

# BEYOND COMPLIANCE Herausforderungen und Chancen der ESG Regulatorik

im Rahmen des RESPONSIBLE MANAGEMENT SUMMIT 2025

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04.07.2025



# Learning goals and agenda



# WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

#### **Gain know-how:**

- ESG Value Creation beyond Compliance
- Strategic Integration
- Materiality Insights
- Competitive Advantage

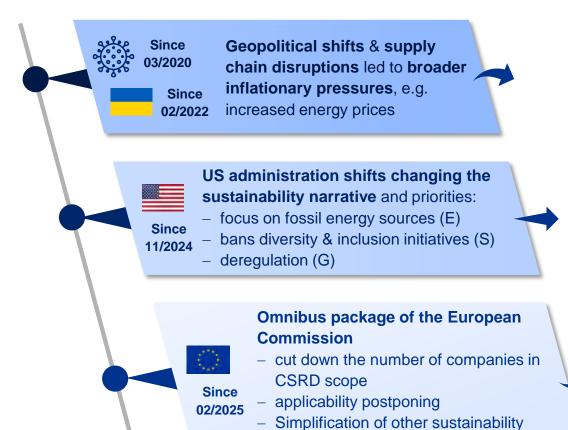


- 1. Introduction
  - 2. Regulation and Reporting
    - 3. Strategy and value
      - 4. Climate and Nature
        - **5. Governance and Organization** 
          - 6. Technology and Alliances
            - 7. Conclusion and Discussion



01 Introduction

# Recent changes and challenges



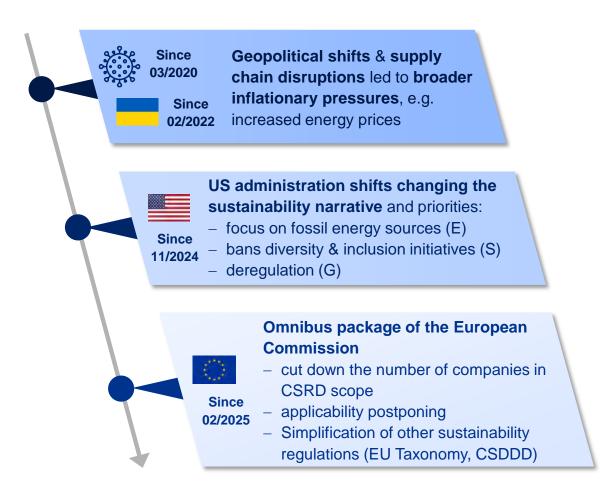
# Narrative that sustainability and competitiveness are incompatible goals





regulations (EU Taxonomy, CSDDD)

## Recent changes and challenges





# THE TASK Breaking this narrative by delivering business cases for sustainability



# ESG transformation spans across 5 areas of focus



#### **REGULATION & REPORTING**

Regulatory & Stakeholder Expectations
Transparency & Accountability
Political Incentives

#### **TECHNOLOGY & ALLIANCES**

Data & Software Power
Tech Player Partnerships
Internal Steering & External Reporting

### STRATEGY & VALUE

Resilience & Performance
Business & Operating Models
Enterprise Value Enhancement

#### **CLIMATE & NATURE**

Maximizing positive impact on the planet's systems & the business operating in it

#### **GOVERNANCE & ORGANIZATION**

Internal Processes, Controls & Structure
Inclusive, Equal & Just Culture
Value Chain Integration







# Before diving in the five areas of focus, let us see how you perceive ESG



Do you view ESG primarily as a burden or an opportunity?



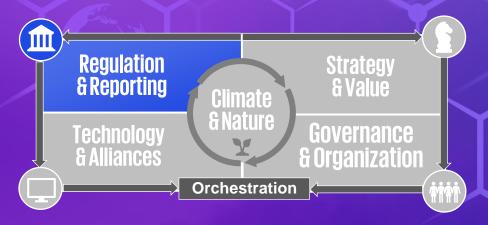
Which aspect of ESG do you find most challenging: Environmental, Social, or Governance?



How important is ESG in your current organization?



