

# MATERIALITY ANALYSIS IN THE DAX

*DAX-40 companies in focus*

A study by Via Tomorrow in 2023

# KEY FINDINGS OF THE STUDY ON MATERIALITY ANALYSES AT DAX COMPANIES



**51 %** state in their non-financial statement or separate sustainability report that they have reassessed their material topics in 2022.



**78 %** of DAX companies refer to double materiality in their sustainability reporting.



**85 %** of DAX companies claim to have involved external stakeholders in the materiality analysis.



**50 %** of the data was collected through qualitative methods such as surveys and external stakeholder interviews, with many companies using a mix of qualitative and quantitative methods.



**40 %** of DAX companies report using external frameworks (OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights) as the basis for the materiality analysis.



**8 %** of DAX companies provide detailed information regarding probability of occurrence and financial effect sizes of ESG risks in the report.

# HOW UP-TO-DATE ARE THE MATERIALITY ANALYSES IN THE DAX?

## Selection of exemplary companies

### FY 2022

BMW  
Daimler  
Fresenius

### FY ≤ 2021

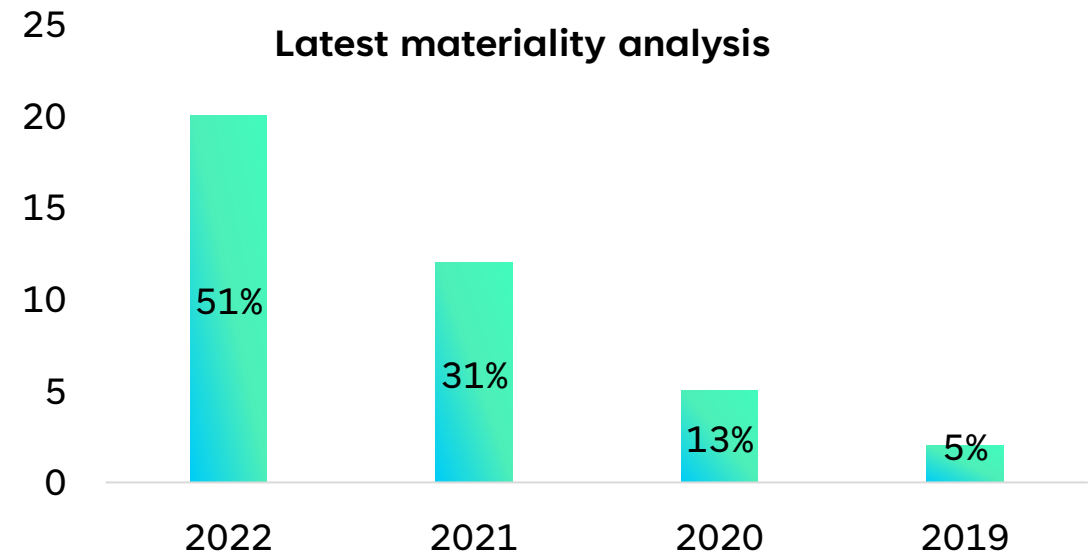
Zalando  
Continental  
Deutsche Bank AG

## Assessment Via Tomorrow

Materiality analyses that lie several years in the past cannot reliably reflect new developments within and outside the company. A repetition or update every 2-3 years is recommended.



51 % state in their non-financial statement or separate sustainability report that they have **reassessed** their material topics in **2022**.



# DO ALL OF THE DAX40 COMPANIES PERFORM DOUBLE MATERIALITY?

## Good to know:

*Inside-out:* Impact of the company on the environment and society

*Outside-in:* Impact of environmental and societal transformations on the company



Double materiality, in which a company considers both the "inside-out" and the "outside-in" perspectives, is increasingly being used as a framework by DAX companies.

**78% of DAX companies** implement a **double materiality** in their sustainability reporting.

## Double materiality

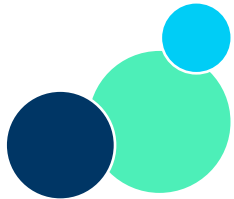
78 %

YES

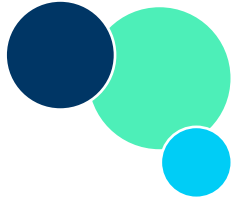


22 %

NO



# HOW RELEVANT ARE EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS?



Many DAX companies count on the voices and consider the **input of external stakeholders when identifying material topics.**

