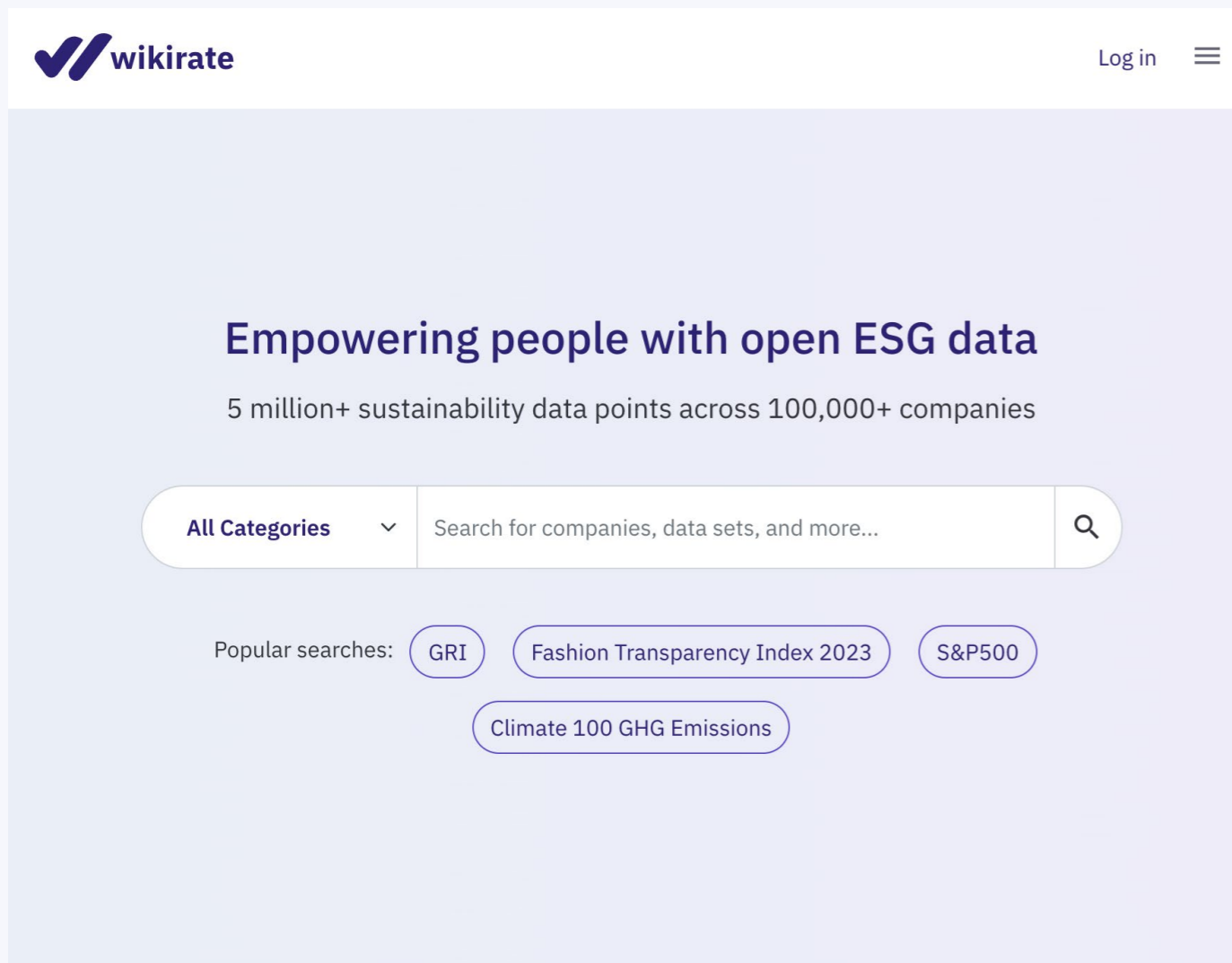




# Wikirate Annual Report 2023



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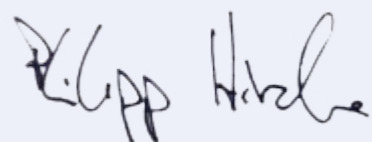


# Foreword

2023 was a milestone year for Wikirate in more ways than one; we had our 10th birthday, launched version 1.0 of the Wikirate open data platform, and changed our organization's name.

