

Sustainability: GRI Standards

The screenshot displays the GRI website homepage. At the top left is the GRI logo, a globe made of blue and white dots, with the text "GRI Empowering Sustainable Decisions". To the right of the logo is a navigation menu with links: "Resource Library", "E-shop", "Contact", "Sitemap", "MyGRI", and "Login". Further right is a search bar labeled "Keyword(s)". Below the navigation menu is a horizontal bar with four colored segments: "INFORMATION" (teal), "STANDARDS" (yellow-green), "SUPPORT" (purple), and "NETWORK" (green). On the far right of this bar are social media icons for YouTube (M), Twitter, and LinkedIn. Below the navigation bar is a large banner image of a solar farm with rows of solar panels in a desert landscape. A semi-transparent white box with a teal border is overlaid on the left side of the banner, containing the text "Enabling Smart Policy".

Source: <https://www.globalreporting.org>

Content

- GRI
- GRI Standards
- Sustainability Reporting

Global Reporting Initiative: GRI

GRI: independent international organization
pioneered sustainability reporting since 1997

Goals, motivation, vision:

Source: <https://www.globalreporting.org>

...empower decisions making social, economic and environmental benefits for all

...help business and governments understand and communicate their impact on critical sustainability issues

...foster transparency in sustainability reporting

Global Reporting Initiative: GRI

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Focus areas:

Source: <https://www.globalreporting.org>

1. Create standards and guidance to advance sustainable development
2. Harmonize the sustainability landscape
3. Lead efficient and effective sustainability reporting
4. Drive effective use of sustainability information to improve performance

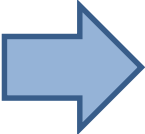
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GRI Standards: open access, first and most widely adopted global standards for sustainability reporting. 93% of the world's largest 250 corporations report on their sustainability performance

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GRI Standards

“universally-applicable reporting guidance“

Source: <https://www.globalreporting.org/information/sustainability-reporting/Pages/gri-standards.aspx>

Multi-stakeholder Input: consensus-seeking approach;
→ business, civil society, labor, accounting, investors, academics,
governments and sustainability reporting practitioners

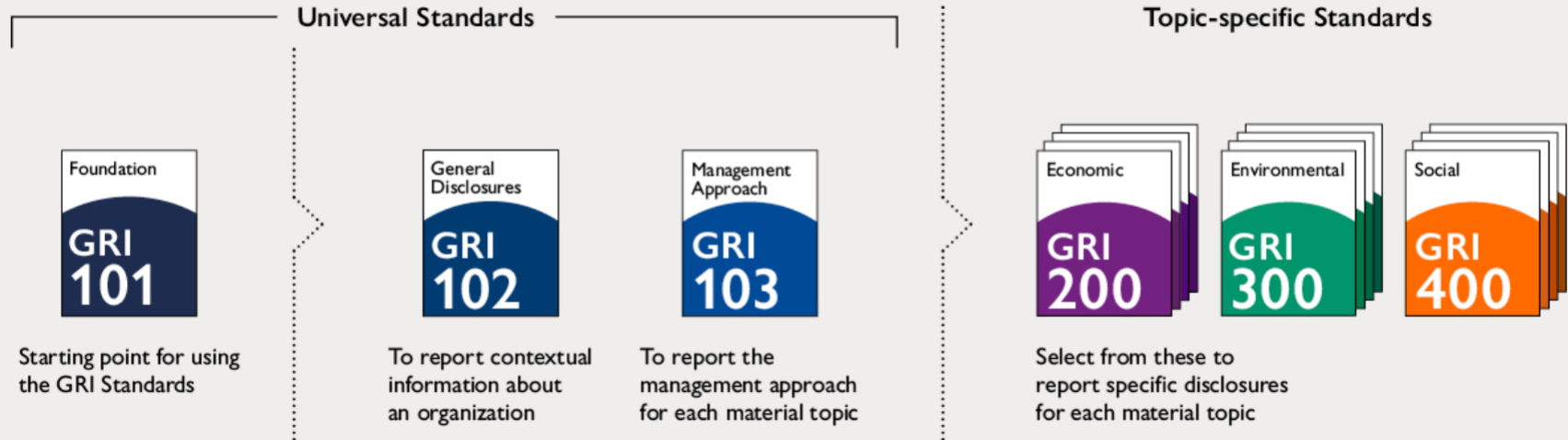
Record of use: database for registered reports

