International Association for Sustainable Economy

International Code of Ethics

Preamble

Professional IASE certificate holders fulfill a number of important functions in all the sectors: on the basis of high quality training and qualifications, as well as of widely accepted codes of professional conduct, our organization can build on a solid foundation of ethical behavior, competence and technical skills in all the markets. A central goal of IASE is to promote the development and dissemination of such international professional standards in order to contribute towards the highest level of quality in the professional practice of ESG matters.
IASE is convinced that every ESG certificate holder is defined by two main features: professional integrity and professional qualification. Ethics and skills are the two dimensions by which every ESG professional should be measured. After all, potential clients must be able to trust the integrated International ESG market and its major actors.

Therefore, IASE is promoting the dissemination of this International Code of Ethics.
The IASE Code of Ethics consist of § Fundamental Principles which lay down essential ethical behavior for IASE certificate holders, and § Key Principles which have been defined as standards that each national association is recommended to adopt for its members so as to give practical effect to each Specific Fundamental Principle.

The IASE Principles seek to ensure the highest ethical conduct of its certificate holders. Primarily, these principles are directed at IASE certificate holders, but they also aim at setting standards for everyone in the profession, thus contributing to the integrity of International ESG markets as a whole.

IASE is best equipped to provide its members and any other person in the profession with the acquisition of the necessary skills to provide appropriate advice to clients. The diversity of national and regional approaches in different societies is aimed at enriching the profession and creating a cross-fertilization of ideas; while the approach to ethical conduct tends to become standard across all nations and across all markets, a number of details still remain subject to local laws and customs.

All certificate holders must comply with the following Code of Ethics according to the IASE Qualification Standards.

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In cases where the Code of Ethics is broken the Ethics Committee of each country has the right to suspend or withdraw the certification which will have the effect of disallowing the individual to advertise that he/she is an IASE member.

Fundamental Principles

1. Interests of Clients First

IASE certificate holders shall always put their clients' interests first. When acting in their professional capacity, IASE certificate holders shall always act in the best interests of their clients and prospective clients, and place the interests of clients and prospective clients before their own or that of their employers.

Key Principles:
a. IASE certificate holders shall always deal fairly with all clients and prospective clients. Each client should be treated as an individual without regard to their age, gender, race, religion or special needs. Clients with physical or mental impairment should be treated with extra care.
b. IASE certificate holders shall always maintain the highest standards of the profession when providing information, making recommendations or reporting to clients.
c. IASE certificate holders shall not disclose confidential information about clients and prospective clients and their affairs unless required to do so by law or requested to do so by their clients.
d. IASE certificate holders shall not make any statements that could be misleading as to the services, and costs thereof, offered to clients and prospective clients.
e. IASE certificate holders shall always act fairly and to the highest standards of the profession when handling instructions from their clients.

2. Highest Standards

In all of their professional activities IASE certificate holders shall observe the highest standards of honesty, integrity, and fairness and perform their duties with all due care and diligence. Acting according to this principle shall inspire confidence and trust from clients and bring credit to the ESG professionals as a whole.

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Key Principles:

a. IASE certificate holders shall demonstrate the utmost integrity when making decisions.

b. The highest ethical standards shall be applied when acting at any time. Even the slightest suspicion of any kind of evasion, deceit or impropriety shall be avoided.

c. IASE certificate holders shall apply a high degree of care and attention to the detail of their work. This shall include a thorough collection and analysis of client information, careful evaluation of options as well as a helpful presentation of recommendations.

3. Independence and Objectivity

IASE certificate holders shall take care to maintain independence and objectivity and to make fair judgments when performing their professional activities.

Key Principles:

a. IASE certificate holders shall be able to make judgments and recommendations dispassionately and without considering their own compensation.

b. IASE certificate holders shall be objective and shall endeavor to ensure that their decisions are not influenced by their self-interest or prejudices.

c. IASE certificate holders shall be dispassionate with regard to recommending specific products to their clients. The full range of product options shall be disclosed. Clients shall be assured that the product options on offer meet their objectives and needs.

d. IASE certificate holders shall disclose any matter of fact or circumstance that may hinder their ability to act entirely independently or that might influence their objectivity.

