



**Association for Independent
Corporate Sustainability &
Responsibility Research**

AI CSRR asbl
Rue du Progrès 333/7
B-1030 Brussels, Belgium
T: +32 (0)2 2061114
F: +32 (0)2 2061110
E: info@csrr-qs.org

News Release 12 January 2011

The Voluntary Quality Standard CSRR-QS 2.1[®] is open for new auditees and to independent groups that have their core business in the production and supply of CSR research and SRI services.

So far 9 methodologies from 8 independent CSRR Groups have been certified against the CSRR-QS 2.1[®] after having finalized a thorough audit procedure. For 2011 more groups are expected to take a step forward and to obtain the Certificate, issued by the Association of Independent Corporate Sustainability and Responsibility Research AI CSRR.

[Read more](#) > >

The Voluntary Quality Standard CSRR-QS 2.1[®] is open for new auditees and to independent groups that have their core business in the production and supply of CSR research and SRI services.

So far 9 methodologies from 8 independent CSRR Groups have been certified against the CSRR-QS 2.1[®] after having finalized a thorough audit procedure. For 2011 more groups are expected to take a step forward and to obtain the Certificate, issued by the Association of Independent Corporate Sustainability and Responsibility Research AI CSRR.

The **Association of Independent Corporate Sustainability and Responsibility Research AI CSRR** aims to drive high quality research and analysis for organisations in the field of Corporate Sustainability and Responsibility Research.

The AI CSRR owns and manages the **Voluntary Quality Standard CSRR-QS 2.1[®]** and its related instruments and processes. The CSRR-QS 2.1[®] comprises guidelines and rules, commitments and verifiable evidence of the transparency and quality and on the accountability and verifiability of the processes involved in Corporate Sustainability and Responsibility Research:

- (1) A sector wide best practices standard including integrity and independency codes, strong professional principles and quality management requirements, continuous improvement engagements, accountability specifications and transparency rules to be met by the committed groups doing Corporate Sustainability and Responsibility Research.
- (2) A verifiable standard requiring regular checks and audits by an audit institution, eventually providing a conformity certificate after positive decision by an independent Certification Council.
- (3) A well tested and powerful tool, which passed the stress tests of numerous pilots and pre-audits.
- (4) A warranty for customers for the best available products and services, with a Transparency Matrix enabling a 'calibrated' comparison of the practices of various CSRR providers.
- (5) An initiative driven by a European wide consultation process with stakeholders and customers and supported by the European Commission.
- (6) A process standard, with strong principles and requirements, however sufficiently general to allow and encourage diversity, without affecting its validity as a standard. A



non-invasive, non-normative standard, which seeks not to harmonize SRI criteria. An open standard, providing a conformity certificate to all that comply with the rules book.

The Transparency Matrix is being developed both as an instrument of transparency and as a proof of conformity with the Quality Standard. It gives information on the different methodologies in a 'calibrated way', which should easily be understood and compared by customers. All the Transparency Matrices of the certified methodologies and groups are published on the website

The AI CSRR is responsible for organising independent, external verification. Consult the AI CSRR website www.csrr-qs.org to discover all about the Standard, the Certificates and the Transparency Matrices of the pioneering groups.

The AI CSRR Secretariat is happy to answer all your questions regarding the application procedure and the certification process to comply with the CSRR-QS 2.1[®].

Matilde Defraeije, PR Manager, AI CSRR, Rue du Progrès 333/7, B-1030 Brussels, Belgium, T: +32 2 206 11 14, E: [matilde.defraeije\[at\]csrr-qs.org](mailto:matilde.defraeije[at]csrr-qs.org)