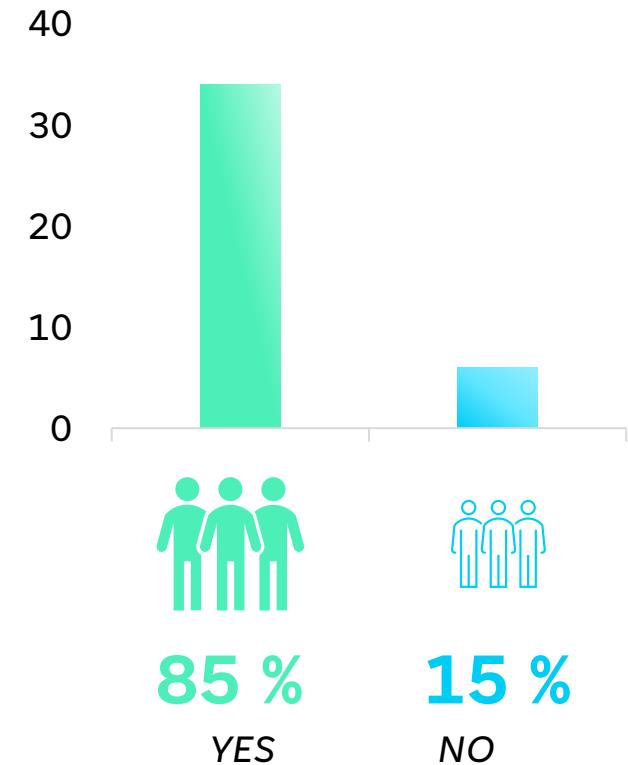
85% of DAX companies state that they have involved external stakeholders in their materiality analysis.

## Assessment Via Tomorrow



By involving stakeholders you strengthen and support the statements made in your materiality analysis and consolidate the evaluated results.

Involvement of external stakeholders



# ARE THERE DIFFERENCES IN THE INVOLVEMENT OF STAKEHOLDERS?



The majority of stakeholder participation was **qualitative** or companies used a **mix of qualitative and quantitative methods** to collect data.

The most common methods used to collect data were surveys (43%), interviews (26%), dialogues (25%), and document analysis (25%).

Some companies, such as the pharmaceutical company **Bayer**, use qualitative interviews or even workshops to identify key issues

[→ take a look here](#)

## Type of involvement of external stakeholders



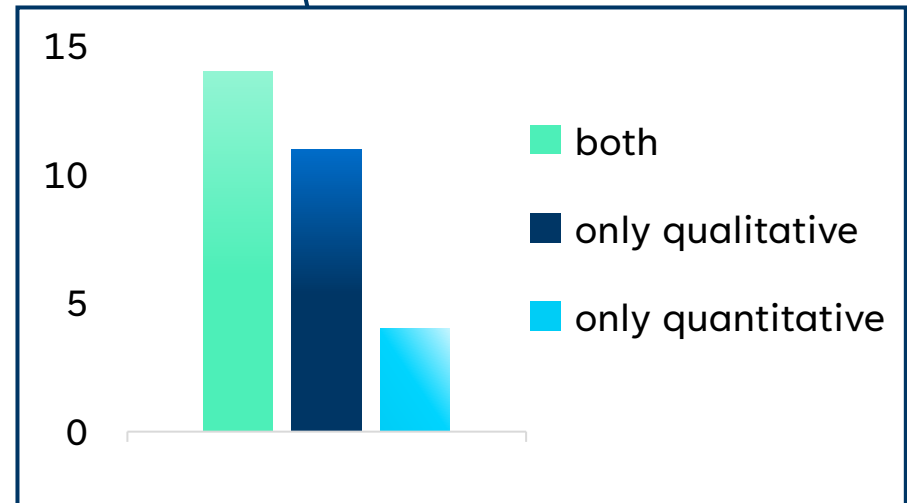
85 %

YES



15 %

NO

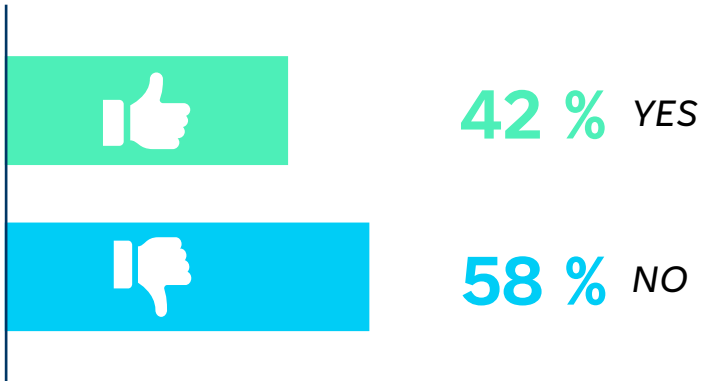


# ARE EXTERNAL FRAMEWORKS INCLUDED IN THE ANALYSIS?



Only 42 % of DAX companies reported using external frameworks as a basis for materiality analysis.