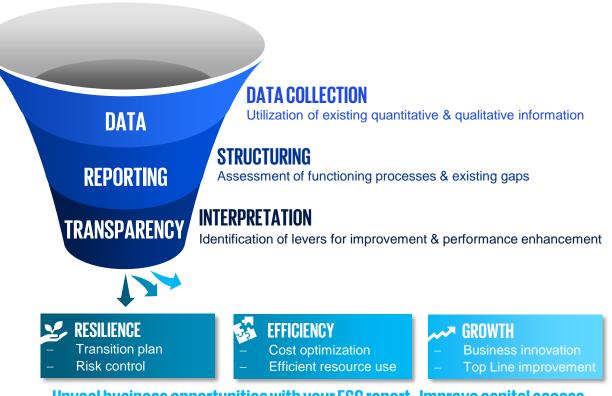
# Regulation & Reporting





# ESG Reporting transparency as the driver of business value



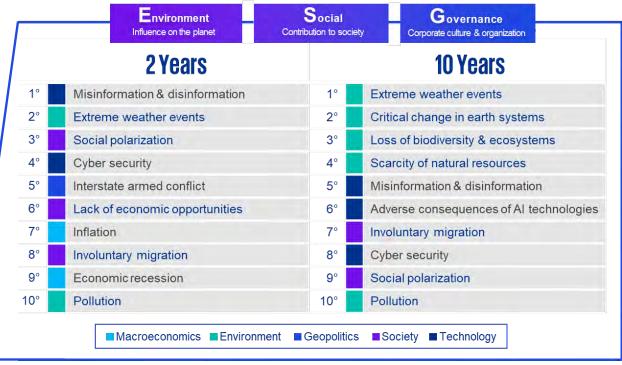


Unveal business opportunities with your ESG report: Improve capital access, uplift company value and develop a competitive advantage.

## ESG Reporting transparency as the driver of business value

### **OUR OBSERVATION** SUSTAINABILITY ACTIVITIES CHALLENGED **Resilience**: How to preserve economic value while facing material ESG risks? Efficiency: How to improve operational performance & efficiently use resources? Growth: How to create top-line value and build sustainable business models? WHAT ESG REPORTING FELT LIKE It's the law Compliance focus Data-collection exercise Regulatory driven movement So many requirements

## Out of the top 10 global risks for companies in 10 years, how many are ESG-related risks?



Source: World Economic Forum, The Global Risks Report 2024



# ESG Reporting transparency as the driver of business value

#### **OUR OBSERVATION**

#### SUSTAINABILITY ACTIVITIES CHALLENGED

- Resilience: How to preserve economic value while facing material ESG risks?
- Efficiency: How to improve operational performance & efficiently use resources?
- Growth: How to create top-line value and build sustainable business models?

#### WHAT ESG REPORTING FELT LIKE

- It's the law
- Compliance focus
- Data-collection exercise
- Regulatory driven movement
- So many requirements

ESG REPORTING AS BASIS FOR SUSTAINABLE SUCCESS

#### **ALTERNATIVE PERSPECTIVE**

#### WHAT ESG REPORTING REALLY IS

- Potential to increase top-line/ decrease cost
- From interpretation to transformation
- Identify areas to optimize business
- Structured transparency
- Risk-Control
- Reliable data-source
- Resilience-driver

