



EU NFI DIRECTIVE

A comprehensive guide to the national laws

22 November 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

Accountancy Europe hosted an official launch event for an important new publication *Policy & Reporting: Member State Implementation of the Directive 2014/94/EU*. The publication was developed by [CSR Europe](#) and [GRI](#) with the support of [Accountancy Europe](#).

The three organisations presented the publication, highlighting the background, methodology and stakeholders involved in developing the project. Also, we introduced the main outcomes of national transpositions and looked into the EU policy on transparency and other relevant initiatives. The presentation was followed by a panel discussion which focused on the future of corporate reporting within the context of the environmental and social challenges the world is facing, and willingness to address corporate social responsibility by businesses.

Highlights from the discussions:

- Non-financial reporting functions as a means and tool to improve sustainability performance. It can serve as a tool for organisations to continuously improve and be able to collect and share decision-useful information.
- The finalisation of the transposition processes is an opportune time for implementing and making the legal requirements practical for companies. Developing expertise locally and building capacity for companies to report are matters that need to be addressed promptly.
- From a business perspective, one of the main drivers for non-financial reporting is enhancing trust of stakeholders by bridging a closer relationship through transparency of corporate sustainability concerns. Reporting can educate stakeholders on the relevant matters tackled by a company.
- There is divergence in the implementation of the EU Directive NFI across European countries.
- The Sustainable Development Goals represent an important framework for non-financial reporting, and bring opportunities for businesses to align and enhance their contribution to the global goals.
- Investors increasingly seek non-financial information as an input to their decision-making. This information is becoming instrumental for determining the true value of companies.
- Companies need to recognize “why” they are reporting. This means that companies must understand why reporting on specific matters are important for them and their stakeholders.
- Harmonisation of standards and a repository to share information from the reports were identified as mechanisms to support the successful implementation of the EU Directive on non-financial information.
- External assurance on non-financial information can help companies better understand the issues they are facing.
- Technology has an important role to play in shaping how reporting will change in the future. This could also help addressing different audiences in a more efficient way.