

## PRESS RELEASE

**The 5th edition of enlightED further establishes it as a leading global event in educational innovation**

# JOSE MARÍA ÁLVAREZ-PALLETE: "NO TOOL IS MORE POWERFUL THAN EDUCATION WHEN IT COMES TO SOCIAL INCLUSION AND COMPETITIVENESS"

- The conference brought together a total of 57 international speakers and 2,000 participants with the goal of reflecting on the challenges of learning in the digital age.
- The closing event was attended by Pilar Alegría, Minister of Education and Training, and José María Álvarez Pallete, Chairman of Telefónica, who highlighted the role of education in promoting social inclusion, reducing inequalities and boosting the competitiveness of countries.
- Over the course of two days, a total of 21 presentations were given by international thinkers such as Margrethe Vestager, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission; Susan David, renowned psychologist at Harvard Medical School; Alok Kanojia, psychiatrist and co-founder of Healthy Famer; Osuman Umar, founder of NASCO Feeding Minds; and Kenneth Cukier, an editor at The Economist and an authority on emerging technology.

Madrid, 17 November 2022. The 5th edition of [enlightED](#), the international conference on education, technology and innovation, which has established itself as a global leader in educational innovation, came to a close today. After two hybrid editions, this year the event returned to an in-person format on 16 and 17 November, with 2,000 people in attendance. This edition is also growing with the support of the "la Caixa" Foundation, which has joined Telefónica Foundation, IE University and South Summit as one of the organisers of the event.

With the theme of *Connecting innovation. Education that transforms*, enlightED 2022 addressed three main topics that were the focus of the conference's 21

**presentations: the digital skills of today and tomorrow; disruptive classrooms; and advancing equity and inclusion through innovation.**

The closing event was led by **Pilar Alegría**, Spanish Minister of Education and Training, and **José María Álvarez-Pallete**, Chairman of Telefónica, who highlighted the role of education in promoting social inclusion, reducing inequalities and boosting the countries' competitiveness. "When such disruptive changes take place in such short periods of time, there is the risk of inequality," he said. "No tool is more powerful than education and training when it comes to ensuring social inclusion, reducing inequalities and boosting countries' competitiveness."

As in its previous editions, the conference brought together some of the leading national and international thinkers to address the challenges of learning in the digital age, including **Margrethe Vestager**, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission; **Susan David**, renowned psychologist at Harvard Medical School; **Alok Kanojia**, psychiatrist and co-founder of Healthy Famer; **Osuman Umar**, founder of NASCO Feeding Minds; and **Kenneth Cukier**, an editor at The Economist and an authority on emerging technology.

<https://www.enlighted.education/>

### **Telefónica Foundation, the social side of the digital era**

For over 20 years, Telefónica Foundation has been striving to be a catalyst of social inclusion in the digital era and contribute to creating a more inclusive, fair and socially aware world. True to its technological origins, it's placing its trust in the limitless capabilities of the new technologies to improve people's lives and connect them to the opportunities provided by digital progress. With this vision in mind, it operates in 41 countries with a transformational mission to connect society to [education](#) and reduce the education gap, with the [new form of employability](#) to train people with the digital skills required by the labour market, with [digital knowledge](#) to encourage a shared reflection on the ideas that are changing the world and with [a humanitarian outlook](#), by carrying out social actions hand in hand with Telefónica's employees to ensure that those who are most vulnerable have the same opportunities for development. It does so through global and inclusive initiatives with a digital soul and with the combined forces of more than 500 entities and 100 public administrations.

### **On IE University**

IE University promotes positive change through education, research and innovation. It offers a technology-based learning ecosystem for leaders who make a difference in the world thanks to its global vision, entrepreneurial mentality, respect for diversity and sustainability, and unique focus on the humanities. IE University is made up of five schools: IE Business School, IE Law School, IE School of Global and Public Affairs, IE School of Architecture and Design and IE School of Human Sciences and Technology. It has over 500 teachers who currently teach classes in undergraduate, master's, and executive training

programmes to students from 140 countries. The platform of over 72,000 alumni of IE University is located in 165 countries. Further information at: [www.ie.edu](http://www.ie.edu)

### **About South Summit**

**South Summit** is the most valuable network for entrepreneurship and business, and the best global showcase for the world's leading companies, startups, entrepreneurs, investors and institutions that want to accelerate innovation, build lasting relationships, identify opportunities and generate business. An initiative created by Spain Startup in 2012, it is based in Madrid and has a network of connections throughout the rest of the world. Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, Peru, Chile and Argentina have already hosted editions of South Summit. Of the 25,000 startups that have participated in its Startup Competition, the more than 800 finalists (6 unicorns) have a 90% survival rate and have already raised over \$9.27 billion in investment. In its 10th edition, South Summit 2022 brought together over 15,000 participants, including startups, investors, executives and institutions, as well as 150 international funds, with a portfolio of 250 billion dollars.

### **About "la Caixa" Foundation**

Giving opportunities to those who need them most, with the aim of contributing to the construction of a fairer and more equitable society. This is the fundamental purpose of the **"la Caixa" Foundation**, created in 1904. With a current annual budget of more than 500 million euros, it is the leading private foundation in Spain and one of the most important worldwide.

The priority of the "la Caixa" Foundation is to develop social programmes that respond to the great challenges of our time, such as the fight against child poverty, the promotion of employment, care for people with advanced diseases and the promotion of active and healthy ageing. Medical research, excellence training, culture and education, which are fundamental in promoting progress and equal opportunities, are among its other lines of action.

### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:**

**TELEFÓNICA FOUNDATION:** Rafa Cobo [rafael.cobocobo@telefonica.com](mailto:rafael.cobocobo@telefonica.com) \_ 647 66 54 88

**ATREVIA:** Sara López [slfarhan@atrevia.com](mailto:slfarhan@atrevia.com) \_ 673 77 50 08