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RepRisk Readies New ESG Reporting, Analysis Tools

Zurich-based environmental, social and governance (ESG) risk data provider RepRisk is preparing to release new products later this year that will boost the vendor's reputation for greater transparency and decision making, following a year focused on product development.

The first new initiative, to be released this fall, is a "substantive" benchmarking reporting tool, dubbed Directors Brief, which delivers short, high-level quarterly PDF reports to board members and executives to give them an overview of their company's risk exposure related to [ESG](#) issues, their peer group and their sector comparison. "It aims to be a decision-making tool," says Alexandra Cichon, head of business development and marketing at [RepRisk](#).

The vendor is already developing a second-generation version of the tool, incorporating extensive feedback from clients and prospective clients, who expressed demand to be able to run more metrics and comparisons. "They always want to see how their company ranks versus their peers and versus their sectors," Cichon adds.

The second project is the Supplier Screen Report, which has been developed in partnership with an unnamed RepRisk client, and will provide supply chain and procurement teams with a screening report that will help them identify which suppliers are most exposed to ESG risk. The vendor is also developing a Portfolio Monitoring Report, targeted at asset owners.

Cichon says the new products follow a year in which the data provider has focused on becoming better-known for its data, and are in response to the need to make access to that data easier. "We realized that we had so much data to work with in our database that we can basically serve any need out there that is related to ESG and reputational risk, but we didn't have the corresponding products to serve those needs," she says.

Because RepRisk began life as a due diligence tool for the financial sector, many of its users still focus on the data they have on companies and projects, though the vendor now also has a variety of data generated by tracking ESG issues and trends, NGOs engagement, country, sector analysis and from monitoring peers. "There are a lot of different ways to use the database, and a lot of projects that can come out of that huge dataset," Cichon adds.

However, over the past year, the vendor worked with an academic team to see how data can support transparency and risk assessment in supply chains, after being awarded a research grant from the Swiss Government's innovation agency in 2013. This research provided the catalyst for developing the new tools.

"With our coverage of over 55,000 companies, of which 40,000 are private, there's a lot of data that can help when looking to identify risk in their supply chain. The research carried out helped develop new metrics for country risk, sector risk... and most recently the new RepRisk ratings, which have become part of RepRisk's new products," Cichon says.