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*The Evolving Landscape of Sustainable Finance in Ireland: Legal, Regulatory and Market Insights*

Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024, Euronext, Dublin

**Agenda**

<i>Time (AM)</i>	<i>Programme</i>
08:30	<i>Tea/ Coffee and Networking</i>
09:00	<i>Welcome Address by <b>Stephen Nolan</b>, Managing Director of UNDP FC4S and Head of the Secretariat for the UNDP Sustainable Insurance Forum (SIF); Board member of the <b>International Sustainable Finance Centre of Excellence, Ireland (ISFCOE)</b></i>
09:05 – 09:15	<i>Special Address by <b>Daryl Byrne</b>, CEO, Euronext Dublin</i>
09:15 – 09:30	<i>Understanding legal and regulatory landscape for sustainable finance in Ireland with <b>Brónagh Maher</b>, Professional Support Lawyer in the Asset Management and Investment Funds Department, <b>Matheson LLP</b></i>
09:30 – 09:45	<i>Taking stock of the state of play for sustainable finance within an Irish market context with <b>Gerard Duffy</b>, Financial Services Sector Lead, <b>KPMG Strategy</b></i>
09:45 – 10:20	<i><b>Panel Discussion Moderated by Stephen Nolan,</b></i>  <i><b>Panellists:</b></i>  <i><b>Barry O'Connor</b>, Partner in the Asset Management and Investment Funds Group, <b>Matheson LLP</b></i>

	<p><i>Eoin Duffley, Sustainable Investment Manager, Irish Life Investment Managers</i></p> <p><i>Radhika Sharma, Research Manager, International Sustainable Finance Centre of Excellence (ISFCOE)</i></p>
10:20 -10:30	Q&A
10:20-10:30	Concluding Remarks by <b>Stephen Nolan</b>
<b>Session concludes</b>	

### ***About the two reports:***

#### **Sustainable Finance Legal and Regulatory Study:**

Legal and regulatory requirements are crucial for sustainable finance as they establish clear standards and criteria, ensuring transparency and accountability while mitigating ESG risks. They prevent greenwashing, align financial practices with global sustainability goals, and promote long-term value creation. By providing a stable framework, these regulations attract investors, encourage sustainable investment practices, and spur innovation within the financial sector. Ultimately, they help integrate sustainability into the core of financial decision-making, fostering a more resilient and responsible financial system. **The International Sustainable Finance Centre of Excellence ("ISFCOE"), with the support of Skillnet Ireland, commissioned the Sustainable Finance Legal and Regulatory Study. The report is authored by Matheson LLP.** The content of this study informs the update of Ireland's Sustainable Finance Roadmap and assesses and presents progress from the report, "[\*Ireland as a Global Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Finance – Legal and Regulatory Report\*](#)" commissioned in 2021.

The legal and regulatory framework for sustainable finance is evolving rapidly, requiring stakeholders to adapt quickly to new rules. Understanding the overall legal and regulatory context and the challenges faced by market participants is crucial to maintaining Ireland's position as a center of excellence for sustainable finance. This report provides an overview of the global legal and regulatory landscape, updates on European and Irish developments since the 2021 Report, and outlines pending and potential future developments in sustainable finance. It further examines the opportunities and challenges for Ireland and concludes by highlighting progress made on the 2021 recommendations,

identifying next steps, and detailing further implementation efforts to enhance Ireland's leadership in sustainable finance.

#### **Sustainable Finance Market Study 2024:**

In the years following the publication of Ireland's sustainable finance roadmap in 2021, the ESG and sustainable finance agendas have continued to evolve at pace, driven by regulatory mandates, consumer preferences, and growing awareness across policymakers and broader society. In March of 2023, the International Sustainable Finance Centre of Excellence (ISFCOE) released its first-of-its-kind [\*Sustainable Finance Market Study\*](#). It told the story of National progress, an engaged Financial Services Sector, and a transition journey. This report presented a high-level snapshot of where the various financial subsectors are, under six thematic areas: Market Growth, Impact, Risk Frameworks Disclosures, Net Zero, and Challenges and Opportunities.

