



The brightest minds in finance

# Sustainable Finance

# Leading the transition to long-term value creation

How can finance professionals lead the transition to long-term value creation within a sustainable economy? This two-day program will provide practical tools on how to incorporate environmental, social, and governance (ESG) issues into the investment process to enhance value.

The course covers the key players in the ESG space (institutional investors, companies, ESG raters, regulatory institutions), their motivations and incentives related to sustainable finance ("value" or "values"), ESG measurement and metrics, ESG shareholder engagement, the link between ESG quality and financial performance, and ESG-related disclosures.

There will be two focus topics within these broader themes. The first focus topic covers in depth climate and biodiversity finance, that is, how investors, companies, and regulators can address the risks and opportunities related to climate change and biodiversity loss. A second focus topic will be on ESG ratings and how they can (and cannot) enhance financial decision making in the sustainable finance space.

The interactive program offers an intensive learning experience, combining the latest academic insights with group discussions, practical exercises, and insightful case studies. Participants will be ahead of the curve when it comes to understanding, and critically assessing, how sustainable finance can transform organizations and the economy.

## How you will benefit

By attending the program, you will

- Gain a solid understanding of the key players in the sustainable finance space
- Understand the value and values dimensions of sustainable finance
- Learn in depth how to measure and manage climate and biodiversity risks
- Investigate different ESG ratings and critically assess their potentials
- Explore and understand the link between ESG quality and financial performance

## Who should attend

The Sustainable Finance program is relevant to a wide range of finance professionals, among them:

- Asset Managers
- (Pension) Fund Managers
- Bankers
- Finance professionals who want to understand how to lead the transition to a sustainable economy
- Regulators covering ESG-related issues
- Family offices

# Program at a glance

## Day 1

### Introduction

- Importance of sustainable finance
- Value versus values in sustainable finance
- Sustainable finance landscape, key players
- Current (regulatory) trends in sustainable finance

### ESG-related investment strategies

- ESG integration
- Divestment
- Impact investing

### ESG-related financing instruments

- Sustainability-lined bonds
- Green bonds

### Sustainable finance and financial performance

- ESG effects on firm valuations
- ESG effects on stock returns
- Risk premiums versus investor flows

### Shareholder engagement

- Motives and tools to engage portfolio companies
- Investor coordination
- Effects of engagement

## Day 2

### Climate and biodiversity finance

- Measuring and managing climate risks
- Carbon risk premium
- Measuring biodiversity risks
- Biodiversity risk premium
- Climate and nature-related disclosures

### ESG ratings

- ESG rating providers
- ESG rating methodology
- Conflicts of interests
- How to use (and not to use) ESG ratings

2 days | € 3,100 | Check AIF.nl for dates

# The expert

Meet the brightest minds in finance. Learn from the world's leading finance academics and experienced corporate executives.



**Prof. Dr. Zacharias Sautner** is Professor of Sustainable Finance at the University of Zurich (UZH) and a Senior Chair at the

Swiss Finance Institute (SFI). Through his research on ESG topics such as climate change or biodiversity, he provides insights on how finance can contribute to a more sustainable future. He enjoys spreading his sustainable finance views in keynote speeches around the world.

His research was published in leading international journals, and he was ranked #23 globally across 12,000 business authors in a ranking based on SSRN research paper downloads (January 2023, calculated over the past 12 months). His research has been cited more than 7,000 times according to Google Scholar and his expertise is referenced in newspapers such as *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, or *Financial Times*, and in reports by the IMF, ECB, or European Commission as well as in speeches by central bankers. Two of his research papers were ranked #3 and #4 in a *Financial Times* ranking of "Business School Sustainability Research: What is Read Most?" (July 2023).

Zacharias Sautner acts as Associate Editor at the *Review of Financial Studies*, *Management Science*, *Journal of Finance & Quantitative Analysis*, *Journal of Banking & Finance*, and *Journal of Corporate Finance*. He is also a Regular Research Visitor at the ECB and advises institutional investors on ESG issues. He is a Director of the European Finance Association. Prior to moving to Switzerland, he was Professor of Finance at Frankfurt School of Finance & Management, where he for many years headed the finance department.

## Enrolling & practical information

### Enrollment requirements

AIF considers each enrollment application carefully to ensure the quality and level of the program is maintained and that participation of candidates is beneficial to both themselves and their organizations. The general prerequisite for all AIF programs is the possession of an academic or equivalent degree, as well as proficiency in English and practical experience.

### Accommodation

AIF has special corporate rates available for participants at a number of hotels in central Amsterdam.

### Certificates

An AIF certificate of attendance is awarded to all participants who successfully complete the program.

### Program location

The programs are held in the financial hub in the south of Amsterdam, within an easy walk from Amsterdam Zuid Station, and within 15 minutes from Schiphol International Airport.

### Program fees

Program fees include tuition, all comprehensive program materials, books, and any software that is required for the program, as well as luncheons and daily refreshments. Accommodation is not included.

### In-company programs

For information on how AIF can add value to your organization via a tailored in-company program, please contact AIF directly at: +31 20 246 7140.

**Ready to learn more?** Find your program and reserve your place at [AIF.nl](https://aif.nl)

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