

EDUCATION IN FINANCE

The market is moving fast, new opportunities are becoming scarce, and the level of competition is getting higher. In times of economic slowdown and layoffs, continuing education plays a significant role in the career of an executive. In Switzerland, there are several possibilities and options for managers who are looking for programs and

CONTINUING EDUCATION IN SWITZERLAND

In Switzerland, there is a variety of possibilities for continuing education in banking to meet the needs of middle and senior-ranking bank executives. A general overview in English of the Swiss banking educational system can be found on the Swiss Bankers Association's website on the following link: www.swissbanking.org. Most of the courses are in German, some are also in French, and a few are in English. Anyone interested specifically in courses given in English should know about the programmes and courses offered by the Swiss Finance Institute (www.swissfinanceinstitute.ch) and the courses at its partner universities. The Swiss Bankers Association organises also a variety of ad hoc seminars for its individual members covering topical issues and questions generated by regulatory and technical developments. By calling on the expertise available in our member banks as well as on experts in government and the administration, we can quickly put together seminars for our members that give them access to the best-qualified speakers on the subject under discussion.

FINANCIAL CRISIS

The major continuing education

programmes for junior bankers (programmes for experts, bankers in general, for example HFBF or Bachelor in Business Administration with Major in Banking and Finance at Universities of Applied Sciences) have not been significantly affected by the crisis in terms of numbers of applicants and participants. On the other hand, continuing education programmes for experienced senior executives have been more affected in terms of the numbers of those applying and participating.

BUSINESS ETHICS

Improving and updating educational programmes is an ongoing task for every bank training provider. In Switzerland we have been keeping up-to-date on industrial interests and developments. We have been expanding the scope of education and training offered in such areas as business and product risks, ethical issues, courses, particularly in the areas of Finance and Banking. Most of the programs are in German, but there are still good options in English. Matthias Wirth, Head of Training at the Swiss Bankers Association, explains how the Swiss system for continuing education works, what options are available, and where the programs can be found:

porate social responsibility, sustainable investment, compliance and due diligence, as well as legal and regulatory developments and their consequences. Many of these subjects have long since been mainstream issues for us, and are not just responses to short-term fads.

THE RIGHT PROGRAMME FOR YOU

As far as middle and senior-ranking bank executives in Switzerland are concerned, we strongly recommend

the programmes of the Swiss Finance Institute and its partner universities. With regard to senior management programmes, there are of course a lot of excellent MBA programmes around, and prospective students should consult international listings and rankings when searching for the programme most suited to their needs. In addition one should never forget the training opportunities available within banks themselves. In the latter case, anyone interested in furthering their professional education should contact the Human Resources or Personnel Department of their own institution.



Matthias Wirth, Head of Training at Swiss Bankers Association

