

Responsible Business Forum in Estonia



Vastutustundliku
Ettevõtluse Foorum

Some Background for RBF Estonia

In September 2015, the United Nations at their General Assembly in New York approved the Sustainable Development Goals. Estonia, as a member of the UN is expected to take these goals into account when designing policies.

In December 2015, at the COP21 in Paris, 195 countries signed the global and binding agreement to tackle climate change.

In addition there is the European Green Deal, different changes in legislation regarding plastics, waste, environmental and social taxonomy, etc.



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Some Background for RBF Estonia

In Estonia, publicly traded companies need to present their responsibility report together with the annual report.

In spring 2019, company with state participation signed at the Ministry of Economic Affairs a responsible business agreement.

Other types of co-operation has been tried and tested during these trying times and between changing governments: we'll see what the next year will bring, considering the political changes and events upcoming.



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Responsible Business Forum in Estonia

Founded in 2005, to develop and support the field of responsible business.

Launched an evaluating index for businesses and other interested organisations in 2007.

First businesses as members at sometime around year 2010.

Currently 80 member organizations.



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Responsible Business Forum in Estonia

We unite enterprises that find it important to act responsibly, to make sure their business, the society and the country is sustainable.

Partners from all sectors: ministries and public enterprises, other third sector organizations, universities, and of course businesses, both members and non-members.



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When businesses join, they also have to sign a pledge.



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The Pledge for a Better Tomorrow (1)

- Through business we create added value to our employees, partners, the community and the society;
- In our company we shall phrase clear principles of responsibility and we shall make sure that they will be implemented continuously in Estonia and in other markets where we engage in;
- By being ethical in our business, we contribute to the development of the business environment;



The Pledge for a Better Tomorrow (2)

- We shall observe, that the principles of equal treatment are followed in our company;
- We shall share our knowledge and experience to raise awareness of the importance of responsible business in the society;
- In our business, we shall avoid and minimize potential damage to the living environment and communities.

We shall observe regularly that the principles of this pledge are implemented in our company and at all the levels of our company and through its development.



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Responsible Business Index

Since 2007, RBF Estonia organises the most thorough evaluation in the field of responsible business in Estonia, together with many partners.

The label – gold, silver or bronze – and the content behind all of this is in constant development.

As is expected from businesses who should make sure that they go through the evaluation process at least every 2 years.

Responsible Business Index

The index is meant as a tool for constant self-evaluation and self-development, to help update the current view and focus.

The label remains in force for 2 years.



VASTUTUSTUNDLIKU
ETTEVÕTLUSE INDEKS
KULDASE 2022



VASTUTUSTUNDLIKU
ETTEVÕTLUSE INDEKS
HÖBETASE 2022



VASTUTUSTUNDLIKU
ETTEVÕTLUSE INDEKS
PRONKSTASE 2022



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Responsible Business Index

The index takes into account 4 fields:

- > **The (natural) environment:** what is the company's impact on nature?
- > **The social environment:** companies do not exist in a vacuum, but are surrounded by communities.
- > **The work environment:** valuing your employees makes them value the work they do.
- > **The market environment:** integrity and transparency in all relationships of the business show trustworthiness both locally and globally.



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Responsible Business Index

Beginning from 2021, when going through the evaluation with our index, companies also have to analyse their work on the basis of the SDG-s.

Also, since ESG and different international ESG-related tools, indexes, strategies are more and more known and used, we also analyse the responsible business field(s) more and more through these 3 pillars.



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Examples of a Few Questions (1)

Does your organization have a strategy that includes responsible business principles and specific measurable targets regarding those?

- The organization hasn't agreed on responsible business principles at a strategic level;
- The organization has responsible business principles at a strategic level, but without specific measurable targets;
- The organization has responsible business principles at a strategic level together with specific measurable targets (also might be at the group level).



Examples of a Few Questions (2)

Are the responsible business issues led from the highest level of the organization?

- The issues are not led from the highest level of the organization;
- The highest levels are not included into managing/leading the responsible business issues, only the management;
- The responsible business issues are led from the highest level;
- The responsible business issues are led from the highest level and there is a separate working group for that (also might be at the group level).