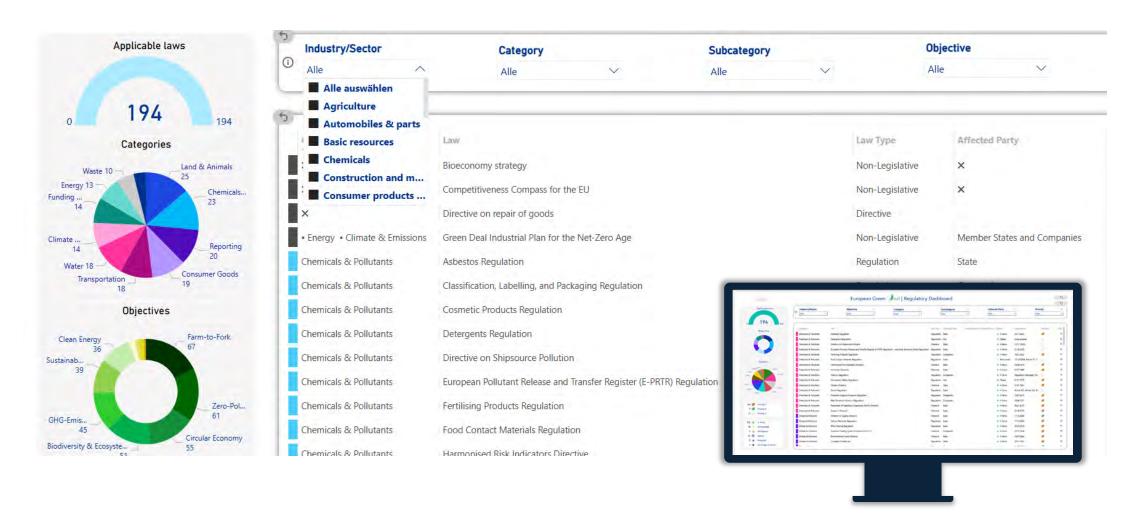


## The EU Green Deal regulatory landscape





# Navigating your legal landscape





# Strategy & Value





# Let us see how your organization integrates ESG in its Strategy



Do you believe ESG should be a strategic priority or just a compliance requirement?



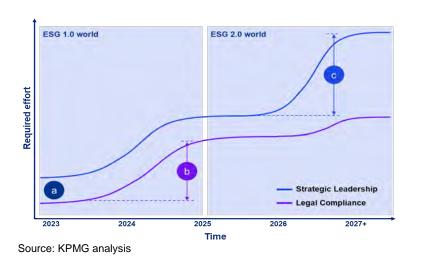
Which ESG driver is most important for your company: Reputation, Risk Management, or Business Model?



How does your company currently integrate ESG into its strategic planning?



### ESG-driven transparency will re-define strategic ESG leadership



- Marketing-Driven Leadership
  - ESG engagement unrelated to business/operating model
  - Lack of peer comparability
- Transparency & subsequent capital allocation as primary goal of the regulation
  - **Ambitious Compliance Effort**
- Strategic leadership with significantly higher effort requirements due to comparability
  - Clear & operationalized ESG strategy & transformation roadmap required for effective prioritization & execution

Our understanding of ESG: Changing stakeholder requirements need to be understood

#### **VALUE PRESERVATION**

Avoiding ESG-related cost



Secure compliance



#### **VALUE CREATION**

Using ESG-driven opportunities



**Develop ESG business cases** 

#### What are key drivers for ESG activities in your company?

54% Politics & regulation 64% Climate change & env. damages

46% Competitive pressure 34% Societal pressure

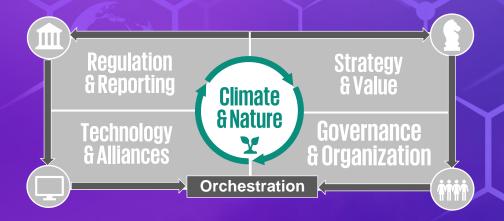
76% Client expectations and needs 54% Owner/ investor requirements

55% Employer attractiveness 57% New business potentials

Source: Nachhaltig steuern - Studie zum ESG Management - KPMG Deutschland



# Climate & Nature





# Energy and CO<sub>2</sub>e - Managing climate risks & opportunities to meet regulatory requirements and create value at once

#### WHY WE NEED TO DO IT?



**CSRD** - transparency on physical & transition risks

EU taxonomy - location-based analysis

StaRUG/FISG - early warning systems & risk management

**TCFD and TNFD** – addressing climate risk



Investor expectations – e.g. pursuit of decarbonization pathways

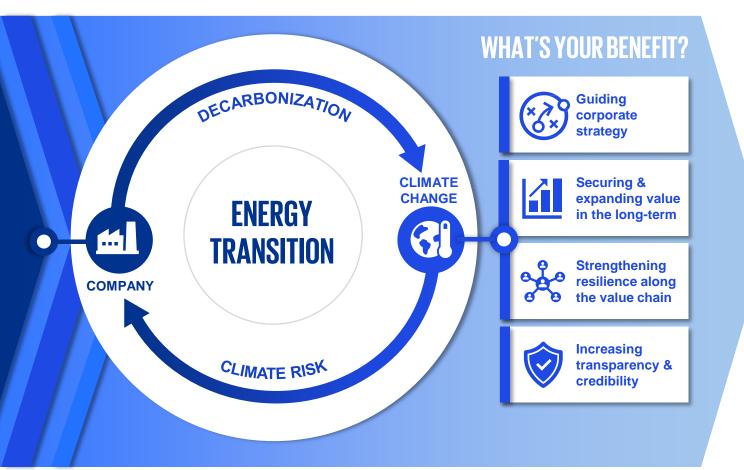
Net-Zero Banking alliance - committed to <2°C for portfolio / industrial transformation pathways