4. Professional Competence

IASE certificate holders shall strive continuously to maintain and improve their professional competence and shall endeavor to recognize the limits of their knowledge and abilities. Also, IASE certificate holders should recognize circumstances where their knowledge and competence are not fully sufficient to the task and seek other professionals for their support.

IASE certificate holders shall use their qualifications with due care so as to enhance the standing of, and confidence in, such qualifications and their related associations.

Key Principles:

a. IASE certificate holders shall strive continuously to maintain and improve their professional competence.

b. IASE certificate holders shall always take care not to deliver services in which they

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are not competent. In such a case the service should either be denied or another professional, with appropriate qualifications and experience, should be consulted.
c. IASE certificate holders shall endeavor to demonstrate their competence and professionalism whenever interacting with their clients.

5. Required Knowledge of Compliance

IASE certificate holders shall maintain knowledge of, and comply with, all applicable laws, rules, regulations, together with the codes of ethics and standards of professional conduct of national or regional associations and shall not consciously participate in any violation thereof.

Key Principles:

a. While acting for the client IASE certificate holders shall comply with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, and this Code of Ethics. They shall also seek to comply with the spirit of the law as well as its detail.
b. IASE certificate holders shall keep up to date with all relevant regulations through annual participation in Continuing Professional Development.

6. Reasonable Basis and Fair Representation

Principle: IASE certificate holders shall present to their clients, and prospective clients, investment recommendations, as well as any other advice, fairly, accurately and to the highest professional standard.

Key Principles:

a. IASE certificate holders shall have a reasonable basis for their investment recommendations, supported by a thorough and diligent analysis and knowledge of each client's goals, restrictions, risk tolerance and of the markets in which they propose to invest.
b. IASE certificate holders shall clearly distinguish between facts and opinions. Forecasts as well as an adviser's own opinions shall be clearly stated as such.

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c. IASE certificate holders shall disclose the basic principles and methods used for making recommendations and for the management of portfolios, and any material changes to them; all material facts and risk factors shall be fully disclosed.
d. When using material prepared by others, IASE certificate holders shall cite the source.
e. IASE certificate holders shall maintain appropriate records to support their investment recommendations and other professional activities.
f. IASE certificate holders, whilst in the possession of insider information relating to issuers of financial instruments or their products, shall not trade on, or communicate to others, such information, until it is made public.

7. Prevention and Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

Principle: IASE certificate holders shall take all necessary steps to resolve conflicts of interest that could reasonably appear to impair their independence and objectivity, and otherwise disclose any apparent conflict.

Key Principles:

a. IASE certificate holders shall strive to resolve or minimize all conflicts of interest that could reasonably appear to impair their independence and objectivity vis-à-vis their clients and prospective clients and any other affected party.
b. If such conflicts of interest cannot be avoided IASE certificate holders shall disclose these to their clients, prospective clients and any other affected party.
c. IASE certificate holders shall disclose to their clients and prospective clients all relevant payments or benefits received from any source other than their employer.
IASE certificate holders shall be willing and be able to explain the basis of fees and other remuneration related to services performed on behalf of their client.
d. IASE certificate holders shall not accept gifts or other benefits which might appear to impair their independence and objectivity.
e. IASE certificate holders shall give priority to investment transactions for clients over their personal or employers' account transactions.

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8. Use of IASE designations

Principle: IASE certificate holders must make proper use of the designation he/she has been awarded, and pursue the same from others, in accordance with the framework developed by IASE and accessible on the IASE website.

Key Principles:

a. IASE members are allowed to use only the designation they have been awarded, and only after being registered on the international Member database.
b. IASE designations are only IASE ISF and IASE ISB.
c. IASE Designation must be used strictly in accordance with the framework approved by the IASE Board. Misuse of designations is understood to be a violation of this Code of Ethics.
d. IASE members should endeavor to ensure that others (journalists, marketing departments, human resources, etc.) make a proper reference to IASE designations.

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