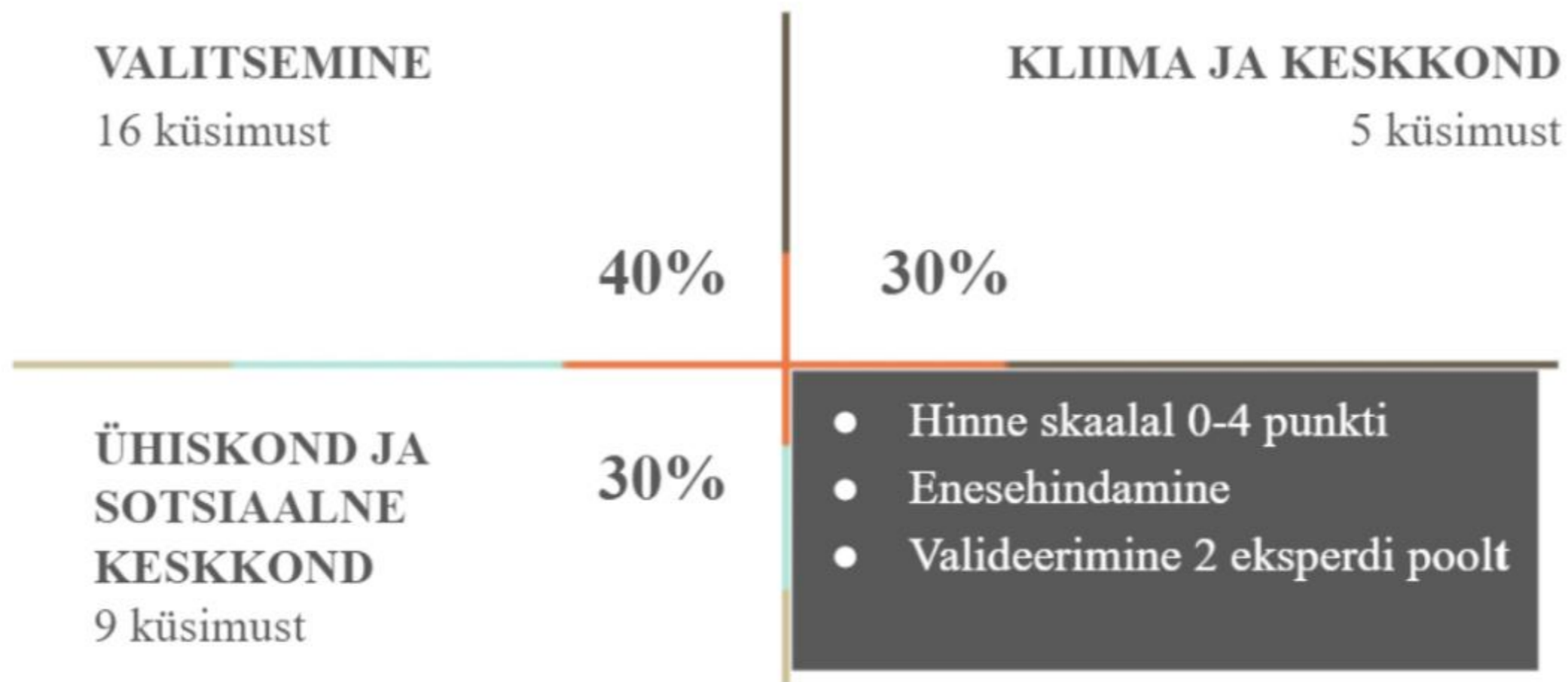
Examples of a Few Questions (3)

What kind of principles have you agreed on in your organization to find and include business partners into achieving your responsible business goals?

- We haven't agreed on any principles for choosing business partners;
- Yes, we have principles for choosing business partners;
- Yes, we have principles for choosing business partners and they are made public.



The Methodology of 2022



Partners of 2022



KESKKONNAAMET



TÖÖINSPEKTSIOON



TARBIJAKAITSE JA
TEHNILISE JÄRELEVALVE
AMET

 INIMÕIGUSTE KESKUS
HUMAN RIGHTS CENTRE
ЦЕНТР ПО ПРАВАМ ЧЕЛОВЕКА



SDG  LEAD



JUSTIITSMINISTEERIUM



MAJANDUS- JA
KOMMUNIKATSIOONI-
MINISTEERIUM

Estonian
Business
School
Tallinn | Helsinki 

 SEI Stockholm
Environment
Institute


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In addition to the label, companies get a report on how they did and feedback from the evaluators to start planning for the next 1-2 years.



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In Addition to the Index

We offer either by ourselves and/or together with our partners different trainings, reading material, etc.

- > ESG leader training
- > CIRCO training
- > small coffee-talks on different topics, either sector-based or – for example – taking a look at specific topics (e.g. the „S“ in the ESG)



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We are a Member

Our Forum is also a member of **CSR Europe**, which connects both businesses, but also national partner organizations like us. <https://www.csreurope.org>

In 2021, we became the member of **Ecopreneur.eu** (European Sustainable Business Federation), which is focusing on circular economy.

<https://ecopreneur.eu/>



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triin@csr.ee



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csr.ee