

# Prevention Is Better Than Cure: A 360-Degree Health Check to Protect and Generate Value for Financial Institutions

'Prevention is better than cure' is not just good advice for health but also for business. Time and again, corporate crises in recent years have wiped out billions in value and destroyed executive careers. From fast-growing market darlings to seemingly stable large businesses, high-profile incidents across the financial industry have demonstrated how unchecked weaknesses can lead to a domino effect - and no company is immune.

That's where Alvarez & Marsal (A&M) can help financial institutions with its unique approach to comprehensive risk assessment and early prevention. Regulatory scrutiny is tightening across the industry, while at the same time, the operations of large, multinational firms are making day-to-day oversight a complex affair. With our hands-on approach, in-depth operational expertise and differentiated perspective on control and oversight, we identify red flags focusing on non-financial risk and offer concrete solutions to address them head on. This not only protects executive and non-executive boards but helps generate value for the entire business.

Our 360° Health Check improves transparency and lowers the likelihood of regulatory action, while creating better shareholder returns and enhancing exit prospects for investors. In the next section, we will discuss the benefits of our approach versus that of traditional risk management.

## A different approach to governance

The scale and frequency of scandals in the financial industry are both on the rise, as shown in high-profile incidents in cases ranging from multiple forms of fraud such as accounting malpractice to "greenwashing." In most cases, structural weaknesses were only revealed when too much damage had been done to the overall business – sometimes even leading to a total collapse.

As a preventative measure, many companies adopt a top-down approach focused on structural aspects. While this is fine in theory, difficulties in ensuring faithful implementation of governance practices can often lead to unchecked or unaddressed points of weaknesses lower down the chain or deep within individual departments. It can also prove a costly and complex administrative exercise.

An approach that fails to involve the front office or take into account the dynamic nature of banking and financial operations creates a severe disconnect between the top-down structure and processes that generate value for clients and stakeholders. This in turn increases the likelihood of risk incidents, further fines and legal costs.

A&M's comprehensive front-to-back approach takes into account input from not just upper levels of management, but across the entire value chain, ensuring value preservation as well as risk management.

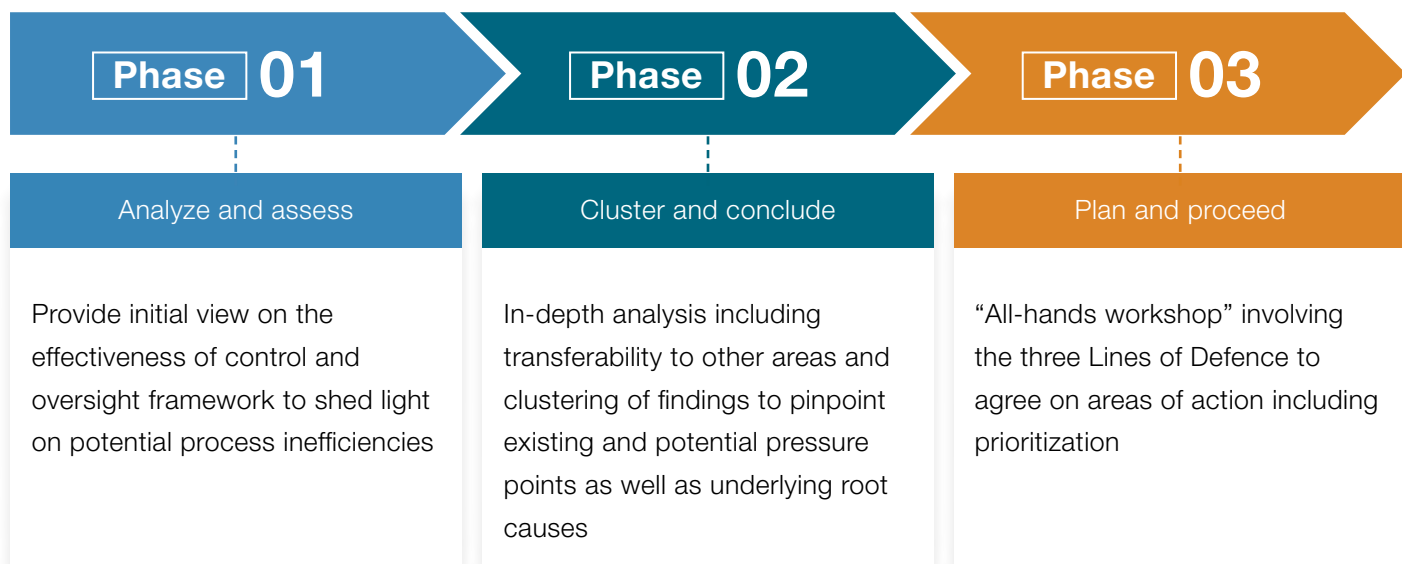


## How A&M can help

Our 360° Health Check ensures alignment with clients' strategic growth objectives and makes a tangible impact through additional risk mitigation and prevention measures.