And that's before we get to all the fantastic achievements of our community, partners, and supporters. In this report, we cover the main highlights of those collaborations. Of course, countless people and organizations behind the scenes contribute to our shared work. To them, I say, "Thank you; we couldn't do what we do without you."

As we look to 2024, collaboration will continue to be critical to ensure that more sustainability data is open, accessible, comparable, transparent, and free for all. And that the maximum social and environmental benefits are derived from the data by understanding and improving the impacts companies have on people and the planet.



PHILIPP HIRCHE - WIKIRATE  
FOUNDER AND CHAIRMAN







# With thanks to ...

## SUPPORTERS

- Laudes Foundation
- NLnet Foundation
- Minderoo Foundation
- Open Data Institute
- MANA Community

## PARTNERS

- Australian Border Force
- Business & Human Rights Resource Centre
- Clean Clothes Campaign
- Eticonsum
- Fashion Revolution
- Green Web Foundation
- Open Earth Foundation
- Open Supply Hub
- Mapped in Bangladesh
- Mila Institute
- SustainoMetric
- UK Home Office
- Walk Free
- Workers Rights Consortium
- World Benchmarking Alliance

## ACADEMIC PARTNERS

- AMD Akademie Mode & Design
- Berlin Business School
- Columbia | SIPA
- Ewha Womans University
- Glasgow Caledonian University
- Lancaster University Management School
- Mary Baldwin University's School of Business
- Queensland University of Technology
- The Australian National University
- Universidad EAFIT
- University of Bristol Business School
- University of Connecticut
- University of Gloucestershire
- University of Navarra

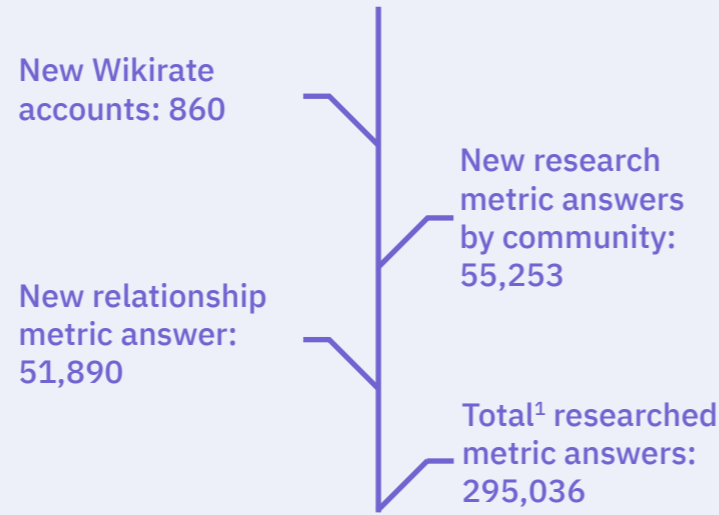
- University of Nottingham
- University of Sydney
- University of Wisconsin-La Crosse
- University of Wollongong

THE ENTIRE  
WIKIRATE  
COMMUNITY!



# 2023 Highlights

## 2023 KEY NUMBERS



## WIKIRATE INTERNATIONAL

### Public launch

After a successful beta phase, we officially launched version 1.0 of the Wikirate open data platform to the public.

### Rebrand

To go with the launch, we rebranded the platform with a fresh look and a new logo.



## PLATFORM AND DATA

### UX/UI upgrade

An updated user interface improved the accessibility and usability of Wikirate’s open sustainability data.

### Tech upgrades

New features and updates under the hood made it easier to access and transfer large volumes of sustainability data.



1. Includes data added by API and other automated workflows, as well as by the community. Understand more about Wikirate Metric types on our [website](#).

## PROGRAMS & COLLABORATION

### Impact

Collaborations with partners on modern slavery and apparel, and tea supply chains help highlight and shape corporate behavior.

### Sharing and learning

Our team has connected with other organizations and participated in open data networks such as the Open Data Institute peer learning network for Labor Rights Data.



