



2025 SPRING EDITION

THE EUROPEAN BOARD DIPLOMA

BY

ecoda



The European Voice of Directors

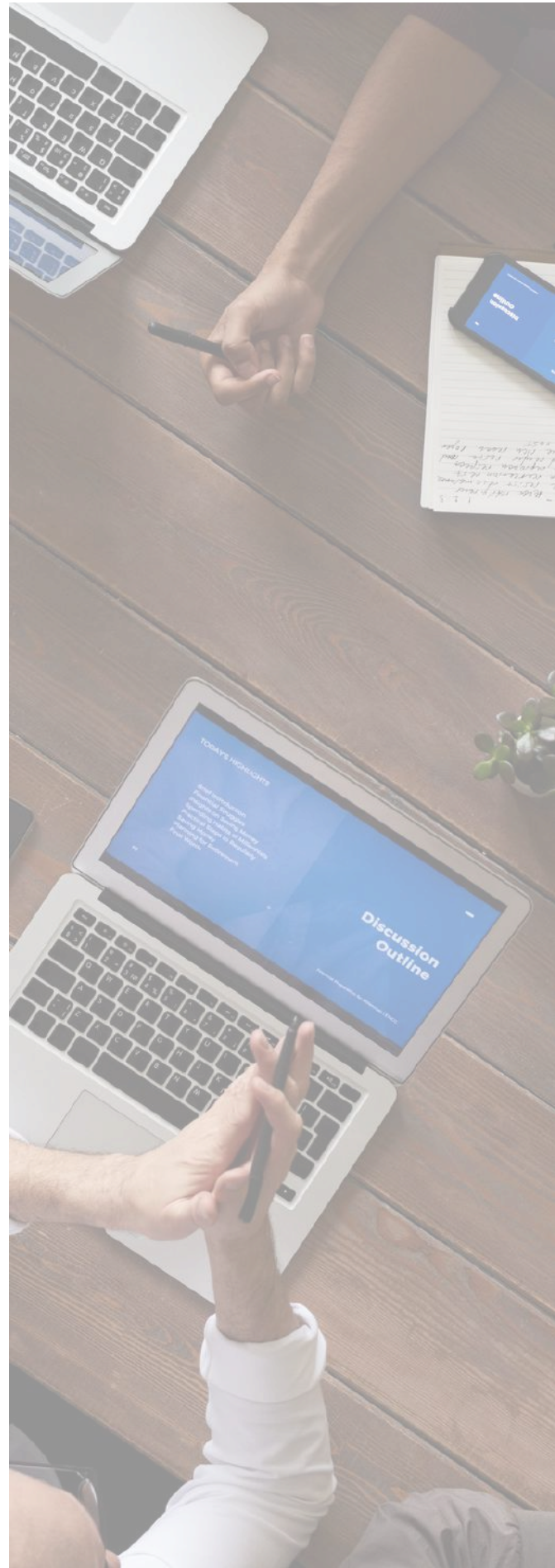
ABOUT ECODA

The European Confederation of Directors' Associations (ecoDa) is a non-profit association founded in December 2004 under the laws of Belgium. Through its membership of 20 national institutes of directors (the main national institutes existing in Europe), ecoDa represents around 55,000 board directors from across Europe. ecoDa's member organisations represent board directors from the largest public companies to the smallest private firms, both listed and unlisted.

Our Mission

The mission is:

To serve its member institutes by informing them of legislative initiatives in Corporate Governance, by influencing developments that will impact European board members and businesses in general, and by contributing to the enrichment of board members' skills.



ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

March 2025

“ *A unique programme designed by senior European board members for European board members* ”

Are you already an experienced board member with the adequate background and training required to carry out your duties effectively? Has the time come to move to the next level and receive keys to develop your own roadmaps in a concrete way as well as enriching your knowledge by benchmarking yourself against the best European Corporate Governance practices and peers? This unique programme, designed by senior board members for board members, will help you to explore and understand the challenges for European directors in the years to come. It will deepen your understanding of the changing demands being placed on the boardroom and help you foster innovation and long-term value creation. This programme, has been conceived as an eye-opener and a peer-to-peer learning experience supplemented by real-life case studies, constitutes a source of inspiration in your pursuit of excellence. It is designed to equip you with the right behaviours and skills to add value in the international boardroom with unique networking opportunities and EU proximity. This programme is an add-on to programmes developed by the national institutes of Directors.

