

# SELECTED SUSTAINABILITY KPIs

## INFORMATION SUPPLEMENTING THE 2024 NON-FINANCIAL REPORT

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Reporting year: 2024



## ABOUT OUR NON-FINANCIAL REPORTING

Springer Nature aims to be a leading publisher of sustainability-related content, and in line with our mission and values we have voluntarily reported on our progress towards sustainability-related goals since 2017. Our aim is to share relevant information with our stakeholders about material environmental, social and governance (ESG) topics, and we have published this supplement to our Annual Report to make it easy for those looking for such information to find it. Key strategically-relevant topics included in this supplement relate to climate change, diversity, equity and inclusion, and two publishing specific topics, open access and the societal impact of content.

You can find the full Annual Report [here](#), which includes our full 2024 Combined Non-Financial Report, and there is additional sustainability information on our [website](#).

### 2024 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Becoming a public company in Germany in October 2024 brought with it new requirements to report on sustainability matters. Because the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) – the European Commission’s new regulatory reporting framework – has not been transposed into national law in Germany, we are reporting in accordance with the German Commercial Code (Handelsgesetzbuch, or HGB) and its current requirements for non-financial disclosures. As part of our transition towards future CSRD reporting, we have adjusted the structure of our combined non-financial report – within the Annual Report – to meet current HGB requirements. To help readers understand this combined approach, we have included references to certain disclosure requirements of the European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS) where relevant both in this document and in the non-financial report.

#### Limited assurance

Springer Nature has selected strategically relevant non-financial information and indicators, in the areas of diversity, carbon reporting and some specific publishing performance indicators, for this supplement and has engaged EY GmbH & Co. KG Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft in accordance with the International Standard on Assurance Engagement (ISAE) 3000 (Revised) to assure it. The limited assurance statement can be found on page 10.

# CLIMATE CHANGE

**As a publisher of significant climate research, following the science is fundamental to our approach. We are committed to becoming net zero by 2040 and have been carbon neutral for our emissions related to offices, fleet and flights since 2020.**

This means we offset emissions from our buildings, fleet and flights (for details on offsetting see page 7). In 2022, we developed science-based carbon reduction targets, which were then validated by the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) in 2023. Our carbon footprint data, which we report according to the Greenhouse Gas Protocol and additionally categorise in line with our business activities, helps us take decisive action to reduce that footprint and work with our suppliers to encourage further reductions within the value chain.

## OUR CLIMATE TARGETS

We have set climate-related targets, using the process set out and validated by the SBTi, which includes distinct targets for Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions. Our reduction targets have been validated by SBTi and, together with our total carbon footprint, map out our route to net zero. We have both a near-term (2032) and a net zero (2040) target.

### Our science-based targets

	Near-term target (2032)	Net zero target (2040)
<b>Scope 1 and 2</b>	Reduce absolute Scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions by 54.6%	Reduce absolute Scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions by 90%
Includes: On-site fuel and electricity Fleet		
<b>Scope 3</b>	Reduce absolute Scope 3 GHG emissions by 32.5% <sup>a</sup>	Reduce absolute Scope 3 GHG emissions by 90%
GHG Protocol Categories 1–15		

<sup>a</sup> Scope 3 categories covered are fuel- and energy-related activities, waste generated in operations, business travel, upstream leased assets, purchased goods and services, capital goods, and upstream transportation and distribution.

We have adopted the market-based accounting approach for Scope 2 (in line with GHG Protocol requirements Scope 2 emissions are measured and reported using the location-based and market-based approach). In line with SBTi requirements, 95% of these emissions are covered by both our near-term (2032) and our net zero (2040) target. As part of our SBTi validation we have committed to validate and recalculate our targets every five years.

## METRICS

In this section we report on key metrics that allow us to understand the climate-related impacts of our operations, following the GHG Protocol.

Our reported metrics are:

- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Greenhouse gas removals and mitigation.

### Greenhouse gas emissions

The following table displays our GHG emissions in Scopes 1, 2 and 3, comparing our 2019 baseline with 2023 and 2024. Total GHG emissions for Scope 1, Scope 2 and flights, as included in our previous sustainability reporting, were 17,093 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e gross (net tonnes 12,723 CO<sub>2</sub>e) in 2024<sup>1</sup> of which 10,490 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e were from flights<sup>2</sup>. Total emissions have fallen around 50% when compared with the 2019 baseline.

