



# TRAINING

**CLIMATE  
FINANCE:  
IMPLICATIONS  
FOR ETHICAL  
BANKS AND  
SOCIAL FINANCE  
INTERMEDIARIES**

**VIENNA  
13 NOVEMBER**

**febea**





SOCIAL INCLUSIVE FINANCE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE  
(SIFTA)

The upcoming SIFTA workshop "*Climate Finance Workshop: Implications for Ethical Banks and Social Finance Intermediaries*" is scheduled for **November 13th, 2023** in **Vienna, Austria**.

This event forms part of a broader series coordinated by FEBEA where we delve into various aspects of climate finance.

Despite the different labels used for climate finance, they typically converge on the primary objective of minimizing greenhouse gas emissions to combat climate change and enabling individuals and society as a whole to adapt to changes.

This workshop will feature 4 exciting and experienced speakers. The workshop will be moderated by Wolfgang Spiess-Knafl from the European Center for Social Finance and Gian-Luca Gasparini from FEBEA with inputs throughout the sessions.

[ENROLL HERE](#)

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Address:

Markhof , Markhofgasse 19,  
1030 Vienna

The venue is located less than 2 minutes walk from the subway station **Schlachthausgasse** ([directions](#)).

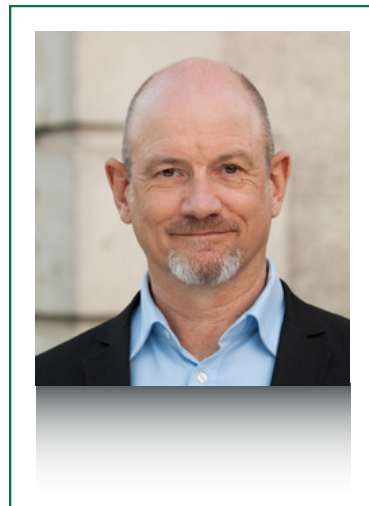
# THE SPEAKERS

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Wolfgang Spiess-Knafl works at the European Center for Social Finance, which delivers Technical Assistance services on behalf of FEBEA. He has an engineering background and started his career in investment banking. Wolfgang has been active in the field of social finance since 2009. His current main interests are emerging new technologies and their intersection with social and environmental objectives.

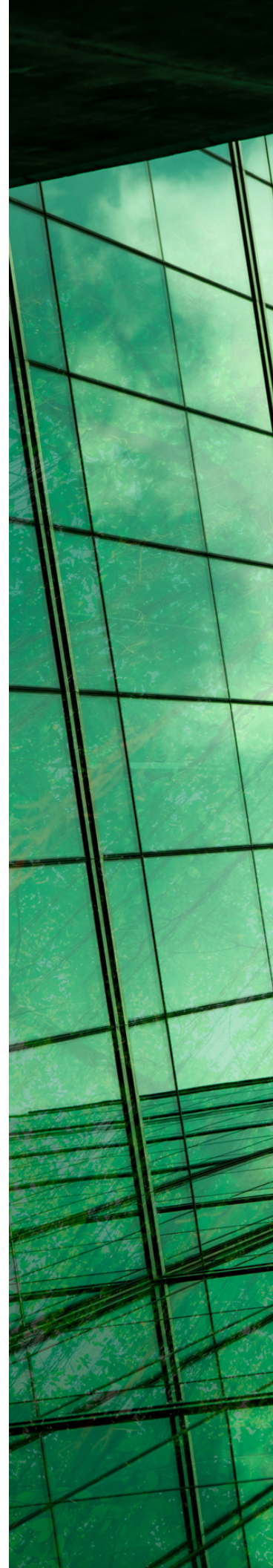
Paul Chatterton is the Lead and founder of the Landscape Finance Lab, a global platform for incubating and financing sustainable landscapes that spun out of the conservation organisation WWF in 2021. He is a specialist in the field of sustainability, climate change land use and green finance. Through the Lab, he supports a global community innovating on landscape solutions. He is or has been an advisor to the Climate Bonds Initiative, Gold Standard, World Economic Forum, EU Sustainable Finance Taxonomy and Forest Stewardship Council among others.

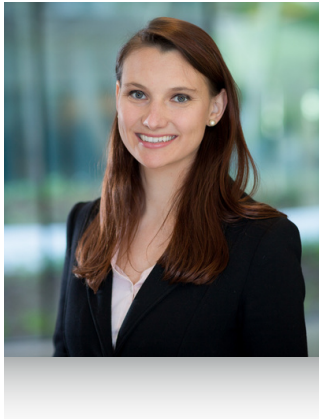




Sheryl Loh has over 13 years of experience in financial sector development, focusing on sustainable and climate finance, MSME lending, foreign direct investment, and SME development. She has collaborated with international financial institutions such as EIB, EBRD, Green Climate Fund, and GIZ to help banks and microfinance institutions expand their green and sustainable finance portfolios, implement ESG strategies, and offer capacity-building programs. Currently, she leads the GIZ Sino-German dialogue cooperation on transition finance, developing financial instruments for challenging sectors.

Since 1991, Gerhard Sirucek has been active in the industrial insurance sector, starting his career as an Underwriter with experience in reinsurance and key account management until 2006. From 2006 onwards, he specialized as a Risk Engineer focusing on property damage, business interruption, and natural hazard evaluations. Since 2013, he has been responsible for group-wide Risk Engineering at UNIQA. Gerhard Sirucek currently serves as the Manager of Risk Engineering & Survey at UNIQA Corporate Business, within the Group Governance & Referrals department.