## COMMUNITY

### New community events

A new series of on-line events to connect individuals wanting to investigate companies’ impacts using open data.

### Power-users

Community members have leveraged Wikirate’s data for climate-related research and advocacy projects.



## ADVOCACY

### Releasing more company sustainability data

Our team advised the European Union on the reporting format of incoming 2024 environmental reporting standards for thousands of companies operating in the EU.

### Gaining bulk access to sustainability data

In the European Parliament, members voted for an amendment supported by Wikirate to give free bulk access to data reported by companies under the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive.







1.

# Wikirate International

Wikirate International e.V. works to make sustainability data open, accessible, comparable, transparent, and free for all.



# The Organization

In 2023, Wikirate International launched the [Wikirate open data platform 1.0](#), taking a big step in its journey towards creating a world where everyone can understand and shape company impacts.

The goal of the launch and rebrand was to make it as easy as possible for partners and the community to access and use the data they need to achieve impact in their work and campaigns.

In addition to the launch, the organization changed its name from The WikiRate Project e.V. to Wikirate International e.V., reflecting the growth and maturity of the organization and open data platform.

Organizationally, we began working with Organisation Development Support to develop our structure and working methods. To this end, we will implement a new board structure and pathway for change in 2024. The pathway for change will help

## “The pathway for change will help deliver Wikirate’s mission”

deliver Wikirate’s mission to empower better decision making and shape company impacts across three key areas:

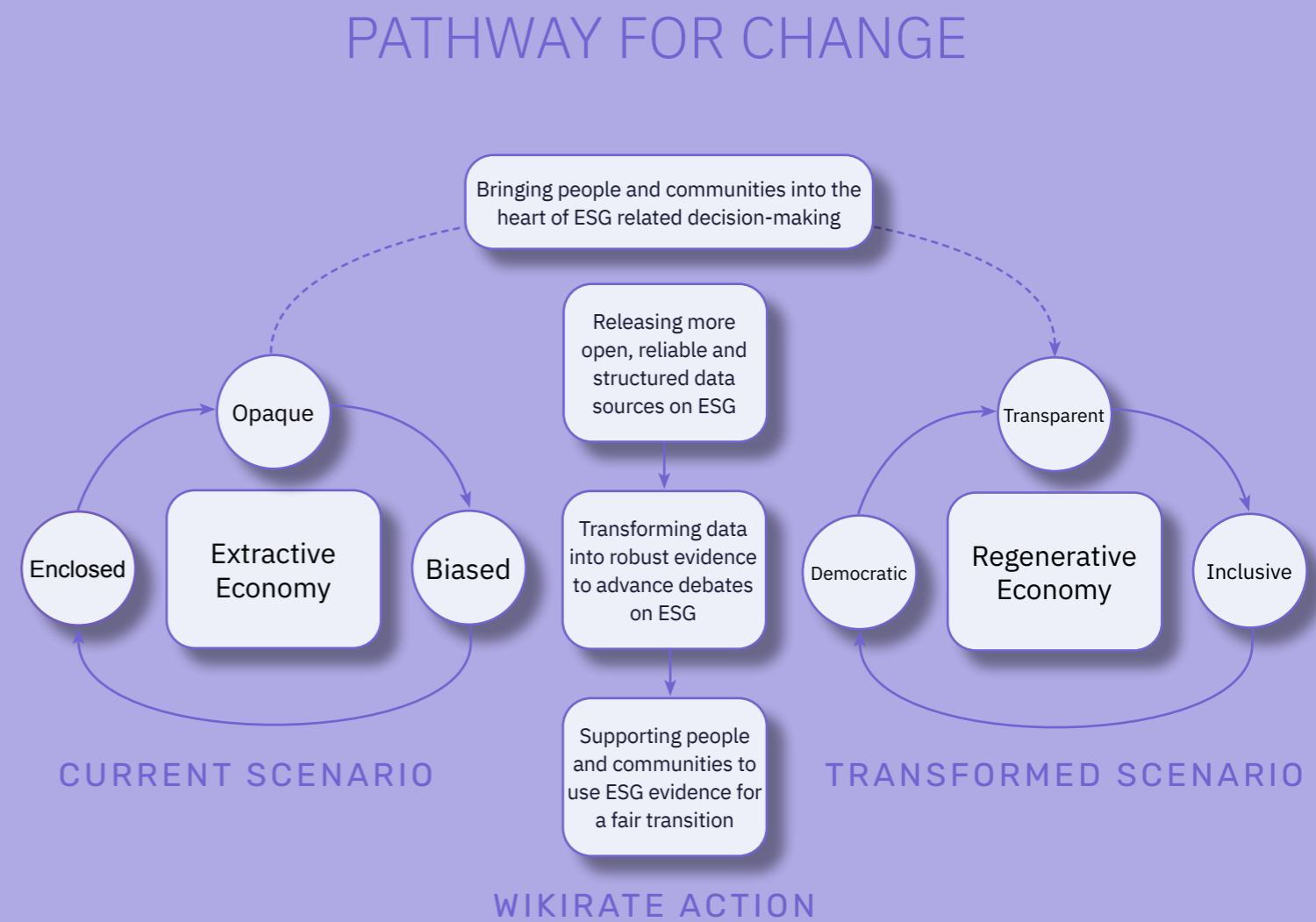
1. Promote and release open, diverse, reliable and structured data on ESG;
2. Transform data into robust evidence to advance debates on ESG; and
3. Support people and communities to use ESG evidence to build a regenerative economy

