

SUPPLIER MANAGEMENT AS A DRIVER OF CHANGE FOR CORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY

RESULTS OF THE THIRD
“SUSTAINABLE SUPPLIERS
TRAINING PROGRAMME”
2024-2025



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DRAFTING AND COORDINATION, UN GLOBAL COMPACT SPAIN

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FOREWORD



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Compact

In a globalised world marked by uncertainty, interconnected crises, and growing demand for transparency, enterprises need to rethink their business models to build a more sustainable future. In the course of doing this, supply chains have emerged as a key driver of transformation, presenting both great challenges and opportunities for enhancing sustainability in the business world.

With this in mind, UN Global Compact Spain is promoting the Sustainable Suppliers Training Programme in cooperation with ICEX Spain Export and Investment and the ICO Foundation. Since its inception three years ago, this programme has sought to boost the ability of small and medium-sized enterprises, the linchpins of the production network, to integrate sustainability into their strategic management. Its third edition, with the participation of more than 5,200 SMEs from 72 countries and backed by 48 large companies, the programme has given shape to an international community of

learning and collaboration that demonstrates that sustainability is not a destination, but a continuous process of improvement and shared commitment.

The results indicate that supplier SMEs have made significant strides forward: 47% measure the negative impacts of their activities, compared to 34% the first year, and 52% have a diversity policy, up from 28% the first year. In addition, SMEs emphasise that their main motivation to work towards sustainability is their relationship with their large corporate customers (49%), followed by the regulatory framework (42%), highlighting the importance of business leadership and regulations in this area. In short, the programme has not only established itself as both as an essential driver of training within UN Global Compact Spain, but also as a driver of commitment to sustainability by business and a key tool for assessing trends in sustainable supplier management. At UN Global Compact Spain we will continue to support enterprises in this process of transformation in the

conviction that only through strong partnerships, shared knowledge, and collective action will we move towards more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient supply chains.





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**1 ■ SUSTAINABLE SUPPLIER MANAGEMENT
– A DECISIVE FACTOR FOR ENTERPRISES**

SUSTAINABLE SUPPLIER MANAGEMENT – A DECISIVE FACTOR FOR ENTERPRISES



In a globalised and increasingly interconnected world, organisations face a challenge that transcends their internal operations: to address sustainability effectively, cutting across their entire value chain.

Corporate responsibility requires an extended view of the entire supply network. Businesses must actively work to identify, prevent, and mitigate social, environmental, and governance risks that may arise at any of the links in their chain. As most of a business's impact is concentrated in its supplier network, the supply chain acts as a key lever for driving compliance with the Global Compact's Ten Principles and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The headway made will not only enable enterprises to move towards more sustainable models as well as strengthen their ability to adapt to global crises.

As UN Under-Secretary General and CEO of the UN Global Compact, Sanda Ojiambo, has pointed out: Supply chains represent the intersection of contemporary global challenges and opportunities.... Leaders in all sectors are redefining supply chains not only as logistics networks but as basic pillars of resilience, sustainability, and inclusive growth." These challenges take on critical importance in the face of new European regulations that redefine management standards and require enterprises to increase

traceability and take more accountability for all the impacts generated by their entire network of suppliers. In this context, small and medium-sized enterprises play a key role as the backbone of large companies' supply chains. For example, the Voluntary Sustainability Reporting Standard for SMEs (VSME) provides guidelines for SMEs to respond to specific requests for sustainability information more effectively. However, the progress of SMEs is often hampered by limited resources, lack of funding, and the absence of specialised training.

Despite these obstacles, SMEs are consolidating their position as agents of change, demonstrating their capacity to adapt and become leaders for sustainability. Through a proactive approach, small and medium-sized enterprises can take advantage of these transformations to boost their competitiveness, generate value, and contribute to a more responsible and sustainable future.





2. THE THIRD SUSTAINABLE SUPPLIERS TRAINING PROGRAMME

A BENCHMARK INITIATIVE FOR DRIVING TRANSFORMATION

The third Sustainable Suppliers Training Programme has reaffirmed UN Global Compact Spain's commitment to promoting responsible and sustainable business practices in supply chains. The programme is continuing to secure its position as a benchmark initiative for driving transformation by small and medium-sized supplier enterprises, boosting their ability to integrate sustainability into their business strategies and daily operations.

This year's programme has benefited from cooperation with ICEX Spain Export and Investment and the ICO Foundation, strategic partners that have brought their experience to bear in advancing internationalisation and business competitiveness. This year's programme has been supported by the UN Global Compact Network UK, which took charge of the English-language content, thereby expanding the programme's international reach and fostering cooperation between enterprises from different regions.

The training programme has been designed to cultivate a comprehensive, cross-cutting approach aligned with the Ten Principles of the Global Compact and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The programme's flexible, digital, online format (with content available in Spanish, English, and Portuguese) offers training that is accessible to SMEs and is adapted to their needs and allows participation from different countries and sectors.

For six months participating enterprises were able to

access live sessions, interactive content (on-demand sessions), and practical materials that were aimed at providing specific tools for identifying risks and opportunities and for bringing sustainability into their business models. This year's programme has placed particular stress on the practical component, including actual case studies and examples of enterprises to help make the knowledge acquired directly applicable. The programme has gained traction as a platform for learning and business cooperation thanks to the cooperation between the organising entities, business backers, and participating suppliers.

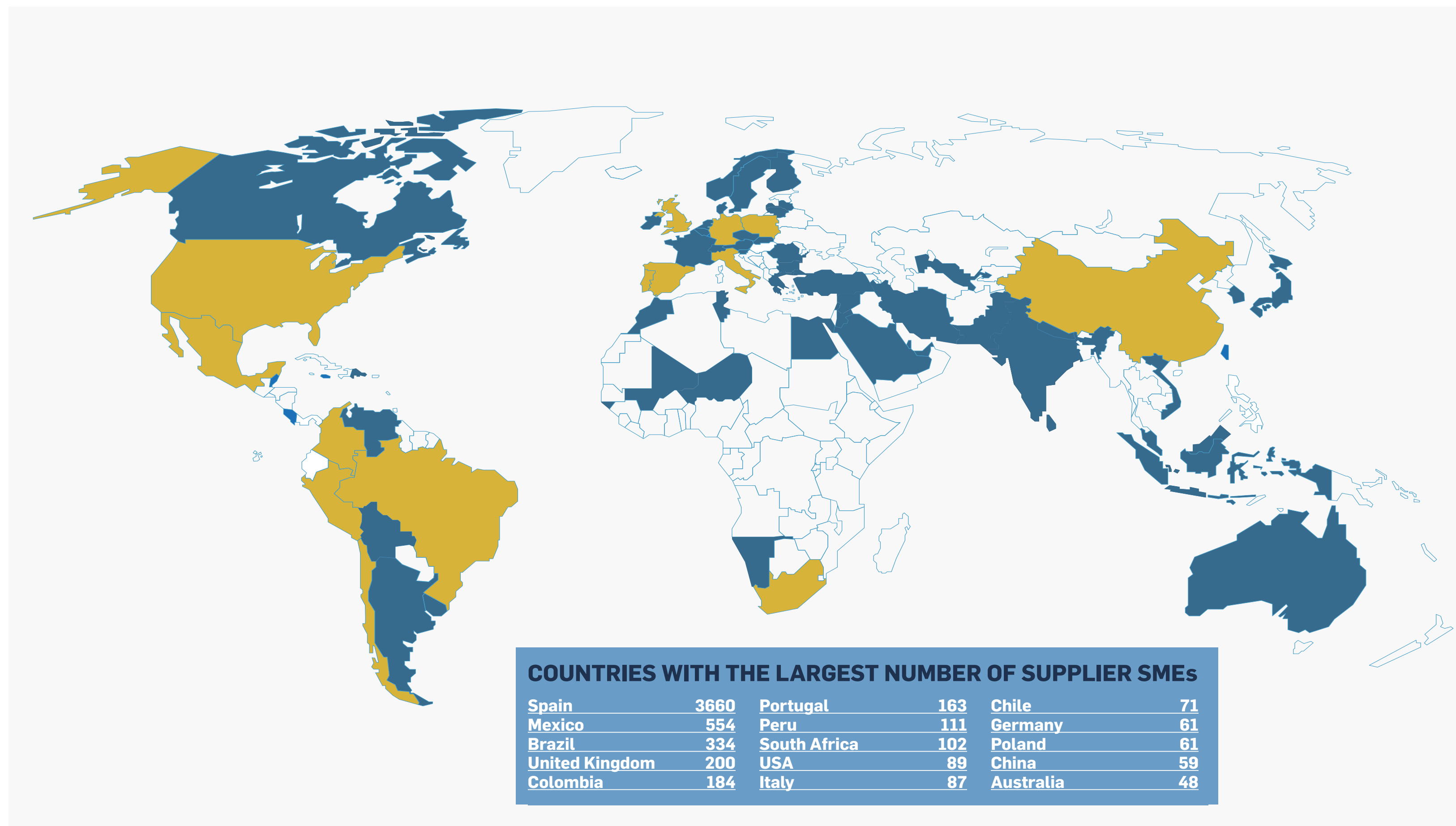
Through a flexible, digital, and online format, the program offers accessible training tailored to the needs of SMEs, enabling participation from various countries and sectors.



