



# „Sustainability Management & Reporting”

Winter-Term 2024/25

**Dr. Martin Becker & Prof. Dr. Ulrike Stefani**

Chair of Accounting

## **Summary**

After a brief presentation of the theoretical foundations of problems related to sustainability, selected aspects of the interconnected topics of sustainability reporting and sustainability management are discussed in more detail:

Sustainability reporting has recently gained in importance due to the adoption of the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) at EU level. In future, the sustainability statement will be part of the management report and therefore more than just a marketing campaign. In particular, the sustainability statement must be prepared in accordance with the European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS) and being audited by an independent auditor. The first part of the lecture deals with the institutional and content-related foundations of sustainability reporting according to the CSRD/ESRS before going on to discuss selected reporting obligations regarding impacts, risks, and opportunities related to environmental, social, and governance sustainability matters.

With growing pressure from both internal and external stakeholders, it has become essential for companies to develop robust sustainability strategies and to align them with their overall corporate objectives. Additionally, to ensure these strategies are implemented successfully, businesses require efficient steering mechanisms and performance management tools. The second part of the lecture deals with developing and integrating sustainability strategies and steering sustainability matters in corporations. In particular, management accounting and control concepts and instruments such as strategic planning, budgeting, control, and incentive schemes are discussed in the context of sustainability steering and more recent concepts such as impact or true cost accounting are introduced.

Due to the current environmental and social challenges, the associated corporate responsibility and, not least, the new regulations, this lecture is particularly relevant for corporate practice. It also lays the foundation for a scientific discussion of the topic.

## **Content**

1. Foundations of sustainability accounting
2. Sustainability reporting according to the CSRD/ESRS
  - a. Basics
  - b. Environment standards ESRS E1 – E5
  - c. Social standards ESRS S1 – S4
  - d. Governance standard ESRS G1
  - e. Analysis of the sustainability statement of an “Early Bird Adopter”
3. Sustainability management
  - a. Integrated sustainability strategy
  - b. Measuring and steering sustainability performance
  - c. Impact and true cost accounting
  - d. People, culture, and organization

## Lecture

	Prof. Dr. Ulrike Stefani	Dr. Martin Becker
Office:	F339	F338
Phone:	07531 88 5251	07531 88 3162
web	<a href="https://www.wiwi.uni-konstanz.de/stefani/">https://www.wiwi.uni-konstanz.de/stefani/</a>	<a href="https://www.wiwi.uni-konstanz.de/stefani/working-group/persons-a-z/">https://www.wiwi.uni-konstanz.de/stefani/working-group/persons-a-z/</a>
Office hours:	Please make an appointment by E-mail!	
Email:	<a href="mailto:ulrike.stefani@uni-konstanz.de">ulrike.stefani@uni-konstanz.de</a>	<a href="mailto:martin.becker@uni-konstanz.de">martin.becker@uni-konstanz.de</a>

The lecture takes place on **Wednesdays from 8:15 to 9:45** in **F428**. In the lecture, the content is explained; a discussion of the concepts and methods presented with the active participation of the students is encouraged. Registration is done via **ZEUS**.

Dates:

### **Wednesday, 8:15 – 9:45, F428**

- **Date 1:** 23.10.2024 (Becker)
- **Date 2:** 30.10.2024 (Stefani)
- **Date 3:** 06.11.2024 (Stefani)
- **Date 4:** 13.11.2024 (Stefani)
- **Date 5:** 20.11.2024 (Stefani)
- **Date 6:** 27.11.2024 (Stefani)
- **Date 7:** 04.12.2024 (Stefani)
- **Date 8:** 11.12.2024 (Becker)
- **Date 9:** 18.12.2024 (Becker)
- **Date 10:** 08.01.2025 (Guest)
- **Date 11:** 15.01.2025 (Becker)
- **Date 12:** 22.01.2025 (Becker)
- **Date 13:** 29.01.2025 (Becker)
- **Date 14:** 05.02.2025 (Becker)

## Exercise Group

The lecture is supplemented by an exercise group, in which application-oriented case studies are solved. In addition, students will form groups to present a paper or a case study that will be assigned two weeks before the presentation. The exercise group is held on **Wednesdays from 10:00 to 11:30** in **F429** (every second week).

Students should prepare themselves individually for the exercise group by solving the case studies. The exercise group is interactive.

Dates: **Wednesday, 10:00 – 11:30, F429**

- **Date 1:** 30.10.2024
- **Date 2:** 13.11.2024
- **Date 3:** 27.11.2024
- **Date 4:** 11.12.2024
- **Date 5:** 08.01.2025
- **Date 6:** 22.01.2025
- **Date 7:** 05.02.2025

## Information and Material

In ILIAS, there is a course with all of the **slides, exercises, and case studies**. If you register for this course in **ZEUS**, you will automatically have access to the contents that have been uploaded to **ILIAS**.

## Exams

At the end of the semester, there will be a **written exam** (90 minutes, 6 Credits). The dates for the exams will be communicated as soon as the department will have finished the planning.

**The presentation is given a weighting of 30% and the exam a weighting of 70% in the final grade.**

## Textbooks

- **KPMG AG Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft** (2024): ESRS: A Visual Approach. Structured Overviews of the European Sustainability Reporting Standards, Schäffer-Poeschel.
- **Laine**, Matias; **Tregidga**, Helen; **Unerman**, Jeffrey (2022): Sustainability Accounting and Accountability, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, Routledge.
- **Mio**, Chiara; **Agostini**, Marisa; **Sarpa**, Francesco (2024): Sustainability Reporting: Conception, International Approaches and Double Materiality in Action, Palgrave Macmillan.
- **Wunder**, Thomas (2023): Essentials of Strategic Management. Effective Formulation and Execution of Strategy in the Era of Sustainability, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Schäffer-Poeschel.