

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Azərbaycan Mikromaliyyə Assosiasiyası



Azerbaijan Micro-finance Association

ISSUE# 150



AMFA Mission

To strengthen the capacity of micro-finance institutions and to promote effective collective action in advancing the interests of the micro-finance community and its clients

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February 2021
Baku, Azerbaijan

Registration of self-employed persons is important

On February 1, 2021 Azerbaijan Micro-finance Association, as a member of Azerbaijan Entrepreneurs Confederation submitted proposals on including the issues of registration of self-employed persons and financial inclusion in the action plan of the Tripartite Commission on Social and Economic Affairs for 2021.

State Tax Service's Online meeting with Associations

In support of creating a favorable business environment, the State Tax Service under Ministry of Economy has identified new areas for developing cooperation with entrepreneurs and civil society institutions. **On February 22, 2021**, an online meeting was held with the business and entrepreneur's associations to inform them about the nature and objectives of this cooperation and to discuss potential areas of cooperation. In order to expand relations between the state, public organizations and entrepreneurs on a dialogue platform, it was agreed to develop proposals for improving the legal framework governing activities of entrepreneur's and business associations by considering available international best practices.

Discussion topics covered purpose and objectives of cooperation with the associations as well as structural changes aiming to achieve effective support to business representatives in various industries. The meeting was attended by 40 participants, including AMFA representative.



Evaluation of UNDP project



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC



With funding from

Austrian
Development
Cooperation



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
and the Empowerment of Women

On 18th of February, 2021 AMFA and its subsidiary, Finance and Social Innovation Consulting (FSIC) directors participated in UNDP zoom meeting within “Women’s Economic Empowerment in the South Caucasus” project. As you know the project started in 2018 and is coming to the end in July 2021. Evaluation Reference Group (ERG) findings and further steps were discussed in the meeting. Government, NGO, international organizations and private sector were represented in the meeting.

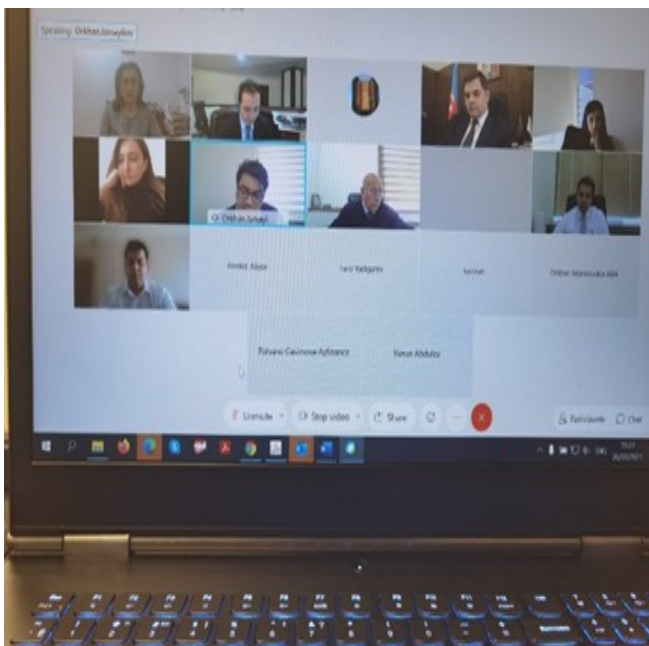
Webinar on women empowerment principles

On February 19, 2021 AMFA executive director participated in the webinar hosted by UNDP on “Principles of Women’s Empowerment” for private companies. Implemented projects on women’s equality and empowerment as well as the results of investigation named “Women in the private sector in Azerbaijan” presented to the participants.



Working Group meeting on financial markets development

On February 26, 2021, online meeting of the Working Group on “Development of financial markets and access to credit” was held. AMFA was represented by Executive Director and Deputy Chairman, Suleyman Kalashov.



In the Working Group's Action Plan for 2021, officials from the Central Bank and the Banking Association of Azerbaijan discussed the topic of “Improving the Supervision Framework to Increase the Sustainability of the Banking System” on the “Global Competitiveness” Report's “Financial Health of Banks” indicator.

