Integrated Reporting and GRI Standards for ESG Training Course



23 - 27 Nov 2026

Vienna

5800 € (Per Person)

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Course Introduction / Overview:

The landscape of corporate reporting is undergoing a monumental shift, moving beyond traditional financial statements to embrace a more holistic view of value creation. This advanced training course is designed to navigate this new paradigm, focusing on the powerful synergy between the Integrated Reporting Framework and the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Standards. As articulated by pioneers like Robert G. Eccles in works such as "One Report: Integrated Reporting for a Sustainable Strategy", the future lies in connecting financial performance with environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors. This program, offered by BIG BEN Training Center, provides a comprehensive roadmap for professionals seeking to master this integration. We will deconstruct the core principles of integrated thinking and the six capitals, enabling your organization to communicate a clear and compelling story of its long-term value creation process. Participants will gain practical, in-depth knowledge of the GRI Standards, including the latest updates, to ensure their sustainability disclosures are credible, comparable, and meet the rising expectations of investors, regulators, and other key stakeholders. This course is not just about compliance; it is about transforming your reporting into a strategic tool for enhanced decision-making and corporate transparency.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Chief Financial Officers (CFOs) and finance professionals.
- Sustainability and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) managers.
- Investor Relations officers and specialists.
- Corporate communications and public relations professionals.
- Risk management and compliance officers.
- Internal and external auditors.
- Members of the board of directors and corporate governance committees.
- Strategy and corporate development executives.
- Legal counsel involved in corporate disclosures.
- Consultants specializing in ESG and sustainability reporting.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Banking, finance, and insurance services.
- Energy, oil, gas, and utilities.
- Manufacturing and industrial goods.
- Technology and telecommunications.
- Pharmaceuticals and healthcare.
- Consumer goods and retail.
- Real estate and construction.
- Transportation and logistics.
- Governmental agencies and public sector entities.
- Non-profit and non-governmental organizations.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Finance and Accounting Department.
- Sustainability and Corporate Responsibility Department.
- Investor Relations Department.
- Corporate Communications and Public Affairs.
- Risk Management and Compliance Department.
- Strategy and Corporate Planning Department.
- Legal and Corporate Governance Department.
- Internal Audit Department.
- Operations Management.
- Human Resources Department.

Course Offerings:

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

- Articulate the business case for integrated reporting and its role in modern corporate strategy.
- Deconstruct the principles and content elements of the International Framework.
- Apply the concept of the six capitals to analyze and report on value creation.
- Navigate the structure and application of the GRI Universal, Sector, and Topic Standards.
- Conduct a robust materiality assessment to identify significant ESG topics for reporting.
- Develop a structured process for collecting, managing, and verifying non-financial data.
- Integrate GRI disclosures with the principles of the Framework to create a cohesive report.
- Analyze the evolving landscape of sustainability reporting, including ISSB and ESRS standards.
- Prepare their organization for the process of obtaining external assurance on sustainability reports.
- Communicate their organization's value creation story effectively to diverse stakeholder groups.

Course Methodology:

The training methodology at BIG BEN Training Center is designed to be immersive, practical, and highly interactive, ensuring that participants not only learn the theory but can also apply it directly to their professional roles. We move beyond traditional lectures to foster a dynamic learning environment built on engagement and real-world application. The course heavily utilizes case studies of leading global companies that have successfully implemented integrated reporting and GRI standards, allowing for a deep analysis of best practices and common challenges. A significant portion of the training is dedicated to hands-on workshops and practical exercises, such as developing a materiality matrix, mapping stakeholder concerns, and outlining an integrated report structure. Group discussions and peer-to-peer learning are central to our approach, providing a platform for participants to share experiences and solve problems collaboratively. Our expert instructors facilitate these sessions, offering personalized feedback and guiding participants through complex concepts. This blend of expert instruction, practical application, and collaborative problem-solving ensures a comprehensive and impactful learning experience that equips participants with the confidence and skills to lead reporting initiatives within their own organizations.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: The New Era of Corporate Reporting

- The evolution from financial reporting to value creation reporting.
- Understanding the ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) ecosystem.
- Introduction to the concept of integrated thinking and its strategic importance.
- An overview of the Value Reporting Foundation and the International Framework.
- Introduction to the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) as the standard for sustainability impact.
- The relationship between stakeholder capitalism and corporate transparency.
- Key drivers for the adoption of integrated and sustainability reporting.

Unit Two: The International Framework in Depth

- Fundamental concepts: value creation, preservation, and erosion.
- The six capitals: financial, manufactured, intellectual, human, social, and natural.
- Guiding principles of the Framework.
- Content elements of an integrated report: from organizational overview to future outlook.
- Developing a value creation business model.
- Practical steps for implementing the Framework within an organization.
- Case studies of award-winning integrated reports.

Unit Three: Demystifying the GRI Standards for Reporting

- Structure of the GRI Standards: Universal, Sector, and Topic Standards.
- Deep dive into the GRI Universal Standards 2021 update.
- The principles for defining report content and quality.
- The process of using the GRI Standards for a sustainability report.
- How to select and report on material Topic Standards.
- Understanding GRI's Sector Standards and their application.
- Reporting on human rights and due diligence according to GRI.

Unit Four: Practical Implementation: From Materiality to Report

- Conducting a double materiality assessment to satisfy diverse stakeholder needs.
- Techniques for effective stakeholder engagement and mapping.
- Establishing robust processes for non-financial data collection and management.
- Integrating principles and GRI disclosures into a single, cohesive narrative.
- Structuring the integrated report for clarity, conciseness, and comparability.
- Best practices in data visualization and communication of non-financial performance.
- Workshop: Building the core components of an integrated report.

Unit Five: Assurance, Technology, and the Future of Reporting

- The role and value of external assurance for sustainability information.
- Preparing for an assurance engagement: readiness and internal controls.
- Leveraging technology for efficient data management and reporting.
- The evolving global reporting landscape: an overview of ISSB, IFRS S1, and IFRS S2.
- Understanding the European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS) and CSRD.
- Communicating the integrated report to investors, analysts, and other stakeholders.
- Final project: Developing a strategic roadmap for reporting transformation.

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:

As reporting frameworks converge and regulations like the CSRD mandate specific disclosures, how can organizations maintain authenticity in their sustainability narrative without succumbing to a 'check-the-box' mentality?

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

This course distinguishes itself by providing a uniquely integrated and strategic perspective on corporate reporting, moving far beyond a simple compliance-focused overview of individual frameworks. While other programs may treat Integrated Reporting and GRI Standards as separate subjects, our curriculum is built on the synergy between them. We focus on teaching integrated thinking as a strategic management philosophy, using the Framework as the connective tissue that gives meaning and context to the detailed performance data disclosed through the GRI Standards. The program is intensely practical, emphasizing the 'how-to' of implementation through real-world case studies, hands-on materiality assessment workshops, and report structuring exercises. Furthermore, this course is deliberately forward-looking. We dedicate significant time to demystifying the rapidly converging global reporting landscape, ensuring participants understand the implications of the new IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards (S1 & S2) and the European ESRS. This prepares them not just for today's reporting requirements, but for the future of corporate disclosure. The emphasis is on transforming reporting from a regulatory burden into a powerful tool for strategic decision-making, risk management, and authentic stakeholder communication.