



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Sustainability Disclosure in Corporate Reporting (SDCR)

2021-1-F7701M800

Learning objectives

The course aims to provide students with the basic skills regarding corporate reporting focused on non-financial reporting through the deepening of the European Directive EU / 95/2014. The course is part of the Jean Monnet Application Form n. 611698-EPP-1-2019-1-IT-EPPJMO-MODULE "Sustainability Disclosure in Corporate Reporting (SDCR). Improvement and harmonization of best practices in the European Union" which was selected for EU support (2019 -2022). The in-depth analysis of non-financial reporting will be carried out both in a systemic vision of the corporate reporting systems and in the context of the planning and control systems, risk management and in the context of the corporate governance and corporate strategy model. The students involved acquire and deepen the basic skills regarding managerial and business management tools through the study and observation of the ways in which companies use non-financial information and the features available to stakeholders, in particular to investors. The course offers students both conceptual schemes and examples for identifying, analyzing and understanding the key elements of reporting on non-financial information. Students are invited to actively participate in the learning process, to take part in workshops for the analysis and preparation of sustainability reports and to manage non-financial information.

The students will therefore have the knowledge necessary to analyze and interpret non-financial information through the analysis of case studies and the conduct of self-assessment exercises and quizzes.

Contents

The "Sustainability Disclosure in Corporate Reporting" Course SDCR (8CFU) analyzes the European Directive NFRD EU / 2014/95, the adoption in the national laws of the main Member States, deepens the methods of drafting non-financial reporting, analyzes the main standards and frameworks, studies the impact of sustainability disclosure on company processes and functions, in particular with regard to the administration and control function, organizational structures, corporate governance, corporate strategy and policy, and in particular the company reporting on SDGs.

Detailed program

1- CORPORATE REPORTING

1.1 Financial and non-financial accounting in the context of corporate reporting

1.2 Accounting and accountability: Corporate Social Responsibility

1.3 Main definitions and theoretical reference frameworks

1.4 Intangible assets and corporate reporting

2-STANDARDS AND INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORKS

2.1 The Global Reporting Initiative: GRI Standards

2.2 European Directive NFRD 2014/95 / EU

2.3 Integrated Reporting Framework <IR>

2.4 Other international standards

3- NON-FINANCIAL INFORMATION

3.1 CSR, ESG and NFI: definitions and categorizations

3.2 Environmental information

3.3 Employee-related information

3.4 Information on respect for human rights

3.5 Ethical (corruption) and diversity information

4. THE DRAWING UP OF THE NON-FINANCIAL STATEMENT

4.1. Materiality analysis and stakeholder engagement.

4.2. Analysis of best practices at international, European and global level.

4.3. Financial markets and investors: sustainable finance and non-financial information

4.4. The impact of non-financial information on financial performance and financial markets

5- NON-FINANCIAL INFORMATION AND RISK MANAGEMENT

5.1 Enterprise Risk Management and sustainability

6- NON-FINANCIAL AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

6.1 The impact on the board and on the organizational structure

6.2 The Chief Sustainability Officer (CSO) and the Chief Value Officer (CVO)

6.3. The corporate strategy oriented towards sustainability.

7- INFORMATION ON BIODIVERSITY AND EXTINCTION SPECIES

7.1. International standards and frameworks

7.2. Analysis of case studies

7.3. Investors and biodiversity / endangered species: recent trends

8. THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs) AND THE 2030 AGENDA

8.1. The UN 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?

8.2. SDGs, non-financial information and corporate reporting.

Prerequisites

No requirement

Teaching methods

Sessions of frontal teaching, discussion of case studies and carrying out written exercises. Participation and discussion in the classroom on current issues will be stimulated. Some seminars will be organized with practitioners.

During the Covid-19 emergency period, lessons will take place in a mixed mode: partial attendance and asynchronous / synchronous videotaped lessons. Most of the lessons will be conducted synchronously respecting the timetable of the lessons, as far as possible.

Assessment methods

During the course two intermediate tests will be carried out by means of written tests. The first intermediate test will concern only a first part of the program. Those who pass the first test will have access to the second written test. Students who pass the two written tests will have direct access to the oral exam which will concern the overall program. Those who do not pass the intermediate tests, decide not to take them or do not accept the mark obtained will be able to take the exam in the traditional way. Those who pass the two written tests can choose not to take the oral test by accepting the written mark,

The written exam consists of a test consisting of 6 multiple choice questions (score 0, if wrong or missing, score 1, if exact), four open questions (score from 0 to 6). To pass the written exam it is necessary to obtain an overall mark of 18. After passing the written test the student will be able to access the oral exam on the overall program. For

those who obtain a score of 21 or higher, it is possible to accept the mark without taking the oral test.

Workshops and / or group work are scheduled during the semester which will be able to integrate the final exam mark.

Multiple choice questions are useful for checking the systematic knowledge of the course contents, the numerical exercise is aimed at ascertaining the student's ability to use data from practical cases while open questions are useful for checking the student's autonomous ability to rework concepts on specific topics.

During the Covid-19 emergency period, oral exams will only be online. They will be carried out using the WebEx platform and on the e-learning page of the course there will be a public link for access to the examination of possible virtual attendees.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Atkins J. and Atkins B. (eds.), *Around the World in 80 Species. Exploring the Business of Extinction* (pp. 273-285). Padstow Cornwall : Greenleaf Publishing Book Routledge Taylor and Francis Group

King Mervyn with Atkins J. (2016). *Chief Value Officer: Accountants can save the planet*, Routledge, New York.

Doni, F., Gasperini, A., & Torres Soares, J. (2020). *SDG 13 - Climate action. Combating Climate Change and its Impacts*. Bingley, UK: Emerald Publishing Limited

Slide

Readings, papers

Sustainability reports

Detailed indications on the parts to be studied will be provided during the course

Semester

First semester

Teaching language

English

