



EFFECTIVE • INNOVATIVE • INTELLIGENT

ESG Reporting

How can BI tools help?

Effectively generate, measure, control and report ESG* key figures with BI tools



„I am increasingly convinced that corporate ESG is the devil incarnate.“

That’s what Elon Musk tweeted in spring 2022. Whether ESG indicators are a blessing or a curse is debatable – but they must be measured and reported in any case: You can read how BI software can help in this new edition of our whitepaper.

*Environmental Social Governance



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1. The Challenge of Corporate Sustainability Reporting

With the political agreement on the **Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD)**, European companies are facing new controlling challenges. They will be obliged to publish detailed information on sustainability aspects. In practice, this means that companies must report on how their business model affects the sustainability of the company and how external sustainability factors (such as climate change or human rights issues) influence their activities.

While the regulation will initially only apply to companies that are already subject to the CSR Directive (as of 1.1.2024), organisations of all sizes will gradually be required to comply with the Directive by 2028.

The obligation to submit a sustainability report also applies to non-European companies if they achieve a net turnover of €150 million in the EU and have at least one subsidiary or branch in the EU and exceed certain thresholds. They must submit a report on environmental, social and governance (ESG) impacts as defined in the Directive.

For all these companies, accurate, transparent and actionable data is essential to develop their sustainability strategy, effectively measure and manage ESG (environmental, social and governance) criteria and report on them as required.





2. With BI towards greater sustainability

Business intelligence tools play an important role in this context: When used correctly, they can not only generate and measure traditional KPIs such as sales or turnover, but also show the ecological

footprint of a company. In doing so, they support business processes towards more sustainability and offer automated ESG reporting in order to be able to comply simply with reporting obligations.

Key figures on ESG criteria







Criterion	Environment	Social	Governance
Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate protection (mitigation) • Adaptation to climate change (adaptation) • Water and marine resources • Circular economy • Pollution • Biodiversity and ecosystems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equality and diversity • Working conditions • Human rights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role of corporate governance • Business ethics and culture • Political commitment • Business relations • Internal control and risk systems
Key figures (examples)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenhouse gas emissions • CO2 savings • Water consumption • Energy consumption • Waste generation • Recycling rates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fluctuation rate • Sickness rate • Average age of the workforce • Age structure • Proportion of women in management positions • Further education programmes • Accident figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of existing ratings for suppliers • Share of turnover of suppliers with S-rating in total purchasing volume • Number of internal audits • Coverage rate of compliance and security trainings • Number of employees who have a valid qualification on the Code of Conduct

BI solutions can thus be used to calculate a whole spectrum of value-oriented key figures analogous to the ESG criteria, into which „soft“ factors such as sustainability and social impact are fed.

Financial and non-financial data from different internal and external source systems can be included and made available centrally for key figure generation and analysis in accordance with the single source of truth principle.

3. Identify sustainability potentials

In addition, business intelligence tools can be used to tap into data for greater sustainability:

-  Predictive analytics based on historical data for precise forecasts of order quantities and times to avoid overstocking and save costs
-  Forecast of machine breakdowns using real-time data and historical trends to better target maintenance, reduce site visits and save costs
-  Analyse data from IoT devices and sensors to track energy supply and demand and optimise energy delivery
-  Evaluate internal travel data in conjunction with external data (e.g. aviation data) to determine CO2-footprint
-  Analyse the energy consumption of buildings and production facilities in order to specifically reduce greenhouse gas and CO2 emissions
-  Monitor the impact of donations on the carbon footprint



4. CSRD-compliant reporting

According to German law (cf. section 289 of the German Commercial Code (HGB)), the determined sustainability information must be published in the management report along with key financial figures.

Business intelligence tools also provide valuable support in creating the actual report. With the help of these software tools, reports can be created automatically according to flexibly definable standards. This flexibility is particularly necessary against the background of the ongoing lack of globally binding, clear standards for reporting: draft standards diverge and vary widely.

The use of a business intelligence solution allows report templates to be quickly and centrally modified according to changed requirements or specifications, to create reports automatically and to distribute them to different report recipients. The timeliness and quality of the ESG report is guaranteed by access to data from the single source of truth.



5. 10 steps to efficient, BI-supported ESG reporting

We recommend the following procedure for companies planning sustainability reporting with the aid of a business intelligence tool.

1. Identification of the standards and relevant regulations to be complied with
2. Identification of the relevant key process indicators (KPI) in line with the ESG standards and relevant regulations
3. Identification of the data required for the generation of the KPIs and their respective source systems
4. Review of the current data integration strategy with regard to the integration of all necessary data into a single source of truth
5. Integration of the new data into existing IT systems or establishment of new, central data provision platforms for financial and non-financial indicators
6. Definition of sustainability goals in the form of target values of the individual KPIs
7. Selection of a technically, strategically and economically suitable BI tool or review of the BI tool used with regard to its suitability for ESG-related analysis and reporting tasks
8. Creation of BI applications for the generation and analysis of ESG-related key figures
9. Automation of ESG reporting in accordance with the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive
10. Training of the responsible employees in the use of the tool and general sensitisation to the importance of efficient ESG reporting



6. We support you holistically

At Informattec, we advise and support you through all these steps on the way to efficient ESG reporting – from needs assessment and KPI definition to tool selection and implementation as well as data integration and application and report creation to training your employees. In doing so, we adhere to our principle that there is NOT “one tool and one procedure for all cases”. Because the fact is that companies have different prerequisites and goals, also in terms of sustainability. And we want to do justice to these prerequisites and goals. That is why we have various BI solutions in our portfolio – and not only the appropriate technology experts in our team, but also professionals with the necessary controlling know-how for challenges such as CSRD-compliant reporting.

Get in touch and let’s talk about how we can support you with your sustainability strategy!

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Years of Experience

350+

Satisfied Clients

15.000+

Licensed Users



Junior mentality. Senior competence.

Convinced that every client is a privilege and every project is a joint development process with the client, Informattec takes on new challenges with curiosity and open-mindedness. This dynamic attitude leads to agility and continuous innovation, which surprise customers with rapid and goal-oriented solution implementations. Thanks to its wealth of experience, Informattec guarantees the professional implementation of projects and convinces through its ability to think deeply into individual customer processes. As a competitive protagonist in the German-Swiss BI environment, Informattec offers substantial added value with a lasting effect for successful corporate management.

„It is essential for companies to evaluate ESG-relevant data because they have an obligation to report on sustainability – and also an opportunity to align economic decisions with various aspects of sustainability. We not only have the appropriate BI technologies in our portfolio, but also experienced professionals with controlling know-how for CSRD-compliant reporting and ESG analytics – and with the knowledge that every company needs solutions for its individual sustainability issues.“

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