Lastly, during 2023, our team grew, adding several new members and welcoming a new Managing Director<sup>2</sup>.

2. Our previous Managing Director, Laureen van Breen, went on parental leave in September. The organization is looking forward to welcoming her back in early 2025.

## WIKIRATE’S PATHWAY FOR CHANGE

Wikirate will bring people and communities into the heart of ESG data collection, analysis, and decision-making to facilitate a transformation of company actions and impacts on people and the planet, moving from an extractive economy towards a regenerative one.







## 2. Wikirate Open Data Platform

Wikirate is an open-source crowdsourcing platform that anyone can use to collect, clean, and analyze data about companies' promises and impacts on people and the planet.



# The Open Data Platform

The Wikirate open data platform is our beating heart; the data flowing through it gives life to our community and partners' work, delivering the impact they seek.

Wikirate International builds and maintains the platform on open data principles. That means that currently, over four million data points are accessible, comparable, and freely available - and always will be.

## WIKIRATE 1.0

In March, the Wikirate open data platform was publicly launched, coming together with a new look: clean icons, bold colors, and a sharp logo. Along with learnings from the beta phase, the team implemented a complete overhaul of how the platform looked and felt.

The changes made it easier for users to engage with the content and contribute data, with increased engagement rates and

“In March, the Wikirate open data platform was publicly launched.”

more data points added per user than in the previous year.

## TECHNICAL UPGRADES

The Wikirate team made several improvements under the hood of the open data platform, too.

We made wrappers in [Java](#) and [Ruby](#) available on top of Wikirate's REST API. Likewise, we updated the [Python](#) wrapper and related documentation on [SwaggerHub](#).

The [wrappers empower users](#) to acquire large amounts of sustainability data from the platform effortlessly and to add new or edit existing data points.

The team also increased accessibility to the data by making a [GraphQL](#) endpoint available, allowing users to perform dynamic queries.

Additionally, we launched an easy [attribution generator](#) that simplifies the process of giving credit and visibility to the data creator - a critical open data principle.

Lastly, our team onboarded over 280,000 research metric answers from publicly available sources and over 50,000 relationship metric answers showing supplier relationships and company subsidiaries.







# 3. Projects & Collaborations

Wikirate International collaborates with organizations to empower and help them deliver their impact with accessible, comparable, and free data.



# Projects and Collaborations

Our programs increase the transparency of corporate policies and impacts on people and the planet (see: Program Types). Together with partners, the Wikirate team works to make data accessible and comparable so everyone can understand and influence companies.

Find out more about three of our most critical projects and collaborations from 2023:

## BEYOND COMPLIANCE

**Partner:** Walk Free

**Program Type:** Accountability Frameworks

**Legislation:** UK and Australian modern slavery acts

Modern slavery in renewable energy supply chains is exacerbated by the demand for green energy. This runs contrary to what we want to achieve: a just transition in which workers' rights are protected and advanced.

