

Accessible expertise through global collaboration

“Sustainable development through effective corporate reporting is an imperative for people, planet and prosperity”, **Professor Mervyn King**

Recurring, assurable sustainability reporting is coming

Mandatory recurring financial and non-financial sustainability reporting for companies around the world is imminent, and guidelines for JSE listed companies having already been published. This is wholly new territory for most corporate C-suites and boards and on the front line for this task will be companies' reporting officers. Most aren't prepared. Company leaders will have to ensure that they understand the international sustainability reporting standards as well as national directives and guidelines. They will have to lead their companies to meet these impending sustainability reporting requirements.

ESG Exchange is there to help

The Good Governance Academy, with Professor Mervyn King as its founding patron, aims to take the guesswork out of generating these reports and ensure that the 'know-how' is made accessible, globally. It has convened a collaboration of global standard-setters, regulators, professional bodies and associations, educators and corporates to create a much-needed baseline, a “How-To Playbook”, for sustainability reporting.

ESG Exchange is a global knowledge exchange, providing organisations with access to the best available content and a hands-on implementation programme for all necessary organisational roles, including directors, executives, finance, audit and assurance partners, operations, IT and stakeholder / investor relations departments.

ESG Exchange ways of work

- **Collaboration:** a global network of ethical, influential, active collaborators championing best-practice corporate reporting
- **Curation:** a system which sources, selects, and maintains a world-wide model for corporate reporting information and tools
- **Evaluation and guidance:** structures and global processes to promote and incentivize enterprise-wide best-practice corporate reporting
- **Independent convenorship:** an independent global forum sharing, promoting, and continually improving corporate reporting practices in an evolving sustainable development context

ESG Exchange principles

- **Globally applicable** – regional / national guidance provided on demand
- **Standard agnostic** – equipping organizations to respond to all current and future standards
- **Multi-discipline** – build bridges across corporate silos e.g., board, finance, IT and assurance
- **Organizationally diverse** – applicable for any size or type of organization
- **Accessible anywhere** – content, engagement and activities are all available online
- **Low impact** – give organizations time back to focus on doing good business

Product Outline

The ESG Exchange comprises:

- **Interactive Knowledge Repository**
Online portal offering curated content; ability to contact and engage with other subscribers; forums to ask questions (also anonymously) and have them answered by subject matter experts.
- **Practical Development Programme**
How-To Playbook to equip subscribers and their organizations with what is required to deliver the required sustainability information in a repeatable, assurable way.

How-To Playbook

The How-To Playbook is an organizational development and sustainability reporting implementation programme. It considers:

- **People – building bridges between organizational silos**
 1. Board: members of the governing body / board, company secretariat, governance team
 2. Exec: executive / top management, the organizational leaders
 3. Finance and Assurance: finance, audit, risk, legal and compliance
 4. Operations: heads of operations, IT, data/information, analytics, procurement
 5. Relations: corporate / investor / stakeholder relations
- **Process – growing from experience with effective support networks**
Implementation: embedding continual improvement through a 'Plan-Do-Check-Act' ISO management system standard approach, meeting global reporting deadlines and local expectations
- **Proficiencies – creating value through continual improvement**
 1. Competency: instilling the required organizational skills and abilities
 2. Capabilities: re-using and developing new organizational capabilities as necessary

Programme outline

The How-To Playbook comprises **5 modules** which, if taken sequentially, runs over a three-year period. The modules are highly efficient with just-in-time learning and company-wide embedment. Each module comprises a quarterly cadence of monthly online activities in sequence:

Month 1 - Plenary: 2-hour online webinar with pertinent global updates and regional breakouts

Month 2 – Roundtable: 90-minute interactive online meeting with case studies and small group breakaways

Month 3 – ESG Lab: 90-minute masterclasses providing templates and work group discussions

Intended audience

- Directors
- CEOs and Executives
- CFOs, accountants, investment managers and analysts
- Assurance providers including legal, audit, risk and compliance
- Operational managers including procurement officers, information officers and IT leaders
- Stakeholder relationship managers including investor, employee and corporate relations

