

SOFIA
UNIVERSITY



“ST. KLIMENT
OHRIDSKI”

EST. 1888

БАКСОС

ESG ACADEMY



**CERTIFICATION PROGRAMME
FOR CSR AND SUSTAINABILITY
SPECIALISTS**

The ESG Academy is the first holistic national qualification programme for CSR and Sustainability specialists and covers the following topics:

- ▷ ESG approach to business management
- ▷ ESG reporting and data requirements
- ▷ Energy and climate policy
- ▷ Climate adaptation and resilience
- ▷ Green, circular and social economy
- ▷ Sustainable finance.

The main objective of the certification programme is to deliver knowledge in the field of environmental and social business governance (ESG management), identification and management of the non-financial risks and attraction of sustainable investments through development of innovations in the field of social and low-carbon economy.

The ESG Academy is implemented with the support of the master programmes „Responsible and sustainable governance“, „Energy markets and products“ and „Finance, investments and fintech“ as part of the Memorandum of Understanding between Sofia University „St. Kliment Ohridski“ and the Bulgarian association of CSR specialists.

WHO MAY PARTICIPATE

Specialists in the field of corporate social responsibility, human resources, health and safety, social work, education, legal compliance, finance, coming from business, central and local government and civil sector, science and researchers of the transition to green and social economy, including all affected by the European Green Deal may apply for participation.

HOW TO APPLY

- ▶ The pilot edition 2021 of the Academy will be conducted online.
- ▶ Professionals wishing to join the training can submit their applications until 23:59 on January 7, 2022 by filling out this [Registration form](#).
- ▶ Participants will be trained in the course of seven full days in the period 14 January – 14 March, 2022 (1 module/ week).
- ▶ Participants will receive a certificate upon successful completion of the full course (5+ modules covered).

HORARIUM:

56 hours (8 hours/ module)

PARTICIPATION FEES

	EARLY BIRD (until 30 November)	REGULAR (after 30 November)
Full course	2580.00 EUR	2800.00 EUR
One module	380.00 EUR	400.00 EUR

Additional discounts:

5% for each 2+ participant from the same company.

10% for members of the Bulgarian association of CSR specialists.

20% for employees of companies, which made a financial donation BGN 5.000+ to the Faculty of economics and business administration during the last 2 years.

TRAINING PROGRAMME

MODULE 1 ESG* approach to business management

- ▶ Sustainability issues and themes
- ▶ Context: climate change, demography dynamics, urbanization, digital technologies
- ▶ Standards, conventions and international regulation
- ▶ Stakeholder mapping
- ▶ Content, methodology and design of the materiality matrix
- ▶ Non-financial risks and their management
- ▶ Onboarding, due diligence, transaction assessment and monitoring
- ▶ Introduction of the green and social taxonomy

MODULE 2 ESG reporting and data requirements

- ▶ Data management. Internal and external/public sources
- ▶ Disclosure obligations and international standards for integrated reporting
- ▶ European Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (SFDR)
- ▶ European Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD)
- ▶ European Non-financial Reporting Directive (NFRD)

MODULE 3 Environmental pillar of sustainability. Green and circular economy

- ▶ The EU treaties, institutions and legislation, Subsidiarity and solidarity, EU agencies and organizations
- ▶ European Green Deal. Technical Aspects of EU Taxonomy
- ▶ Introduction to applying the EU Taxonomy
- ▶ Six environmental objectives pursued in EU Taxonomy
- ▶ Substantial contribution to climate mitigation and adaptation objectives against EU.
- ▶ Do no significant harm to climate against EU Taxonomy TSC
- ▶ Minimum social safeguards
- ▶ Role of the Taxonomy in the EU Sustainable Finance Context
- ▶ Capital Requirements Regulation (CRR). Fiduciary duties

MODULE 4 Social pillar of sustainability

- ▶ Human rights and business principles. Stakeholder-oriented management approach
- ▶ Employment and industrial relations
- ▶ Labor and social rights. International and national legislation. Key institutions
- ▶ Labor practices. Health and safety, Work-life balance.
- ▶ Social audit. Sustainable supply chain
- ▶ Adequate living standards
- ▶ Impact on the employees, consumers and communities

MODULE 5 Sustainable finance

- ▶ Introduction to sustainable finance
- ▶ Steering capital for a sustainable future. The flow of capital in the financial system
- ▶ Strategies that work for sustainable finance. Sustainable finance approaches
- ▶ Relationship between risk and return, and the impact on sustainable finance
- ▶ Sustainable finance solutions. Key attributes for promoting sustainable finance
- ▶ The role of the public sector in sustainable finance
- ▶ Trends, disruption, innovation, and sustainable finance
- ▶ Development of action plan. Impact assessment