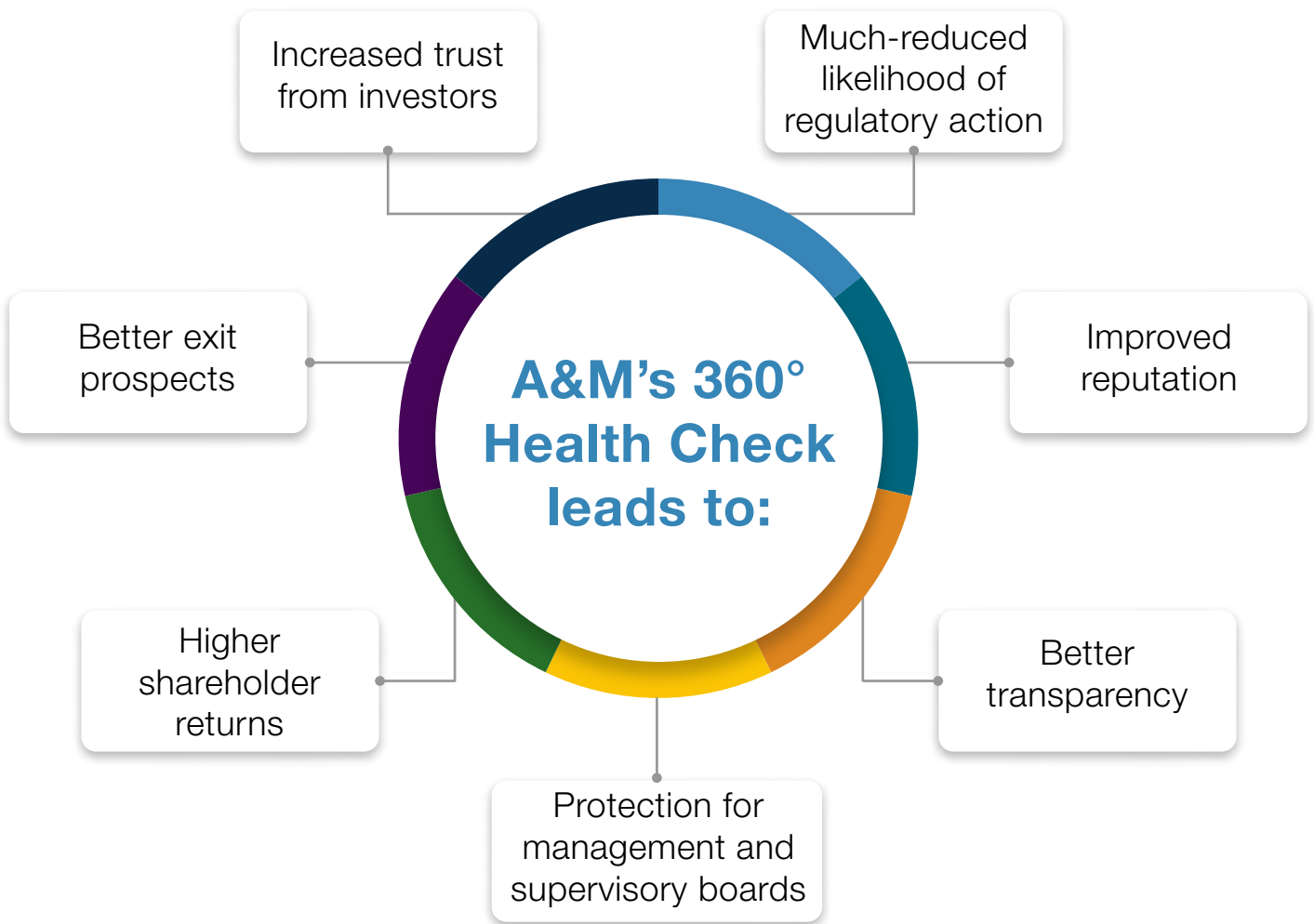
With our state-of-the-art project management and senior leadership enriched with decades of industry experience, we provide a comprehensive assessment of business-related risk from the bottom up and the attendant control and oversight framework, highlighting both existing and future risk areas. Furthermore, our process also often reveals potential areas for further improvement, resulting in more cost savings.

A&M adopts a fast-paced, three-phase approach that helps identify the root causes of governance failings and inefficient processes before any real damage is done.





Armed with our comprehensive risk overview and a clear-cut action plan, board members will be able to greenlight targeted remediation efforts that enhance company value, build resilience and provide strong protection against liability. The result is better, not more governance, using fewer resources. A&M can also provide further support as a separate service.





To know more, please get in touch with **Niko von Tippelskirch**, **Kors Korsmeier** or **Lisa Brendel**

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TO PROTECT AND GENERATE VALUE FOR FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS**

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Founded in 1983, Alvarez & Marsal is a leading global professional services firm. Renowned for its leadership, action and results, Alvarez & Marsal provides advisory, business performance improvement and turnaround management services, delivering practical solutions to address clients' unique challenges. With a world-wide network of experienced operators, world-class consultants, former regulators and industry authorities, Alvarez & Marsal helps corporates, boards, private equity firms, law firms and government agencies drive transformation, mitigate risk and unlock value at every stage of growth.

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