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Hoche Avocats advised borrowers in the financing of the acquisition of Next Group by the Cegos Group

The Cegos Group, the European leader in Learning and Development and one of the world's leading providers in the sector, has acquired Next Group, which focuses on professional reskilling for individuals and on work-linked higher education. With this acquisition, Cegos is accelerating its development in the BtoC segment and consolidating its position in the professional reskilling market.

Next Group, founded in 2002 is a leading player in professional reskilling and work-linked higher education. The company offers multidisciplinary training courses to meet the various needs of the employment market, particularly in high-demand sectors. Next Group has a turnover of 14 million euros in 2021.

The Next Group acquisition will enable Next Group to develop its know-how in the regions and internationally, and to benefit from the expertise of the leader in professional training on the BtoB market.

The acquisition of Next Group is a further illustration of the Cegos Group's contribution to the consolidation of the training market, both in France and internationally: acquisition of Integrata-Cegos, the training leader in Germany, at the end of 2014; opening of a regional platform in Chile in 2015, followed by the opening of a subsidiary in Mexico in 2017; acquisition of Cimes Group, the French leader in training outsourcing, in 2017; acquisition of Crescimentum, the number one provider of leadership training in Brazil, at the beginning of 2020; and acquisition of Posiciona, the leading provider of sales training in Brazil, at the beginning of 2021.

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Counsels to the Cegos Group:

Legal finance lawyer: **Hoche Avocats** - Ariane Berthoud (partner), Marie Semaan (lawyer).

Other counsels:

- M&A advisor: **Transactions & Compagnie**: Christian Menard, Paul O'Mahony, Thomas Glasgow.
- Legal M&A counsel: **CMS Francis Lefebvre**: Jean-Robert Bousquet, Célia Mayran, Victor Grillo.
- Legal counsel for the lenders: **Simmons & Simmons**: Colin Millar, Iva Parvanova, Matthieu Loonis.

Counsels to Next Group:

- M&A advisor: **EURVAD**: Jonathan Melloul, William Alves, Melvin Stolf.

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About Hoche Avocats:

Hoche Avocats is an independent, multidisciplinary French law firm founded more than 30 years ago.

The firm has nearly 80 lawyers and legal professionals from various backgrounds, including some twenty partners, who work on a daily basis in a national and/or international context to provide their clients with tailor-made support and legal advice in the major areas of business law and more particularly in mergers and acquisitions.

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