Sustainable Governance Risk and Compliance (GRC) Training Course



21 - 25 Dec 2026

Cape town

4600 € (Per Person)

Ref: #SUS7750_284280

Course Introduction / Overview:

This course provides a comprehensive framework for integrating Governance, Risk Management, and Compliance (GRC) with sustainability and Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles. In today's business landscape, sustainability is no longer a peripheral concern but a core component of long-term value creation and corporate resilience. This training moves beyond traditional, siloed approaches to GRC, demonstrating how a unified strategy can effectively manage ESG risks, meet evolving regulatory demands, and unlock new opportunities for innovation and growth. Drawing on concepts championed by academics like Robert G. Eccles, a pioneer in integrated reporting, the curriculum emphasizes the strategic imperative of embedding sustainability into the very fabric of corporate governance. Participants will explore how to build robust GRC frameworks that not only ensure compliance but also enhance stakeholder trust and drive competitive advantage. BIG BEN Training Center has designed this program to equip professionals with the practical skills needed to navigate the complexities of sustainability reporting, risk assessment, and ethical governance, transforming their organizations into leaders in sustainable business practice. The course delves into practical applications, moving from theoretical understanding to actionable implementation strategies for a holistic GRC and sustainability program.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Governance, Risk, and Compliance (GRC) Professionals.
- Sustainability and ESG Managers.
- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Officers.
- Risk Management Professionals.
- Internal and External Auditors.
- Compliance Officers and Legal Counsel.
- Members of the Board of Directors and Senior Executives.
- Finance and Investment Professionals.
- Operations and Supply Chain Managers.
- Corporate Strategy and Business Development Leaders.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Banking, Finance, and Insurance.
- Energy, Oil, and Gas.
- Manufacturing and Industrial Sectors.
- Technology and Telecommunications.
- Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals.
- Retail and Consumer Goods.
- Construction and Real Estate.
- Transportation and Logistics.
- Governmental and Public Sector Organizations.
- Consulting and Professional Services.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Sustainability and ESG Department.
- Risk Management Department.
- Compliance Department.
- Legal Department.
- Internal Audit Department.
- Corporate Governance and Board Secretariat.
- Finance and Accounting.
- Operations and Supply Chain Management.
- Investor Relations.
- Strategic Planning.

Course Offerings:

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

- Develop an integrated framework that aligns GRC functions with sustainability and ESG objectives.
- Identify, assess, and mitigate a wide range of environmental, social, and governance risks.
- Design effective governance structures and board oversight mechanisms for sustainability.
- Navigate the complex landscape of global sustainability regulations and compliance requirements.
- Master the principles of leading sustainability reporting standards such as GRI, SASB, and IFRS.
- Implement strategies to embed ethical leadership and a culture of sustainable compliance throughout the organization.
- Evaluate and manage sustainability risks within the supply chain and third-party relationships.
- Utilize GRC technology to enhance sustainability data management, monitoring, and reporting.
- Develop key performance indicators (KPIs) to measure and communicate sustainability performance effectively.
- Align corporate sustainability initiatives with long-term value creation and stakeholder expectations.

Course Methodology:

The training methodology at BIG BEN Training Center is designed to be highly interactive, practical, and engaging, ensuring that participants gain not only theoretical knowledge but also the confidence to apply it in their professional roles. The course combines expert-led presentations with a variety of learning techniques, including in-depth case study analyses of real-world companies navigating GRC and sustainability challenges. Collaborative group discussions and workshops encourage peer-to-peer learning and the sharing of diverse industry perspectives. Practical exercises and simulation activities will allow participants to work through scenarios such as developing a risk assessment matrix for ESG factors or outlining a sustainability report. Our experienced facilitators foster a dynamic learning environment where questions are encouraged and complex topics are broken down into manageable concepts. Continuous feedback is provided throughout the sessions to reinforce learning and address individual queries. This blended approach ensures that participants leave the course with a robust understanding of sustainable GRC principles and a clear roadmap for implementing them within their own organizations, transforming abstract concepts into tangible business strategies.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Foundations of Integrated GRC and Sustainability

- Introduction to Governance, Risk, and Compliance (GRC).
- Understanding Sustainability and the ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) Framework.
- The Business Case for Integrating GRC and ESG.
- Key Global Sustainability Frameworks (UN SDGs, TCFD, UN Global Compact).
- Mapping Stakeholder Expectations and Materiality Assessment.
- The Evolution from CSR to Strategic ESG Integration.
- Core Principles of Sustainable Corporate Governance.

Unit Two: Strategic Governance for Sustainability

- The Role of the Board in ESG Oversight and Strategy.
- Establishing Effective Sustainability Governance Structures and Committees.
- Developing and Implementing Corporate Sustainability Policies.
- Fostering a Culture of Ethical Leadership and Integrity.
- Managing Conflicts of Interest in a Sustainability Context.
- Whistleblower Policies and Ethical Reporting Mechanisms.
- Aligning Executive Compensation with Sustainability Performance.

Unit Three: Integrating ESG into Enterprise Risk Management

- Identifying and Categorizing Environmental, Social, and Governance Risks.
- Methodologies for ESG Risk Assessment and Prioritization.
- Climate-Related Risk and Opportunity Analysis (Scenario Analysis).
- Managing Social Risks: Human Rights, Labor Practices, and Community Impact.
- Sustainable Supply Chain Risk Management and Due Diligence.
- Integrating ESG Factors into the Corporate Risk Appetite Framework.
- Crisis Management and Response for ESG-Related Incidents.

Unit Four: Sustainability Compliance and Transparent Reporting

- Navigating the Global Landscape of ESG Regulations and Legislation.
- Deep Dive into Sustainability Reporting Standards (GRI, SASB, IFRS S1 & S2).
- The Process of Developing a Comprehensive Sustainability Report.
- Ensuring Data Quality, Integrity, and Assurance for ESG Reporting.
- Avoiding Greenwashing: Best Practices for Authentic Communication.
- Understanding ESG Ratings and Rankings.
- The Role of Technology in Automating Compliance and Reporting.

Unit Five: Implementation, Measurement, and Future Trends

- Creating a Roadmap for a Fully Integrated GRC and ESG Program.
- Selecting and Implementing GRC Technology for Sustainability Management.
- Developing Meaningful Sustainability KPIs and Performance Metrics.
- Conducting Sustainability Audits and Assurance Engagements.
- Change Management for Embedding Sustainability Across the Organization.
- The Future of Sustainable GRC: AI, Big Data, and Predictive Analytics.
- Capstone Project: Developing a Sustainable GRC Action 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:

Beyond compliance and risk mitigation, how can an integrated GRC-sustainability framework become a primary driver of innovation and long-term value creation for an organization?

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

This course distinguishes itself by adopting a truly holistic and strategic perspective on Governance, Risk, and Compliance (GRC) in the context of sustainability. Unlike programs that treat GRC and ESG as separate, siloed functions, this curriculum is built on the foundational principle of integration, demonstrating how a unified approach creates synergistic value far greater than the sum of its parts. It moves beyond a mere compliance-checking mentality to position sustainable GRC as a core driver of business strategy, resilience, and competitive advantage. The content is meticulously structured to bridge the gap between high-level theory and practical, on-the-ground implementation, equipping participants with actionable frameworks, assessment methodologies, and reporting techniques. Furthermore, the course maintains a forward-looking orientation, addressing not only current regulatory standards but also emerging trends, stakeholder expectations, and the role of technology in shaping the future of sustainable governance. By focusing on strategic alignment and long-term value creation, it empowers professionals to lead transformative change within their organizations, rather than simply managing a set of disparate requirements.