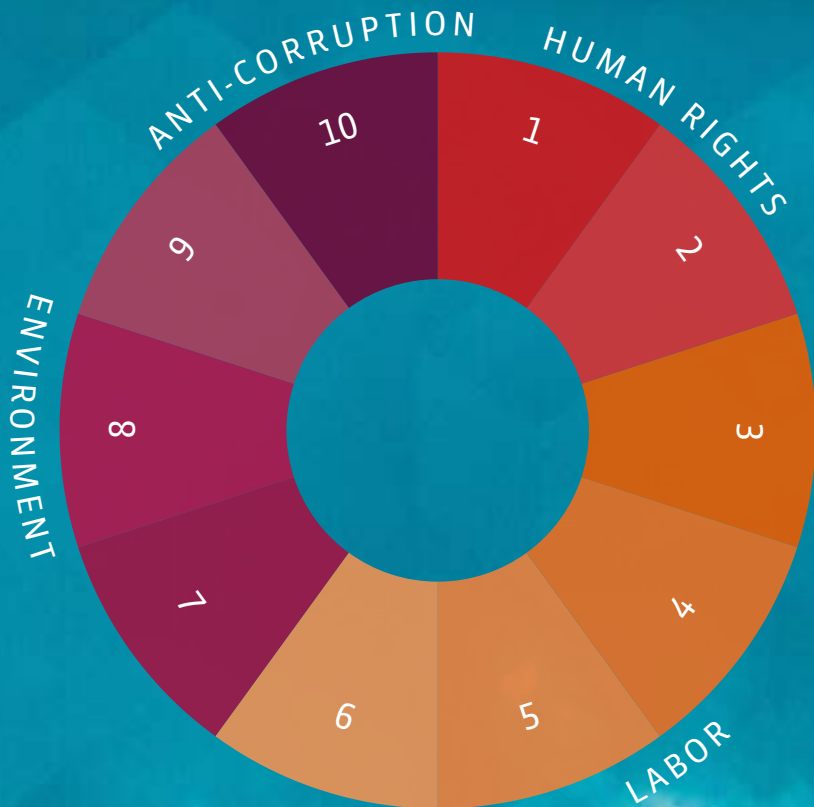# Sustainability Report 2021/22

UN Global Compact | Communication on Progress | August 2021 - August 2022

iPoint

ANTI-CORRUPTION

HUMAN RIGHTS

ENVIRONMENT

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This is our **Communication on Progress** in implementing the principles of the **United Nations Global Compact** and supporting broader UN goals.

We welcome feedback on its contents.

iPoint-systems gmbh

Managing Directors: Peter Schmidt (CEO), Thomas Diezmann

Ludwig-Erhard-Str. 58

72760 Reutlingen

Germany

To our Stakeholders:

As the new CEO of iPoint-systems, I am honored and pleased to confirm our continued commitment to supporting the Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) in the areas of Human Rights, Labor, Environment, and Anti-Corruption.

This is our fifth annual Communication on Progress (CoP) since iPoint became a signatory of the United Nations Global Compact. And this is where we describe our actions to continually improve the integration of the UNGC's principles into our business strategy, culture, and daily operations and to advance broader societal goals, in particular the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Let me also renew our commitment to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Having officially taken over the responsibilities as iPoint's CEO in July 2022, for me this report marks both an ending and a starting point: For the last few months, our company has been in a state of profound transition – as has the world around us. New challenges have emerged while some of the known ones remain to be solved, internally, externally, and especially in the wide field of sustainability.

Internally, our new top management and dedicated staff have intensified the work to facilitate iPoint's transformation to a holistic product sustainability software provider – building on the exemplary achievements of their predecessors, to name just one, of founder and former CEO Joerg Walden, who realized almost two decades ago how digitalization can and should drive sustainable change in businesses as well as in the world we live in.

In September 2022, we completed the integration of our Hamburg subsidiary, the former ifu Institute for Environmental IT. Of course, this will considerably change the scope of our upcoming corporate sustainability efforts and communications. New corporate sustainability processes, projects, and personnel will also result from the new and highly standardized UNGC reporting format and the clear and extended reporting requirements our investor GRO Capital rolled out lately to all companies in their portfolio. To highlight just one measure from the current reporting period, iPoint's commitment to the Science-Based Target Initiative (SBTi) stresses the importance of immediate and coordinated climate action businesses need to take today.

