



**University of
Zurich^{UZH}**

Continuing Education

Sustainability in Banking and Insurance

**Executive Education Course
Department of Banking and Finance
University of Zurich**

Theme

Financial institutions play a crucial role as enablers of business. Due to their role in allocating capital to the real economy and reducing risk, banks and insurance companies are linked with the environmental and human rights issues of their clients. Moreover, they have a significant influence on the degree to which industries and companies shift towards more sustainable economic activities and processes.

Financial institutions are often analysed with regard to their financial sustainability in a broader economic, social, and ecological sense. As a consequence, they are exposed to different types of risks linked to their reputation, compliance and liability.

There is evidence that banks and insurance companies are indeed gradually starting to realize the importance that environmental, social, and governance considerations can have on their operations.

Today, an increasing share of financial institutions are, to different degrees, elaborating and implementing strategies to position themselves within the current trends toward to a more sustainable economic system, both in national and in global contexts. But the ability of banks and insurances to play this catalysing role requires a systematic understanding of the business opportunities that a changing ecological, social, and economic environment provides, and of how global risks may impact their current business model.

Contact and Information

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Websites:

www.finance-weiterbildung.uzh.ch

www.cmf.uzh.ch

Course Overview

Objectives

By completing the two-day course, participants will gain an in-depth understanding of the relevance of sustainability for banks and insurance companies from a stakeholder perspective. Main sustainability challenges and the importance and central role of banks and insurance towards a more sustainable economy will be critically discussed. Participants obtain an overview of sustainability-related international standards and guidelines and understand how financial institutions can manage environmental and social risks through an appropriate framework and sound operational practices. Course participants learn about the business case that supports the implementation of E&S risk management and the main drivers in the risk landscape of financial institutions that increase the need for them to address E&S risks today. Participants learn best practice recommendations to integrate sustainability into banking and underwriting operations, understand current gaps and discuss recommendations to fill them. They will also assess how different financial institutions weigh and implement aspects of sustainability in their operations. By making a deep-dive into the climate change issue, participants will identify the potential role of banks and insurances for decarbonisation of the economy, current barriers and opportunities.

Course participants

This course is designed for practitioners in banking, insurance and finance who want to understand the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainability and implications for the financial industry. Furthermore, participants will explore in-depth how sustainability can be integrated in the strategy and operations of a financial institution.

Number of participants

Minimum 12, maximum 25 participants

Teaching Methods

Presentations of conceptual frameworks with practical exercises and applications, complemented by discussions and exchange of experiences, group work exercises, and case studies. Course content is presented by renowned practitioners and specialists from academia.

Degree

Course certificate (2 ECTS-Points – The credits can be transferred to the DAS/MAS in Finance)

Content

- Main sustainability challenges for banks and insurances and possible implications on their business model and products.
- Stakeholder perspective versus the shareholder model for financial institutions
- Main regulatory changes and sustainability-related norms and standards for banks and insurances
- Business areas exposed to environmental and social (E&S) risks and relevant E&S risk categories
- E&S risk management for bankers and insurers: guidance and tools
- Strategic responses of banks and insurance companies to ESG (environmental, social and governance) challenges
- Current approaches and best practices at the European and Swiss level to integrate ESG into banking business activities and operations
- Case study: Decarbonization and the banking industry: potential role of the banking and insurance industry towards a low carbon economy
- Examples and key success factors on integrating sustainability at the operational level of banks and other financial institutions

Lecturers and expert speakers

- Amandine Favier, WWF Switzerland
- Olivier Jaeggi, ECOFACT
- Yann Kermode, UBS
- Dr. Christian Leitz, UBS
- Katharina Serafimova, WWF Switzerland
- Dr. Thomas Streiff, Brugger and Partner

Language

The courses will be taught in English.

Date/Time

Day 1: Thursday, September 22, 2016, 9 am – 6 pm

Day 2: Friday, September 23, 2016, 9 am – 6 pm

Venue

Zentrum für Weiterbildung (Center for Continuing Education),
University of Zurich, Schaffhauserstrasse 228, 8057 Zurich
(www.zwb.uzh.ch)

Cost

CHF 1500.–. Including all materials and breaks.
Travel and accommodation are not included.

Executive Course Programme Directors

Prof. Dr. Thorsten Hens

Prof. Dr. Marc Chesney

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www.finance-weiterbildung.uzh.ch

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Collaboration

This course is organized in collaboration with WWF Switzerland

www.wwf.ch/sustainablefinance

**Registration**

Registration deadline is August 28, 2016

Register online at www.finance-weiterbildung.uzh.ch

After you complete the registration form, you will receive a confirmation and tuition invoice. Written cancellation with tuition reimbursement is possible until registration deadline, after which tuition will not be reimbursed.