

Executive summary

Three dimensions of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

This report describes the statutory requirement for business to report on corporate social responsibility (CSR) based on a survey of 170 large companies in Denmark. The requirement covers around 1.100 large companies (large companies in accounting class C, and listed companies and state-owned companies in accounting class D).

The report examines three dimensions of corporate accounts in relation to

- If and how businesses account for corporate social responsibility.
- If the businesses have CSR policies and whether these are translated into action and results.
- And also whether businesses specifically account for policies on climate and human rights and if so to what extent.

The CSR report

The findings show that 96 % of the companies disclose whether they have a policy for CSR policy or not. Of these, 77 % of the companies disclose that they have a policy for CSR, while 23 % inform that they do not have a policy for CSR. Of the 77 % of companies that disclose having a policy for CSR, 97 % specify their approach to the policy. 90 % account for how they translate their policy into action and 83 % evaluate and follow up on the effect of this.

With regards to the requirement to specifically account for policies in relation to human rights and climate impacts, 66 % and 72 % of the companies, respectively, follow the statutory requirement by informing if they have such policies or not.

More specifically, of the 66 % which inform that they have a policy on human rights, 64 % hereof report explicitly on the content of these policies. Furthermore, 49 % clarify how their policies translate into action and follow up on progress and possible effects.

Of the 72 % of companies which inform that they have a policy on climate impacts, 83 % hereof report explicitly on the content of these policies. In addition, 77 % account for how they translate their policies into action and follow up on progress and possible effects.

In general, it can be concluded that large listed companies and state-owned companies in accounting class D, are more likely have a policy on CSR, and are more consistent with regard to reporting on the content of these policies, execution and results/follow-up.

Themes

Thematically, the reporting usually covers, in the following order, environmental matters, social conditions, climate, anti-corruption and finally human rights. These tendencies should be viewed in light of the stricter reporting requirements, particularly concerning human rights and climate from the fiscal year 2013.

Publication of the report

For the majority of companies, the report is placed in the management review section. Just under half of the companies refer to a supplementary report, and finally, 10% of the companies publish the report on the company's website with a reference in the management review.

31 % of companies use the exemption in the law by referring to a report relying on international guidelines or standards (UN Global Compact, the UN-supported Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) or the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)). In this random sample, companies only refer to (their adherence to) the UN Global Compact, the tendency being that large companies in reporting class D, choose this option more often than companies in reporting class C.

Chart 3-3: Whether the company informs that it has a policy for corporate social responsibility or not	C	D	C+D
Yes	95%	100%	96% (164)
No	5%	0%	4% (6)
Total	117	53	170

Chart 3-4: Whether the company has a policy for corporate social responsibility	C	D	C+D
Yes	70%	91%	77% (126)
No	30%	9%	23% (38)
Total	111	53	164

Chart 3-6: Whether the company refers to a UN Global Compact, PRI or GRI report	C	D	C+D
Yes	23%	49%	31% (51)
No	77%	51%	69% (113)
Total	111	53	164

Chart 3-8: Whether the company disclose if it has a policy on human rights or not	C	D	C+D
Yes	58%	85%	66% (113)
No	42%	15%	34% (57)
Total	117	53	170

Chart 3-9: Whether the company disclose if it has a policy on climate impact or not	C	D	C+D
Yes	62%	92%	72% (122)
No	38%	8%	28% (48)
Total	117	53	170