

ESG and Tax

Hedge Funds

April 22, 2021

Tax has a role in all 3 pillars of ESG

Environmental, Social, Governance (ESG) 3 central factors that measure the sustainability and impact of an investment in a company





Social awareness of tax and "paying your share", heightened by COVID.

An open and transparent dialogue between consumers, business, investors, and tax authorities is key to building <u>trust</u>.

Social tax credits and social investment tax relief are becoming more common for social objectives.



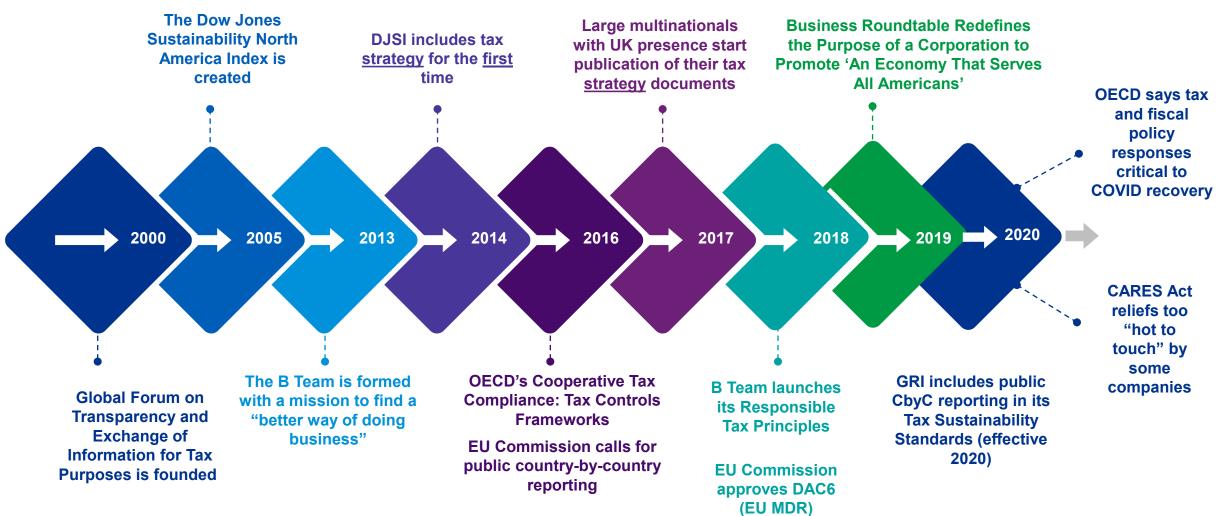
Sustainability is now a board room governance issue and responsible tax is part of the agenda.

> Tax is at the heart of governance and accountability within a business

How is tax managed and who is accountable?



Evolution of responsible tax around the globe





benefits of ESG for tax

- Establish clarity around internal policies and processes
- Communicate to internal stakeholders
- Communicate to investors
- Enhance relationship with tax authorities
- Improve employee relations
- Effectively and transparently manage risks
- Participate in ESG reporting
- Proactive vs. reactive





What does ESG mean for tax?



- Emergence of global tax governance regulations and expectations with accountability at Board level for tax
- Access and analytics of data by tax authorities
- Increased uncertainty around tax audits, coordination and information sharing by tax authorities
- Legislative and stakeholder pressure for tax transparency
- Tax risk emerging as a key operational and reputational risk issue in particular social license to operate
- Country by country reporting, information sharing
- Regulatory pressure to improve risk management and governance in particular for Funds & Financial Services
- Dow Jones Sustainability Index, Global Reporting Initiative
- Investment Fund pressure to invest ethically; tax emerging as a consideration in underlying investments



What is effective management of tax risk?

Tax functions need to be designed to manage tax risks and <u>ensure</u> they are properly considered in the investment process, taking into account investment specific and broader implications.

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Technical Risk

Risk of differing views between taxpayers and tax authorities. The degree of risk is typically highly sensitive to facts and assumptions.