To receive the European Board Diploma, participants have to complete the full training (the central base + one optional module of his/her choice) and to pass an online examination (multiple choice questionnaire). If a participants is not following the full training, an attendance certificate will be provided upon request.



OUR MEMBERS



PARTNERS

Our Partners contributing to this programme are:



As academic partner to ecoDa, the INSEAD Corporate Governance Centre (an INSEAD Centre of Excellence, www.insead.edu/centres/corporate-governance) faculty designs and delivers a specific session devoted to case study or board simulation that provides directors with a live experience on challenging decisions.



With the support of:

ALLEN & OVERY

wtw

Embedding
PROJECT

M O R R O W
S O D A L I

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

Day	Date	Location	Type of event
Day 1	13th March	Rue Ravenstein 60, 1000 Brussels, Sparks	Central Base
Day 2	14th March	Rue Ravenstein 60, 1000 Brussels, Sparks	Central Base
Day 3	20th March	Online	Central Base
Day 4 - Option 1	28th March	Avenue d'Auderghem 22/28/8, 1040 Brussels, ACE	Optional Module: Audit Committees: a permanent adaptation to move from pure compliance
Day 4 - Option 2	4th April	Avenue d'Auderghem 22/28/8, 1040 Brussels, ACE	Optional Module: ICGN Module - Dialogue between boards and stakeholders at the heart of all current issues
Day 4 - Option 3	11th April	Avenue d'Auderghem 22/28/8, 1040 Brussels, ACE	Optional Module: ESG matters with a special focus on climate and sustainability challenges
Evaluation	Opening of the exam one week after the optional module chosen and for one week	Online	
Closing ceremony	TBC	Online	

Please note that to complete the training, you must attend the three first days composing the central base as well as one optional module of your choice, however, you can register to the optional modules only (only an attendance certificate will be provided in that case).

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Day	Learning objectives
Day 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developing a global understanding of Corporate Governance issues beyond only the most topical issues;• Understanding the key features of the major Corporate Governance models coexisting in Europe;• Getting input on how to reshape/reinvent business models in European Companies regarding sustainability regulations development.
Day 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understanding requirements, good practices and pitfalls in sustainability governance and sustainability reporting with a focus on double materiality assessment, sustainability due diligence and transition plans;• Gaining tools and insights to navigate and lead organizations through times of geopolitical uncertainty;• Developing technical and interpersonal skills in board decision-making, essential for effective corporate governance.
Day 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understanding what European requirements mean in terms of the director's fiduciary duty and independence;• Discussing your own challenges with your peers related to artificial intelligence and digitalization;• Discovering the specificities of European CG models by looking at issues that concern other parts of the world, to have a global understanding of corporate governance challenges.

OUR CO-MODERATORS



Paola Schwizer
Full Professor in Financial Markets and Institutions, University of Parma

FACULTY

Each session will be hosted by a practitioner in the field and will include testimonials of senior board members. The speakers have been carefully selected because of their European background and expertise.



Homaira Akbari
CEO, AKnowledge Partners



Cemre Aksu
ESG Analyst, Governance Specialist Voting and Engagement, CANDRIAM



Hilde Blomme
Deputy CEO, AccountancyEurope



Bart De Bock
Senior Associate Litigation, Allen & Overy



Pascal Durand-Barthez
Senior Advisory consultant, Governance associate



Marie-Bernard Guillaume
Partner and Director, MU



Lena Henningsson
Director, StableTable Scand. AB
Chairman, Lund University School of Economics and Management

Marie-Bernard Guillaume

FACULTY



Chris Hodge
Director,
Governance Perspectives Ltd



Florian Jacques
Senior Manager ESG and
responsible investment, PWC



George Lagarias
Chief Economist,
Mazars Wealth Management



Esther Maes
Associate Litigation,
Allen & Overy



David Risser
Managing Director,
Morrow Sodali,



Michael Schweiger
Chief Compliance Officer,
Amazon Payments Europe



Hannah Summers
Director, Climate & Resilience
Hub, Executive Compensation &
Board Advisory at WTW



Gudrun Timm
Partner and Director, Carpe
Diem International



Ludo Van Der Heyen
Founding Academic Director of
INSEAD's Corporate
Governance Initiative



Kristen Patterson
Chief Executive, N-Z Institute of
Directors, Chair, GNDI (Global
Network of Directors Institutes)



Gaudiana Giusti
Counsel and Non-executive Director,
MCE Finance S.p.A.