Stefanie Schock is part of the responsible investment team at Erste Asset Management since 2016 and is implementing ESG research in general, with a special focus on impact funds like ERSTE WWF STOCK ENVIRONMENT and ERSTE GREEN INVEST. Topics of the funds are key technologies for the energy transition, such as renewable energies, storage technologies or e-mobility. Other core competences are engagement & voting with emphasis on Erste AM's sustainable voting policy. Before joining the company, Stefanie graduated as environmental economist and worked for the World Wide Fund for Nature in the area of sustainable finance.

Fritz Fessler is co-founder and managing director of the Cooperative for Common Goods, a financial NGO with more than 4.000 members based in Vienna with the goal to redirect more money towards sustainable and social projects in Germany and Austria. He is member of FEBEA Steering Committee, was nominee for Austrian Sustainable Entrepreneurs 2022 and has a seat in several supervisory boards.



# THE AGENDA

9:30 – 10:00	<i>Arrival and registration</i>
10:00 – 11:00	<b>Introduction to the workshop and agenda</b> Wolfgang Spiess-Knafl, European Center for Social Finance <b>Introduction to the SIFTA services</b> Sheryl Loh, Senior Project Manager at Frankfurt School International Advisory Services
11:00 – 12:00	<b>Introduction of participants</b> <b>Risks assessment</b> An analysis of risks related to natural hazards Gerhard Sirucek, UNIQA
12:00 – 12:15	<i>Coffee Break</i>
12:15 – 13:15	<b>Community-based projects</b> Community-based projects and their governance and financing structure, Fritz Fessler, Genossenschaft für Gemeinwohl
13:15 – 14:00	<i>Lunch Break</i>
14:00 – 15:00	<b>Landscape Finance Lab</b> New financing models, Paul Chatterton, Landscape Finance Lab
15:00 – 16:00	<b>Interactive Peer-to-Peer Discussion</b> - All participants
16:00 – 16:15	<i>Coffee Break</i>
16:15 – 17:15	<b>Responsible Investments</b> Integrating ESG perspectives into banking practices Stefanie Schock, Erste Asset Management
17:15 – 17:30	<b>Wrap-Up</b> , Gian-Luca Gasparini, FEBEA
17:30	<b>End</b>

FEBEA - the European Federation of Ethical and Alternative Banks and Financiers - is a non-profit association based in Brussels. It gathers 33 financial institutions whose aim is to finance social and solidarity economy (SSE) and projects with social, environmental and cultural value in 17 European countries, serving more than 700,000 people.

Its objective is to support the exchange of experiences and promote cooperation between social economy and social finance practitioners.

Each FEBEA member is integrated in the SSE Sector in its country, focusing on mobilising savings and equity from responsible citizens and using these funds to finance sustainable development and local communities. FEBEA is member of GECES, the European Commission's expert Group on Social Economy and Social Entrepreneurship and of Social Economy Europe, the main European network of social economy practitioners.

FEBEA members finance:

- The creation of jobs, social employment in particular;
- Social enterprises and social economy;
- The non-profit sector and participatory economics;
- New forms of social entrepreneurship
- People or groups of people who are victims of social or professional exclusion or are unbanked;
- Sustainable development: renewable sources of energy, organic farming, biodiversity, etc.;
- International solidarity and fair trade.

*The opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the view of the Advisory Hub, nor the European Investment Bank, nor the European Commission or the granting authority can be held responsible for them.*

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Rue des Alexiens 16/B - 1000 - Brussels - Belgium

 [febea.org](https://febea.org)

 [@FEBEAethicalfin](https://twitter.com/FEBEAethicalfin)

 [FEBEA page](#)

The **Social Inclusive Finance Technical Assistance (SIFTA)** is part of the InvestEU Advisory Hub, which is managed by the European Investment Bank (EIB). It provides targeted, free-of-charge capacity building services for Social Enterprise finance providers in the form of tailored trainings, coaching, workshops, peer-to-peer exchanges, and study visits on a wide range of topics related to financing social enterprises. The Capacity Building and Market Development services are implemented by a consortium of Frankfurt School of Finance & Management, the Microfinance Centre, and the European Microfinance Network. FEBEA also partners with SIFTA and supports the implementation of these Capacity Building services. Furthermore, SIFTA provides rating, assessment, and evaluation services to Social Enterprise Finance providers, implemented by MFR.

Provided services for selected beneficiaries include:

- Tailored Training: Highly customised and institution-focused, can include trainings, coaching and advisory on, e.g., HR Strategy and Team Management, Fundamentals of Impact Investing, ESG, Setting up an Investment Fund, etc., together with a highly skilled pool of experts
- Investment Readiness Training: Prepares institutions for taking on financial instruments under InvestEU or other Social Enterprise financial instruments mandates managed by the EIB Group
- Portfolio analysis & Pipeline building: Supports institutions that already have taken on a Social Enterprise financial instrument with the EIB Group with the needed expertise in building portfolios and evaluating associated risks
- Peer-to-peer training and Study Visit: Provide an opportunity for Social Enterprise Finance providers to learn from experiences and practices of other Social Enterprise Finance providers

Provided services open for all EU-27 institutions include:

- Workshops: The programme is implementing Social Enterprise Finance workshops covering the latest developments in, e.g., sustainability, ESG, impact measurement, digitalisation, social entrepreneurship and social finance, digital learning methods, risk management, etc.
- Analytical Support: Provides general guidance to Social Enterprise Finance providers on how to apply for SIFTA services and available InvestEU and EIB group financing.

Eligible beneficiaries include Social Enterprise finance providers such as Social Banks, Incubators, Accelerators, Private or Public Investment Funds. SIFTA was kicked off in July 2022 and has an initial budget available until December 2024.

Interested Social Enterprise Finance providers can apply for specific SIFTA services by sending EIB an email to [sifta@eib.org](mailto:sifta@eib.org). A Request for Services template will be sent to the beneficiaries to formally apply to the specific services.