



GIZ's Corporate Sustainability Handprint®

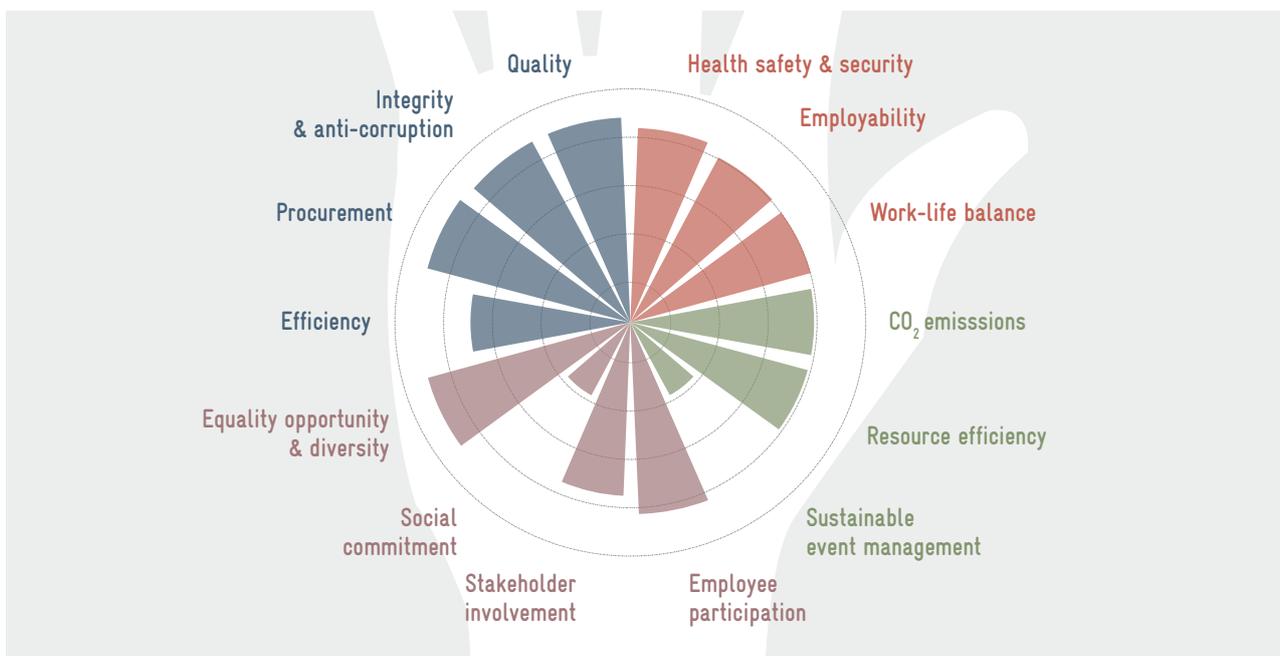
Hands-on, participatory and systematic

The Corporate Sustainability Handprint® (CSH) is a management instrument that is used to calculate not only our ecological footprint but also our 'handprint', by which we mean the positive contribution that GIZ makes in the four dimensions of sustainability: economic capability, social responsibility, ecological balance and political participation. These dimensions are sub-divided into 14 fields of action key to GIZ, which provide the framework for the CSH process. The CSH is a participatory and hands-on instrument that helps our country and project offices to further develop GIZ's sustainability profile.



**Corporate
Sustainability
Handprint®**

It addresses the specific areas in which our staff have recognised a need for action. Since it was introduced in 2013, a large number of GIZ country offices have used the instrument to set their own binding sustainability goals. By the end of 2016, the CSH will be implemented by all GIZ offices, allowing us to continually improve our sustainability performance across the board.





Benefits for GIZ

Implementing the CSH

- **facilitates effective sustainability management** by enabling country offices to systematically and regularly collect data relating to key indicators and existing sustainability concepts;
- **helps to conserve resources, increase efficiency and reduce costs;**
- **increases competitiveness and helps to attract clients and partners** by demonstrating responsible management practices;
- **encourages the participation** of staff members by involving them in corporate sustainability processes;
- **creates opportunities for mutual learning** by promoting the exchange and dissemination of **good practices around the world.**

Examples from the field

The CSH has allowed participating country offices to set themselves a range of new sustainability objectives. Employee participation is a key element of the CSH process, as is demonstrated by the inter-project working groups that staff members have formed in the respective countries. These groups provide employees with the opportunity to discuss, analyse and take action on various aspects of corporate sustainability. In Nicaragua for example, where the CSH has now been carried out twice, a CSH newsletter has been launched that provides staff with useful information on occupational health and nutrition. In other countries, the systematic nature of the CSH process has allowed staff to detect elevated levels of electricity and water consumption at the office, which now can be reduced by implementing corresponding measures.



**Economic
capability**



**Social
responsibility**



**Ecological
balance**



**Political
participation**



The CSH opened our eyes to the fact that, although GIZ has a strong environmental and climate portfolio in this country, we ourselves still have much to do if we are going to meet our targets in the field of ecological balance. We are now in a strong position to address these issues systematically.

Corinna Küsel
Country Director Mexico 2014



Carrying out the CSH encouraged us to look more closely at our own activities and see the bigger picture, as well as to consider the introduction of new practices. The CSH tool provides the right framework for improving our sustainability performance.

Karin Pluberg
CSH Officer Kosovo 2015



A CSH team is formed in each participating country, consisting of the country director, a specially appointed CSH officer and other staff members working in the country. These include HR officers, environmental affairs managers, officers responsible for safety and security, bookkeepers and experts from projects.



The CSH team collects data relating to key indicators, such as CO₂ emissions arising from business travel or the proportion of locally procured goods and services, and evaluates existing concepts and measures in areas such as stakeholder participation, occupational health management and sustainable event management.



The CSH team conducts a workshop to evaluate current sustainability performance. The data collected, together with the existing concepts and measures identified, provide guidance and form the basis for the self-assessment, which in turn gives rise to the self-commitment.



At this stage, objectives are agreed on in the specific fields of action. The CSH team itself is responsible for setting priorities and determining the scope of planned activities. Measures undertaken in the environmental field, for example, might include installing solar panels on the office roof or establishing car sharing schemes. Other activities might focus on promoting the local procurement of goods and services or developing and running stress management courses.



CSH fact sheet – continuous improvement

One of the most important aspects of the workshop is the production of a CSH fact sheet. This provides a concise overview of the data collected on the key indicators and the results of the self-assessment and self-commitment. The CSH fact sheet is a product that can be used for the purposes of internal and external communication and ensures transparency with regard to the CSH process and its results.

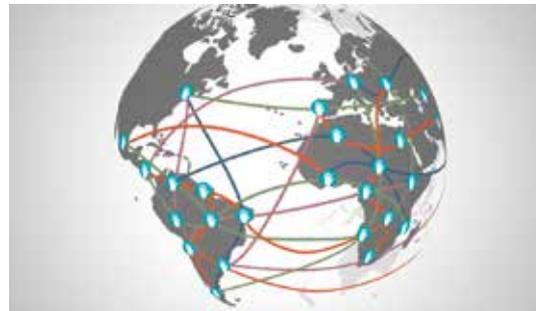


The CSH is carried out every two years. The CSH fact sheets provide a valuable record of an office's development in terms of sustainability performance. The focus is on ensuring a continuous process of improvement.



Mutual learning

A key element of the CSH process is the collection of good practices from participating countries and their publication on a virtual knowledge platform. This promotes the exchange of information and experience among the various countries, encourages replication and fosters mutual learning throughout GIZ.



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