FACULTY



Kyriakos Yennadiou
Audit Manager,
PwC Cyprus



Peter Zadora
Director ESG acceleration,
Umicore

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Day 1 (on-site) - 13th March 2025

8:15: Welcome/Opening – Presentation of the programme by the facilitator, Paola Schwizer, Full Professor in Financial Markets and Institutions at University of Parma and Affiliate Professor Banking & Insurance at SDA Bocconi School of Management.

8:25: Presentation from ecoDa – Béatrice Richez-Baum, *Director General, ecoDa*

8:40: Ice breaker – *Marie-Bernard Guillaume, Partner & Director, MU*

9:20: Introductions:

- (30 min) European market for directorships – *Marie-Bernard Guillaume, Partner & Director, MU* and *Anne Canel, Senior Advisor, Independent Director*
- (30 min) How to shape a future-oriented talent agenda? *Marie-Bernard Guillaume, Partner & Director, MU*
- (25 minutes) Update: Overview of European Corporate Governance: Diversity or Convergence? *Chris Hodge, Director, Governance Perspectives Ltd*

10:45: Coffee break

11:05: Pillar 1: European Diversity in Corporate Governance

Tailor-made Corporate Governance starts by an understanding of the different Corporate Governance models

Learning objective: Understanding the key features of the major Corporate Governance models coexisting in Europe

[Corporate Governance Framework/Leadership]

- 1.1. (60 min) Insights on key features of national Corporate Governance models in Europe (the UK, Italy, France, Germany, and the Nordic countries,), *Chris Hodge, Director, Governance Perspectives Ltd*, *Gudrun Timm, Partner and Director, Carpe Diem International*, *Gaudiana Giusti, Counsel and Non-executive Director, MCE Finance S.p.A.*, *Pascal Durand-Barthez, Senior Advisory Consultant, Governance Associate*, *Lena Henningsson, Director, StableTable Scandinavia AB, Chairman, Lund University School of Economics and Management*
- 1.2. (60 min) Group discussion: How key topical issues are addressed in the different Corporate Governance models? *(All participants)*

13:05: Lunch

DAY 1

Central Base



Day 1 (on-site) - 13th March 2025

13:55: Pillar 2: Sustainability: from a buzz word to actions: How can sustainability thinking have a direct impact on my business model? How can my company create value in the century of sustainability?

Learning objective: Getting input on how to reshape/reinvent business models

[Strategy]

- 2.1 (40 min): Testimony from *Peter Zadora, Director Category Procurement, Umicore Procurement & Transportation*
- 2.2 (65 min) Update on non-financial reporting: CSRD requirements and EU upcoming standards, *Hilde Blomme, Deputy CEO, AccountancyEurope*

15:40: Coffee break

- 2.3 (50 min): Investor Perspective: How do investors measure ESG?, *Cemre Aksu, ESG Analyst, Governance Specialist Voting and Engagement, CANDRIAM*
- 2.4 (90 min) Case study developed by Embedding Project: Credible action on sustainability as lever for business success (*presented by Hannah Summers, Director, Climate & Resilience Hub, Executive Compensation & Board Advisory at WTW and Gudrun Timm, Partner and Director, Carpe Diem International*) – Examining effective board oversight of credible sustainability performance

18:15: Key takeaways, *Paola Schwizer, Full Professor in Financial Markets and Institutions at University of Parma and Affiliate Professor Banking & Insurance at SDA Bocconi School of Management.*

18:30 End of the day

Informal Networking



DAY 1

Central Base

Day 2 (on-site) - 14th March 2025

8:45: Welcome / Opening / Networking Time

9:15: Pillar 3: Sustainability reporting and strategy

Shaping the European Corporate Governance of tomorrow: the roles and responsibilities of the board in sustainability reporting and governance

