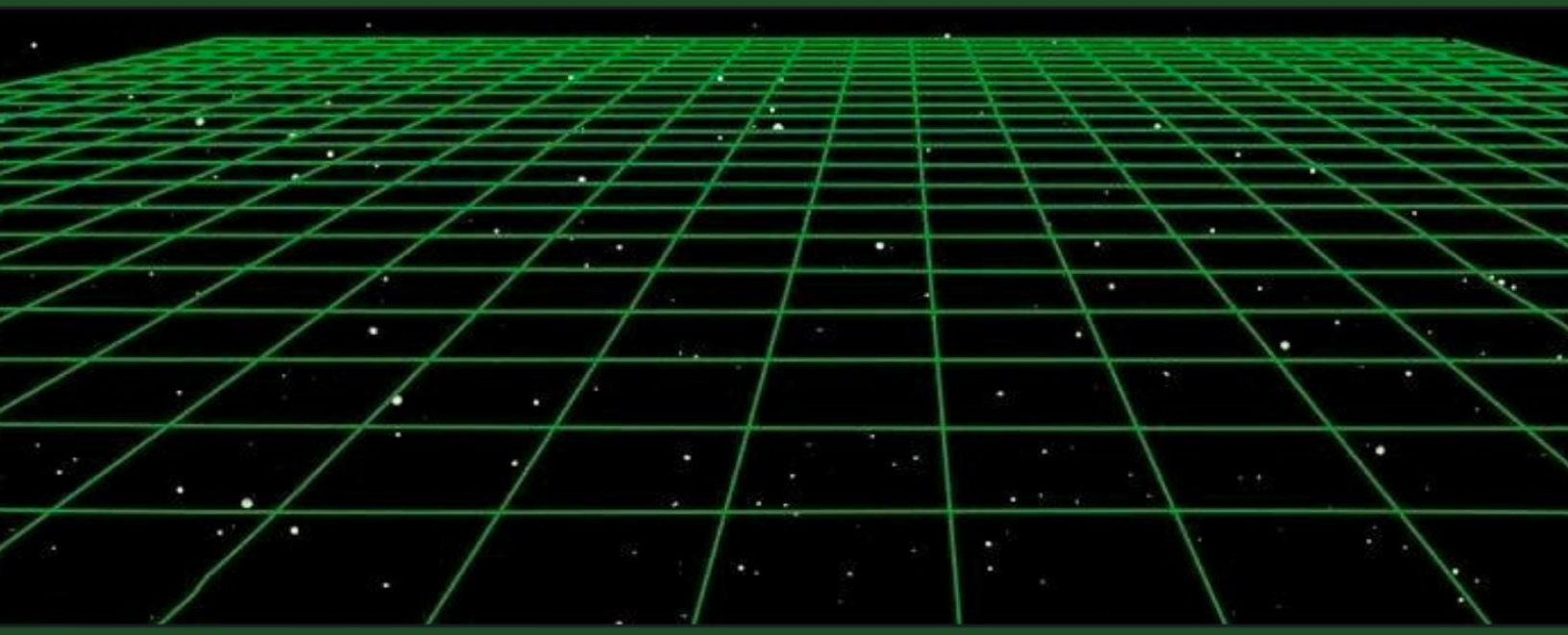
EFRAG
sustainability reporting

MAPPING OF DIGITAL PLATFORMS AND INITIATIVES FOR SME SUSTAINABILITY

VSME ECOSYSTEM



SEPTEMBER | 2025

REPORT

Disclaimer

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The inclusion of a platform in this report **cannot be understood as a form of direct or indirect endorsement or certification by EFRAG**. This report presents gives a snapshot at this moment in time of those platforms and initiatives that answered to the Call for Interest. This report reflects information provided to EFRAG by the platform. **EFRAG has not performed a verification of the information received, nor it has assessed the quality nor the compliance of the tools with VSME.**

About EFRAG

EFRAG's mission is to serve the European public interest in both financial and sustainability reporting by developing and promoting European views in the field of corporate reporting. EFRAG builds on and contributes to the progress in corporate reporting. In its sustainability reporting activities, EFRAG provides technical advice to the European Commission in the form of draft European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS) elaborated under a robust due process and supports the effective implementation of ESRS. EFRAG seeks input from all stakeholders and obtains evidence about specific European circumstances throughout the standard setting process. Its legitimacy is built on Excellence, transparency, governance, due process, public accountability and thought leadership. This enables EFRAG to speak convincingly, clearly, and consistently, and be recognised as the European voice in corporate reporting and a contributor to global progress in corporate reporting.

EFRAG is funded by the European Union through the Single Market Programme in which the EEA-EFTA countries (Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein), as well as Kosovo participate. Any views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union, the European Commission or of countries that participate in the Single Market Programme. Neither the European Union, the European Commission nor countries participating in the Single market Programme can be held responsible for them.

Abstract

This report presents the findings of a survey conducted by EFRAG to map and assess existing digital platforms and initiatives that support sustainability reporting by small and medium-sized enterprises ('SMEs'), particularly in relation to the VSME Standard published in December 2024. The public survey, open from 4 to 24 February 2025, collected structured responses from 223 platforms across public, private and mixed sectors. EFRAG recognises that a significant number of initiatives might have become operational during this period of time. Therefore, this report presents a snapshot of those platforms and initiatives that responded to the survey but does not necessarily provide a complete picture.

The survey explored platform characteristics such as alignment with the VSME Standard, development phase, type of service offered, cost structure, technical tools, guidance availability and data access policies. Key findings indicate a market-driven ecosystem, with 82.06% of platforms developed by private entities and a significant number already operational (183 out of 223). A majority of platforms (116) are fully aligned with the VSME Standard, while 41 report partial alignment and 55 plan future adoption. Structural alignment with the VSMEs modular architecture is observed in 68% of platforms. Most platforms provide guidelines (93%) and reporting automation (78%), with varying degrees of data access policies prioritising privacy. Cost models vary, with 60% of platforms using a recurring fee model, though public initiatives are predominantly free. English is the most common language, followed by several major EU languages. Italy, Germany and the Netherlands are the leading countries of origin. Additional tools like greenhouse gas ('GHG') emission calculators, geolocation, biodiversity and water stress tools are integrated in 72% of platforms.

In addition to the general analysis, the report includes a focused review of 20 platforms shortlisted and self-assessed platforms, selected based on a series of criteria outlined in the report (i.e. user engagement levels or public backing). Please note that **EFRAG does not certify any of the platforms mentioned in this report** as no method of verification of the self-assessments has been carried out by EFRAG.

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INTRODUCTION

1. Following the delivery of its technical advice on the Voluntary Sustainability Reporting Standard (the VSME') to the European Commission, EFRAG launched the VSME Ecosystem. With this ecosystem, EFRAG aims to contribute to the uptake of the VSME Standard across the EU market. As part of its ongoing efforts to support the implementation of the VSME, EFRAG launched a Call for Expression of Interest from 4 to 24 February 2025 to map existing or developing initiatives, digital platforms (e.g. ESG data platforms) and tools (e.g. GHG calculators, geolocation tools) to support SME reporting as part of its 'VSME Ecosystem' work. Please note that this report addresses only existing or developing initiatives and digital platforms that have submitted responses to the Call for Expression of Interest as outlined above. A separate report has been prepared to analyse the tools (e.g. GHG calculators, geolocation tools).
2. The assessment aims to compare the consistency of platforms and other initiatives with EFRAG's VSME to stimulate the uptake and ensure coordinated adoption across Europe. With a focus on the platforms and other initiatives that fulfilled pre-defined criteria, the EFRAG Secretariat employed a self-assessment grid to effectively compare and evaluate the different SME reporting initiatives. However, the EFRAG Secretariat did not check the correctness of the self-assessments, this could be explored by EFRAG in the foreseeable future. Moreover, where relevant, the EFRAG Secretariat conducted thorough desktop research, supported by one-to-one bilateral meetings, to further investigate and gain deeper insights into each initiative.
3. The primary objective of this report is to present to the European Commission the findings gathered through the survey process, with the aim of providing an overview of the platforms and initiatives currently available on the market and their main characteristics.

   The report focuses specifically on initiatives that are actively involved in sustainability reporting and demonstrate operational maturity. By mapping this landscape, the report seeks to highlight the diversity, commonalities and potential gaps in existing SME-focused sustainability platforms, providing a foundation for further work in shaping a supportive reporting environment under the VSME framework.

CHAPTER 1: GENERAL ANALYSIS OF SURVEY RESPONSES

4. The survey was designed to collect structured information on existing platforms and initiatives that support sustainability reporting by SMEs. Through a series of targeted questions, the survey enabled the mapping of key features of available platforms, assessing their alignment with the VSME Standard (December 2024 version) and gathering details on their operation, usage and accessibility.

Call for Expression of Interest

5. The Call for Expression of Interest, through an online survey, was launched on 4 February and ended on 24 February 2025. A total of 223 respondents submitted their feedback.
6. The survey published on EFRAG's website consisted of 10 topics, namely:

   - **identification of the initiative/platform** (name of the platform and the managing company or public entity, country of origin and available languages, and web address);
   - **alignment with the VSME Standard** (explanation of any partial alignment and the main differences, use of a two-tier structure reflecting the Basic and Comprehensive Modules, and existence or plans for a reconciliation table mapping the platform's structure to the VSME Standard);
   - **type and nature of the initiative** (classification, e.g. rating agency, information provider, consortium, and indication of whether the initiative is public or private);
   - **development status** (operational or design phase);
   - **user base size** (estimated number of preparers and users);
   - **technical features** and **embedded tools** (such as GHG emissions calculators, geolocation tools or biodiversity-related tools);
   - **reporting functionalities** (whether a report is automatically generated and where it is published);
   - **country of initiative and languages available**;
   - **access and cost structure**; and
   - **guidance and support materials**.

General analysis of responses

7. Most of the platforms identified through the survey are driven by private-sector actors, with 183 initiatives (82.06%) developed and managed entirely by private entities. This dominance underscores the central role of market-led efforts in shaping digital infrastructure for SME sustainability reporting. Public initiatives account for 24 platforms (10.76%), indicating a moderate but meaningful involvement of governmental or public institutions in this space. Additionally, 16 platforms (7.17%) were classified as mixed initiatives, where private entities operate the platform with public funding support.
8. Focusing specifically on private and mixed initiatives, 147 were classified as information providers, reflecting a strong emphasis on facilitating access to and distribution of ESG data across the SME ecosystem. Rating companies accounted for 29 platforms, indicating a notable presence of

initiatives aimed at evaluating and scoring ESG performance. Additionally, 22 platforms were developed by consortia, while 4 were categorized as 'other'.

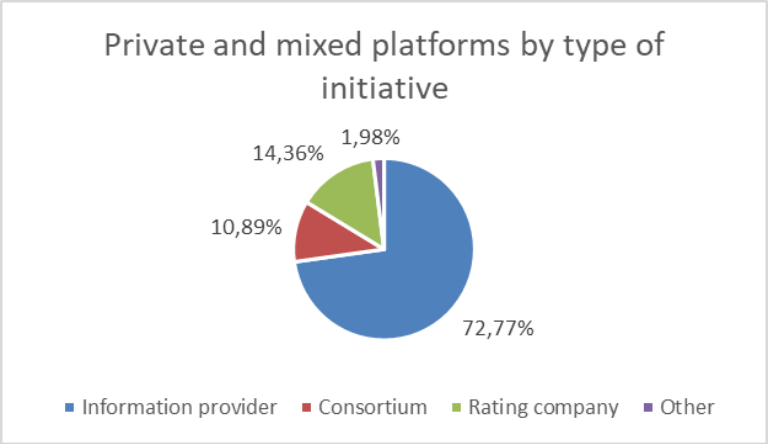

Figure 1 Private platform by type of initiative

9. Regarding the distribution of platforms across different project phases, a significant higher share of them is involved in the operational phase compared to the design phase. Specifically, 172 platforms are active during the operational phase, while only 51 platforms are engaged in the design phase.

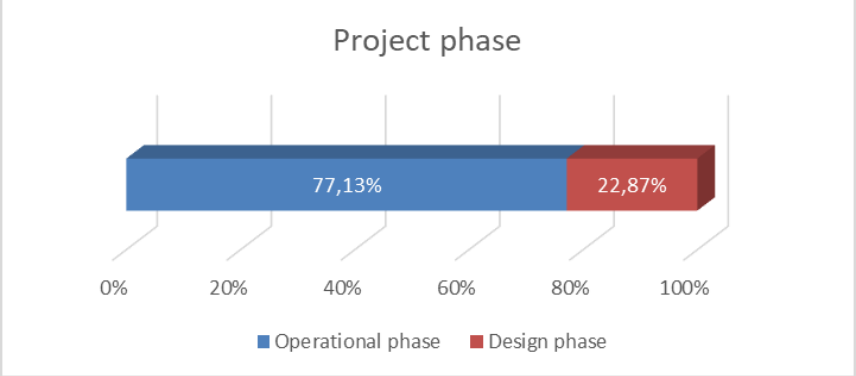

Figure 2: Platforms by project phase

Alignment with the VSME

10. To assess the alignment of digital platforms with the VSME Standard, respondents were asked questions regarding both the content alignment and the structural coherence of their platforms with the Standard's framework. A majority of the platforms (116) reported that their content fully reflects the final VSME Standard published in December 2024, indicating strong market responsiveness to the framework. An additional eight platforms stated alignment with the earlier Exposure Draft released in January 2024, suggesting that some initiatives have not yet updated their tools to the final version. Partial alignment with the December 2024 Standard was reported by 41 platforms, 19 of which indicated in the additional comments section that they are currently in the process of aligning or plan to do so in the future. Notably, 55 respondents indicated that

their platforms are not currently aligned but plan to adopt the VSME Standard in the foreseeable future. Only three platforms reported no alignment and no plans to integrate the Standard, pointing to a relatively limited segment of the market not currently engaging with the VSME framework.

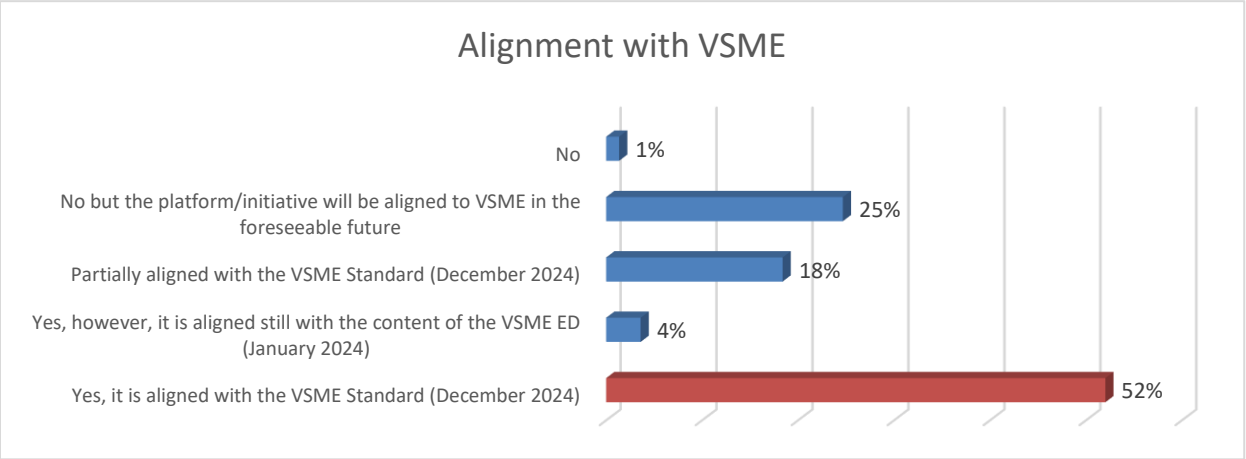

Figure 3: Alignment with VSME

11. In terms of **modular structure alignment**, a significant majority of the mapped platforms (153 out of 223) are designed to mirror the modular architecture of the VSME framework. This high share (68%) suggests a good level of uptake of the VSME's modular approach among existing initiatives. Conversely, 71 platforms do not currently mirror this structure.

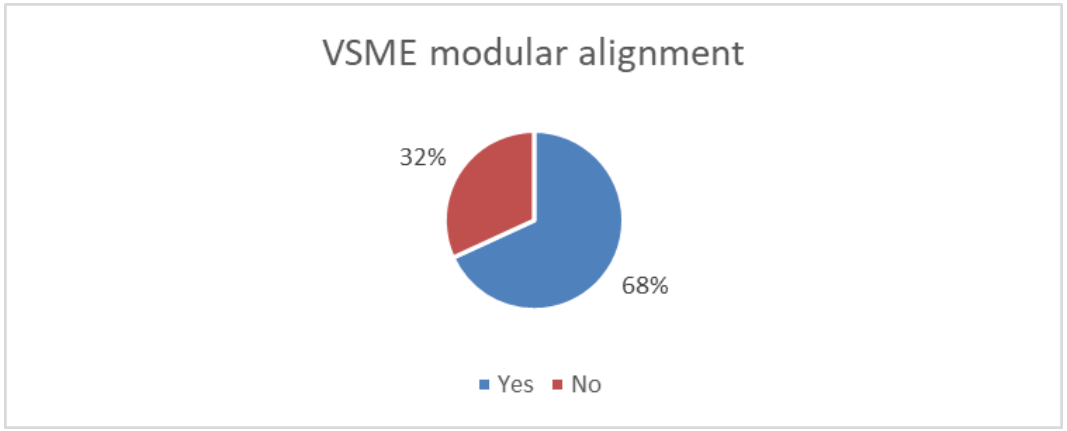

Figure 4 Platforms by VSME modular alignment

Cost model and pricing structure

12. When asked about the **cost model**, the majority of respondents (133 out of 223) indicated that their platforms operate on a recurring fee basis, highlighting a predominantly commercial approach. An additional 15 platforms reported a one-time entry fee model. Meanwhile, 26 platforms stated they are entirely free of charge, making them potentially more accessible for SMEs with limited resources. Another 43 platforms follow a hybrid model: they are free to access, but certain services require payment, suggesting a tiered offering that may combine basic free

tools with premium features. Lastly, six respondents marked the question as not applicable, as they refer to initiatives or tools that are not digital platforms.