Fast forward to 2024, and **ISFCOE with the support of Skillnet Ireland, authored by KPMG Strategy Ireland**, is presenting the Sustainable Finance Market Study 2024. In this report, we take stock of the state of play for sustainable finance within an Irish market context, reflecting on progress to date, current challenges, and potential future direction, leveraging a sector-wide survey and other research. Alongside this report, a new dashboard will be launched of key industry metrics allowing data-driven tracking of progress against objectives and targets. This market study will provide a comprehensive overview of how the Irish sustainable finance market continues to embrace sustainability themes. On top of that, it will offer insights into recent regulatory developments, the ESG integration into the sustainable investment approach, and the key emerging topics in the sustainable investment market, and the study will share cover emerging themes such as biodiversity, gender lens investing, and net zero alliances and commitments. The report and dashboard are developed in line with a common set of indicators that were validated and supplemented through survey and discussions with expert stakeholders.

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*Brief Profiles of Speakers and Panelists*



***Daryl Byrne is the Chief Executive Officer at Euronext, Dublin. He joined the Irish Stock Exchange in 2000 and has held a number of senior management roles. Since 2011, as Chief Regulatory Officer, Daryl has led a team of 30, with responsibility for regulation and operations relating to the listing of financial instruments on Euronext Dublin's markets, across multiple asset classes including equity, debt and funds. He has been responsible for Euronext Dublin's regulatory engagement with issuers and market participants, as well as domestic and EU regulatory authorities. Daryl has been instrumental in the development of Euronext Dublin's global markets for securities. Previously he held the position of Head of Strategy Planning and Brand.***



***Stephen Nolan is the Managing Director of UNDP FC4S and Head of the Secretariat for the UNDP Sustainable Insurance Forum (SIF). Stephen is also a Board member of the International Sustainable Finance Centre of Excellence, Ireland (ISFCOE). In 2020, Stephen received the 2020 Irish Green Leader award, sponsored by the Department of Communications, Climate and Environment. Stephen is a former Special Advisor to the Secretary General of the Irish Department of Communications; and Advisor to Kofi Annan's UN ICT Task Force.***



**Barry O'Connor is a Partner in the Asset Management and Investment Funds Group at Matheson.** Barry practices financial services law and advises many of the world's leading financial institutions, investment banks, asset management companies, broker-dealers, and corporations carrying on business through Irish-domiciled investment funds (ICAVs, investment companies, unit trusts, CCFs, and ILPs) and Irish domiciled management companies (UCITS and AIFMs). Barry has extensive experience advising on the launch of UCITS and AIFs (stand-alone funds, umbrellas, and third-party manager platforms) across the full range of strategies, including plain vanilla strategies, hedge fund strategies, structured UCITS, fund of funds, money market funds, ETFs and master-feeders, and on their ongoing servicing (including the launch and termination of sub-funds, a change of service providers and listing on the Irish Stock Exchange). He is also experienced in more complex issues arising in the course of the life of a UCITS or AIF, including obtaining Central Bank approval for innovative fund mechanics and structures



**Brónagh Maher is a Professional Support Lawyer in Matheson's Asset Management and Investment Funds Department** and focuses on current awareness of Irish and European legal and regulatory developments in fund and asset management regulation. Brónagh is responsible for the tracking, review, and analysis of proposed and new legislation and regulatory guidance affecting the establishment, operation, and maintenance of investment funds in Ireland, their listing on Euronext Dublin, the structuring of investment instruments and investment products, and the provision of investment advice and other financial services. With over 15 years of experience as a financial services lawyer, Brónagh has a keen interest in the sustainable finance agenda, inputting on policy development in this area and focusing on client education in relation to the implementation of a sustainable finance framework.



**Gerard is the Financial Services sector lead for KPMG Strategy,** where he is responsible for delivering projects across banking, asset management, insurance, fintech, private equity, and the public sector. He helps organisations across those subsector verticals with strategy development, commercial due diligence and Financial Services related public policy. Prior to joining KPMG, Gerard was an in-house strategist for a London-based retail and commercial bank. He holds a PhD in Chemistry and a BA in Physics.



**Radhika Sharma is a Research Manager with the International Sustainable Finance Centre of Excellence, Dublin.** Radhika is a climate change and sustainability professional with over 12+ years of experience in climate change techno-policy research, program implementation, impact assessment, and, informing international policy and climate diplomacy and has worked in regions including the EU, UK, and South Asia. She is a Masters in Renewable Energy Technology and has recently moved from India where her last job was with the British High Commission on the UK-India climate change policy. Radhika manages and delivers a range of market-leading research projects that support and inform the stakeholders in the sustainable finance space.



