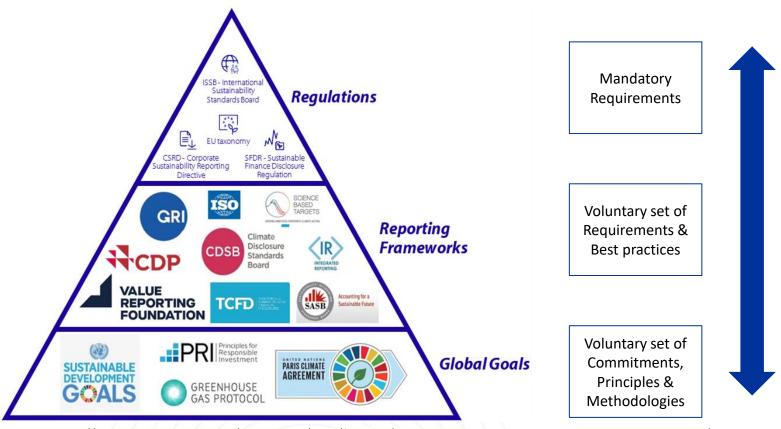


Spotlight: EU Regulations Key Takeaways



As a leader in sustainable finance and corporate accountability, the EU has established comprehensive ESG regulations, such as the Non-Financial Reporting Directive (NFRD), EU Taxonomy, Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (SFDR), and the forthcoming Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD). These regulations influence how businesses manage and report ESG matters.

These EU directives are an extension of existing reporting frameworks, like the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) and the Sustainability Accounts Standards Board (SASB). These voluntary frameworks, based on collective global objectives, serve as best practice guidelines for corporate sustainability. Some key examples of these global objectives are the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the UN Principles for Responsible Investment (UNPRI). Please see below for an image representing the current landscape of EU regulations:



Source: https://economics.rabobank.com/publications/2022/february/an-introduction-to-the-sustainability-reporting-landscape/



Spotlight: EU Regulations Key Takeaways (Contd.) EU Regulatory Initiatives



Non-Financial Reporting Directive (NFRD)

- · When?
 - o Currently active, being phased out for CSRD
- Who is affected?
 - O Covers **11,600** companies, which includes listed firms, banks, insurance companies with 500+ companies
- What is it?
 - Requires basic disclosure like regular environmental, social, and governance information
 - These rules remain in force until companies must apply the new rules of the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive

Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD)

- When?
 - Phased in for 2024 FY (companies covered by NFRD) and 2025 (companies now covered by extended CSRD scope)
- Who is affected?
 - 49,000 companies, applies to listed US companies with European operations, large EU companies, and non-European companies with €150 M EU net turnover
- What is it?
 - Requires more detailed ESG reporting, including **1,144** data points and uses a "double materiality" review the dual perspective of how business impacts ESG and how ESG impacts business

EU Taxonomy

- When?
 - o Currently active
- O Who is affected?
 - It is mandatory in market participants offering financial products (EU SFRD), market participants under scope CSRD. It is voluntary for SMEs
- What?
 - O The EU taxonomy is a classification system, establishing a list of environmentally sustainable economic activities (activities that make a contribution to at least one of the EU's six environmental objectives while doing no significant harm)
 - We cover this in further detail in a post specifically on the EU taxonomy, you can find it on our website <u>here</u>

Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (SFDR)

- When?
 - Currently active
- Who is affected?
 - Applies to FMPs such as investment firms, pension funds, asset managers, insurance companies, banks, venture capital funds, credit institutions offering portfolio management, or financial advisors with more than 500 employees
- What?
 - o Requires all financial market participants in the EU to report Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) disclosures, with additional requirements for products that promote ESG characteristics or that have sustainable investment objectives.



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