13. For **public initiatives**, the **cost structure** appears to be significantly more favourable to SMEs. Out of the 24 public initiatives assessed, 16 confirmed that their platforms are entirely free of charge. Five additional initiatives reported that, while the platform is generally free, certain services require payment, suggesting a freemium model aimed at offering essential tools at no cost while monetising advanced functionalities. Only one public initiative indicated the presence of recurring fees, and none reported an entry-fee-only model. Two responses marked the question as not applicable, which is consistent with the nature of non-digital platforms.

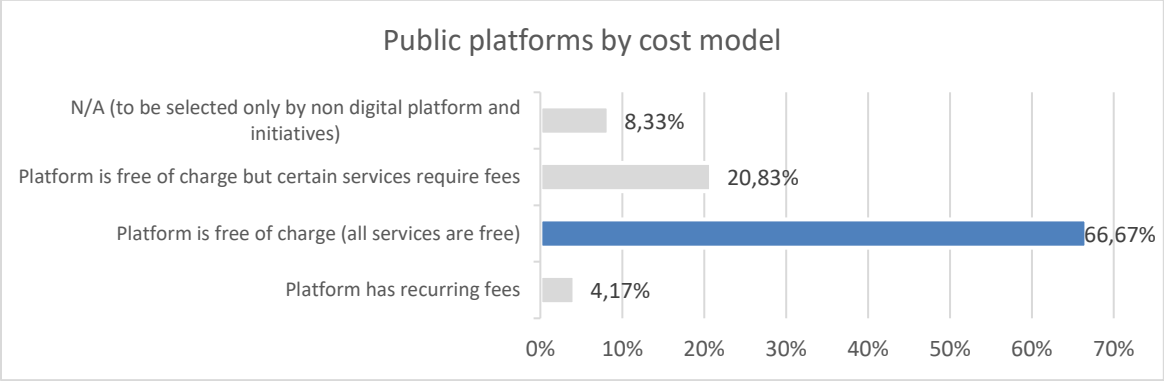

Figure 5: Public platforms by cost model

Usability and data access features

14. A strong majority of the surveyed platforms and initiatives (207 out of 223) offer **guidelines** to support SMEs in their sustainability reporting journey, supporting users with varying levels of expertise. Only a small fraction (16 platforms) reported providing no guidance, suggesting that most initiatives recognise the importance of instructional support in enabling effective reporting practices.

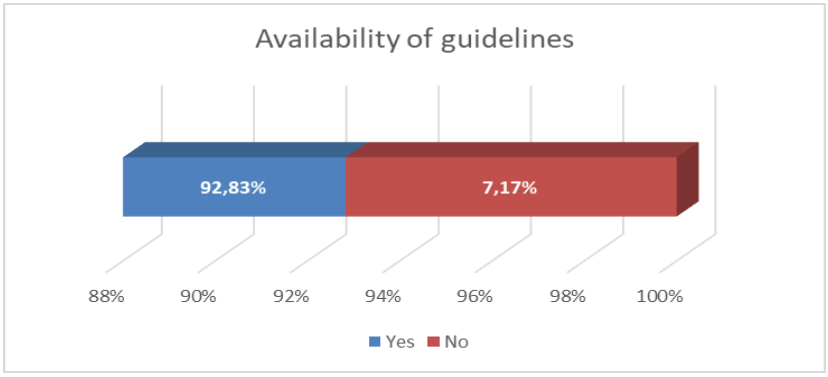

Figure 6: Availability of guidelines across platform

15. In terms of **automation features**, 173 platforms indicated that they automatically generate reports for users, improving efficiency and reducing the reporting burden for SMEs, while 50 indicated that they do not.

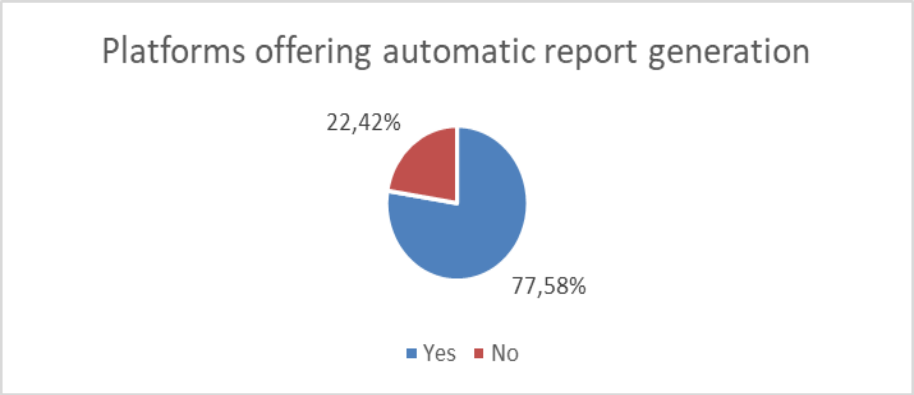

Figure 7: Platforms offering automatic report generation

16. Regarding **data access**, privacy appears to be an important consideration. Of the platforms surveyed, 119 do not allow any third-party access to stored data. Another 72 provide only limited, anonymised access, while 32 permit full third-party access. This distribution indicates that most platforms prioritise data confidentiality, although a portion also supports some level of data sharing, which may be useful for analytic purposes.

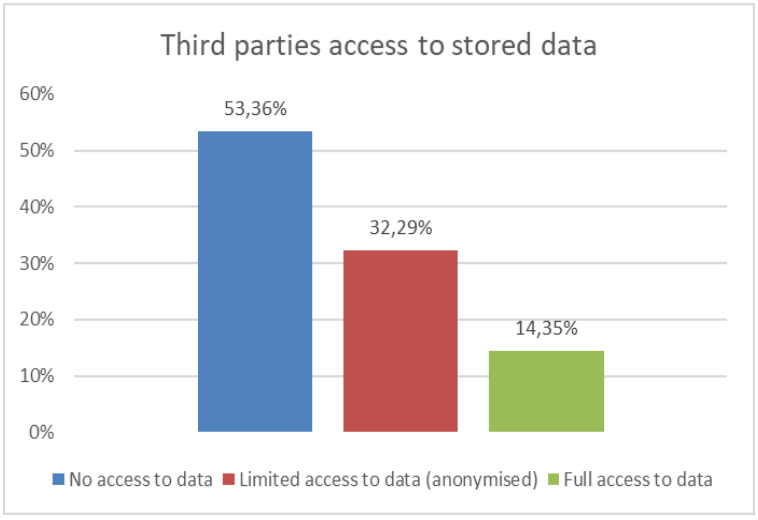

Figure 8: Third parties access to stored data

Country of initiative and language availability

17. The main **country of initiative** of the platforms is Italy (49 platforms), followed by Germany (34 platforms), the Netherlands (27 platforms), France (26 platforms) and Sweden (22 platforms). Outside the EU, the United Kingdom and the United States stand out as the primary countries of origin for the platforms, accounting for 17 and 16 out of 59, respectively.

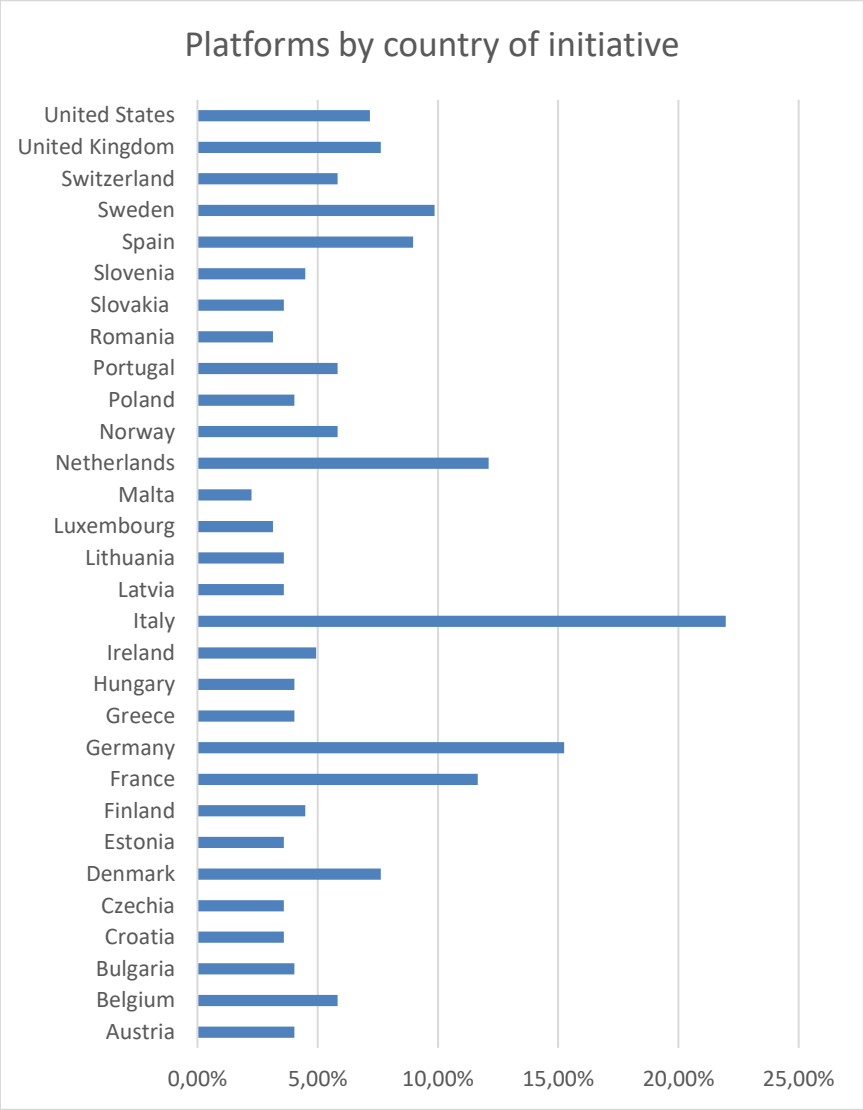

Figure 9: Platform of country of initiative

18. In terms of **language availability** across platforms and initiatives, English is the most commonly supported language, appearing in 76.23% of cases. It is followed by Italian (28.70%), French (25.56%), German (26.01%), Spanish (20.63%) and Dutch (14.80%), indicating a notable presence of several European languages. Among non-EU languages, Chinese is one of the most represented; however, its adoption remains limited, appearing in just 4.48% of the platforms.

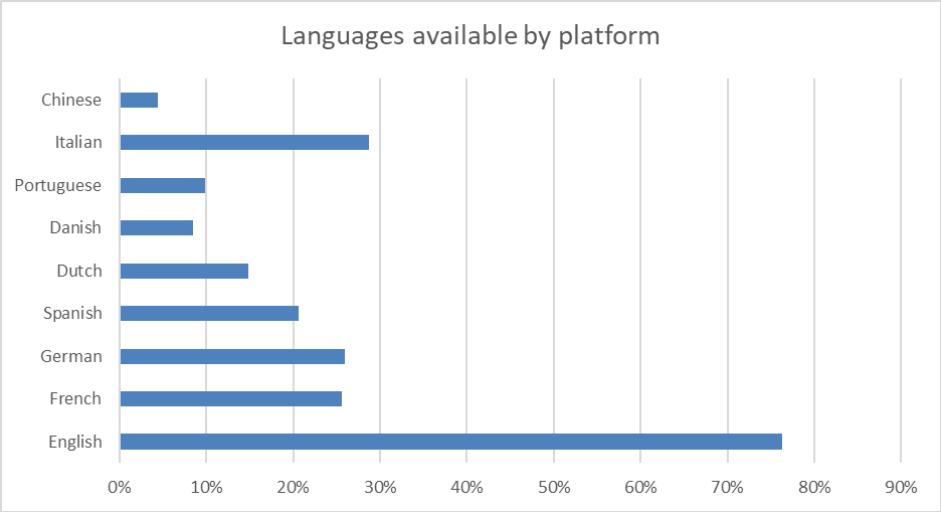

Figure 10: Language availability by platforms

Availability of additional tools

19. Regarding the possibility of having **additional tools** (i.e. either GHG emission calculator, geolocation tools, biodiversity tools, guidance, etc.) embedded in or referred to in the platforms, 72% of the platforms and initiatives report incorporating such functionalities. Among the tools, the GHG emission calculator is the most frequently included, available in 95 platforms and initiatives, which account for 43% of the overall sample. In contrast, only 28% of the total platforms and initiatives do not offer any additional tools.

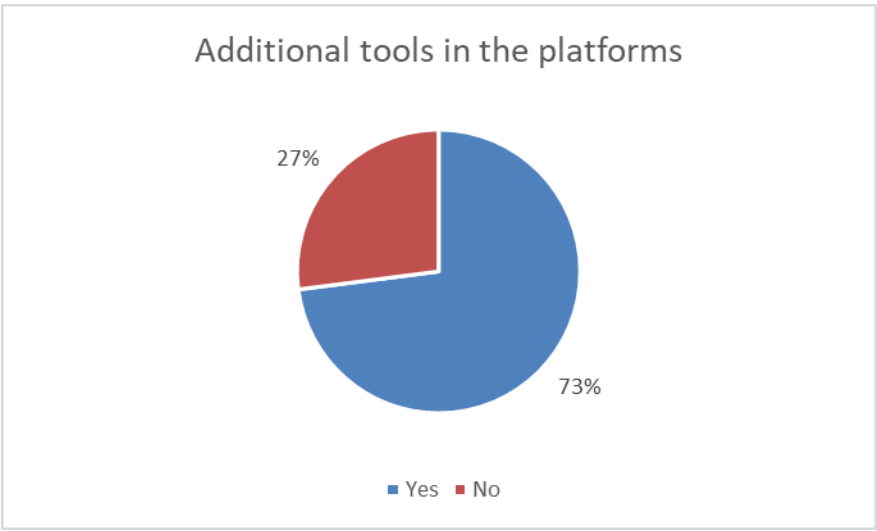

Figure 11: Additional tools in the platform

CHAPTER 2: REPORT ON THE SHORTLISTED PLATFORMS

20. The next section of this report provides an in-depth analysis of a selected group of platforms that were shortlisted based on specific criteria.
21. **The criteria for shortlisting platforms were as follows**: **those with more than 125 preparers and at least 50 users**, as well as platforms that did not meet these thresholds but are managed by a public entity or part of nationally led initiatives. Based on these criteria, a total of 39 platforms were shortlisted. **Out of 39, 20 completed the self-assessment**, a grid to evaluate the alignment of platforms and initiatives with the VSME (December 2024 version).
22. The first part of the chapter provides a statistical analysis of the main characteristics and functionalities of the self-assessed ones. This is followed by the results of the self-assessment grid submitted to the shortlisted platforms. Please note that **EFRAG has not verified the correctness of the self-assessments and therefore does not vouch for any of the platforms mentioned below**. The list below is a snapshot of the platforms and initiatives that responded to the Call for Expression Interest, fulfilled the criteria mentioned above and completed the self-assessment.

Part 1: Comparative analysis of shortlisted platforms that completed the self-assessment

23. This section presents statistics based on data collected through the survey embedded in the Call for Expression of Interest launched in February 2025. Please note that the total number of platforms included in the statistical analysis is 19, as Dialogo di sostenibilitá tra PMI e Banche, the initiative of the Italian Ministry of Economy and Finance, was subsequently added to the cluster identified through desktop research carried out by EFRAG due to its particular relevance at the national level.
24. The analysis reveals a strong dominance of **private-sector** involvement in the development and operation of the shortlisted platforms. A total of 12 platforms (66.67%) are fully developed and managed by private entities. In contrast, public-sector initiatives remain limited, accounting for only five platforms (27.78%). Meanwhile, one platform (5.56%) falls under the category of mixed initiatives, where operational control lies with private actors, while development or ongoing support includes public funding.
25. A closer examination of the functions of **private and mixed initiatives** shows that the majority – 10 platforms – act primarily as information providers. However, the relatively small number of platforms dedicated to ESG performance evaluation – only one identified as a rating agency – points to a potential gap in the ecosystem. Additionally, two platforms were developed by consortia.

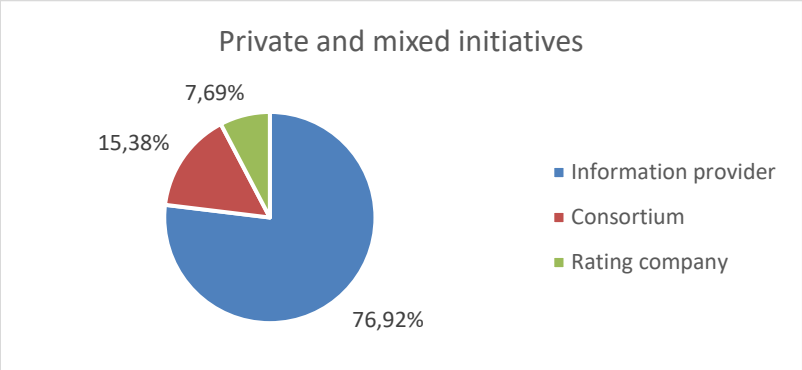

Figure 12: Type of private and mixed initiative

26. Regarding the distribution of platforms across different **project phases**, a significant higher share is involved in the operational phase. Specifically, 17 platforms out of 19 are active during the operational phase, while only two platforms are engaged in the design phase.