Publication requirements - e.g. Pillar 3 law, Green Bond standard, SFDR



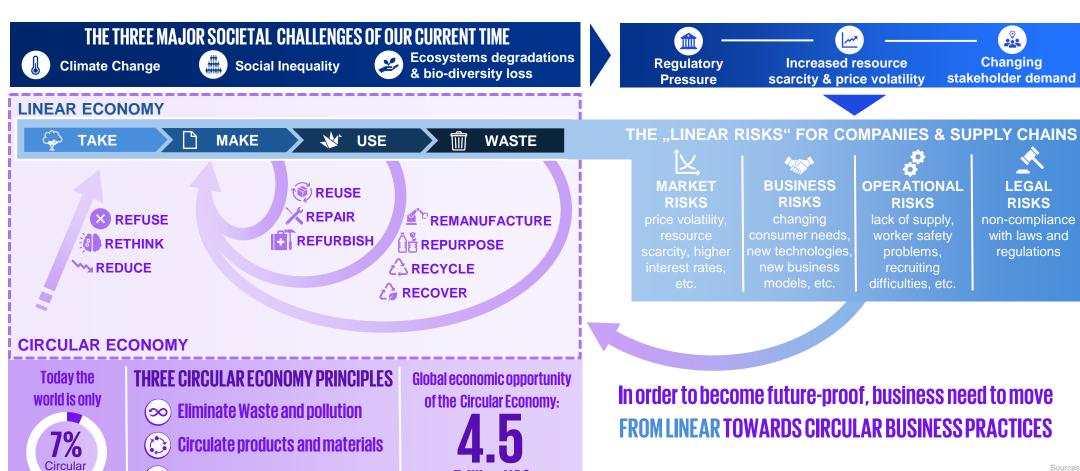
EU ETS (EU Emissions Trading System) makes CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions a relevant cost driver

National regulations - further increase costs, e.g. CO<sub>2</sub>-taxes





# The Circular Economy: What it is and Why it matters



-WEF Platform for Accelerating the Circular Economy

UN Environment & International Resource Panel, 2018 Ellen MacArthur Foundation, SUN Foundation, McKinsey Center for Business and Environment, 2015

Arup & Ellen MacArthur Foundation, 2018

Ellen MacArthur Foundation & the United Nations Conference for Trade and Development, 2016



Trillion US\$

**Regenerate natural systems** 

## The journey from linear to circular economy

#### **Linear economy**

**Circular economy** 

Use of fewer primary resources	Recycling
	Efficient use of resources
	Use of renewable energy sources
Maximum value retention of products & materials	Remanufacturing, processing and reuse of products & components
	Extending the product life cycle
Transformation from ownership to use	Product as a service (product service systems)
	Sharing models
	Change in consumption patterns

#### Relevance & value-add for entrepreneurs

- **Strategic positioning** → CE enhances innovation & market differentiation
- Regulatory compliance → Align with CSRD, CEAP, EU taxonomy,...
- **Product development** → Circular designs reduce environmental impact
- Purchasing & procurement → Secondary materials boost efficiency & cut costs
- **Logistics & processes** → Waste reduction & recycling improve sustainability
- Competitive advantage → CE boosts ESG ratings, customer loyalty & green financing access

#### **Transition Roadmap**

#### Phase 1: Target breakdown

- Identification and evaluation of levers & risk
- Assessment of interconnections to biodiversity.

#### Phase 2: Rollout

#### Phase 3: Governance and steering

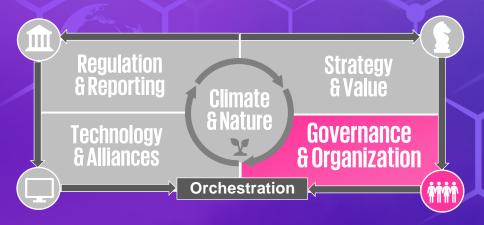
KPIs, circularity tools, ownership and escalation





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# Governance & Organization





## Alignment of key stakeholders is critical



#### **Three No Regret Moves**

- 1. Assemble a Cross-functional team
- 2. Perform a CSRD Impact analysis
- 3. Perform a Double materiality analysis

#### Financial Reporting & Tax

What are the impacts in terms of **processes** & the **internal control framework**? (i.e., ICFR, DCP)

What are the ESG-related **risks**, **opportunities** & tax that impact the financial statements & the business as a whole?