## Nature Finance Training Programme

### Description

Sustainable Finance Skillnet are delighted to offer Nature Finance training for finance sector professionals looking to understand this important and evolving topic. This training will be delivered by KPMG Sustainable Futures, Ireland's award winning sustainability advisory centre of excellence.

The course will provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of the Nature Finance agenda and the challenges and opportunities for financial services within the Irish, EU and Global contexts. Led by Thomas Ball and Ellen Cunningham, the facilitators will draw on their extensive experience supporting finance, corporate and public sector clients on nature and climate-related engagements. Participants will be introduced to key nature and biodiversity concepts such as ecosystem services, natural capital, nature based solutions and understand the intersections between climate change, nature loss, and the implications for the finance sector and wider economy. We will look at the evolving regulatory and market drivers and frameworks such as the Global Biodiversity Framework, Ireland's National Biodiversity Action Plan, EU Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), Taskforce on Nature Related Financial Disclosures (TNFD), Science Based Targets for Nature and how they are shaping how we do business in Ireland and globally and the challenges and opportunities arising for financial services.

### Course Modules

#### Module 1 - Introduction to Nature & Biodiversity and Finance Sector Impacts, Risks and Opportunities:

This first Module will introduce key concepts and methodologies such as ecosystem services and natural capital; as well as setting the scene and context for nature finance, covering key frameworks and policy outlook.

**Module 2 - Nature-related Tools, Frameworks, Target Setting:** This session will introduce participants to the relevant nature-related policies, reporting frameworks, risks and opportunities for the financial sector and the development of nature-based solutions (TNFD, CSRD ESRS E4). Our team will demonstrate best practice methodologies, tools and datasets of relevance to participants.

**Module 3 - Financing nature in the public and private sector:** Through case studies from the global to local level, this session will educate participants on the ever-growing business case for nature-related investments and how to approach impactful opportunities in their organisation. Recognising the funding gap between the public and private sector, the focus of this session will be on engaging the private sector, overcoming challenges and de-risking capital investments.

**Module 4 - Nature finance in practice:** In this final session, we will bring the topics discussed through the first three sessions to life. In breakout groups, participants work through how to apply what they have learned to the Irish context; how to get started on financing nature and biodiversity plans for their organisations; and navigating the challenges of connecting finance to on-the-ground projects.

### Information/Dates/Time/Price

- €350 including SFS 30% discount for eligible candidates.
- €500 for non eligible candidates
- To discuss eligibility contact [skills@isfcoe.org](mailto:skills@isfcoe.org)

### Format/Delivery

- Delivery: In person at Platform X, KPMG offices, Harbourmaster Place, D1

### To apply for a funded place, contact:

Name: Sustainable Finance Skillnet Team  
Email: [skills@isfcoe.org](mailto:skills@isfcoe.org)  
Website: [sfskillnet.sustainablefinance.ie](http://sfskillnet.sustainablefinance.ie)

### Sustainable Finance Skillnet

Sustainable Finance Skillnet (SFS) is a national network that works to develop skills and leadership capacity to advance ESG best practice across Ireland's financial services ecosystem.

### Subject Matter Experts

#### Thomas Ball Director KPMG Sustainable Futures

Thomas is a Director in KPMG Sustainable Futures, where he leads the Nature and Biodiversity and Land Use unit. A scientist by training, with a 20+ year career spanning corporate sustainability, communications, policy and advocacy. Prior to KPMG he was Head of Business Advocacy at WWF (The World Wide Fund for Nature) where he was working with global financial institutions and real economy businesses to drive the transition to a net zero and nature positive economy. Alongside this, he was a core technical member of the UK Government's Transition Plan Taskforce – developing a gold standard for integrated corporate transition planning.



#### Ellen Cunningham Manager KPMG Sustainable Futures

Ellen is a Manager in KPMG Sustainable Futures. Since joining KPMG Ellen has supported clients across financial services, energy and utilities sectors with Taxonomy Reporting, the CSRD and CFD. With a background in natural science and environmental economics, she has over 7 years experience working internationally across the UK, Caribbean, North Africa and the Middle East on topics across nature and climate's intersection with finance and development. She has worked on natural capital and ecosystem services assessments for clients including DEFRA, the World Bank and the Caribbean Development Bank. Most recently, Ellen worked as Concern Worldwide's environment lead, where she was responsible for the implementation and delivery of the organisation's environment strategy.