The plan is to “prepare and submit proposals for the formation of regulatory and government support mechanisms to ensure the growth of loans that support economic growth” on the “Credit Difference” indicator of the “Global Competitiveness” Report.

AMFA discussed cooperation with The SEEP Network



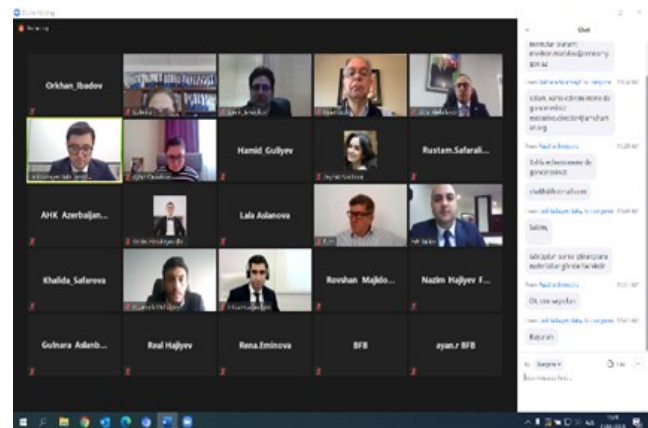
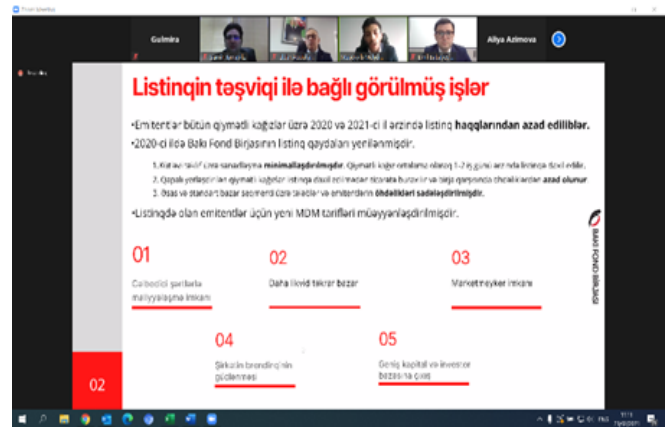
On February 26, 2021 AMFA management discussed over ZOOM platform in details cooperation opportunities with The SEEP Network on potential collaboration with business associations within the tender announced by USAID Azerbaijan.

News about listing advisory program

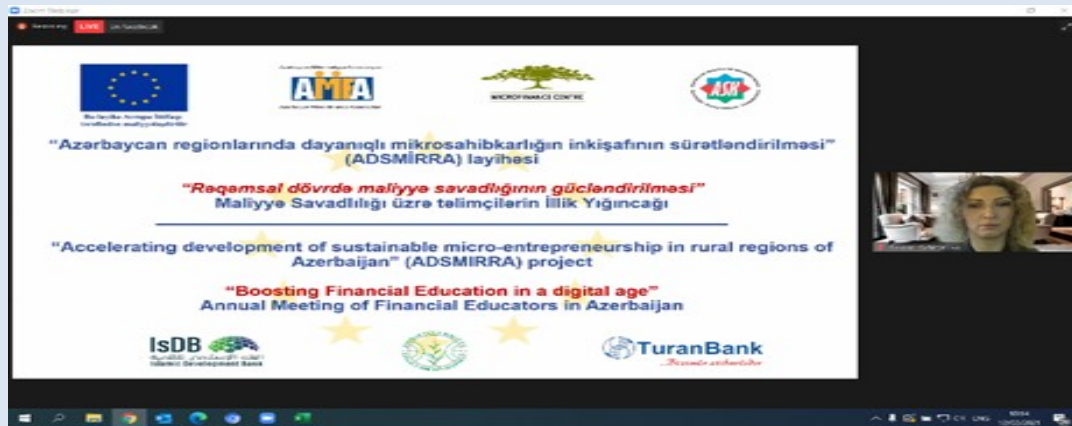
On February 23, 2021 Central Bank of the Republic of Azerbaijan with the Baku Stock Exchange hosted an online meeting on "Innovations related to listing on the stock exchange, the benefits of listing and the work done to develop the capital market." Representatives of consulting companies and international financial institutions participated in the meeting.

