

Summary

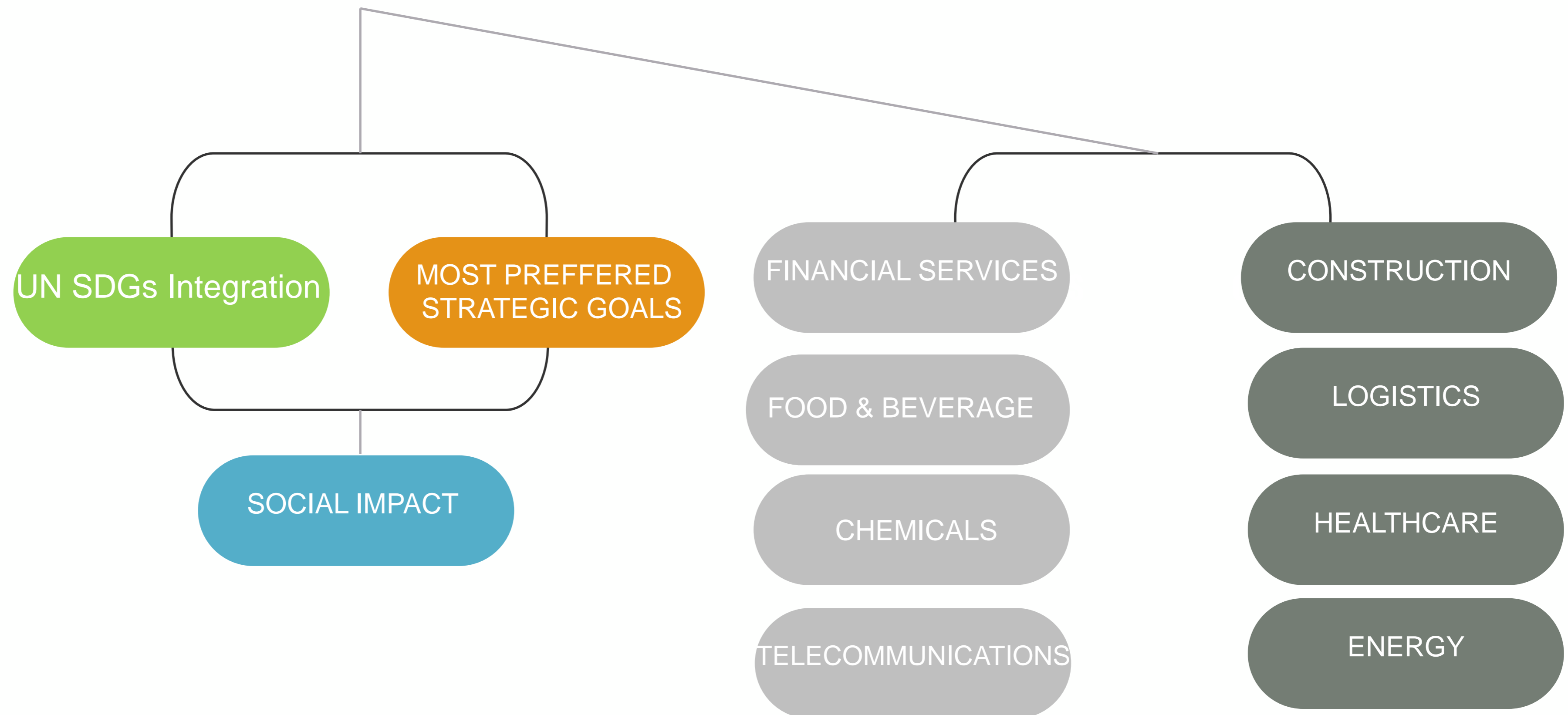
Trends and challenges for European Companies on Sustainability Goals Integration and Sustainability (CR) Impact

Surprising Findings revealed by CSE's research on Sustainability (CR) and Non Financial Reporting in Europe



CSE RESEARCH PROFILE

The research analyses **475** unique sustainability reports published by European companies and organizations of **8** business sectors that represents about **20%** of the total Sustainability Reports published annually in Europe.



FIVE (5) MAJOR TRENDS

1

Companies in Europe tend to focus and commit to specific strategic goals, regardless of their sector and location of operations. Objectives include, among others, climate change, energy efficiency, sustainable operations and sustainable supply chains.

