

International Conference on Statistics for Sustainable Finance

Banque de France, Deutsche Bundesbank, Irving Fisher Committee

Paris, France, 14 & 15 September 2021

CALL FOR PAPERS

22 January 2021

This conference is being organised jointly by the Banque de France, the Deutsche Bundesbank, and the Irving Fisher Committee on Central Bank Statistics (IFC) of the Bank for International Settlements. It will take place in Paris from Tuesday, 14 September to Wednesday, 15 September 2021. To facilitate physical participation in the event, it will be organised with appropriate social distancing arrangements. Alternatively, participation will also be possible on a virtual basis.

The event will bring together users and producers of statistics on sustainable finance to discuss their data and analytical needs as well as the challenges they face. The goal is to look at how to best address current measurement issues and ensure the proper future development of statistics on sustainable finance – that is, the activities that contribute to sustainable developments from an environmental, social, and governance (ESG) perspective. The conference will receive inputs from various stocktaking exercises that are currently ongoing or have recently been completed, and from related work undertaken by IFC member central banks in this area. It will pave the way forward for developing a comprehensive framework for sustainable finance statistics, in particular by facilitating the sharing of experiences.

The topics to be discussed at the conference include among others:

- taking stock of the related statistical data needs of users in policy-making financial institutions, especially central banks and supervisors;
- sharing the latest updates of international statistical initiatives to address these needs and close potential data gaps, both in the official and the private sector – for instance in the context of the efforts undertaken by the Network of Central Banks and Supervisors for Greening the Financial System, the Financial Stability Board, and the United Nations;
- reviewing the indicators, ad-hoc surveys, and analytical datasets developed or under development at national, regional, or industry levels, as well as the operational ways for bringing together data supply and demand (eg development of statistical hubs);
- discussing case studies on the use of sustainable finance data in central banking policy areas such as microprudential supervision, financial stability and macroeconomic analysis, risk and reserve management etc; and
- drawing the relevant lessons from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic as regards future developments in greenhouse gas emissions, investments in sustainable technologies, and ways to strengthen the sustainability and resilience of today's economies.

The conference is planned to be organised along the three following main themes:

1. What statistics do users in central banking and supervision need to deal with sustainable finance issues and policies?

The need for sustainable finance data originates from analyses and policies related to the sustainable development of the overall economy and the financial system. These issues cover various elements of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors – including but not limited to climate change and physical or transition-related risks –, thus stretching across the whole range of policies conducted by central banks and financial supervisors. For instance, the asset class of sustainable finance has become an important topic for many market participants, with potential financial, macroeconomic, and systemic implications. Presentations are invited on the various statistics needed, and for which purposes, by public authorities across all functions (ie market operations, microprudential supervision, macroprudential and financial stability policy, monetary policy, risk management, research etc).

2. What statistical data are available from official and private sources and how useful is that data?

So far, only limited information is available for analysing sustainable finance issues. However, there are important initiatives underway both in the private and the public sectors, eg specialised market data providers are working on assessing sustainable finance metrics and risks as well as shifts in the behaviour of economic agents; scientific institutes are setting up models for estimating the impact of ongoing trends and potential policy actions; and statistical offices are developing data collections related to the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting in the System of National Accounts framework, and to the Sustainable Development Goals set up by the international community under the United Nations umbrella. Innovative solutions to meet users' needs are ongoing particularly in the private sector; however, these initiatives raise questions about matching the relevant standards on methodological quality, transparency, continuity, and accessibility required by users of official statistics. Submissions are invited to review the data made available through the various initiatives and their potential usefulness as well as their shortcomings for public policy-making.

3. What are the best practices to close sustainable finance data gaps?

A key objective is to ensure that climate and sustainability statistics are disclosed to the public in a transparent way, in line with the principles governing official statistics. In practice, this calls for developing public repositories for relevant databases, using innovative data sources and techniques, and developing tools to support policy needs. Given the global nature of the financial system, it also puts a premium on international cooperation. In addition, there are potential synergies between the various sustainable finance data projects, which can be achieved with strong metadata documentation, the linking of the various databases collected, and adequate data sharing processes. Submissions should contribute to reviewing existing best practices and providing insights for making progress on closing data gaps looking forward.

This call for papers invites submissions of papers covering these various themes. The papers presented at the conference will be published in a special issue of the [IFC Bulletin](#).

The timeline is shown below.

Timeline:

- Abstract submission: 16 April 2021
- Acceptance notification: 17 May 2021
- Registration submission deadline: 11 June 2021
- Registration confirmation by the organisers: 28 June 2021
- Submission of papers: 23 August 2021
- Submission of presentations: 30 August 2021

Contacts – please include all in any correspondence:

- Banque de France: sustainability-data@banque-france.fr
- Deutsche Bundesbank: sustainability-data@bundesbank.de
- IFC Secretariat: IFC.secretariat@bis.org