The Baku Stock Exchange provided full support to companies seeking financing through the issuance of securities through Listing Advisory Program.

The main goal of the program was to support companies wishing to issue securities in various sectors of the economy to meet the requirements of existing market segments of the Baku Stock Exchange, to ensure accountability promoting financial transparency, to improve corporate governance and to attract funds from capital markets. The event was attended by 37 representatives from various agencies (including BSE, AHC, AmCham Azerbaijan, Ministry of Economy).



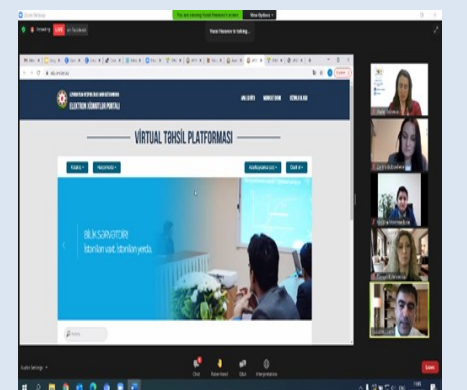
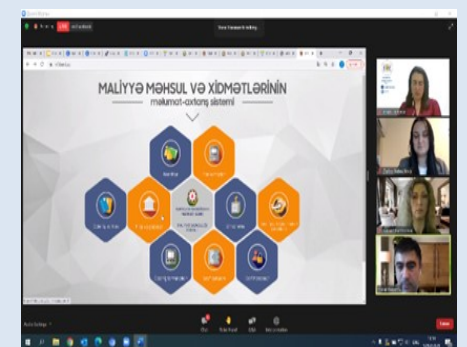
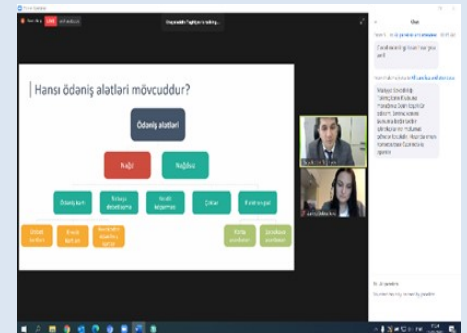
3rd Virtual Annual Meeting of Financial Educators



On 12th of February 2021, Azerbaijan Micro-finance Association (AMFA) launched 3rd Annual Meeting of Financial Educators in Azerbaijan within the European Union funded project “Accelerating development of sustainable micro-entrepreneurship in rural regions of Azerbaijan” (ADSMIRRA). Annual Meeting of Financial Educators professional development meeting aimed to enhancing digitalization of financial education and upgrade knowledge base of local financial educators in using information technologies during capacity building of rural households. Another dimension of the event will be closed meeting of financial educators

in using information technologies during capacity building of rural households. Another dimension of the event will be closed meeting of financial educators aiming to establish Club of Azerbaijan Financial Educators (CAFÉ).

The event moderated by Ms. Jhale Hajiyeva, Executive Director of AMFA. Ms. Kinga Dabrowska (MFC-Poland), Vusal Hasanov (Central bank), Erdem Chakar (Master card) and others speeches and presentations were met with big interest. In total 56 representatives joined the webinar. 370 persons followed the conference via www.facebook.com/AMFA.Azerbaijan.



10th AMFA Biennial Conference took place virtually

On February 25th 2021, AMFA10th Biennial Conference on “Post Pandemic Prospects: Going Digital” was organized virtually within “**Accelerating development of sustainable micro-entrepreneurship in rural regions of Azerbaijan**” (ADSMIRRA) project funded by the European Union.