How to drive good practice in your company, demonstrate robust sustainability governance and performance to investors, and harness Green Deal and sustainable finance opportunities for integration of sustainability in strategy

Learning objective: Understanding requirements, good practice and pitfalls in sustainability governance and sustainability reporting with a focus on double materiality assessment, sustainability due diligence and transition plans

[Reporting and Risk Management]

- 3.1 (105 min) Case study 1: How to define ESG KPIs for top executives remuneration? *Hannah Summers Director, Climate & Resilience Hub, Executive Compensation & Board Advisory, WTW and Piia Pilv, Senior Director, Executive Remuneration Nordics & Western Europe at WTW*

11:00 Coffee break

- 3.2 (110 min) Case Study 2: Understanding requirements, good practice and pitfalls in sustainability governance and sustainability reporting, *PwC, Kyriakos Yennadiou, Audit Manager, PwC Cyprus, Florian Jacques, Senior Manager ESG and responsible investment, PWC*

13:05: Lunch break

DAY 2

Central Base



Day 2 (on-site) - 14th March 2025

13:50: Pillar 4: Corporate Governance in action: Board simulation (235 minutes)

Learning objective: Getting hands-on experience in European boards Board decision making & soft skills, Ludo Van Der Heyen, INSEAD

- 5.1 Preparation of the Board simulation (rules of the game), *Ludo Van Der Heyen, founding Academic Director of INSEAD's Corporate Governance Initiative*

15:15 Coffee break

- 5.2 Inducing Positive Board Dynamics through Fair Process Leadership
 - Development of attitudes and behaviours towards a better decision-making process;
 - Experimenting with working in groups the collegiality and mindset to adopt in a multicultural board;
 - Peer and facilitator's feedback.

18:00: Key takeaways, Paola Schwizer, Full Professor in Financial Markets and Institutions at University of Parma and Affiliate Professor Banking & Insurance at SDA Bocconi School of Management.

18h15: End of the day



Day 3 (online) - 20th March 2025

8:45: Welcome/Opening - Networking Time

9:00: Pillar 5: What board structure according to the emerging topics?

How to organize a performing European Board : which composition, which dynamics, what about the emerging committees like ESG, etc.

- (60 min) *Michael Schweiger, Chief Compliance Officer, Amazon Payments Europe*

10:00: Virtual coffee break

10:15: Pillar 6: Boards' duties in Europe

Staying ahead on the learning curve and the European expectations

Learning objective: To be able to implement new European requirements while benefiting from European best practices

[Directors' duties, responsibilities and liabilities]

- (60 min) Update on directors liability in Europe (*Esther Maes, Associate Litigation, Allen & Overy, Bart De Bock, Senior Associate Litigation, Allen & Overy*)

11:15: Pillar 7: Corporate Governance in European Groups:

How the interplay between the parent company and the subsidiaries impact Directors' duties?

Learning objective: Understanding what it means in terms of the duty of loyalty and independence

[Board Effectiveness & Role of Independent Directors- in cooperation with the OECD]

- (60 min) Update on CG in Groups including multinational enterprises (MNEs) and state-owned enterprises (SOEs) – *David Risser, Managing Director, Morrow Sodali*



Day 3 (online) - 20th March 2025

12:15: Virtual lunch break

13:15 Pillar 8: Geopolitics, AI, and cybersecurity

- 9.1 (45 minutes) Update on the geopolitical situation and its challenges, George Lagarias, *Chief Economist, Mazars Wealth Management*
- 9.2 (45 minutes) Presentation of artificial intelligence and cybersecurity risks, Homaira Akbari, *CEO of AKnowledge Partners and author of The Cyber Savvy Boardroom*

14:45 Pillar 9: Topical issues

Learning objective: Time to express your own challenges with your peers

- (20 min) EU Update from Jeroen Hooijer, *Active senior advisor at DG JUST*

15:05: Virtual coffee break

15:30: Pillar 10: A non-EU perception on Corporate Governance

Do my peers outside the EU have the same concerns?