#### **Sustainability Group**

What are the sustainability-related developments in respect of European operations? How can these sustainability-related disclosure topics unlock organizational value?



available today?

What are the best ESG Tech-enabled solutions

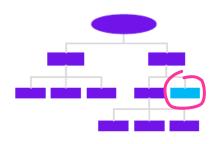
right strategy to drive your organizations ESG narrative & prevent other market

participants from telling it for you? How to facilitate & track the transformation process?

# ESG needs an overall organizational structure and steering

#### **Evolution towards a sustainable ESG governance & organization**

#### **CSR focus**

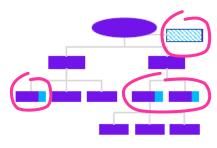




- Central CSR role with focus on reporting & avoiding reputational risks
- Mix of strategic & operational tasks
- Current increasing breadth of issues & complexity leading to capacity & competence bottlenecks

**Defensive** 

#### ESG "as a project or task force"

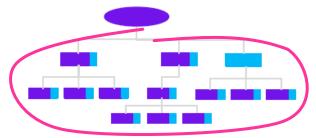




- Creation of "Corporate ESG" department reporting to C-Level & acting as Group-wide task force
- Integration into the company (prioritized), heterogenous structure & partly unclear roles & responsibilities

Generating value for society, minimizing reputational risks & complying with legislation

### Centralized strategic ESG department with full integration into the decentralized core business



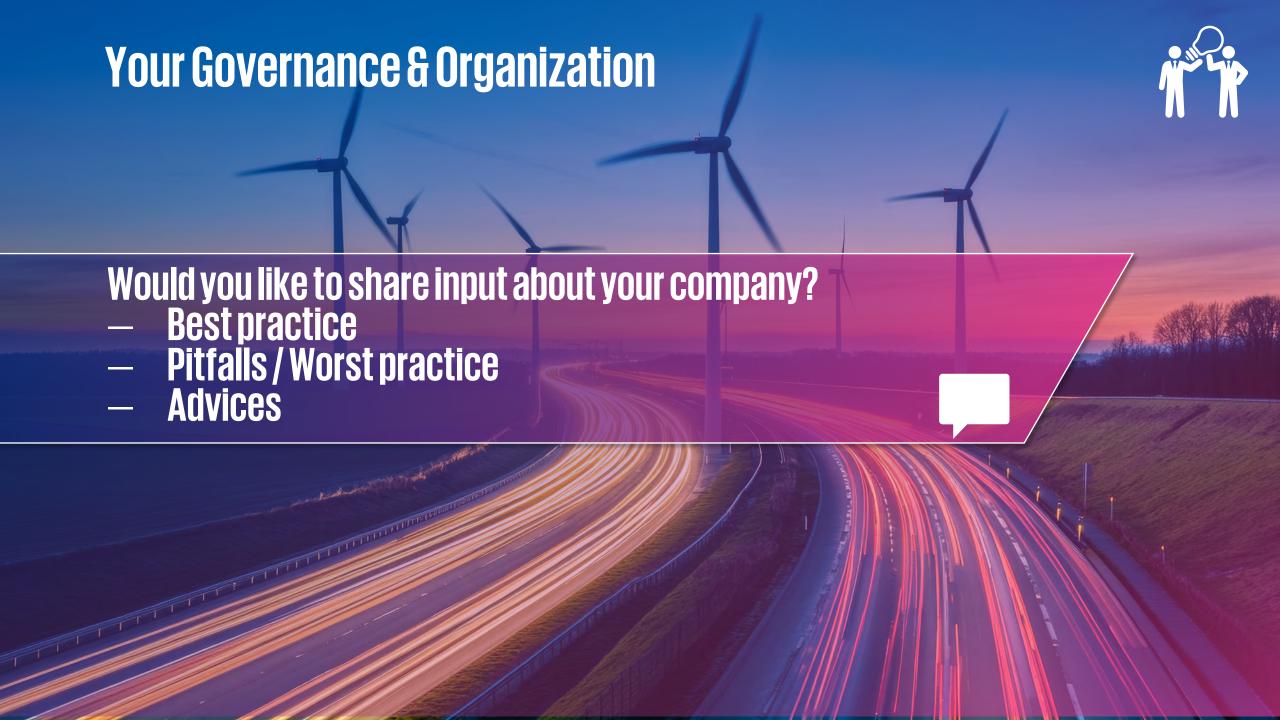
- Permanent establishing of the "Corporate ESG" department reporting to C-Level with central management, standard setting & group-wide coordination
- Integration into the business unity with clear roles & responsibilities