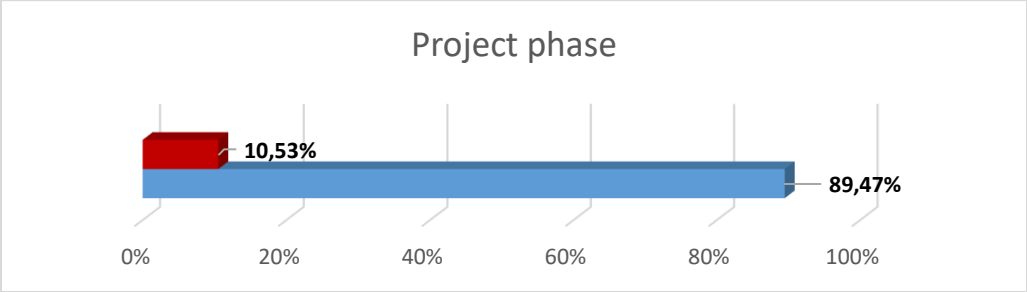

Figure 13: Platforms by project phase

Alignment with the VSME

27. With respect to **alignment with the VSME Standard** published in December 2024, 12 out of the 19 shortlisted platforms (63%) reported partial alignment. Full alignment was indicated by five

platforms, representing 26% of the total. Additionally, two platforms stated that they are not currently aligned but foresee potential alignment in the future.

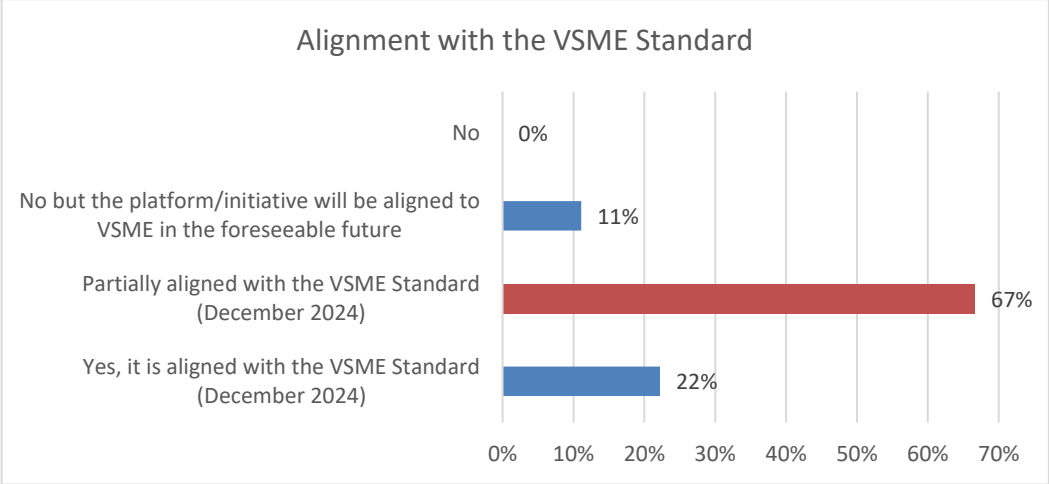

Figure 14: Alignment with VSME

28. In terms of **alignment with the modular structure of the VSME Standard**, six platforms reported that their structure reflects that of the Standard, while 13 platforms indicated that their structure does not follow this alignment.

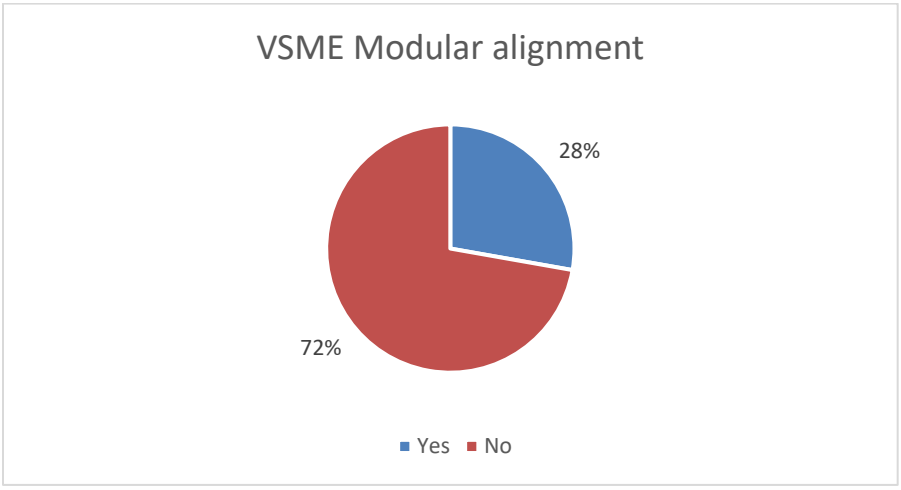

Figure 15: Alignment with VSME modular structure

Cost model and pricing structure

29. Regarding the **cost model** of the digital platforms, seven respondents (37%) reported that their platform is free of charge. This is followed by five other platforms (26%) that declared a hybrid

model, where platforms are free of charge but certain services require fees. Only two platforms reported an entry fee model, while five platforms stated they present recurring fees.

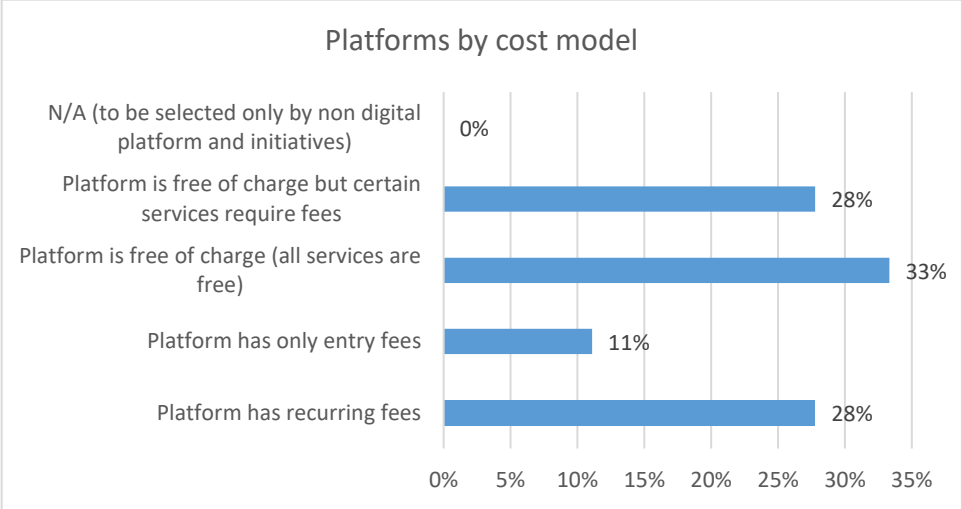

Figure 16: Platform by cost model

30. For **public initiatives**, out of the five assessed, four confirmed that their platforms are entirely free of charge. One additional initiative reported that, while the platform is generally free, certain services require fees. None of the public initiatives indicated the presence of recurring fees, and none marked the question as not applicable.

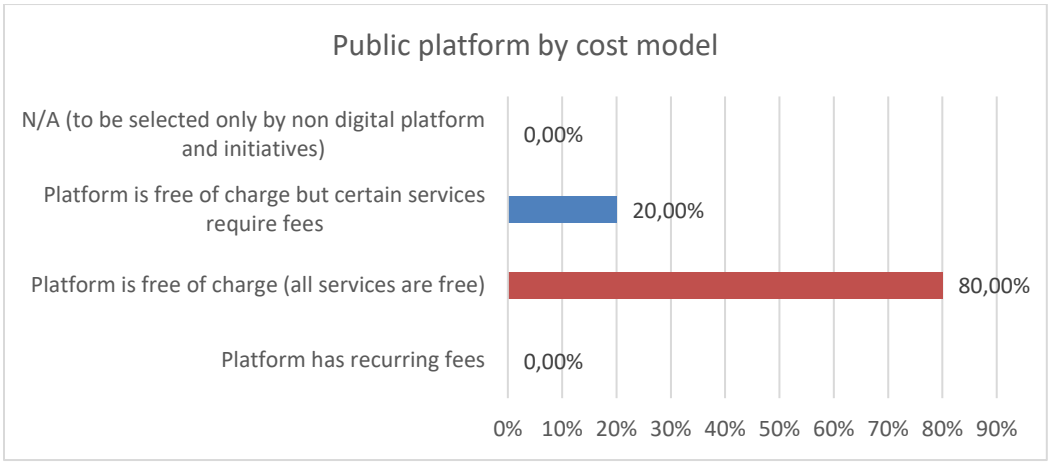

Figure 17: Public platforms by cost model

Usability and data access features

31. A significant majority of the shortlisted platforms, 18 out of 19 (94%), offer **guidelines** designed for SMEs in their sustainability reporting processes. The high prevalence of platforms providing such guidance reflects a clear commitment to enhancing user support and accessibility. In

contrast, only one platform (6%) reported that it does not offer any form of guideline within the platform itself.

