

Global Reporting Initiative Press Release

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Sustainability takes center stage as new reporting guidance is launched

Event organizers can now report on sustainability issues like impacts on communities, natural environments, and local and global economies, thanks to new guidance published today (Tuesday 24 January 2012) by the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI). The GMIC and its members have helped developed the guidance as part of a multi-stakeholder Working Group.

The events sector is diverse: its activities range from business meetings, conferences, and exhibitions to sports and cultural festivals – all of which have impacts on the economy, environment and society. These impacts need to be considered, measured and shared in order to improve the sustainability performance of the events industry.

Today's new Event Organizers Sector Supplement (EOSS) will enable event organizers to report their sustainability performance in a comparable way. The sustainability reporting guidance, tailored for the events sector, aims to make reporting more relevant for event organizers by defining how to provide qualitative and quantitative information on sustainability issues. In addition to more widely applicable issues such as greenhouse gas emissions and waste, the guidance helps event organizers report on more specific issues including attendee travel, legacy of the event, and initiatives taken at the event to promote sustainability and transparency.

Maaïke Fleur, Senior Manager Reporting Framework at the Global Reporting Initiative, said: "Over the last ten years there has been a growing interest in the 'greening' of events, with more and more organizations considering the sustainability performance of their activities. Public sustainability reporting is still quite a new concept for event organizers, but we anticipate that this new guidance will help them be more transparent about the impacts of their activities.

"Reporting is also about sharing best practices and can enhance learning for event organizers not yet so familiar with sustainability strategy and reporting. Attendees are interested to know the sustainability strategies behind events. Events are a significant business investment so it is vital that we start measuring and reporting sustainability impacts if we are to move to a sustainable global economy," added Fleur.

The Event Organizers Sector Supplement provides reporting guidance that is suitable for all types and sizes of events. The guidance covers the complete project life cycle of an event, from bid to planning, execution and, finally, post-event – including the issue of event legacy. The Supplement can be used to report before or after an event has taken place.

According to Sebastien Tondeur, CEO of MCI and Chairman of Meeting Professionals International (MPI), "transparent reporting is fundamental to organization success and growth. GRI provides the most widely used guidelines for sustainability reporting. With the GRI Framework, including the sector-specific guidance, it will be easier for the events industry to provide transparent information on the

sustainability strategies and performance of their organizations and events. The Sector Supplement is already helping both MCI and MPI to improve their sustainability initiatives.”

“Sustainability is an integral consideration in planning and delivering the London 2012 Games,” said Phil Cumming, Corporate Sustainability Manager at London 2012. “Our vision is to use the power of the Games to inspire lasting change. We want to set new standards and create a powerful knowledge legacy for more sustainable event management. GRI’s Event Organizers Sector Supplement will play a key role in achieving these aims.”

The Supplement was developed according to a multi-stakeholder process. Volunteers from events companies, governments, labor and civil society organizations were brought together in a Working Group to develop the guidance. The public then responded to two Public Comment Periods, before the Working Group took the consultation feedback into account and finalized the Supplement.

To download the guidelines: <https://www.globalreporting.org/reporting/sector-guidance/event-organizers/Pages/default.aspx>

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For more information, contact:

Lucy Goodchild
Press & Communications Manager
Global Reporting Initiative
Tel: +31 (0)20 531 0067
Out of office hours: +31 (0)6 303 99 531
Email: <mailto:goodchild@globalreporting.org>

Notes to Editors

1. The Event Organizers Sector Supplement will be launched at London 2012 on Tuesday 24 January 2012. A launch webinar will take place at 4pm CET on 25 January 2012 – for details and to register visit: <http://bit.ly/EOSSLaunch>
2. For a copy of the new Sector Supplement, email Bonora@globalreporting.org
3. About the Global Reporting Initiative

The Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) produces a comprehensive Sustainability Reporting Framework that is widely used around the world, to enable greater organizational transparency. The Framework, including the Reporting Guidelines, sets out the Principles and Indicators organizations can use to report their economic, environmental, and social performance. GRI is committed to continuously improving and increasing the use of the Guidelines, which are freely available to the public.

Website: www.globalreporting.org

4. Members of the Event Organizers Sector Supplement Working Group:

WG Member	Organization name	Country
Regula Baertschi	Swiss Federal Office for Spatial Development (ARE)	Switzerland
Guy Bigwood	MCI Group	Switzerland
Phil Cumming	LOCOG - London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games	UK
Ann Duffy	VANOC - Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympics Winter Games	Canada
Meegan Jones	Live Earth	US
Elizabeth Henderson	Meeting Change	Canada
Dale Hudson	IMEX Group	UK
Piers Kelly	Reed Exhibitions Ltd	UK
Manfred Koblmüller	Austrian Institute of Ecology	Austria
Laura Lopez	International Annual Meeting on Language Arrangements (IAMLADP) & Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), United Nations	Chile
Amy Spatrisano	MeetGreen®	USA
Rolf Schwery	Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) - Rolf Schwery Schwery Consulting	Switzerland
Jessica Champagne	Service Employees International Union	USA
Caroline Howe	Climate Solutions Project, IYCN (Indian Youth Climate Network)	India
Kaori Kuroda	CSO Network Japan	Japan
Catherine Langabeer // Alison Tickell	Julie's Bicycle	UK
Steve Leonard	Gameplan Limited	UK
Danny Lurie	Hillside Digital Trust	South Africa
Sylvia Schenk	Transparency International	Germany