### Disaggregated GHG emissions<sup>a,b</sup> (E1-6 AR 48)

	Retrospective			
	Base year (2019)	2023	2024	% 2024/2023
<b>Scope 1 GHG emissions</b>				
Gross Scope 1 GHG emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	4,442	3,019	2,009	-33.4%
Percentage of Scope 1 GHG emissions from regulated emission trading schemes (%)	not relevant	not relevant	not relevant	n/a
<b>Scope 2 GHG emissions</b>				
Gross location-based Scope 2 GHG emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	7,514	4,255	3,957	-7.0%
Gross market-based Scope 2 GHG emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> e) <sup>c</sup>	2,621	215	187	-13.1%
<b>Significant Scope 3 GHG emissions<sup>d</sup></b>				
Total Gross indirect (Scope 3) GHG emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	192,338	127,537	95,957	-24.8%
1 Purchased goods and services <sup>e</sup>	96,750	72,808	53,330	-26.8%
2 Capital goods	13,056	6,184	5,659	-8.5%
3 Fuel and energy-related activities (not included in Scope 1 or 2)	2,909	2,271	1,562	-31.2%
4 Upstream transportation and distribution <sup>g,h</sup>	20,762	10,005	8,298	-17.1%
5 Waste generated in operations	175	131	108	-17.3%
6 Business travel	23,220	17,181	12,586	-26.7%
7 Employee commuting	12,617	3,497	4,733	35.4%
8 Upstream leased assets <sup>f</sup>	500	913	636	-30.3%
9 Downstream transportation <sup>h</sup>	7,016	3,698	2,497	-32.5%
10 Processing of sold products	not relevant	not relevant	not relevant	n/a
11 Use of sold products <sup>i</sup>	–	–	–	n/a
12 End-of-life treatment of sold products	15,113	10,691	6,401	-40.1%
13 Downstream leased assets <sup>f</sup>	173	145	137	-5.5%
14 Franchises	not relevant	not relevant	not relevant	n/a
15 Investments	47	13	9	-31.4%
<b>Total GHG emissions (location-based) (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)</b>	<b>204,294</b>	<b>134,811</b>	<b>101,923</b>	<b>-24.4%</b>
<b>Total GHG emissions (market-based) (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)</b>	<b>199,401</b>	<b>130,771</b>	<b>98,153</b>	<b>-24.9%</b>

a 2023 energy and carbon emissions have been restated from those published in the Sustainable Business Report 2023, due to improved data.

b The 2024 figure is calculated using location-based factors for Scopes 2 and 3 is 55 CO<sub>2</sub>e per €1 million revenue.

c Market-based emissions figures include the carbon benefits of purchasing renewable “green” electricity and “clean” nuclear electricity. The market-based figures are the basis of our science-based target, validated by the SBTi. The location-based figure for Scope 2 for 2024 is 3,957 tCO<sub>2</sub>e.

d Scope 3 figures meet the minimum reporting requirements under the Greenhouse Gas Protocol’s “Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Accounting and Reporting Standard”.

e In Category 1, paper purchases for Q4 2024 and the associated carbon emissions are extrapolated based on spend data. This is a significant methodological change from 2023, where full year actual data was used.

f Scope 3 market-based emissions figures include the carbon benefits of purchasing renewable “green” electricity and “clean” nuclear electricity (the latter was purchased for some of our serviced sites in Spain until July 2024). Examples include the renewable energy certificates we procure to cover the electricity purchased by our landlords to provide leased building services to us (Category 8), green electricity used by one of our co-located datacentres (Category 8), and green electricity purchased for the portion of our Berlin office we lease to a third party (Category 13). For standard (“brown”) electricity purchases, we apply a residual factor if one is available, or otherwise the location-based factor; the latter may result in double-counting of “green electricity” between electricity users. Category 3 is only calculated using location-based factors at present. The market-based figures are the basis of our science-based target, validated by the SBTi. Emissions based on market-based figures for Category 8 are amounting to 37 tCO<sub>2</sub>e and for Category 13, 60 tCO<sub>2</sub>e, resulting in a total of 97,477 tCO<sub>2</sub>e across all Scopes.

g This Category covers transportation of our product, but excludes delivery of other goods from direct suppliers, because these emissions are estimated to be minimal.

h The logistics data for our Local Education business is largely extrapolated from 2023 activity data, adjusted for revenue changes per market.

i Emissions for Category 11 within the minimum boundary (“mandatory reporting”) are zero.