Providing meaningful, contextual data to the relevant roles in organizations has been iPoint's focus right from the start. And this approach is even more essential when it comes to sustainability, be it on a product, corporate, or even on a global scale. Decision

makers on all levels, from policies to product design and purchasing, must have realized by now: sustainability has become more and more of a data issue. Which is why we need a common agreement on an open data policy, enabling and enforcing data sharing across supply chains while maintaining IP security. Breaking down barriers and silos which, as it can be observed only too often in the area of product stewardship, divide one specific type of compliance or sustainability data form another is a necessary step to gain a holistic perspective: We need to bring together all aspects of relevant data to support the creation of sustainable products and a Circular Economy.

Looking at the global scale of current challenges – a life-threatening climate crisis, a global health crisis, an inhumane war in Europe with all its global repercussions – we must understand that we are all in this together. We live in a common network and need to move together in a global world. We need to sensitively develop resilient supply chains and globalization strategies and look closely at who we do business with now and in the future. The energy policy decisions discussed in recent months in particular show that we must act with foresight and a sense of proportion. The enormous dependencies shown in recent developments, of course, are difficult to resolve. But in the end, there must always be a sustainable win-win situation for everyone involved. This is the only option to find a way to live together peacefully in the years to come.

While we must be sensitive to this, we must not lose sight of the fact that the world is not waiting for us. Therefore, in the face of what at first glance may appear to be more pressing problems, the issue of sustainability must not be allowed to sink or falter but must be pursued and implemented all the more intensively. It is important for decision makers, especially in these times, not to see sustainability as a pure cost factor but as an essential measure to drive our businesses, to implement sustainable and intelligent solutions and thus to continuously maintain and accelerate the momentum taken up in building a better world – socially, environmentally, and economically. At iPoint we will continue to do our best to support this triple bottom line of sustainability.

We live sustainability.

Sincerely yours,

Peter Schmidt
CEO, iPoint-systems gmbh

Advancing digitalization for sustainable change

II. About iPoint – Business Introduction

iPoint

2001
Over 20 years of experience and know-how in the areas of compliance and sustainability

12
locations worldwide

170+
employees and growing

250
global manufacturers among customers

78,000
users from 110+ countries

ISO
iPoint is ISO 9001:2015 and ISO/IEC 27001:2013 certified and has received more than 30 awards

iPoint-systems gmbh (iPoint) develops pioneering compliance and sustainability solutions to open the door to the Circular Economy. More specifically, we provide software and services for environmental and social product compliance, process compliance, and sustainability which enable other companies to collect, process, and utilize product-related compliance and sustainability data from and for the entire product life cycle and the whole value creation network.

iPoint's software and services support companies in assessing and reporting the environmental, social, and economic impacts of their products and related processes, and meeting and staying one step ahead of regulations and requirements such as REACH, SCIP, RoHS, WEEE, ELV, EHS, Conflict Minerals- and Modern Slavery-related laws, as well as other trending devel-

opments and challenges governing product, supply chain, and enterprise stewardship. iPoint's holistic, circular perspective envisages a continuous, digital system lifecycle management process that supports not only compliance with the law, but also the sustainability of products, value chains, and brands.

Since our founding in 2001, iPoint has been constantly expanding the iPoint Group and its solutions portfolio to realize its vision of building an integrated digital platform for the Circular Economy and a holistic sustainable operating system.

Put simply, our very vision is to create solutions to solve sustainability issues. As our software platforms and tailored solutions are premised on legal compliance and sustainability, we achieve a positive impact pursuant to the 10 UNGC principles.
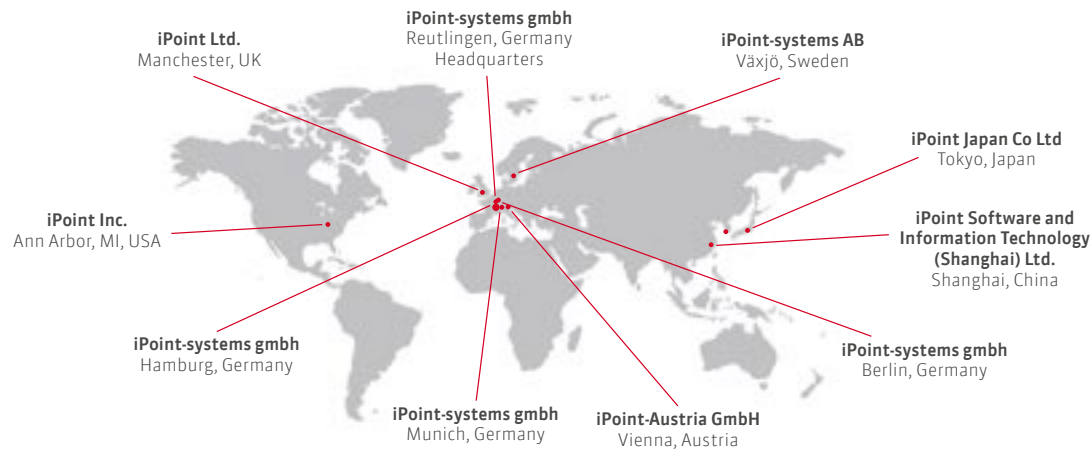
II. About iPoint – Business Introduction

