Everything you need to know for the upcoming reporting season.

Reporting season is imminent, which means the maze of options, guidelines, frameworks and benchmarks are back on your desk. What is and isn't relevant for your company? What is mandatory and what isn't? And what is the market doing? With this overview we are helping you to find your way through the jumble of information.

1. Communicate on how you create value

IIRC's Integrated reporting framework helps you to communicate on how your organization's strategy, governance and performance lead to value creation over the short, medium and long term. All in the context of your external environment. The framework is currently being revised by IIRC.

Integrated vs sustainability reporting?
While IR is a useful exercise to integrate sustainability in your strategy and execution, a sustainability report isn't wrong in any way. In fact, it gives you the opportunity to tell your sustainability story in a creative and authentic way.

Learn more →

2. SDGs & impact reporting

More and more companies choose to measure and report on their impact. The SDGs are a clear and effective tool to put at the center of this. They address the most pressing global challenges and provide the needed direction through industry specific targets and indicators.

Why impact reporting?
Impact reporting provides transparency and further evidence for the difference an organization claims to make for its surroundings. Furthermore, it enables better comparisons between organizations and their sustainability performance.

Learn more →

3. Materiality as the cornerstone of your report

GRI is worldwide the most widely used reporting framework for non-financial information (around 75% of the world's largest companies now report in line with GRI). Materiality and stakeholder engagement are at the center of this framework.

Why GRI?
Not only is GRI a very useful tool to help you communicate on your sustainability efforts in a consistent and credible way, it is also aligned with European legislation such as the EU Directive on non-financial reporting disclosure.

Learn more →

4. Are your investors asking for ESG information?

SASB connects businesses and investors on the financial impacts of sustainability. It offers a set of 77 industry specific standards. GRI and SASB started a collaboration earlier this year for more clarity and transparency in sustainability reporting.

Why SASB?
Investors are increasingly interested in ESG information. Whereas GRI focuses more on a general approach, SASB only requires firms to detail material ESG risks.

Learn more →

5. Dealing with climate change as financial risk

Climate change will affect your business. The TCFD has developed recommendations for more effective climate-related disclosures, to help identify climate-related risks and opportunities.

Why TCFD?
It helps investors and companies to take climate-related risks into consideration when allocating capital. The guidelines are also being incorporated in the EU Non-Financial Reporting Directive.

Learn more →

6. More legislation coming up: the EU Taxonomy

As part of the EU Green Deal, the EU Taxonomy is a tool to help investors understand what economic activities are environmentally sustainable, to support the transition towards a low-carbon economy. It sets a common language between investors, businesses and policy makers.