THE PROGRAMME IN FIGURES



COUNTRIES WITH SME SUPPLIERS PARTICIPATING IN THE THIRD EDITION OF THE PROGRAM



THE BIG COMPANIES BEHIND THE PROGRAMME IN ITS THIRD YEAR

In this third year 48 large companies affiliated with the UN Global Compact Spain initiative participated in the programme, and ICEX Spain Export and Investment and the ICO Foundation were cooperating partners. These company backers invited their supplier SMEs to join the sustainability training programme and in that way involved a substantial portion of their global supply chains. This increase in participation by company backers over the previous years (17 company backers in year one, 37 in year two) shows that the programme has gained importance and relevance and has earned a position as a leader in this area.

- ACCENTURE SPAIN
- ACCIONA
- ACERINOX
- ADIF
- AGROMILLORA GROUP
- ANTOLIN
- AMC GLOBAL
- BANCO SABADELL
- BBVA
- CAIXABANK
- CELLNEX
- CEMENTOS MOLINS
- CIE AUTOMOTIVE
- EL CORTE INGLÉS
- ENAGÁS
- ENDESA (GRUPO ENEL)
- ENUSA
- EUROPA MUNDO VACACIONES
- FERROVIAL
- GRUPO EMPRESARIAL SANDO
- GRUPO EROSKI
- IBEROSTAR HOTELS & RESORTS
- GRUPO SANTANDER
- GRUPO TRAGSA
- IBERDROLA
- IBERPOTASH
- ILUNION
- INDRA GROUP
- ITP AERO
- LEROY MERLIN
- MAHOU SAN MIGUEL
- MANGO
- MOEVE
- MUTUA MADRILEÑA
- NAVANTIA
- NTT DATA
- TALGO
- REPSOL
- ROCA GROUP
- ROCHE FARMA
- SACYR
- SANITAS
- SORIGUÉ
- TÉCNICAS REUNIDAS
- TEKNIA
- TK ELEVATOR
- URBASER
- WORLD2MEET

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND TOPICS



The programme content provides supplier enterprises with a comprehensive view of corporate sustainability, approached from a practical perspective aligned with the Ten Principles of the Global Compact and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Programme development is based on a structured approach that combines acquiring general knowledge about corporate sustainability with the opportunity to delve deeper into subject areas that hold out special relevance to the participating enterprises. This addresses the areas that are most highly demanded and most heavily impact their operations and productive sectors, helping each organisation to apply the teachings to its actual circumstances.

This year the training was organised into the same four subject areas as in previous years (General Aspects of Sustainability, Sustainable Development Goals, the Ten Principles of the Global Compact, and Incentives and Communication) over a total of seven live sessions and ten interactive (on-demand) sessions, with supplementary downloadable materials. This training structure provides an up-to-date overview of sustainable development along with an in-depth look at the priority issues identified by the participating enterprises and insight into emerging trends in the field.

The programme is taught based on a flexible virtual format using a digital academy platform, enabling participants to adjust the training to their own schedules and pace of work. In addition, the contents are available in Spanish, English, and Portuguese, helping companies from different countries to participate and contributing to the formation of an international network of suppliers committed to sustainability.

By the end of the training, participating companies have acquired the necessary skills to identify sustainability-related risks and opportunities and formulate strategies adapted to their sector and the size of their business. The programme also includes case studies and examples of actual companies that can be taken as reference points for designing and implementing sustainability plans.

The program enables participating companies to delve into priority topics and key sustainability trends.



PROGRAMME UNITS

UNIT 1

GENERAL ASPECTS OF SUSTAINABILITY

- ▶ **LIVE SESSION:**
Welcome to the programme
- ☑ **ON-DEMAND SESSION:**
Sustainability and business
- ☑ **ON-DEMAND SESSION:**
The Ten Principles of the Global Compact

UNIT 2

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)

- ☑ **ON-DEMAND SESSION:** I
Introduction to the SDGs
- ☑ **ON-DEMAND SESSION:**
The SDGs in the business sector
- ▶ **LIVE SESSION:**
How to integrate the SDGs into business

UNIT 3

THE TEN PRINCIPLES OF THE GLOBAL COMPACT

- ☑ **ON-DEMAND SESSION:**
Business and human rights
- ☑ **ON-DEMAND SESSION:**
Environmental aspects that impact the company
- ▶ **LIVE SESSION:**
Reducing CO2 emissions – Calculating the carbon footprint
- ☑ **ON-DEMAND SESSION:**
Diversity, equity, and inclusion in the business environment
- ▶ **LIVE SESSION:**
How to create an equality plan
- ☑ **ON-DEMAND SESSION:**
Governance and anti-corruption
- ▶ **LIVE SESSION:**
How to draw up a code of ethics

UNIT 4

INCENTIVES AND COMMUNICATION

- ☑ **ON-DEMAND SESSION:**
Incentives and internationalisation of sustainable enterprises
- ☑ **ON-DEMAND SESSION:**
Communicating and reporting progress in sustainability
- ▶ **LIVE SESSION:**
Sustainability reporting
- ▶ **LIVE SESSION:**
“Sustainable suppliers training programme” closing session

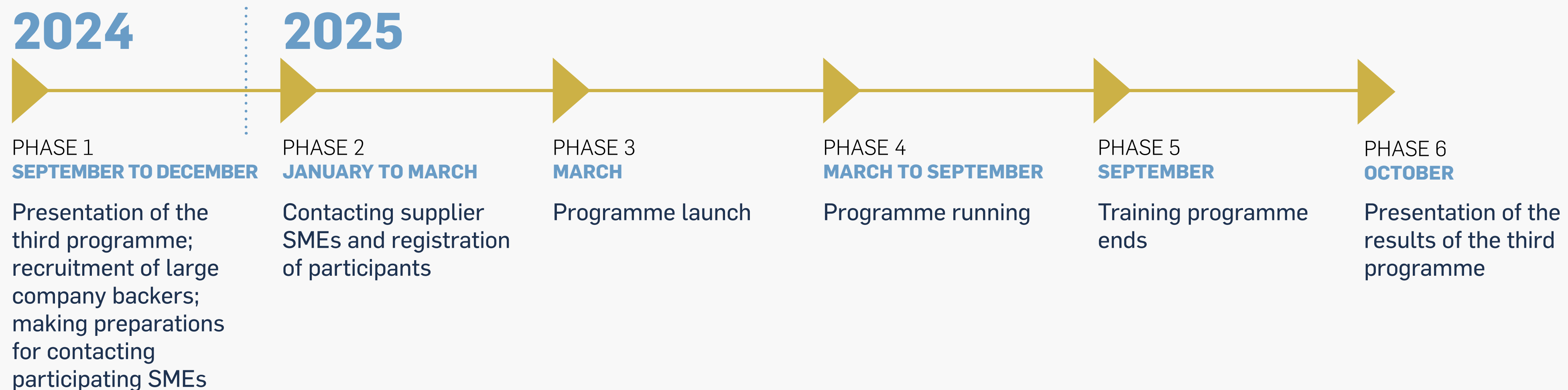


PROGRAMME TIMELINE

The official programme launch took place in March 2025, marking the formal start of activities and participants' access to the digital platform and live sessions.

Before that, between January and March 2025, a series of steps were taken geared towards announcements, publicity, registration, and confirmation of participating enterprises to ensure proper preparation and coordination for the programme start.

The implementation phase took place between March and September 2025, during which time the training activities, live sessions, on-demand units, and distribution of supplementary materials envisaged in the work plan were carried out. Because of the flexible nature of the programme, the deadlines for completing the training units were extended until mid-September, for a total duration of six months.



