

# Executive training course

## Sustainable Finance Academy

29 January to 1 February 2024

**Location:** European University Institute, Florence (Italy)

### Organisers & Core Faculty

- Federica Agostini (EUI)
- Inês Lameira Azevedo (EUI)
- Gabor Gyura (UNEPFI and EUI)
- Laura Iozzelli (EUI)
- Maria del Carmen Sandoval Velasco (EUI)
- Pierre Schlosser (EUI)
- Agnieszka Smoleńska (Polish Academy of Sciences and EUI)
- Folker De Witte (EUI)
- Linda Zeilina (ISFC and EUI)

### Guest instructors

- Sebastian Rath (Boston Consulting Group)
- Lucia Alessi (Joint Research Centre, European Commission)

### Introduction

Sustainability has been on everyone's lips, at least since 2015, which marked an important year for sustainable finance. This was due to several factors, including the (1) Paris Agreement, the (2) creation of the Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Risks (TCFD) and, more anecdotally, (3) Bank of England Governor Mark Carney's seminal speech at Lloyd's London on the 'tragedy of the horizon'. But what exactly does sustainable finance encompass in today's market, regulatory, and practical realities?

Our Sustainable Finance Academy aims to foster a deep and comprehensive understanding of the global and European regulatory frameworks on sustainable finance. The Academy is designed to provide participants from different backgrounds (public authorities, private practitioners and academics) with the opportunity to enhance their knowledge of sustainable finance and to put into practice many of its building blocks and core elements through 'learning by doing'.

Our Sustainable Finance Academy, designed for an intermediate audience, strives to be a reference forum for learning and exchanging information on the latest developments in market trends, regulatory initiatives and practitioners' analytical toolboxes in the broad and dynamic field of sustainable finance. Using a mix of lectures, open discussions and practical activities, the Academy will focus on the new global and EU rules that are currently 'the talk of the town', as well as the latest developments in sustainable finance markets and analytics. In doing so, the course also aims to bridge the gaps between policy-makers, academics, and private practitioners, following the tradition of the Robert Schuman Centre.

**Level:** Introductory/Intermediate

**Approach:** Qualitative

### Learning Objectives

- Understand the drivers and key milestones in the development of sustainable finance.
- Evaluate the various financial instruments within sustainable finance.
- Gain exposure to current practices in the field.
- Recognize and identify the key regulatory players active in the global arena.
- Distinguish the key policy instruments developed or under development at both the global and European levels to direct private capital towards sustainable investments.
- Critically appraise and discuss the impact of recent legislation on market participants and identify potential implementation difficulties.

**Target audience:** financial markets participants (incl. consultants, law firms, fund managers, insurance and reinsurance companies), financial and insurance supervisors, international, regional and domestic development banks, international organizations and academics.

## Programme

### Monday 29 January 2024

12:00 – 13:00 Lunch

**13:00 – 14:00 Presentation of the School and of the Academy followed by a *Tour de Table*, outline of the Academy, ice breaking activity and concept mapping exercise.**

**14:00 – 15:30 Session 1 – Sustainable Finance – History, Theory and Practice**

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee Break

**16:00 – 17:30 Session 2 – Global initiatives to regulate sustainable finance (FSB, IOSCO, BCBS) and EU sustainable finance strategy**

Social activity

### Tuesday 30 January 2024

**9:15 – 10:45 Session 3 – A deep dive into taxonomies with a focus on the EU Taxonomy**

10:45 – 11:15 Coffee Break

**11:15 – 12:45 Session 4 – Global disclosure initiatives and a snapshot on the EU initiatives**

12:45 – 14:00 Lunch Break

**14:00 – 15:30 Session 5 – Practical Activity on circular economy?**

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee Break

**16:00 – 17:30 Session 6 – Deep Dive on CSRD & ESRS (EUI)**

No social activity on this day

**Wednesday 31 January 2024**

**9:15 – 10:45 Session 7 – The EU Green Bonds standard in the context of the global GSS+ bond market**

10:45 – 11:15 Coffee Break

**11:15 – 12:45 Session 8 – ESG Ratings**

12:45 – 14:00 Lunch Break

**14:00 – 15:30 Session 9 – Mini-Lecture and Practical Activity on the climate and biodiversity nexus and TNFD**

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee Break

**16:00 – 17:30 Session 10 – Mini-presentations by participants on recent selected work performed by NGFS**

Dinner at EUI with keynote lecture

**Thursday 1 February 2024**

**9:15 – 10:45 Session 11 – Climate risks from an insurance perspective**

10:45 – 11:15 Coffee Break

**11:15 – 12:45 Session 12 – The social dimension of sustainability and ESG**

**12:45 – 13:00 Closing remarks**

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch Break and end of the Academy