Learning objective: Discovering the specificities of the European CG model by looking at the issues that concern other parts of the world

- (50min) In conversation with GNDI, Kirsten Patterson, *Chief Executive, New-Zealand Institute of Directors, Chair, GNDI (Global Network of Directors Institutes)*

16:30: Wrap up: main take-aways from the core program & opening up to the optional modules

16:45: Closing of the session



DAY 3

Central Base

Option 1: Audit Committees : a permanent adaptation - *28th March 2025*

Confirmed speakers:



Anne-Hélène Monsellato
Independent director and
Chairman of the Audit and Risk
Committee,
Euronav, Genfit



Panos Prodromides
Chair of the CEAOB, Director
General of Cyprus Public Audit
Oversight Board

DAY 4

Optional Modules

(At least one mandatory choice) – 1 day

Option 1: Audit Committees: a permanent adaptation - 28th March 2025

Time	Discussion points
9:00-9:15	<p>Introduction (Paola Schwizer, Full Professor in Financial Markets and Institutions at University of Parma and Affiliate Professor Banking & Insurance at SDA Bocconi School of Management)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish purpose of the day : understanding and responding to the key challenges facing EU audit committees • Roundtable presentation of participants
9:15-10:15	<p>Role of the AC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief overview of the 7 missions under the EU Audit Reform and why they make sense • Embracing sustainability reporting - what does it mean practically for the audit committees • Beyond compliance : link with strategy execution and stakeholders' dialogue • Consequence on audit committees composition and internal outreach
10:15-10:30	<p>Responsibility of the audit committees - key driving factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes in audit committee roles and responsibilities • Trends and uncertainties : qualified audit report, finding a suitable auditor, own personal reputational risk, uncharted territories of sustainability reporting • Associated risks - isolation; confirmation bias (lack of competence); assymetry of information; work overload; misrepresentation (sustainability reporting)
10:30-10:45	Break
10:45-12:15	<p>CEAOB expectations and news, <i>Panos Prodromides, Chair of the CEAOB, Director General of Cyprus Public Audit Oversight Board</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General presentation of the CEAOB • Survey on the materiality • Mandatory rotation of auditors
12:15-13:15	Lunch break

DAY 4

Optional Modules

(At least one mandatory choice) – 1 day

Option 1: Audit Committees: a permanent adaptation - 28th March 2025

Time	Discussion points
13:15-14:45	<p>Managing the workload - practical tips</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary objective of a well functioning audit committees • Beyond audit results (monitoring audit quality) • Develop a robust relationship with key internal actors (relationships with senior management, internal audit and board) • Leverage internal audit better • Establish proper dashboards for role management and internal control over financial reporting
14:45-15:00	Break
15:00-16:00	<p>Managing the workload - practical tips</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address internal culture • Share expectations and develop manageable pre-read, information meetings, etc • Liaising with other committees within the board • Ensure robust management of meetings
16:00-17:30	<p>Conclusion and questions (reinforcing key messages)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Composition of audit committees • Expect a lot more attention to internal resources • Expect more time, more meetings, more reading and more scrutiny (from external actors) • A greater level of responsibility for audit committees? • Questions

DAY 4

Optional Modules

(At least one mandatory choice) – 1 day

Option 2: ICGN Module - Dialogue between boards and stakeholders is at the heart of all current issues -

4th April 2025



Speakers:



George Dallas
Head of Content,
European Corporate Governance
Institute (ECGI)



Paul Lee
Head of Stewardship & Sustainable
Investment Strategy, Redington

DAY 4

Optional Modules

(At least one mandatory choice) – 1 day

Option 2: ICGN Module - Dialogue between boards and stakeholders is at the heart of all current issues -



4th April 2025

Timing	Session	Content
9:00	ecoDa Welcome (Paola Schwizer, Full Professor in Financial Markets and Institutions at University of Parma and Affiliate Professor Banking & Insurance at SDA Bocconi School of Management)	Background to the session and to the current economic and political climate
9:15	ICGN Introduction	Introduction to ICGN and why the board/stakeholder dialogue is so important
9:35	Overview	Session aims and objectives Learners' objectives and experiences
9.50	Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the purpose of corporate governance and stewardship? • Role of the board from a shareholder perspective: what are shareholder expectations? Including reference to ICGN's Global Governance Principles
11:05	Break	