### Guest speakers from across KPMG's Global Nature & Biodiversity Network

KPMG have a global network of nature and biodiversity practitioners across the firm, with international experience supporting a diverse variety of private sector clients develop, implement and respond to biodiversity finance opportunities. KPMG will draw on this network to support the delivery of the training sessions, bringing to life an international perspective and practical case study examples from around the world.





# Sustainable Finance Market Study | 2024





Commissioned by:



In partnership with:



Prepared by:



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An aerial photograph of a multi-lane highway cutting through a dense forest. The trees are in various shades of green and yellow, suggesting an autumn setting. Two vehicles, a white bus and a white van, are visible on the road. The highway has white lane markings and a central grassy median.

# 01 | Executive summary



# Executive Summary

In the years following the publication of Ireland's sustainable finance roadmap in 2021, the ESG and sustainable finance agendas have continued to evolve at pace, driven by regulatory mandates, consumer preferences and growing awareness across policy makers and broader society. In this report, we take stock of the state of play for sustainable finance within an Irish market context, reflecting on progress to date, current challenges and potential future direction, leveraging a sector-wide survey and other research.

Alongside this report, a new dashboard will be launched of key industry metrics allowing data-driven tracking of progress against objectives and targets.

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## Key insights include:

1. Over one third of respondents (35%) indicated that responding to the regulatory agenda was their top ESG related priority. This reflects the now mandatory requirements for some organisations and broader expectations across the industry as a whole. The regulatory agenda is closely followed by data and reporting requirements in terms of importance with 32% of respondents describing it as a key priority.
2. A focus on other priorities within organisations, lack of knowledge and understanding of relevant standards and requirements and a lack of experience or available talent are the top three current challenges organisations are facing regarding the ESG agenda. Consequently, only 13% of respondents feel confident that their organisation has met all of its ESG objectives.
3. 30% of respondents feel they are almost ready to meet their ESG regulatory and reporting requirements, however 19% are of the opinion that they still have a significant level of work to do. Additionally, 42% of respondents are on the fence as to whether regulatory frameworks will help to drive positive sustainability outcomes and effectively help safeguard against greenwashing.
4. 34% of respondents have indicated that their organisation's customers have shown a preference for ESG related products or services. However, just under a third of respondents (32%) feel they have either fully or almost fully integrated ESG into their products and services portfolio.
5. 50% of respondents consider the financial services sector in Ireland to have made strong progress over the past year in relation to ESG. Furthermore, there is a very positive outlook for the future, with 76% of respondents agreeing that it is either very or extremely important to them that their organisation is making progress on ESG topics.

## Contact us

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Commissioned by:



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Prepared by:



The International Sustainable Finance Centre of Excellence is co-funded by Skillnet Ireland and participating businesses. Skillnet Ireland is funded from the National Training Fund through the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation & Science.



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# Sustainable Finance Legal and Regulatory Study 2024



Commissioned by:



In partnership with:



Prepared by:

Matheson

This report is commissioned by the International Sustainable Finance Centre of Excellence (ISFCOE) and supported by Skillnet Ireland. The report is authored by Matheson LLP and the team includes, Garret Farrelly, Tara Doyle, Susanne McMenamin, Kevin Smith, Richard Kelly, David O'Mahony, Brónagh Maher.



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# 1. Executive Summary

This legal and regulatory study was commissioned by the International Sustainable Finance Centre of Excellence ("**ISFCOE**") to assist in the update of the National Sustainable Finance Roadmap (the "**Roadmap**") in 2023. The content of this study was a critical input in the updated Roadmap. This study is an update and progress report on the report titled "Ireland as a Global Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Finance – Legal and Regulatory Report" produced in 2021 (the "**2021 Report**").<sup>1</sup>

We provide an overview of the global legal and regulatory landscape (Section 3), an update on European and Irish legal and regulatory developments since the 2021 Report (Sections 4 and 5 respectively) and outline pending and possible future developments with respect to sustainable finance (Section 6). Sections 7 and 8 examine the opportunities and challenges for Ireland as a centre of excellence for sustainable finance. In Section 9, we comment on the progress made with respect to the recommendations made in the 2021 Report and we identify next steps and further implementation efforts to advance the progress made in building Ireland's reputation as a leader in sustainable finance.

