



Commodities Sustainability Fundamentals - ESG

SUISSENÉGOCE Academy

Switzerland is an internationally recognised centre of expertise for commodity trading. The 500+ companies based in Switzerland, located in a unique trading hub, account for over 10'000 direct jobs.

In this vibrant and professional environment, training is becoming all the more a prerequisite. Experts responsible for logistics, operations and sustainability, among others, are key players in the industry's success. With increased international competition and challenges faced by commodity trading activity, education & training have become a critical asset to succeed in today's industry.

PRESENTATION

Expectations around Sustainability matters are increasing and getting more and more specific. As requirements for Environmental Management, Energy Transition trajectories (carbon, biodiversity), Human Rights Due diligence and Good Governance are widening, companies have to refine their strategies and upgrade their processes.

The international community has issued different guidelines and frameworks to accompany companies in the sustainability journey, such as the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the OECD Guidelines on Responsible Business Conduct for a variety of supply chains, and the Taskforce on climate related financial disclosure (TCFD) from the G20 Financial Stability Board (FSB).

Translation of these requirements into hard laws is only starting. Switzerland has introduced in 2022 a modification to the Code of Obligation and two new ordinances in the framework of the Counterproject to the Responsible Business Initiative, defining due diligence and reporting obligations for the industry. The first obligation is related to Child Labor and Conflict Minerals, the second obligation is related to non-financial, i.e. environmental, reporting.

In this context, the challenge for companies lies in the adoption of the right approach to seize the opportunity offered by a more sustainable business model, as well as abide by these new regulations. To accompany companies active in the commodity trading industry in this endeavor, a new tailored training programme was launched in January 2023. It targets all main commodities classes: Oil & Gas, Metals & Minerals and Agricultural & Soft.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the end of the training and through practical examples, case studies and trade simulations, the course participant will be able to:

- Gain a comprehensive understanding of all aspects of ESG at each step of physical commodities trading

- Familiarize themselves with ESG specific standards, documentation and specific terminologies immediately usable in their daily practice
- Understand how to develop a policy commitment and embed respect for environment, human rights and general governance into management systems
- Appreciate the need for cross collaboration and offer tools to set up a tailored approach to one's organization

The course focuses on the importance of each phase of a trading contract and emphasises the interactions between them. In addition, it focuses on the importance of understanding the work done by colleagues and actively enhancing inter-departmental collaboration. The participants will be exposed to business documentation and specific terminologies, immediately usable in their daily practice.

AUDIENCE

The course is aimed at a wide audience ranging from individuals currently working within and around the industry looking to improve their overall understanding and actions of sustainability in the context of commodities trading.

The programme targets in particular:

- Management, front office, middle office, legal and compliance and any person interested in how to integrate Environment, Social and Governance in the physical commodities value chain
- Specifically targeted for SME's

PROGRAMME

2 Sessions of 8 hours each, over 2 days of in class teaching (with possibility of remote participation).

The course will cover all key aspects of sustainability in the commodity trading industry through the value chain. There will be cases for three types of trading so that participants can engage more easily – Oil & Gas, Metals & Minerals, Agricultural & Softs. There will be a focus on one type of commodities at each step of the value chain, having an expert present the most relevant aspects. The course will be concluded with each participant wrapping up on key areas to focus on in their specific context.

Session 1.1: Introduction and overview of expectations around sustainability

Teacher: Elsa Pernot (Gunvor), with key inputs from Frédéric Chenais (Swiss Confederation)

- Legislation,
- Standards,
- Key sustainability concepts,
- Stakeholders: initial work on concepts of control and influence applied to proposed cases as well as stakeholder mapping

Session 1.2: Origin & processing

Teacher: Rozenn Kerviel (Walter Matter), with key inputs from Terre des Hommes (Swiss children protection NGO) and Stephen Thomas (ArrowResources)

- Origin: key challenges & expectations of key stakeholders, with a focus on Environment
- Processing: key challenges & expectations of key stakeholders, with a focus on local suppliers
- Special focus on Human Rights

Session 2.1: Transport & utilisation

Teacher: Elsa Pernot (Gunvor), with key inputs from Guest Speaker on Carbon accounting and Guest Speaker on energy transition on freight

- Transport & Storage: key challenges & expectations from stakeholders
- Distribution & Utilisation: key challenges & expectations from stakeholders
- Special focus on energy transition, carbon accounting

Session 2.2: Governance and communication

Teachers: Elsa Pernot (Gunvor), Rozenn Kerviel (Walter Matter) and Stephen Thomas (ArrowResources) and Guest Speaker on Corporate finance.

- Governance, internal organization, Strategy & Execution
- Reporting, IT Systems & Coms & Marketing
- Corporate finance and sustainability

COURSE STRUCTURE

The course is given by different experienced sustainability experts from all the range of the commodity industry (Oil & Gas, Metals & Minerals and Agricultural/Soft), trade finance bank, NGO's and Federal Authorities, working in the industry for over 20 years and who will adapt its curriculum to the level of the class. We will welcome a maximum of 20 participants.

The programme is split into two days of eight hours each. To optimize the level of concentration, the 8-hours class is organized in two sessions of four hours:

The dates are published on our website.