“Walk Free and Wikirate increased the pressure on renewable energy companies to address modern slavery.”

Wikirate International and Walk Free used the tools of their well-established Beyond Compliance project to assess renewable energy companies' modern slavery statements under the UK and Australian modern slavery acts. The [data findings](#) were used in a [policy recommendations report](#) and advocacy efforts for Walk Free. With the report, Walk Free and Wikirate increased the pressure on renewable energy companies to address modern slavery.

## FASHION TRANSPARENCY INDEX 2023

**Partner:** Fashion Revolution

**Program Type:** Corporate Benchmarks

Fashion Revolution's 2023 edition of the FTI was [onboarded on the open data platform](#), enabling other organizations to tackle social- and greenwashing more robustly.

The Index scores and ranks the transparency of 250 big fashion brands. The scores detail brands' public disclosure of human rights and environmental policies, practices, and impacts in their operations and supply chains. A higher score means a company is sharing more information.

It's crucial for activists, environmentalists, policymakers, and companies because



## PROGRAM TYPES

### Accountability Frameworks

To assess and improve the effectiveness of company sustainability reporting legislation and guidance.

### Transparent Value Chains

To increase the transparency of corporate benchmarking by making available all data, sources, and scoring methodologies.

### Corporate Benchmarks

To make corporate networks transparent and understandable so that stakeholders can see, react to, and transform corporate impacts.



everyone can check if the disclosures match reality. Transparency underpins sustainability; without it, it wouldn't be possible to hold companies to account.

### FASHION CHECKER

**Partner:** Clean Clothes Campaign and Fashion Revolution

**Program Type:** Corporate Benchmarks, Value Chain Transparency

Wikirate International and Clean Clothes Campaign updated the [Fashion Checker](#) - an interactive dashboard showing the discrepancy between brands' living wage pay promises for their supply chain workers and the reality - with the latest data, including Fashion Revolution's corporate benchmarking the Fashion Transparency Index.

This tool, along with the [Facility Checker](#), is used to hold companies to account for their commitments to pay a living wage and for advocacy by trade unions and workers' rights organizations worldwide.

## Spotlight on Collaborations

### TEA TRANSPARENCY TRACKER

The Business and Human Rights Resource Centre's [Tea Transparency Tracker](#) increases tea supply chain transparency. Wikirate helped by mapping the relationships between brands and tea production locations. This information has been used to [connect brands to specific allegations](#) on human rights violations in tea supply chains.

### PROJECT AIMS

An [innovative project](#) that provides insights into how CSOs, open data & AI can work together to tackle modern slavery. Insights from this project were presented by Wikirate team members at the [2023 edition of the Scottish AI Summit](#).



### OPEN DATA INSTITUTE'S PEER LEARNING NETWORK

Exchanging ideas and learnings with organizations on how data can be used to support workers' rights.

### SUPPLY CHAIN MAPPING

Wikirate continues to map and extract tens of thousands of data points per year from apparel companies' suppliers list. This data is used by a number of our partners to drive accountability for workers.





# 4. Community



The Wikirate open data platform is powered by a community of people who believe in the power of open sustainability data to understand companies' impacts on people and the planet.



# The Community

## VALUES

Whether leading a research project, joining an event, or contributing data to the platform, our community is bound by a shared set of values:

- Transparency is a critical first step in solving global problems,
- Collaboration is essential to co-created success,
- Openness benefits all by increasing diverse perspectives and generating new ideas,
- Open data is a shared resource; no individual “owns” it.

During 2023, the Wikirate International team engaged and facilitated the community’s work to collect and analyze company commitments, actions, and impacts.

“In 2023, our team hosted nine events and welcomed 185 people to the learning series.”

## NEW EVENT SERIES: MEET. LEARN. CONNECT

The team developed a new event series called [Meet. Learn. Connect](#). It offers our community the chance to learn new research skills on the open data platform while contributing data to a real-world research project and connecting with each other.