RESULTS OF THE THIRD “SUSTAINABLE SUPPLIERS TRAINING PROGRAMME” IN SPAIN



2.682
PARTICIPANTS
FROM 2,364 SMEs
COMPLETED THE TRAINING

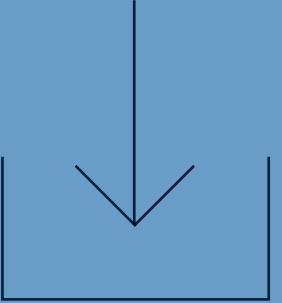


91 %
CONSIDERED THAT THE PROGRAMME
HAD BEEN USEFUL TO THEIR COMPANY



SATISFACTION WITH
THE ON-DEMAND SESSIONS:
4,3 OUT OF 5

SATISFACTION WITH THE LIVE
SESSIONS:
4,3 OUT OF 5



SATISFACTION WITH
DOWNLOADABLE MATERIALS:
4,4 OUT OF 5

STATEMENTS CONCERNING THE PROGRAMME BY PARTICIPATING SMES

At the end of the programme, participants took a satisfaction survey in which they highlighted the aspects that caught their attention the most. Here are some memorable comments:

What I enjoyed most about the programme was its approach to key issues like the Ten Principles of the Global Compact and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. It helped me to better understand how these global frameworks interrelate and can serve as guides for specific action."

The live sessions were quite enjoyable, both in terms of their content and structure and in terms of the speakers. They were a good way to internalise/learn concepts, especially the quizzes."

To me, the best thing about the programme was its practical and structured approach, which let me anchor the principles of sustainability in everyday business practice In addition, the quality of the content and the teaching methods made learning easy, applicable, and directly useful in reinforcing our organisation's commitment to more responsible and sustainable management."

What I liked most about the Sustainable Suppliers programme was seeing how companies can make a real impact by implementing the Global Compact's Ten Principles for a more sustainable world."

It helped me more clearly identify the impact our business decisions have on social, economic, and environmental aspects and gave me the tools to be able to align supplier sustainability strategies with global goals. I also found it valuable because it elicits a broader and more responsible view of business and promotes cooperation to achieve common goals."

I really liked the interaction between the course and actual companies, because it went beyond mere text-based explanations and let us see the benefits and actions that can be transferred from theory to actual practice in a real company."

WHAT SUPPLIER SMES LEARNED FROM THE PROGRAMME



At the programme's last Live Session, the participants were asked what they had learned after participating in this training programme. Here are some of the answers that were given:



"It gave me a much more comprehensive understanding of sustainability and its importance, how to implement it, and the benefits it brings the company."



"Creating a sustainability plan. Understanding and implementing the SDGs. All the implementation guidelines throughout the implementation process."



"How sustainability can be implemented with few resources and the impact that can be achieved with a carefully designed work plan."



The main thing I learned was to use sustainability as a lever for transformation and growth as a company: our commitments to making the world a more prosperous place."



"It turns out to be possible to make sustainability economically worthwhile, which is essential to be able to involve management in this issue."



"The importance of communication in sustainability and measures to be taken in the company."



"We can be sustainable even if we are a small enterprise. Everyone can be sustainable if they have the will, without high cost, and it can be profitable."



3 ■ TRENDS IN SUSTAINABLE SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

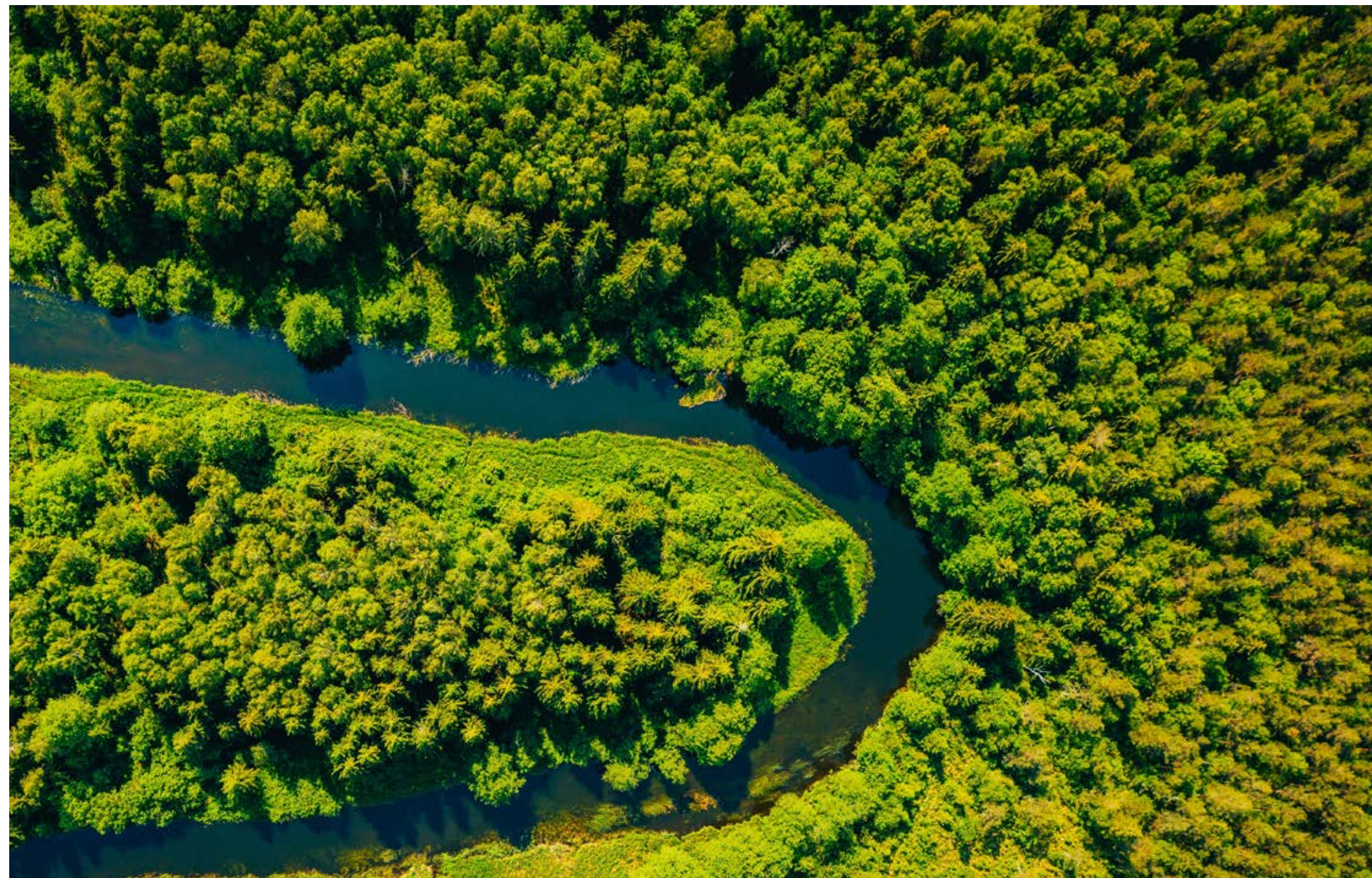
TRENDS IN SUSTAINABLE SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

The previous editions of the programme served as the starting point for a strategic dialogue on sustainability in supply chains, identifying the main barriers, needs, and opportunities for supplier enterprises in their transition towards more sustainable business models.

Following the completion of the first two editions, UN Global Compact Spain carried out a detailed data collection process covering various indicators. A new survey was conducted after the conclusion of the third edition to assess the progress made, obtain a comparative view of the evolution of the programme's impact, and elicit useful knowledge for both the supplier enterprises and the backer companies.

The results show that the commitment of the participating enterprises has evolved from awareness raising to implementation. However, the study also highlights key challenges that must be addressed in order to consolidate this process of transformation toward sustainability.

This information was obtained using the programme's completion survey, which was answered by all the supplier SMEs that completed the programme, 2,682 participants in all.



IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABILITY-RELATED ACTIONS

The supplier SMEs were asked about the sustainability actions they were already taking and those they planned to take in the next six months.

