

RepRisk ESG Risk Platform used by SASB

In an age when data is king, information holds true power. With a scope of over 53,000 companies in their database, RepRisk - a business intelligence provider that focuses on environmental, social and governance risk - announced that its information hub has been selected as an input by the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB), an organisation that issues industry-specific sustainability standards. Alexandra Mihailescu Cichon, Head of Business Development and Marketing at RepRisk, says that SASB selected the company for its broad range of data sources and systematic approach to data analysis and metrics.

SASB, based in the US, is a fully independent organisation that is developing sustainability standards for industries, and also works to make environmental, social and governance (ESG) disclosure a regular part of companies' filings with the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). "This is a potential game changer, because disclosing this data is the first step toward measuring the true impact of a company, going beyond the financial data," Ms. Mihailescu Cichon explains.

RepRisk got its start as an environmental risk consultancy firm in 1998. By 2006, at the request of a client, they developed a framework to identify and assess a list of companies that were exposed to severe environmental and social risks. In 2007, that list was launched as a full-fledged online risk platform. In 2010, the company separated from the consulting arm and RepRisk AG received its current name.

The number of data inputs considered for its risk assessments puts RepRisk ahead of the game. According to their website, the database includes risk information on over 53,000 companies and over 13,000 projects (e.g. mines, factories, power plants), as well as all sectors and countries. These data are

compiled in 15 languages from a broad range of media and stakeholder sources including online and print media, NGOs, governmental agencies, think tanks and social media. With this perspective, the data aims to provide its users with a more holistic assessment of a company.

Clients for the company are based mostly in North America, Europe, Japan and Australia. They purchase annual licenses to use the database on a subscription basis; in addition, some purchase customized screening and monitoring reports. Because RepRisk grew out of the financial sector, about 70% of their clients are financial institutions of some kind. However, a growing number of multinational companies have also approached

RepRisk in order to address ESG risks in their supply chain in an effective and efficient manner.

Challenges for the coming years include deepening their focus on new media and further increasing the awareness of ESG issues across global companies. "Five years ago, sustainability or ESG issues were not mainstream, whereas now they are on the agendas of Boards and Executives at companies around the world. The challenge for companies is to not treat these issues in an isolated manner, but to integrate them across their core business," Ms. Mihailescu Cichon explains.



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