iPoint

Yet we also strive to uphold these principles with respect to our internal day-to-day operations. Our main business comprising software and related services, and not selling any hardware or other goods, means that iPoint does not have traditional supply chains. That said, we do procure select goods and services that permit the functioning of a high-tech software company. This report will focus on both our in-house and external impacts, viewed through the UNGC lens.

Please note that this report only covers iPoint-systems gmbh, encompassing our Reutlingen headquarters and Munich branch; our Hamburg branch (the former ifu Institute for Environmental IT) was not yet legally part of iPoint-systems gmbh in this reporting period. Currently, the entire iPoint Group includes 10 subsidiaries and offices worldwide.[1]

Further information: ➜ www.ipoint-systems.com

iPoint Ltd.
Manchester, UK

iPoint-systems gmbh
Reutlingen, Germany
Headquarters

iPoint-systems AB
Växjö, Sweden

iPoint Japan Co Ltd
Tokyo, Japan

iPoint Inc.
Ann Arbor, MI, USA

iPoint Software and Information Technology (Shanghai) Ltd.
Shanghai, China

iPoint-systems gmbh
Hamburg, Germany

iPoint-systems gmbh
Berlin, Germany

iPoint-systems gmbh
Munich, Germany

iPoint-Austria GmbH
Vienna, Austria

III. Sustainability Facts at a Glance

Over the period from August 8, 2021 to August 7, 2022

iPoint

Internal:

FSC — iPoint's entire in-house paper consumption is based on FSC®- and ISO 14001-certified paper with an EU Ecolabel, and all of our corporate printing needs are met by FSC®- and ISO 12647-2-certified printers

ECO — iPoint's headquarters run on sustainable geothermal energy and are powered by renewable electricity sources

22% — Twenty-two percent (22%) of our employees have a citizenship other than German

31% — Thirty-one percent (31%) of our upper-level managers are female

-CO$_2$ — By contributing 1,557 kilometers to a cycling campaign, cyclists from iPoint were able to avoid 239.8 kilograms of CO_2 emissions

2 — iPoint's Reutlingen site features two electric vehicle charging stations

44% — Forty-four percent (44%) of our fleet are alternatively powered company cars (electric and hybrid)

External:

SDGs — iPoint's business solutions are aligned with SDG 3, SDG 8, SDG 9, SDG 12, SDG 13, and SDG 16

62,000+ — The iPoint Conflict Minerals solution is now used by more than 62,000 companies around the globe

9 — iPoint donated to 9 charitable causes

3 — We joined 3 initiatives and projects dedicated to advancing one or more of the SDGs

2 — We received 2 awards which align with the UNGC principles or the SDGs

~ 2t — During an iPoint-sponsored plogging challenge, almost 2 tons of garbage were collected in city parks, on sidewalks, etc. within 2 hours.

IV. Advancing the SDGs

Advancing the SDGs

As a member of UN Global Compact, iPoint is fully committed to promoting and advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) inside and outside of our company to accelerate the transition towards a sustainable future.

For this purpose, iPoint – together with 600+ companies in 65+ countries – became part of the first cohort of SDG Ambition in February 2021. This six-month accelerator aims to challenge

and support participating companies of the UN Global Compact in setting ambitious corporate targets and accelerating the integration of the 17 SDGs into core business management.[2]

Assessing iPoint's Contribution to the SDGs

Since joining the UN Global Compact as a signatory, we have continued to educate ourselves on the SDGs to understand the opportunities and responsibilities they represent to our company. In 2020, we conducted a first detailed analysis of our contribution to the SDGs in order to define our priorities, focusing on the measures we implement to reduce our negative impacts while enhancing our positive contribution to the sustainable development agenda. This analysis of our strategic priorities extended to the following areas:
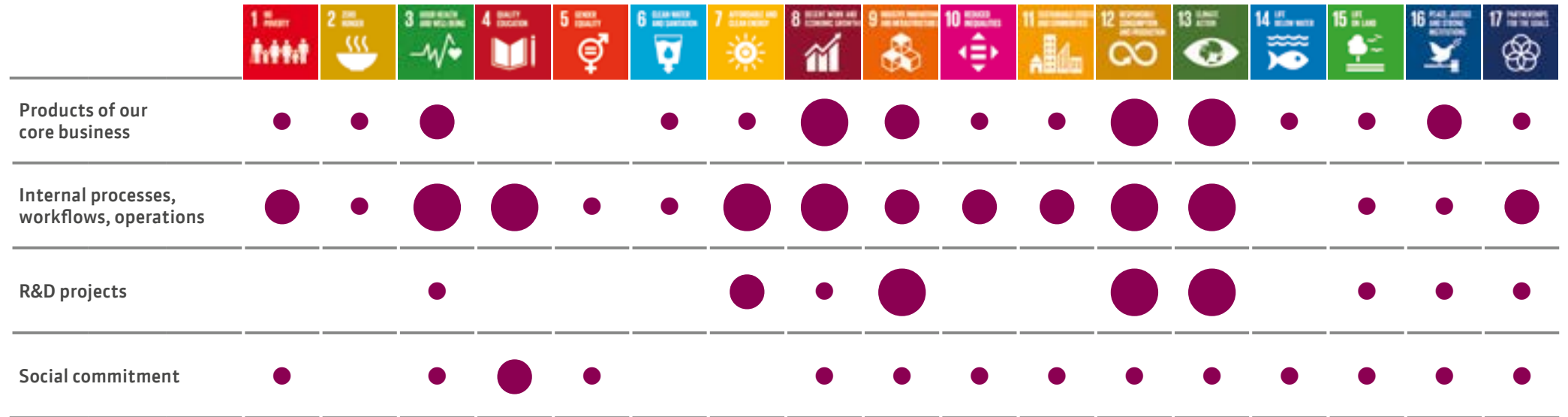
   a) Products of our core business

   b) Internal processes, workflows, operations

   c) R&I projects

   d) Social commitment (mainly: donations to charitable causes)

Building on this foundation, we conducted an updated analysis which focused on our measures in the current reporting year. The result of this analysis is the following bubble heatmap, the elements of which are detailed in the following paragraphs.

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iPoint's Contribution to the SDGs 2021 - 2022

	1 No Poverty	2 Zero Hunger	3 Good Health and Well-being	4 Quality Education	5 Gender Equality	6 Clean Water and Sanitation	7 Affordable and Clean Energy	8 Decent Work and Economic Growth	9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	10 Reduced Inequalities	11 Sustainable Cities and Communities	12 Responsible Consumption and Production	13 Climate Action	14 Life Below Water	15 Life on Land	16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	17 Partnerships for the Goals
Products of our core business	Low	Low	High			Low	Low	High	Medium	Low	Low	High	High	Low	Low	Medium	Low
Internal processes, workflows, operations	Medium	Low	High	High	Low	Low	High	High	Medium	Medium	Medium	High	High			Low	Medium
R&D projects			Low				Medium	Low	High			Medium	High			Low	Low
Social commitment	Low		Low	Medium	Low			Low	Low		Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low

High   Medium   Low

IV. Advancing the SDGs

The assessment of iPoint's contribution is based on qualitative and quantitative data collected separately for each category in relation to the 169 targets and subsequently consolidated at the level of the 17 overarching goals. The analysis took into account a wide range of different factors and their respective influence on the goal or target – including, among other things, sales figures and donation budgets –, and was conducted with stakeholders from different departments at iPoint (sales, product management, human resources, corporate communications, and accounting).

We continue to use this analysis as the basis for:

➡ identifying potential areas in which we can increase our positive impact and reduce our negative impact regarding the prioritized SDGs,

➡ defining objectives – in cooperation with stakeholders – via which we intend to contribute to the prioritized SDGs and their targets in the upcoming reporting year, and

➡ determining the indicators we will use to measure progress against them.

