

# The Second Edition of the Executive Program in Global Impact Leadership in Financial Industry (GILFI)

Inspired by the enthusiasm generated, built on the success of GILFI's 1<sup>st</sup> Edition and driven by the passion to create Impact Leaders through cutting-edge knowledge, EOSD is pleased to once again host the Executive Program.

The Expressions of interest (EOIs) are currently being accepted.

## **Program Purpose**

Develop a distinguished global community of impact leaders in financial industry, who will shape banking and finance in the 21<sup>st</sup> century by delivering exemplary and breakthrough solutions for their stakeholders and driving the transition to a sustainable future.

## **Program Goal**

GILFI aims to equip the program delegates with an in-depth knowledge of true sustainability, enabling them to be the visionaries who are driven by purpose, passion, and unmatchable impact in their countries and territories. The clarity on genuine sustainable banking and finance gained through this program will empower them to inspire their teams, Boards, and shareholders for purpose-led profitability, thereby delivering to customers a compelling value proposition while effectively engaging with other stakeholders for shared success.

GILFI also seeks to turn the program delegates into recognized global impact leaders. They will be connected with like-minded and committed peers in the financial industry to drive a significant positive change across the globe.

## **Program Context**

The world is changing fast and so are the expectations from the financial industry. Shareholders, customers, policymakers, and society at large are tasking financial institutions to take full responsibility for the impact of their decisions and actions on the economy, society, and the environment. In this regard, the resolve of the regulators is also getting hardened by the day.

The stakeholders expect these institutions to deliver financial and non-financial services for the well-being of the communities they are licensed to serve and for the healthy growth of the economy in which they generate profits so that decent and higher paid jobs are created, resources are used efficiently, and long-term prosperity is delivered to all.

They demand that financial capital be used for the protection of the natural environment, and that financial intermediaries should become some of the leading forces in climate change mitigation and adaptation and should contribute to realizing net-zero emissions.

Embracing true and holistic sustainability is, therefore, an imperative for enhancing corporate performance and achieving and maintaining a good reputation by financial institutions. It is crucial for protecting organizational assets and managing risks, ensuring compliance in a dynamic regulatory landscape, and meeting customer expectations. True sustainability today is the key driver of profitability and essential for competing in a fiercely competitive market. It is no longer a side activity, but the basis for every decision made and every action taken – hence it needs to be on the top of the leadership agenda.

## **Program Description**

In a world where the term sustainability has been least understood, mostly overused, and increasingly misused, GILFI provides time-strapped financial sector executives the space for deep thinking.

The delegates of this program will go beyond the popular buzzwords and practices that are making the term "sustainability" a cliché. They will dig deep to discover the power of authentic sustainability, which is a way of doing business, boosting profitability with purpose, turning competition into cooperation, mastering changing regulatory compliance, and future-proofing financial institutions in a highly volatile and increasingly uncertain and turbulent world.

During this super-intensive program for busy executives, the delegates will navigate the seismic shift taking place globally and explore how it impacts the financial industry and their organizations. They will gain a bird's-eye view of the changing landscape of financial services and thorough understanding of the modern-day stakeholder expectations.

GILFI is designed to deliver insights on how true and modern-day sustainability rejuvenates the financial sector and to demonstrate how the success of 21<sup>st</sup> century financial leaders lie in embracing sustainability holistically.

This unconventional program for forward-looking executives will stimulate dialogue on setting new industry trends — instead of following the existing ones. It is for enthusiastic leaders (and to be leaders) in the financial industry who want to be part of developing next practices and not blindly adopt the so-called best practices.

GILFI is for creating leaders who are ready to envision banking and finance for the world we want; courageously rise above the status-quo; boldly question the prevailing sustainability practices; dare to break down the barriers that hinder a strong, positive impact; and have the resolve to create a future we wish to see.

### **Value Creation**

Through this program, the participating delegates will have the opportunity to learn about the unique holistic sustainability approach of the European Organisation for Sustainable Development (EOSD), which drives corporate performance through delivering high social, economic, and environmental impact and tackling climate change.

The understanding of this exceptional methodology will help the delegates in appreciating the power of true and holistic sustainability and assessing how it benefits the financial institution's asset quality, revenues, and profitability.

It will also enable them in avoiding greenwashing and overselling sustainability and distinguishing between genuine sustainability and such 'green' activities that mislead the shareholders, customers, and society at large.

