



Platform voor Duurzame Financiering



Vision, strategy and operating principles

Sustainable Finance Platform

1. Vision and Strategy of the Sustainable Finance Platform

The Sustainable Finance Platform ('the Platform') is a partnership between the Dutch financial sector, government and supervisory authorities in which they work together on promoting sustainable finance in the Netherlands.

The aim of this platform, set up by De Nederlandsche Bank (DNB) in 2016, is to promote and encourage awareness of sustainable finance in the financial sector. The Platform is a partnership of DNB (chair), the Dutch Banking Association, the Dutch Association of Insurers, the Federation of the Dutch Pension Funds, the Dutch Fund and Asset Management Association, Invest-NL, the Dutch Authority for the Financial Markets, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and the Environment and the Sustainable Finance Lab.

Vision

The Platform aims to promote sustainability in the Netherlands through the financial sector.

The sector has a pivotal role to play in financing efforts and activities to make the Netherlands more sustainable and climate-proof. The financial sector, government and supervisory authorities work together in the Platform to prevent or remove obstacles to sustainable financing and to provide positive incentives for sustainability. The Platform is committed to improving the fundability of measures and projects that boost the sustainability of our society. The Platform also works to raise awareness of the financial consequences of failing to climate-proof the Netherlands before it is too late, while also emphasising the benefits of timely action. The Platform thus works to ensure that the financial sector serves the interests of sustainable prosperity in the Netherlands.

Strategy

The Platform connects key parties in the field of sustainable finance from different sectors. Members meet twice a year and update each other on relevant developments. Platform working groups bring experts from different backgrounds together to address sustainable finance issues. The institutions that the Platform's members represent meet at an annual working conference to share insights from the working groups.

The Platform encourages knowledge acquisition in open dialogue. Platform meetings provide space for substantive and strategic discussions in the field of sustainable finance, and members have the opportunity to engage with experts. The working groups provide a forum for a more in-depth exchange of knowledge and insights. Working group publications are disseminated to encourage knowledge building.

The Platform acts as a galvanising force for action. Each year, the Platform chooses a number of priority themes. Alongside new themes, these may also involve ongoing developments that give rise to the question of how the financial sector, business, government and supervisory authorities can best respond. The working groups explore these themes in greater depth with the aim of identifying the necessary steps or of sharing knowledge. Working groups consist of a cross-sectoral selection of financial institutions and other relevant parties, such as

organisations from the real economy and NGOs. The working groups have a sponsor, a chair and in some cases a secretary from the financial sector, government or a supervisory authority, depending on the relevant theme. The working groups' deliverables such as publications are actively disseminated to encourage the institutions that the Platform members represent to take action.

The Platform represents and disseminates actions and recommendations for the financial sector, government, supervisory authorities and other relevant parties, making clear what the financial sector can and cannot do to promote sustainable finance.

2. The Platform's operating principles

1. Platform members periodically select priority themes. In preparation for this selection, a longlist of potential themes is drawn up based on signals from the working group and presentations of new themes by discussants.
2. The Platform focuses on two types of themes:
 - a. New sustainability themes that are still in an early stage of development in the financial sector or government. Here, the main objective is knowledge acquisition and exchange.
 - b. Developments that are already recognised issues, or that will inevitably become issues, along with the question of how the sector can best respond to them. When it comes to these types of themes, the working group's main objective is to encourage action and formulate recommendations for the various actors.
3. The Platform selects the priority themes. The working groups then give substance to the themes. Depending on the type of theme (see 2), the objective can be knowledge building or concrete actions or recommendations. Working groups can also conduct experiments to make progress on a theme, making use of scholarly insights in the process.
4. Working groups aim for impact. Given the composition of the Platform, its added value lies primarily in the areas of
 - a. the financial consequences of climate-proofing the Netherlands
 - b. the fundability of measures or initiatives to mitigate sustainability risks or promote sustainability.

A working group can start by conducting an analysis to identify the sectors or themes it can have the greatest impact on. Furthermore, when giving substance to the themes it is key to forge links to laws and regulations, for example by seeking alignment with the milestones in legislative processes.

5. The working group defines a clear and SMART objective, target group, perspective for actions, impact strategy and steps to be taken. The working group responds to themes that the Platform identifies as priority topics (top-down) and presents its own proposals for topics to be taken up (bottom-up).
6. Working groups consist of a cross-sectoral selection of financial institutions and other relevant parties. These may include experts from the real economy and other stakeholders such as NGOs. The composition of a working group is aligned to the areas where the group aspires to have an impact. The working groups have a sponsor, a chair and in some cases a secretary from the financial sector, government or supervisory authority, depending on the relevant theme.
7. If a working group is to function effectively, it is essential that it is motivated to take up a theme and make a meaningful contribution to the implementation of the action plan. There is a sponsor who is committed to the theme and a chair who takes ownership.
8. The working groups periodically evaluate the impact of their activities, their added value and their functioning. A working group will be disbanded if there are no relevant themes anymore that it can have an impact on or if the members are insufficiently motivated to continue the working group.
9. Working groups' deliverables such as publications are widely shared and actively disseminated to the institutions that the Platform members represent, other stakeholders and interested parties. Working groups organise their own seminars to engage the wider financial sector in their work and raise awareness for the final publication.
10. In principle, the Platform organises an annual conference, hosted by DNB, for Platform members and the institutions they represent and in some cases for other interested parties. The aim of this conference is to

exchange and transfer knowledge by sharing insights from the working groups' deliverables. The conference can also serve to gather input for the Platform's priority themes and activities.

11. The Platform periodically evaluates its own results and impact, e.g. the reach and impact of publications released under its aegis. The evaluation can serve as the basis for recalibrating this strategy and operating principles.