1. Core Business

Our very business model and our business portfolio are predicated on the advancement of the SDGs. Therefore, our support to other companies in their quest to become more sustainable may also be analyzed according to the SDGs. Indirectly supporting several of the SDGs (see heatmap, low support category), our business solutions also align directly with SDG 3 (ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages), SDG 8 (promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all), SDG 9 (build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation), SDG 12 (ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns), and SDG 16 (promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies).

More specifically, our external impact is aligned with Target 3.9,[3] Targets 8.2,[4] 8.4,[5] and 8.7,[6] Target 9.4,[7] Targets 12.2,[8] 12.4,[9] 12.5,[10] 12.6,[11] and 12.A,[12] Targets 13.1[13] and 13.3,[14] as well as Targets 16.2[15] and 16.4.[16]

With the ongoing expansion of our solutions portfolio, we will be able to cover more and more SDGs with our solutions to support our customers – no matter how large or small the company – to contribute to achieving the SDGs and advance the SDG agenda. Our software iPoint Product Sustainability and its functionalities in the areas of life cycle assessment and product carbon footprint, have helped put a spotlight on SDG 13.

IV. Advancing the SDGs

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2. Internal Workflows, Processes, and Operations

Our internal workflows, processes, and operations continue to focus strongly on issues and measures relating to SDG 3 (ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages), SDG 4 (ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all), SDG 7 (ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all), SDG 8 (promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all), SDG 12 (ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns), SDG 13 (Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts), and SDG 17 (strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development).[17]

SDG 3 (ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages)

In the current reporting year, in an effort to support SDG 3, we have either newly introduced or continued to implement several measures aimed at, inter alia, reducing premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment, and promoting mental health and well-being (Target 3.4), including:

- offering a weekly corporate sports course with an external trainer (online),
- funding employees' participation in sports competitions (e.g., running and cycling competitions) with up to €200 per employee per year,
- provision of height-adjustable standing desks (on request),
- drawing attention to national and international awareness and action days aimed at promoting good health and well-being, including, for example, Walk to Work Day,[18] International Winter Bike to Work Day,[19] Child Health Day,[20] Run For Ukraine,[21] Rare Diseases Run,[22] and World Health Day,[23]
- providing mineral water, coffee, and tea to every employee working on the headquarters' office premises.

SDG 4 (ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all)

Having skilled and motivated staff is a strategic corporate goal of iPoint, and we continuously invest in our workforce to provide relevant information, high-quality training, and further education. This includes:

Apprenticeship

During the current reporting period, our HR team has continued to take measures in cooperation with the training instructors to optimize iPoint's apprenticeship system.

IV. Advancing the SDGs

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Despite some challenges due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the rotation system for interdisciplinary exchange between the teams has been continued and improved to give the trainees a comprehensive insight into the various departments of our software company.

Lifelong learning

We also place great value on further training opportunities, which are equally decisive for the qualification and personal development, positioning as an attractive employer, and the future viability of our company.

In order to promote lifelong learning opportunities for all and access to skills development training and particular occupations, we not only have several small libraries at iPoint's headquarters. iPoint also funds professional training courses for all of our Reutlingen-based staff with a dedicated budget for training courses they can complete via a third-party online learning platform. Since 2022, all employees have their own training budget, which they can use individually for training.

2021 we started to work on the concept for a corporate academy – the "iPoint Academy" – as a central space for learning, training, and systematic professional development. A stra-

tegic instrument for employee development in our company driven by and tailored to business requirements, the iPoint Academy aims to enable employees to take a structured and personalized approach to learning and development in accordance with their chosen career path. This lets iPoint and our staff plan internal career steps early and in a targeted manner. The range of topics covered by the iPoint Academy extends from basic knowledge about important areas of our company, to technical-vocational-methodological skills to personal skills and leadership skills.

Apart from that, iPoint also offers our staff Lunch&Learn sessions as an alternative to formal training courses and events. What started out as a face-to-face format for employees at the Reutlingen headquarters in 2016 has been changed to an online format in 2020 due to COVID-19-related restrictions, and have kept this online format since then, opening our Lunch&Learn sessions to colleagues at other locations.