In 2023, our team hosted nine events and welcomed 185 people to the learning series. Everyone is welcome to join, and we look forward to more events and growth in 2024.

## WELCOMING AND TRAINING VOLUNTEERS

Our community played a critical role in researching companies sustainability disclosures.

For example, thirty people received training and collected data to investigate whether apparel companies meet and surpass the minimum requirements of the Australian and UK modern slavery laws. The contribution is essential to our programmatic work with Walk Free.

## WIKIRATE AS A TEACHING TOOL

We continued to strengthen our academic partnerships by providing training and guidance to university professors teaching sustainability reporting and business and human rights. For some Universities, this is the seventh year of using the Wikirate open data platform as a teaching tool. In addition, we hosted webinars for academics to share experiences and [best practices](#) and foster new connections.





## Power Users

We were also delighted to facilitate and connect with organizations and people looking to systematically collect, store, and use open sustainability data for their projects.

### GREEN WEB FOUNDATION

The Wikirate community, together with the Green Web Foundation researched large internet companies' commitment to the net-zero targets. The project aimed to discover [how credible big tech companies' net zero targets are.](#)

### NETOTRACKER

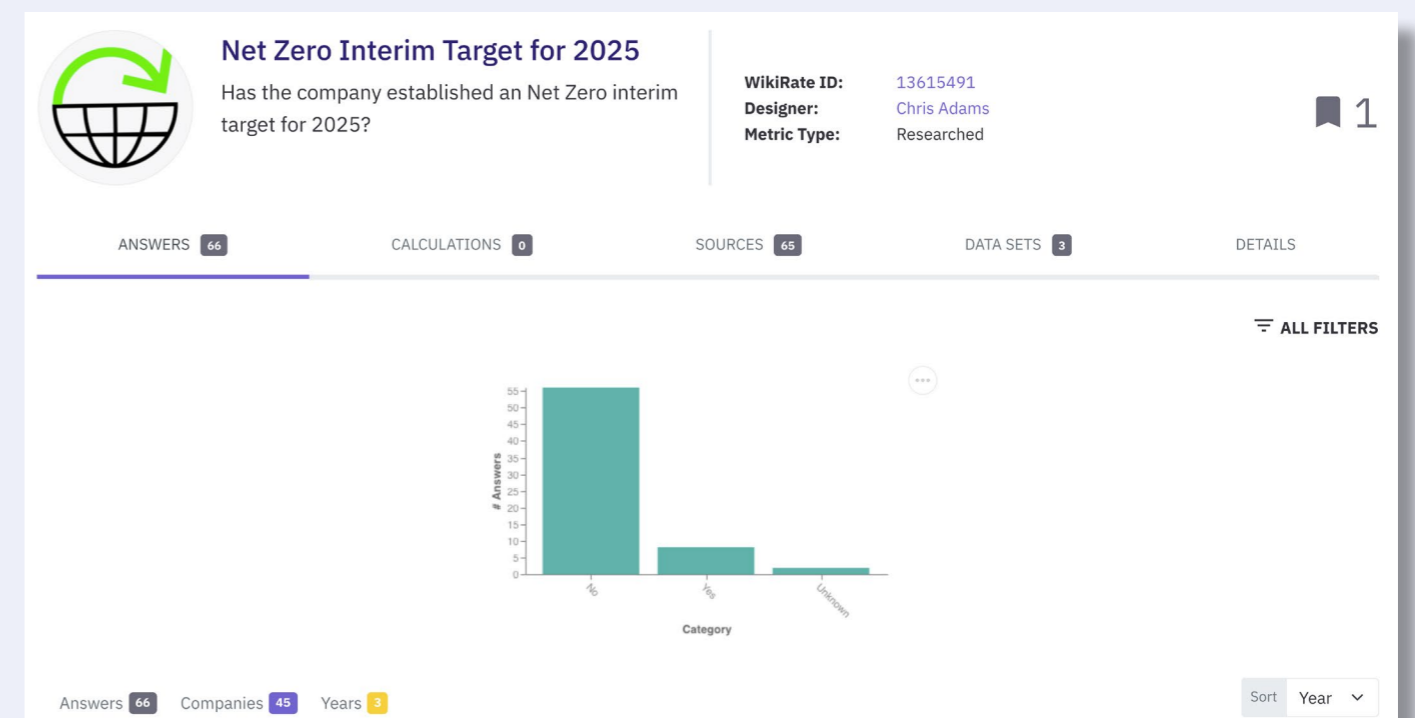
Net0Tracker wants to make the environmental performance of major global companies public through benchmarking, scoring, and connecting with multiple open data sources. Wikirate is proud to [be one of its data sources.](#)

