



Environmental, Social & Governance

Sustainable Finance

Sustainability & Integrated Reporting

CONNEXIS

Sustainability | Strategy | Advisory

- Strategic ESG Advisory

- ESG | CSR Implementation

- Transparency & Disclosure

- Impact Investing, SRI & SDGs

- Financial Institutions

- Manufacturing, Trade & Real Estate

- Governmental Agencies

- International Organizations



Strategic Advisory

- **Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG)**
- **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)**
- **Socially Responsible Investing (SRI)**

CONNEXIS advises organizations in the development and definition of ESG, CSR and SRI strategies and targets together with its stakeholders.

Once established CONNEXIS supports organizations in the integration of CSR, ESG & SRI into their strategies, policies, management systems and entire value chains.



Management Systems

- **Design of Management Approach**
- **Corporate Governance Implementation**
- **Key Performance Indicators**

Based on these established targets CONNEXIS helps its customers identify the necessary data to be collected within the organization. The definition of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and their integration into the organization's management system enables CONNEXIS' customers to continuously monitor, evaluate & improve their performance.



Sustainability Reporting

- **Materiality**
- **Integration**
- **Transparency**

For CONNEXIS Sustainability Reporting (SR) is more than writing a report: SR is the process by which organizations identify their risks & opportunities related to key issues, such as *human rights, the environment, labor & other social issues*. We work with our customers to truly *integrate SR* into their processes throughout the entire organization.



Financial Institutions (FI)

- **Commercial & Investment Banks**
- **Insurance Companies & Pension Funds**
- **Non-regulated Financial Institutions**

Financial institutions occupy a unique position in the ESG-CSR arena: their *direct* footprint is often very limited while their *indirect* footprint – through their loan, investment and insurance portfolios – often impacts entire regions, countries & industries. **CONNEXIS** was born in the financial industry and has a profound understanding of financial institutions. Franz Knecht, founder & CEO of Connexis was responsible for CSR at UBS for over 20 years.



International Organizations
& Governmental Agencies

- **International Organizations**
- **Local, State & National Governments**
- **Governmental Agencies**

Together with its partners **CONNEXIS** supports governments and international organizations in their efforts to establish, implement and promote ESG-CSR standards. Among many others **CONNEXIS** has worked with the World Bank, US AID, UNEP & UNEP FI, EU Commission, EU Environment Agency, EU Export Agencies, Energy Ministry of Colombia, Environment Ministry of Egypt, Swiss FOEN.



Industry

- **Industrial Manufacturing**
- **Consumer Goods and Branding**

The pressure to improve efficiency & profitability through globalization & automation puts private industry in a constant struggle for responsible supply chain management. **CONNEXIS** helps industrial companies develop & integrate ESG-CSR strategies into their core business and improve their sustainability performance.



Franz Knecht, lic.iur.

Founder & CEO

Lead Partner

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Areas of Expertise

- Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG)
- ESG Risks for Brand & Profitability
- Socially Responsible Investing (SRI)
- Responsible Supply Chain Management
- Sustainability & Integrated Reporting

Specific Industry Experience

- Financial Institutions
- Manufacturing, Trade & Industry
- International Organizations
- Governmental Agencies
- Real Estate

Franz Knecht was the first sustainability officer at Swiss Bank Corporation (now UBS) from 1991 to 1998. His responsibilities included the integration of ESG risks into loans, investments & investment banking, the Bank's first Sustainability Report and the development of the first international industry solutions for Sustainable Finance.

In 1999 Franz founded **CONNEXIS** AG as a specialized CSR|ESG|SRI-Advisory firm to better serve the financial industry and financial institutions. In the years since, Franz has expanded his experience into International Organizations and Governmental Agencies as well as manufacturing and real estate companies.

Franz is also actively involved in the development of international ESG standards, working with the International Standards Organization (ISO), the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), the German Verein für Umweltmanagement & Nachhaltigkeit in Finanzinstituten (VfU), the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and others since the early 2000s.

In October 2017 ISO appointed Franz Knecht to be the *Convenor* of its Working Group 08 that develops the new ISO 14007 standard for "*Determining Environmental Costs & Benefits*".



Markus Althausen, MSc

Partner

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Areas of Expertise

- Carbon Strategy & Management
- Sustainable Finance
- Renewable Energy
- Clean Tech
- Mergers & Acquisitions

Specific Industry Experience

- Financial Institutions
- Agro-industries
- Waste-to-energy
- Automotive & Bio-Fuels

Markus is a former investment banker (Raiffeisen Investment AG, UBS) and management consultant (KPMG Consulting, Denkstatt GmbH) with over 15 years of executive management experience.

