



Press release

## **Sustainability reporting in SMEs: Funk Consulting and ESG.DNA offer digital solutions for sustainability reports**

**Hamburg, 15.05.2025** – With the so-called omnibus procedure, the EU has significantly extended the deadlines for implementing the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD). Many companies now have the opportunity to prepare for the extensive reporting obligations without time pressure. To support them, Funk Consulting and the software provider ESG.DNA have formed a partnership – and are offering powerful tools and tailored support with their digital “ESG Starboard” solutions, enabling structured, efficient, and compliant sustainability reporting in accordance with the CSRD and the voluntary *Voluntary Sustainability Reporting Standard for SMEs (VSME)*.

Sustainability reporting is complex – and especially for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), it often presents an additional challenge. Many companies lack specialised ESG departments or sufficient resources to meet the extensive requirements. Even companies that are (not yet) subject to the CSRD are increasingly expected to credibly address ESG topics – for example, at the request of customers, banks, investors, or supply chain partners. To support companies in conducting streamlined and focused sustainability reporting, Funk Consulting has formed a partnership with the software provider ESG.DNA. With the ESG Starboard solutions, ESG.DNA offers powerful tools for the structured and digital implementation of the new sustainability standards – whether mandatory under the CSRD or voluntary under the VSME.

### **Combination of consulting and efficient IT tools**

Funk Consulting supports companies with a proven methodology to collect and analyse structured ESG data across the entire value chain. This enables companies to accurately assign key sustainability aspects to specific stages of their value and supply chains. As a result, the necessary foundation is laid for a well-founded materiality analysis. As a recognised expert in global risk and opportunity assessment, Funk Consulting has been assisting companies for years in integrating sustainability aspects into their risk evaluations. Complementing Funk's consulting and methodological guidance, ESG Starboard offers powerful Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) solutions that support companies in the structured

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collection, processing, and analysis of ESG data, enabling the creation of reports in compliance with both CSRD and VSME standards.

### **Navigating the ESG jungle – even for companies without their own sustainability resources**

New reporting obligations and information requirements represent a considerable additional burden, particularly for small and medium-sized companies without their own sustainability departments. Those responsible often have to handle ESG-related tasks alongside their existing duties. This is precisely where the partnership between Funk Consulting and ESG.DNA comes in: Funk's consulting expertise and ESG.DNA's intuitive platform actively support companies in implementation – with practical guiding questions, checklists, AI support, and sample answers that make it easier to get started with sustainability topics in a structured way. This lays the foundation for a sound materiality analysis and provides a data-based representation of the company's ESG positioning and assessment. This not only meets regulatory requirements – it also enables streamlined, professional voluntary sustainability reporting in accordance with the VSME standard. The latter offers small and medium-sized companies in particular a practical and internationally compatible framework to build transparency and trust with stakeholders. Whether mandatory or voluntary – getting started with systematic sustainability management has never been easier.

#### **About ESG.DNA**

ESG.DNA GmbH is a specialised service company that supports businesses in the development, optimisation, and communication of sustainability profiles, strategies, and reports to meet the ESG-related requirements of stakeholders such as customers, suppliers, capital providers, lenders, and employees. As a partner to banks and financial service providers, companies, associations and their members, as well as auditors and consultants, ESG.DNA develops tailored solutions for the specific ESG challenges faced by small and medium-sized enterprises. For more information, please visit [www.esg-dna.com](http://www.esg-dna.com).

#### **About Funk Consulting**

The complex and interconnected risks – from global to local levels, and from small and medium-sized businesses to large corporations – are the field of operation for Funk Consulting. Our team is part of the Funk Group. As a solutions provider for risk management systems, we are committed to offering holistic advice on all aspects of risk management for your company. Whether it's (geo)political analyses, technical business continuity management, risk assessments related to cyber and ESG topics, new markets and technologies, insurability of risks, or risk retention: Funk offers expertise and services all under one roof. Funk Consulting is your primary point of contact for comprehensive risk management.



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