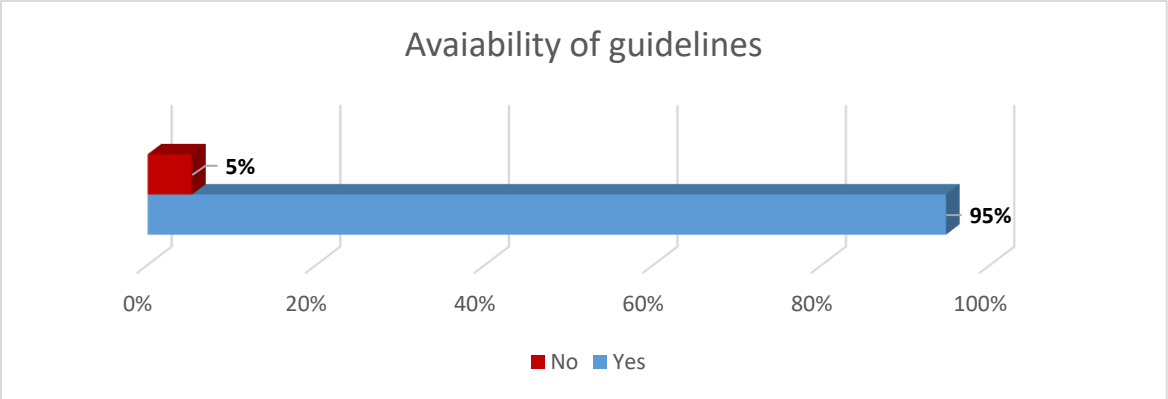

Figure 18: Availability of guidelines

32. Regarding **automation features**, 90% of the shortlisted platforms reported that they automatically generate reports. In contrast, 12% of the platforms indicated that they do not offer automatic report generation, potentially requiring users to compile reports manually. This level of automation shows a clear effort to improve efficiency and reduce the reporting workload for SMEs.

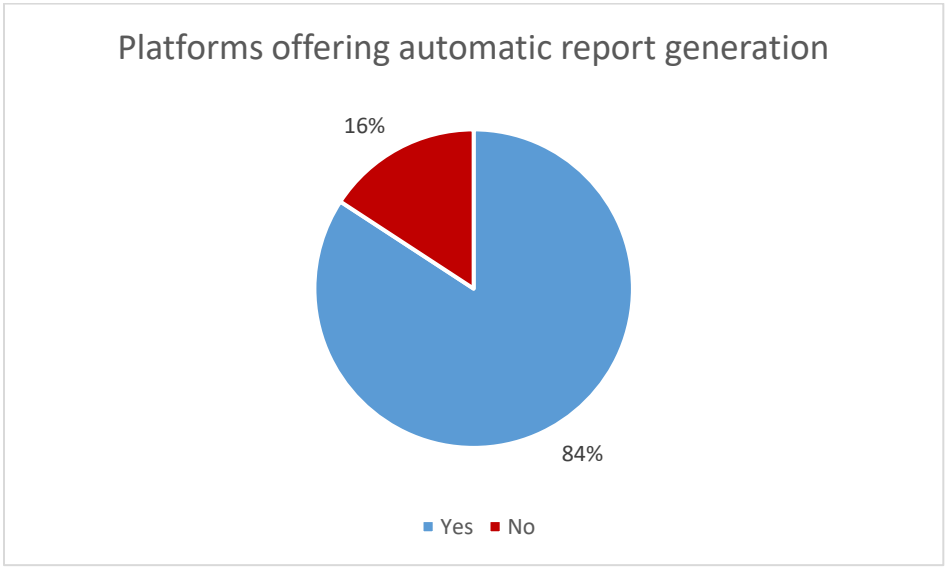

Figure 19: Platforms offering automatic report generation

33. For **data access**, privacy still appears to be an important consideration. Of the 19 shortlisted platforms analysed, ten do not provide third-party access to stored data, prioritising data confidentiality. Meanwhile, five platforms offer limited, anonymised access, balancing privacy concerns with the potential benefits of data sharing. Finally, four platforms allow full access to

their data. This distribution highlights that while most platforms emphasise protecting user data, a notable portion also facilitates some degree of data sharing.

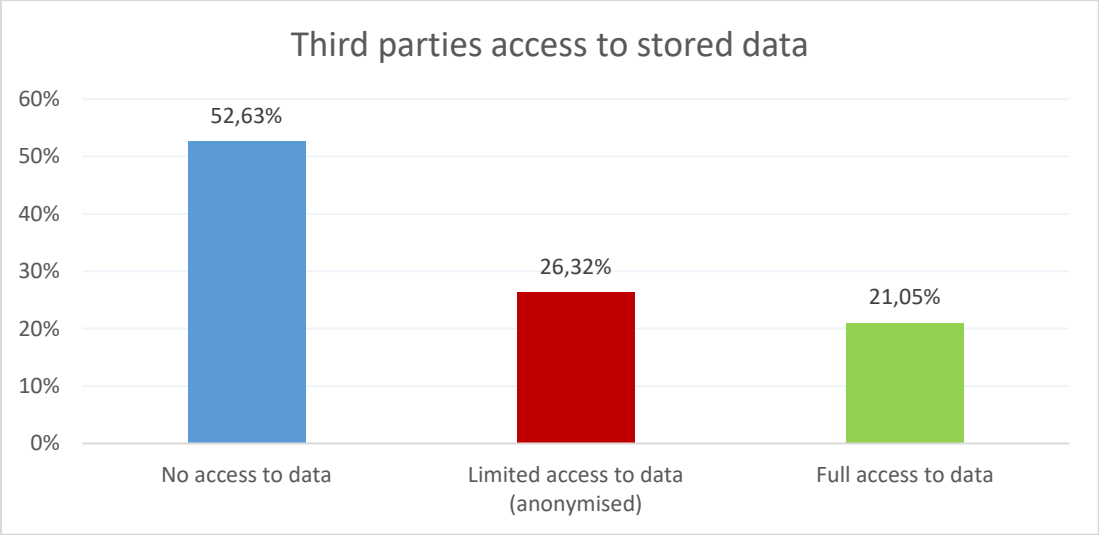

Figure 20: Third parties' access to stored data

Country of initiative and language availability

34. The main **country of initiative** of the shortlisted platforms is Italy (7 platforms), followed by Belgium (2 platforms), France (3 platforms), Germany (2 platforms), the Netherlands (2 platforms), Sweden (2 platforms), Czech Republic and Poland (1 platform, respectively). Outside the EU borders, the United Kingdom and the United States account for 1 platform, respectively, as part of the SME Climate Hub joint initiative.

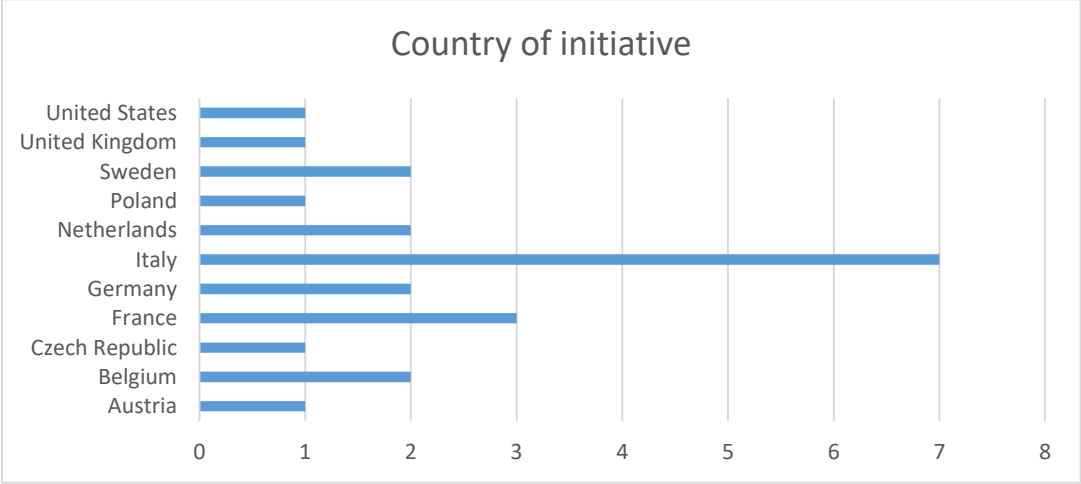

Figure 21: Platforms by country of initiative

35. In terms of **language availability** across the shortlisted platforms, English is the most commonly supported language, appearing in 13 out of 19 platforms. It is followed by Italian (9), German (7), French (5), Spanish (5), Dutch (4), Czech (3), Polish (3), Portuguese (3) and other EU languages less supported. Among non-EU languages, Chinese, Japanese, Turkish and Vietnamese are supported, respectively, by 3 platforms.