GILFI has been designed to also create high value in the following areas:

**Policy Formulation:** The knowledge and clear understanding of sustainability gained through GILFI will support the financial industry executives to formulate and assess highly impactful policies. This will ensure the modernization of corporate governance, which is necessary for building organizational resilience and serving the interests of shareholders in an ever more complex and fast-changing world, while respecting the rights of all other stakeholders.

**Strategic Direction:** GILFI will discuss evolving geoeconomic dynamics, changing regulatory regime, and stakeholder expectations – including of the shareholders and customers. It will be an opportunity to gain insights into latest developments and understand their impact on the financial industry and identify growth potential. The discussions will provide delegates the necessary background to set a powerful, strategic direction of their institutions and ensure they are in a position to future proof their businesses and thrive in the new era that is characterized, among others, by sustainability challenges and prospects.

**Risk Management:** These are times of historic crisis and risks, which are also creating historic opportunities. GIFLI will provide new insights into emerging risk universe to ensure that the financial sector leaders recognize the fast-changing risk environment, do not overlook new risks, and understand how those risks, if unattended, pose a threat to their institutions. The program equips them with the knowledge needed for evaluating approaches to turn modern-day risks into strategic advantage and business opportunities. It will help the delegates in providing overall guidance to the leadership of financial institutions as they navigate through the evolving risk landscape.

**Funds Mobilization and Deployment:** Sustainability, if understood and implemented correctly and driven from the top, is the most powerful source today to mobilize capital. However, it demands that mobilized resources deliver measurable and verifiable strong impact on the ground. Since GILFI is designed to equip the participating delegates with cutting-edge knowledge and actionable insights on true impact creation, it sets the foundation for enhancing capital mobilization and its purposeful use. The razor-sharp focus on genuine sustainability supports the leadership of financial institutions to forge partnerships with institutional investors, funders and philanthropists, among others, and mobilize public and private capital.

**Driving Sustainability Agenda from the Top:** Understanding the cost of inaction on social, economic, and environmental challenges is crucial for business. But equally important is to understand the cost of actions that are not well thought out, implemented in haste, and their unintended consequences. Such actions have become a formidable threat to organizations aspiring to become sustainable as they increasingly come under pressure to act fast on sustainability.

More often than not, in an attempt to demonstrate sustainability commitment, organizations tend to launch numerous isolated sustainability activities rather than making sustainability an integral part of the business. A development of this nature is counterproductive for the society and environment and fatal for the financial institutions as their existence depends on public confidence and trust.

Therefore, GILFI aims to empower the participating delegates with the knowledge and actionable insights for implementing true sustainability and avoid greenwashing, which may lead to legal and reputational risks with serious implications for the organization and potentially for its executives and board members.

### **Nomination Criteria**

**The Leadership:** GIFLI is open to Presidents/CEOs and C-Level Executives of Commercial Banks, Development Finance Institutions, SME Banks and Microfinance Institutions, Private Equity and Venture Capital, Credit Unions, Cooperative Banks, Asset Management Companies and Non-Bank Financial Institutions.

**The Board**: Chairs and Members of the Boards of above institutions are encouraged to attend the course. They will gain understanding of how sustainability is redefining the Board members' duty of care, loyalty, and obedience and their responsibility of providing board oversight on sustainability agenda. It will equip them to overcome the blind spots, make better decisions, and meaningfully support the management as they strive to modernize their institutions.

**The Sustainability Professionals**: Senior Sustainability Managers and Executives are also eligible to apply for this executive certificate course.

**Supervision and Regulation:** Central Banks and relevant regulatory bodies are also invited to send their nominations.

#### **Certificate Issuance**

Executive Certificate in Global Impact Leadership in Financial Industry (GILFI) will be issued and delivered digitally to the participating delegates. In addition to boosting personal development and creating unparalleled strategic value for their institutions, the GILFI Certificate will provide the participants a testimony of knowledge and skills in one of the world's most-in-demand subjects, i.e., true sustainability. It will be decisive for career advancement and acceleration, help the delegates in taking greater responsibilities in their countries and internationally, and make them a part of a distinguished and powerful global community of impact leaders in financial industry.

#### **Nominations**

This Executive Program for Global Impact Leadership is open for institutional nominees. Interested parties are welcome to send their nominations to mail@eosd.org and mail@eosd.eu

EOSD reserves the right to accept or reject any nomination without assigning any reason.