Operational Risk

Risk of loss due to inaction of people or inadequate processes. There are two types

- Direct control: actions Client's own employees must undertake to achieve intended tax outcomes.
- Influence: actions investment partners must undertake to achieve the intended tax outcomes.

Reputation Risk

Risk of loss may arise when a proposed tax position is contrary to widely understood tax policy objectives of a particular government. The threshold to test is generally the opinion of the government policy makers rather than local tax collecting authorities.

Change of Law

Risk of loss due to actual or proposed changes in law. This is an inherent risk of investing. To manage this risk an entity must focus on changes in tax law or administrative practice that are reasonably foreseeable and have a measurable impact on the after-tax returns from the investment.



Tax Risk Governance Framework

The **Tax Risk Governance Framework** is an internal document that will provide guidance for the Tax Function around the management of investment matters.

The document lays out:

- Stakeholders roles and responsibilities
- Actions of the management of external tax advisors: accountability, competence and communication
- Actions for the management of tax matters
- Tax <u>strategy</u>
- Guidance on tax risk appetite/tolerance

TAX strategy

- I. Introduction
- II. Tax Function
- III. Tax Management Principles
- IV. Roles and responsibilities
- VI. Implementation and Control

TAX POLICY

- Introduction
- II. Tax Planning
- II. Tax Compliance
- IV. Tax Controversy
- V. Tax reporting

TAX RISK MANAGEMENT

- I. Introduction
- II. Specific tax risk areas
- III. Tax Risk Management
- IV. Tax risk register

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- I. Background
- II. KPI's defined
- III. Balanced scorecard
- IV. Self assessment



Proposed approach



- Review and agree on interviewees with stakeholders
- Schedule interviews
- Agree on deliverables content and format

Phase Gather information

- Conduct kickoff session

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- Conduct interviews with Tax and other key process owners (e.g., Accounting, IT, Legal, etc.)
- Document preliminary observations
- Agree policy structure and content

- Phase **Draft policy** 3 documents
- Draft Tax Policy
- Draft Tax Risk Framework
- Draft Balanced Scorecard
- Align policy documents with existing policy framework
- Arrange regular touchpoints with project sponsor

Phase Implementation

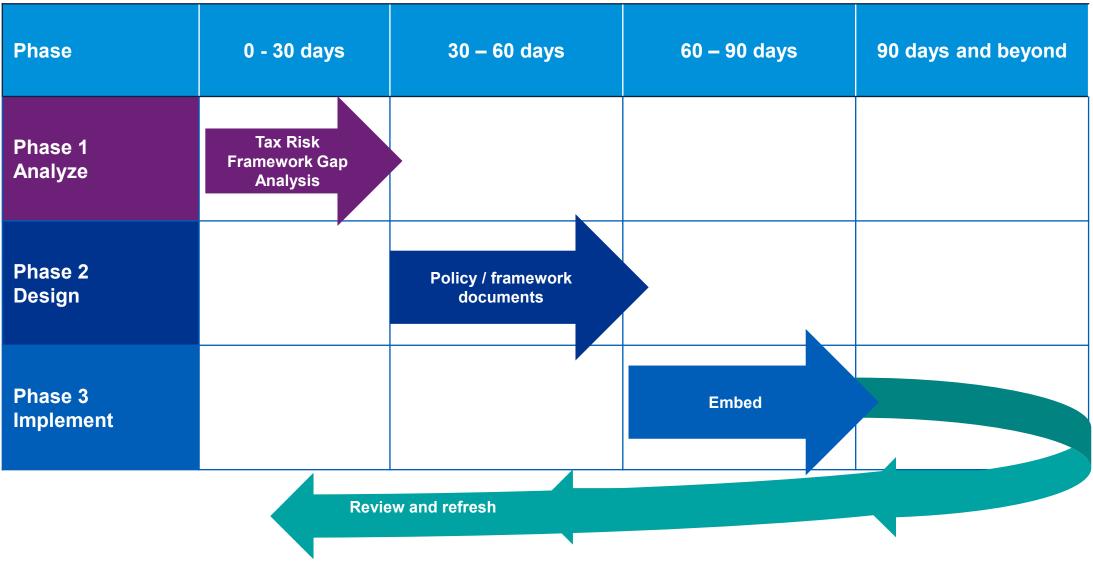
- Review and finalize draft policy documents
- Communicate with stakeholders

