

The Evolution of Corporate Sustainability Ecosystems in Slovenia: A Cyber-Systemic Analysis of the IRDO CSO Network and Professional Governance Pathways

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Abstract

As European Union directives increasingly mandate structured corporate sustainability management and non-financial reporting, organisations face critical challenges in capacity building, strategic implementation, and governance. This paper examines the developmental trajectory of corporate social responsibility (CSR) networks in Slovenia, focusing on the newly established "IRDO CSO – Slovenian Network of Sustainability Managers" (*IRDO CSO – Slovenska mreža managerjev za trajnostnost*), launched by the IRDO Institute in 2026. Crucially, this study positions the specialized CSO network within the broader historical architecture of the IRDO institutional membership network, which has actively unified corporate, academic, and NGO stakeholders since March 2008. Drawing on cyber-systemic frameworks and multi-stakeholder network theory, this study outlines the operational transition from voluntary, macro-level CSR discussions to formalized, role-focused alignment with European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS). A cross-sectional comparative matrix is provided, evaluating IRDO CSO against established domestic and global sustainability networks. The findings demonstrate that role-gated peer-to-peer expert networks coupled with localized operational toolkits drastically accelerate strategic organizational compliance and boardroom-level governance agility.

Keywords: Corporate Social Responsibility, Sustainability Managers, Governance, IRDO CSO Network, ESRS, CSR Europe, Cyber-Systemics.

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