

Zürcher Kantonalbank launches cooperation with AZEK in the field of ESG

Media release

- **Zürcher Kantonalbank is the first major Swiss financial services provider to launch a close cooperation with AZEK in the ESG training program CESGA® (Certified ESG Analyst).**
- **Since the beginning of 2020, AZEK has been offering the online training program leading to the CESGA® certificate in Switzerland. The certificate is recognized throughout Europe.**
- **CESGA® (Certified ESG Analyst) is expected to become the new standard for ESG training in the market.**
- **In the course of this and next year, more than 100 employees from the Multinationals & Institutionals division of the Zürcher Kantonalbank will complete the European-recognized training program.**

Zurich, May 28, 2020 – Zürcher Kantonalbank is the first major Swiss financial services provider to launch a close cooperation with AZEK in the ESG training program CESGA® (Certified ESG Analyst).

CESGA® training program recognized at European Level

Since the beginning of 2020, AZEK has been offering the online training program leading to the CESGA® certificate in Switzerland. The certificate is recognized throughout Europe. CESGA® provides the necessary knowledge on ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) in a well-structured form. Financial experts are required to have profound knowledge of the complex interplay between sustainable and financial factors and their integration into the investment process. Nowadays, customers demand competent advice and support providing them with added value through sustainable and financially attractive investments.

The program covers the entire process from ESG strategy, integration of ESG criteria into the investment process, responsible investing across different asset classes to ESG valuation models and reporting. The complete knowledge is consolidated in a case study in the final module of the training. CESGA® is expected to become the new standard for ESG training in the market.

Andreas Jacobs, CEO of AZEK, explained: "With CESGA® we are closing a gap in the educational landscape for financial professionals. We are pleased to be able to contribute to the stronger anchoring of sustainability in the financial sector".

Broad-based training initiative

In the course of this and next year, over 100 employees from the Multinationals & Institutionals business unit of the Zürcher Kantonalbank will complete the European-recognized CESGA® program and obtain the corresponding certificate. The majority of students in the newly offered training program are active in Asset Management (Swisscanto Invest) and Sales. In addition, custody, trading, and research specialists will complete the program. The training program is open to all hierarchical levels. The bank's first candidates will take the examination as early as June 2020.

Stephanino Isele, Member of the General Management and Head of Multinationals & Institutionals, commented: "With the training initiative we want to send a clear and strong signal. All employees involved in the topic must be competent in the area of sustainability. After all, they are the ones who bring it to life and put it into practice in their everyday work and are in contact with customers. We are delighted to be the first major Swiss financial institution to offer our employees the CESGA® certification on a broad and proactive basis. It is a significant commitment on the part of the bank."

Sustainability is part of the DNA of Zürcher Kantonalbank. The Bank strives to permeate the organization with know-how in the field of sustainability and to provide impulses. It was only in March 2020 that Asset Management announced the integration of the Paris Climate Agreement into its range of active funds.

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About AZEK

The AZEK Training Centre for Financial Professionals was founded in 1990 by the Swiss Financial Analysts Association SFAA. AZEK is a leading provider of financial education in Switzerland. As of today, AZEK has developed over 5,000 financial professionals to highly qualified financial analysts & portfolio managers, wealth managers, financial market operators, financial data scientists and ESG analysts. The training programs combine comprehensive theoretical knowledge with a strong practical focus and can also be completed in online format. Graduates with Federal and International Diplomas benefit from a broad range of further education opportunities.

About Zürcher Kantonalbank

Zürcher Kantonalbank is a leading universal bank in the Zurich economic area with national roots and international reach. It is an independent public law institution of the Canton of Zurich and is rated AAA or Aaa by the rating agencies Standard & Poor's, Moody's and Fitch. With over 5,000 employees, Zürcher Kantonalbank offers its customers a comprehensive range of products and services. The Bank's core businesses include financing, asset management, trading and capital markets, as well as deposit, payment and credit card business. Zürcher Kantonalbank offers its clients and distribution partners comprehensive products and services in the investment and pension provision area.