

Globethics

# Social Responsibility & Sustainable Development

Course programme



# Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development

[www.globethics.net/academy/corporate-social-responsibility-sustainable](http://www.globethics.net/academy/corporate-social-responsibility-sustainable)

## Overview

**Duration:** 8 weeks  
**Study method:** online  
**Workload:** 69 hours including 1 hour weekly live session (8 hours total)  
**Language:** English  
**ECTS:** 3 ECTS (6 CATS or 1.5 USC) credits

## What you will learn

- Unit 1 Introduction to Social Responsibility (SR), Sustainable Development (SD) and Sustainability
  - Unit 2 Why SR? Where is SR today? What is Circular Economy, Sustainable Finance, and the ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) agenda
  - Unit 3 The United Nations' and International Agencies' Treatment of SR and SD
  - Unit 4 Social Responsibility Regulations: The Seven Principles of Social Responsibility
  - Unit 5 ISO 26000 and Global Reporting Initiative
  - Unit 6 Management and Communication of your SR and Sustainable Commitment
  - Unit 7 The UN Global Compact and the SDG Compass
  - Unit 8 Connecting the Dots: SR and Other Global Challenges
- Final Assignment (for certificate track only)

Day by day, organisations and societies around the world are facing the environmental, social, and economic consequences of unsustainable ways of development, growth, production and consumption of goods and services. At the same time, with CO2 emissions still on the rise, climate change is a reality that threatens to undermine all efforts by nations to achieve the United Nations' (UN) 2030 sustainable development agenda. This reality has paved the way for vital concepts like social responsibility (SR), sustainable development, and sustainability. SR has become a key model for managing the environmental, economic, and social risks, impacts, and opportunities of all types of organisations - in the 21st century - to contribute to sustainable development.

This online course introduces the application of SR, sustainable development, and sustainability as three interrelated concepts, which are usually used as synonyms, but which have their differences. Designed for all types of organisations (private, public, and not-for-profit) regardless of their economic activity and scale, the course guides participants on how to apply SR as a management model to rethink the role of businesses and people in building sustainable societies and achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN.

The learning materials and tools made available through the eight units and weekly live sessions

allow participants to acquire the relevant introductory knowledge on implementing SR as a management model; identifying and engaging with multiple stakeholders; assessing risk, impacts and opportunities; defining and designing policies, objectives/goals, strategies, action plans, and indicators; and finally, communicating the environmental, economic, social, cultural, and climate change performance of an organisation.

Three fundamental SR frameworks are covered and explained in detail to understand its application: the United Nations Global Compact, the International Standard ISO 26000, and the Global Reporting Initiative Standards. Additionally, topics like circular economy, sustainable finance, environmental and social management schemes, and the ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) agenda are also covered. In essence, this online course addresses salient questions regarding the understanding of SR in the contemporary world.

The course aims to address the needs of professionals in all types of organisations (private companies, NGOs, international organisations and governments) who are currently involved in SR, or would like to be involved in implementing SR, and wish to make the concept of SR applicable in their institution.

The course is delivered in weekly topical units. The first week is devoted to an introduction and the last to an optional final assignment that fits within the certification track. Throughout the units, you will be invited to discuss with your peers on SR and ethical topics, reflect on thought provoking dilemmas, and get acquainted with interesting lecture materials. Each module will consist of a final quiz, a discussion-assignment, additional reading, and the course content itself. The duration of modules varies from topics and content delivery.

The creator of this course, Prof. Michael Hopkins,

*"I understood more about responsibility as a leader: peaceful dialogue, listening and understanding others, and working towards sustainable development, especially in the context of the church and its social responsibility."*

Parfait Ekoumene, Pastor, Cameroon

has been involved in CSR since the early 1990s and has developed, and steadily modified a definition of CSR that many people now use. He uses his definition as the basis for his face-to-face courses around the world and his work with companies and Governments. This course was designed with the intention to bring his tools to an online format.

## Course Instructors

Prof. José David, who teaches and has also re-designed the course, is a professor of social responsibility management at the ICDA business school of the Universidad Católica de Córdoba (UCC), and at the Universidad de San Andrés (UdeSA) in Argentina.

## Course objectives

- Define and summarise the concept of social responsibility and sustainability
- Review alternative definitions of social responsibility and their strengths and limitations
- Assess comparative needs for social responsibility
- Distinguish between the applications of social responsibility in various practical situations

# More information

## Entry requirements:

- English language proficiency at least at intermediary-advanced level;
- Two to three years of higher education studies, usually at Bachelor degree level, and/or an equivalent professional experience.

## Course registrations and registration guidelines:

On the Globethics online registration page: [www.globethics.net/academy/course-registration](http://www.globethics.net/academy/course-registration).

**Language:** English.

**ECTS:** This course has been accredited for the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) and is subject to the 4 ECTS, 8 CATS, and 2 USC credits avocational education system in the field of Individual Courses. Learn more: <https://www.globethics.net/accreditations#ects>.

## Course fees:

Two course options:

- Basic track option, without final assignment and certificate of attendance, is available free of charge.
- Certification track version costs 300.00, 250.00, 150.00, or 100.00 USD according to the [World's Bank Country Income Classification](#).

## Information and assistance:

- [academy@globethics.net](mailto:academy@globethics.net)
- Lidia Sloutskovski, Academic Office Manager: [sloutskovski@globethics.net](mailto:sloutskovski@globethics.net)
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