

**PRESS RELEASE**

**The Ethos Foundation wins the Ethics in Finance Award**

**Neuchâtel, May 30, 2024.** The Ethos Foundation won the second edition of the Ethics in Finance Award of the University of Neuchâtel. The prize was presented on behalf of the jury by Professor Eelco Fiole to Vincent Kaufmann, Chief Executive Officer of the winning organisation, during a ceremony held at the University on May 29.

Established by the Institute of Financial Analysis (IAF) and awarded for the first time in 2023, the honorary distinction aims to reward each year the best ethical practices of organisations active in the Swiss and Liechtenstein financial markets.

Created in 1997, the Ethos Foundation brings together more than 220 pension funds and other institutions. It is committed to a stable and healthy economic environment that protects the interests of society as a whole over the long term.

The Ethos Foundation was honoured for its 'Ethos Climate Transition Ratings Methodology' initiative. Climate change is one of the greatest challenges facing humanity in this day and age. We must reduce CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions to avoid global warming above 1.5°C within only 75 years from today, which would otherwise lead to catastrophic consequences.

**An internationally recognised standard**

It is therefore interesting to note that, despite the urgency of the problem, there is currently no internationally recognised standard for measuring a company's efforts to tackle climate change, nor is there any forward-looking one. This is what the Ethos Foundation fixes, wrote the Jury in its laudatio.

The rating methodology proposed by Ethos enables institutional investors to assess the extent to which a company contributes to climate change, measuring a company's credibility, and how that company is affected by the climate crisis.

The winner finishes before the two other finalists in the competition: Banque cantonale vaudoise, for its 'BCV Physical Gold ESG Fund', and Inrate AG, for its 'Biodiversity Inclusion in the ESG Impact Rating'.

Applications were open to all financial market players domiciled in Switzerland or Liechtenstein, whose activities range from asset management to financial consultancy. This includes banks, corporate treasuries, fintechs, insurance companies, investment firms, government agencies and other players in the financial services sector.

More information :

<https://www.unine.ch/iaf/fr/home/ethics-in-finance-award.html>

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