Anchoring ESG in the overall strategy, economic success going hand in hand with value created for society

#### **Value creation**

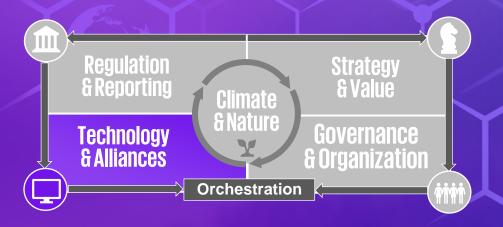
Transformation journey & cultural change





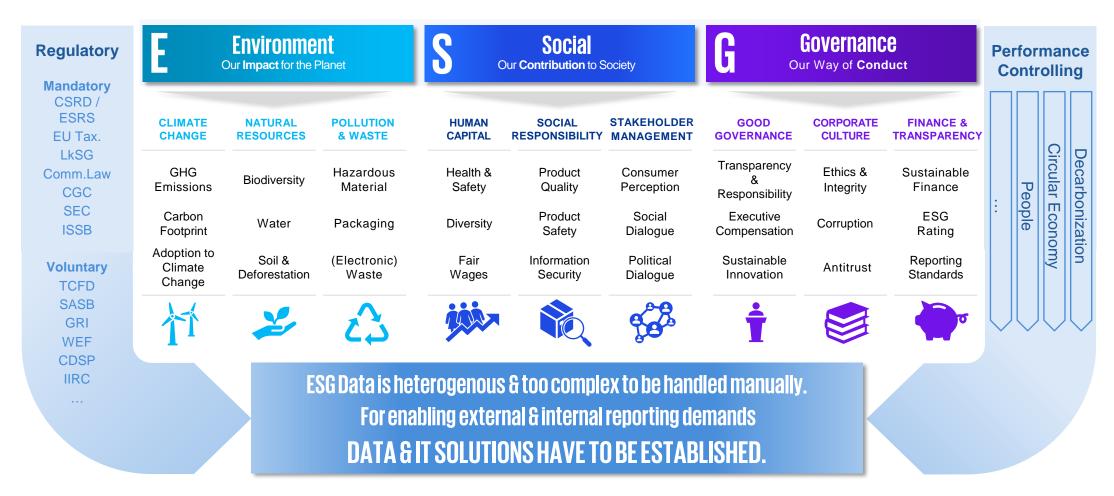
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# Technology & Alliances



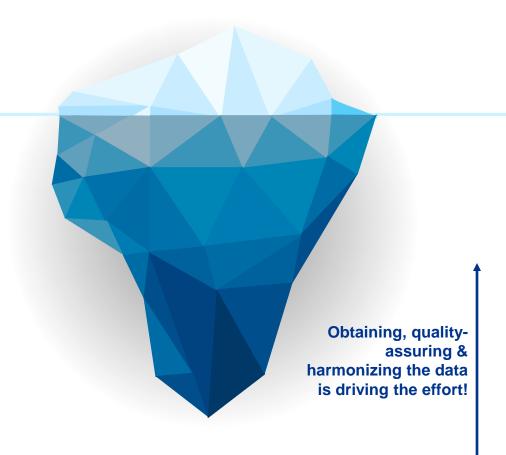


# Environmental, Social & Governance: >100 new KPIs have to be reported & IT support is of the essence





# ESG Reporting is much more than BI Tools: We need data ecosystems



#### **DISCLOSURE**

"Last mile" of reporting: Assembling single KPIs from data warehouse to integrate into a glossy, printed yearend report for investors & stakeholders. Usually highly specialized tools for this purpose only.

#### **PLANNING, REPORTING & ANALYSIS**

Many BI tools from countless suppliers allow to build dashboards, analytic reports or planning applications. Basic KPI calculations can be included; tools are targeted to be used/configured by functional departments.

#### PROCESSES, COLLABORATION, GOVERNANCE

For data collection, reconciliation & handling of unstructured information, flexible applications have to be provided. Low code platforms are ideal for quick solutions in case of new functional requirements.

#### (FINANCIAL) CONSOLIDATION

Financial consolidation systems & processes are usually well-established in large organizations. These can be leveraged also for data collection of ESG data.

