Strategic ESG Communication and Corporate Sustainability Training Course



26 - 30 Oct 2026

Cape town

4600 € (Per Person)

Ref: #PR9607_282694

Course Introduction / Overview:

In today's business landscape, Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) criteria are no longer a niche concern but a core component of corporate strategy and valuation. This shift demands a new caliber of communication professionals who can navigate the complexities of sustainability reporting and stakeholder engagement with authenticity and impact. This intensive training course is designed to provide a comprehensive A-to-Z guide on building and executing powerful ESG communication and sustainability PR strategies. Drawing on foundational concepts like John Elkington's "Triple Bottom Line," the program moves beyond theory to offer practical, actionable frameworks. Participants will learn to translate complex ESG data into compelling narratives, build trust with investors, and engage diverse stakeholders effectively. As detailed in works like "All In: The Future of Business Leadership" by David Grayson, this course emphasizes integrated thinking. BIG BEN Training Center has developed this program to equip leaders to avoid the pitfalls of greenwashing and to leverage sustainability as a genuine driver of brand reputation and long-term value, ensuring their organizations communicate their commitment to a sustainable future with clarity and credibility.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Public Relations and Communications Directors.
- ESG and Sustainability Managers.
- Investor Relations Professionals.
- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Officers.
- Marketing and Brand Managers.
- Corporate Affairs Specialists.
- Compliance and Legal Officers.
- Human Resources Leaders involved in corporate culture.
- Executives and Senior Management.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Financial Services and Investment Banking.
- Energy, Oil, and Gas Sectors.
- Manufacturing and Industrial Goods.
- Technology and Telecommunications.
- Consumer Goods and Retail.
- Pharmaceuticals and Healthcare.
- Real Estate and Construction.
- Governmental bodies and public sector agencies.
- Non-profit and non-governmental organizations.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Corporate Communications and Public Relations.
- Sustainability and Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG).
- Investor Relations.
- Marketing and Brand Management.
- Legal and Regulatory Compliance.
- Human Resources.
- Strategy and Corporate Development.
- Risk Management.

Course Offerings:

By the end of this course, the participants will have able to:

- Develop a strategic ESG communication plan aligned with business objectives.
- Master the art of sustainability storytelling to engage diverse audiences.
- Navigate key ESG reporting frameworks such as GRI, SASB, and TCFD.
- Communicate complex ESG data and performance metrics with clarity.
- Build and maintain trust with investors, regulators, and customers.
- Proactively manage reputational risks associated with sustainability issues.
- Craft effective messaging to prevent accusations of greenwashing.
- Integrate ESG principles into all internal and external communications.
- Measure the impact and ROI of sustainability communication efforts.
- Lead stakeholder engagement initiatives on critical ESG topics.

Course Methodology:

The training methodology at BIG BEN Training Center is designed to be immersive, practical, and highly interactive, ensuring participants can apply their learning directly to their professional roles. We move beyond traditional lectures to foster a dynamic learning environment built on real-world application. The course heavily utilizes the case study method, analyzing successful ESG communication campaigns from leading global corporations as well as cautionary tales of reputational damage. Participants will engage in collaborative group workshops to develop materiality assessments and stakeholder maps for hypothetical companies. Interactive sessions, role-playing exercises, and simulated press conferences will challenge attendees to handle difficult questions and manage ESG-related crisis scenarios. A significant portion of the program is dedicated to peer-to-peer learning and feedback, allowing for the exchange of diverse industry perspectives. Our expert facilitators guide participants through each stage, providing personalized coaching and ensuring that theoretical knowledge is consistently translated into practical, strategic skills that drive tangible results.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Foundations of ESG and Sustainability Communication

- The Evolution from CSR to ESG.
- Understanding the Three Pillars: Environmental, Social, and Governance.
- The Business Case for Strategic ESG Communication.
- Key Global Frameworks: GRI, SASB, IFRS, and TCFD.
- Identifying and Avoiding Greenwashing and Social Washing.
- The Role of PR in Building a Sustainable Brand Reputation.
- Mapping Key Stakeholders and Their ESG Expectations.

Unit Two: Developing the ESG Communication Strategy

- Conducting a Materiality Assessment to Identify Key Issues.
- Setting SMART Goals and KPIs for ESG Communications.
- Aligning Communication Strategy with Corporate Sustainability Goals.
- Integrating ESG into the Core Corporate Narrative.
- Audience Segmentation for Targeted Messaging.
- Developing a Multi-Channel Communication Plan.
- Resource Allocation and Budgeting for Your ESG Strategy.

Unit Three: Crafting the Sustainability Narrative

- The Art of Sustainability Storytelling.
- Translating Complex Data into Compelling Content.
- Crafting Key Messages for Different Stakeholders (Investors, Employees, Customers).
- Developing Content for Sustainability Reports and Websites.
- Leveraging Digital and Social Media for ESG Engagement.
- Visual Communication: Infographics, Videos, and Data Visualization.
- Ensuring Authenticity and Transparency in All Communications.

Unit Four: Reporting, Disclosure, and Stakeholder Engagement

- Best Practices in Annual and Integrated Sustainability Reporting.
- Navigating ESG Rating Agencies and Analyst Inquiries.
- Communicating with the Investment Community on ESG Performance.
- Engaging Employees as Sustainability Ambassadors.
- Managing Media Relations for Sustainability Topics.
- Public Affairs and Communicating with Regulators.
- Building Partnerships with NGOs and Community Groups.

Unit Five: Advanced Topics and Future Trends in ESG PR

- Managing ESG-Related Crisis Communications.
- Communicating on Controversial Topics like Supply Chains and Human Rights.
- The Impact of AI and Technology on ESG Reporting and Communication.
- Future-Proofing Your Strategy: Anticipating New Regulations and Trends.
- Measuring the ROI and Impact of ESG Communication Initiatives.
- Leadership Communication and Executive Positioning on Sustainability.
- Final Project: Developing a Mini ESG Communication Plan.

FAQ:

Qualifications required for registering to this course?

There are no requirements.

How long is each daily session, and what is the total number of training hours for the course?

This training course spans five days, with daily sessions ranging between 4 to 5 hours, including breaks and interactive activities, bringing the total duration to 20 - 25 training hours.

Something to think about:

What unique qualities does this course offer compared to other courses?

In an era of increasing stakeholder scrutiny, how can organizations balance the demand for radical transparency in ESG reporting with the need to protect commercially sensitive information and manage legal risks?

What unique qualities does this course offer compared to other courses?

This course distinguishes itself by moving beyond a purely technical or compliance-focused approach to ESG, instead positioning strategic communication as the central pillar for creating long-term value. While other programs may focus heavily on the mechanics of reporting frameworks, this training course bridges the critical gap between data collection and impactful public relations. It is built on the academic principle that authentic stakeholder trust is not achieved through data dumps, but through the careful construction of a credible and consistent corporate narrative. We emphasize the 'how' and 'why' behind effective communication, not just the 'what'. The curriculum is uniquely designed to foster strategic thinking, with extensive use of real-world case studies that explore both successes and failures in corporate sustainability PR. Participants will not just learn about GRI or SASB standards; they will learn how to weave the data from these standards into a compelling story that resonates with investors, inspires employees, and builds a resilient brand reputation in a world that demands accountability.