

ESG in Banks

Integration of ESG and sustainability principles in Banks

Date: 17 & 18 November 2025 (two days)

Time: 09:00 – 17:00

Location – Xheko Imperial

Course director: Alenka Recelj Mercina

Introduction

As the financial sector adapts to growing sustainability expectations, banks are redefining success by embedding ESG factors into their strategies, operations, and decision-making. **ESG in Banks** is designed to support this evolution by demonstrating how robust ESG factors (environmental, social, and governance) are shaping the future of risk, assurance, and decision-making in Banks.

While banks face growing expectations from regulators, investors, and stakeholders to integrate sustainability into strategy and operations, internal auditors play a critical role in providing assurance over ESG-related risks, reporting, and performance. To meet this emerging mandate, **ESG in Banks** offers a practical framework to understand, assess, and audit ESG initiatives with confidence.

You don't need to be an ESG expert to get started. This training breaks down complex concepts into practical steps you can apply right away, from understanding ESG risks and metrics to integrating them into your audit plans and findings. Whether you are beginning to explore ESG's relevance to the audit function or seeking to deepen your team's sustainability assurance capabilities, this course equips you with the tools, techniques, and perspectives needed to deliver meaningful, forward-looking audit insights in a sustainability-focuses world.

Target audience

This course is designed for internal auditors, risk experts, and governance professionals working within banks and financial institutions. It is particularly suitable for:

- **Internal audit practitioners, audit managers and team leaders** seeking knowledge and practical tools to evaluate ESG risks, controls and reporting with greater confidence.

- **Risk experts**, to equip them in incorporating ESG dimensions into risk assessments, frameworks, and monitoring processes for a more forward-looking view of sustainability-related impacts.
- **Governance Functions**, including compliance, sustainability, and oversight teams who will learn how to strengthen ESG governance structures, enhance transparency, and ensure accountability in decision-making.

Program

This unique program is designed to equip participants with practical tools and knowledge to effectively embed ESG considerations into their internal audit practices. A key focus will be on lessons learned from banks already reporting under EU's Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) and European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS) regulations.

Course objective

This training will cover:

- **The Interconnectedness of CSR, ESG, and Sustainability:** Understanding how these concepts relate and their collective impact.
- **ESG Factors:** Comprehensive coverage of environmental, social/societal, and governance factors and their impact on internal audit.
- **Reasons for Increasing Importance:** Exploring the drivers behind the growing significance of sustainability in banking, including global initiatives, regulations, and standards.
- **Sustainable Finance & Investment:** Strategies for sustainable financing and investment within the banking sector.
- **EU Key Regulations:** Analysis of key EU regulations related to sustainable business, development, and reporting.
- **Sustainability in Banking:**
 - ✓ Navigating Evolving Regulatory Landscape
 - ✓ Integrating ESG into Risk Management
 - ✓ Addressing Greenwashing
 - ✓ Financing the Transition
 - ✓ Data Availability and Quality
- **Role of Boards:** How supervisory and management boards can drive and oversee sustainability within banking operations.
- **Practical Implementation:** Strategies for successful implementation of sustainability initiatives, moving beyond compliance to value creation.

Instructor Bio



Alenka Recelj Mercina, is a Senior Sustainability Strategist with approximately 20 years of banking experience, including serving as the inaugural Head of Sustainability at NLB Group, a leading regional financial institution. She has a proven ability to drive ESG and sustainability initiatives, aligning them with EU legislation and international best practices, contributing to NLB's top 5% Morningstar Sustainalytics rating.

A results-oriented leader, adept at engaging stakeholders and leading multidisciplinary and multicultural teams, Alenka frequently lectures at national and international forums and advocates for capacity building and lifelong learning in finance. Her expertise includes ESG Integration,

Sustainability Strategy Development & Implementation, ESG Metrics and Ratings Analysis, Sustainable Finance & Banking, Sustainability Corporate Governance, EU Sustainability Regulation (e.g., CSRD, ESRS, EU Taxonomy), Policy Advocacy, Stakeholder Engagement, and Sustainability Training & Capacity Building.

IMPORTANT FINANCIAL DATA

Cost per participant: **AIIA Members ALL 30.000** (*total amount, the subject is VAT excluded*)

Non-members ALL 34.000 (*total amount, the subject is VAT excluded*)

Price includes course attendance and educational material.

Payment* can be made by bank transfer or direct deposit by using the following account

info: Account Holder: **Albanian Institute of Internal Auditors**

Swift: **SGSBALTX** IBAN: **AL93202110440000000000039700**

Raiffeisen Bank Albania

Contact us for quotes related to more than two participants from the same organization or other information: info@aia.al

** Important: The transferred amount **must include** the entire amount as stated above. No shortfalls due to exchange fee/or other administration charges may arise. Albanian Institute of Internal Auditors has to receive the amount that is stated in your invoice.*

REGISTRATION
FORM

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17 & 18 November 2025

Full name			
Position			
Company name		VAT No.	
Contact Tel.		Email	
Address			

Cancellation Policy:

Places on AIIA Training courses are limited so we therefore operate a cancellation policy regarding refund.

- In case of cancellation of a training event by AIIA or related partner, we will endeavor to inform all participants 10 days before the course is due to take place, although please be aware that this is not always possible. All course fees paid will be reimbursed in full, but we are unable to reimburse any other costs that may have been incurred, including flights, accommodation etc.*
- No refund will be made for:*
 - Bookings cancelled less than two weeks before the event, except in exceptional circumstances and then only at the discretion of Albanian Institute of Internal Auditors.*
 - Non-attendance on the course.*
- For bookings cancelled two or more weeks before a course is due to start, 100% per cent of course fees paid will be refunded to the applicant.*

- I confirm all the data I provided is true and accurate.
- I confirm that I read the training program and I agree to have such content delivered during the course.

Name Surname Signature

Date, location
