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THE BRIDGE



Sustainable
Finance
Geneva

WHERE FINANCE MEETS IMPACT

NEWSLETTER - JULY 2022

Nous vivons dans un monde complexe et rempli d'injonctions paradoxales. Dernier exemple : la décision des euro-députés de labelliser verte, l'énergie nucléaire et le gaz. Cette décision politique en lien avec l'approvisionnement nécessaire en énergie à l'approche de l'hiver 2022 va, à n'en pas douter, continuer à créer de la contestation et prêter le flanc aux pourfendeurs de l'écoblanchiment. Si l'on peut certes comprendre la position pragmatique des élus qui souhaitent éviter à leur population le froid de l'hiver, on reste perplexe face à ces mêmes élus qui pris de court n'ont pas d'autre solution que de malmener le travail réalisé depuis des années autour de la taxonomie. Cela démontre une fois de plus que, la société doit faire preuve de proactivité, même lorsqu'il est impopulaire de le faire. Les dérèglements climatiques et leurs conséquences rendent cruellement compte d'une incapacité à prévoir, décider et assumer, une capacité dont nous aurons sérieusement besoin dans les années à venir.

Sandrine Salerno
Directrice, SFG

**Interview of the month: Thomas Maillart on Open
Innovation for Sustainable Finance**

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Thomas Maillart, President of Open Geneva

The Sustainable Finance Hackathon 2022 just announced dates (Oct 7-8) for its fourth edition, taking place just after Building Bridges. In our Interview of the Month, we sat down with Thomas Maillart to explore how open innovation can help to find solutions for sustainable finance

Quote snapshot:

"Through the active participation of people and organizations in Geneva and globally, the Sustainable Finance hackathon contributes to the emergence of novel innovations and concrete collaborations ."

[**// Read more**](#)

● What's happening at SFG?

// Building Bridges Program Now Live

The Building Bridges 2022 program was launched last week. This edition will feature a two-part Summit and over 65 events focused on a range of

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the [program](#) and [register now!](#)

// New SFG Partner

We are thrilled to welcome our new institutional partner - [Aviva investors](#)



// Summer Break

SFG will not be running events in July and August but will be back with many opportunities to connect and learn in the Fall. We wish our community a fantastic summer break!



Mary Ellen Iskendrian, author of "There's Nothing Micro About a Billion Women" speaks to the audience in Zurich.

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UN Women joined forces with BlackRock and the Luxembourg Stock Exchange

The two organizations are committing to knowledge-sharing and the promotion of increased investments in gender. Read more in the press releases [here](#) and [here](#).

GenderSmart and 2X Collaborative Merge

GLIS Chair Tim Radjy shared his views on “Building Country-Wide Models for Gender Lens Investing” during one of the GenderSmart expert hours on Wednesday 1 June. GenderSmart announced a week later that it will merge with the 2X Collaborative as of January 2023, creating one of the most significant networks for gender lens investing worldwide.

GLIS featured in SSF Market Study 2022

The GLIS was given the opportunity to feature **gender lens considerations for the first time in the annual report on sustainable finance in Switzerland** and presented its perspectives on the Swiss market at the Swiss Sustainable Finance launch of its annual [market study](#) on Thursday 9 June in Zurich.

Book Reading in Zurich

Mary Ellen Iskendrian launched her book in Zurich on Monday 27 June at a GLIS event hosted by responsAbility and supported by SFG and AlphaMundi Group. The President of World Women’s Banking read an excerpt from her book ‘There’s Nothing Micro About a Billion Women’ and afterwards participated in a discussion and networking session with dozens of attendees.

The GLIS will hold its annual gathering at Building Bridges 2022 in Geneva on the afternoon of Wednesday 5 October.

As part of a group of cross-sectoral actors including UN Women, Oxfam, and Annan Capital Partners, the GLIS will host a 2.5 hour session focusing on gender equality and gender lens investing. The event will take place in the plenary room of the Centre International de Conférences Geneva (CICG) and will be followed by a networking cocktail – more information will follow soon! In the meantime, you can register for Building Bridges Week 2022 [here](#).

● SFG Law Review

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Greenwashing – Overview of European and Swiss initiatives (Part II)

It is now impossible to talk about sustainable finance without mentioning the risk of greenwashing. Both the legislator and the financial market supervisory authorities, in Switzerland and in the EU, consider it a major challenge to the effective transition to a low-carbon economy. Part II of this series discusses the initiatives and measures in Switzerland to address the concerns about greenwashing. // [Read More](#)

● **Coming Up**

// Aug 15 | Small Business Champions Call for Proposals Deadline

The World Trade Organization (WTO) Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise Informal Working Group (MSME Group), in partnership with the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and the International Trade Centre (ITC), is calling for proposals that help small businesses to transition to more sustainable business practices and contribute to global decarbonization. [Learn More](#)

// Oct 3-6 | Building Bridges 2022

It is an open and collaborative effort that aims to accelerate the transition to a sustainable financial system. Building Bridges brings diverse actors from the finance industry, the United Nations, international organizations, NGOs, academia, and government together in collaboration around a common vision of advancing sustainable finance to address the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). [Register](#)

// Oct 7-8 | Sustainable Finance Hackathon 2022

The 4th edition of the SFGH organized by Open Geneva and the Geneva School of Economics and Management - UNIGE is open to all people interested in doing concrete projects for sustainable finance in Geneva and beyond! [Submit a Challenge](#)

● **Sustainable Finance News**

The war on 'woke capitalism'. Stakeholder capitalism, a concept based on the belief that businesses should serve all their constituents equally, seems to be taking over

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applied broadly. In the US however, these new principles are being challenged by populist politicians, finance industry contrarians and a different band of activists. They claim that ESG scores are “politicising” S&P’s credit ratings, that they can be “pernicious” and are now coalescing around a rebranding of ESG and stakeholder capitalism as something harmful: “woke capitalism”. // [Financial Times](#)

Corporate Net-Zero Goals Don’t Add Up to a Net-Zero Planet. Corporate Net-Zero pledges have been soaring the last few years as more than 5,200 businesses have engaged to cut their emissions by 2050. Although corporate engagement is a key step on the long road to a net-zero economy, what truly matters is to reach it at the global scale. In this article, Eric Roston sheds a light on the limitation of carbon capture and other offsets and how companies should avoid disingenuous use of Net-Zero claims to appear in a better light. // [Bloomberg](#)

The Trouble With Lithium. Lithium is at the heart of the global shift toward the electric car. However, the incapacity of supply to keep up with demand is heading toward a “perpetual deficit”. This might fundamentally undermine the ability of the transport sector to fully shift toward the electric car, hence, restricting the sector’s potential to reduce emissions. Annie Lee analysis how the lithium insatiable demand is likely going to adversely impact the world’s ability to meet its climate goals. // [Bloomberg](#)



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Contact us at info@sfgeneva.org

Have a good day and keep an eye out for our **next newsletter 11 January 2022**.

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