

UN Global Compact

Communication on Engagement

The Institute of Corporate Sustainability and Responsibility (InCSR) was founded in the beginning of 2011. The purpose of the institute is to contribute sustainable business development in the region by combining expertise from different fields and forming the understanding on corporate sustainability and responsibility concepts.

Members of the InCSR form the Sustainability Index Expert council and are involved in the implementation of different educational activities: seminars, e-learning tools, etc. covering all main aspects of corporate responsibility. According to business interests and needs InCSR forms the expertise and good practice tank and provides platform to share knowledge, insights and practice.

One of InCSR core activities is the **Sustainability Index** - a strategic management tool which helps Latvian enterprises to establish the level of sustainability and corporate responsibility. Another purpose of the initiative is to praise and support the enterprises contributing to the long-term sustainability of Latvian economy, environment, and society.



Sustainability index was initiated in 2009 and together with the range of experts from different fields the index has been adapted to the local audience evaluating the local performance of enterprises as regards to economic, social and environmental issues, taking into consideration global corporate responsibility and sustainability criteria. Any enterprise registered in Latvia, which is interested in acquiring its non-financial performance evaluation, may apply for participation in Sustainability Index. Sustainability Index evaluates company's real activity and openness to communicate with different stakeholders. Detailed information on the initiative is available on incsr.eu.

Responsible Business Assessment for **small companies** (up to 50 employees) was developed by the Institute for Corporate Sustainability and Responsibility (InCSR) and is available free of charge at www.incsr.eu. The aim of this tool is to provide support to small enterprises, to embrace principles of sustainability and responsibility in their business strategy.



If enterprise policy corresponds to family-friendly enterprise criteria set by Ministry of Welfare, it can apply for Family-friendly enterprise status and use it in its marketing activities. The aim of the initiative is to give recognition for such enterprises and to promote family-friendly enterprise policy. Since 2011 the evaluation of companies is carried out in the frame of Sustainability Index by experts of the Institute for Corporate Sustainability and Responsibility. In 2016 the status was given to 20 companies in Latvia.

In the frame of the European Year for Sustainable Development Institute for Corporate Sustainability and Responsibility in cooperation organized several awareness-raising activities, e.g. companies participating in Sustainability index were evaluated according to the principles of fair trade and the „**Fair Trade Prize**” received company *Latvenergo*.

Since 2014 any company and organization is invited to participate in the **Responsible business week** - to organize special events and environmental activities; to draw public attention to major problems; to provide practical guidance to employees, customers, suppliers. The campaign includes – a high-level expert panel discussion, Sustainability Index Awarding ceremony and the culmination of the campaign – Responsible business idea market! The aim of the campaign is to promote public awareness of responsible business, its benefits to employees, customers, the company itself and to the country. For businesses it is opportunity to be proud of their positive experiences, to pass it to others, thus inspiring to do more.



In September 2015 the research on transparency of Top500 largest Latvian companies was carried out by the Institute for Corporate Sustainability and Responsibility. The data showed very weak business performance, especially regarding non-financial reporting (only 7% have published their non-financial data, as well as business ethics principles (11% have made such principles publicly available).

In 2015 - 2016 range of other different educational and awareness raising activities were organized, e.g. workshops in cooperation with the State Labour inspectorate were held on employee engagement, pro bono consultations for the companies, as well as seminars and educational materials were developed, some of the include:

- A seminar on Responsible supply chain management where participants had an opportunity to acquaint themselves with the international policy positions, implementation of principles of responsibility in their business strategy, as well to hear good practice examples;
- In the frame of the European Year for Development the project „Profit. Planet. People. How development cooperation can influence business sustainability in Latvia?” was implemented with the aim is to raise the awareness of the private sector regarding development cooperation and its impact on solution of future challenges. The main target audiences were managers of the companies and business associations. Project activities included three business breakfasts and three animations on three dimensions – people, profit, planet; as well as integration of criteria regarding development cooperation in Sustainability Index <http://incsr.eu/lv/novertejums/ilgtspejas-indeks/>.

All the presentations, reports, etc. documents related to responsible business practice and produced by the Institute for Corporate Sustainability and Responsibility and experts, as well as companies speakers are available online and downloadable at www.slideshare.net/ilgtspeja. Most of events have been recorded and videos are published on www.youtube.com/ilgtspeja.lv.

Information about daily activities is published on a regular basis in Facebook page www.facebook.com/ilgtspeja. Photos, links and videos are also available there.