

Global Sustainability & ESG Designation (GCB.D) and Certification



World-class education *for*
board members and business leaders

Gain the leadership skills needed to adapt and succeed in the global reality of today – and tomorrow

The world's foremost professional development opportunity for board members, executives, investors, and their advisors to identify and act upon the most material sustainability, environmental, social, and governance aspects of their businesses.

[Who we work with](#) 



Competent Boards programs are designed and led by Helle Bank Jorgensen, a 30 year sustainability veteran and author of the Amazon-bestseller *Stewards of the Future: A Guide for Competent Boards*. Helle is a member of the Nasdaq Center for Board Excellence's Sustainability & ESG Insights Council; and the World Economic Forum's Expert Network for Corporate Governance, Leadership, and Emerging Multinationals.

Prepare for the next decade of corporate decision making

Upgrade your Sustainability & ESG Competencies with the knowledge that investors, nomination committees, and recruiters are looking for

Get the insights and tools needed to provide quality oversight and foresight on the Sustainability & ESG issues all board members, investors, and executives must master

Learn with and from world-renowned leaders and build a global network of forward-thinking peers

Achieve the Global Competent Boards Sustainability & ESG Designation and Certification (GCB.D)



Program overview

3 Live, interactive sessions with expert global faculty
(1.5 hours each)

3 Live, interactive case-based discussion sessions with cohort peers
(1 hour each)

1 Live board simulation examination
(1.5 hours)

12 on-demand learning modules featuring in-depth Leader Insight videos

35-40 Hours of time commitment
(over 4 months)

All live sessions and self-guided learnings take place online

1000+

Alumni from nearly

60

Countries

Access to the Competent Boards Alumni Network

Eligible for CLE and CPE credits

Program price:
USD \$6,495

Global program cohorts

Over the course of three months you will connect directly with and gain insight from renowned global leaders and industry experts.

You will interact, network and learn with an international cohort of peers as you discuss real life case studies.

You will work in smaller groups to complete a final boardroom simulation. This is the capstone experience of the program, ensuring participants can translate program learning into actionable insights in a collaborative setting.

Board Members

For non-executive directors, independent directors, and executive directors.

February 2025 - April 2025

May 2025 - July 2025

September 2025 - November 2025

Business Leaders

For senior executives, investors, and board advisors.

March 2025 - May 2025

June 2025 - August 2025

October 2025 - December 2025



Upcoming cohort schedules

Interactive Sessions with Faculty Speakers

Charting the Path: Navigating Uncertainties and Dilemmas in the Boardroom | *90 minutes*

Actioning Trust and Transparency: Agile Strategies for Responsible Leadership and Impact | *90 minutes*

Being a Steward of the Future: Governance and Structure for Tomorrow's Challenges | *90 minutes*

Case Discussions with Cohort of Global Peers

Case 1 | 60 minutes

Case 2 | 60 minutes

Case 3 | 60 minutes

Board Simulation

Option 1 | *60 Minutes*

Option 2 | *60 Minutes*

Board Members

February - April 2025

| February 5, 2025 | 9:30AM - 11:00AM ET

| March 5, 2025 | 9:30AM - 11:00AM ET

| April 2, 2025 | 9:30AM - 11:00AM ET

| February 19, 2025 | 9:30AM - 10:30AM ET

| March 19, 2025 | 9:30AM - 10:30AM ET

| April 16, 2025 | 9:30AM - 10:30AM ET

| April 28, 2025

| April 29, 2025

Business leaders

March - May 2025

| March 12, 2025 | 9:30AM - 11:00AM ET

| April 9, 2025 | 9:30AM - 11:00AM ET

| May 7, 2025 | 9:30AM - 11:00AM ET

| March 26, 2025 | 9:30AM - 10:30AM ET

| April 23, 2025 | 9:30AM - 10:30AM ET

| May 21, 2025 | 9:30AM - 10:30AM ET

| June 3, 2025

| June 4, 2025



12 On-demand learning modules

As you progress through the program, you will complete 12 self-guided learning modules.

Each module comprises expertly curated content:

- Essential resources for deepening knowledge
- Critical questions for leaders to consider
- Exclusive Leader Insights videos from the best minds in the field

Understanding New Geopolitical Risks and Expectations for Companies

Dealing with Dilemmas: Turning Business Risks into Opportunities

How to Use the UN Sustainable Development Goals Strategically

Impacts of Climate Change and Biodiversity: A Board's Accountability

How to Build ESG Oversight and Foresight

Understanding Human Rights & Environmental Issues in Supply Chains

Elevating Oversight of Human Capital Management and Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging

Gaining Trust: Anti-Corruption, Integrity and Transparency Best Practices

Understanding Responsible Use of Data, Cybersecurity, AI and Digitalization

Addressing Tax, Investment & Pay in an ESG-Focused World

Maximizing Shareholder and Stakeholder Engagement Around Disclosures

Becoming a Steward of the Future: Best Practices in Corporate Governance

See *Session Pre-Work* | *Insightful Video & Reading Topics* for in-depth module curriculums



What you will get from this program

- An enriched understanding of the critical components of good sustainability performance, and enhanced competencies essential to be an effective, insightful Board Director or Business Leader.
- A better idea of how to respond to new enterprise risk, business complexity, technological disruptions, and social and environmental obligations.
- The ability to ask the right questions and effectively participate in discussions around the fast-evolving international Sustainability & ESG landscape.
- A firm grasp of global trends and developments, and what's likely to gain greater relevance going forward.
- A look into what other leading companies are doing and why.

The Global Competent Boards
Designation & Certification (GCB.D)

A digital certificate and a verified Credly™ badge

- Lifelong access to a powerful 1000+ Alumni Network
- Exclusive events to elevate expertise
- A curated selection of webinars throughout the year

Up to 47 CLE Credits in most US states.*
Up to 13.6 CPE Credits across the US and Canada.*

**If eligible*

What people say about us



“The Competent Boards Program is hands down the best director education out there. Global in its scope, deep in its content, extraordinary speakers and excellent interactivity, I am so glad I found it (or it found me!)” *(Canada)*

Eric Wetlaufer (GCB.D)

Managing Partner, TwinRiver Capital and Board Member, TMX Group, Investment Management Corporation of Ontario (IMCO), Enterra Solutions LLC, and Niyogin Fintech Ltd.



“I am able to use my knowledge to drive conversations, and through asking the right strategic questions, get people to think more critically about our impact and about potential risks and also opportunities to the business.” *(Nigeria)*

Ivana Osagie (GCB.D)

Board Member, Founder, Various



“I think this program is more relevant than ever, and I would highly recommend it. I feel better equipped to oversee ESG and sustainability issues in my board rooms. Take a look at the topics covered over the 12 sessions to give yourself a sense of the breadth and depth of the curriculum.” *(USA)*

Leslie F. Seidman (GCB.D)

Former Chair, Financial Accounting Standards Board (Fasb), Non-Executive Director and Audit Chair, Moody’s Corp. & General Electric



“The program has helped broaden my knowledge and thinking around sustainability issues and will help evidence my capability in this area as investors demand more transparency on sustainability skills around the board table.” *(New Zealand)*

Mark Cross (GCB.D)

Non-Executive Director, Xero



“I am not aware of any other executive ESG training of this calibre. Many courses are a few hours or so. This is a proper education with excellent faculty, relevant cases, thorough discussions and full coverage of all ESG angles. In an increasingly ESG focused world, the Competent Boards certification is an absolute must have.” *(Denmark)*

Pernille Dahlgaard (GCB.D)

Chairman of the Board of Ministerienes Boernehave. Board Member, Loyalmé and Danish Business Association in Singapore. Vice President, Group Finance at PSA International Pte LTD



“The permanent value I have derived is so immense, that anyone acceding to my recommendation to take this course is likely to be grateful!” *(India)*

Shailesh Haribhakti (GCB.D)

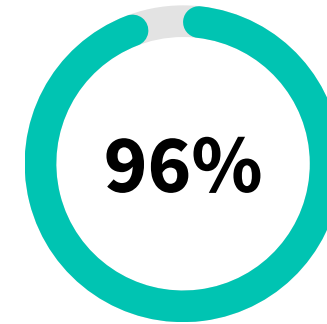
Non-Executive Chairman, L&T Finance Holdings Ltd, NSDL e-Governance Infrastructure Ltd and Blue Star Ltd.

View more 

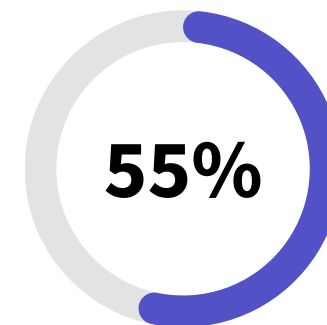


Alumni Impact Survey

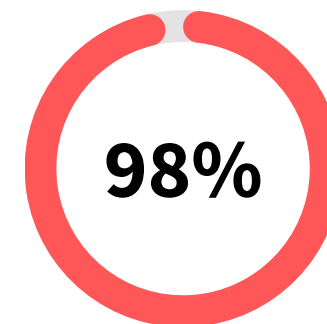
A recent survey of over 1,000 board directors and executives holding Competent Boards credentials showed:



Feel more confident communicating with the board and other stakeholders.



Attribute their Competent Boards credentials to helping them get a new board seat or board committee appointment



Feel they have wider and deeper insight, and are better equipped for the more intense demands of a board position.



Session Pre-Work | Insightful Video & Reading Topics

Understanding New Geopolitical Risks and Expectations for Companies

Explore the complex geopolitical landscape that companies must navigate today. Gain insights into assessing geopolitical risks, meeting increased demands for ethical governance, and to tackle challenges and seize opportunities in a shifting global environment.

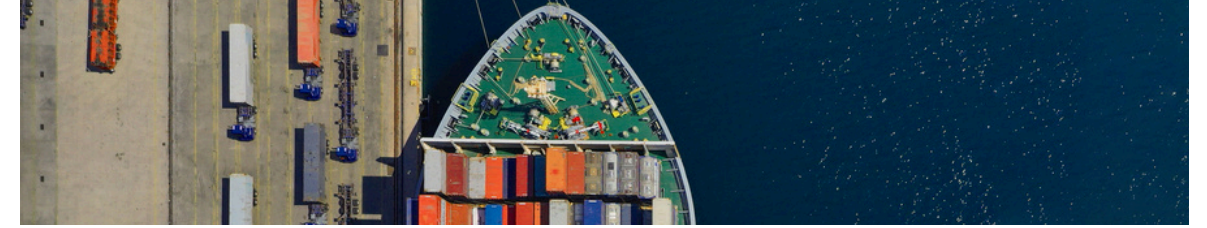
Dealing with Dilemmas: Turning Business Risks into Opportunities

Navigate the unpredictable landscape of environmental, societal, and digital disruptions. Learn to balance short-term and long-term goals, enhance board-shareholder engagement, and refine disclosure practices to build resilience and sustainability.

How to Use the UN Sustainable Development Goals Strategically

Delve into the strategic integration of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into corporate practices. Align business strategies with SDGs to drive innovation, oversee SDG implementation through board committees, leverage SDGs for competitive advantage, and ensure internal incentives support these goals.





Session Pre-Work | Insightful Video & Reading Topics

Impacts of Climate Change and Biodiversity: A Board's Accountability

Explore the interconnected impacts of climate change, biodiversity, and socio-economic stability. Assess physical and transitional risks, understand the regulatory landscape, and enhance governance skills for addressing climate change and natural capital.