The sustainable finance legal and regulatory framework is evolving at pace, with all stakeholders being required to adapt quickly to new rules, often in the absence of finalised legal requirements and regulatory guidance at European Union ("**EU**") or national level to assist with compliance. The EU's highly ambitious

legislative programme in this area, combined with delays in the legislative process, has presented challenges to stakeholders, who must contend with a complicated matrix of requirements. There is an ongoing lack of clarity in relation to key concepts such as the definition of "sustainable investments". Many of the interpretation issues arise at EU level, making engagement at EU level essential to ensure that the issues are identified and adequately addressed. There may also be scope for further guidance and clarity from the Central Bank of Ireland ("**Central Bank**") relating to its expectations on implementing the various legislative requirements. It is necessary to understand the overall legal and regulatory context and the challenges facing market participants in order to identify measures that can be taken to maintain Ireland's position as a centre of excellence for sustainable finance.

Underlining the constantly evolving nature of the sustainable finance framework, we have outlined in the table in Figure 1 some key upcoming legal and regulatory developments. These developments are examined in further detail in section 6 (Horizon Scanning).



Figure 1 Summary of upcoming legislative and regulatory developments

Legislation / Initiative	Summary	Updates
<b>Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation - Level 1</b>	The European Commission (" <b>Commission</b> ") is conducting a comprehensive assessment of the implementation of the Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (" <b>SFDR</b> ") with the review to focus on how the regulation ensures legal certainty, its usability and its role in mitigating greenwashing.	A targeted consultation and a public consultation on the review of the SFDR was published on 14 September 2023, with the review to continue into 2024.
<b>Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation - Level 2</b>	Pursuant to a mandate from the Commission, the European Supervisory Authorities (" <b>ESAs</b> ") have published a consultation proposing significant changes to the existing disclosure requirements under SFDR Level 2.	The consultation closed on 4 July 2023. The ESAs transmitted their final report to the Commission on 4 December 2023.
<b>ESMA Guidelines on Fund Names using ESG or Sustainability-related terms</b>	On 18 November 2022, the European Securities and Markets Authority (" <b>ESMA</b> ") published this consultation proposing the introduction of quantitative thresholds for the minimum proportion of sustainable investments to support the use of ESG or sustainability-related terms in funds' names. The consultation closed on 20 February 2023.	On 14 May 2024, ESMA published its final report on the guidelines. The guidelines will apply three months after the publication of translations in the official languages of the EU on the ESMA website. Existing funds must comply with the guidelines six months after the application date.
<b>European Green Bond Standard</b>	Regulation (EU) 2023/2631 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 November 2023 on European Green Bonds and optional disclosures for bonds marketed as environmentally sustainable and for sustainability-linked bonds was published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 30 November 2023.	The majority of the provisions of the regulation on European Green Bonds apply from 21 December 2024.
<b>Regulation of ESG Rating Providers</b>	On 13 June 2023, the Commission published a proposed regulation intended to improve the reliability and transparency of ESG ratings activities.	The Regulation on ESG Ratings Providers is expected to be published in the Official Journal of the EU in 2024. The regulation will apply six months after its entry into force, subject to the transitional provisions set out in the regulation.
<b>EU Ecolabel</b>	The Commission has been exploring the possibility of applying the EU ecolabel to certain retail financial products including UCITS.	Work on the EU Ecolabel has been on hold since March 2022 and it is unclear whether and when it will resume
<b>Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive</b>	The Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (" <b>CS3D</b> ") will require in-scope companies to conduct risk-based human rights and environmental due diligence in respect of their operations, the operations of their subsidiaries and their chains of activities.	CS3D is expected to be published in the Official Journal of the EU in 2024.



Legislation / Initiative	Summary	Updates
<b>European Long-Term Investment Funds Directive</b>	The aim of the ELTIF Regulation is to raise and channel capital towards European long-term investments and to stimulate the real economy. It is expected to encourage private capital flows toward more environmentally sustainable investments.	Amendments to the ELTIF Regulation apply from 10 January 2024.