2

The social impact goals of these companies relate to expanding the reach of their sustainability strategies to their business partners, mitigating the impacts to local communities and providing responsible products and services. However, significant gaps have been identified in the impact measuring of those initiatives and application of practices. This could be achieved through a Socioeconomic Impact Assessment or the use of tools such as SROI.



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FIVE (5) MAJOR TRENDS

3

Adoption of the UN Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs) has proceeded rapidly in Europe. A significant percentage of reports already include specific commitments to the SDGs and it is expected that the majority of businesses will embed SDGs into their strategy and business practices within the next five years.



4

In Europe, the majority of reports (76%) following reporting guidelines has not sought external assurance and therefore these reports do not get the credibility they deserve. Although their aim is to become more transparent regarding the disclosure of non financial information, they are only half-way there.



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FIVE (5) MAJOR TRENDS



The use of specific Reporting guidelines is growing, thus adding value, integrity, transparency and reliability to Reports. Of the many guidelines available, 55% of examined companies use the Reporting Guidelines of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), which improve stakeholder transparency. No significant trend for Integrating Reporting practices has been identified, despite the new Directive for non-financial Reporting.



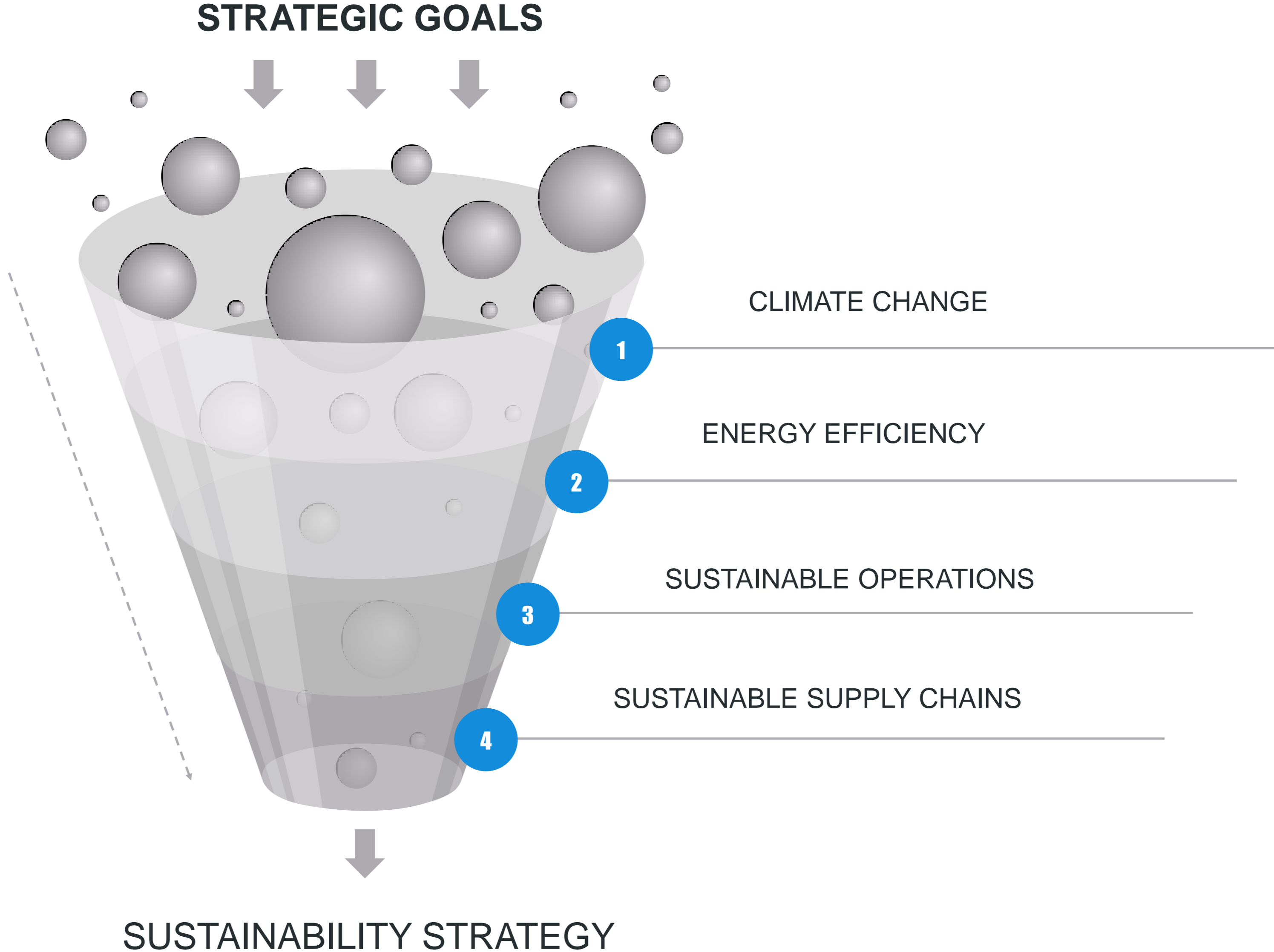
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MOST PREFERRED STRATEGIC GOALS

