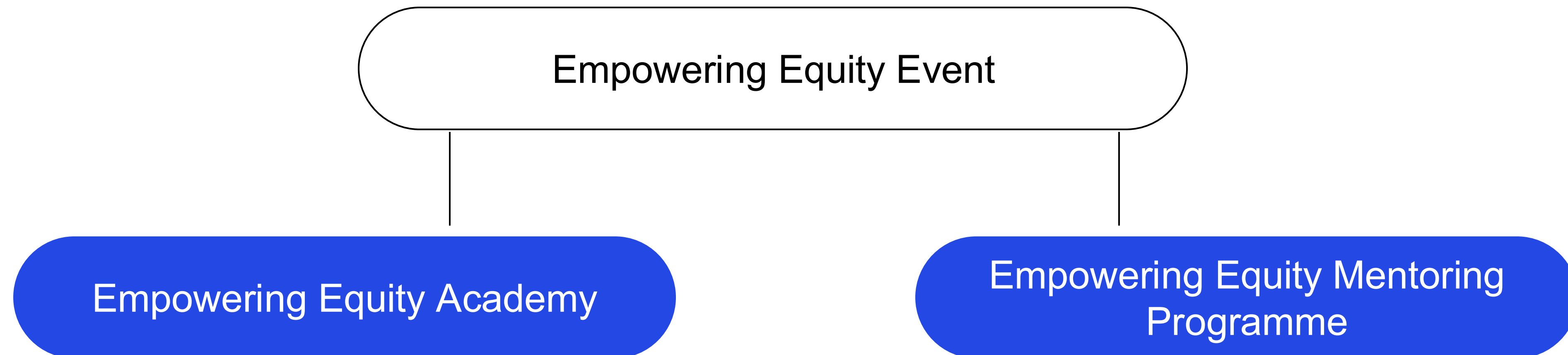
Green technology and engineering • environmental science and research • sustainability consulting • sustainable finance • ESG risk management • sustainable regulation • sustainable agriculture and food systems



Timeline



Empowering Equity Event



Empowering Equity Event



A movement growing every year fuelled by the power of partnership, and the spirit of giving back' among participants

Network opportunities

Facilitating new business deals through 1-2-1 meetings among participants

Insights on EIF's developments on Gender investments

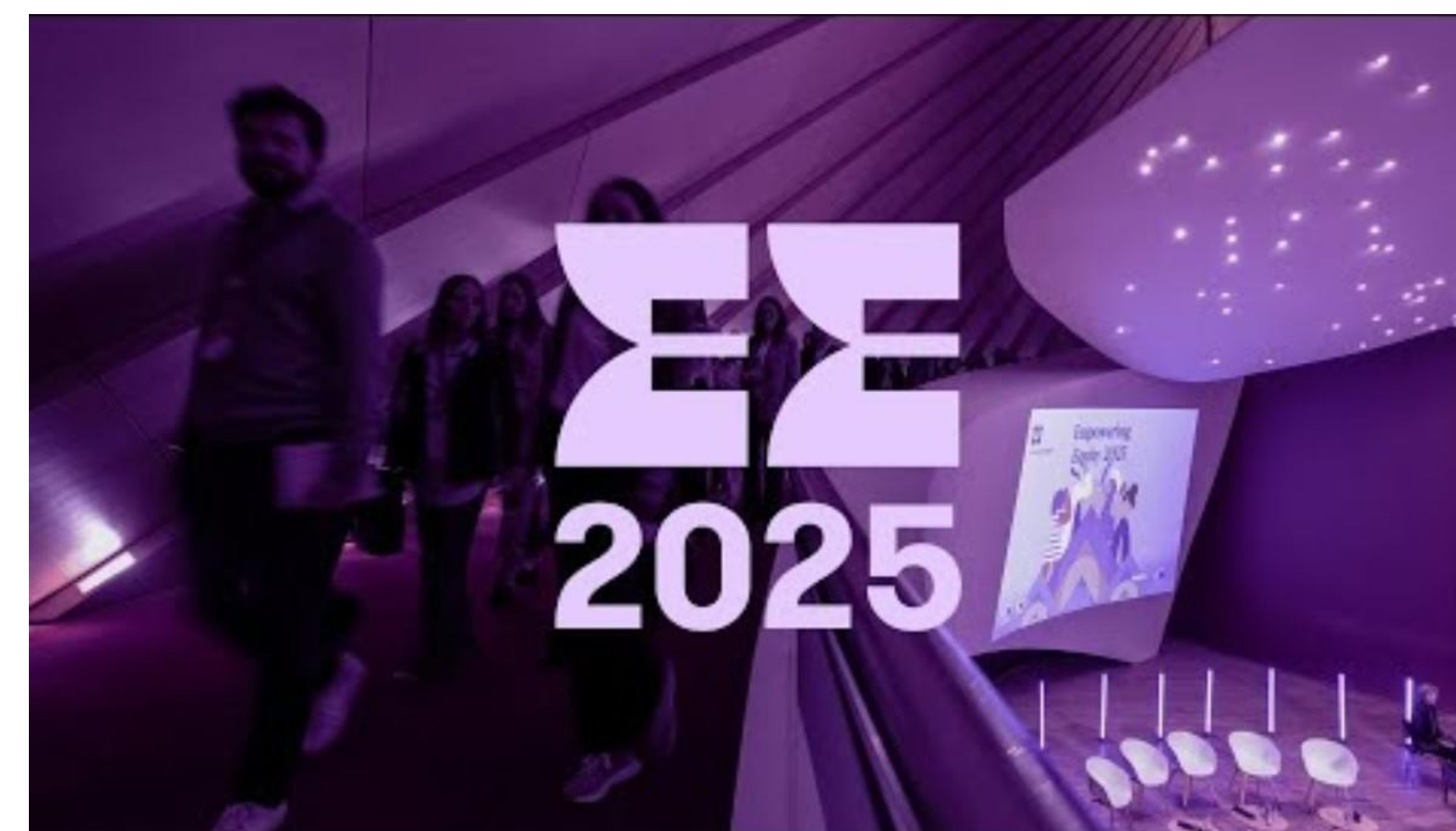
Raising awareness about InvestEU investment opportunities and dedicated gender smart initiatives such as GESIP

Showcasing successful deals

Offering a platform for female-led funds invested by EIF to share their experiences in the industry and insights on EIF's processes.

Access to talents and career opportunities

Offering a place for students from the Empowering Equity Academy and early career professionals from the Empowering Equity Mentoring Programme to interact and connect with GPs and LPs



Next Edition on 21 September, in Luxembourg

What participants say about the Academy

“A truly enriching experience for my future career.”

“Before the Academy, I never considered finance – now I do.”

“The Academy opened my eyes to new career paths in finance and impact.”

“The sessions were interactive, engaging, and led by experienced practitioners.”

“I now understand how investment and financing really work.”

“A valuable use of my time – both professionally and personally.”

“The Academy helped me build confidence in my ideas and ambitions.”

“An amazing experience with knowledge and connections I will cherish.”

“I connected with professionals and expanded my network beyond university”

“A strong foundation for budgeting, proposals, and start-ups.”