Research Lead, Sector Program - Standards

**Start Date:** ASAP, 40 hrs p/w.

**Salary and benefits:** € 55,000.- / € 65,000.- gross p/y on full time basis.
Expat package incl 30% ruling tax benefit available if recruited from abroad.

**Location:** Amsterdam, the Netherlands

**Contract:** 1 year initially – extension by mutual consent

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**Position summary and job purpose**

In response to strong interest from the market, GRI’s independent Standards Board, the Global Sustainability Standards Board (GSSB), launched a new phase of work to create sector-specific Standards content.

The Sector Program will support the enhancement and expansion of the GRI Standards by explaining a sector’s impacts and stakeholder expectations from a sustainable development perspective, including surfacing issues not previously covered in the GRI Standards.

The Sector Program will release Sector Standards on an ongoing basis. There are currently two pilot projects underway with the potential expand to several more projects being delivered simultaneously in the near term.

These materials will help reporting organizations apply the GRI Standards more effectively, based on identifying likely material topics for their sector; and improve the comparability of information within a sector.

The Sector Standards will provide clear evidence and authoritative references when describing a sector’s significant impacts and establishing any reporting expectations.

More information on the GRI Sector Program can be found in the [program description](#).

The Research Lead will be responsible for designing and managing the research program needed to develop Sector Standards.

This includes carrying out research to support the description of sectoral impacts from a sustainable development perspective for a wide range of issues and sectors. The post holder will also be charged with ensuring the evidence and references provided in the Sector Standard are of excellent technical quality.

Research will be primarily desk-top research, but responsibilities will also include outreach to relevant experts, identifying and delivering a range of research tools and techniques, and analyzing expert and stakeholder feedback.
As part of the role you will work with the Sector Team Lead to develop a standardised process for producing Sector Standards.

It is expected that this role will also be responsible for building and overseeing a research unit of multiple staff to support the Sector Program as it grows.

The ideal candidate for this role will have a strong research background and a good knowledge of international instruments across a range of sustainable development topics. They will also have proven project management and line management skills and experience. Previous experience in identifying and describing the impacts or work of companies related to sustainable development and working with multi-stakeholder consensus seeking processes will be considered a positive.

**Job responsibilities**

- Lead the research components of the Sector Program, including developing authoritative references lists and ensuring project publications are well evidenced and of excellent technical quality.
- Design and implement research projects; including establishing objectives, approaches, and associated schedules; and synthesizing and presenting findings for specific audiences.
- In cooperation with the Sector Team Lead, develop research processes and methodologies that can be replicated across multiple projects and oversee the continuous improvement of these.
- Have line management responsibilities for a small team of researchers.
- Work with project managers to identify appropriate agencies, organisations and individuals to engage with to collect information on a wide range of issues and sectors.
- Oversee analysis of qualitative feedback from expert and stakeholder consultations in accordance with the GSSB Due Process Protocol.
- Develop high-quality written materials, including presentations, briefing documents, departmental documents and program proposals.
- Other duties as requested

**Key competencies / Requirements**

- Minimum of seven years’ proven experience delivering research and analysis of environmental, social, and economic sustainability issues; ability to analyze issues across sectors.
- Knowledge of international sustainability-related instruments, standards and norms.
- Strong interest in economic, environmental and social sustainable development issues.
- Technical knowledge of reporting and standards processes, or corporate sustainability practices is a plus.
- Results-focused and able to handle work across multiple projects and work to precise timelines.
- Able to work independently and in a team environment, and preferably with experience leading a small team.
• Strong communication skills and attention to detail, including experience delivering presentations and facilitating workshops or training sessions.
• Native-speaker level of written and spoken English.
• Able to work in an international and multi-cultural setting.
• Affinity with the mission and vision of GRI would be an advantage.

About GRI
GRI is an international independent organization that has pioneered corporate sustainability reporting since 1997. GRI helps businesses, governments and other organizations understand and communicate the impact of business on critical sustainability issues such as climate change, human rights, corruption and many others.

With thousands of reporters in over 90 countries, GRI provides the world’s most trusted and widely used standards on sustainability reporting, enabling organizations and their stakeholders to make better decisions based on information that matters. Currently, over 40 countries and regions reference GRI in their policies. GRI is built upon a unique multi-stakeholder principle, which ensures the participation and expertise of diverse stakeholders in the development of its standards. GRI’s mission is to empower decision-makers everywhere, through its standards and multi-stakeholder network, to take action towards a more sustainable economy and world.

Our Vision: A thriving global community that lifts humanity and enhances the resources on which all life depends.

Our Mission: To empower decisions that create social, environmental and economic benefits for everyone.

How to apply
Interested candidates are invited to submit their resume and letter of interest in English to recruitment@globalreporting.org. The deadline to submit an application is 12.00 noon (CET), Friday 13th March 2020. GRI appreciates all expressions of interest, however only short-listed applicants will be contacted.

GRI, Attn. Human Resources
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