



IT governance deserves a complete reset: From fragmented compliance to a holistic report

In a hyper-digital world, everything revolves around reliable and stable IT systems. Without public trust in these systems, society can no longer function. Organisations can actively strengthen this trust by providing the right kind of insight into their digital systems. To do this effectively, a completely new concept for reporting is needed.

IDRS standards

Organisations can apply the IDRS (International Digital Reporting Standards) to draw up an annual report on IT governance. The aim is to provide transparency to stakeholders, directors and regulators about the digital resilience of the organisation.

This annual report enables organisations to demonstrate much more efficiently that they comply with laws and regulations for IT control and that organisations and society can continue to rely on reliable systems.

Effectively embedding legislation in organisations through their IT governance

Upcoming and existing European digital legislation aims to increase resilience and autonomy and regain sovereignty in the areas of values, innovation and sustainability. The EU has more than 100 laws in development that affect the digital domain, but there is no single coherent standard for the management of organisations to monitor this within their organisation.

Challenges for organisations

The ever-expanding system of regulations (and the associated accountability for directors and supervisors) presents a number of challenges.

1. Do regulations make our society safer and more resilient?
2. Is it feasible to monitor compliance with regulations?
3. Can the administrative burden as a result be kept within reasonable limits for organisations?
4. Are directors capable of bearing the responsibility that regulations explicitly place on them?
5. What are the consequences for our competitive position?

In order to meet these challenges, a reset is needed that respects the spirit of the regulations but does so in a much more efficient and effective manner. The IDRS standards.

The IDRS provides one single, comprehensive IT report for the management of organisations to account for their actions and inform stakeholders about IT governance, risk and compliance, and essential IT topics such as digital innovation and transformation, data governance and ethics, outsourcing, cybersecurity, IT continuity management and privacy.

Greater control over digital risks and increased transparency through integrated IT reporting

The IDRS was developed to gain control over digital risks and to replace fragmented IT accountability with a single, integrated report. In a world where IT is at the heart of all business processes, transparency about digital security and compliance is crucial. Applying the IDRS helps organisations to inform stakeholders, strengthen trust and substantiate strategic choices. It also provides a basis for assurance, adding confidence about the reliability of the IT report by auditors.

By reporting annually as part of the PDCA cycle (Plan–Do–Check–Act), organisations gain better insight into their digital vulnerabilities, areas for improvement and strategic IT goals. This leads to greater control over IT processes, better decision-making and fewer surprises in the event of incidents or audits.

Increasing digital resilience and economic strength

Documenting IT governance creates a culture of digital responsibility. Applying the IDRS reveals vulnerabilities and encourages improvement measures, thereby increasing digital resilience.

This increases economic clout, as improvements in IT governance are implemented and compliance with relevant legislation actually contributes to an organisation's clout, autonomy and values. The use of the IDRS also reduces compliance costs and risks associated with non-compliance with these laws.

The idea is very simple. Organisations now provide insight into their financial performance (and social impact) each year in an annual report. In a similar way, it is now also possible to publish a report on their IT governance.

Reporting according to a single standard

The annual report ensures that organisations can demonstrate much more efficiently that they comply with laws and regulations for IT control and that organisations and society can continue to count on reliable systems. This makes life a lot easier for market parties, customers, suppliers and financiers of digital services, but also for the government and regulators.

When it comes to transparency and accountability regarding digital security, the market can do its job. After all, directors and supervisory board members want to properly manage the risks of damage to their business and reputation as a result of digital negligence and will therefore prefer to choose partners who have a proven track record in this area.



Objectives of the IDRS platform

NOREA, the professional organisation for all IT auditors registered in the Netherlands, took the initiative to launch the IDRS several years ago. Thanks to a group of initiators, the IDRS has since evolved into the IDRS platform, which organises cooperation between stakeholders on digital legislation.

The IDRS platform organises cooperation between stakeholders in the field of digital legislation and focuses on three main activities: sharing knowledge and best practices between providers, recipients and IT auditors; forming opinions and evaluating upcoming and existing legislation; and further developing and managing the IDRS.

The IDRS platform also maintains the IDRS from the following perspectives:

- New laws may give rise to amendments to the IDRS.
- New IT developments (e.g. quantum) may give rise to amendments to the IDRS.
- Drawing up sector standards. Examples include an addendum to the IDRS for the financial sector (to report on DORA), critical infrastructure (to report on NIS2) or local government, whereby current accountability requirements may be replaced by a single report based on the IDRS.
- Providing solicited and unsolicited advice.

A group of experts will then amend the IDRS if necessary.

The initiators of the IDRS platform are [Arcadis](#), [CZ Group](#), [the Dutch Central Bank](#), [ECP | Platform for the Information Society](#), [Institute of Internal Auditors Netherlands](#), [the Ministry of Economic Affairs](#), [the Ministry of Finance/Central Government Audit Service](#), [NOREA](#), [Dutch Authority for Digital Infrastructure](#), [TIAS](#) and the [VU Amsterdam](#). The IDRS platform is hosted by ECP.

Interested in applying the IDRS standards in your organisation?

The IDRS is now available to apply within your organisation, nationally and internationally. Get to know the new IDRS standards for your IT governance free of charge. You can request the IDRS [here](#).

Interested in more information? Visit [this page](#) and consult our frequently asked questions. Would you like to receive advice on applying the IDRS in your organisation? Please [contact](#) Lisanne van Helten, she will be happy to connect you with an expert.