



We are part of the solution

# FI Group MANIFESTO for post-COVID economic and social recovery



## We are part of the solution

FI Group's approach to post-pandemic recovery

The economic and social consequences of the pandemic crisis caused by COVID-19 are more than obvious, and universal in scope. There has not been a single corner of the world where the pandemic has not provoked a profound crisis at all levels. Not a single economy, rich or poor, has remained unscathed.

The pandemic has also unexpectedly placed us in front of our own mirror as a society, leading us to rethink our way of life, our economic, leisure and transport models, and making visible, to an even greater extent, the delicate state of health of the planet we inhabit. We have suddenly become aware of many things that we had been ignoring or putting off for a long time.

Within this context, vaccines offer a glimmer of hope in a hard-hit and very fatigued society. Their rapid development (in less than a year) has shown that R&D&I is a key element of progress and a great ally for recovery. The support policies of Public Administrations and Governments appear vital for the reconstruction of a society that has been attacked and whose hope of recovery necessarily depends on the capacity of Governments to promote a new economy based on knowledge, and on a change of social and productive model. All this without neglecting, of course, the sustainability of our actions and remaining respectful in everything we do in caring for the planet on which we live.

Within this framework, we believe and state that FI Group has a key role to play. And this role is worldwide in scale. Our principle purpose is "Helping Ideas Grow", something that now makes

more sense than ever. But we also want to claim that at this moment, **we are part of the solution.**

For more than 20 years, we have worked all over the world to financially facilitate the development of R&D&I projects of companies and public administrations, to connect innovation agents, to promote investments with technological added value and that generate quality employment, and to be a reliable source of consultation for Governments when creating and sharing our knowledge to improve public policies that encourage R&D&I spending.

The "**FI Group Manifesto for post-COVID economic and social recovery**" outlines FI Group's intention to actively contribute to economic and social recovery worldwide, with a special focus on all countries where the company provides services. Each of its points is focused on establishing collaborations with Public Administrations and Companies so that recovery is based on the axis of Research and Development, Innovation and Sustainability, and that the impact of this recovery is tangible for the whole of society, with special attention paid to social recovery through the generation of quality and purposeful employment.

**Frédéric Bouté & Xavier Cazabon**  
*Founders of FI Group*

# The principles of the Manifesto for post-COVID economic and social recovery

FI Group Spain · France · Benelux · Portugal · Italy · Germany · UK · USA · Canada · Brazil · Chile · Colombia · Japan

## ▶ **1 Total commitment to FI Group values: Integrity, Professionalism and Empathy.**

Our historical values are more relevant than ever. Our performance must be carried out with the ultimate goal of contributing to economic and social recovery, based on the strength of our values as a guarantee of success in our mission and real impact on society.

## ▶ **2 Ethical behaviour to ensure that all public funds allocated to recovery are distributed according to the criteria set by the various administrations.**

Society looks to us and we must work to ensure that our management is exemplary and inspiring. Recovery funds must be the fuel for economic reactivation and a change of model, so their distribution must be fair, exemplary and focused on supporting those facing increased difficulties. We must also promote the patronage and collaboration of those companies that start out from a situation of disadvantage in this crisis.

## ▶ **3 Active collaboration of FI Group with all Public Administrations, Associations, Clusters, Foundations and Private Companies to define post-COVID Recovery Plans.**

FI Group has been supporting companies for more than 20 years in obtaining funding for their R+D+I and innovation projects. Likewise, thanks to our experience, we are a reference for Administrations at a consultative level in this matter. It is time to sublimate all these capabilities to ensure that FI Group assumes a leading role in post-pandemic recovery.

## ▶ **4 Contribute to ensuring that science, technology, research and development and innovation play a leading role in all recovery policies promoted by any Government worldwide.**

Recovery must be based on science, technology and R+D+I in order to be truly sustainable. Financial support must be the engine of change. FI Group's purpose is intimately linked to R&D&I, so we are unequivocally committed to placing science and technology at the heart of the post-pandemic reconstruction debate.

## ▶ **5 Bring the demands of SMEs and Startups into recovery debates to ensure that they are not sidelined and are given a leading role in recovery.**

SMEs and Startups are the highest % of companies in any advanced economy. We believe that they must be protagonists of the recovery and must be especially protected at this time of crisis. At FI Group, we support this group through mentoring (FI Boost), obtaining funding and investment itself (FI Invest). In addition, we express our commitment to putting their demands on the table in all actions that we carry out in support of the recovery.

▶ **6 Define management indicators that allow us to clearly and concisely see the impact of our activity on post-pandemic economic and social recovery.**

FI Group has defined multi-country work teams to define and monitor all specific indicators that can directly and unequivocally measure the result in terms of recovery and improvement across all the work we do for our customers, partners and Administrations. Only with an objective view of our impact will we be able to continue to propose initiatives for recovery.

▶ **7 Develop all relevant technological tools for the provision of services that allow to accelerate and ensure the success of our intention and to bring economic recovery to all strata of our relationships as soon as possible.**

The pandemic has changed the way we interact with our stakeholders and has increased telematic contact. We are committed to continuing to develop technological service tools, not only to adapt to the needs of our clients and partners, but also to be able to provide advice to a larger number of companies and generate a more global driving effect in the recovery.

▶ **8 Collaboration between all FI Group subsidiaries to share know-how and strategies developed to ensure that what we do has a positive impact worldwide.**

We want to capitalise on our international presence in terms of optimisation and synergy in supporting companies, partners and administrations. FI Group maps all the success stories that occur across its 13 subsidiaries with the aim of consolidating shared knowledge that we make available to all the actors in our environment, in any country in the world.

▶ **9 Connect FI Group's purpose with as many of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as possible, aligning our activity with the priorities defined by the UN.**

Both our purpose as a Group and our principles contained in this Manifesto would be meaningless if they were not aligned with as many of the SDGs as possible. We firmly believe in our commitment and action within goals 8, 9 and 17, without prejudice to future adhesions and development of actions within many other SDGs not initially contemplated.

▶ **10 To guarantee that all our employees and collaborators carry out their activities in accordance with everything set out in this manifesto.**

FI Group works to ensure that everything laid out in this particular document, and our work in general, flows in an orderly manner within our organisation and areas of influence. Only with the commitment of all the individuals and legal entities that form part of our environment will recovery be sustainable and bring about a change of model.