In line with previous years, implementing a code of ethics or a code of conduct stands out as the most frequent action taken; 66% of supplier SMEs had one. Other measures commonly taken by the supplier enterprises that participated in this year's programme focused on work-life balance and flexible working hours (64%), having an ethical reporting channel and/or suggestion box (60%), and having an environmental policy (58%). Overall progress notwithstanding, annual publication of a sustainability report remains one of the main areas that needs improvement. Only 19% of supplier SMEs carry out this measure, key to making corporate sustainability efforts visible and achieving alignment with increasingly stringent reporting standards.

When compared with the results for the previous years, this third programme has reflected significant progress in integrating sustainability in supplier SMEs. The progress with respect to the first year's programme is particularly conspicuous: the existence of codes of ethics or conduct has increased from 54% to 66%; diversity, equity, and inclusion policies from 28% to 52%, and organisations with a dedicated sustainability officer from 34% to 46%. Although some indicators, such as the identification of human rights impacts or measurable commitments to the SDGs, have fallen back slightly from the programme last year, the data as a whole show growth in the sustainable management of the participating enterprises and steady progress towards consolidation of more robust sustainability structures, policies, and metrics.

WHICH OF THESE ACTIONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN IMPLEMENTED WITHIN YOUR COMPANY?	3 rd EDITION	2 nd EDITION	1 st EDITION
We have a code of ethics or a code of conduct.	66%	70%	54%
We have work-life balance measures and flexible working hours.	64%	53%	54%
We have an ethical reporting channel and/or a suggestion box.	60%	53%	42%
We have an environmental policy.	58%	56%	50%
We carry out circular economy processes (product recycling, water-saving measures, reuse of materials, etc.).	54%	49%	41%
We have an equality plan.	52%	49%	-
We have a diversity, equity, and inclusion policy.	52%	48%	28%
We measure our company's water consumption.	49%	44%	32%
We identify the negative impacts of our activities.	47%	47%	34%
We have a sustainability officer working in the company.	46%	45%	34%
We have a declaration of respect for human rights.	42%	43%	26%
We calculate our carbon footprint.	40%	32%	29%
We take measures to promote diversity and inclusion in our company.	40%	39%	20%
We take action to identify corruption-related risks.	33%	35%	16%
We have identified our priority SDGs and are taking steps to achieve them.	31%	30%	22%
We have an explicit sustainability plan.	28%	23%	16%
We identify our impacts in the area of human rights.	26%	33%	11%
We have measurable, time-bound commitments in some SDG areas.	21%	23%	15%
We report on sustainability annually.	19%	16%	10%

ACTIONS TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE NEXT SIX MONTHS BY SMES PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAMME

The actions with the highest implementation intention that enterprises have scheduled for the next six months are initiatives that mark strategic planning in relation to sustainability, e.g., identifying priority SDGs and carrying out actions linked to them (23%), developing an explicit sustainability plan (22%), and publishing an annual sustainability report (20%).

The actions with the lowest implementation intention are identifying human rights impacts (10%) and drawing up a declaration of respect for human rights (12%). These results show that human rights mainstreaming remains one of the most neglected areas of sustainable management, possibly due to a lack of technical knowledge or direct regulatory pressure on SMEs in this regard.

WHICH OF THESE ACTIONS DO YOU PLAN TO IMPLEMENT IN THE NEXT SIX MONTHS?

Identifying priority SDGs and taking steps to attain them.	23%
Having an explicit sustainability plan.	22%
Publishing an annual sustainability report.	20%
Establishing measurable, time-bound commitments regarding some SDG areas.	19%
Having an environmental policy.	19%
Calculating the carbon footprint.	18%
Identifying the negative impacts of the activity.	17%
Implementing circular economy processes (product recycling, water-saving measures, reuse of materials, etc.).	16%
Measuring water consumption.	15%
Having a diversity, equity, and inclusion policy.	15%
Implementing work-life balance measures and flexible working hours.	15%
Having an ethical reporting channel and/or suggestion box.	15%
Taking steps to promote diversity and inclusion in the company.	14%
Taking action to identify corruption-related risks.	14%
Having a code of ethics or a code of conduct.	13%
Having a full-time dedicated sustainability officer.	12%
Having a declaration of respect for human rights.	12%
Identifying human rights impacts.	10%








SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

This year's programme has revealed clear trends in prioritising the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the participating enterprises.

SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth is the priority objective for 67% of enterprises, indicating that businesses continue to view sustainability as intrinsically linked to working environment quality and to reaffirming the vision of sustainability as a business lever. SDG 5: Gender equality is in second place and is considered a priority by 56% of enterprises. This increase over the programmes in previous years is indicative of greater awareness of and a more proactive approach to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) matters.

Finally, the areas that pose the greatest challenges to businesses are SDG 1 No poverty and SDG 14: Life below water. This suggests that the SMEs surveyed find it difficult to tie their activities to broad social impact goals (like poverty) or to environmental challenges not directly related to their value chain (like marine life).

WHAT ARE YOUR COMPANY'S PRIORITY SDGS?	3 rd EDITION	2 nd EDITION	1 st EDITION
SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth 	67%	49%	48%
SDG 5: Gender equality 	56%	38%	41%
SDG 3: Good health and well-being 	50%	50%	45%
SDG 9: Industry, innovation, and infrastructure 	43%	32%	34%
SDG 12: Responsible consumption and production 	41%	34%	35%
SDG 7: Affordable and clean energy 	37%	22%	29%
SDG 13: Climate action 	29%	22%	21%
SDG 17: Partnership for the goals 	25%	18%	17%
SDG 10: Reduced inequalities 	23%	19%	18%
SDG 4: Quality education 	18%	17%	16%
SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation 	15%	12%	10%
SDG 16: Peace, justice, and strong institutions 	13%	10%	7%
SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities 	11%	11%	9%
SDG 15: Life on land 	7%	3%	3%
SDG 2: Zero hunger 	6%	4%	5%
SDG 1: No poverty 	5%	7%	5%
SDG 14: Life below water 	5%	4%	3%



THE TEN PRINCIPLES OF THE UN GLOBAL COMPACT

ENVIRONMENT

60% of the supplier enterprises consider the environment area a top priority. The environment area has strengthened its position as the area that presents the greatest challenges to suppliers and remains the main priority for sustainability management.

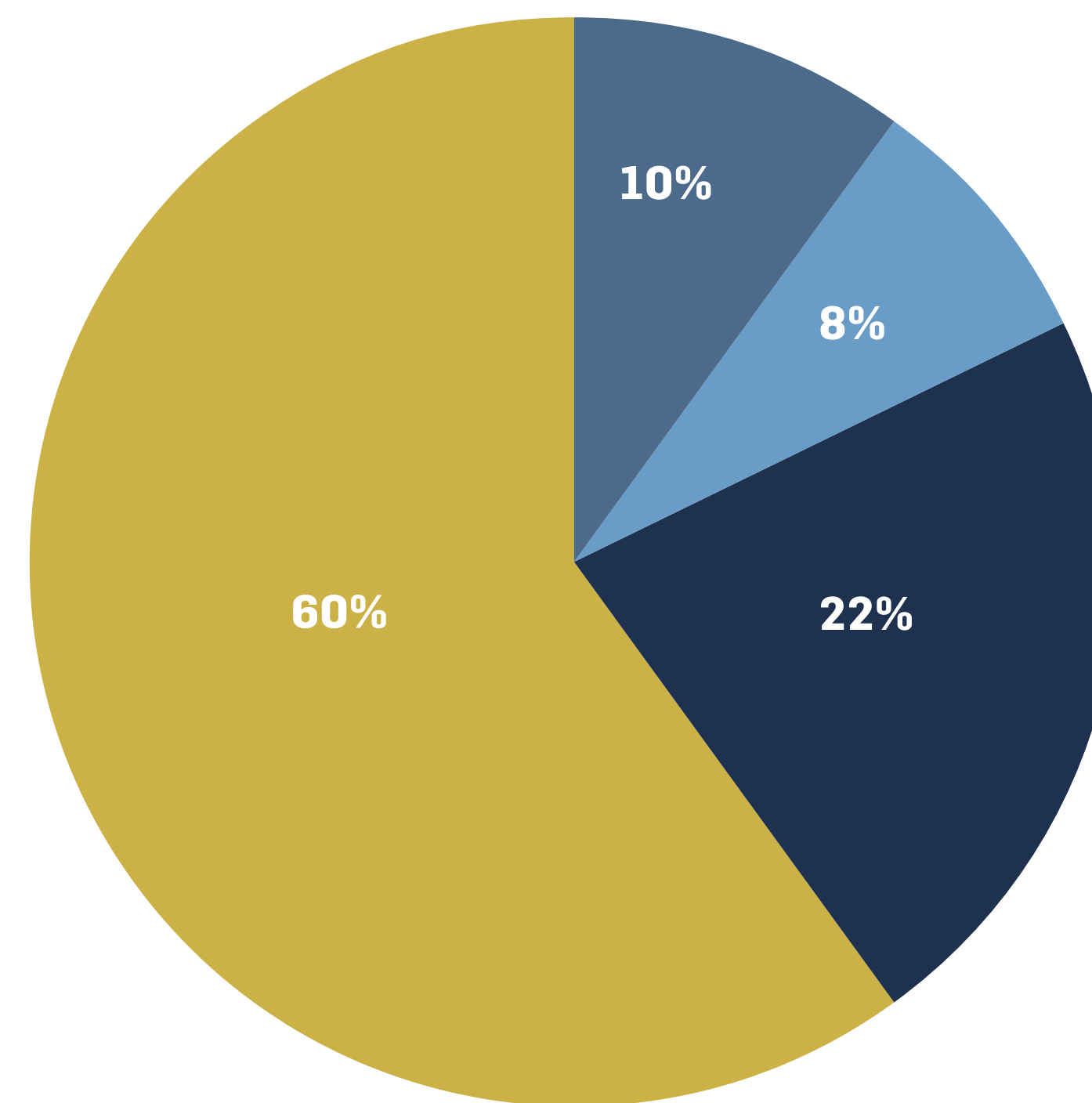
HUMAN RIGHTS AND LABOUR STANDARDS

The remaining challenges are distributed between labour standards (10%) and human rights (8%), suggesting that SMEs have made more management advances or perceive fewer difficulties in these areas compared with the areas of environment and transparency..

ANTI-CORRUPTION

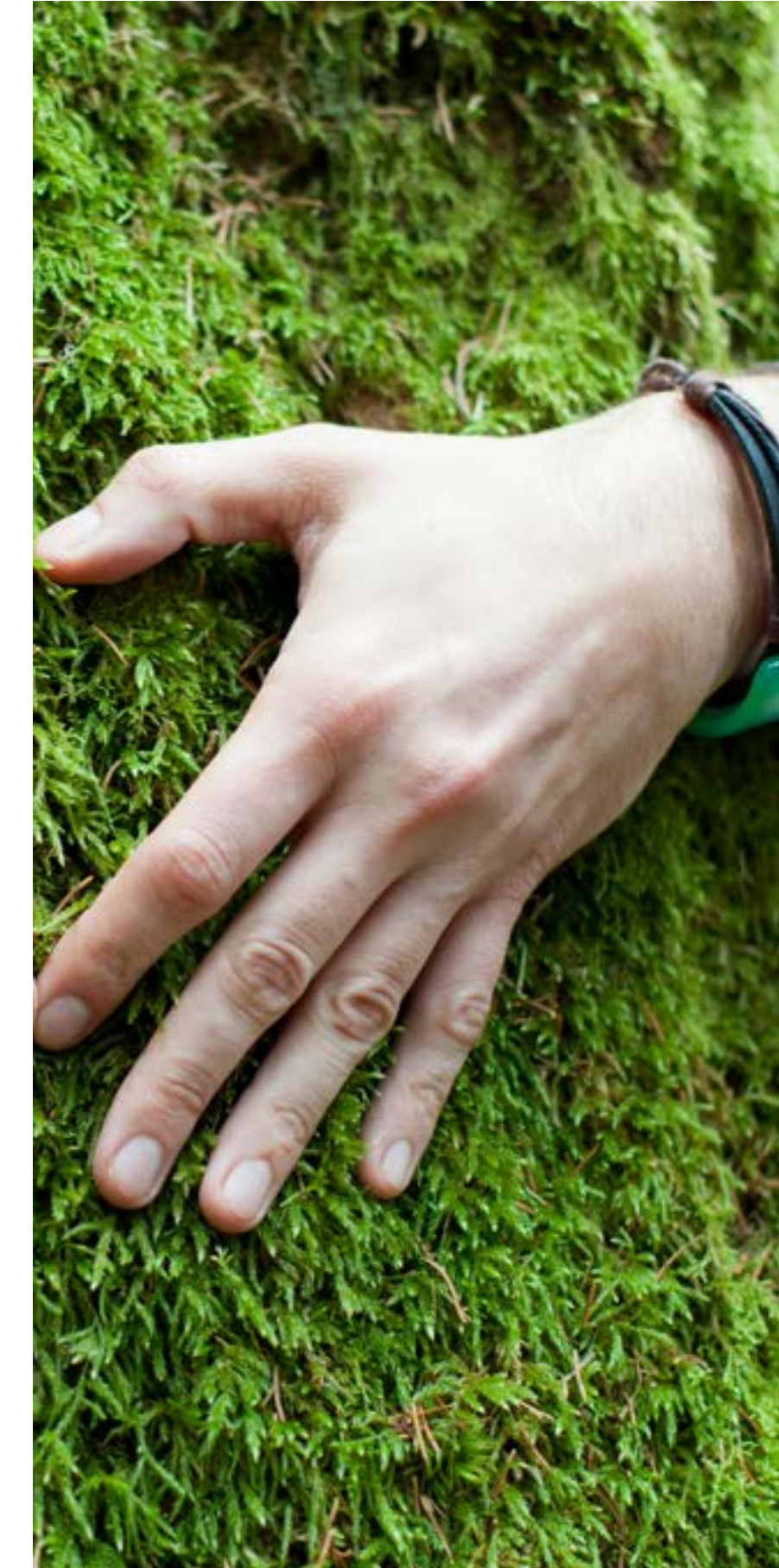
Fighting corruption is in second place, accounting for 22% of the challenges perceived by the enterprises that participated in this year's programme.

WHICH AREA OF THE PRINCIPLES DO YOU VIEW AS POSING THE GREATEST CHALLENGES FOR YOUR ENTERPRISE?



■ ENVIRONMENT
■ LABOUR STANDARDS

■ HUMAN RIGHTS
■ ANTI-CORRUPTION

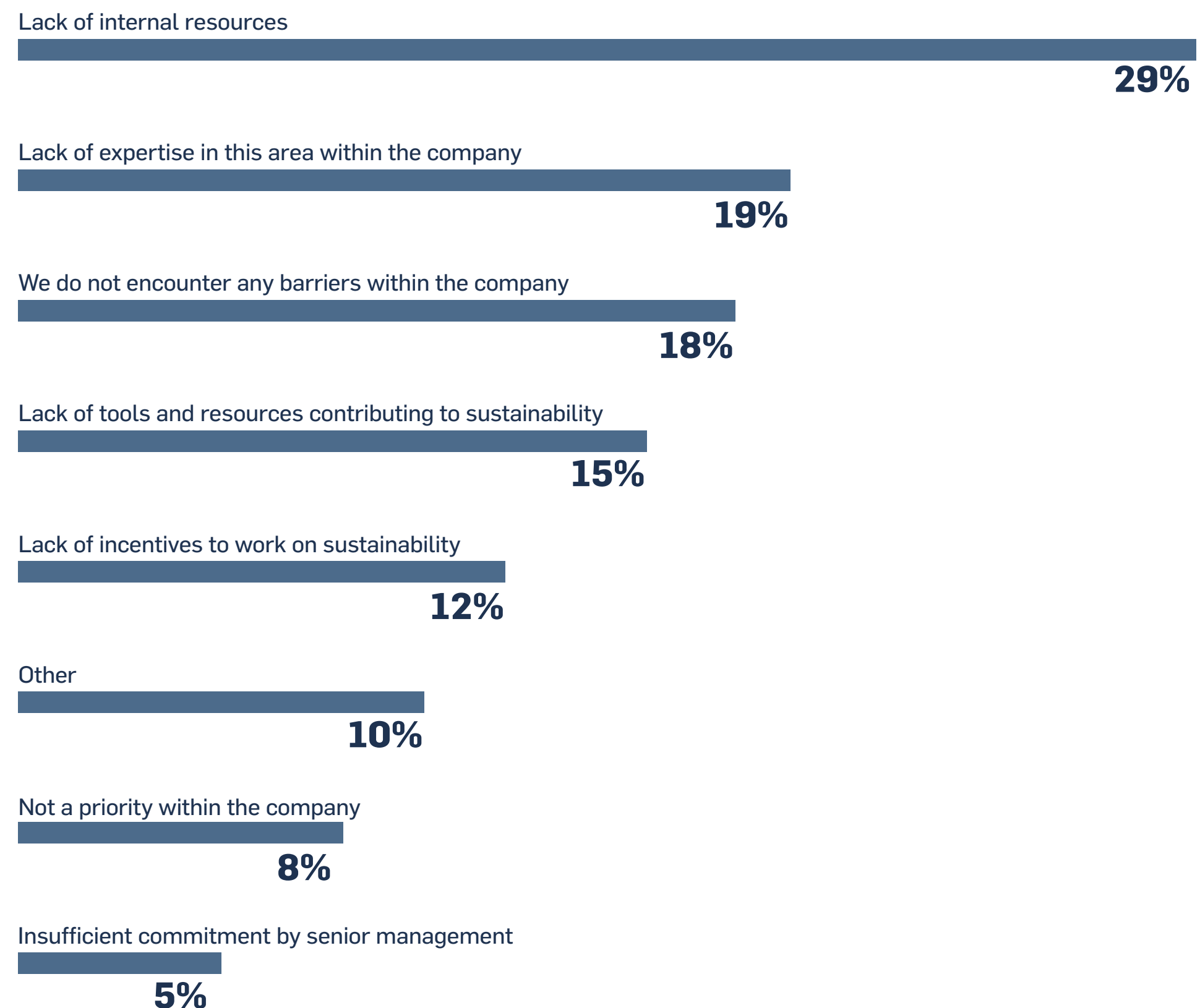


BARRIERS TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

While supplier SMEs have made progress towards implementing sustainability measures, they continue to face significant challenges that limit the progress made. The “Sustainable suppliers training programme” actively seeks to identify these barriers to offer tools to help overcome them.

At this year’s programme the SMEs pointed to a lack of internal resources (29%) as the most important barrier. This barrier underscores the challenge SMEs have in allocating capital and effort to sustainability initiatives. Lack of sustainability knowledge within the company was identified by 19% of the SMEs, suggesting a critical need for specialised training and capacity building to effectively mainstream and implement strategies. Another relevant finding is that 18% of the supplier SMEs stated that they did not encounter any barriers within the company, which means that there is an appreciable group that has already managed to overcome or mitigate internal barriers to progress.

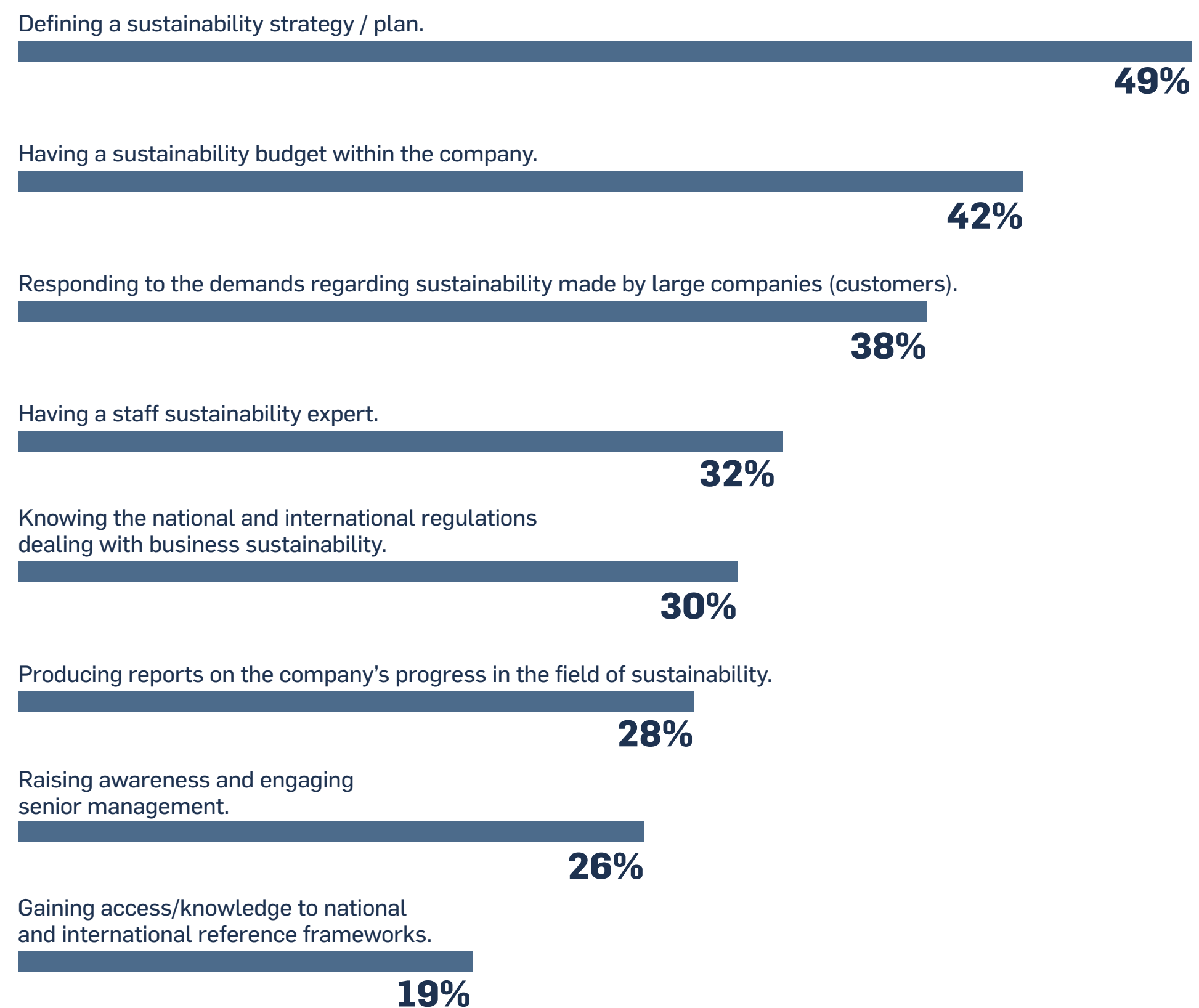
WHAT IS THE MAIN BARRIER TO FURTHER PROGRESS ON SUSTAINABILITY FACED IN YOUR COMPANY?



CHALLENGES TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In line with the barriers referred to above, supplier enterprises identified key challenges to addressing sustainability. The main barrier, named by 49%, is the need to specify a sustainability strategy or plan, underlining the lack of a clear roadmap by the supplier enterprises. The second difficulty named is having a specific budget (42%) for sustainable initiatives. The third most relevant challenge is responding to the demands regarding sustainability made by large companies or customers (38%), highlighting the pressure and the need for alignment with supply chain requirements. These results were in line with the findings in previous years.

