

# **ESEF and ESG reporting**

Cross-cutting challenges and opportunities

FRC Lab

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# **Current Lab projects**



## Net zero disclosures



Digital security and strategy risk disclosure

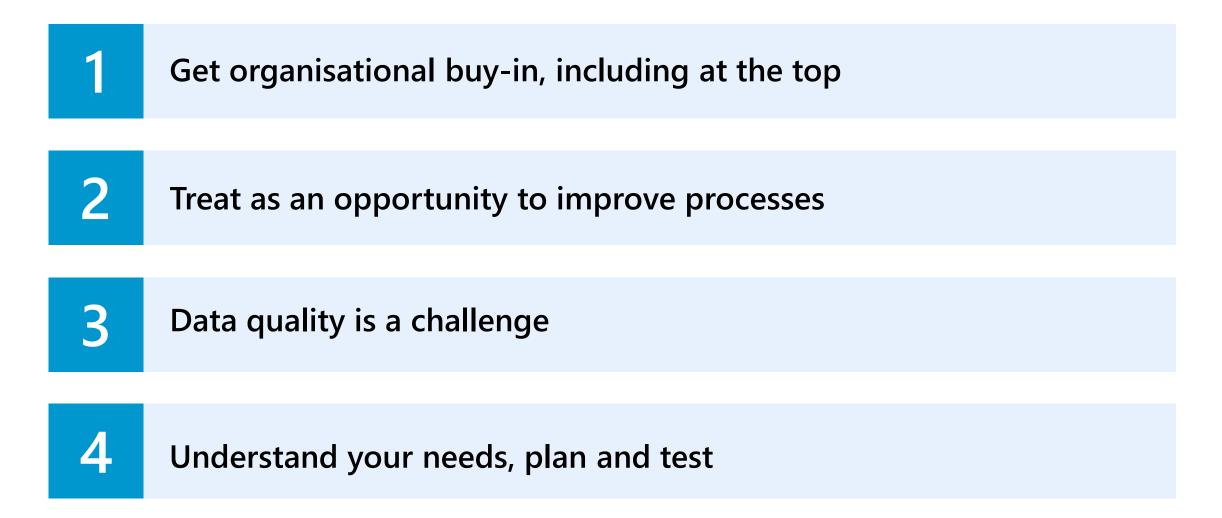
# Focus of this session

#### **ESG** data production

- First phase of project about the production, distribution and consumption of ESG data
- Interviews with 25+ companies and roundtables
- Key topics: drivers for data collection systems alignment with strategy ESG disclosure frameworks – data collection from supply chain – embedding ESG in day-to-day operations

- Review of mandatory UK filings submitted in 2022 and outreach with preparers, service providers and other stakeholders.
- Following up on last year's early implementation review
- Update on developments and issues this reporting season, with a focus on data quality

# **Cross-cutting challenges and opportunities**



## Get organisational buy-in, including at the top

#### **ESG** data production

- Commitment and tone from the top/targets are key to drive organisational change
- Consider how to best structure ESG function within the finance function, another existing function or a new, separate function?

- Does not only concern the finance team affects the whole annual report process.
  This means different teams need to be involved, including CoSec, design etc.
- Get appropriate governance involve your audit committee

## Treat as an opportunity to improve processes

#### **ESG** data production

- Today, data production is often driven by regulatory requirements.
- Look to collect data that is decision-useful for the business and embed ESG considerations in day-to-day operations.

- Opportunity to think digital-first give the structured report the same level of attention as PDF.
- XHTML format opens new possibilities, eg using viewer functionality to provide additional, interactive content

# **3** Data quality is a challenge

#### **ESG** data production

- Systems and data quality are nowhere near as mature as for financial information
- Spreadsheets are still being used
- Data quality is particularly challenging for information from supply chain.

- High-quality data is key otherwise the data will not be used
- Some common errors to look out for include sign errors and poor tag selection
- Consider voluntary assurance

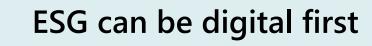
## **4** Understand your needs, plan and test

#### **ESG** data production

- Understand both what you need to do and what you want to do
- Consider how to build the capacity and quality in the data
- For data that will become part of external reporting test the production and consolidation process

- Consider effect on timetable (parallel vs bolt-on approach)
- Test to avoid validation issues and issues with how the file is displayed in XHTML

# Some differences between digitisation of financial reporting and ESG reporting



2

Interest in tagged ESG information should be greater

3

Usefulness of consolidated vs entity-level information

# **Get involved**

## Structured reporting (ESEF)

- We want to hear about your experience and challenges with structured reporting this year.
- Get in touch at <u>FRCLab@frc.org.uk</u>

#### Net zero disclosures

Read the call for participants
 <u>here</u>:

