



Add value.
Inspire trust.

ISO 26000 Social Responsibility Implementation Assessment

Achieve the benefits of building a
sustainable business



Your challenges

Many organisations have realised that their social responsibility is not limited to employment generation but extends to the communities and environment in which they operate. Investors and customers are also increasingly attaching importance to organisations' sustainability efforts. They prefer to do business with organisations that contribute to sustainable development and/or the United Nations' (UN) Sustainable Development Goals. Indeed, it is very common for investors to mandate an audited sustainability performance report as a prerequisite for investment or access to capital. Many large organisations and multinational corporations have also recognised the value of local markets and there is a clear focus to develop partnerships with small businesses (SMEs) through local community participation.

To remain competitive in an increasingly complex global economy, the early adoption of globally recognised corporate social responsibility (CSR) standards,

alongside the implementation of new CSR trends and initiatives is therefore vital. Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) impacts, generated during operations, are also a critical consideration in today's business ecosystem as it affects both the organisation's reputation and its relationship with stakeholders. Establishing diversity, equality and inclusion is now a strategic business imperative as stakeholders demand an open, inclusive and innovative culture. The increasing reliance of stakeholder communities on social media also necessitates hyper-transparent ESG disclosures by organisations on their internal business operations and practices.

ISO 26000 - Guidance on social responsibility

Launched in 2010, ISO 26000 provides guidance rather than requirements, and organisations use its framework to improve their social responsibility approach, non-financial disclosures, and self-reporting on their transformation commitment. It has helped multiple organisations to integrate the UN Guiding Principles on Business and

Human Rights, as they understand that human rights are critical to any business that wants to contribute to sustainable development. It is the most inclusive sustainability standard for social responsibility as it aligns with initiatives from the International Labour Organization (ILO), UN Global Compact, Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Core ISO 26000 topics

The ISO 26000 guidance is an essential point of reference for government representatives, non-governmental organisations, industry, consumer groups and labour organisations. Its core topics cover:

- Organisational governance.
- Human rights.
- Labour practices.
- The environment.
- Fair operating practices.
- Consumer issues.
- Community involvement and development.

Why is an ISO 26000 implementation assessment important to your business?

The ISO 26000 guideline recommends an external evaluation, particularly for in the collection of indicators and external reporting phases. This will specifically assess the effectiveness of the monitoring system and adherence to the principles of its social responsibility system. An independent, external assessment evaluates the organisation's CSR strategy and policies, as well as pinpointing opportunities for improvements in ESG performance.

TÜV SÜD assesses your defined targets, resulting in an internal or public report for stakeholder communication. Our evaluation approach adds value by identifying the accuracy of information reported by your organisation and its supply chain, enabling everyone to achieve the highest international standards and enhance credibility among stakeholders.

How can we help you?

TÜV SÜD supports companies as a third-party, using independent personnel with the most appropriate skill set. Our ISO 26000 assessment projects are designed to meet the specific needs of each organisation, and follow a methodology which ensures comparability. Our portfolio also includes public training and an e-learning module, as well as awareness training for all levels of the company.

Your business benefits

- **Increase stakeholder trust and maintain long-term engagement** – due to the transparent disclosure of social aspects, and the ability to demonstrate compliance against local and international regulations and standards.
- **Minimise risk** – from reputation-damaging lawsuits and negative publicity in both mainstream and social media.
- **Improve internal structures and systems** – by taking a holistic approach to managing sustainability.
- **Motivate employees** – by increasing awareness of sustainability and your organisation's commitment to it.

Why choose TÜV SÜD?

As TÜV SÜD is vendor agnostic, our third-party assessments are both impartial and independent. TÜV SÜD experts help your organisation to gain valuable insights from an unbiased expert, supporting your organisation to establish and integrate social responsibility initiatives into a holistic framework. Our strong technical expertise can bring added value during the assessment process and our experts' innate understanding of how to evaluate your organisation's social responsibility status-quo allows you to concentrate on your core competencies.

Add value. Inspire trust.

TÜV SÜD is a trusted partner of choice for safety, security and sustainability solutions. It specialises in testing, certification and auditing services. Since 1866, the company has remained committed to its purpose of enabling progress by protecting people, the environment and assets from technology-related risks. Today, TÜV SÜD is present in over 1,000 locations worldwide with its headquarters in Munich, Germany. Through expert teams represented by more than 25,000 employees, it adds value to customers and partners by enabling market access and managing risks. By anticipating technological developments and facilitating change, TÜV SÜD inspires trust in a physical and digital world to create a safer and more sustainable future.

Related services

TÜV SÜD provides the following related services:

- ISO 20400 - Sustainable Procurement
- ISO 30415 - Diversity & Inclusion
- ISO 37001 - Anti-bribery
- SA8000® - Social Accountability
- Sustainable management services
- Sustainability reporting verification