## Use of frameworks



## Frameworks

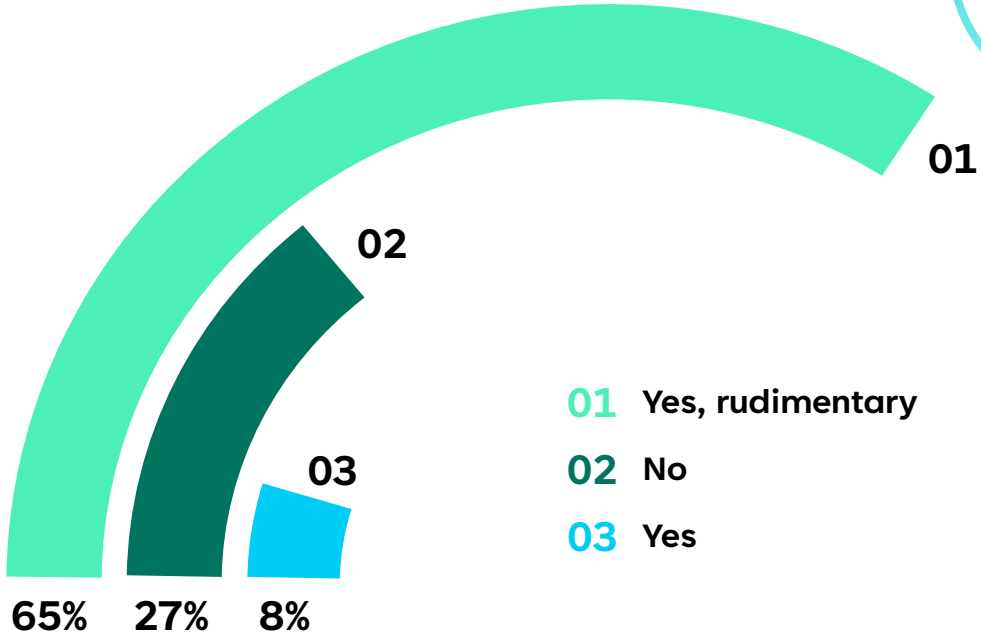
OECD Guidelines for multinational enterprises

UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights

## Advantages of external frameworks

- Better comparability with other companies
- More comprehensive materiality analysis
- Higher informative value and transparency

# IS THE RISK OF THE MATERIAL ISSUES BEING CONSIDERED?



- 01 Yes, rudimentary
- 02 No
- 03 Yes



So far, ESG issues have often only been included in rudimentary form in group-wide opportunity and risk management systems.

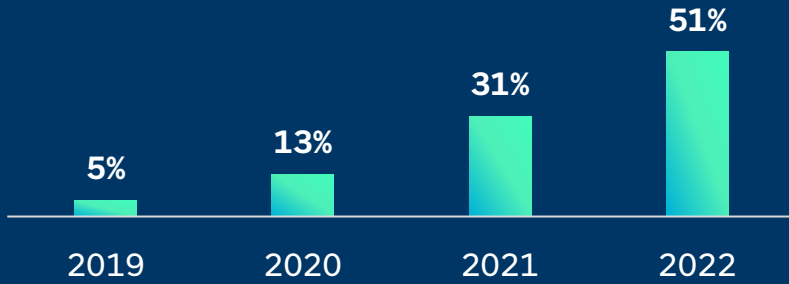
**65% of DAX companies** name ESG risks in their reporting in a **cursory manner**, without a detailed breakdown. Only a fraction of **8%** **provides detailed information** regarding their likelihood of occurrence and financial effect.

➤ According to the CSRD, companies must disclose their opportunities and risks in the future with a likelihood of occurrence as well as a financial effect.

