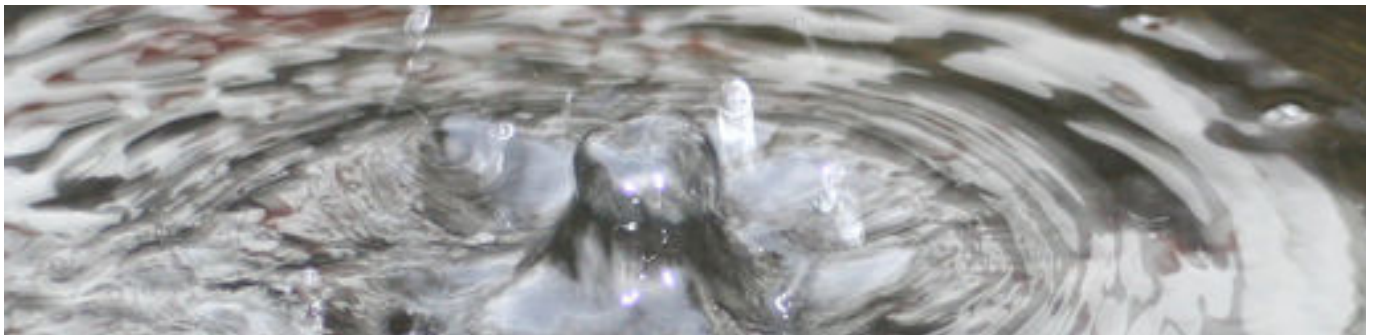


Corporate social responsibility Policy statement



Innovation Norway promotes corporate social responsibility in Norwegian business. This policy statement specifies what Innovation Norway means by corporate social responsibility. It also forms the basis for our work on spreading knowledge and building motivation and for our expectations to customers and partners.

Purpose

Through corporate social responsibility (CSR), the business sector contributes to a positive social development, strengthens its own competitiveness and acts in compliance with universal norms and values.

More than before, enterprises are seen as part of the solution to the current social and environmental challenges. This corresponds well with Norway's own history. From being one of the poorest countries in Europe, Norway has now been voted by the UN more than once the best country to live in. Economic growth, innovation and corporate social responsibility have been important drivers for the development of our prosperity.

Corporate social responsibility gives enterprises a competitive advantage because customers in both the business and consumer markets continue to make more stringent requirements for good governance in business. CSR is also an advantage in the recruitment of talents and ensures a forward-looking position for the enterprise.

Corporate social responsibility is also referred to by the abbreviations CSR, SR or CR.

Content

CSR entails assuming responsibility for the enterprise's impact on people, society and the environment. Through innovation and responsible operations, CSR also helps to find solutions to the environmental and social challenges we are facing today. The work must be based on expectations from stakeholders, such as customers, employees, business partners, owners or the local community.

Innovation Norway endorses the UN Global Compact, the biggest CSR initiative in the world. It is based on international agreements such as the Human Rights Declaration, the ILO Conventions, and the OECD and UN Corruption Conventions. Global Compact gives access to knowledge and tools as well as local networks of enterprises around the world that are working to promote CSR based on the same platform. The guiding principles on page 2 elaborate on this.

Innovation Norway presupposes that the activities of our contracting partners, customers and suppliers are based on stringent requirements for ethical attitudes and that they avoid contributing to corruption, violation of human rights, poor working conditions or damaging effects for local communities and the environment.

CSR at different levels

Enterprises attend to their corporate social responsibility at different levels. Most follow generally accepted business principles and comply with laws and regulations, but go no further than that. Others are more active and implement measures that can lead to advantages for the enterprise, for example in the market or in connection with recruitment.

At the next level, the strategic level, CSR is part of the enterprise's identity, culture and strategic position.

Innovative CSR means to develop a business idea or business model that contributes to solving current social and environmental challenges.

Innovation Norway has made it a priority to promote active CSR in the following three areas: the environment, ethical guidelines and import from low-cost countries.

Guiding principles for CSR

Global Compacts sine prinsipp for samfunnsansvar er utgangspunktet for dei rettleiande prinsippa våre. I tillegg er det lagt vekt på innovasjon og relevans for Innovasjon Noreg sine målgrupper og arbeidsområder.

Overall expectations

The enterprise assumes responsibility for its impact on people, society and the environment.

The enterprise helps to find solutions to challenges or creates values for people, society or the environment.

The enterprise does not contribute to worsening the challenges facing people, society and the environment.

The environment

The enterprise has a good understanding of its impact on the environment.

The enterprise implements measures to reduce its harmful environmental impact, with particular emphasis on waste handling, energy and resource consumption and emissions.

The enterprise treats animals well and protects them from risk of unnecessary stress and strain.

The enterprise participates in industry initiatives or initiates own measures that contribute to the development and implementation of new environmental technology.

Local communities

The enterprise has a good understanding of its direct impact on the local community.

The enterprise contributes to a positive development of the local business environment and local community.

The enterprise offers job opportunities to disadvantaged groups.

Working conditions

The enterprise respects and facilitates the freedom of association and collective bargaining in the workplace.

The enterprise documents sound practice in relation to health, safety and the environment (HSE).

The enterprise avoids discrimination and promotes equality in connection with recruitment and working conditions.

The enterprise avoids child labour and all forms of forced labour.

The enterprise pays decent wages.

The supply chain

The enterprise has knowledge of where the enterprise's goods/input factors are manufactured.

The enterprise avoids corruption and promotes work standards and environmental considerations in the value chain, in line with established international trade principles.

Corruption

The enterprise avoids corruption, including extortion and bribes, and other forms of economic crime.

The enterprise has internal ethical guidelines and whistleblowing systems and practices transparency regarding its own activities.

Human rights

The enterprise does not exploit authorities' inability or unwillingness to fulfil their obligation to protect human rights.

The enterprise avoids contributing directly or indirectly to human rights violations.

The policy statement was approved by the board of Innovation Norway February 17 2011

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