Mastering CSRD Compliance and ESG Reporting Training Course



23 - 27 Nov 2026

Cape town

4600 € (Per Person)

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Course Introduction / Overview:

The Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) represents a paradigm shift in corporate transparency, mandating detailed reporting on environmental, social, and governance (ESG) matters for a vast number of companies operating within the European Union. This directive extends far beyond a simple compliance exercise; it fundamentally reshapes how organizations measure, manage, and communicate their sustainability performance. This intensive training course offered by BIG BEN Training Center is meticulously designed to provide a comprehensive, A-to-Z guide to navigating the complexities of the CSRD and the European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS). We delve into the core principles of the directive, drawing on insights from leading thinkers in the field like Robert G. Eccles, a foundational voice in integrated reporting. The program moves from theoretical understanding to practical application, exploring concepts discussed in works like "The A to Z of Corporate Social Responsibility". Participants will gain the critical skills needed to conduct double materiality assessments, gather and manage relevant data across the value chain, and prepare robust, auditable sustainability reports. This course equips professionals not just to comply with the new regulations, but to leverage them as a strategic tool for enhancing stakeholder trust, mitigating risk, and driving long-term value creation in an increasingly sustainability-focused global economy.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Sustainability Managers and Directors.
- Chief Financial Officers (CFOs) and finance professionals.
- Compliance Officers and Legal Counsel.
- Internal and External Auditors.
- Risk Management Professionals.
- Investor Relations Managers.
- Supply Chain and Procurement Managers.
- Corporate Strategy and Development Executives.
- Board Members and Senior Leadership.
- Consultants specializing in ESG and sustainability.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Financial Services, including banks and insurance companies.
- Manufacturing and Industrial Goods.
- Energy, Utilities, and Natural Resources.
- Technology and Telecommunications.
- Retail and Consumer Goods.
- Pharmaceuticals and Healthcare.
- Transportation and Logistics.
- Real Estate and Construction.
- Governmental bodies and public sector organizations.
- Professional Services and Consulting Firms.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Sustainability and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).
- Finance and Accounting.
- Legal and Compliance.
- Internal Audit and Risk Management.
- Investor Relations.
- Operations and Supply Chain Management.
- Strategy and Corporate Development.
- Human Resources.
- Procurement.

Course Offerings:

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

- Interpret the scope, timeline, and key requirements of the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD).
- Master the concept and practical application of the double materiality assessment.
- Navigate the structure and specific disclosure requirements of the European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS).
- Develop robust data collection strategies for ESG metrics across the entire value chain.
- Integrate EU Taxonomy alignment disclosures within the sustainability report.
- Prepare for the mandatory third-party assurance of sustainability information.
- Understand the technical requirements for digital tagging and reporting (ESEF).
- Develop a strategic roadmap for CSRD implementation within their organization.
- Communicate sustainability performance effectively to investors, regulators, and other stakeholders.
- Leverage CSRD compliance to enhance corporate strategy and competitive advantage.

Course Methodology:

The training methodology at BIG BEN Training Center is designed to be immersive, practical, and highly interactive, ensuring participants can translate complex regulatory knowledge into actionable business practices. We move beyond traditional lectures to foster a dynamic learning environment where engagement is paramount. The course is built upon a foundation of expert-led instruction, providing clear and concise explanations of the CSRD, ESRS, and related frameworks. This is complemented by an extensive use of real-world case studies, analyzing how leading companies are approaching their compliance journey, highlighting both successes and common pitfalls. A significant portion of the training is dedicated to hands-on workshops and group exercises, where participants will collaboratively tackle challenges, such as conducting a mock double materiality assessment or mapping data points to ESRS requirements. These interactive sessions facilitate peer-to-peer learning and allow for the exchange of diverse industry perspectives. Ample time is allocated for Q&A sessions and open discussions, encouraging participants to address their specific organizational challenges. Continuous feedback from the instructor ensures that all attendees build the confidence and competence needed to lead their organization's CSRD implementation effectively.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One Foundations of the CSRD and the ESG Landscape

- Introduction to the EU Green Deal and sustainable finance.
- From the Non-Financial Reporting Directive (NFRD) to the CSRD.
- Understanding the scope and applicability of the CSRD.
- The three pillars of ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance).
- The central role of the European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS).
- Key definitions and concepts within the directive.
- The timeline for implementation and phased reporting requirements.

Unit Two The Double Materiality Assessment

- Defining impact materiality and financial materiality.
- A step-by-step guide to conducting a double materiality assessment.
- Identifying and engaging with key stakeholders.
- Mapping risks, opportunities, and impacts across the value chain.
- Documenting the assessment process for auditability.
- Integrating the results of the assessment into strategy and reporting.
- Practical workshop on materiality matrix development.

Unit Three A Deep Dive into the European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS)

- Structure of the ESRS, cross-cutting vs. topical standards.
- ESRS 1 General Requirements and ESRS 2 General Disclosures.
- Exploring the Environmental standards (E1-E5) including climate change and biodiversity.
- Navigating the Social standards (S1-S4) covering own workforce and communities.
- Understanding the Governance standards (G1-G2) on business conduct.
- Data point identification and gap analysis.
- Strategies for effective data collection and management.

Unit Four Value Chain Reporting and Due Diligence

- Defining the upstream and downstream value chain under CSRD.
- Requirements for reporting on value chain impacts, risks, and opportunities.
- Implementing sustainability due diligence processes.
- Alignment with the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD).
- Engaging with suppliers and partners to gather necessary data.
- Managing challenges in data availability and quality from the value chain.
- Case studies on effective value chain sustainability management.

Unit Five Implementation, Assurance, and Strategic Integration

- Developing a practical CSRD implementation roadmap.
- The role of technology in data management and reporting.
- Understanding the European Single Electronic Format (ESEF) and digital tagging.
- Preparing for limited and reasonable assurance engagements.
- The role of the audit committee and internal controls.
- Moving beyond compliance, using CSRD for strategic advantage.
- Communicating your sustainability story to investors and stakeholders.

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:

Beyond compliance, how can the rigorous data collection and transparency mandated by the CSRD be leveraged to drive genuine innovation and create long-term competitive advantage?

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

This course distinguishes itself by moving beyond a purely theoretical or compliance-focused overview of the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive. Its core strength lies in a deeply practical and strategic approach, designed for professionals who will be actively leading or contributing to the implementation process. While other programs may focus on simply understanding the regulations, we emphasize the "how-to", dedicating significant time to the most challenging aspects, such as conducting a robust double materiality assessment and navigating the complexities of value chain data collection. The curriculum is built around a series of integrated case studies and hands-on workshops that simulate real-world scenarios, forcing participants to apply concepts and problem-solve in a controlled, expert-guided environment. Furthermore, the course content is forward-looking, consistently linking regulatory requirements back to strategic business implications. We explore how CSRD data can inform risk management, drive product innovation, strengthen stakeholder relationships, and ultimately serve as a powerful tool for long-term value creation. The focus is not just on producing a compliant report, but on embedding sustainability into the very fabric of corporate strategy and decision-making, a perspective often overlooked in standard regulatory briefings.