TIP

Companies tend to focus and commit to specific strategic goals, regardless of their sector and location of operations



SOCIAL IMPACT METRICS

Mitigating the impacts to local communities



Providing responsible products & services



Expanding sustainability strategies to business partners

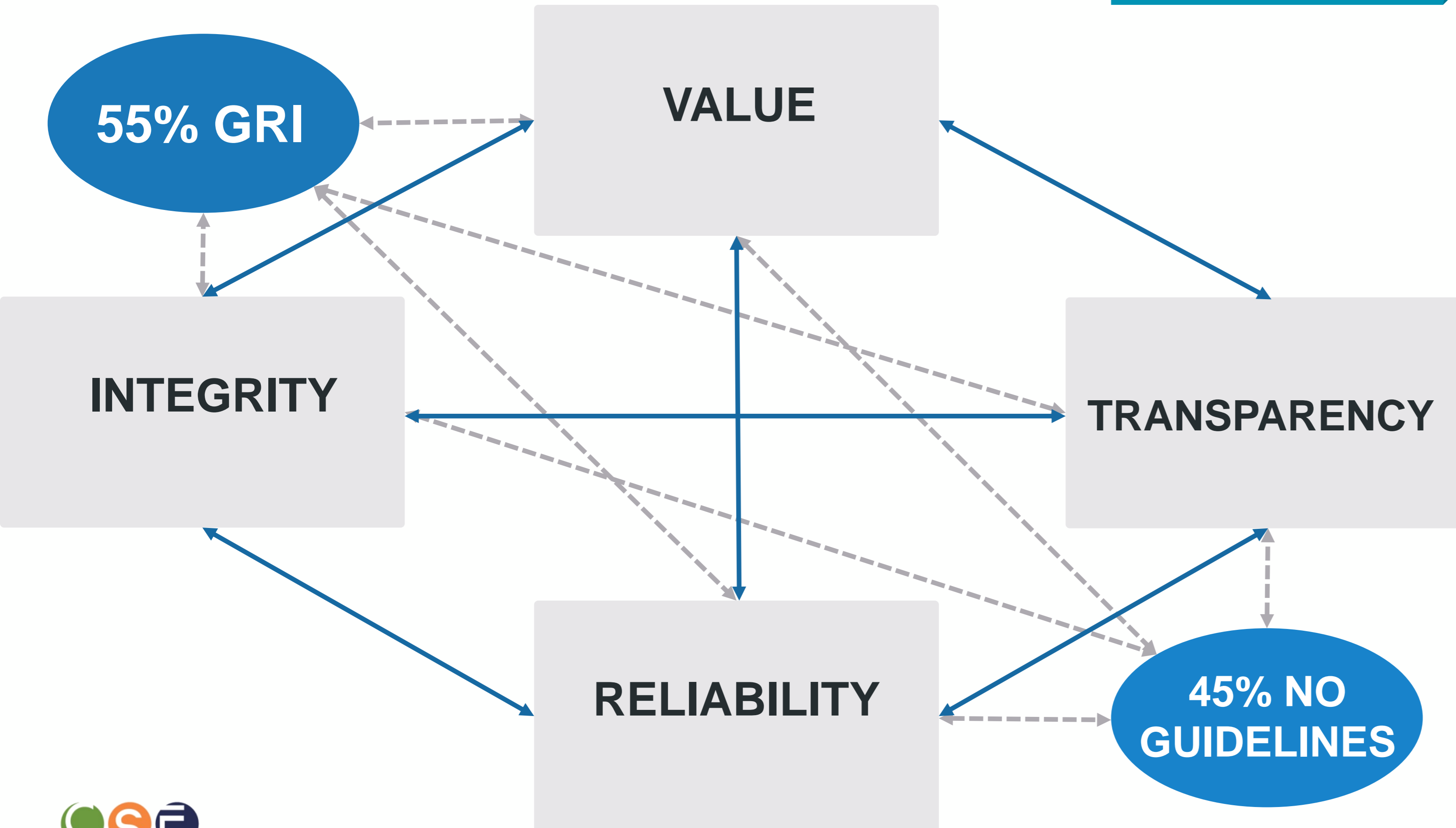
TIP
Gaps in impact measurement may be improved with Socioeconomic assessment tools, such as SROI