1 Gross emissions do not factor in the purchase of renewable and clean energy (including renewable energy certificates) or offsets. Net emissions include supplier-sourced green and clean electricity and purchases of additional renewable electricity certificates, but exclude offsets.

2 The emissions stated relate to the combustion of aviation fuels and associated radiative forcing. Including emissions relating to the sourcing of aviation fuels (“well-to-tank”) increases 2024 emissions to 11,780 tonnes.

We categorise our GHG emissions under the following activities, which align with areas where we can take action across the business:

### Disaggregation of emissions by Springer Nature business activities<sup>ab</sup> (E1-6 AR 41)

Emissions from activities	Explanation	Base year (2019)	2023	2024	% 2024/2023
People at work	Emissions from our offices, homeworking environments, commuting and fleet	28,068	21,159	18,065	-14.6%
Springer Nature events	Virtual and physical events	11,552	5,634	6,156	9.3%
Business travel	Transport, accommodation and other expenses involved in business trips	25,202	18,483	13,658	-26.1%
Content delivery	Processes and activities to produce and digitally host content	8,954	4,689	5,463	16.5%
Physical products	Paper, printing and binding	79,316	54,801	35,502	-35.2%
Logistics	Packaging, storage and distribution of our physical products in our direct operations and supply chain	27,778	13,702	10,795	-21.2%
Other supplied services	Supply chain emissions not captured elsewhere	19,662	18,324	14,637	-20.1%
<b>Total Scope 1-3 emissions, mandatory and optional reporting (market based)</b>		<b>200,532</b>	<b>136,792</b>	<b>104,276</b>	<b>-23.8%</b>

- a Scope 3 figures meet the minimum reporting requirements under the Greenhouse Gas Protocol's "Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Accounting and Reporting Standard".
- b Figures in this table use market-based factors for Categories 8 and 13, reducing the overall total when compared with the data in the table on page 4 by 676 tCO<sub>2</sub>e (total GHG emissions 97,477 tCO<sub>2</sub>e). Here we include optional reporting under the GHG Protocol's "Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Accounting and Reporting Standard" of 6,799 tCO<sub>2</sub>e. Only categories with significant optional emissions are included.

### GHG emissions intensity (E1-6 AR 54)

Type	2023	2024	% 2024/2023
Location-based	72.8	55.2	-24.2%
Market-based	70.6	53.1	-24.7%

We include all Scope 1, 2 and 3 (except Category 15) GHG emissions from entities that are included in our consolidated financial statements. In our Scope 3 Category 15 (Investments) emissions we include emissions that relate to associates and other investments in proportion to our shareholding. In 2024 there were no significant changes or disruptive events that had a substantial effect on our carbon footprint.

For Scope 1 and 2, we collect primary data for our largest sites (with more than 100 employees) and sites of strategic importance, based on either geographic location or business activity. Approximately 80% of energy consumption, 77% of the associated gross carbon emissions (91% including flight emissions) and more than 80% of resource use is, therefore, based on actual data. Data for the remaining locations is extrapolated based on consumption values per square metre of office space or per employee.

The organisational boundary reflects the same consolidation approach as is used for financial reporting. No exclusions are made by geography or function.

No acquisitions or divestments in 2024 had a material impact on our emissions data. We divested the Springer Fachmedien München business in June 2023, with an overall impact on 2023 gross and net emissions of 1.2% and 1.6% respectively. We have not restated prior years' figures. We divested the American Journal Experts (AJE) business in December 2024, which had no material impact.

#### Scope 2 GHG emissions

We report both gross location-based and gross market-based Scope 2 emissions. The hierarchy of emissions factors from the GHG Protocol Scope 2 Guidance is applied for both location-based and market-based reporting.

Springer Nature's total disclosed GHG emissions include 3,957 metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) derived from Scope 2 emissions measured using the location-based method. The total GHG emissions derived from the underlying Scope 2 emissions measured using the market-based method are 187 metric tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e.

