

Jacobs Holding to acquire ILERNA

Lleida/Zurich/Paris, 18 July 2024 - **Jacobs Holding is pleased to announce it has agreed to acquire ILERNA, a leading provider of official vocational education in Spain from Skill & You, a portfolio company of IK Partners (“IK”). Alongside the company’s management team and employees, Jacobs Holding will support ILERNA in building on its leading position, helping it to expand its innovative education offering and making its qualifications accessible to an even broader range of people. The investment in ILERNA is strongly aligned with Jacobs Holding’s strategy to invest in European champions in the Education Sector, one of its three focus sectors.**

Founded in Lleida, Catalonia, in 2014, ILERNA is a leading player in the Spanish vocational education space with over 46,000 students. The organization offers a wide range of online courses designed to meet the evolving needs of both students and employers. In recent years, ILERNA has developed a physical presence with 11 centers providing onsite instruction to complement its comprehensive online offering. With the support of Jacobs Holding, ILERNA will further enhance its educational programs, expand its curriculum, promote advanced technological tools, and extend its physical footprint. ILERNA has been a subsidiary of the French Skill & You Group since 2019. Skill & You was acquired by IK in 2021.

Tim Franks, CEO, and Justin Lewis-Oakes, Managing Director, of Jacobs Holding commented: “We have identified vocational education as a highly attractive sector within the European education landscape and Spain as a highly dynamic market with significant further growth opportunities. The online segment provides access to a broad demographic of students who are able to upskill flexibly around existing life commitments in order to enhance their long-term career opportunities. We are excited to back industry leading ILERNA in its next stage of growth, and to partner with co-founders Jordi Giné and Virginia Agelet, two accomplished and innovative leaders in the space.”

Jordi Giné Llorens, CEO of ILERNA, said: “We would like to thank IK Partners for their continuous support over the past three years. It has been a tremendous journey with a tripling of the size of the group and new campuses in Barcelona, Cordoba, Jerez, Lleida, Madrid, Tarragona, Seville, and Valladolid. We would like to welcome Jacobs Holding on board. They have unmatched experience in the global education sector and will provide further support for our next phase of ambitious development.”

Rémi Buttiaux and Diki Korniloff, Partners at IK, added: “ILERNA’s growth achievements stand as a testament to the remarkable leadership of its management team. We wish them well for their next growth phase with Jacobs Holding and look forward to seeing ILERNA thrive in its next chapter.”

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About Jacobs Holding AG

Jacobs Holding is a global professional investment firm founded by late entrepreneur Klaus J. Jacobs. Jacobs Holding invests in mid to large size companies active in its three core sectors of consumer, education and healthcare, which enjoy leading market positions and have further growth and value creation potential. The current portfolio of Jacobs Holding consists of Cognita, Colosseum Dental Group, North American Dental Group as well as a large stake in the publicly traded company Barry Callebaut AG. The sole economic beneficiary of Jacobs Holding is the Jacobs Foundation, one of the world's leading charitable foundations for the promotion of development opportunities for children and young people. Their work focuses on ensuring that scientific understanding of how children learn sits at the core of teaching and learning practices and informs the development and implementation of education policy. Since the foundation was established in 1989, around CHF 900 million has been paid out cumulatively.

About IK Partners

IK Partners ("IK") is a European private equity firm focused on investments in the Benelux, DACH, France, Nordics and the UK. Since 1989, IK has raised more than €16.5 billion of capital and invested in over 180 European companies. IK supports companies with strong underlying potential, partnering with management teams and investors to create robust, well-positioned businesses with excellent long-term prospects. For more information, visit ikpartners.com.