The inter-relationship between the various legislative initiatives must also be understood, as the disclosure requirements applicable to many financial market participants, for example, cannot be viewed in isolation from the reporting requirements of their underlying investee companies. The misalignment between the timing of the application of disclosure and reporting requirements, as well as a lack of consistency and coherency between third-party data providers, has led to significant data gaps and data challenges for market participants.

Continued government impetus to build on the outstanding success of financial services in Ireland to date has sustained the focus on innovation in the international financial services sector, backed by sound and prudent regulation. Ireland's coherent, consistent and reliable policy and regulatory framework means that Ireland is well-positioned to take advantage of opportunities presented by sustainable finance and to maintain and develop its reputation as a location of choice for domiciling and distributing sustainable financial products that meet growing investor demand for sustainable solutions. Ireland is internationally recognised as one of the world's most advantageous jurisdictions in which to establish international investment funds and

is the jurisdiction of choice for the establishment of special purpose vehicles for a variety of debt issuance transactions.

In light of the inter-relationship between sustainable finance legislative initiatives and the impact of the sustainable finance agenda across various government departments, a holistic, multi-disciplinary, cross-governmental approach best utilises the opportunities and addresses the challenges presented by the sustainable finance agenda. Ensuring that our regulators and representatives have a prominent place in international fora discussing sustainable finance matters will afford an opportunity to input on and shape the agenda and ensure that Ireland has a leadership role in the development of legal and policy initiatives.

Ongoing constructive engagement with stakeholders' systemic knowledge development and addressing the evolving competencies required of regulators, senior managers, those making investment decisions and giving financial advice and service providers, including legal professionals, will also play a role in developing Ireland's leadership status in relation to sustainable finance.



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Government of Ireland

Prepared by:

**Matheson**



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**About ISFCOE:** A not-for-profit established as a central outcome of the Ireland for Finance Strategy (2021), ISFCOE advances sustainable finance through expertise and impact. Our core activities focus on research, capacity building, and convening. We provide expert insights and evidence-based solutions to inform public discourse and policymaking on sustainable finance. Additionally, we proactively address skills gaps within the international financial services sector in Ireland, designing and delivering tailored training solutions. Leveraging our network, ISFCOE annually hosts Climate Finance Week Ireland, bringing together international thought leaders. We also maintain a keen awareness of global sustainability initiatives, acting as a knowledge and learning hub. Maintaining neutrality, ISFCOE prioritises offering clear analyses of complex policy matters, ensuring our research reaches diverse audiences.

#### 1. WE WORK WITH FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

to address barriers to climate action and sustainable finance. Our focus includes accelerating ESG integration and financing for nature-related initiatives. Through international insights, we help ensure Ireland's leadership in sustainable finance is globally recognised.

#### 2. WE CONDUCT LEADING RESEARCH

with a dedicated team of specialists, bringing together public and private sector expertise, to identify, develop, and present solutions that contribute towards an inclusive, net zero, and nature-positive resilient economy.

#### 3. WE DEVELOP AND STAGE

a unique programme of events that focus on sustainable finance and Ireland's global role and peer-to-peer insights, including the annual Climate Finance Week Ireland series.

#### 4. WE PRIORITISE TALENT DEVELOPMENT

by identifying skill gaps and creating relevant content for finance professionals, aiming to establish Ireland as a sustainable finance hub.





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## **International Sustainable Finance Centre of Excellence (ISFCOE) Key Achievements**

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Since its establishment, the International Sustainable Finance Centre of Excellence (ISFCOE) and its predecessor SFI have successfully delivered a broad suite of initiatives across all Irish Sustainable Finance Roadmap goals – namely in Talent Development, Industry Readiness, Leveraging Digital, Enabling Environment and Promotional Activities.

Key achievements include:

### **Sustainable Finance Roadmap**

We developed Ireland's 2021 Sustainable Finance Roadmap and are responsible for its delivery. It was updated in 2023.

### **Research**

We lead and co-ordinate a wide variety of research. Recently covering the skills gap, nature finance and net-zero transition. In 2023 alone we produced 8 world-leading research pieces.

### **Climate Finance Week**

Hosted Climate Finance Weeks 2018–2023, the most recent of which was attended by 11,500 people with 8 million online impressions. In November 2024, we will be bringing forth the Sustainable Finance Week 2024.

### **Widespread upskilling**

Funded participation in 30+ training courses on sustainable subject areas which were attended by 3,000+ professionals in 1000 companies. Created bespoke pieces of training for specific organisational needs.