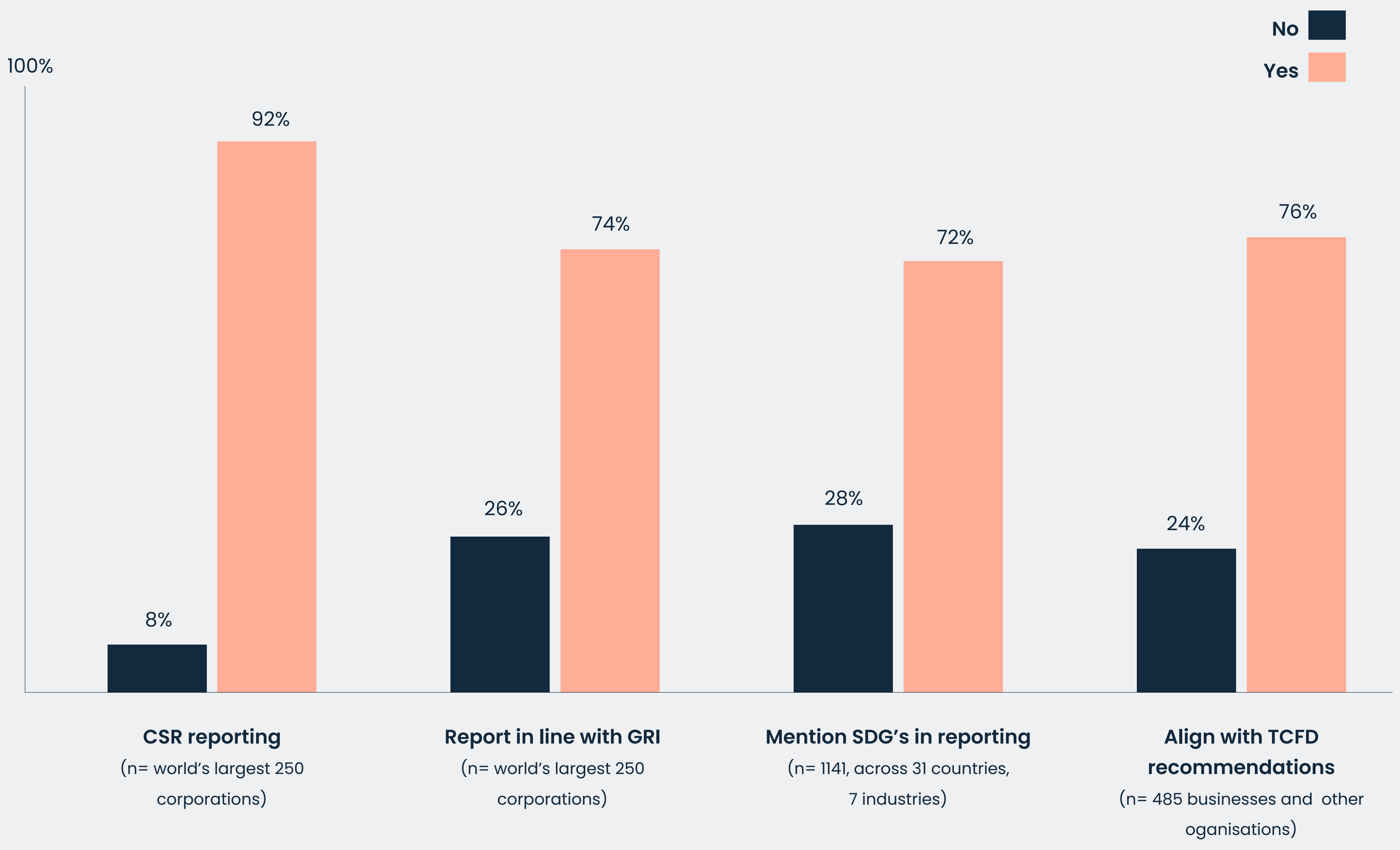
For whom and when?
Relevant market actors (e.g. all companies that fall under the EU NFRD) need to disclose to what extent their activities are 'Taxonomy aligned' by December 2021.

Learn more →

Key figures

Use of SASB
SASB is supported by 170 institutional investors, representing $55T AUM and 19 countries

Use of <IR> framework
Over 2.000 organizations in over 70 countries are adopting the principles of integrated reporting



Other trends to be aware of

Cooperation between leading frameworks and standards
Leading sustainability and integrated reporting organizations GRI, SASB, IIRC, CDP and CDSB are announcing **collaborations** to join forces and create more clarity and compatibility in the landscape of sustainability disclosure frameworks.

From PDF to online first
Companies are shifting focus from a traditional PDF to online first reporting. The latter gives you more options for sharing, design and interactivity. It enables you to edit and format your content at a central place. Highly efficient, and literally bringing your report to live.

Core & More
Does reaching certain stakeholder groups in a more targeted manner sounds interesting to you? Perhaps you should dive into Core & More reporting. A core report contains only the most relevant information, while your More report goes into dept on a specific topic.

Transparency, transparency, transparency
Besides the EU Taxonomy, the European Commission is actively developing legislation to create more **transparency** and reporting guidelines on sustainability topics. Among others, the Non-Financial Reporting Directive is under consultation. In the Netherlands, the Transparency Benchmark will be scoring businesses on the transparency in their 2020 reports. So keep on reporting!

Engage your stakeholders
Want to improve your reach? Discover what your stakeholders like to read and involve them at an early stage. By means of a materiality analysis, or by organizing (virtual) stakeholder dialogues. Ask them what they expect from you and what they thought of your previous report. Also check out how to reach them. Are they online? Consider to produce a short snackable video for your socials.

Sustainable finance
Financial market participants and advisers have new disclosure obligations, mandatory form March 10, 2021. The EU Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (**SFDR**) requires to disclose the degree of ESG sustainability of financial funds and products. In the Netherlands, the signatories of the Climate Agreement for the financial sector are obligated to report on the climate impact of their loans and investments from 2020 onwards.

XBRL
XBRL is an international standard for digital reporting, which makes it possible to tag (non-)financial information. Issuers on EU regulated markets must prepare their annual financial reports in line with the new electronic reporting format (European Single Electronic Format) from 1 January 2020, which makes use of XBRL.