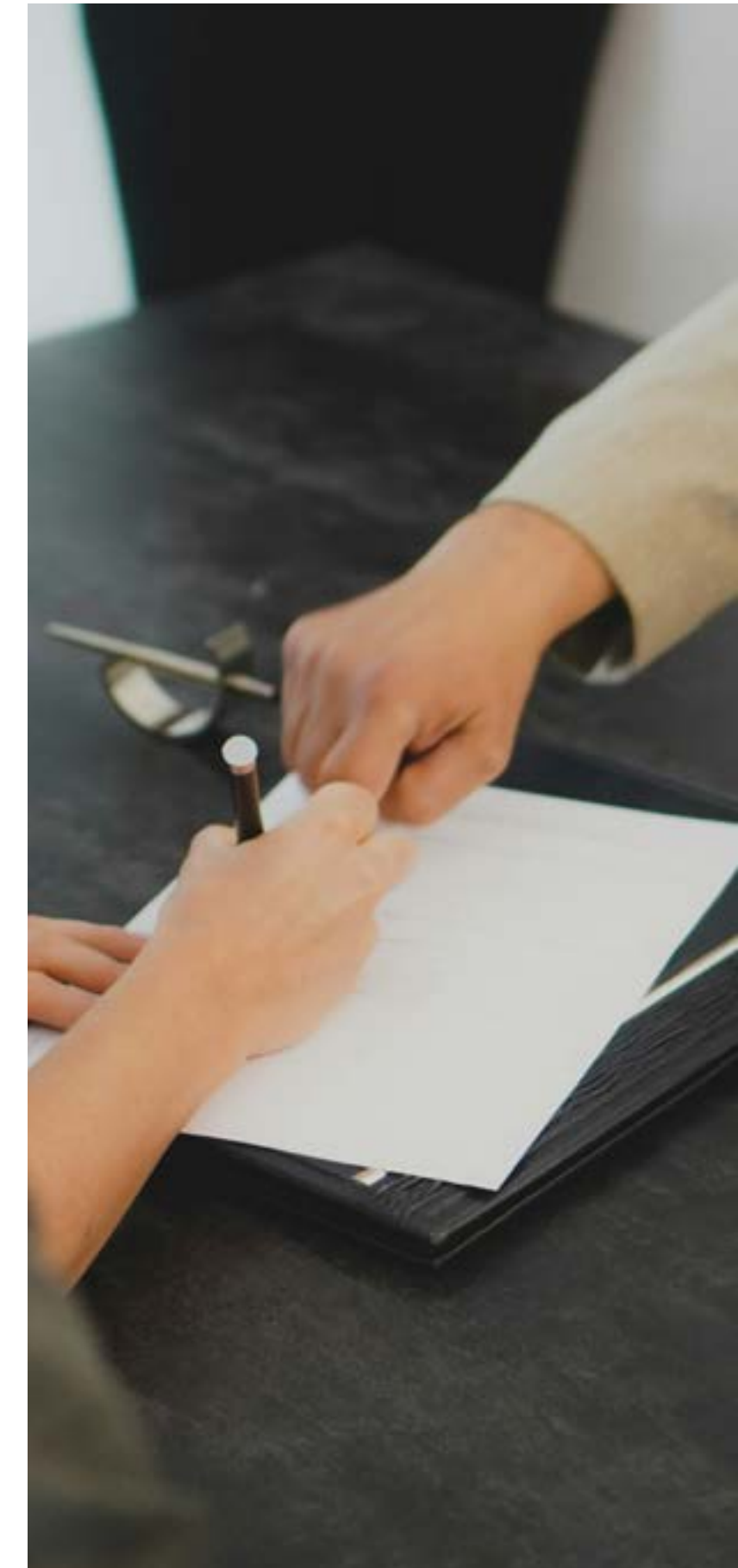
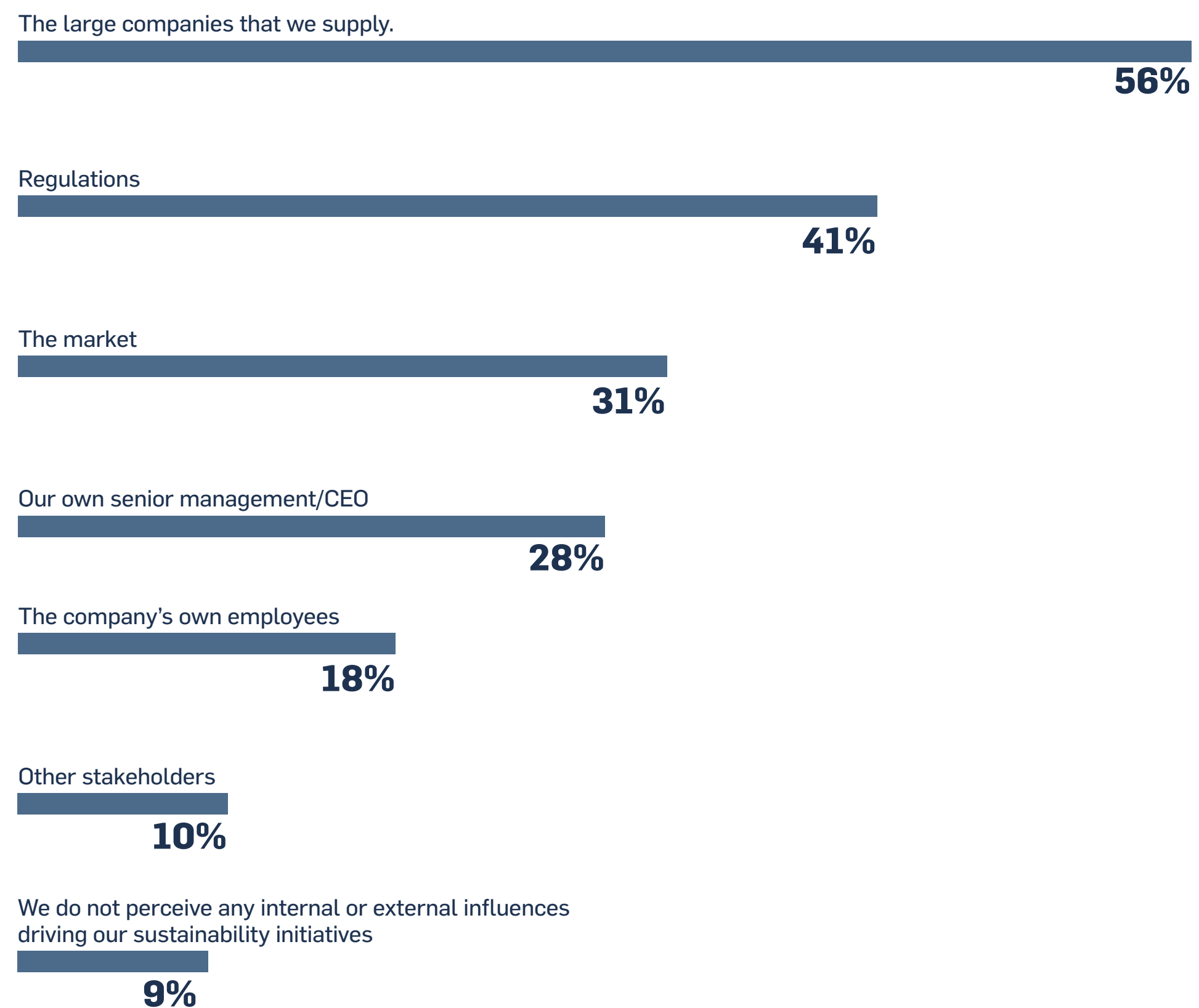
WHAT DO YOU VIEW AS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES FOR YOUR COMPANY WHEN TACKLING SUSTAINABILITY?



INFLUENCE DRIVERS

This year's programme looked at the key factors driving SMEs to work on sustainability issues. The analysis of the data collected has shown that sustainability is mainly driven by external factors in the supply chain. In fact, the demands made by large companies supplied by the SMEs participating in the programme are the biggest driver, accounting for 56% of the influence factor. These demands are followed closely by regulatory requirements, with legislation and regulations being the second most important driving factor, at 41%. In contrast, other actors, e.g., senior management/CEOs (28%), the workforce itself (18%), and other stakeholders (10%) rank lower on the priority scale.

