Journey 5



DIY your sustainability report in accordance to the European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS)

Journey 5
The assurance process for your sustainability report



Disclaimer: This resource has been developed by Sustain Labs Paris & Microsoft to support the use of ESRS for sustainability reporting. It is not an initiative of EFRAG or EU Commission or endorsed by these parties.



Including "assurance" for your sustainability report means that your sustainability report is verified by a third party and therefore increases the credibility of your report.¹

Note:

- The CSRD will apply a gradual approach to the assurance of sustainability information, allowing limited assurance for disclosures from 2026, with an expectation of reasonable assurance by 2028.²
- In the event that an assurance opinion is not provided, the organization will need to issue a statement indicating that the company did not provide the necessary assurance opinion.

- 1 European Union. (2022, December 16). Directive (EU) 2022/2464 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2022 amending Regulation (EU) No 537/2014, Directive 2004/109/EC, Directive 2006/43/EC and Directive 2013/34/EU, as regards corporate sustainability reporting. (pg. 22)
- 2 European Union. (2022, December 16). Directive (EU) 2022/2464 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2022 amending Regulation (EU) No 537/2014, Directive 2004/109/EC, Directive 2006/43/EC and Directive 2013/34/EU, as regards corporate sustainability reporting. (pg. 55)

There are 2 categories of assurance defined by ESRS³

- Limited assurance is expressed in an "opinion" that nothing has come to the assurance provider's attention that would lead them to conclude that the subject matter is materially mis-stated.
- Reasonable assurance is expressed in a positively framed "opinion" that the subject matter has been prepared in accordance with previously defined criteria.*

*Please note that financial reporting already requires a reasonable assurance opinion.

^{3 -} European Union. (2022, December 16). Directive (EU) 2022/2464 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2022 amending Regulation (EU) No 537/2014, Directive 2004/109/EC, Directive 2006/43/EC and Directive 2013/34/EU, as regards corporate sustainability reporting. (pg. 22)

Steps to get an assurance letter for your sustainability report⁴

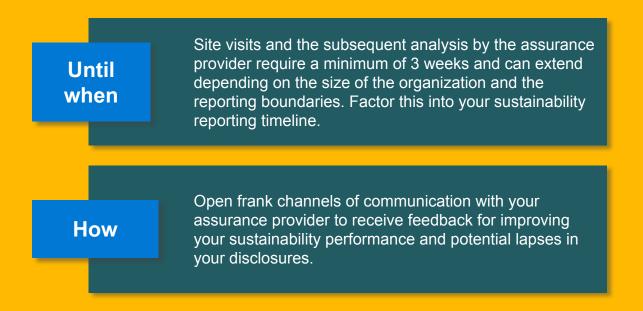


^{4 -} European Union. (2022, December 16). Directive (EU) 2022/2464 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2022 amending Regulation (EU) No 537/2014, Directive 2004/109/EC, Directive 2006/43/EC and Directive 2013/34/EU, as regards corporate sustainability reporting. (pg. 55-59)

Preparation for the assurance process of your sustainability report⁵



Preparation for the assurance process of your sustainability report⁶



View the CSRD template in **Microsoft Purview Compliance Manager** to understand and explore the draft ESRS disclosure requirements. In the Compliance Manager, you can select a topic, view its controls, disclosure requirements as well as the description of the disclosure, and attach evidence to support their disclosures.

The Purview Compliance Manager streamlines the report generation process. For more information, please click here.⁷

^{6 -} European Union. (2022, December 16). Directive (EU) 2022/2464 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2022 amending Regulation (EU) No 537/2014, Directive 2004/109/EC, Directive 2006/43/EC and Directive 2013/34/EU, as regards corporate sustainability reporting. (pg. 55-59) 7 - Microsoft. (2023, July 24). CSRD template (preview) in Purview Compliance Manager. Microsoft Cloud for Sustainability | Microsoft Learn. https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/industry/sustainability/purview-compliance-manager-report-csrd