DAY 4

Optional Modules

(At least one mandatory choice) – 1 day

Option 2: ICGN Module - Dialogue between boards and stakeholders is at the heart of all current issues -



4th April 2025

Timing	Session	Content
11:20	Presentation and discussion: factors affecting the relationship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement between investors and non-executive directors • Role of the Lead Independent Director • Country differentiation in terms of shareholder/board dialogue • Concert parties and other legal obstacles • What investors are looking for regarding ESG performance and the governance of sustainability • How to address ESG/sustainability factors in investor roadshows and investor engagement • Stakeholder relations and 'double materiality' • How to reconcile shareholder versus creditor engagement • 'Active' versus 'Activist' shareholders • What evidence says about governance and stewardship
13:05	Lunch	

DAY 4

Optional Modules

(At least one mandatory choice) – 1 day

Option 2: ICGN Module - Dialogue between boards and stakeholders is at the heart of all current issues -



4th April 2025

Timing	Session	Content
14:15	ESG metrics and board engagement	Concrete talk on ESG metrics, the underlying philosophy and why it is conceptually problematic
15:05	VW Case Study Introductory Presentation and breakout groups	An opportunity to play the role of one of the various stakeholders in this (in)famous case study
16:50	Summary and final Q&A	
17:20	Concluding remarks	

DAY 4

Optional Modules

(At least one mandatory choice) – 1 day

Option 3: Climate and Sustainability: Topical issues for board members - 11th April 2025



Speakers:



Olivier Boutellis-Taft
CEO,
Accountancy Europe



Thomas Dodd
Policy Coordinator - Corporate
transparency, European
Commission, DG FISMA



Andrew Griffiths
Director of Community &
Partnerships, PlanetMark, Chair of
the UK IoD Sustainability Task Force



Sybille van den Hove
Executive director, Bridging
for Sustainability



Dr Kris De Meyer
Neuroscientist, Director
Climate Action Unit, UCL



Vincent Jamblin
Founder,
Séréus

DAY 4

Optional Modules

(At least one mandatory choice) – 1 day

Option 3: Climate and Sustainability: Topical issues for board members - 11th April 2025



Timing	Session	Content
8:30	Arrival and Coffee	
9:00	ecoDa Welcome and Introduction	Background to the session, <i>Chapter Zero</i>
9:15	Pillar 1: Climate context: Sciences, causes, emissions, impacts and implications	(75 min) Conversation with <i>Kris de Meyer, Neuroscientist, Director Climate Action Unit, University College London</i>
10:30	Pillar 2: The B Corp model	(60 min) Testimony from <i>Sybille van der Hove, Executive director, Bridging for Sustainability</i>
11:30	Coffee break	
11:45	Pillar 3: Climate context: policy & regulation, reporting & disclosure	(45 min) Presentation from <i>Thomas Dodd, Policy Coordinator - Corporate transparency, European Commission, DG FISMA</i>
12:30	Lunch	

DAY 4

Optional Modules

(At least one mandatory choice) – 1 day

Option 3: Climate and Sustainability: Topical issues for board members - 11th April 2025



Timing	Session	Content
13:30	Pillar 4: Role of the Boards for effective climate governance	(90 min) Conversation with Andrew Griffiths, Chair of the IoD's National Sustainability Taskforce
15:00	Coffee break	
15:15	Pillar 5: Circularity: best practices	(20 min) Conversation with Vincent Jamblin, Founder of Séréus
15:35	Pillar 6: Business implications: risks, opportunities, strategy, business transformation	(95 min) Conversation and case study with Olivier Boutellis-Taft, CEO Accountancy Europe
17:10	Pillar 7: Wrap up of the session and key takeaways	(20 min) Conversation with Chapter Zero Brussels
17:30	End	

