

Responsible Business Conduct for Students, virtual course 2023

Program

Dates and Venue

04 - 05 May 2023, 10 am – 5:30 pm CEST (reference city: Bern), virtual interactive course on Zoom, hosted by swisspeace (the login will be sent shortly before the course starts).

Description

The course is designed to provide students with an initial awareness of international principles, guidelines and standards on responsible business conduct. Focusing especially on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises the course explains how companies are expected (and in part increasingly legally required) to conduct their business and what roles international organizations and governments play in promoting responsible business conduct. The course will also offer insights into the specific on ethical, and practical concerns that companies are expected to consider when they operate in fragile and sensitive markets, especially in Africa. Drawing on real-world cases and group discussions, the course will offer insights on how global norms can be put into practice. The expected learning outcomes are to help students gain a greater understanding of the practical and context-specific challenges and opportunities associated with international principles, guidelines and standards on responsible business conduct standards.

Learning Objectives / Key questions the course will unpack

- What does Responsible Business Conduct mean?
- What are the main principles, guidelines and standards that underpin responsible business conduct?
- What roles do companies, states and international organizations play to deliver on expectations regarding responsible business conduct?
- What are the legal and ethical norms that apply when companies operate in conflict-affected and fragile countries?
- What are some of the key challenges and opportunities for conducting business responsibly in fragile markets?
- What are the critical steps that companies should consider when they strive to put RBC principles and guidelines into practice?

Lecturer

Emmanuelle brings 20 years of experience in advising corporations, multilateral agencies, governments, & international NGOs, operating in emerging markets & conflict areas on conflict sensitivity, human rights & social risks assessments, community engagement, ethics & compliance, security & human rights, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) & partnership building. Advised international organizations on conflict dynamics, transnational crime, anti-corruption, criminal justice, peacebuilding, & security sector reform. Successfully conducted over 60 assignments with repeated clients (UN agencies, World Bank, & extractive, construction, telecommunications, & agrobusiness sectors) & advised stakeholders from the executive suites to local partners.

Emmanuelle also teaches Human Rights Law, International Relations, Conflict Analysis and Intro to Law at Blanquerna University in Barcelona. A dual French and American national, Emmanuelle lived on 4 continents and is fluent in English, French, Spanish, and in colloquial Egyptian Arabic. Emmanuelle holds two MAs in 'International Security Studies', and in 'Public Administration, and International Relations', and a BA in Civil and International Law, and a BA in Foreign Policies. She is currently preparing for her Ph.D. on Business and Human Rights.

Faculty & Facilitation

swisspeace is a practice and research institute dedicated to advancing effective peacebuilding. Partnerships with local and international actors are at the core of our work. Together, we combine expertise and creativity to reduce violence and promote peace in contexts affected by conflicts.

Emmanuelle Diehl, Consultant Advisor, swisspeace Business & Peace Program, emdiehl@gmail.com

Cornelia Haueisen, NEWAL Network for Water and Life, OST - Eastern Switzerland University of Applied Sciences, cornelia.haueisen@ost.ch

Target Audience

The course targets students from West and Eastern Africa. It will be delivered in English and over two days.

Certificate

Successful participants receive a Certificate of Attendance.

Tuition Fee

This course is free of charge.



Schedule

Day 1, Thursday, 04.05.2023	Program	Content/Learning Objective	Methodology	Facilitators / Lecturers
10h00 CEST	Check-in			
10h00	Welcome & Introduction (15')	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Introduction by NEWAL or CLOC Delegate on CLOC and the contents, the objectives and expected learning outcomes of the course. — Brief introduction of swisspeace and outlining the rules of course engagement. — Introduction participants. 	Plenary	Emmanuelle DIEHL NEWAL/CLOC Delegate
10h15	Introduction and Overview (45')	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — A brief introduction on what responsible business conduct means and its significance in the global economy and international concerns about the negative impacts of irresponsible business conduct, especially in the context of fragile and conflict-affected countries. 	Plenary	Emmanuelle DIEHL
11h00	Short Break (5')			
11h05	Mentimeter (10')	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Mentimeter on which international RBC principles, guidelines and standards students are already familiar with. Question and quick review. 	Plenary, Mentimeter	Emmanuelle DIEHL
11h15	Overview of Key International Principles (45')	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Overview of key international principles, guidelines and standards, including the UNGPs, the UN Global Compact and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, followed by a brief discussion on the subtle but important differences between principles, guidelines and standards and how aspects of these are becoming embedded in regional and national laws and regulations. 	Plenary	Emmanuelle DIEHL

