



# MOVING BEYOND MANUAL SPREADSHEETS TO SMARTER ESG REPORTING WITH ETHICA

## OVERVIEW

The introduction of the Voluntary Standard for non-listed SMEs (VSME) has given SMEs a consistent framework for sharing sustainability information. Alongside these standards, EFRAG has published templates and guidance to help organisations get started. These resources are valuable as they bring clarity to what should be reported and provide a practical entry point for SMEs that are new to sustainability reporting.

However, templates are only the starting point. Filling them in still requires gathering data from across the business, checking for accuracy, managing multiple versions of spreadsheets, and finding a way to turn the results into reports that stakeholders can actually use. For many organisations, this process is time-consuming, error-prone, and difficult to repeat year after year.

That's where Ethica comes in; providing companies an opportunity to work within a platform designed specifically for sustainability reporting.

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## DETAILS

Here's why using a dedicated system like Ethica presents a better choice for companies:

### 1. Guided questionnaires

Rather than working through static spreadsheets, Ethica provides step-by-step questionnaires fully aligned to VSME requirements. Each section comes with clearly defined questions, completeness status tracking and validation rules ensuring seamless compliance and reducing the risk of gaps and errors.

### 2. AI-powered assistance

Ethica's AI assistant accelerates the process further by reviewing existing company documents such as policies, reports, and data files to identify and extract relevant information. This data is then mapped directly to the correct questionnaire fields, reducing the need for manual data entry, improving accuracy, and helping organisations avoid overlooking key details.

### 3. Automated reporting outputs

Once data is entered, Ethica instantly generates comprehensive outputs. These include management-ready reports, dashboards, and RAG reporting indicators — all formatted consistently and ready to use in real time.

### 4. Collaboration in one secure workspace

Ethica centralises collaboration in one secure workspace with role-based access, so contributors, reviewers, and management all work on a single source of truth. This eliminates the confusion of circulating multiple spreadsheets by email and ensures accountability at every stage. Updates are made in real time, enabling effective progress monitoring while audit trails allow for tracking of all user inputs.

### 5. Future-ready flexibility

Standards evolve, and so do reporting needs. Ethica is continuously updated to reflect regulatory developments, meaning organisations stay aligned without having to rebuild their reporting processes each year. The platform supports both the Basic and Comprehensive VSME modules, giving SMEs confidence that they can start at the right level and scale up as expectations grow.

### 6. Collaboration without Chaos

Multiple Excel workbooks passed over email or SharePoint lead to confusion over the "latest version." Ethica centralises collaboration in one secure workspace with role-based access, so contributors, reviewers, and management all work on a single source of truth.



While spreadsheets may feel convenient, they simply aren't designed for the complexity, precision, and transparency now expected of sustainability reporting. Ethica brings together accuracy, efficiency, and compliance in one platform — helping organisations move beyond manual workarounds and focus on what really matters: building a sustainable, future-ready business.

For more detailed information on the VSME and its reporting requirements, please refer to the [European Financial Reporting Advisory Group \(EFRAG\)](https://www.efrag.org) website, or alternatively, contact us at [info@envionas.com](mailto:info@envionas.com) for a free demo of the Ethica platform today.