DAY 4

Optional Modules

(At least one mandatory choice) – 1 day

INSTRUCTION DETAILS - OPTIONAL MODULES

Location

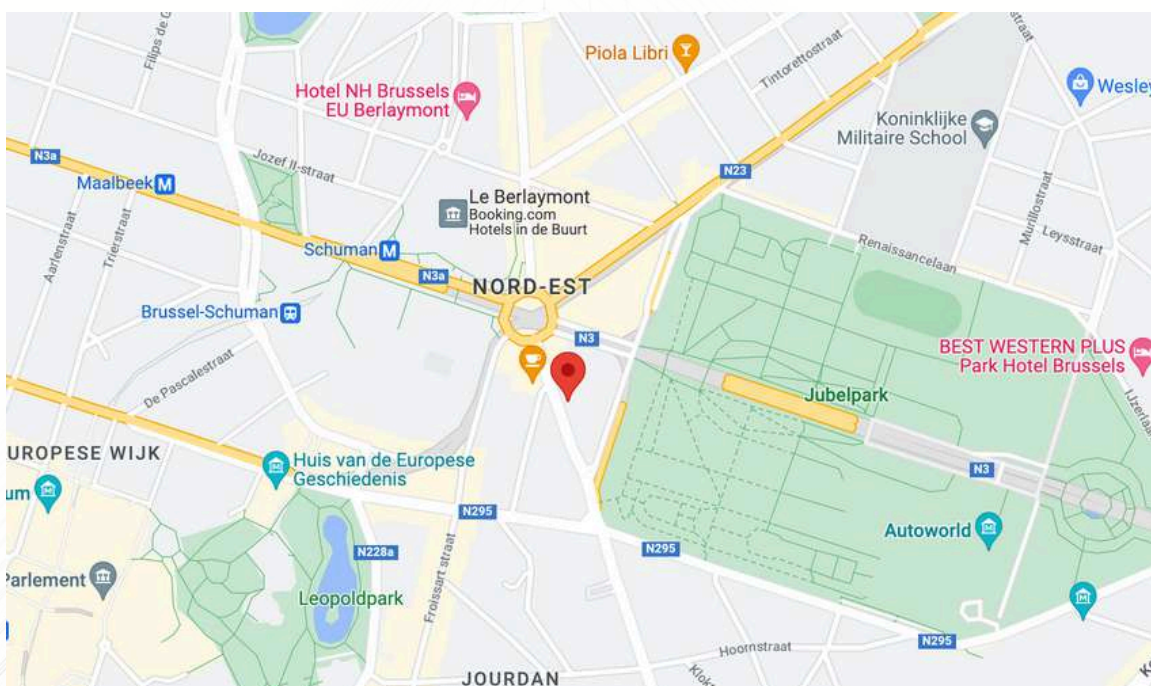
- Audit Committee | 28th March
- Boards and stakeholders | 4th April
- ESG matters | 11th April

Accountancy Europe (ACE Events)

Avenue d'Auderghem 22/28/8

1040 Brussels

Accountancy Europe, the venue for the first, second, and third module, is located near the Cinquantaire Parc and is easily accessible by public transport. Schuman is the name of the closest bus, metro and train station you will find from the venue. If you would like to come by taxi, we recommend the use of Uber or Taxi Vert (0032 2 349 49 49).



INSTRUCTION DETAILS

Rules and financial conditions

It is compulsory to attend all three days of the training as well as one optional day of your choice. Therefore, in order to receive your certification, a total of four days of the training must have been followed. Please try to respect the times of the schedule as each time slot is an important component of the training.

To register to the training, please click [here](#).

Please note that it is allowed to register to the training and choose the optional module up to three weeks prior to the start.

The participation fee will be of **€3.850 for 4 days** (core programme and an optional module) without VAT (for affiliated to a member association) or **€4.400 for 4 days** without VAT (for non-affiliated to a member association). If you wish to attend multiple opt-in modules it is feasible at a decreasing rate. A **second optional module costs €700** and a **third €500**.

If you would only like to solely attend **one extra day without the core basis** it is allowed at the price of **€1000** per day.

Payment must be done prior to the event by bank transfer only to ING BELGIUM with the IBAN BE97 3630 4531 9349 and BIC BBRUBEBB. Please use your invoice number as communication.

The payment for the full programme has to be made in full, one month before the start date.

Cancellations occurring 15 days before the training will be followed by a full refund.

Cancellations occurring between the 14th day and the 7th day before the training will be followed by a 50% refund.

Cancellations occurring within 6 days prior to the start of the program will not be followed by any refund.

[Register !](#)

Thank you for your interest

If you have any questions, please contact us to:

education@ecoda.eu

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