

# ELITE expands Portuguese community with a new cohort launched in partnership with AEP

- Six new companies bring the Portuguese ELITE network to 42 members across 19 sectors, employing over 9,100 professionals and generating €1.5 billion in revenue
- Sixth ELITE group in Portugal and second cohort of Northern Portuguese companies - joins the international ecosystem to accelerate competitiveness and global growth

**Lisbon - 20 November 2025** - Euronext, the leading European market infrastructure, announces the launch of the sixth cohort of Portuguese companies joining ELITE, its international ecosystem dedicated to supporting ambitious private businesses on their growth and global expansion journeys.

This new milestone marks the second successful collaboration with AEP - Portuguese Business Association, further strengthening the partnership between Euronext and one of Portugal's most influential business networks. The Porto-based cohort is launched with the support of BBVA Bank, reinforcing the commitment of leading financial and business institutions to fostering the development of Portuguese enterprises.

The latest group welcomes six distinguished companies representing sectors such as automotive & parts, construction & materials, financial services, and industrial goods & services.

On top of – **Castro Wood Floors**, **Grupo JAP**, **nBanks**, **Trimalhas**, and **Vialsil** – also **i-charging** is joining this group as recipient of the COTEC-BPI SME Innovation Award 2025, which recognises outstanding Portuguese SMEs for innovation, leadership and management excellence. As an official supporter of the award, ELITE is proud to grant i-charging a one-year membership, welcoming the company into its international ecosystem.

With these new entrants, the ELITE Portuguese community now comprises 42 companies across 19 industries, collectively employing more than 9,100 professionals and generating €1.5 billion in annual revenue.

Participating companies will benefit from a comprehensive development programme delivered in partnership with Católica Porto Business School, ranked among the Financial Times' top European Business Schools in 2024. The curriculum focuses on internationalisation strategies, corporate governance, and access to private and public alternative financing, complemented by dedicated mentorship and high-level networking opportunities.

Marta Testi, CEO of ELITE-Euronext Group said: "We are proud to welcome this new group of Portuguese companies to ELITE. Their ambition and diversity reflect the dynamism of Portugal's business landscape. Through ELITE, we are committed to empowering these companies with the tools, knowledge and network they need to scale internationally and drive sustainable growth. Our partnership with AEP and BBVA further strengthens our mission to support the next generation of business leaders in Portugal."

Luís Miguel Ribeiro, CEO of AEP - Portuguese Business Association said: "AEP reiterates its recognition of the value of the ELITE ecosystem, grounded in our experience and daily contact with companies. With a value proposition built on three pillars - executive training, access to knowledge and financing instruments, and national and international networking through a pan-European community - this initiative is a real opportunity capable of transforming leaders and companies, driving competitiveness and long-term business sustainability."

Luís Castro e Almeida, CEO of BBVA Portugal, said: "We are proud to support this initiative and contribute to the international growth of Portuguese enterprises. We aim to empower businesses to scale beyond Portugal through innovative financial solutions and strategic insights. This project aligns perfectly with BBVA's mission to drive global expansion and foster sustainable growth, reinforcing our commitment to helping companies succeed in an increasingly interconnected world."



# **Admitted companies**

Company name	Sector	Website
Castro Wood Floors	Construction & Materials	https://www.castrowoodfloors.pt/en/
i-charging	Industrial Goods	https://i-charging.tech/
Grupo JAP	Automotive & Parts	https://www.grupojap.pt/
nBanks	Financial Services	https://www.nbanks.com/
Trimalhas	Industrial Goods	https://www.trimalhas.pt/
Vialsil	Construction & Materials	https://vialsil.com/

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# **About AEP**

Founded in 1849 and based in Porto. AEP is a national, multi-sector association that helps companies remain competitive by offering a wide range of services such as events, consultancy, training, and internationalisation support. Its mission aligns perfectly with that of ELITE, reflecting a shared commitment to fostering the growth and global expansion of Portuguese companies.

#### **About BBVA**

BBVA is a global financial services group founded in 1857. The group is committed to providing innovative financial solutions and promoting responsible banking to support a more inclusive and sustainable society. The bank holds a leading position in the Spanish market, is the largest financial institution in Mexico, and operates prominent franchises in South America and the Sunbelt Region of the United States. BBVA is also the principal shareholder in Turkey's Garanti BBVA.



# **About ELITE**

ELITE, launched in 2012 by Borsa Italiana and now part of Euronext Group, is the European network of private SMEs which accelerates the process to access private and public capital markets. ELITE's mission is to support companies by connecting them to capital, skills and network to drive their sustainable growth in the long-term. Based on a unique offer of services and solutions, ELITE combines a calendar of workshops and coaching sessions, supporting entrepreneurs and executives upskilling and empowering their strategic plan and business opportunities. ELITE Companies' management teams are also guided on how to fast-track their development and how to access the most suitable funding options for their needs, whether the Basket Bonds®, institutional investors, private equity, venture capital or equity markets. With over 2000 companies and 200 partners admitted since the launch, about €20billion have been raised by ELITE businesses through 1200+ corporate transactions, highlighting how dynamic SMEs are once they are provided with an efficient access to private and public markets. For more info please visit: elite-network.com and follow us on LinkedIn using the hashtag #weareELITE

#### **About Euronext**

Euronext is the leading European capital market infrastructure, covering the entire capital markets value chain, from listing, trading, clearing, settlement and custody, to solutions for issuers and investors. Euronext runs MTS, one of Europe's leading electronic fixed income trading markets, and Nord Pool, the European power market. Euronext also provides clearing and settlement services through Euronext Clearing and its Euronext Securities CSDs in Denmark, Italy, Norway and Portugal.

As of September 2025, Euronext's regulated exchanges in Belgium, France, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway and Portugal host over 1,700 listed issuers with €6.5 trillion in market capitalisation, a strong blue-chip franchise and the largest global centre for debt and fund listings. With a diverse domestic and international client base, Euronext handles 25% of European lit equity trading. Its products include equities, FX, ETFs, bonds, derivatives, commodities and indices.

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