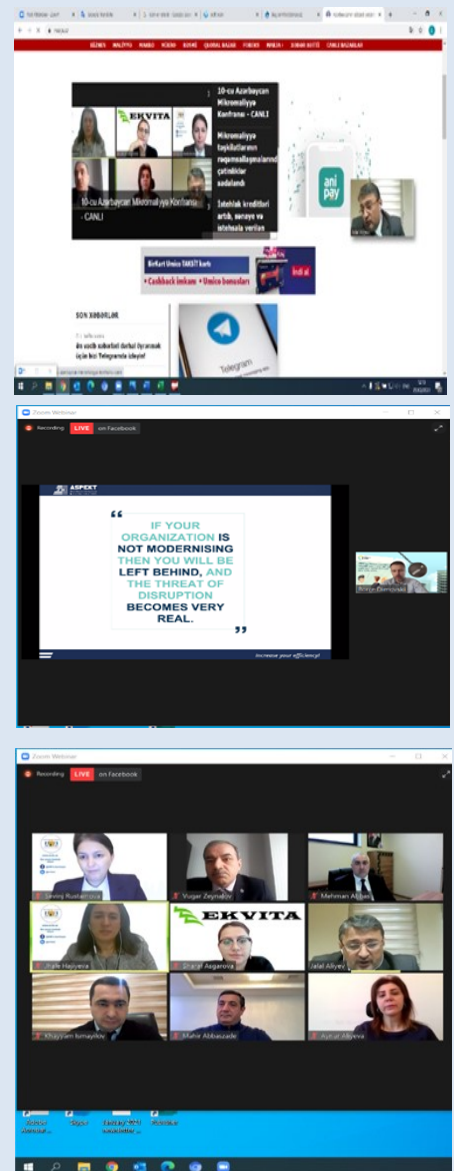
The following topics were discussed during the event: Digitalization of microcredit: Challenges and Opportunities, Innovation in uncertain times: strengthening digitalization in microfinance.

The following topics were discussed during the event: Digitalization of microcredit: Challenges and Opportunities, Innovation in uncertain times: strengthening digitalization in microfinance. In addition to the above-mentioned topics the special section of the Conference was dedicated to providing overview on European Union funded “Accelerating development of sustainable micro-entrepreneurship in rural

regions of Azerbaijan” (ADSMIRRA) project results. The session focused on the results related to Financial Education program of the project, benefits obtained and challenges, solutions and opportunities for project beneficiaries.

In total **97** representatives joined the virtual conference. **437** persons followed the conference via www.facebook.com/AMFA.Azerbaijan. This event was followed on **23** news sites (some of them given below) and broadcasted on public and private television channels:

1. <https://bit.ly/3f312JA>
2. <https://bit.ly/3lxdEtH>
3. <https://bit.ly/3cRzBzM>
4. <https://bit.ly/3tH8oH7>
5. Interview to CBC TV channel: <https://bit.ly/3s1ywgW>



The number of new entrepreneurs is increasing

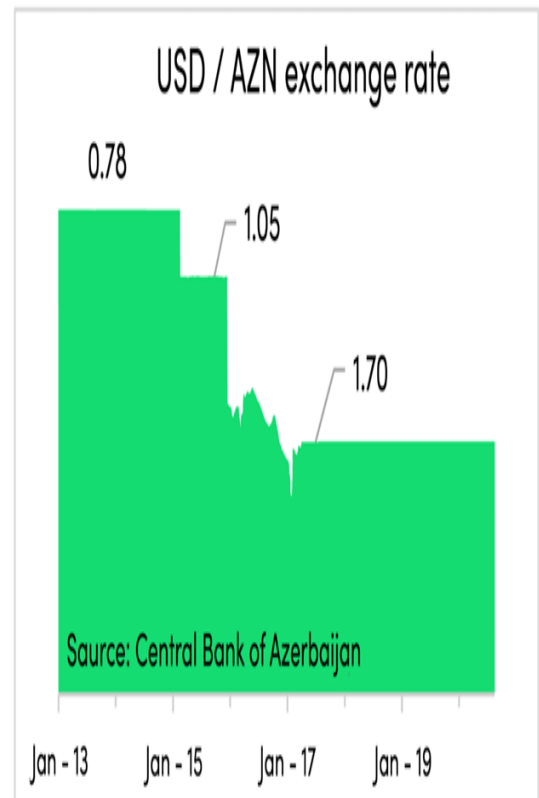
Within the framework of the EU-funded project, "Accelerating the Sustainable Development of Microfinance in the Regions of Azerbaijan" (ADSMIRRA) implemented by the Azerbaijan Microfinance Association (AMFA) in February 2021, 11 project beneficiaries registered with the tax authorities as individual entrepreneurs to implement their Business Plans. Bank accounts were opened and received investment capital for the development of entrepreneurial activity on the basis of a sub-grant agreement. In total 113 persons received sub-grants for the project - 37 entrepreneurs opened their new businesses, 76 entrepreneurs expanded their existing businesses.

