16:00 – 16:30 Small Business, Big Impact – SME Sustainability Reporting: From vision to action

6:30 – 17:30 How to get started with reporting?
The sustainability challenge

How can business be profitable and contribute to sustainable development at the same time?

The first step is to understand their impacts
Sustainability reporting is an organization’s practice of reporting publicly on its economic, environmental, and/or social impacts, and hence its contributions – positive or negative – towards the goal of sustainable development.
Sustainability reporting

- Helps to set goals, measure performance and manage change
- Includes most significant impacts
- Makes abstract issues tangible and concrete
- Helps organizations develop sustainability related strategies and activities
- Is stakeholder-focused, performance-bridging and marks continuous improvement.
The practice of disclosing sustainability information inspires accountability, helps identify and manage risks, and enables organizations to seize new opportunities.

Reporting supports companies to protect the environment and improve society, thrive economically by improving governance and stakeholder relations, enhancing reputation and building trust.
Small Business, Big Impact – SME Sustainability Reporting: From vision to action
The UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
From global policy to local implications

GLOBAL POLICY
- 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Sustainable Development Goals
- Adopted by 190 world leaders

NATIONAL POLICY
- National country priorities
- New policies and regulations
- Incentives and disincentives for business

YOUR BUSINESS
- Responsible business practices
- License to operate
- Resilient business models for the emerging context
Value of reporting

What is the business case for sustainability and reporting?
Business case for sustainability and reporting: Exercise

Exercise (20 minutes):

• Which are the main benefits of sustainability reporting for your organization? List your top five benefits (10 minutes)

• Each group nominates a representative to share the most important benefits in a plenary (5 minutes)

• Compare your organization’s benefits with the ones mentioned in the Small Business Big Impact publication - which benefits did you miss? (5 minutes)
What is the business case for sustainability and reporting?
How to get started with sustainability reporting?
About GRI

Who we are
Who we are

We are an international independent organization committed to sustainable development.
Our work

We help businesses, governments and other organizations understand and communicate the impact of business on critical sustainability issues.
Our vision

“A thriving global community that lifts humanity and enhances the resources on which all life depends.”
Our mission

"To **empower** decisions that create social, environmental and economic **benefits** for everyone."
Our Approach

- We operate through a robust multi-stakeholder approach, ensuring participation and expertise of diverse stakeholders in the development of the GRI Standards
Our Focus Areas

1. Create standards and guidance to advance sustainable development
2. Harmonize the sustainability landscape
3. Lead efficient and effective sustainability reporting
4. Drive effective use of sustainability information to improve performance
2011
- GRI G3.1 Guidelines launched
- GRI Sustainability Disclosure Database launched

2012
- Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development

2013
- GRI G4 Guidelines launched
- 4th GRI Global Conference
- GRI Regional Hub Africa established

2014
- Global Sustainability Standards Board (GSSB) formed
- EU Directive on Disclosure of Non-financial and Diversity Information (2014/95/EU) introduced
- GRI Regional Hub Hispanic America established

2015
- G4 Exam launched
- Paris Agreement entered into force
- UN Sustainable Development Goals adopted by 195 countries

2016
- GRI Sustainability Reporting Standards launched
- 5th GRI Global Conference
- GRI GOLD Community launched

2017
- Business Reporting on the SDGs Action Platform launched with UN Global Compact
Our Impact

111 policies across 50 countries and regions reference GRI

22 of the Bloomberg 50 companies use GRI to report

40,000+ reports registered in the GRI Sustainability Disclosure Database

30,100 participants trained through GRI Certified Training Courses

74% of the largest 250 companies in the world use GRI's sustainability reporting framework

522 organizations from 67 countries active in the GRI GOLD Community

89 training partners across 54 countries offer GRI Certified Training Courses

315 of the FT Europe 500 companies use GRI to report
Our history

- **G1**: 1997
  - 50 organizations in 14 countries
  - 50 organizations in 37 countries

- **G2**: 2000
  - 280 organizations in 50 countries
  - 350 core supporters

- **G3**: 2002
  - 700 organizations in 50 countries
  - 350 core supporters

- **G4**: 2006
  - 4,500 organizations in 90 countries
  - Network: 14,000
  - 580 core supporters

- **2013**: More than 10,000 organizations in over 110 countries - 39 sectors
- **Network**: 27,000 practitioners
- **550 core supporters** – 68 countries

- **2016**: 700 organizations in 50 countries
- **2017**: 4,500 organizations in 90 countries

GRI STANDARDS
More than 44,000 Reports in our Database*

Reporters in over 110 countries

Number of reports per country since 1999**

1 - 100
101 - 250
251 - 500
501 - 1000
1001 - 1590

*Data retrieved: 11 October 2017
**Data retrieved: 4 January 2017
GRI Standards: The future of reporting

Credible, consistent and high quality sustainability reporting
• GRI Standards are a set of interrelated reporting standards, enabling organizations to report publicly on their economic, environmental and social impacts and contribution towards sustainable development.

• The Standards represent global best practice for reporting sustainability information – enhancing its comparability and quality.
The set of GRI Standards includes:

- **3 universal Standards**, applicable to all organizations
- **33 topic-specific Standards**, organized into Economic, Environmental, and Social series

Organizations select and use only the relevant topic-specific Standards, based on their **material topics**.
Sustainability reporting with the GRI Standards

Reference: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6LkrhalWIMc
Thank you

GRI
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