Independence: GRI’s partners (and funders) include governments,
multilateral donors and foundations

GRI Standards

“universally-applicable reporting guidance“

Source: <https://www.globalreporting.org/information/sustainability-reporting/Pages/gri-standards.aspx>



Establishes fundamental issues to be included in the GRI-following report!

GRI Standards

“universally-applicable reporting guidance“

Source: <https://www.globalreporting.org/information/sustainability-reporting/Pages/gri-standards.aspx>



Starting point for using the GRI Standards

To report contextual information and disclosures

To report the management approach

Select from these specific disclosures to report on the most material topics

<https://uol.de/nbe/nachhaltigkeitsbericht-online>

Establishes fundamental issues to be included in the following report!



Alternatively: use the standards more “freely”, not GRI-following report

Example: the sustainability report from UOL!

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Sustainability Reporting: definition and practice

A sustainability report is a report published by a company or organization about the economic, environmental and social impacts caused by its everyday activities. A sustainability report also presents the organization's values and governance model, and demonstrates the link between its strategy and its commitment to a sustainable global economy.

Source: <https://www.globalreporting.org/information/sustainability-reporting/Pages/default.aspx>

e.g. CSR-reporting, non-financial reporting,...

Sustainability Disclosure Database:

- Foster transparent communication and exchange
- > 23.000 or reports registered
- Of ALL reports: ca. 65% follow GRI standards
- Some are “citing-GRI”
(i.e. not having GRI-Content-Index, but following GRI standards and principles)

Sustainability Reporting: definition and principles

“Citing-GRI”: not **GRI-Content-Index**

GRI Content Index

| GRI Standard | Disclosure | Page number(s) and/or URL(s) | Omission | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|--------------|--------|-------------|
| | | | Part Omitted | Reason | Explanation |
| GRI 101: Foundation 2016 | | | | | |
| General Disclosures | | | | | |
| GRI 102: General Disclosures 2016 | Organizational profile | 102-1 Name of the organization | | | |
| | ... | | | | |
| | Strategy | 102-14 Statement from senior decision-maker | | | |
| | ... | | | | |
| | Ethics and integrity | 102-16 Values, principles, standards, and norms of behavior | | | |
| | ... | | | | |
| | Governance | 102-18 Governance structure | | | |
| ... | | | | | |
| | Stakeholder engagement | 102-40 List of stakeholder groups | | | |
| ... | | | | | |
| | Reporting practice | 102-45 Entities included in the consolidated financial | | | |
| ... | | | | | |
| GRI Standard | Disclosure | Page number(s) and/or URL(s) | Omission | | |
| | | | Part Omitted | Reason | Explanation |
| Material Topics | | | | | |
| GRI 200 Economic Standard Series | | | | | |
| Economic Performance | | | | | |
| GRI 103: Management Approach 2016 | | 103-1 Explanation of the material topic and its Boundary | | | |
| | | 103-2 The management approach and its components | | | |
| | | 103-3 Evaluation of the management approach | | | |
| GRI 201: Economic Performance 2016 | | 201-1 Direct economic value generated and distributed | | | |
| | | 201-2 Financial implications and other risks and opportunities due to climate change | | | |
| | | 201-3 Defined benefit plan obligations and other retirement | | | |
| | | 201-4 Financial assistance received from government | | | |
| --- | | | | | |

Sustainability Reporting:

Providers of sustainability reporting guidance:

- GRI (GRI's Sustainability Reporting Standards)
- The United Nations Global Compact
- OECD
- ISO 26000, International Standard for social responsibility