Success story of “VIATOR”



Due to the devaluation, in 2015, the Azerbaijani manat lost 25 percent of its value just in one day. At the time of crisis, Viator microfinance company changed its credit policy and reduced payments in US dollars to zero. Viator did not worry about overdue loans and continued to lend in local currency to the best customers by focusing on low-risk products. During this time, Viator's policy of transparency towards foreign consultants and investors also played an important role in building trust. Finally, in August 2016, an inter-credit agreement, which favored the earliest debts to be repaid, was signed. Although Viator entered the crisis with good capitalization, it was not enough. In 2019, the steps eventually taken by the Azerbaijani government to save the microfinance sector, allowed Viator to pay for most of the losses. Consequently, the last page of this difficult episode was closed.

MEMBERS CORNER



Rabitabank was awarded in 8 nominations

In February 2021, at the general meeting of the Association of Banks of Azerbaijan (ABA), the winners of the Banking Awards 2019-2020 were determined. Rabitabank was awarded the title of winner in 3 nominations for 2019 and 5 nominations for 2020 by member organizations, expert groups and partners of the Association of Banks of Azerbaijan.

This year Rabitabank continues taking measures to improve the social and economic well-being of the population, develop self-employment for low-income families and support education.

“IronWoman”initiative of PAŞA Bank OJSC



In March 2021, PASHA Bank, the country's leading corporate financial institution will support the fight for the title of “Ironwoman” for the first time. With the support of the “Triterra Triathlon Club”, the “Ironman” triathlon will also feature female participants in sports such as marathons, swimming and cycling.

PASHA Bank will award AZN 10,000 to the female participant who represented Azerbaijan in the official “Ironman” competition and won the title of “Ironwoman” after completing the distance first. According to the conditions of the race, it will be necessary to complete 4 km of continuous swimming, 180.25 km of bicycles and 42.20 km of marathons in 17 hours.

By supporting this competition, PASHA Bank initiates to inspire women to believe in their own strengths and reach higher heights. The Bank encourages all women, regardless of their level of physical fitness or status, to discover their potential and participate in the competition.

PASHA Bank has supported a number of initiatives to strengthen the position and influence of women in society. Thus, the Bank has performed as a partner of the “Scale Up” project for women entrepreneurs, “womENcourage” project for females who want to establish a career in computer science, and “S.H.E – International Women’s Congress” for women leaders.

Bank Respublika won “The Most active bank” award



On February 19, 2021, an event on “Banking Awards 2019 - 2020” organized within the General Meeting of the Association of Banks of Azerbaijan (ABA) held in an online format. Bank Respublika, which has implemented many useful and successful projects in the field of social, educational, financial literacy, as well as offering new innovative banking products, was selected and awarded “the most active bank” in the country in all nominations.

Rating forecast of Muganbank was stabilized



On February 25, 2021, S&P Global Ratings upgraded Muganbank's rating to Stable and affirmed the bank's long-term and short-term credit ratings at CCC + / C. The bank has informed marja.az about it.

According to S&P Global Ratings analysis, the bank lost 2.2 million manat in 2020. In 2020, the bank raised interest rates on deposits. Muganbank's net income was positive due to the release of reserves created to cover repayment of the problem loan losses.