For location-based emissions reporting, we apply the hierarchy of emissions factors illustrated in the table below, i.e. regional or sub-national grid averages where a recent factor is available, and if not, national production figures:

Factor source	Country
Umwelt Bundesamt, Strom- und Wärmeversorgung in Zahlen (2024)	Germany
UK Government, greenhouse gas reporting: conversion factors (2024)	UK
The most recently published regional or sub-national grid factors available from the national government	Argentina, Australia, France, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Singapore, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, USA and Vietnam
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Standardized baseline – grid emission factor for Southern African Power Pool, Version 01.0 (2018)	Botswana, Eswatini, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe
European Environment Agency, greenhouse gas emission intensity of electricity generation (2024 edition)	All other European operations
IEA, Emissions Factors (2024 edition)	All other operations

For market-based emissions reporting, emission factors are selected per site following a hierarchy of factor sources. We use supplier information where available and otherwise make use of residual factors, as set out by the GHG Protocol. If these options are not available, the market-based factor is taken as equal to the location-based factor.

We make use of two types of electricity instruments to reduce our emissions from electricity consumption at our sites:

- 1 renewable and/or clean electricity purchased directly through the electricity provider, and
- 2 additional renewable energy certificates (RECs) purchased centrally via a broker.

Our biogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions amount to 2,210 metric tonnes. For 2024 reporting, this figure now includes an estimate of the biogenic emissions relating to purchased electricity (assuming a location-based reporting approach), as well as the direct use of biofuels.

**Scope 3 GHG emissions**

We measure our Scope 3 GHG emissions using inputs from specific activities within the entity’s upstream and downstream value chain. We calculate around 40% of our Scope 3 emissions within minimum boundary using primary data obtained from suppliers or other value chain partners, ensuring a more accurate representation of the emissions associated with the activities corresponding to the Scope 3 categories of the GHG protocol.

We identify our significant Scope 3 categories based on the magnitude of estimated GHG emissions. The categories with emissions greater than zero under the ‘minimum boundary’ reporting of the GHG Protocol include Categories 1–9, 12, 13 and 15. In other words, all categories except Processing of sold products, Use of sold products and Franchises.

Springer Nature’s gross Scope 3 emissions exclude GHG Protocol Categories 3.10 (Processing of sold products) and 3.14 (Franchises), as they are deemed irrelevant to our business model. According to the GHG Protocol, Springer Nature reports emissions that are considered ‘optional’. These include emissions associated with guests travelling to our physical conferences or accessing our digital content (Category 3.1 Use of sold products), employee hotel stays and working from home (Category 3.6 Business travel) as well as employee commuting (Category 3.7 Employee commuting). These ‘optional’ emissions are not included in our science-based target as per the SBTi guidelines but are included in figures in this report.

We continuously work towards increasing our use of primary data so that calculation methodologies will be gradually substituted for more accurate alternatives, as set out by the GHG Protocol. This may require restatement of data to the baseline year (2019) in the future<sup>1</sup>.

The calculation methodology for each category is selected based on which is the most accurate for the data available, as defined by the GHG Protocol. In order of preference: 1) supplier-specific method, 2) hybrid method, 3) average-data method and 4) spend-based method.

The spend-based method has been applied for some of the Category 1 and 2 emissions calculations, such as those related to our purchases of production paper (used to print our books and journals; this accounts for approximately 40% of Category 1 emissions in 2024), certain IT and production services and for Category 15 in relation to one of our associated companies<sup>2</sup>.

1 A recalculation of the baseline will become necessary if ‘inorganic’ growth (i.e. merger, divestment, acquisition) or methodological change alters the baseline calculation by greater than 5% (net). A recalculation may be necessary if the change is less than 5% if it is deemed necessary to support the fair and meaningful comparison of performance. The baseline has not been recalculated for this report.  
2 The ‘share’ of these emissions is calculated based on the % shareholding.



Emissions are calculated per type of purchase based on the 'amount' or 'volume' of the goods or services purchased by Springer Nature or value chain partners, which is multiplied by an 'average' emissions factor, e.g. tonnes of copy paper and cubic metres of water used in offices (Category 1); kWh of fuel and electricity used to power buildings and vehicles (Categories 3, 6, 8, 13 and 15<sup>1</sup>); tonnage of waste (Categories 5 and 12); distances travelled (Categories 6, 7 and 11); and tons-kilometre of freight transported (Categories 4 and 9).

The same approach as for Scope 2 is used for the sources of the factors applied to grid electricity (see above). Factors for the upstream emissions of electricity purchased by the company (Category 3) are sourced from the International Energy Agency (IEA)<sup>2</sup> (the factors for UK electricity are sourced from the UK Government<sup>2</sup>). Other carbon intensity factors per unit of volume (applied to minimum boundary emissions) are sourced from the UK Government, 'Government conversion factors for company reporting of greenhouse gas emissions'<sup>2</sup>.