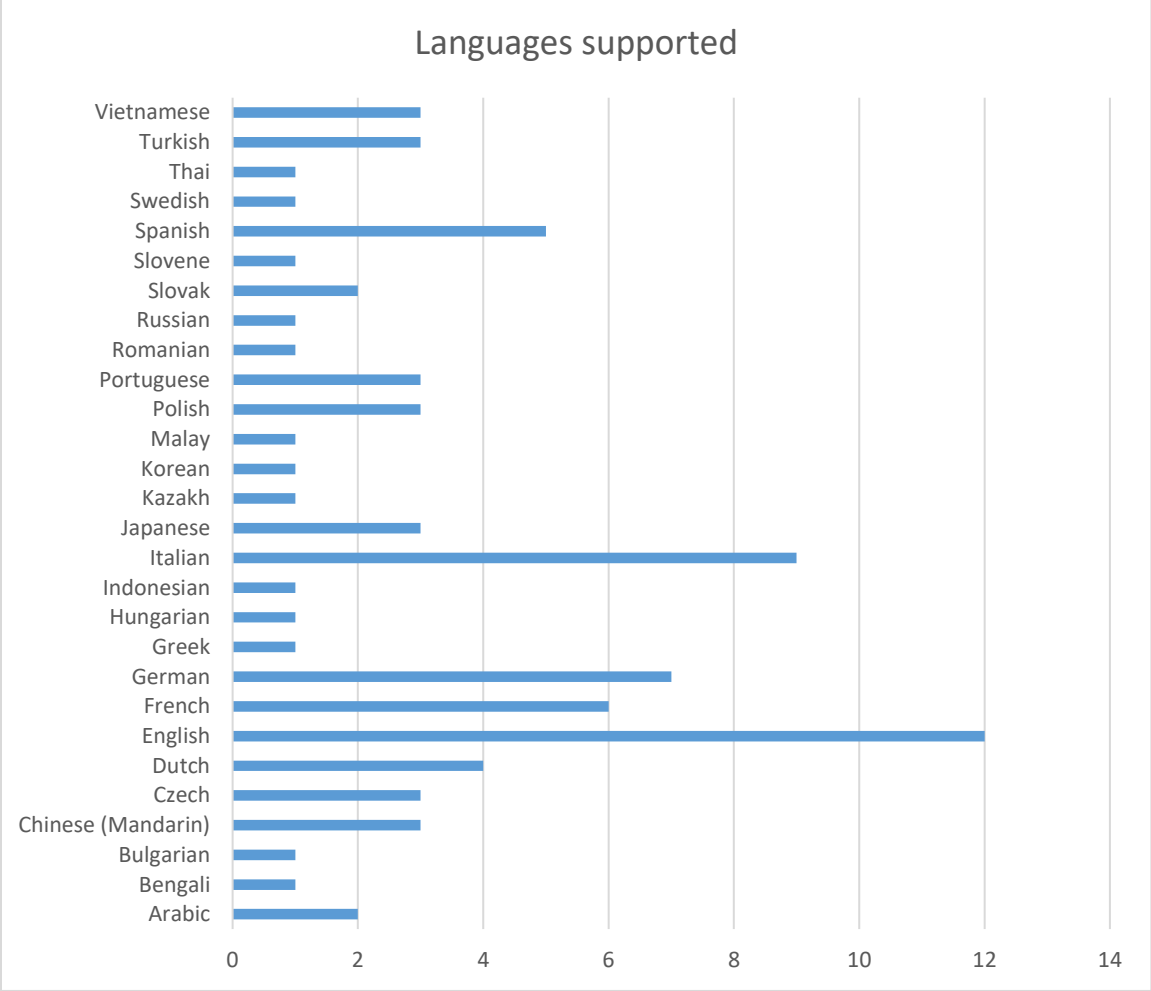

Figure 22: Language available by platform

36. Specifically, 11 respondents indicated that their platforms support multiple languages, allowing users to access content in more than one language. In contrast, seven platforms are limited to a single language, which may restrict their usability to speakers of that language.

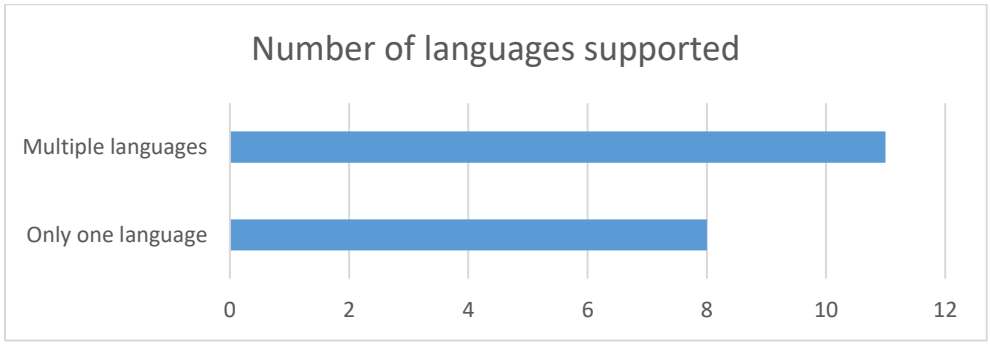

Figure 23: Number of languages supported by platform

Availability of additional tools

37. In respect to the possibility of having **additional tools** (i.e. a GHG emission calculator, geolocation tools, biodiversity tools) embedded within the platform, 84% (16 out of 19) of the platforms reported incorporating them. Only 17% of the total platforms do not offer any additional tools.

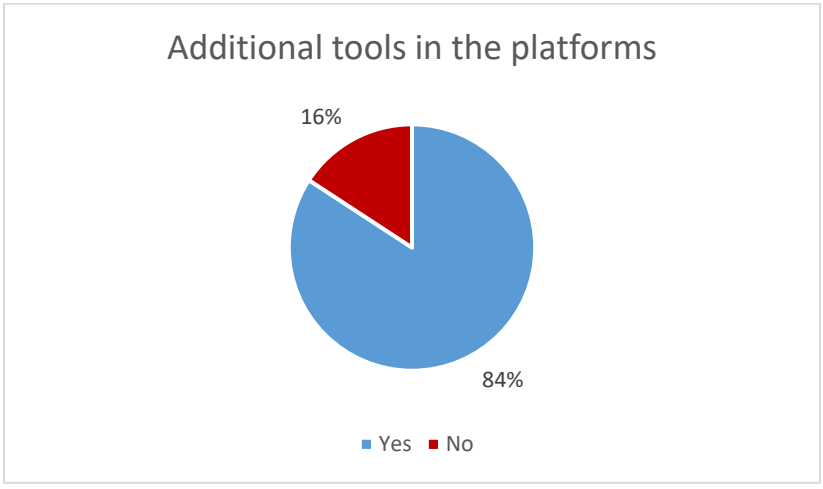

Figure 24: Additional tools in the shortlisted platforms

Part 2: Analysis of self-assessments received by shortlisted platforms and initiatives

This section summarises the results of the self-assessment that were submitted by the 20 platforms/initiatives. The analysis is based on information gathered through the self-assessment questionnaire completed by the platforms themselves. **Please note that the self-assessment results provided in this report do not mean that EFRAG vouches for any of the platforms or initiatives that submitted the self-assessments.**

38. To provide a clear and consistent comparison, each shortlisted platform completed a self-assessment against all datapoints defined in the VSME Standard. The degree of alignment was evaluated using the following scale:
    a. not present: the datapoint is not covered or considered by the platform;
    b. partially aligned: the datapoint is addressed but only partially;
    c. fully aligned: the datapoint is fully addressed and fully matches the VSME Standard.

39. The table below summarises the results of the self-assessments received. As a reminder, these 20 platforms and initiatives are those that fulfilled the criteria outlined in the Call for Expression of Interest (i.e. **operational with more than 125 preparers and at least 50 users**, as well as platforms that did not meet these thresholds but are managed by a public entity or part of nationally led initiatives) and that completed the self-assessment. Please note that **EFRAG has not verified the correctness of the self-assessments and therefore does not certify any of the platforms mentioned below**. The list below is a snapshot of those platforms and initiatives that answered the Call for Expression of Interest, fulfilled the criteria mentioned above and completed the self-assessment.

Table 1: Platforms that fulfilled the criteria and completed the self-assessment overview

	Platform/Initiative name[1]	Managing Entity	Languages	Self-declared alignment %Total	Availability of guidelines	Cost Model	Additional tools embedded	Automatic report generation	Platform's URL
National/governmental platform or initiative	**RSE Portail**	French Ministry of Economy, Direction générale des entreprises	French	Fully aligned	Yes	Free	Yes	No	Link
	Climate Indicator	Banque de France	French	Partially aligned	Yes	Free	No	Yes	Link
	Dialogo di sostenibilitá tra PMI e Banche	MEF	Italian	Partially aligned	Yes	Free	/	/	Link
	ESG Template	Danish Business Authority	Danish	Fully aligned	Yes	Free	Yes (Internal GHG calculator)	No	Link
	Sustainability Code Database[2]	German Sustainability Code (DNK)	German	Fully aligned	Yes	Free	Yes (Internal GHG calculator)	Yes	Link
National/European association of preparers or users	**Aibilita**	ConfESG, Turtle S.r.l	Italian	Partially aligned	Yes	Platform has recurring fees (for members only)	No	Yes	Link
	amfori SustainaPass	amfori - trade with purpose	English	Partially aligned	Yes	Platform has entry fees (for members only)	Yes	Yes	Link
	Bancopass	Assolombarda	Italian	Fully aligned	Yes	Free (for members only)	Yes (External links to GHG calculator)	Yes	Link
	ESG Standard	Polish Chamber of Commerce	Polish	Partially aligned	Yes	Free, but certain services require fees	Yes (External links to ESG services companies)	Yes	Link
	OeKB > ESG Data Hub	Austrian Kontroll Bank	English, German	Fully aligned	Yes	Free (Banks are charged to access the data)	Yes (Taxonomy Table)	Yes	Link

[1] The inclusion of a platform in this report cannot be understood as a form of direct or indirect endorsement or certification by EFRAG. This report presents gives a snapshot at this moment in time of those platforms and initiatives that answered to the Call for Interest. This report reflects information provided to EFRAG by the platform. EFRAG has not performed a verification of the information received, nor it has assessed the quality nor the compliance of the tools with VSME or ESRS.