### **TCFD Rollout**

Created and led the programme for the uptake of TCFD in Ireland, which is now used by 40+ organisations, recognised internationally as best in practice alongside Japan and Mexico.

### **International Leadership**

Shared best practice on TCFD rollout with other jurisdictions. Also, share best practices from our experience with rolling out the Sustainable Finance Skillnet and the Irish Sustainable Finance Roadmap Process. Support the growth of international initiatives.

### **World-firsts in sustainable finance training**

Developed a world-first diploma in Sustainable Finance for Compliance Professionals, with other world-leading courses in reporting and fintech.

### **Fintech Strategy**

Developed and released a Sustainable Finance Fintech Strategy, one of the first jurisdictions in the world to do so.

### **Leadership Insightful Series**

Hosted and coordinated roundtable sessions with IFRS, UNDP and US Deputy Special Climate Envoy.

### **Government Support**

We provide support for the Central Bank of Ireland Climate Action Forum.

### **Communities of Practice**

We manage communities of practice focused on climate reporting, net-zero transition as well as biodiversity and social issues.

### **Biodiversity Finance Leadership**

Published one of the first research outputs into biodiversity finance in Ireland in 2023.



Sustainable Finance Skillnet focuses on developing skills and leadership capacity to advance ESG best practices across the Irish financial services ecosystem. To meet market demand we are offering funded places to eligible\* candidates on the following postgraduate diplomas:

### Postgraduate Diploma in Sustainable Finance Reporting & Disclosures

This Level 9 Professional Diploma in Sustainable Finance Reporting and Disclosures prepares finance, reporting, and assurance professionals in the financial services industry to lead Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) regulatory reporting and disclosures. As new mandatory EU sustainable finance reporting obligations approach, it is essential for finance professionals to be well-prepared to meet regulatory requirements.

#### Target Audience and Course Applicability

This programme is aimed at those who are employed or aspiring to be employed in **Financial Reporting, Risk, or Finance functions, or working in dedicated Sustainability Teams** with the knowledge, skills, and competencies to report, advise on, and advance the sustainability agenda across and within the financial services industry sector.

Delivered by: 

Level: 9

Format: 1 year online, part-time

Fee: €3,696 - this price is inclusive of SFS 30% support

SCAN TO FIND OUT MORE



### Postgraduate Diploma in Sustainable Finance Technology & Innovation

With growing market demand for sustainable practices and stricter regulatory targets, understanding long-term sustainable business and financial activity is crucial for legal, financial, and policy professionals.

This Level 9 program aims to train experts who can serve the global market from Ireland, enhancing its appeal for sustainable finance training. Students will study current trends, risks, and the use of sustainable finance to mitigate these challenges.

#### Target Audience and Course Applicability

This programme is aimed towards individuals who wish to upskill in four key areas: data science related to sustainable finance, how financial technology is used to implement sustainable finance solutions, how sustainable finance interacts with financial innovation, and how regulators can design policies to promote sustainable practices.

Delivered by: 

Level: 9

Format: 1 year online, part-time

Fee: €4,683 - this price is inclusive of SFS 30% support

SCAN TO FIND OUT MORE



### Postgraduate Diploma in Sustainable Finance for GRC Professionals

This Level 8 programme is the first of its kind globally and is the result of an enterprise-driven collaboration between Compliance Institute, Sustainable Finance Skillnet and IFS Skillnet. The Diploma forms part of the continuing effort to address the talent gap in sustainable finance and build Ireland's capacity as a global leader in sustainable finance.

#### Target Audience and Course Applicability

This programme is aimed at **professionals working in compliance, risk or governance functions** who are seeking to upskill and/or evolve their knowledge in sustainability ESG.

At the end of the programme, graduates will be able to establish compliance frameworks to translate the mandatory rules, regulations and policy into operational requirements, and have the tools to assess sustainable compliance risks and be able to monitor and report on them.

Delivered by: 

Level: 8

Format: 1 year online, part-time

Fee: €1,428 - this price is inclusive of SFS 30% support

SCAN TO FIND OUT MORE



\* Working in the Republic of Ireland (ROI), within the private-sector financial services industry, with support from your employer.

Email [Skills@isfcoe.org](mailto:Skills@isfcoe.org) for a funded place.