

CERTIFIED EXPERT IN SUSTAINABLE FINANCE



Course Overview

The global economy has grown rapidly in the last 200 years, but this achievement has come at the cost of climate change and environmental damage. With increased environmental awareness among nations and people, a global strive towards sustainable development is now growing. You may ask yourself what does this have to do with finance? Making the necessary change, transformation of our economies and societies require commitments, innovations and, last but not least, finance and investments.

Sustainable Finance can help steering the global economy towards sustainability and accelerate the necessary change. The financial sector has an important role in deciding where capital flows and by implication where it does not flow to. In this course, you will learn about creating impact, managing sustainability risks, and benefiting from sustainable business opportunities.

Furthermore, it will familiarize participants with the business, regulatory and technical perspective of sustainable finance and will acquaint them to take an active part in the discussion around the topic. The course aims to enable financial professionals to integrate Sustainable Finance related aspects into their work through new knowledge and tools for advising their clients and business partners.

Unit 1: The World of Sustainability

This first unit sets the scene and introduces participants to the world of sustainability by explaining the key factors that underpin the science of climate change and global warming, including climate diplomacy. It also provides an overview of the different rationales for why integrating sustainability considerations into to financial market is important and discusses the role of the financial system in the transformation to a low-carbon and more sustainable economy.

Unit 2: Towards a Sustainable Financial System

The institutional setup is important for mainstreaming sustainability in the financial system. In Unit 2, participants are introduced to the role of the financial system, involved stakeholders, and their interplay, especially in the context of driving the transition towards a sustainable financial system. The specific roles of the different financial actors are explained, accompanied by practical exercises in an interactive learning environment.

Unit 3: The Role of Regulation and Policy

Unit 3 demonstrates and explains through detailed examples of the role and rationale of regulation and policy in sustainable finance. There is also a “deep dive”, a closer look, at the EU sustainable finance regulatory and policy landscape provided in this unit.

Unit 4: Sustainability risks

Unit 4 discusses how to implement and manage sustainability risks in financial institutions. It will deepen the participants’ knowledge of the risk perspective. An overview of necessary steps to **integrate sustainability risks into the risk management process will be provided.**

Unit 5: Impact through finance

Unit 5 discusses how to create impact through finance. It will deepen the participants' knowledge of the impact perspective. The importance of impact measurement and its methodological concepts are introduced in the unit together with a step-by-step process on how to align a financial institution's portfolio with the Paris Climate Goals and the UN SDGs.

Unit 6: Sustainable Finance Opportunities

Unit 6 provides an overview of sustainable finance related opportunities. It focuses on debt and equity-related sustainable products, especially green bonds, and is complemented by a section on additional services.

Unit 7: Banking

This unit provides an overview of the market environment, potential, development, and criticism for wholesale and investment, retail, and corporate banking products and services.

Unit 8: Institutional Investors

Unit 8 provides an overview of the institutional investors, their mandates as well as implementation methods. Furthermore, the unit discusses the role and construction of benchmarks.

Unit 9: Insurance

The role of insurance in mitigation sustainability is discussed in unit 9. Participants will learn what role insurance plays within the wider financial system and build an understanding on how climate-related financial risks are impacting the finance sector.

Unit 10: Recap and Outlook

The course concludes with a re-cap of the learning materials from unit 1 to unit 9, while also making an outlook of ongoing and upcoming developments in the sustainable finance sector.