### LE BASIC

In collaboration with Oxfam France, Le Basic scrutinized executive pay across 100 French companies. As part of this initiative, data on [shareholder payments](#) (dividends and share buybacks) was imported into Wikirate for public access.

### ETICONSUM

Eticonsum began a new research project using Wikirate. Their aim is to investigate the sustainability practices in the Spanish banking sector. Our team guided them on how to set the project and activate the community to join the research.



Green Web Foundation's [research project on Wikirate](#)





# 5. Advocacy

Wikirate International believes transparency and openness are the first steps to improving our world. That's why we advocate for increasing the amount of structured, open sustainability data.



# Advocacy

During 2023, we spoke up about collecting and sharing more open sustainability data at events, governmental advisory groups, and new legislation.

## SETTING NEW COMPANY REPORTING STANDARDS

2024 will see the introduction of the EU's Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), requiring large and listed companies to publish data on the social and environmental risks they face and how their activities impact people and the environment.

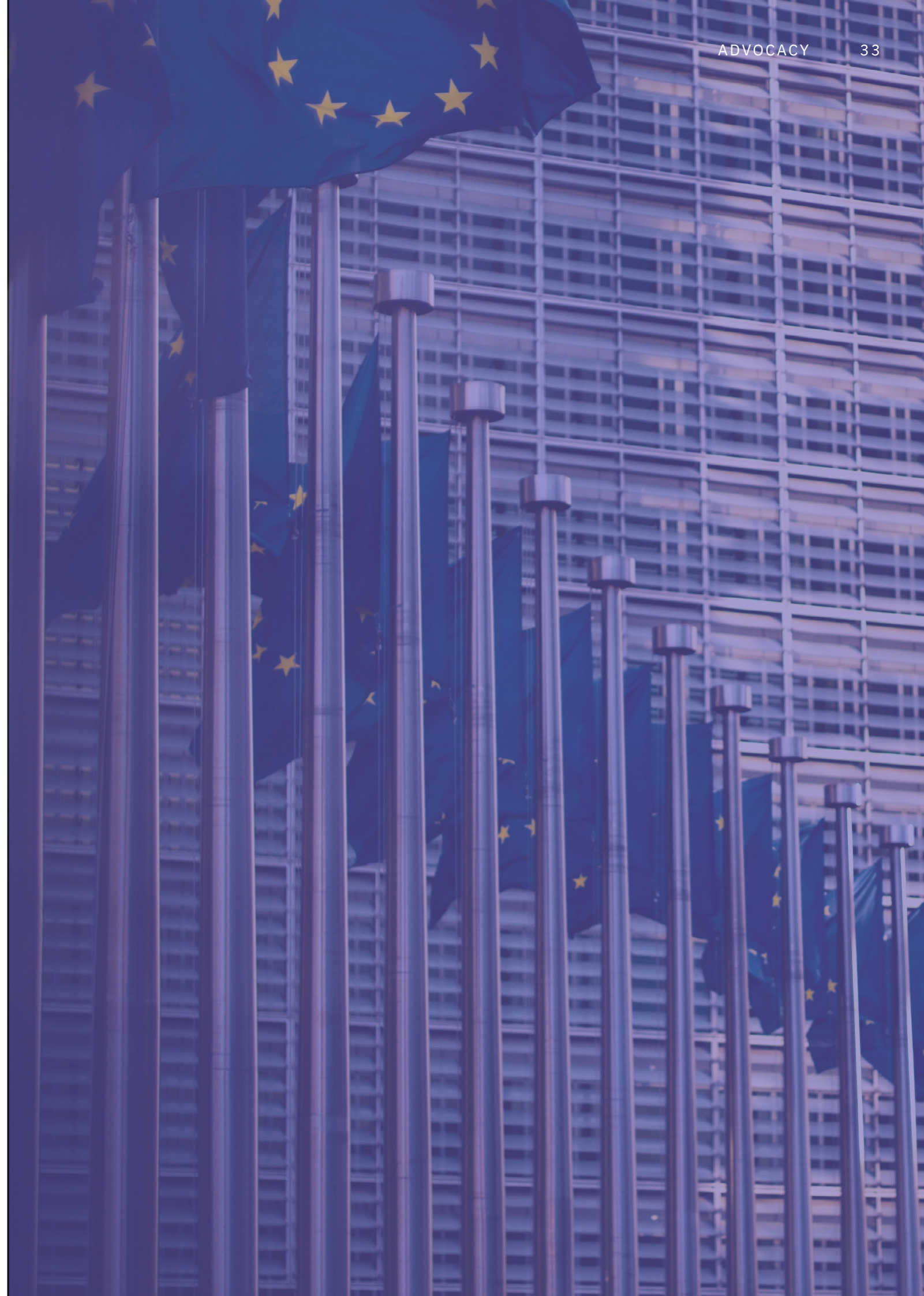
In the previous year, as a member of the European Financial Reporting Advisory Group expert working group, Wikirate advised the European Commission on the European Reporting Sustainability Standards format companies will use to guide their data reporting. We aim to ensure the comparability and accessibility of company data.