Congrats to D new director of “M Bulak” LLC!



On behalf of the AMFA team, we congratulate Ms. ALTUN SHAKIROVA on her new appointment as director of the non-bank credit organization “M Bulak” LLC and wish her tangible achievements in the new post! It should be noted that Mol Bulak was established in 2011 on the basis of “Invest Credit LLC”, a member of AMFA, which has been operating since 2005 and rebranded in 2020.

Congrats to new Director of “TBC Kredit”!



AMFA Team conveys warmest congratulations to Mr. Ajdar Aliyev on his new appointment of director and wish him every success in his new duties!

We would like to note, that TBC Credit was established in 1999. Its authorized capital is 8.5 million manat. The founder of NBCO is Georgian TBC Bank.

Microfinance in Europe: New official release of Survey Report

Microfinance in Europe: Survey Report. In the 2020's edition, survey report identified a **detailed snapshot** of the microfinance sector up until the very beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, with information gathered in 2018-2019. However, based on additional data collected during the first semester of 2020, it was possible to produce a chapter on the preliminary impact of the pandemic on European MFIs. While the effects of the current crisis remain largely uncertain, this unique scope makes this Survey Report the most comprehensive and up-to-date source of information available at the moment.

Joining of forces between our two networks allow3e to cover the lion's share of the European microfinance sector, with **143 institutions** from **29 countries** surveyed.

To facilitate the dissemination of these crucial results within the sector and beyond, prepared an infographic that illustrates some of the key findings from this edition, and an Executive Summary available in 9 languages.

Please find *the link below*:

https://mfc.org.pl/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/executive-sum_overview-survey-2020_en.pdf



Webinar: Opportunities for the economic empowerment of women

Wednesday, 31 March 2021| 16:00-19:00 (Baku time)

The global pandemic highlighted the need for a long-term, multi-dimensional focus on gender differences in financial literacy and resilience in order to effectively support equal opportunities and women's empowerment.

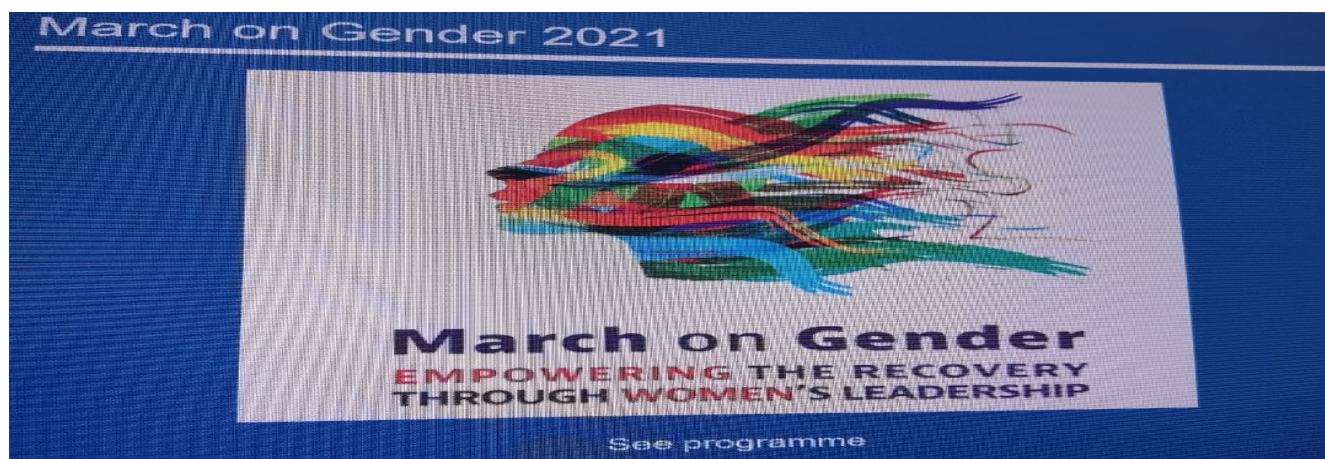
This webinar will present relevant insights from OECD/INFE international and regional financial literacy surveys, including PISA results, and examine the different implications of the pandemic for the financial well-being of men and women. Speakers and participants will also look into gender sensitive solutions across the spectrum of financial education initiatives in order to improve women's financial resilience and financial literacy, as well as their access to finance and income generating opportunities.