Spend data for purchases of goods and services are multiplied by a relevant 'industry average per monetary value of goods' factor; in 2024 this was the main approach used for calculating Category 1 and 2 emissions, and third-party warehousing services.

Carbon factors per unit of spend are sourced from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 'Supply Chain GHG Emission Factors for US Commodities and Industries'<sup>2</sup>.

The Global Warming Potential (GWP) applied by the EPA factors relates to the AR4 figures over a 100 year period. This differs from the UK Government dataset from 2023 onwards, which applies AR5. The overall impact on Springer Nature's Category 1 and 2 emissions is considered to be minimal. The figures provided by EPA are adjusted for inflation to match the current reporting year based on the US Consumer Price Index.

For some categories, different methodologies are used for different data sources. We ask suppliers from certain key sectors (e.g. for the production of printed products and IT services) to complete an annual questionnaire to provide supplier-specific data.

### Greenhouse gas removals and mitigation

Springer Nature offices, warehouses, fleet and flights have been carbon neutral since 2020. We have achieved this by using renewable electricity, introducing energy efficiencies and purchasing offsets. We recognise that to reach net zero, we will need to deliver 90% emissions reductions by 2040 and that offsetting is not included in those reductions. We offset emissions related to buildings, fleet and flights. We currently include a portion of homeworking and commuting emissions, in light of increased hybrid working patterns.

Our work relies on using paper – produced from timber, a natural resource – to produce physical products (journals and books), so we aim to contribute positively to biodiversity and carbon sequestration while also delivering positive social co-benefits to local communities through the carbon offsetting programmes that we support. Working with [C Level](#), we support [Taking Root's CommuniTree project in Nicaragua](#), which enables local farmers to reforest land with native trees in ways that build their capacity to earn money from their well-maintained forests. In 2024, we purchased certificates totalling 20,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e. We prioritise the core principle of additionality, by ensuring that the certificates we purchase reflect carbon balancing that would not have occurred without our investment. The initiative is certified by Plan Vivo, the longest-standing voluntary carbon standard. These credits meet strict quality standards ensuring they are additional, permanent and verified by third parties.

For our offices in Japan, we purchase J-Credits (certified reduction or removal credits within Japan) for offsetting, amounting to 32 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2024.

Offsets and the 'carbon neutral' designation do not count towards our SBTi-approved targets, as disclosed on page 3.

1 The 'share' of these emissions is calculated based on the % shareholding.

2 In all cases, the carbon factor set published closest to the reporting year (and available at the time of reporting) is chosen.

# DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

**We want Springer Nature to be a place where our people can be themselves and learn, develop and thrive in a global and inclusive culture. We are deeply committed to diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) within our organisation, in our content and across our communities.**

The key characteristics of our workforce are described in the following tables, with data taken as a snapshot on 31 December 2024<sup>1</sup>.

## Number of employees by gender (S1-6 AR 55\_1)

Gender	Headcount
Male	3,788
Female	5,586
Other	1
Not reported	19

Springer Nature is committed to fostering diversity across all levels of its workforce, with particular attention to gender representation in top management.

## EMPLOYEES BY GENDER IN MANAGEMENT

In 2018 we set our first gender representation goal: having 45% women in the top three tiers of leadership. We achieved that goal during 2024, although the percentage fluctuated slightly throughout the year, and the year ended with the figure at 44.3%. Our renewed goal is to maintain at least 45% women in our top three tiers from 2024–2028. Fifty percent of the Management Board are women.

## Gender distribution in number and percentage at top management level (S1-9 §66a)

Gender	Headcount	Percentage
Male	198	55.5%
Female	158	44.3%
Other	0	0.0%
Not reported	1	0.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>100%</b>

<sup>1</sup> The gender distribution in number and percentage at the top management level refers to the representation of different genders within the top three tiers of management at Springer Nature. The Management Board is tier 1, direct reports to the Management Board are tier 2, and their direct reports are tier 3. For reporting purposes, this group is referred to as the 'top three tiers of management'. We report on the diversity of the Management Board, following the recommendations of the German Corporate Governance Code. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.