MODULE 6 Energy and climate policy

- ▶ Climate pollution. International climate agreements, The EU Emission Trading System, Carbon-border adjustment mechanisms and the World Trade Organization, Methane emissions
- ▶ Decarbonization instruments. Renewable energy and energy efficiency policies
- ▶ EU security of supply policy. Security of supply from oil to electricity, Network planning/ TYNDP/TEN-E/offshore/distribution, Resource adequacy and capacity mechanisms
- ▶ EU energy market - Electricity wholesale markets; Gas wholesale markets; Retail markets and new deal; Energy system integration
- ▶ European Green Deal. "Ready for 55" Package. Mechanisms for just transition.
- ▶ EU energy innovation - Smart city initiatives from buildings to mobility, Strategic Energy Technology Plan, Digital transformation, Green gases, Hydrogen

MODULE 7 Climate adaptation and resilience

- ▶ Concepts of climate change, climate adaptation, mitigation and resilience
- ▶ Climate change scenarios and policy implications
- ▶ Climate vulnerabilities assessment
- ▶ Climate policies and action plans design
- ▶ Implementation and finance of climate policies with stakeholders
- ▶ Fundamental in-company sustainability and climate actions

LECTURERS



Assoc. Prof. Atanas Georgiev, PhD

Dean (since 2019) of the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration and director of Head of the Department of Economics and Industry Management. Director of Master's programmes „Energy markets and services“ and „Facility management“. Member of the SC of the Bulgarian National Committee in the World Energy Council and member of the SC of Electro mobiles Industrial Cluster. Publisher of Facilities and Utilities magazines.



Assoc. Prof. Marcelen Yovogan, PhD

Head of the Department of Finance and Accounting and Deputy Dean for International Affairs and University Cooperation. Member of the Management Board of the Scientific Research Fund at Sofia University, the Scientific Commission of the International Financial Management Association, Florida, USA, as well as the European Finance Association, Brussels, Belgium. Since 2016, he is a member of an expert group at NEAA.



Ch. Assist. Prof. Marina Stefanova, PhD

Director of the Master's programme „Responsible and Sustainable Governance“, consultant on the „Business for Results“ program of UNICEF in Bulgaria. Chairman of the Bulgarian Association of Corporate Social Responsibility Specialists (BAKSOS). Member of the SC of the Association of the investor relations directors in Bulgaria and the Bulgarian Food Bank. Founder and director of the multimedia information-educational programme „CSR AdviceBox“ of „Kauzi“ Foundation. Member of the Advisory Council on corporate social responsibility at the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy.



Ivan Neykov, PhD

Chairman of the Balkan Institute for Labor and Social Policy. In the period 1997-2001, he was Minister of Labor and Social Policy. Head of the working group for the implementation of the pension reform and the development of the Compulsory Social Insurance Code. Leads the harmonization of Bulgarian labor and social legislation with EU standards. Lawyer at the Sofia BAR Association. Lecturer in Labor Law and Social Security at the New Bulgarian University. Member of the National Statistical Council. Judge - arbitrator at the Sofia Arbitration Court.



Assist. Prof. Maria Trifonova, PhD

Assistant in the Department of Economics and Industry Management at Sofia University. Her main competencies are in the field of renewable energy and its market integration, the national and European decarbonisation policies, as well as socio-economic aspects of the energy transition. As a research associate at the Center for the Study of Democracy, she is involved in various applied research projects in the field of socio-economic aspects of the transition in the coal regions, offshore wind and energy transition. Guest researcher at the European Council on Foreign Relations. She is a member of the Network of Scientists Researching the Transition to Sustainability, as well as the Bulgarian Committee of the World Energy Council, where she contributes to the work of the international working groups on hydrogen and the humanization of the energy transition.



Apostol Dyankov

Senior Climate Expert at WWF Bulgaria. Works to improve the national and European climate policies, and helps institutions and companies implement nature-based solutions to mitigate and adapt to climate change. He has over 10 years of experience in assessing and evaluating ecosystem services, within European projects and corporate initiatives. Since 2014, he has been training young people starting their own business as part of the green entrepreneurship program GREENT of Junior Achievement Bulgaria. Participates as a mentor and trainer in the youth entrepreneurial platform PandaLabs..



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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