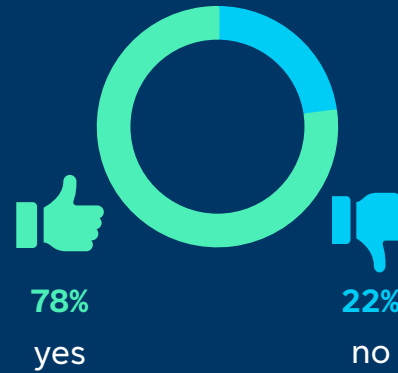


# OVERVIEW: MATERIALITY IN THE DAX (VIA TOMORROW)

## Latest materiality analysis



## Double materiality

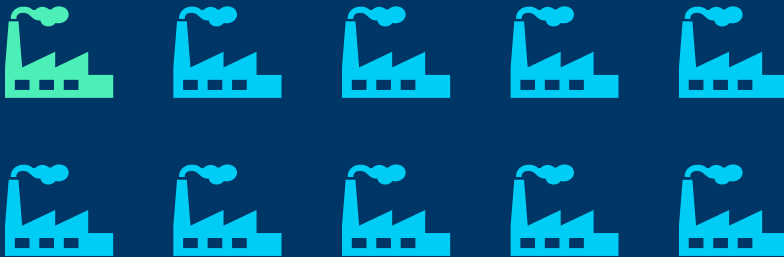


## Involvement of external stakeholders

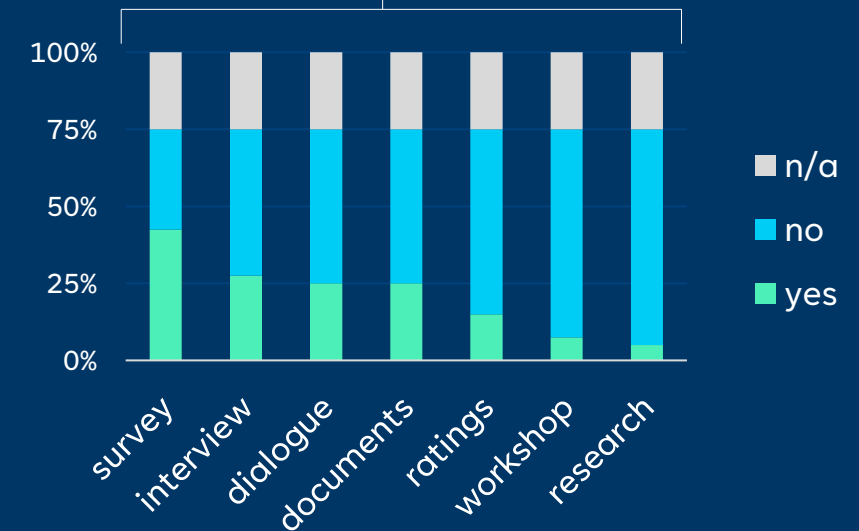
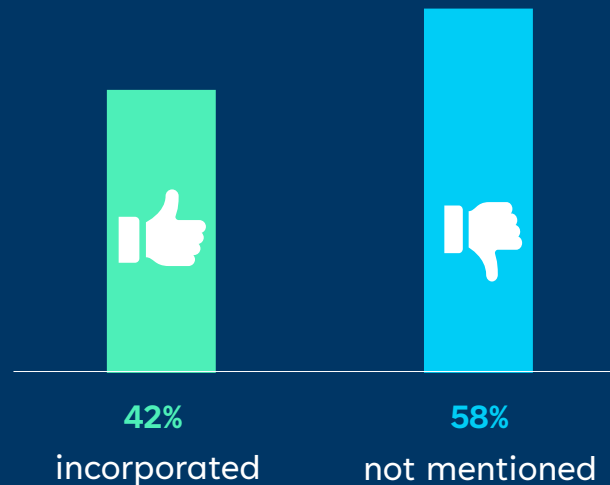


## Risk and opportunity assessment of ESG issues

Only **1 out of 10 companies** considers financial effect size and probability of occurrence of ESG issues when assessing risks and opportunities.



## Human Rights Frameworks



# CONTACT US TO CREATE A MATERIALITY ANALYSIS IN LINE WITH ALL CSRD REQUIREMENTS



**Carmen Meixner**

[carmen.meixner@viatomorrow.com](mailto:carmen.meixner@viatomorrow.com)

+49 (0) 178 5743 736



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/carmen-meixner>



**Justus Fischer**

[justus.fischer@viatomorrow.com](mailto:justus.fischer@viatomorrow.com)

+49 (0) 178 5743 719



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/justus-fischer>

# METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY



## Investigation period

From February 1  
Until April 14, 2023



## Methodology and approach

Reviewing non-financial and sustainability reports for their key messages in relation to the topics identified as material

Special focus on reporting and detail of materiality analysis:

- When was the latest full materiality analysis performed?
- Has double materiality been taken into account?
- Have external stakeholders been involved?
- How were stakeholders involved?
- Have other frameworks (UN, OECD) been taken into account?
- Has the likelihood of occurrence and financial effect been considered in the risk and opportunity assessment?



## Data collection

Analysis of the 40 DAX companies based on a questionnaire of six topics.

All documents analyzed refer to fiscal year 2022.



## Evaluation

The evaluation was created with the help of Excel. The questionnaire was coded to enable all data to be provided as a percentage (%). The total of 100% thus refers at all times to all 40 DAX companies examined. To improve readability, all results were rounded to whole percentages.



## Disclaimer

All results are based on Via Tomorrow's expert assessment. The analysis was conducted in good faith and in mutual agreement to reduce bias in the final product.