ESG Risk Management and Due Diligence for Investors Training Course



21 - 25 Dec 2026

Cape town

4600 € (Per Person)

Ref: #SUS1005_284256

Course Introduction / Overview:

The integration of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) factors into investment analysis is no longer a niche strategy but a fundamental component of modern risk management and value creation. This intensive training course provides a comprehensive A-to-Z guide on navigating the complex landscape of ESG risks and opportunities. As highlighted by Professor George Serafeim of Harvard Business School, understanding non-financial data is critical for predicting future performance. This program moves beyond theoretical concepts to provide actionable frameworks for conducting thorough ESG due diligence and embedding risk assessment into every stage of the investment lifecycle. Participants will explore methodologies discussed in seminal works like "Sustainable Investing: A Path to a New Horizon," learning to identify material risks, from climate transition impacts to supply chain human rights issues. BIG BEN Training Center has designed this course to equip investors with the strategic foresight and practical skills needed to protect portfolios, uncover hidden value, and meet the growing demands of regulators and stakeholders for responsible capital allocation in an increasingly transparent world.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Investment Analysts and Associates.
- Portfolio Managers.
- Risk Management Professionals.
- Compliance Officers.
- Financial Advisors and Planners.
- Private Equity and Venture Capital Professionals.
- Corporate Strategy and Development Managers.
- Sustainability and CSR Managers.
- Investor Relations Officers.
- Members of Investment Committees.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Financial Services and Banking.
- Asset Management and Hedge Funds.
- Insurance and Reinsurance.
- Private Equity and Venture Capital.
- Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs).
- Energy, Utilities, and Natural Resources.
- Manufacturing and Industrials.
- Technology and Telecommunications.
- Government Agencies, Pension Funds, and Sovereign Wealth Funds.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Investment Management and Analysis.
- Risk Management and Compliance.
- Sustainability and Corporate Responsibility.
- Portfolio Management.
- Investor Relations.
- Legal and Regulatory Affairs.
- Corporate Finance and Treasury.
- Strategy and Corporate Development.
- Internal Audit.

Course Offerings:

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

- Develop a comprehensive framework for identifying, assessing, and managing ESG risks.
- Conduct thorough ESG due diligence on potential investments across various asset classes.
- Integrate ESG factors into financial modeling, valuation, and investment decision-making.
- Analyze corporate ESG disclosures and identify potential greenwashing.
- Understand the key global ESG regulations and reporting standards like SFDR, CSRD, and TCFD.
- Formulate effective investor engagement and stewardship strategies on ESG issues.
- Evaluate the materiality of different ESG factors for specific industries and companies.
- Communicate ESG performance and risk exposure effectively to stakeholders.
- Utilize ESG data and analytics tools to enhance investment analysis.
- Anticipate future trends and emerging risks in the sustainable finance landscape.

Course Methodology:

The training methodology at BIG BEN Training Center is designed to be highly interactive, practical, and engaging, ensuring participants can immediately apply their learning. This course moves beyond traditional lectures to foster a dynamic learning environment built on experiential activities. A cornerstone of our approach is the extensive use of real-world case studies, examining both successful ESG integrations and cautionary tales of risk management failures. Participants will work in collaborative teams on practical exercises, such as developing an ESG due diligence checklist for a target company, conducting a materiality assessment, and simulating an investor engagement dialogue. Interactive sessions, expert-led discussions, and peer-to-peer feedback are woven throughout the five days to encourage critical thinking and the sharing of diverse perspectives. The program emphasizes a hands-on approach, providing participants with the tools and frameworks to build robust ESG risk management processes within their own organizations, ensuring a lasting and practical impact on their professional capabilities.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Foundations of ESG in the Investment Context

- Introduction to Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles.
- The evolution of responsible and sustainable investing.
- Key drivers for ESG integration: risk, return, and regulation.
- Understanding stakeholder capitalism and its impact on corporate value.
- The materiality of ESG factors across different sectors.
- Global ESG trends and market dynamics.
- The business case for integrating ESG into investment strategy.

Unit Two: The ESG Risk Management Framework

- Identifying the spectrum of ESG risks: from climate change to labor practices.
- Developing a systematic ESG risk identification and assessment process.
- Quantitative vs. qualitative approaches to measuring ESG risk.
- Creating and implementing an ESG risk appetite framework.
- Tools and techniques for ESG risk mitigation and control.
- Scenario analysis for climate-related risks (TCFD).
- Integrating ESG into the enterprise-wide risk management (ERM) system.

Unit Three: Mastering ESG Due Diligence

- The ESG due diligence process from screening to post-acquisition.
- Key data sources for ESG information and analysis.
- Techniques for identifying red flags and potential liabilities.
- Assessing corporate culture and governance quality.
- Evaluating supply chain risks and human rights impacts.
- Conducting effective management interviews on ESG topics.
- Reporting ESG due diligence findings to investment committees.

Unit Four: ESG Integration in Valuation and Portfolio Management

- Methods for incorporating ESG factors into financial models and company valuation.
- ESG integration strategies for equity and fixed-income portfolios.
- The role of active ownership, engagement, and proxy voting.
- Understanding ESG rating agencies and their methodologies.
- Navigating the global landscape of ESG reporting standards (GRI, SASB, IFRS).
- Techniques for detecting and avoiding greenwashing.
- Constructing and managing ESG-focused investment portfolios.

Unit Five: Advanced Topics and the Future of ESG Investing

- Deep dive into complex issues: biodiversity loss and natural capital.
- The social dimension: assessing human capital management and DEI.
- Navigating the evolving regulatory environment (EU Taxonomy, SFDR, CSRD).
- The role of technology and AI in ESG analysis.
- Impact investing: measuring and managing for positive outcomes.
- Future-proofing portfolios against emerging ESG risks and opportunities.
- Final project: developing a comprehensive ESG investment thesis.

FAQ:

Qualifications required for registering to this course?

There are no requirements.

How long is each daily session, and what is the total number of training hours for the course?

This training course spans five days, with daily sessions ranging between 4 to 5 hours, including breaks and interactive activities, bringing the total duration to 20 - 25 training hours.

Something to think about:

As ESG data becomes more standardized, how can investors maintain a competitive edge by moving beyond simple metrics to uncover genuine, long-term value and impact?

What unique qualities does this course offer compared to other courses?

This course distinguishes itself by providing a deeply integrated and practical perspective that bridges the critical gap between ESG risk management and investment due diligence. While many programs focus on one area, we provide a holistic framework, recognizing that a robust due diligence process is the foundation of effective, long-term risk mitigation. Our curriculum is built on actionable insights rather than abstract theories, using a wealth of contemporary case studies to explore the real-world consequences of both strong and weak ESG practices. We move beyond a simple reliance on third-party ESG ratings, teaching participants the critical thinking skills needed to conduct their own proprietary analysis, identify greenwashing, and understand the nuances of corporate disclosures. Furthermore, the course is forward-looking, dedicating significant time to emerging regulations and complex themes like biodiversity and human capital management, equipping participants not just for today's challenges but with the strategic foresight to navigate the future of sustainable finance. The emphasis on interactive workshops ensures that attendees leave with tangible frameworks they can implement immediately.