

On behalf of the SDG Lab and IISD we look forward to welcoming you at:

Building Bridges Week Data Workshop

Measuring the Social Dimension of Sustainable Finance

Date & Time: Tuesday 30 November, 10:00 - 11:30 CET

Venue: Campus Biotech Innovation Park
[SDG Solution Space](#) - Ground Floor
Av. de Sécheron 15, 1202 Genève

Registration for the workshop is required via [Building Bridges Week](#)

Introduction

Measurement is often cited as one of the main challenges to advance the inclusion of social aspects in sustainable financing. With an offset in a number of themes under the 'S', this workshop will invite participants to discuss how the finance and development community can collaborate to strengthen data design, collection, and usage of data for measuring the social impact of investments.

The workshop will kick-off with a short presentation to set the scene on the current topics and issues for measuring the social dimension of sustainable finance by Vincent Siegerink, OECD.

Following this, participants are invited to share their expertise, solutions and any challenges they might face in their work on measuring impact on the 'S'. The discussions will be structured around 5 themes, each one facilitated by a subject expert.

See the themes and a presentation of facilitators outlined on the following pages.

Thematic groups

Decent Work and Well Being

Moderated by Vincent Siegerink, OECD

Existing measures of the “Social” component of ESG measures do not adequately reflect the well-being of employees. Some interpretations of workforce-related social factors focus on a narrow set of risks, such as those related to workplace incidents or boardroom representation. Other conceptualisations focus primarily on qualitative information or on input or output indicators, rather than on the outcomes that really matter, and which can be measured. We will explore how we can go beyond a narrow approach and what type of employee well-being related information is relevant in the S dimension both from a financial materiality and a societal impact perspective.

Vulnerable workers

Moderated by Charlotte Lush, ShareAction

While data collection on the workforce is increasing, significant data gaps persist for some of the most vulnerable workers. Contingent workers and workers in the supply chain are often much less well understood, despite making up significant proportions of companies’ workforces, and being most at risk of poor working conditions and labour rights violations. Less direct employment relationships can make gathering data more challenging but doing so effectively is key to creating more sustainable companies and socially impactful investments.

Enabling inclusive and sustainable communities

Moderated by Johannes Schreuder, PeaceNexus

What is the contribution of business to societal wellbeing and how can it be measured? This group will explore practices, challenges and opportunities for businesses to measure and determine the impact of their activities, products and services on the communities in which they operate. This includes how to measure impact, evaluate it, and whether it should always be quantified.

A holistic approach to measuring the ‘S’ - relating the ‘S’ to the ‘E’ and the ‘G’

Moderated by Lilach Trabelsi, Sustainability Scholar

We often take a “silo” approach when we think about and measure ESG outcomes, referring to the ‘E’, the ‘S’, or the ‘G’ in isolation. Yet, the different categories are linked. We would therefore like to expand our thinking. To do so, we will consider how measures of the ‘S’ are linked to measures of the ‘E’ and the ‘G’, thus starting to generate a more holistic view of organizational impact, which accounts for interlinkages and possible trade-offs and synergies between the three categories.”

Diversity and Inclusion, inclusion of people with disabilities

Moderated by Stefan Tromel, Senior Disability Specialist, ILO

There is an increased commitment from the private sector to promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities both as employees and consumers. This group will reflect on the benefits of this inclusion and examples of good practice. We will also look on how to measure progress of disability inclusion.

Bios



Vincent Siegerink is an Economist in the OECD’s new Centre for Well-being, Inclusion, Sustainability and Equality of Opportunity (WISE Centre), where he leads the work on measuring the non-financial performance of firms. In this role, he is a contributor to the work of the Business for Inclusive Growth Coalition (B4IG) on impact measurement, the Impact Management Platform, and the UNSD’s Committee on Business and Trade Statistics Task Team on Well-being and Sustainability. He has worked as a social scientist in the OECD for several years on the measurement of various aspects of well-being, including subjective well-being, trust and the impacts of the digital transformation on well-being.



Charlotte Lush is a Research Manager at ShareAction for the Workforce Disclosure Initiative (WDI). Charlotte leads on the development and management of the WDI survey and research relating to workforce topics and corporate reporting. Before joining ShareAction, Charlotte worked for Stonewall where she managed the global employment research function, and for the Manushya Foundation in Thailand where she conducted human rights research focused on the Thai Government’s National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights.



Johannes Schreuder leads the private sector engagement activities of PeaceNexus. Helping companies have a greater positive impact when working in conflict-affected countries. His responsibilities include the oversight of the endowment of the foundation and company engagement for the Peace Investment Fund. Johannes joined PeaceNexus with experience in both the private and public sectors. Previously, he was with the UN Peacebuilding Support Office and Boston Consulting Group.



Dr. Lilach Trabelsi is a sustainability scholar interested in the link between corporate strategy, decision-making, and sustainability, as well as in the role of stakeholders in achieving corporate sustainability objectives. She also acts as Managing Director at TBH Global Family Office SA, a boutique asset manager based in Geneva.



Stefan Tromel is Senior Disability Specialist at the ILO since 2013. Previously he was Director of the International Disability Alliance. He has been actively involved in the negotiation process of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.