

Digital skills: training the financial centre

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The transformation described in this chapter calls for skills that the financial centre possesses only in part. Geneva institutions recruit data scientists, security engineers, artificial intelligence specialists and systems architects, in competition with technology companies, international organisations and foreign financial centres. They also train their existing staff in the use of the tools. The centre's training institutes, described in Part J, have created courses in digital finance, in crypto-assets and digital assets, and in data analysis. The University and the universities of applied sciences offer specialised programmes, while the École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne, a few dozen kilometres away, supplies part of the next generation.¹

Digital competence is not confined to specialists. An adviser, a lawyer, a compliance officer or an executive must understand what the tools do, what they do not do and how their results can be verified. Institutions that have built this general training into their programmes find that tools are adopted more quickly, errors are less frequent and resistance is lower. The financial centre, which made competence its argument after the end of banking secrecy, must extend that argument to the digital sphere.

1 Notes

1. Institut supérieur de formation bancaire (ISFB, isfb.ch): non-profit professional association founded in 1987, bringing together more than fifty banking and financial institutions of French-speaking Switzerland, which offers, together with the HEG Genève (more than 2,000 students a year), academic-level programmes (DAS in strategic and operational management, DAS in advisory and distribution of financial services, CAS in corporate client advisory). ↩

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