André Laboul, OECD Senior Counsellor, Special Financial Advisor to the G20 Sherpa and Chair of the OECD International Network on Financial Education, will open the webinar.

Prof. Annamaria Lusardi (GFLEC) will deliver a keynote on *addressing gender differences in financial literacy*

The agenda is available on the event web page, where you can also find presentations and videos of the previous webinars in this series:

<https://www.oecd.org/financial/education/oecd-financial-resilience-webinar-series.htm>



Professional Development

**Frankfurt School e-learning
programmes discount for AMFA**



Frankfurt School
of Finance & Management

German Excellence. Global Relevance.

We are delighted to announce that AMFA have renewed its partnership agreement with Frankfurt School that will allow AMFA members to obtain more advantages while exploring international education opportunities!

Frankfurt School e-learning <https://www.oecd.org/financial/education/oecd-financial-resilience-webinar-series.htm>

For All programmes at <https://www.fsd/e-Campus> discount for AMFA members is 10% and 5 % is for partners!!!

Frankfurt School's Development Finance [e-Campus programmes](#)

Frankfurt School e-learning <https://www.oecd.org/financial/education/oecd-financial-resilience-webinar-series.htm>

programmes: discount for AMFA members and partners!!!

Frankfurt school offers online programmes related with microfinance helping to systematically

Microfinance: (English)

Islamic microfinance: (English)

Agricultural finance: (Turkish)

Digital finance: (English)

SME finance: (English and Russian)

Financial inclusion:(English)

ESG and Impact Investing: (English)

Climate and Renewable Energy Finance:
(English)

Climate Adaptation Finance: (English)

Sustainable finance: (English)

For more information, please see link: [Frankfurt-school](#)

For expert e-learning courses table, please see the next page:

FSDF E-CAMPUS



Certified Expert e-Learning Courses:

Topic	Language	Partner	Credits	Regular fee	Early bird fee
Microfinance	EN, FR		3 ECTS	900 € *	700 € *
Islamic Microfinance	EN	Islamic Relief	3 ECTS	900 € *	700 € *
Agricultural Finance	EN, FR, TR		3 ECTS	900 € *	700 € *
Financing NDCs	EN, FR	ARIN	3 ECTS	900 € *	700 € *
Microinsurance	EN		6 ECTS	1,550 € *	1,350 € *
SME Finance	EN, RU		6 ECTS	1,550 € *	1,350 € *
Financial Inclusion Policy	EN	Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI)	6 ECTS	1,550 € *	1,350 € *
Risk Management	EN, FR, ES, RU		6 ECTS	1,550 € *	1,350 € *
Financial & Managerial Accounting	EN		6 ECTS	1,550 € *	1,350 € *
Climate & Renewable Energy Finance	EN	FS-UNEP Collaborating Centre	6 ECTS	1,550 € *	1,350 € *
Climate Adaptation Finance	EN	FS-UNEP Collaborating Centre	6 ECTS	1,550 € *	1,350 € *
Digital Finance	EN		6 ECTS	1,550 € *	1,350 € *
Sustainable Finance	EN, DE	EIT Climate-KIC	6 ECTS	1,550 € *	1,350 € *

Diploma in Financial Inclusion/Green Finance

7,890 €*	BLENDED	12	SEPT. & MARCH
Cost combinable discounts available	Location	Months	Start

Academic programme: Master of Leadership in Sustainable Finance

17,500 €*	ONLINE	18-24	SEPTEMBER
Cost Scholarships & discounts available	Location	Months Part-time	Start

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+994 12 437 16 45



Caspian Plaza 1, Floor 5, 44 Jafar Jabbarli
Street, AZ1065 Baku, Azerbaijan