As *Vice President Field Operations* at AgCert International plc. (London Stock Exchange: AGC) Markus was in charge of the operations of the largest network of GHG emission reductions projects in the Americas with 685 individual projects from Chile to Canada. Additionally Markus was an independent Member of the Board at Pure Klimaschutz AG (PKAG), a Swiss carbon emissions investment fund.

In 2009 Markus co-founded the ClimeCo Group, today a leader in the US air quality and carbon markets. Since 2014 has been dedicated to the development of ClimeCo International corp., a renewable energy company that converts agro-industrial waste and waste waters into electrical power, thermal energy and biofuels in Latin America & the Caribbean.



Sebastian Reich, PhD

Associate Partner

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Areas of Expertise

- ESG Strategy & Business Models
- ESG Due Diligence
- CSR Reporting

Specific Industry Experience

- Real Estate
- Asset Management
- Chemical Industry

Dr. Sebastian Reich is advising German and international enterprises and organizations since 1993 on the effective and efficient integration of the relevant ESG aspects into their business models, value chains and organizations in the frame of asset management, corporate development, M&A activities and real estate transactions.

As a natural scientist with a business education, prior to his self-employment he had been a management member of the international engineering and environmental consulting companies URS and ARCADIS, responsible for transaction services, sustainability services, business development & innovation as well as for the real estate sector.

Dr. Reich is co-author of the Sustainability Codex of the German Real Estate Industry, Chairman of the Real Estate Committee of the German Sustainable Building Council as well as an active member of the Desertec Foundation.



Environmental Credit Risk Management

- Strategy Development
- Management System Integration
- Training

Results

- Full integration of ISO 14001 into loan evaluation
- Credit default rate reduced by 15%
- Environmental accidents reduced by 35%



Strategy & Process Development for CSR Unit

- Strategy Development
- Project evaluation process & criteria
- Integration into main project approval process

Results

- Full integration of CSR criteria into project evaluation
- CSR unit veto in loan approval process



ESG Communication Strategy

- Peer group analysis and benchmarking
- Development of new ESG communication strategy
- Evaluation of results

Results

- ESG is now part of central BLKB brand
- ESG topics are clearly communicated throughout BLKB corporate publications



Communication to Sustainability Investors

- Stakeholder definition & selection
- Communication Strategy
- Content Preparation

Results

- Successful stakeholder process
- Preparation for SRI-Ratings



ESG Due Diligence & Sustainability Reporting

- ESG Due Diligence in M&A Transaction
- Baseline for Sustainability Reporting
- Quality review of sustainability report

Results

- Qualitative development of regional EHS management system
- Enhanced transparency & performance indicators



Introduction of GRI G4 Reporting

- Introduction of GRI Reporting
- Development of G4 Report
- Implementation of CSR Management System

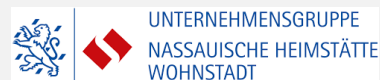
Results

- GRI G4 Report 2014 & 2015
- CSR Leadership in German Real Estate

Financial Services



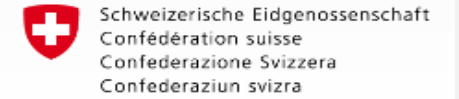
Industry, Trade & Real Estate



International Organizations



Governmental Agencies



Federal Office for the Environment FOEN



Schweizerische Normen-Vereinigung
Association Suisse de Normalisation
Swiss Association for Standardization



Ministry of Environment
Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Cooperation Partner for Central & Eastern Europe

Denkstatt is one of the largest and most competent consulting firms in the field of sustainable development in Central and Eastern Europe, with a team of about 70 experts in Austria, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia, Slovakia and Spain.

Our cooperation started in 2000 and aims at providing services to the financial sector and manufacturing industries in the areas of strategy development, management systems, sustainable products, future markets and communication/reporting.



Cooperation Partner for Germany and the German speaking market

RKDS is a leading CSR-ESG advisory firm, focused on the German and German-speaking market. Founded by former executives from URS, RKDS focuses on a holistic end-to-end approach and a close co-operative strategy development process with its customers. RKDS accompanies and guides its customers through the entire CSR-ESG strategy development and implementation process, from initial data collection to the final communication of results.

RKDS is especially active in the German real estate market, most recently with the introduction of ESG reporting based on GRI-G4 at Nassauische Heimstaette, a large German real estate group with over EUR 1.2bn in assets. Our co-operation started in 2014.



Cooperation Partner for Renewable Energy and Carbon Management

ClimeCo International (CCI) is a Miami-based project development and consulting group focused on converting agro-industrial waste into renewable energy. **CCI's** team has a unique insight into the development, construction and operational management of carbon emission reduction projects, with over 3MM Certified Emission Reductions (CERs) produced and sold.

Our co-operation with **CCI** started in 2009 and focuses on providing high-level strategic advice as well as deep-dive know-how around renewable energy and carbon management.