[2] Within the scope of the DNK, the project Future-Compass Skilled Crafts (in German 'Zukunfts-Kompass Handwerk') provides a tailormade reporting-interface for the Skilled Crafts Sector in Germany.

	SUSTAIN-ability - L'abilità di essere sostenibile	Unioncamere – Dintec	Italian, English, German	Partially aligned	Yes	Free	Yes (GHG Calculator)	Yes	Link
	WM VSME Tool	Fenavian – FoodDrink Europe	English, French, Dutch	Fully aligned	Yes	Platform has entry fees (for members only)	No	Yes	Link
Consortium-based platform	**Cascale Higg FEM, on Worldly Platform**	Cascale Higg FEM, on Worldly Platform	Bengali, Chinese (Mandarin), English, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Spanish, Turkish, Vietnamese	Partially aligned	Yes	Platform has recurring fees	Yes (GHG Calculator, WRI Aqueduct Tool, WWF Water Risk Filter)	No	Link
	EcoVadis	EcoVadis	Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Thai, Turkish, Vietnamese	Partially aligned	Yes	Platform has recurring fees	Yes (GHG Calculator)	Yes	Link
	Open-es	Eni	Italian, English, French, German, Spanish, Indonesian, Portuguese, Arabic, Kazakh, Romanian, Slovak, Slovenian, Czech, Hungarian	Partially aligned	Yes	Free, but certain services require fees	Yes (GHG calculator)	Yes	Link
	SME Climate Hub	We Mean Business Coalition, Exponential Roadmap Initiative	English, Spanish	Partially aligned	Yes	Free	Yes (GHG Calculator)	Yes	Link
	SME Taxonomy Tool	EU LIFE CET Mainstream CONFESS project	Czech, English, German, Italian	Partially aligned	Yes	Platform is free of charge, but certain services require fees	Yes	Yes	Link
	SynESGy	CRIF S.P.A.	Bulgarian, Czech, Dutch, English, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Malay, Polish, Slovak, Turkish, Vietnamese	Partially aligned	Yes	Free, but certain services require fees	Yes (GHG Calculator)	Yes	Link
Other – Private platforms[3]	**MaterSustainability.today**	Maistering B.V.	English, Dutch	Fully aligned	Yes	Platform has recurring fees	Yes (GHG Calculator, DMA, KPI tracker, GHG	Yes	Link

[3] The inclusion of a platform in this report cannot be understood as a form of direct or indirect endorsement or certification by EFRAG. This report presents gives a snapshot at this moment in time of those platforms and initiatives that answered to the Call for Interest. This report reflects information provided to EFRAG by the platform. EFRAG has not performed a verification of the information received, nor it has assessed the quality nor the compliance of the tools with VSME or ESRS.

							emission dashboards, SBTi dashboard, vision boards, initiative boards)		
	Worldfavor	Worldfavor	Swedish	Partially aligned	Yes	Platform is free of charge, but certain services require fees	Yes (Carbon Calculator, Risk screening)	No	Link
	YMPACT	YHUB	Chinese, English, Italian, Spanish	Partially aligned	No	Platform has recurring fees	Yes (GHG Calculator, ZDHC chemical management database)	Yes	Link

Platforms and initiatives in the design phase

Certain public platforms and initiatives that answered the Call for Expression of Interest are currently in the **design phase** to support SMEs in reporting under the VSME Standard. As such, these platforms were unable to complete the self-assessment, and the EFRAG Secretariat plans to monitor them in the foreseeable future. These include the following.

a. The **Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RNO)** is currently developing an online platform aligned with the VSME Standard, with a particular focus on the Basic Module. The platform is a private initiative and will be free of charge. It will provide examples, practical insights and tips relevant to the Dutch context and legislatures. Additional tools may be included. The platform is expected to be completed by the end of the current year (2025) and be available only in Dutch. Third parties are not allowed to access stored data.

b. The Slovenian Ministry of Environment, Climate and Energy ('MOPE'), in collaboration with the Slovenian Ministry of Economy, Tourism and Sport ('MGTŠ') and other stakeholders, are developing the **National ESG Data Platform**. The platform will be aligned with the VSME Standard and will be free of charge, except for some services. The languages supported will be English and Slovene, and guidance and automatic report generation to support usability will be provided.

c. Karomia is developing **Kube**, an online data exchange platform aligned with the VSME Standard and the VSME Digital Template. In addition to the standard datapoints, Kube includes several fields requested by banks to better meet their reporting needs. The platform is an exchange platform for sharing data with multiple stakeholders. Kube is expected to launch by the end the current year (2025) and will be available in four languages (English, French, German and Dutch). Future features include an automated GHG emissions calculator based on invoice data, guidance and interoperability with other sectoral initiatives.

	Platform/[4] Initiative name	Managing Entity	Languages	Self-declared alignment	Availability of guidelines	Cost Model	Additional tools embedded	Automatic report generation
National/ governmental platform or initiative	- (Tbd)	The Netherlands Enterprise Agency	Dutch	Fully aligned	Yes	Free	Yes	Yes
	National ESG Data Platform	Slovenian Ministry of Environment, Climate and Energy (MOPE) in collaboration with the Slovenian Ministry of Economy, Tourism and Sport (MGTŠ)	English, Slovene	Fully aligned	Yes	Platform is free of charge but certain services require fees	Yes (GHG Calculator)	Yes
National/ European association of preparers or users	**KUBE ESG**	Isabel	Dutch, English, French, German	Fully aligned	Yes	Platform is free of charge, but certain services require fees	Yes (GHG calculator, geolocation)	Yes

Table 2: Public or national platforms that fulfilled the criteria but are still in design phase

[4] The inclusion of a platform in this report cannot be understood as a form of direct or indirect endorsement or certification by EFRAG. This report presents gives a snapshot at this moment in time of those platforms and initiatives that answered to the Call for Interest. This report reflects information provided to EFRAG by the platform. EFRAG has not performed a verification of the information received, nor it has assessed the quality nor the compliance of the tools with VSME or ESRS.

Key takeaways and possible scenarios

83. The mapping of platforms and initiatives gives a **snapshot at this moment in time of those** that responded to the Call for Expression of Interest published by EFRAG in February 2025, whether in the operational phase or in the design phase. As such, EFRAG cannot guarantee an exhaustive mapping exercise.
84. Out of the 223 respondents to the Call for Expression of Interest, only 39 fulfilled the criteria (i.e. **those with more than 125 preparers and at least 50 users**, as well as platforms that did not meet these thresholds but that are managed by a public entity or that are part of nationally led initiatives). In addition, only a limited number of platforms and initiatives turned in a completed self-assessment (20 out of 39). It is important to note that **EFRAG does not vouch for any of the platforms that are mentioned in this report**, as no verification was done on the content of the self-assessments received.

85. Among this subset of initiatives, five were identified as being developed at governmental level. Three of these – the Portail RSE (Ministry of France), the ESG Template (developed by the Danish Business Authority) and the Sustainability Code Database (German Sustainability Code) – operate as functional digital platforms, declaring full alignment. Climate Indicator (Banque de France) instead declares a partial alignment. In addition, the initiative developed by the Italian Ministry of Economy and Finance ('MEF'), while not a digital platform in the strict sense, is presented in the form of a structured questionnaire and declares partial alignment. National and European associations (except for Bancopass developed by Assolombarda, OeKB ESG Data Hub developed by Austrian Kontroll Bank and WM VSME Tool developed by Fenavian which declare full alignment) and consortia declare a partial level of alignment. Finally, three platforms were identified as developed by private entities that fulfilled the criteria outlined in the Call for Expression of Interest. One of these, Mater Sustainability Today, shows full alignment, while the other two are partially aligned.

86. The EFRAG Secretariat expects that, as the market continues to develop, the number of freely accessible initiatives and platforms will increase. In addition, following the publication of the VSME Recommendation, the implementation and integration of the VSME Standard into existing and upcoming platforms and initiatives is also expected to increase.

87. Given that EFRAG's main objective is to ensure consistent implementation of the VSME, and considering the limited uptake of the Standard among the platforms analysed, EFRAG could consider implementing a verification mechanism. Such a mechanism could help overcome the limitations of self-assessments, which, based on a preliminary and high-level analysis, appear to be only partially reliable, and support the establishment of a more structured check for alignment with the VSME. This mechanism could potentially leverage the VSME XBRL Taxonomy

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