## PUBLISHING-SPECIFIC TOPICS

**We believe that the biggest impact we can have on the world's most urgent challenges is through our publishing activity. We try to ensure those who need access to reliable information, whether to support their research output or make crucial decisions, are able to do so, and the open access transition and our sustainability-related publishing programmes are key to how we do this.**

### OPEN ACCESS

At Springer Nature we believe that the world's greatest challenges can be best addressed when research is open and we aim to ensure that all aspects of research, including data, code and protocols, are open to all. We aim to increase the use and re-use of research, create faster research systems, speed up scientific advances, build an equitable research landscape, foster collaboration between disciplines, protect research integrity and improve trust in science.

Open Access (OA) is the foundation of our support for open science. We aim to provide immediate access (also referred to as 'Gold OA'), at the point of publication, to the final published version of record (VOR) of peer-reviewed research.

Researchers, funders and wider society increasingly expect research to be published OA so that it can have the widest societal impact. OA is the largest area of growth in academic publishing.

We support OA across all academic disciplines. Additionally, by collaborating with partners across the scholarly ecosystems, we can help create faster and more effective research systems that operate sustainably and at scale and build an equitable research landscape.

In 2024, 50% of primary research articles published by Springer Nature was published OA<sup>1</sup>, meeting the target we had set in prior years.

### SOCIETAL IMPACT OF CONTENT

Global challenges – which we consider through the lens of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aims and targets – won't be solved in a single research lab, institution or think tank. They require teamwork, cross-disciplinary thinking and an openness to alternative views. We believe that the biggest impact we can have on the SDGs is through the content we publish. By publishing more SDG-related research, we can disseminate new knowledge beyond academic circles and contribute to informed policy decisions. Additionally, our Education segment develops new SDG-related curriculum content, with the aim to help global students develop an understanding of sustainable development as well as critical thinking and citizenship skills.

Our content has the potential to raise awareness of climate change and energy issues, influencing policy and fostering behavioural change, thus creating a positive impact for the research community, civil society and people along our value chain. Researchers and other content creators provide evidence-based insights that support climate adaptation, mitigation and solutions related to the SDGs and other wide-ranging topics that are important to society. This provides a foundation for further research and educational integration. We are committed to meeting evolving customer demands, particularly with the rising volume of climate change-related research submitted for publication. More than half of Springer Nature's SDG-related research is published OA, increasing its potential for societal impact and policy contribution on urgent topics, such as climate change.

We aim to increase the impact of SDG-relevant content. The SDG-related articles we have published since 2015 were downloaded over 530 million times in 2024.

<sup>1</sup> The 50% refers to research articles including Cureus but excluding Nature Reviews and magazine content.

# ASSURANCE REPORT

## **Assurance report of the independent German public auditor on a limited assurance engagement in relation to the information “Selected Sustainability KPIs – Information supplementing the 2024 non-financial report”**

To Springer Nature AG & Co. KG, Berlin

### **Assurance conclusion**

We have conducted a limited assurance engagement on the information “Selected Sustainability KPIs – Information supplementing the 2024 non-financial report” of Springer Nature AG & Co. KG, Berlin, which contains selected sustainability KPIs (“non-financial disclosures”) for the fiscal year from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024.

Based on the procedures performed and the evidence obtained, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the accompanying non-financial disclosures for the fiscal year from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024 are not prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the criteria presented by the executive directors of the Company.

### **Basis for the assurance conclusion**

We conducted our assurance engagement in accordance with International Standard on Assurance Engagements (ISAE) 3000 (Revised): Assurance Engagements Other Than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information issued by the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB).

The procedures in a limited assurance engagement vary in nature and timing from, and are less in extent than for, a reasonable assurance engagement. Consequently, the level of assurance obtained is substantially lower than the assurance that would have been obtained had a reasonable assurance engagement been performed.

Our responsibilities under ISAE 3000 (Revised) are further described in the section “German public auditor’s responsibilities for the assurance engagement on the non-financial reporting.”

We are independent of the Company in accordance with the requirements of European law and German commercial and professional law, and we have fulfilled our other German professional responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. Our audit firm has applied the requirements for a system of quality control as set forth in the IDW Quality Management Standard issued by the Institut der Wirtschaftsprüfer [Institute of Public Auditors in Germany] (IDW): Requirements for Quality Management in the Audit Firm (IDW QMS 1 (09.2022)). We believe that the evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our assurance conclusion.

### **Responsibilities of the executive directors and the supervisory board for the non-financial disclosures**

The executive directors are responsible for the preparation of the non-financial disclosures in accordance with the criteria presented by the executive directors of the Company and for designing, implementing and maintaining such internal control that they have considered necessary to enable the preparation of the non-financial disclosures in accordance with these requirements that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud (i.e., fraudulent non-financial disclosures) or error.