EVALUATION

There is no evaluation for this programme. Throughout the course there will be continual informal evaluation, through individual and group assignments, to ensure full understanding of the concepts being covered.

CERTIFICATE AWARDED

After completion of the course, the participants will receive a Certificate of Participation, if they have followed the whole programme.

PROGRAMME DIRECTOR

Mrs. Elsa Pernot, Global Head of Health Safety Environment and Community (HSEC) of Gunvor Group

INFORMATION

Course Schedule and Location

8 hours per day from 9am to 6pm, with one hour for lunch break.

SUISSENÉGOCE Academy, 11 rue de Chantepoulet, 1201 Geneva

The possibility of offering the training online is offered for participants based in other Swiss Cantons or abroad.

Application

Applications **must** include the following documents:

- 1) Application form duly completed;
- 2) Your updated resume in English.

Applications and all supporting documents must be submitted **electronically via SUISSENÉGOCE's website** ([Commodities Sustainability Fundamentals \(ESG\)](#) • [SUISSENÉGOCE \(suissenegoce.ch\)](#))

Admission criteria

Good command of spoken and written English is necessary as the programme is taught in English.

Acceptance or refusal of applications are at the sole discretion of STSA Learning. Late applications may be considered depending on available slots.

You will be notified via e-mail if you have been accepted to attend the course.

A maximum of 20 participants will be accepted per intake.

Tuition Fees

For SUISSENÉGOCE members

CHF 1'000 (includes 2 days)

For non SUISSENÉGOCE members

CHF 1'300 (includes 2 days)

The course must be paid at least 10 days before start.

Multi booking

A discount of 10% will be applied for 3 or more bookings from the same company in the same intake.

Cancellation and substitution policy

No refund whatsoever will be made for cancellations received 10 days or less before the course start date. Participants can however be substituted by an acceptable candidate if the organizers receive prior notification.

FAQ

Can I be accepted even if I do not have any particular certification?

No, certification as such is requested but a strong motivation and a good command of the English language are necessary.

Can you help me acquire a work permit?

Unfortunately, no. This is an educational programme and SUISSENÉGOCE does not provide this kind of service.

Do I need to take my laptop to class?

Presentations and documents will be uploaded on our e-learning platform, and you will need an electronic device to view them. It can be a tablet, a smartphone, or a computer.

Will you help me find a job?

No. The purpose of this training is for the participants to grow professionally and attain competences in documentary credit. It is not SUISSENÉGOCE's purpose or objective to assist the participants in finding a job.

After the training, will I be accepted to pursue the Master or the Diploma in trading set up by the University of Geneva in partnership with SUISSENÉGOCE?

No, acceptance for the Master or Diploma is subject to a specific set of rules set by the University of Geneva.

However, many participants of SUISSENÉGOCE programs have decided to further develop their skills by following additional SUISSENÉGOCE classes or academic programmes offered by the University of Geneva (CAS / DAS in Commodity Trading or Master of Science in Commodity Trading).

Can I meet SUISSENÉGOCE representatives before the courses?

Yes if necessary, but it would be preferable to schedule any such meeting in advance.

What happens if I cannot attend one course?

It will be your responsibility to obtain the presentations and the notes taken during the course from another student. Unfortunately, unattended classes cannot be replaced.

Under no circumstances can courses be recorded.

ABOUT SUISSENÉGOCE

GTSA, the Geneva-based maritime trade and chartering association, was founded in 2006. In 2014, GTSA became national and took the name STSA to offer a greater representation of the industry on a national level. STSA encompasses the three regional associations (GTSA, ZCA in Zug and LCTA in Ticino) and consists of more than 190 member companies and institutions, as well as around 100 experts involved in the association's various working groups.

Today, our association is known as SUISSENÉGOCE and has a new logo. A new image that highlights the transformation of the industry as a whole: the commodity trading industry will be communicating with Swiss citizens and engaging in public debate. The different colours of our logo represent the different commodities: green and brown for agricultural products, grey and dark blue for energy, metals & minerals, and light blue for maritime transport, which is of prime importance for all commodities.

The Association has become renowned for its successful professional programmes such as the Operator's Certificate and the Commodity Trading Fundamentals. To respond to the industry's request, SUISSENÉGOCE has recently put in place three innovative certificates: the Commodity Trading Risk Analyst, the Documentary Credit Officer and the Commodities Sustainability Fundamentals (ESG) certificate.

In parallel, SUISSENÉGOCE also organises educational programmes such as the Master of Science in Commodity Trading, and the Diploma in Advanced Studies in Commodity Trading. Both programmes have been created in partnership with the University of Geneva and have been running since 2008 with an increasing level of recognition.

In 2022, SUISSENÉGOCE Academy has been awarded the eduQua Label for the second time. The first Swiss federal qualification providing quality assurance for continuing education and training. This certification is a mark of recognition of the high quality of SUISSENÉGOCE Academy's education and training programmes. It was obtained after an in-depth evaluation process and an in-house audit, to ensure that our methods are fully transparent and in accordance with its standards.

SUISSENÉGOCE Academy

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