Programme outcome

The intended outcome of the programme is the publication of continually improving, assurable sustainability reports according to the applicable standards and guidelines. See more [here](#)

Module 1: Establishing an appropriate sustainability context

On completion of Module 1 (9 months, 15 hours) subscribers will understand how to

- Establish an organizational mandate for sustainability and sustainability reporting
- Instil a broad understanding across the company of the why, what and how of ESG / sustainability
- Embed governance and management sustainability frameworks
- Initiate the required data and technology interventions

Module 2: Planning and engaging the transition

On completion of Module 2 (9 months, 15 hours) subscribers will understand how to

- Establish an ESG / sustainability / sustainability reporting strategy and associate business plans
- Initiate transition plans
- Embed associated business processes
- Craft the necessary stakeholder engagement interventions

Module 3: Entrenching sustainability and reporting practices

On completion of Module 3 (9 months, 15 hours) subscribers will understand how to

- Analyse and use the sustainability data and management purposes
- Quantify ESG risk, establish an ESG/sustainability internal control framework
- Test business models against future scenarios
- Monitor the company's transition plans and confidently take corrective action

Module 4: Enacting controls, communications, and assurance

On completion of Module 4 (6 months, 10 hours) subscribers will understand how to

- Produce the necessary sustainability reports
- Assess and gain assurance over the ESG / sustainability internal control framework
- Connect financial and non-financial information and produce integrated reports
- Oversee the company's sustainability activities and assess associated stakeholder responses

Module 5: Reporting, engaging, and improving

On completion of Module 5 (3 months, 5 hours) subscribers will understand how to

- Account for the company's financial and non-financial sustainability and integrated reports
- Create sustainable value generation objectives and achieve these objectives
- Manage the company's sustainability performance
- Ensure that the company is equipped to continually improve on the benefits resulting from the sustainability competencies and capabilities resulting from this programme

Overview

[Read more here](#)



Cost

Module 1 – 9 months: 5,000.00 USD

Module 2 – 9 months: 5,000.00 USD

Module 3 – 9 months: 5,050.00 USD

Module 4 – 6 months: 3,500.00 USD

Module 5 – 3 months: 1,950.00 USD

All modules: 18,550 USD **Module 5 free**

- *Corporate subscriptions are discounted:*
 - 5-9 people per organization @ 5%
 - 10 and over 10 people per organization @ 10%
- *All prices include proctored (invigilated) examination fees*
- *The modules are designed to be taken sequentially; however, should a candidate wish to join a module without having completed previous modules, an assessment of competence will be required for the previous modules, and each passed with a pass mark of no less than 60%*
- *All prices quoted exclude Value Added Tax / Sales Tax / Regional Levies as applicable.*
- *All fees must be cleared prior to access to the ESG Exchange platform*

Recognition of learning

Individual subscribers

- All subscribers are issued with certificates of completion on completion of their self-assessments.
- All subscribers are issued with certificates of attendance, according to their recorded attendance for CPD purposes.
- Optional examinations are available at the end of every module providing international certifications awarded by [APMG-International](#).
- Examination results are used anonymously as input to a public **Module Achievement Report** ranking individuals against each other, which is used for the bi-annual ESG Awards ceremonies.

Corporate subscribers

- All corporate subscribers are issued with certificates of commitment on completion of their self-assessments.
- Optional company evaluations are conducted at the end of every module providing an evaluation report indicating areas of concern, improvement or success.
- Company evaluations are used anonymously as input to a public **Module Benchmark Report** ranking the participating companies against each other but also against global insights. This report is used to award for the bi-annual ESG Awards ceremonies.

ESG Awards

These 2-hour online award ceremonies are held bi-annually in the months of June and December of every year. The categories include:

- **Individual Achievement** – based on Module Achievement Reports
- **Corporate Achievement** – based on Module Benchmark Reports