“Civil society organizations should not be subject to any fees when accessing data in bulk reported under the CSRD”

## GAINING BULK ACCESS TO NEW SUSTAINABILITY DATA


Likewise, we've influenced the rules to make it easier for civil society organizations to access the resulting data in bulk for free via the European Single Access Point. We did this by supporting a European Parliament amendment to legislation that ensures “academia and civil society organizations should not be subject to any fees,”<sup>3</sup> when accessing data in bulk reported under the CSRD.

3. Recital 20, [Regulation establishing a European single access point providing centralised access to publicly available information of relevance to financial services, capital markets and sustainability](#)





# 6. Looking to 2024



## This Year

As we kick off 2024, we at Wikirate International are excited to share a little taste of our plans for the future.

As we are committed to promoting transparency in corporate practices in an accessible way, we are excited to launch our new benchmark visualization dashboard, which will enable us to present data in a more user-friendly and interactive way. This dashboard will help us provide insights into corporate impacts and ultimately empower individuals and organizations to make informed decisions.

In addition, we will expand our data repository by onboarding new datasets from organizations such as the World Benchmarking Alliance, Clean Clothes Campaign, Fashion Revolution, and many more. These datasets will offer Wikirate users with a more comprehensive understanding of corporate impacts.

We will also continue to bring corporate impact data to more underrepresented groups, such as workers' rights organizations and trade unions. We believe that this will help to promote fair labor practices, reduce inequality, and empower workers.

Likewise, we look forward to welcoming and engaging more individuals and organizations into our Wikirate community in 2024 as we collectively harness open data to address global challenges. Furthermore, we are widening our community of data users [to include investors and financial institutions](#). We believe that this will help to promote responsible investing and encourage companies to adopt sustainable practices.

Lastly, we are excited to host our inaugural Wikirate Conference, where we will showcase case studies spotlighting the impactful use of Wikirate data.



# 7. Imprint & Credits

## Imprint

### ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE FACTSHEET

Wikirate is established in 3 countries:

#### Germany

a *gemeinnütziger, eingetragener Verein* under the name “Wikirate International e.V.”

#### UK

a charitable incorporated organization (CIO) under the name “WikiRate UK”

#### USA

a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization under the name “WikiRate USA”

Wikirate International e.V. is our primary entity and our headquarters are located in Berlin, Germany.

Address:

Wikirate International e.V.  
Schliemannstraße 29  
10437 Berlin, Germany

Authorized representatives of the board of directors:  
Philipp Hirche (1.Vorstand), Florian Hirche (2.Vorstand)

Register court:

Local Court of Charlottenburg, Berlin  
Register number:  
VR 32012B

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