This responsibility of the executive directors includes establishing and maintaining the materiality assessment process, selecting and applying appropriate reporting policies for preparing the non-financial disclosures, as well as making assumptions and estimates and ascertaining forward-looking information for individual sustainability-related disclosures.

The supervisory board is responsible for overseeing the process for the preparation of the non-financial disclosures.

### **Inherent limitations in preparing the non-financial disclosures**

The applicable criteria contain wording and terms that are subject to considerable interpretation uncertainties and for which no authoritative, comprehensive interpretations have yet been published. As such wording and terms may be interpreted differently by regulators or courts, the legality of measurements or evaluations of sustainability matters based on these interpretations is uncertain.

These inherent limitations also affect the assurance engagement on the non-financial disclosures.

### German public auditor's responsibilities for the assurance engagement on the non-financial disclosures

Our objective is to express a limited assurance conclusion, based on the assurance engagement we have conducted, on whether any matters have come to our attention that cause us to believe that the non-financial disclosures has not been prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the criteria presented by the Company's executive directors, and to issue an assurance report that includes our assurance conclusion on the non-financial disclosures.

As part of a limited assurance engagement in accordance with ISAE 3000 (Revised), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism. We also:

- Obtain an understanding of the process used to prepare the non-financial disclosures
- Identify disclosures where a material misstatement due to fraud or error is likely to arise, design and perform procedures to address these disclosures and obtain limited assurance to support the assurance conclusion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal control
- Consider the forward-looking information, including the appropriateness of the underlying assumptions. There is a substantial unavoidable risk that future events will differ materially from the forward-looking information.

### Summary of the procedures performed by the German public auditor

A limited assurance engagement involves the performance of procedures to obtain evidence about the sustainability information. The nature, timing and extent of the selected procedures are subject to our professional judgment.

In performing our limited assurance engagement we have, among other things, performed the following assurance procedures:

- Evaluate the suitability of the criteria as a whole presented by the executive directors in the non-financial disclosures,
- Gain an understanding of the structure of the sustainability organization,
- Inquiries of the executive directors and relevant employees who were involved in the preparation of the subject matter insofar as they are relevant for the audit of the selected sustainability indicators,
- Inquiries for data capture and consolidation to evaluate the reporting system, the data capture and compilation methods as well as internal controls to the extent relevant for the assurance of the non-financial disclosures,

- Analytical procedures on selected information in the non-financial disclosures,
- Inquiries, selective testing and obtaining evidence relating to the collection and reporting of selected information in the non-financial disclosures,
- Assessment of CO<sub>2</sub> compensation certificates exclusively with regard to their existence, but not with regard to their effect,
- Assessment of the presentation of the information in the non-financial disclosures.

### Restriction of use

We draw attention to the fact that the assurance engagement was conducted for the Company's purposes and that the assurance report is intended solely to inform the Company about the result of the assurance engagement. As a result, it may not be suitable for another purpose than the aforementioned. Accordingly, the assurance report is not intended to be used by third parties for making (financial) decisions based on it. Our responsibility is to the Company alone. We do not accept any responsibility to third parties. Our assurance conclusion is not modified in this respect.

### General Engagement Terms and Liability

The "General Engagement Terms for Wirtschaftsprüferinnen, Wirtschaftsprüfer and Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaften [German Public Auditors and Public Audit Firms]" dated 1 January 2024, which are attached to this report, are applicable to this engagement and also govern our relations with third parties in the context of this engagement ([ey-idw-aab-en-2024.pdf](#)).

In addition, please refer to the liability provisions contained there in no. 9 and to the exclusion of liability towards third parties. We accept no responsibility, liability or other obligations towards third parties unless we have concluded a written agreement to the contrary with the respective third party or liability cannot effectively be precluded.

We make express reference to the fact that we will not update the assurance report to reflect events or circumstances arising after it was issued, unless required to do so by law. It is the sole responsibility of anyone taking note of the summarized result of our work contained in this report to decide whether and in what way this result is useful or suitable for their purposes and to supplement, verify or update it by means of their own review procedures.

Berlin, 17 March 2025

EY GmbH & Co. KG  
Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft

**Ingo Röders**  
Wirtschaftsprüfer  
[German Public Auditor]

**Christopher Hintze**  
Wirtschaftsprüfer  
[German Public Auditor]