

The Sustainability Code (DNK)

The free platform for your sustainability reporting

The DNK at a glance

Expectations around sustainability information are growing – especially from banks and business partners. But at the same time, many companies are short on time, resources and clear guidance on sustainability disclosures. The Sustainability Code (DNK) has the answer: a free, digital platform that guides companies step by step through their reporting – from initial data collection right through to the finished report.

How does the DNK help?

The DNK Platform guides you through the complete reporting process, supporting you with:

- **Clear structure** | Transparent criteria, checklists and data points
- **Tailor-made solutions** | VSME module (optional), ESRS module (CSRD-compliant) and [Zukunfts-Kompass Handwerk](#) (module for trade and craft businesses) implemented by the craft business associations ZDH and ZWH
- **Practical support** | Examples, explainers and sector-specific VSME guidance
- **Teamwork options** | Comment function and task allocation among team members
- **Overall view** | Automatically creates a complete, coherent report
- **Plausibility check** | Free assessment of VSME reports by independent expert reviewers, checking for consistency, coherence, ease of understanding and formal completeness
- **Export formats** | Word, PDF and iXBRL (machine-readable format)
- **Content support** | Extensive Sustainability Code support services from the [DNK Sustainability Campus](#) as well as free initial advice via the [DNK-Helpdesk](#)



Key benefits



Accessible

- Free of charge
- Beginner-friendly



Needs-based

- Developed with and for SMEs
- Practical content with realistic examples and support



Efficient

- Complex reporting requirements clearly explained
- Clearly structured process saves time
- Sector-specific VSME support



One-stop shop

- Record your sustainability data once, use it multiple times – including for transfer to banks and insurance companies.
- A central digital infrastructure supports the once-only principle, enabling efficient and consistent compliance with diverse reporting requirements – not only CSRD-related – for the long term.

Why use the DNK?

More than 5,000 companies (as of April 2026) already use the DNK for their sustainability reporting. The DNK helps you efficiently meet your reporting obligations and present your sustainability data in a structured, comprehensible and compact way.



Register now and get started free of charge:

www.deutscher-nachhaltigkeitskodex.de

The further development of the Sustainability Code (DNK) is a project of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy.



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