

Sustainability Screening

Sustainability Screening is based on a case study allowing student groups to investigate and evaluate the sustainability performance of a medium to large-sized company. Companies from different sectors are recruited (e.g. energy, transportation, housing, manufacturing, consulting) allowing students to maximize their aggregated learning experience.

Phase 1 – Preparation

Students are prepared for the task through several workshops where they are familiarized with different frameworks and tools that could be useful for the assessment and analysis of sustainability performance.

They study the sustainability challenges of the company's industry more broadly and, in a first step, collect company data with the help of publicly available information.

Phase 2 – Guided interview

Based on the challenges identified and the company information gathered, students then prepare an interview guide for their pre-arranged meeting with the company's CEO, Corporate Sustainability Officer, or Environmental Manager.

Before conducting the interview, the interview guide is presented in class, enabling students to sharpen their questions.

Phase 3 – Performance analysis and results

Following the interview, students analyze the sustainability performance of their company and prepare suggestions for improvement.

The results of the investigation are summarized in a report that is presented both in class and to the company representative on site.

"It was very inspiring to see companies that deeply implement the three dimensions of sustainability into their strategic agenda." Student, University of Gothenburg, Sweden

Benefits

- *Students learn how to source relevant information*
- *Learning how to deal with dilemmas in sustainability*
- *Acquiring skills in corporate sustainability evaluation*
- *Reflective and eye-opening process for companies*
- *Confirmation of results of companies' internal investigations*

Success factors

- *Thorough preparation for the screening*
- *Pre-selection of companies*
- *Pre-arrangement of the interview*
- *Timeframe at company for questions*
- *Mobility solution for distant companies*

Challenges

- *Gaining a critical perspective on sustainability challenges of companies' industry*
- *Overcoming language barriers (foreign students)*



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