#### **KPI HARMONIZATION & CALCULATION**

ESG data is rarely well-structured & the raw source data is of poor quality. Data has to be organized, structured, harmonized & quality-assured in a suitable environment.

#### **DATA STORAGE**

Similar to financial data warehouses, ESG KPIs have to be stored & provided to the stakeholders in designated data marts. Corresponding governance structures & features have to support the data provision.

#### DATA INTEGRATION/DATA COLLECTION

Unlike for financial data, 95% of ESG information comes from heterogenous data sources, most likely not SAP. These sources have to be connected & automatic/auditable interfaces established.

#### **DATA SOURCES & EXTERNAL DATA**

ESG Reporting asks for various external data such as ESG ratings or statical emissions data which has to be integrated into the internal data sources for KPI calculations or risk metrics.



# Sustainability as a business case: ESG innovation in focus

#### **ABOUT THE COMPANY**



#### **Industry**:

Milk powder production



#### Main challenge:

Very high energy consumption during the milk skimming process



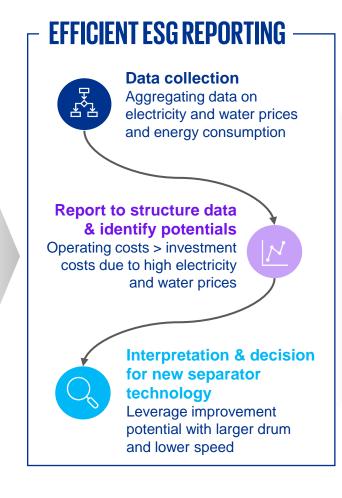
#### **Technological status quo:**

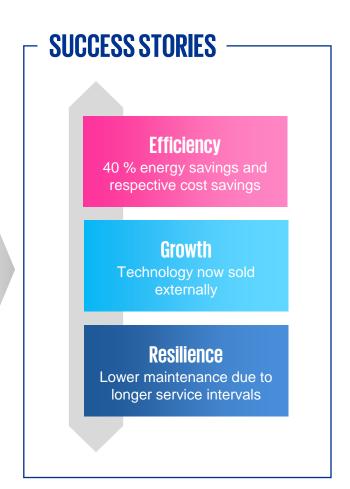
Conventional separators with high rotation speeds



#### **Objectives:**

Reduce operational costs and emissions



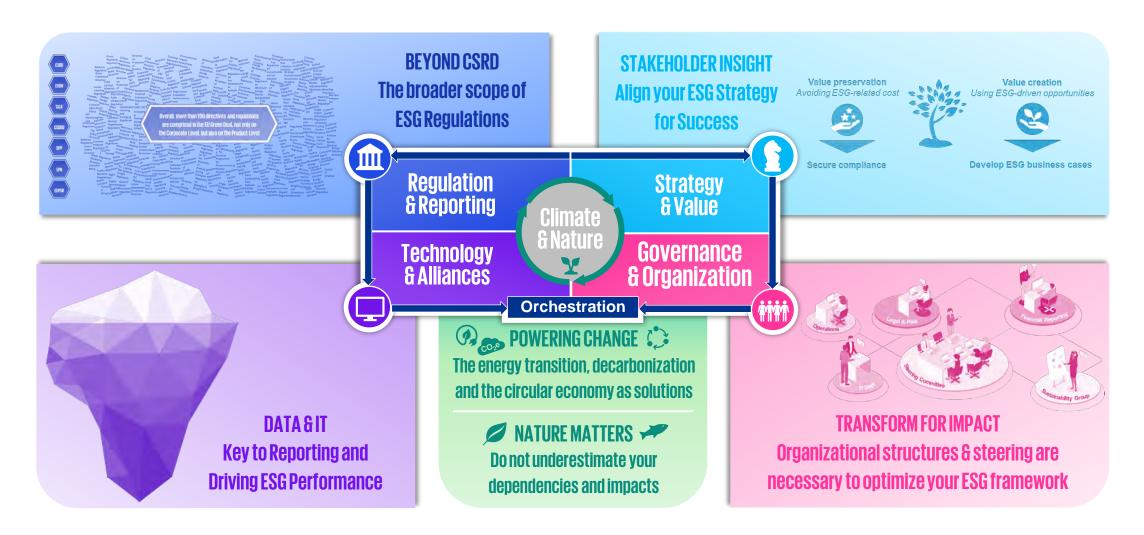




# Conclusion & discussion



# **Summary and Take-Home messages**







# **Eure Ansprechpartner**



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