



ESG Awareness

Sustainability plays an increasingly important role in the financial sector. Sustainability is a broad concept, covering not only climate, energy consumption and the availability of raw materials, but also, for example, safety and good corporate governance. The various aspects of sustainability are often collectively referred to as 'ESG', an abbreviation for Environmental, Social & Governance.

Because the financial sector determines which companies and projects receive funding, the sector has a major influence on making our economy more sustainable. The pressure from both politics and society has translated into the development of a lot new ESG legislation. To add to the pressure, investors are also calling on financial institutions to take environment, society and governance factors into account. This has consequences for investment policy, but also for the acceptance of potential clients.

In this ESG Awareness course, we delve deeper into the role of ESG factors in the financial sector. You will learn exactly what ESG entails, what rules and initiatives there are in the field of ESG and what risks and opportunities ESG offers to financial organisations.

Target audience

From pension funds to banks and investment firms: sustainability plays a role in the entire financial sector. The question is no longer whether a financial institution should take ESG factors into account, but rather when and how. Basic knowledge of ESG factors and the most important laws and initiatives in this area is therefore important for all professionals who want to contribute to making the sector more sustainable.

Education level

The ESG Awareness e-learning is a course at HBO (higher vocational education) level. Specific knowledge is not required, but we do assume that you have basic knowledge of financial services.

Objective

After the course, you will know what ESG entails and you will be able to describe its relevance for the financial sector. You will be able to explain important regulations and initiatives in the area of ESG and you will be familiar with the supervisors' expectations regarding sustainability in the financial sector. In addition, you will learn how financial organisations can implement ESG in practice based on practical examples.



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Theory

- 1. Introduction:** what is ESG, what are climate risks, relevance to the financial sector.
- 2. International developments:** Sustainable Development Goals, United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment, EU steps on ESG, European Commission action plan.
- 3. Attention by supervisors:** expectations, publications and good practices ECB, EBA, ESMA, DNB and AFM.
- 4. Regulation:** taxonomy regulation, SFDR, CSRD, integration of ESG aspects in delegated regulations to MiFID II.
- 5. Other rules and initiatives:** ESG-related regulations not deriving from the EU Action Plan, including Dutch Pensions Act and ESG, Directive on long-term shareholder engagement, commitments to voluntary initiatives, etc.

6. ESG in practice: risks and opportunities in the financial sector, five ways to shape socially responsible investing (SRI) and its advantages and disadvantages, application of ESG scores, avoiding greenwashing, legal rulings and inclusion and diversity in the financial sector.

Study duration

The ESG Awareness e-learning takes about three hours to finish, depending on your prior knowledge about the subject.

Want to know more?

On our website you will find more information about our ESG Awareness e-learning.

For questions, you can get in touch with our learning specialists.

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