

Theme

In the public debate, sustainability concerns are increasingly mentioned in connection with financial markets. Sustainability stands for the ability of a system to function today without compromising its future prosperity. The three dimensions of sustainability in the economy – environmental, social and governance factors – are considered at the same time to affect the functioning and results of financial markets, but also to be influenced by financial markets. Sustainability is an increasingly visible area in investments and is also gradually mentioned in connection to objectives, strategies, or management frameworks of financial institutions.

To date, mainstream theoretical concepts of financial markets do not specifically incorporate the three dimensions of sustainability. Yet, more recently, innovative finance research started to identify and narrow these conceptual gaps. Empirical studies investigate the different approaches to sustainability already found in financial markets and potential implications on performance, asset pricing, and investor preferences. The most recent survey studies on the performance of sustainable investments show an overall positive or at least neutral relation with financial performance. Positive and normative foundations for incorporating sustainability dimensions in decisions of financial market participants are explored through behavioural finance and applied ethics. Last but not least, there is evidence that «unsustainable» design of financial market products such as derivatives can destabilize markets and contribute to systemic risks.

Contact and Information

University of Zurich
Center for Sustainable Finance and Private Wealth
Department of Banking and Finance
Plattenstrasse 32
8032 Zurich

E-Mail: cmf@bf.uzh.ch

Websites:
www.finance-weiterbildung.uzh.ch
www.csp.uzh.ch



Universität
Zürich^{UZH}

Continuing Education

Foundations of Sustainability and Finance

Executive Education Course
Department of Banking and Finance
University of Zurich

Course Overview

Objectives

By completing the one-day course, participants gain an understanding of the concept and theoretical framework of sustainability and its relevance in finance. They learn to describe the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainability.

In the course, mainstream theoretical concepts of financial markets (relating to individual decision making, risks, asset pricing, and financial intermediation) are compared with sustainability concepts and gaps and links are analysed and discussed. Furthermore, the importance of ethical decision making is shown and issues when such processes are blocked through psychological and organizational factors within financial institutions and financial markets are elaborated.

Financial innovations can implicate systemic risks and challenges for the sustainability of the financial system. By reflecting on the financial crisis, participants learn more about such mechanisms and potential risks involved using the example of derivatives.

Course participants

The course is designed for practitioners in banking, finance and investment who are interested in the concepts and theoretical framework of sustainability and its relevance in finance, as well as to understand how financial innovations challenge the sustainability of the financial system. The course is an excellent background for participants interested in other courses such as «Sustainability in Banking and Insurance», «Sustainable and Responsible Investments», «Current Trends in SRI» and others.

Number of participants

Minimum 10, maximum 30 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.

Language

The courses will be taught in English.

Content

- Sustainability and financial market theory and evidence
- International frameworks and trends in sustainability and financial markets
- The concept of sustainability: Models and application to Switzerland
- Ethical behaviour and role models in banking
- Derivatives and systemic risks

Lecturers and expert speakers

- Prof. Dr. Marc Chesney, UZH IBF
- Dr. Annette Krauss, UZH IBF
- Prof. Dr. Philipp Krüger, University of Geneva
- Dr. Julia Meyer, UZH IBF
- Suzann-Viola Renninger, UZH, Department of Economics
- Silvia Ruprecht-Martignoli, Bafu Climate Policy

Degree

Course certificate (1 ECTS-Point for registered MAS/DAS/CAS Finance-students (assessment required))

Date/Time

Friday, March 1, 2018, 9 am – 5 pm

Venue

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

Cost

CHF 800.–
Including all materials and breaks. Travel and accommodation are not included.

Executive Course Programme Directors

Prof. Dr. Marc Chesney
Dr. Annette Krauss
Center for Sustainable Finance and Private Wealth
Institut für Banking und Finance
Universität Zürich
www.finance-weiterbildung.uzh.ch
www.csp.uzh.ch

Collaboration

This course is organized in collaboration with WWF Switzerland
www.wwf.ch/sustainablefinance



Registration

Registration deadline is February 23, 2018
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.