



European CSO Platform

A Trusted Peer Learning Platform for Senior Sustainability Leaders

What is the CSO Platform?

The **European CSO Platform** is a **hybrid Peer Learning Platform (PLP)** convened by the UN Global Compact, designed for **Chief Sustainability Officers (CSOs) or equivalent** senior sustainability leaders. It provides a **trusted, high-value space for exchanging insights, benchmarking strategies, and co-creating solutions.**

The Platform helps CSOs navigate complex sustainability challenges and drive greater impact at scale. Amidst rapidly evolving EU regulations, growing investor scrutiny, and rising stakeholder expectations, CSOs face increasing demands: securing executive buy-in, demonstrating measurable impact, and integrating sustainability into core business strategy.

The European CSO Platform directly supports this mission and builds on the UNGC's role as a **safe, credible, and trusted enabler** of sustainability leadership. By connecting peers across sectors and countries, it enables participants to:

- Access real-world strategies and practical tools to accelerate ESG integration.
- Engage in confidential dialogue on shared challenges and emerging solutions.
- Benchmark practices and outcomes against leading peers in Europe.
- Strengthen their leadership capacity to influence internal strategies and drive effective change.

Through this collaborative approach, the European CSO Platform equips leaders to not only respond to immediate pressures but also shape long-term, systemic business transformation.

Why Join?

- Gain **exclusive access** to peer insights from senior sustainability leaders navigating similar regulatory and strategic challenges.
- Build **trusted relationships** across industries and geographies, opening doors to joint initiatives and collaborations.
- Access a **safe, confidential, UN-backed platform** (governed by the Chatham House Rule) where candid exchange is protected.



- Accelerated adoption of high-impact sustainability practices through **tested tools, peer-proven approaches, and actionable knowledge** to support executive alignment across your organisation, ESG ROI demonstration, and cross-functional collaboration.
- **Strengthen cross-sector and cross-border collaboration:** Promote peer-to-peer learning and collective problem-solving across industries and countries, enabling members to adapt and implement best practices within their organisations.

Who Can Participate?

The European CSO Platform is open to **senior sustainability decision-makers** (CSO or equivalent) from companies that meet the following criteria:

- **Commitment Level:**
 - Demonstrate strong commitment to sustainability by actively engaging in ESG strategy development, risk management, and transparent reporting.
 - Commitment to achieving Forward Faster targets and/or other recognised UNGC sustainability initiatives.
 - Priority given to companies with verifiable sustainability commitments (e.g., SBTi, Forward Faster, SBTN).
- **Company Size & Structure:** Large companies subject to ESG reporting requirements or those with advanced sustainability strategies, as well as companies with dedicated sustainability teams or departments.
- **Influence & Impact:** Ability to influence corporate strategy and decision-making at a senior level. Proven implementation of sustainability initiatives, projects, or innovations that deliver measurable environmental, social, or governance impact.
- **Sector Inclusion:** Representation across multiple sectors, with some same-sector overlap to support peer learning on specific challenges.

Size & exclusivity: Participation is **limited to ~50 participants, one per company**, to maintain continuity, trust, and high-value peer exchange.

What Will You Experience?

Blended engagement model

- **One annual in-person meeting:** A strategic gathering on **Thursday, 11 June 2026**, in **Brussels** for deep-dive discussions, trust-building, and sectoral/thematic breakouts.



- **Online sessions:** Two concise (60–90 minutes), peer-driven exchanges focused on case studies, practical tools, and actionable insights. Tentatively scheduled for March and September. Final dates to be confirmed in January 2026.
- **Online engagement via platform:** A space for structured exchanges, shared resources, and co-created outputs to support collaboration and collective problem-solving.

Sample topics include:

- Navigating EU regulatory complexity and aligning compliance with strategy.
- Expanding the CSO's influence across functions and the C-suite.
- Demonstrating ROI and linking sustainability to financial performance.
- Integrating sustainability across fragmented departments and data flows.
- Streamlining ESG reporting and disclosure under tight resource constraints.

Formats:

Interactive workshops, peer-to-peer case sharing, challenge-based problem solving, and facilitated dialogues—always prioritising participant exchange over external input.

Language of Engagement

All meetings, sessions, and discussions will be conducted in English only. No translation or interpretation services will be provided.

What rules govern participation and dialogue?

All interactions are governed by the **Chatham House Rule**, ensuring that insights can be applied but never attributed to any individual. No recordings or redistributions are permitted without explicit consent. This framework creates a **confidential, respectful, and candid environment**—a hallmark of the UN Global Compact.

What are the key benefits of this platform?

- **For you:** actionable tools, stronger influence in your company, and trusted peer support and access to expert insights. Build meaningful connections and exchange ideas with peers and specialists to strengthen your impact and stay ahead of emerging trends.
- **For your company:** accelerated sustainability integration, enhanced ESG credibility, and leadership visibility.
- **For the region:** stronger cross-sector collaboration and ideas for collective solutions to systemic challenges.



United Nations
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25
YEARS

What is the Commitment?

- **Duration:** One-year membership.
- **Contribution:** Engagement and active participation (no financial fee for inaugural cohort).
- **Next milestone:** Expressions of Interest open **October 2025**. Final selection of ~50 participants by **January 2026**.
- **Kick-off:** Onboarding in January 2026. First in-person meeting in Copenhagen, Spring 2026.

Join the CSO Alliance

Shape the future of corporate sustainability in Europe—together, in a trusted UN-backed space. Submit your [Application form](#) before **January 9, 2026**.