

Sustainability Reporting: An Analysis of PSI 20 Companies

Abstract

In recent years, global awareness of the environmental and social impacts of human activities has grown significantly, making sustainability a pressing need. As a result, companies are facing increasing pressure to report sustainability-related information.

This internship report aims to analyse the impact of adopting the new European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS) on the sustainability reporting of PSI 20 companies, identifying the key changes in their reporting content. The research question is: "How and to what extent have the ESRS impacted the sustainability reporting of PSI 20 companies?"

The study will adopt an interpretative perspective and fall within the scope of qualitative research. It will also be exploratory and descriptive, given the contemporary relevance of the topic. The analysis will focus on the companies listed on the PSI 20, the main index of the Lisbon Stock Exchange, which includes the 16 largest and most representative listed companies in Portugal. These companies have a significant impact on the Portuguese economy and corporate reporting practices. Additionally, they are required to disclose sustainability information for the year 2024 using the ESRS. A documentary analysis, based on content analysis, will be conducted on the corporate reports (e.g., annual reports, sustainability reports, or integrated reports) of these companies from 2022 to 2024.

This internship report is expected to contribute in the following ways: deepening the understanding of the impact of the new ESRS; enhancing knowledge of this regulatory framework; and increasing awareness among various stakeholders involved in the corporate reporting process regarding the effects of adopting ESRS. Given the current relevance of the topic, this study also aims to contribute to the empirical literature on sustainability reporting by examining the example of PSI 20 companies.

Keywords: Accounting, Sustainability, Sustainability Reporting, PSI 20, European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS).