New training programme: Pilot phase started in June 2015

Pan-European consortium launches Sustainable Investment Training Course for financial advisers

Berlin/Dortmund/Zürich, 17 June 2015 – Financial advisers and other finance professionals with an interest in sustainable and responsible investment now have the opportunity to learn more about this rapidly growing and evolving area. Beginning in June 2015, a consortium of nine European partners, among them FNG e.V. and ECOeffekt GmbH form Germany along with Kalaidos University form Switzerland, has launched the pilot phase of the Sustainable Investment Training Course. The training programme is composed of different modules, including e-learning units and a webinar or in-person workshop respectively – depending on the language and country of participants.

The implications of environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues on investment and finance decisions has become steadily more important for the finance sector. In a world of increasing resource scarcity, climate change risk and growing social inequality, financial advisers need to understand how these, and other ESG issues, affect their clients and their financial futures. The Sustainable Investment Training Course provides a learning scheme and educational material for Europe-based financial advisers to enhance their competences and skills regarding sustainable investment.

Course participants are not expected to have any existing expertise and experience with sustainable investment. Financial advisers who are already active in this area have the option of skipping the first, entry-level module and advancing straight to the more in-depth sections by passing an online test. Competency and knowledge with regards to sustainable investment are important parts of offering clients comprehensive, expert financial advice and may be of added benefit to advisers by allowing them to profit from a growing trend and acquire new clients.

This Sustainable Investment Training Course is part of the Lifelong Learning Programme supported by the European Commission. The project consortium is made up of the following organisations:

- ÖGUT – Austria (Project Coordination)
- akaryon GmbH – Austria
- ECOeffekt – Germany
- Ethix SRI Advisors – Sweden
- FNG – Germany, Austria, Liechtenstein and Switzerland
- Kalaidos University of Applied Sciences – Switzerland
- Novethic – France
- UKSIF – United Kingdom
- Ghent University – Belgium

All nine partners are established stakeholders in their respective countries in terms of sustainable investment. The Sustainable Investment Training Course will be available in English, German, French and Swedish.

The pilot phase of the course will function as a test run and will be used to evaluate and improve the course to ensure that it becomes a useful, relevant tool for financial advisers and others.

Further information about the course can be found at www.sustainable-investment.eu.

The press release in German: Start der Pilotphase – Weiterbildung Nachhaltige Geldanlagen für Finanzberater.
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Forum Nachhaltige Geldanlagen (FNG), the industry association for sustainable investment in Germany, Austria, Liechtenstein and Switzerland, represents more than 180 members which are working to promote sustainability in the financial sector. These include banks, investment companies, rating agencies, financial advisers and academic institutions. FNG promotes dialogue and the exchange of information between the worlds of business, academia and politics and has been working to improve the legal and political framework for sustainable investments since 2001. FNG awards the Transparency logo for sustainable mutual funds, publishes the FNG Sustainability Profiles and is a founder member of the European umbrella organisation Eurosif.

The Leonardo programme is just one part of the European Commission’s Lifelong Learning Programme, or LLP as it is often called. The LLP provides grants for all areas of education, training and learning. It provides opportunities for organisations, staff and learners involved in education and training across Europe to work together, learn from each other’s expertise, and widen their experience of other cultures and languages.

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