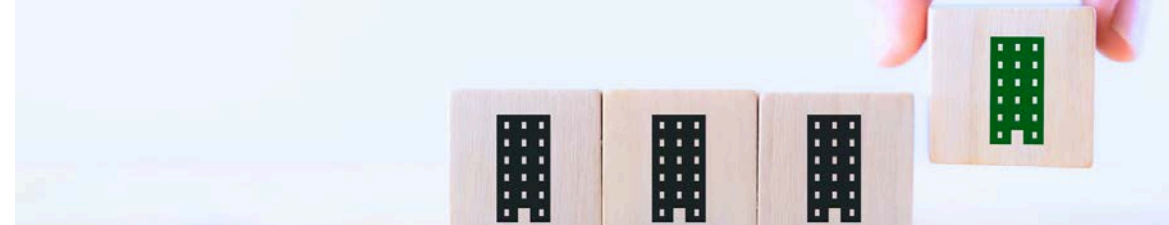
How to Build ESG Oversight and Foresight

Lead with confidence by integrating ESG responsibilities into board committee charters. Learn how to align with stakeholder expectations, foster transparency, and create long-term value through robust ESG oversight and strategic foresight.

Understanding Human Rights and Environmental Issues in Supply Chains

Address human rights and environmental issues within supply chains. Assess and mitigate risks related to modern slavery, forced labor, and environmental impacts, ensuring responsible and sustainable practices.





Session Pre-Work | Insightful Video & Reading Topics

Elevating Oversight of Human Capital Management and Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging

Integrate Human Capital Management (HCM) and Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) principles within corporate governance. Drive innovation, organizational resilience, and competitive advantage through effective oversight of HCM and DEIB, ensuring alignment with evolving regulatory requirements and stakeholder expectations.

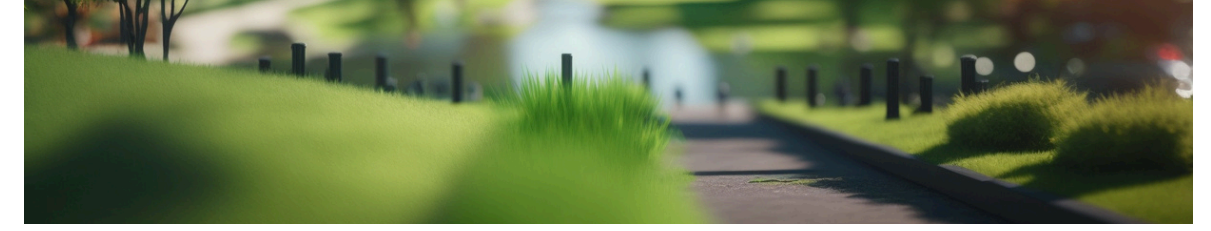
Gaining Trust: Anti-Corruption, Integrity and Transparency Best Practices

Build a culture of integrity and transparency within your organization. This module offers essential practices to combat corruption, ensure compliance, and enhance stakeholder trust, positioning your company as a leader in ethical governance.

Understanding Responsible Use of Data, Cybersecurity, AI and Digitalization

Navigate the digital age with confidence by understanding AI, data ethics, privacy, and cyber resilience. Learn to leverage digital technologies, foster transparency, maintain regulatory compliance, and protect corporate reputation while driving sustainable growth.





Session Pre-Work | Insightful Video & Reading Topics

Addressing Tax, Investment & Pay in an ESG-Focused World

Explore critical aspects of tax, investment, and executive compensation within the context of ESG principles. Understand evolving expectations for responsible tax practices, integrate ESG metrics into investment decisions, and align executive pay with long-term sustainable goals.

Maximizing Shareholder and Stakeholder Engagement Around Disclosures

Enhance your communication and engagement strategies with shareholders and stakeholders. This module covers materiality considerations, strategic stakeholder engagement, and how to navigate the rise of shareholder activism with transparent and informative disclosures.

Becoming a Steward of the Future: Best Practices in Corporate Governance

Position your organization at the forefront of sustainable and responsible business practices. This module equips leaders with insights to drive forward-looking governance, enhancing corporate resilience and earning stakeholder trust.





99%

Of surveyed alumni
would recommend
Competent Boards
to their network.

Endorsed by:



The Gold Standard in Sustainability, ESG, Climate and Nature Governance Education

As the premier provider of sustainability and ESG education for boards and business leaders, Competent Boards leads the industry with unmatched expertise and innovation.

Our programs empower leaders to drive sustainable success and robust governance.

Join us and experience the pinnacle of sustainability and ESG education, and join our fantastic global network of stewards of the future.



www.competentboards.com

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