

# Focusing on Stakeholder Expectations with a Double Materiality Assessment

Committed to understanding its environmental, social, and governance (ESG) influence across its operations, BESIX fosters an open and ongoing dialogue with a diverse range of stakeholders. Employees, clients, business partners, suppliers, NGOs, communities and regulators all have a voice - and their concerns are documented and addressed in the group's sustainability strategy.

Regular meetings, surveys, and conferences cultivate transparency and collaboration. BESIX actively participates in industry associations to share best practices and stay informed on evolving ESG expectations. Key takeaways are then incorporated into the group's ESG framework.

By tailoring engagement to each stakeholder group, BESIX ensures a two-way communication channel, ultimately driving continuous improvement in ESG performance. The measurable outcomes of these initiatives will be demonstrably linked to BESIX's sustainability goals in future reports, in line with the EU's Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive.

## Double Materiality Assessment in practice

BESIX is updating the way it reports on these ESG issues. This new approach is in line with the European Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD).

The CSRD requires European companies to report comprehensively on their environmental, social, and governance (ESG) performance. This increased transparency enables stakeholders to assess a company's true impact on the environment and society.

### Double materiality: defining what matters

To identify the most relevant ESG priorities for BESIX and its stakeholders, a 'Double Materiality Assessment' (DMA) was conducted in line with the CSRD and ESRS (European Sustainability Reporting Standards) guidelines. This assessment considers two key perspectives: how BESIX's activities affect the environment and society, including both positive and negative, potential, and actual impacts ("impact materiality"); and how ESG issues such as climate change affect BESIX's financial health, including risks such as stricter regulations, and opportunities such as developing sustainable products ("financial materiality").

The DMA covered BESIX's own operations (Real Estate, Construction, BESIX Invest) across its entire value chain (upstream and downstream, from the sourcing of materials to the construction and maintenance of buildings). In addition, internal and industry information as well as the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB) – an industry-specific ESG metrics standard – were reviewed to create a comprehensive list of potential ESG material topics.



Transparency and dialogue are cornerstones of BESIX's approach. An external expert facilitated the Double Materiality Assessment, which involved extensive stakeholder engagement. This included analysing internal documents, conducting an employee survey, and holding consultations with internal and external key stakeholders.

### 13 sustainability priorities

This rigorous process identified 13 material topics deemed most material to BESIX. These topics are significant because they look at both the positive and negative impacts BESIX's activities have on the environment, society, and the economy. They also consider potential risks and opportunities for BESIX related to sustainability.

The 'double materiality matrix' below visually represents the impact and financial materiality of each topic. This matrix is crucial for prioritising efforts and developing a clear sustainability strategy.

The results of the 'double materiality matrix' were presented to and validated by BESIX's ESG Board and Executive Committee. This ensures alignment between sustainability priorities and overall business strategy and governance practices. The results were also presented to the key stakeholders who had been consulted.

The Double Materiality Assessment exercise marks a significant milestone on the path to full CSRD compliance by fiscal year 2025. This comprehensive approach to sustainability reporting underscores BESIX's commitment to continuous improvement and creating a positive impact for all its stakeholders and society.

## BESIX Group's double materiality matrix

An ESG topic becomes material for BESIX Group if it is material from a financial perspective and/or an impact perspective. The boundaries for impact and financial materiality are highlighted in the matrix. Only the bottom-left quadrant contains non-material topics indicated in a grey font. The number of material IROs per ESG topic are defined between brackets next to each topic.

