

Introduction:

Green bonds, which fund projects with environmental benefits, have surpassed the \$1 trillion mark in total issuance since the first green bond was introduced in 2007. This rapidly growing sector is creating unprecedented demand for skilled professionals who possess a comprehensive understanding of sustainable finance solutions, strategies, and the importance of governing sustainable finance.

This course on sustainable finance governance aims to provide a deep understanding of the mechanics of green, social, and sustainability bonds, offering a clear overview of sustainable finance. It will cover the broader policy context, drivers of market development, key product features, and regulatory frameworks. Additionally, the course explores the Green and Social Bond Principles and the foundational Sustainable Finance Framework, including the new Sustainability-Linked Bond Principles, demonstrating how they function in practice.

The course will also cover the evaluation and selection of eligible projects for funding, the role of external reviewers, and guidance on reporting. The training is enhanced with real-life examples and quizzes for each module, designed to equip you with practical knowledge that can be effectively applied in your professional setting.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

1. Identify recent trends and future developments in green, social, and sustainability bonds, understanding the significance of sustainable finance.
2. Understand why the sustainable finance market matters and how it operates.
3. Acquire foundational skills for participating in the green, social, and sustainability bond market and for applying sustainable finance principles.
4. Identify the principles aligned with the issuance framework, including the pillars of green, social, and sustainability bonds.
5. Define the types of projects eligible for green and social bonds.
6. Understand reporting frameworks and the importance of transparent and comprehensive reporting, including allocation and impact reports, as well as templates provided by the Green Bond Principles (GBP) and Social Bond Principles (SBP).
7. Comprehend the role and added value of service providers, particularly external reviewers, as

defined by the GBP, SBP, and increasing regulatory expectations.

8. Recognize the perspectives and roles of key players in the bond market, including regulators, investors, underwriters, issuers, external reviewers, rating agencies, stock exchanges, data providers, and index providers.
9. Explore opportunities for both public and private sectors to issue green bonds and loans.
10. Apply sustainable finance mechanisms through a case study that mirrors real-life investment scenarios.

Target Audience:

- Corporate entities interested in issuing or investing in green, social, and sustainability bonds.
- Capital market professionals involved in underwriting, research, or providing professional services for sustainable bonds, such as lawyers, external reviewers, rating agencies, stock exchanges, data providers, and officials developing or promoting sustainable finance policies.
- Professionals seeking to understand the merits of sustainable finance and bond markets.

Targeted Competencies:

Upon completion of this course, participants will have gained the following competencies:

1. Understanding of sustainable finance principles.
2. Integration of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) criteria into financial decisions.
3. Risk management in sustainable finance.
4. Stakeholder engagement and communication.
5. Regulatory compliance and reporting.
6. Strategic planning for sustainable investments.
7. Financial performance analysis with ESG factors.
8. Ethical decision-making in finance.
9. Innovation and trends in sustainable finance.

10. Corporate governance and sustainability.

11. Impact measurement and management.

Course Content:

Unit 1: Climate Science and Climate Finance

- Introduction to finance and investment, with a focus on business models for climate-resilient projects.
- Understanding climate-related risks.
- Managing climate-related risks.
- Integrating ESG factors into investment strategies.
- Generation and disclosure of ESG-related data and its impacts.

Unit 2: Barriers to Adaptation Finance and the Role of Support Frameworks

- Climate resilience, risk metrics, and indicators.

Unit 3: Financing the Business Model – Financial Instruments

- Building a business case for adaptation.
- Investment opportunities from the perspective of private financiers.

Unit 4: Investing in Infrastructure for a Green, Inclusive, and Resilient Recovery

- Green, resilient, and inclusive development (GRID) and quality infrastructure investments.
- Key considerations for green infrastructure: climate and environmental factors.
- Developing more resilient and inclusive infrastructure.
- Implementing a lifecycle cost approach.
- Strengthening infrastructure governance.

Unit 5: Introduction to Green Bonds

- Fundamentals of green bond analysis, including credit rating analysis.
- Legal and regulatory frameworks for green bonds: standards and principles.

Unit 6: Green Bond Principles

- Detailed exploration of the first pillar of the Green Bond Principles.
- Examination of the second and third pillars of the Green Bond Principles.
- Overview of the fourth pillar of the Green Bond Principles.

Unit 7: Green Bonds: Market Development

- Applying sustainable finance principles in the green bond market.
- Frameworks and independent external reviews of green bonds.

Unit 8: Green, Social, Thematic, and Sustainability-Linked Bonds

- Opportunities for the green bond market through blockchain technology.
- Green securitization.

Conclusion:

Upon completing the course, participants will be equipped to integrate the knowledge gained into their professional practice. They will have the tools necessary to contribute to the development of sustainable finance within their organizations and help drive forward innovative solutions in sustainable finance. This course will provide a strategic approach to integrating sustainability into financial governance, enabling participants to make meaningful contributions to the growing field of sustainable finance.