12h00	Lunch Break (60')			
13h00	Review of the objectives (5')	— Review of the objectives of the afternoon.	Plenary	Emmanuelle DIEHL
13h05	Present Terms (55')	— Present the terms 'fragility' and 'conflict-affected countries'	Plenary	Emmanuelle DIEHL
14h00	Break out rooms (45')	— Break out rooms for small group discussions on the unique challenges and opportunities of doing business in Sub-Saharan African and other countries marred by instability and insufficient legislative and regulatory frameworks aimed at preventing negative environmental, social and governance impacts. Get the students to reflect on what their own experiences to date and start drawing a connection with the subject of RBC within the realm of their own country or even sub-national contexts.	Break out rooms, group work	Emmanuelle DIEHL
14h45	Quick Coffee Break (15')			
15h00	Present Key Principles (60')	— Present the key principles, guidelines and standards that are related to these markets: e.g., the African Development Banks' Guidelines on CSR, the IFC Principles for Business and Human Rights, and if and where these are applied as corporate standards.	Plenary	Emmanuelle DIEHL
16h00	Small Break (5')			
16h05	Present Tools (55')	— Present tools that can be used to support companies conducting their business responsibly by applied tools such as human rights due diligence, heightened human rights due diligence, VPs audits, and specific sector focused assessments, e.g., for the mining industry, agrobusiness and oil and gas operations.	Plenary	Emmanuelle DIEHL
17h00	Wrap Up (15')			
17h15	End of Day 1			

Day 2, Friday, 05.05.2023	Program	Content/Learning Objective	Methodology	Facilitators / Lecturers
10h00 CEST	Check-in			
10h00	Brief Contents of the Day (15')	— Brief on the contents for the day, objectives and expected learning outcomes. Brief recall of the rules of engagement.	Plenary	Emmanuelle DIEHL
10h15	Presentation of Case Study Contexts (45')	— Presentation of the context for 3-4 case studies. Each case will be introduced and explained in detail to facilitate the in-debt case work that follows next.	Plenary	Emmanuelle DIEHL Participants
11h00	Small Break (10')			
11h10	Case Studies (80')	— Case studies: 3-4 Break out rooms, with each group working on a different case for 45 min. — Followed by 30-45 min for debriefing all participants on the respective case discussions.	Case study group work	Participants
12h30	Lunch Break (60')			
13h30	Quick Recap (60')	— Recap of morning and intro to topics of afternoon.	Plenary	Emmanuelle DIEHL
14h30	Small Break (5')			
14h35	Presentation of Roles of Main Actors (60')	— Presentation on different roles of the main actors, incl. host state authorities, home state governments, local CSOs/NGOs, international CSOs/NGOs, businesses, business associations, impacted communities, etc. – with emphasis on importance of stakeholder engagement in responsible business practices.	Plenary	Emmanuelle DIEHL
15h30	Quick Coffee Break (15')			
15h45	Mentimeter (15')	— Mentimeter on the critical steps underpinning RBC in practice. Q&A & debrief/segway to the next session.	Plenary, Mentimeter	Emmanuelle DIEHL
16h00	Governance and RBC Insights (60')	— Governance and RBC-additional insights — Q&A on conducting business responsibly in practice, including developing corporate policies, standards, and procedures, training employees, reporting, and monitoring progress and governance engagement across all corporate functions.	Plenary	Emmanuelle DIEHL

17h00	Recap and Q&A (30')	— Recap and Q&A	Plenary	Emmanuelle DIEHL
17h30	Conclusions	— Conclusions on the 2-day online course	Plenary	Emmanuelle DIEHL
17h30	End of Day 2			