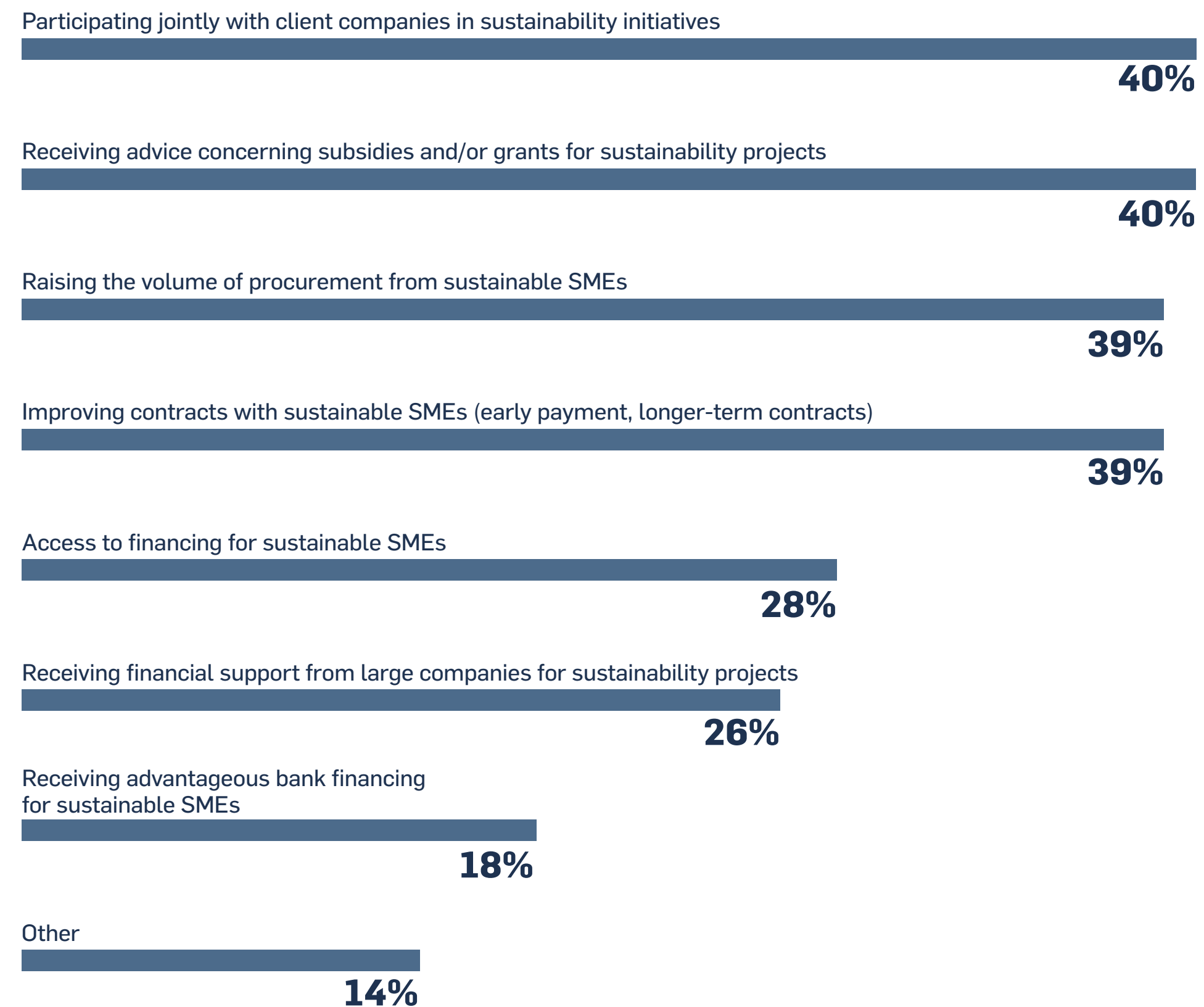
WHO OR WHAT INFLUENCES YOUR COMPANY TO ADVANCE IN SUSTAINABILITY MATTERS?



INCENTIVES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

As seen in the previous section, it is essential for large companies to actively provide their suppliers with sustainability incentives. When surveyed on the measures that would help boost investment in sustainability the most, SMEs identified three main factors: First, at 40%, is jointly participating in sustainability actions with large companies, showcasing the importance of business synergies between suppliers and customers. At the same percentage (40%), SMEs highlighted the need for advice concerning subsidies and grants for sustainability projects, underlining the importance of facilitating access to information concerning sources of funding. Lastly, improving contracts (39%) and increasing the volume of purchases from suppliers committed to sustainability (39%) show that SMEs seek tangible recognition in return for their efforts and commitments towards more responsible business practices.

WHAT INCENTIVES FROM THE COMPANIES YOU ARE CUSTOMERS OF COULD HELP YOU INVEST MORE IN SUSTAINABILITY?



4. PRESENTATION OF THE FOURTH “SUSTAINABLE SUPPLIERS TRAINING PROGRAMME”

4TH EDITION OF SUSTAINABLE SUPPLIERS

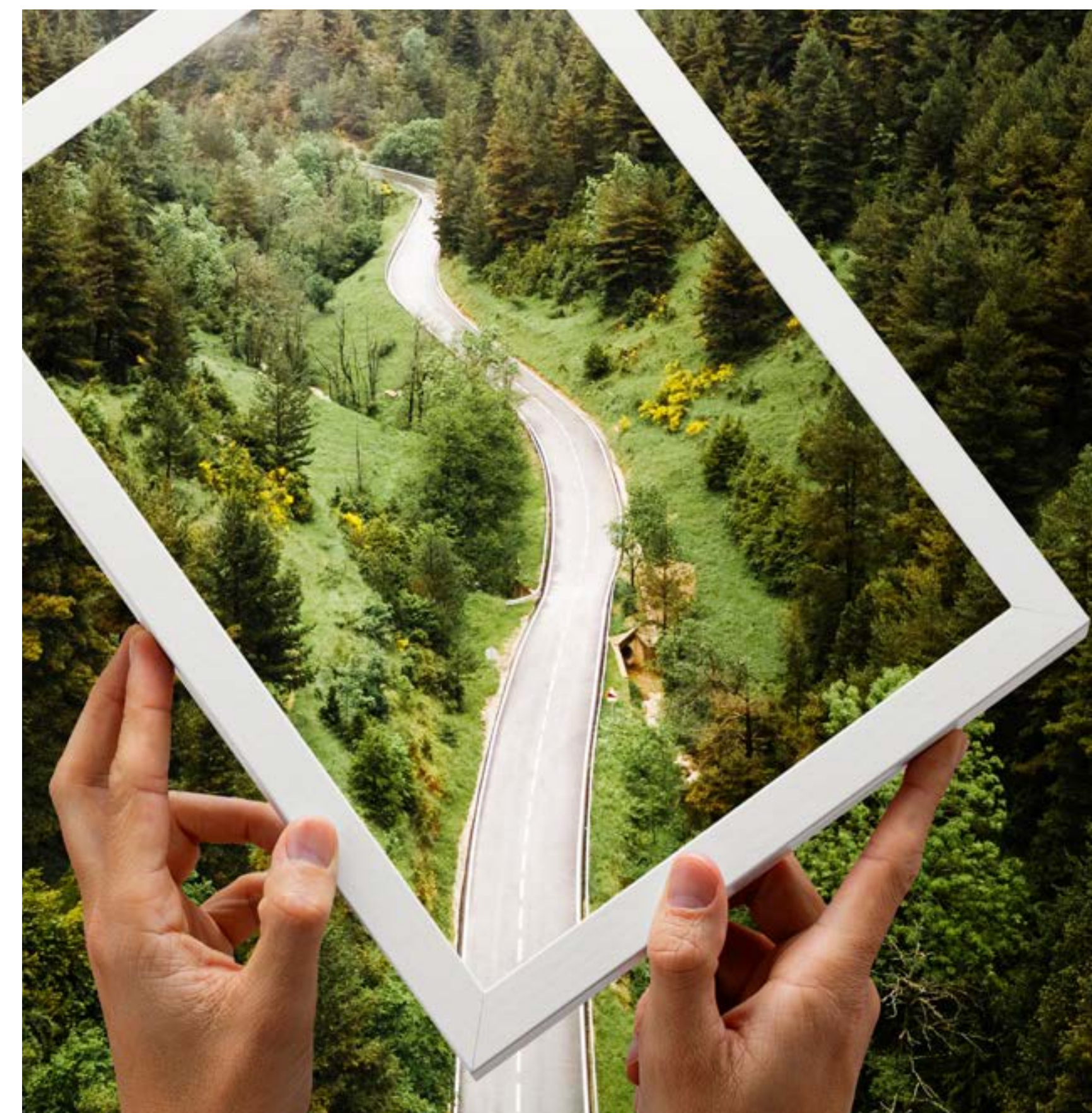
The fourth Sustainable Suppliers Training Programme will start in March 2026, organised by UN Global Compact Spain in association with the ICO Foundation and ICEX Spain Export and Investment with the support of the Global Compact Networks UK and France.

The next programme will bring in new company backers, which will extend invitations to their respective supplier networks, expanding the global reach of the programme and its role as a platform for training and cooperation in the field of corporate sustainability. A new added feature will be making the content also available in French, which will allow for wider participation by supplier SMEs in international supply chains and help strengthen the multilingual nature of the programme, which is already available in English, Spanish, and Portuguese.

Next year's programme aims to further strengthen the capabilities of supplier enterprises to integrate sustainability into their management and strategies. By participating suppliers of large companies will be able to:

- **Gain familiarity with basic corporate sustainability principles**, taking the Ten Principles of the Global Compact and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as reference points.
- **Identify areas for priority action** in the field of sustainability according to their size, nature, and sectors of activity.
- **Design specific, measurable, and achievable goals** to guide implementation of sustainability initiatives over the medium and long term.
- **Design a clear, structured roadmap** to serve as a guide for gradually making progress in fulfilling sustainability commitments.

With next year's programme UN Global Compact Spain reaffirms its commitment to promoting more sustainable, resilient, and inclusive supply chains, consolidating Spain's role as an international benchmark for corporate sustainability training.





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