

THE FUTURE OF REPORTING

Overview of the GRI Standards

December 2016

#GRIStandards

Background on the GRI Standards

- Since 2000, GRI's Sustainability Reporting Guidelines have been used by **thousands of organizations** in more than 90 countries to report publicly about their **impacts on the economy, the environment, and society**
- In October 2016, GRI released its first-ever set of **GRI Sustainability Reporting Standards**
- The **GRI Standards** include all the main concepts and disclosures from the G4 Guidelines, but feature a new **modular structure** and **revised format with clear reporting requirements**
- The new structure of the Standards allows them to be **updated more easily** and makes them **even more suitable for referencing in policy initiatives**



Summary of new features and improvements compared to G4

New modular structure

The Standards are now organized as a set of modular, interrelated standards

New format with clearer requirements

The new format has clear distinctions between requirements (indicated by 'shall'), recommendations ('should') and guidance

Content clarifications

Key concepts from G4 have been clarified (e.g., defining the topic Boundary, and reporting on topics not covered by the GRI Standards)

Greater flexibility and transparency in how to use the Standards

For organizations preparing a report in accordance with the Standards as well as those using selected Standards to report specific information

Overall editing

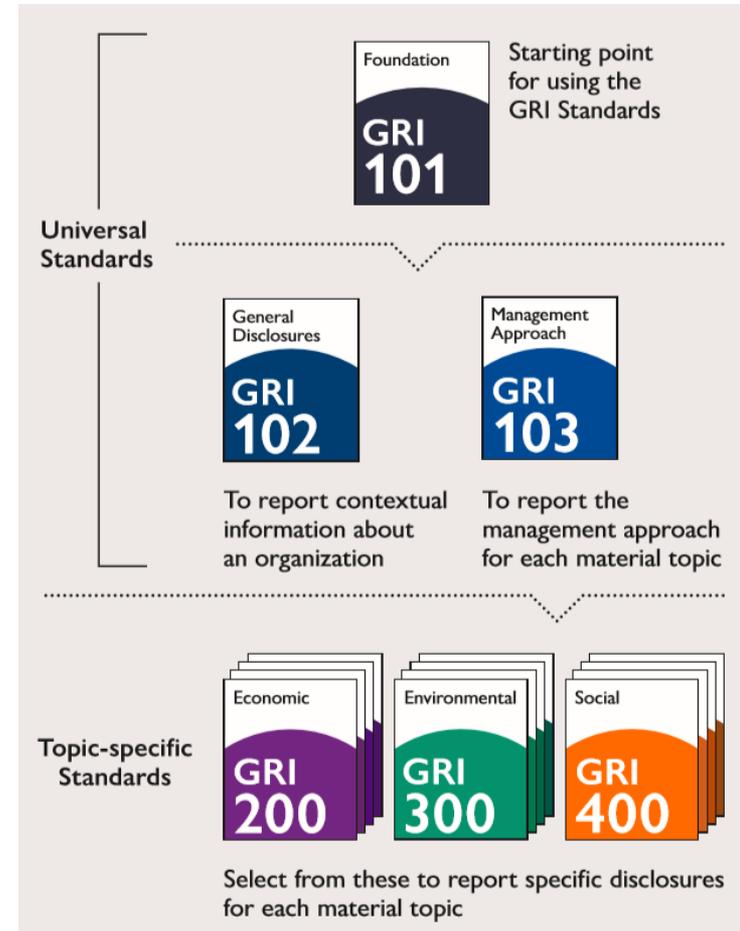
Content from G4 has been edited for greater clarity and simpler language

About the new modular structure

The set of GRI Standards includes:

- **3 universal Standards**, applicable to all organizations
- **33 topic-specific Standards**, organized into Economic, Environmental, and Social series

Organizations select and use only the relevant topic-specific Standards, based on their **material topics**



Implications for reporters

For organizations **already reporting in accordance with G4**, impacts on the reporting process should be **relatively minor**

- This is not 'G5' – the key concepts and most disclosures from G4 carry through
- Reporting Principles, management approach (DMA) and the emphasis on reporting only material topics remain
- Some disclosures have been clarified, and some content has been relocated to reduce duplication (*see detailed mapping document on GRI website*)
- It is still required for organizations to notify GRI of the use of the Standards in any reports or other published materials (*see GRI 101: Foundation*)



The Standards will be required for all reports published on or after **1 July 2018 – earlier adoption is encouraged**. The G4 Guidelines remain in effect until this date.

For more detail, see:
globalreporting.org/standards

Thank you

standards@globalreporting.org
www.globalreporting.org

GRI
Barbara Strozzilaan 336
1083 HN Amsterdam
The Netherlands

