



NETWORK FOR
SUSTAINABLE
BUSINESS

P R E S S R E L E A S E

Manual on Sustainable Development Performance Indicators available in German

For clear benchmarks in sustainability reporting

Hamburg, 06.11.2023 – As part of a project by the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) on performance indicators for sustainable development, an expert group has produced a manual. B.A.U.M., the network for sustainable management, has translated this manual published by UNRISD into German and will present it to the public together with the international think tank r3.0 on 6 November.

Based on the project results, the manual presents new methods and indicators that eliminate blind spots in conventional reporting. The Sustainable Development Performance Indicators (SDPI) developed by UNRISD incorporate planetary and societal boundaries as well as the sustainability agenda, which – agreed to by all member states of the United Nations in 2015 – is awaiting appropriate reception and implementation.

"UNRISD's corporate sustainability performance indicators take planetary and societal boundaries seriously by translating them, as impact-oriented reporting principles, into practically applicable benchmarks," explains B.A.U.M. Chairwoman Yvonne Zwick. "To facilitate access to this innovative approach for the German-speaking user community, we have translated the UNSDPI manual into German." Zwick is convinced that with these benchmarks, the practice of sustainability reporting can come much closer to a new partnership between politics and business to achieve sustainable development. "Achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda is in the interests of society as a whole and therefore also in the interests of business itself," she emphasises.

"Measuring the sustainability performance of business enterprises has proven to be a difficult task. The indicators, methods and reporting models currently used by ESG standard setters do not provide an adequate basis for assessing the impact on the socio-economic, governance and environmental dimensions of sustainable development", says Ralph Thurm, founder and CEO of r3.0. "As they are primarily designed for profit-oriented companies, sustainability reporting often misses the point, which is to demonstrate genuine corporate sustainability performance. Companies that pursue social and environmental goals in

addition to economic ones, such as social and solidarity economy companies, can make their contributions more visible by using the UNSDPI indicators."

As part of the presentation of the German translation of the manual, the experiences of B.A.U.M. member companies Weleda and GLS Bank, who were first-time users of the UNSDPI, will also be shared. In addition, Heike Grosch, founder of Matching Fusion, will present the didactic concept of the SDPI Journey.

Ilcheong Yi, Senior Research Coordinator at the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), gave a [welcome address](#) on the occasion of the publication of the German translation of the manual.

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About B.A.U.M.

As a network, B.A.U.M. is committed to advancing the central issue: a future worth living through sustainable management. Founded in 1984, the association now has almost 800 members and is an audible voice of sustainable companies at national and European level as well as a driving force for a socio-ecological market economy. B.A.U.M. supports companies willing to transform in establishing and further developing sustainability strategies and networks stakeholders from business, politics, science, media and associations. B.A.U.M.'s current flagship projects include the "Business for Climate" initiative, the SDG Scouts® and the annual B.A.U.M. Environment and Sustainability Award. Other important areas of work are sustainable finance, sustainable mobility, forests and biodiversity.

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