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- Approval and adoption of policies

Reassessment

Project timeline

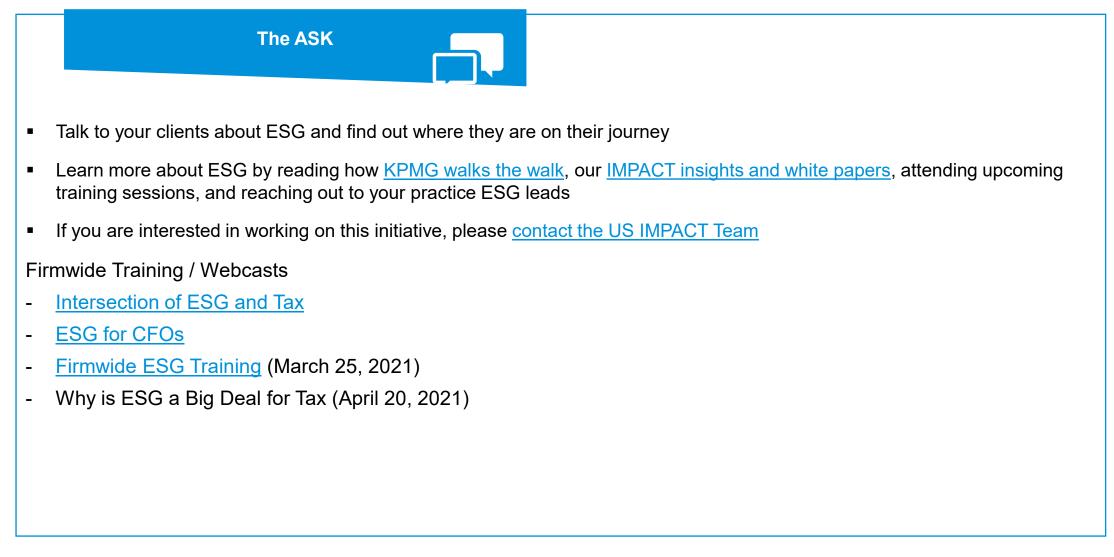


Why is KPMG in a position to lead on ESG?





Call to action





Additional resources

RESOURCES

ESG topics are interrelated and interdependent. Here are some resources to get you started, many of which are linked on the <u>KPMG US IMPACT homepage</u>

Climate, decarbonization and renewables	Sustainable finance	Social and economic development	Governance
KPMG announces it will be net-zero carbon by 2030Towards Net Zero: How the world's biggest companies report on climate risk and decarbonizationKPMG Climate Accounting Infrastructure – Blockchain solutionClimate change and 	ESG for CFOs ESG reporting and risk Financial services enters a new era of ESG The Time has Come: The KPMG Survey of Sustainability Reporting 2020	Economic and social development insights page Achieving sustainable infrastructure 2019 Change Readiness Index	Race and accountability in the boardroom from KPMG Board Leadership Center ESG Resources from the KPMG Board Leadership Center ESG is critical to long- term business strategy

Links to Thought leadership:

- How tax and diversity are becoming key components of ESG
- <u>Tax Risk and Transparency</u>
- <u>The importance of ESG for long-term</u> <u>success (kpmg.us)</u>
- <u>ESG Awareness Training replay (Internal only)</u>
- <u>The Intersection of ESG and Tax</u>

Coming soon!

KPMG ESG Tax Health Check



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