

Press release

Swiss Sustainable Finance (SSF) sets out guidance on sustainable finance learning topics for training providers and managers in Switzerland

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Switzerland already offers a wide range of high-quality education and training opportunities in the area of sustainable finance. So far, however, the appropriate knowledge and skills have not been fully embedded at all organisational levels of financial service providers. Senior executives and board members are in particular need to engage with sustainable topics and materials in further depth and take advantage of available training opportunities.

At the second Annual Forum for Sustainable Finance Education taking place on 8 November in Zurich and 9 November in Geneva, Swiss Sustainable Finance (SSF) presents guidelines for educational experts providing training in the field of sustainable finance. The document contains essential study topics and optional topics for in-depth study. It is intended as guidance for training providers and managers looking for education and training opportunities tailored to specific profiles. The guidelines should be seen as recommendations for excellence in sustainable finance training.

Following on from the study "Sustainability in financial education and training in Switzerland" published by SSF in June 2020 in collaboration with the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN), the range of specialist education and training has been continuously developing (an overview of current training opportunities can be found on the [Evrlearn](#) website).

Finance professionals are increasingly benefiting from dedicated education and training offerings to acquire new skills in the area of sustainable finance. In this context, greater integration of sustainability topics in the "Body of Knowledge" required by the certification system for bank client advisors is vital (see [here](#) for the relevant press release). To be able to make the holistic transition towards more sustainable practices and to meet the constant stream of new challenges, senior executives and board members need to actively engage with the materials. Accordingly the new guidance also contains concrete suggestions for C-level managers.

"Many of the courses currently on the market focus primarily on technical elements. But if we want to drive cultural change, educational and training programmes must also include skills in what are known as the '4C's': Critical Thinking, Creativity, Collaboration and Communication," comments Alberto Stival, Director Educational Development at SSF. Giving a concrete example, he mentions chains of arguments client advisors can use to fully explain the objectives of different sustainable investment strategies. "In

addition, it's important that Switzerland's financial sector continues to develop the area of sustainable lending. With this in mind, we have recently produced a [report](#) which educational and training organisations can use as a guide when designing their own learning materials," adds SSF CEO Sabine Döbeli. The guidelines as well as other SSF projects in the field of education were supported by the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN).

The "*Guidance on Sustainable Finance Learning Content Version 1.0*" can be accessed [here](#).

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The mission of **Swiss Sustainable Finance (SSF)** is to strengthen Switzerland's position as a leading voice and actor in sustainable finance, thereby contributing to a sustainable and prosperous economy. The association, founded in 2014, has representative offices in Zurich, Geneva and Lugano. Currently, SSF unites over 220 members and network partners from financial service providers, investors, universities and business schools, public-sector entities and other interested organisations. Through research, capacity-building and the development of practical tools and supportive frameworks, SSF fosters the integration of sustainability factors into all financial services. An overview of SSF's current members and partners can be found on its website: sustainablefinance.ch