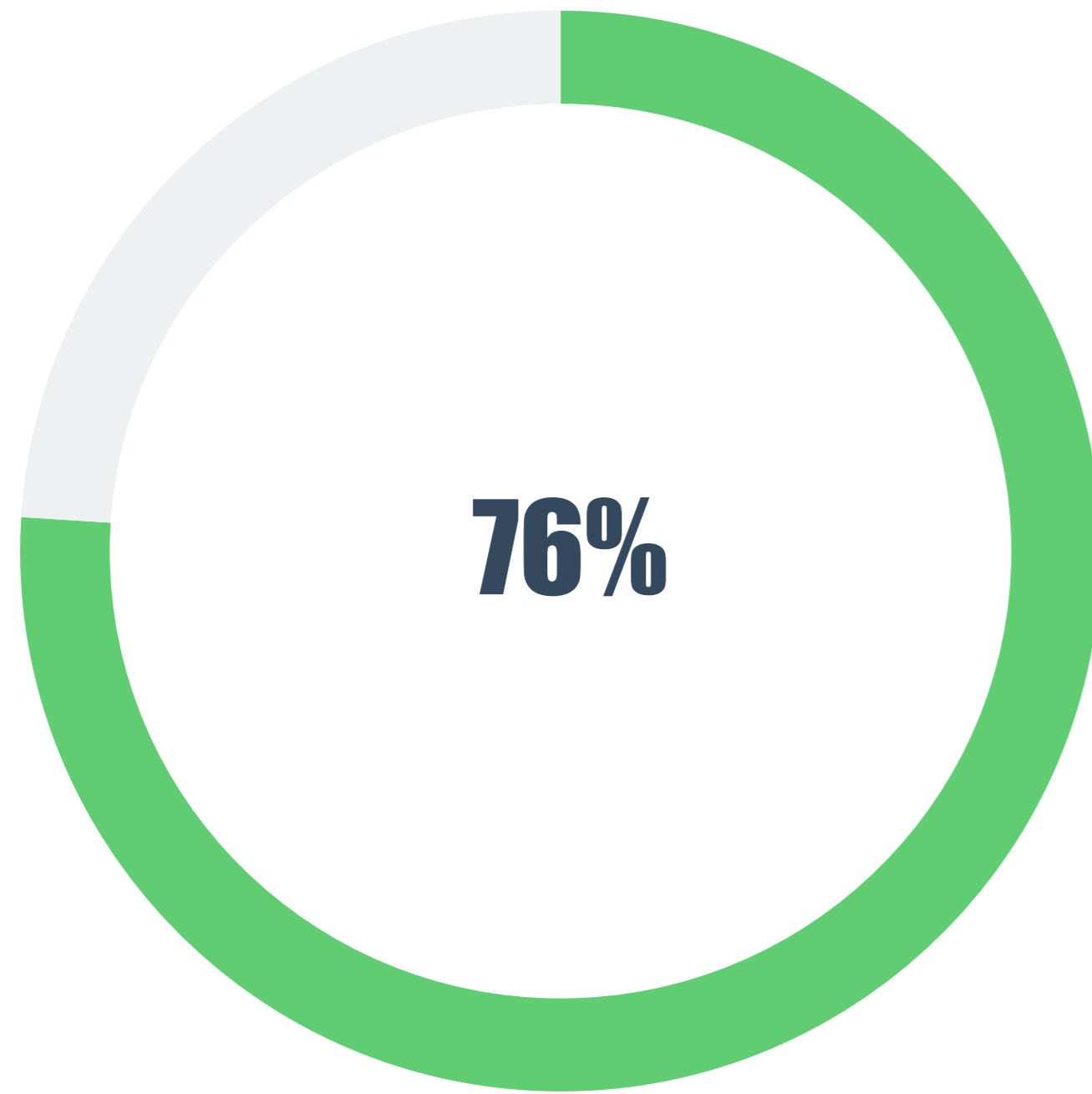
REPORTING GUIDELINES

TIP

GRI improves stakeholder transparency



EXTERNAL ASSURANCE



NO EXTERNAL ASSURANCE

TIP

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SDGs

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