Education on the SDGs

During the current reporting year, we continued to educate our internal and external stakeholders on the SDGs and SDG-related topics, for example on good health and mental well-being,[24] gender equality,[25] diversity,[26] modern slavery and child

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labor,[27] decent work,[28] occupational health and safety,[29] recycling,[30] waste reduction, and waste avoidance,[31] carbon footprint reduction,[32] and the circular economy[33] (Target 4.7). We regularly addressed the SDGs in our internal communications to increase our employees' awareness and knowledge of this topic, e.g., at staff meetings or in our employee magazine "To the iPoint". Furthermore, we continued to feature SDG-related topics and campaigns (e.g., the Global Goals Week in September)[34] as well as highlight our commitment to the SDGs in our external communications, for example, via our social media channels, whenever possible. And iPoint founder Joerg Walden continued to address the importance of the SDGs in his articles published on the social business platform LinkedIn.[35]

Our commitment to educate our stakeholders on the SDGs was notably recognized in March 2022 when iPoint won a Gold Stevie® Award in the category "Communication or PR campaign / PR program of the year – Environment" at the German Stevie® Awards, based on iPoint's Plastic Free July® & Plogging campaign 2021. The jury of the German Stevie® Awards 2022 rated the campaign as "praiseworthy, relevant, and not uncomplex". The campaign was intended to raise awareness among the public as well as iPoint's employees of the impact of today's single-use plastic throwaway culture and to promote sustainable cit-

ies and communities (SDG 11), sustainable consumption (SDG 12), as well as environmental protection (SDG 14). "Great to see a lot of people participating and raising awareness of the environment," a jury member of the German Stevie® Awards 2022 praised the campaign. Highlight of the campaign was an iPoint-sponsored plogging event in July 2021 with three local sports clubs – "plogging" is a trend sport from Sweden that combines jogging with waste collection. As part of the large-scale clean-up challenge "Win Together", the Bundesliga women's handball team TuS Metzingen, the second league basketball team Tigers Tuebingen, and the upper league soccer team SSV Reutlingen attempted to collect as much trash as possible in the Neckar-Alb region, near iPoint's headquarters in Reutlingen. The "inventive campaign that gained attention especially by involving local sports clubs," as a jury member of the German Stevie® Awards 2022 described it, managed to get several hundred people, including iPoint employees and iPoint's founder Joerg Walden, as well as numerous children and adolescents, involved. All in all, a total of 238 trash bags were collected. The Tigers Tuebingen, as main organizers and winners of the clean-up challenge, were able to mobilize almost 100 people and collect about 300 kg of trash.[36]

IV. Advancing the SDGs

iPoint

(ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all)

iPoint contributes to achieving SDG 7 both by procuring energy responsibly and by reducing energy consumption. At our Reutlingen headquarters, we only consume electricity from renewable sources (so-called "Ökostrom"; Target 7.2) – from hydropower, to be precise. We strive to reduce energy consumption in our own operations (Target 7.3) through the use of:

- resource-efficient heating and cooling technology (geothermal heat pump);[37]
- resource-efficient lighting (LEDs);[38] and
- fuel-efficient vehicles. In this respect, we were able to extend our electrically powered fleet from 30% in the previous report period to 44% in the current period.[39]

SDG 8 **(promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all)**

We have implemented several measures and procedures to support SDG 8:

- iPoint is committed to enhancing our own productive capacity through continuous skills development of workers, thus generating added value in the domestic economy (Target 8.1; see also details on SDG 4 in this chapter).

- iPoint strives to achieve higher levels of economic productivity through technological innovation, that is, through co-developing technology with R&I partners and start-ups. (Target 8.2).
- We foster local employment by supporting vocational education, job-oriented training programs, and building alliances with educational institutions to create a pipeline for skilled workers (Target 8.2). In particular, we are a recognized training company of the German Chamber of Industry and Commerce (IHK). With the above-mentioned measures taken to optimize and expand iPoint's apprenticeship system (see paragraphs on SDG 4), we were able to offer more apprenticeship opportunities and thus reduce the proportion of young people not in employment, education, or training (Target 8.6).
- Through our employment contracts as well as our corporate policies and procedures we ensure responsible employment strategies and provide decent work and productive activities for all employees (Target 8.3), and protect basic labor rights including freedom of association, collective bargaining, and industrial relations, limiting hours of work and providing adequate rest periods, ensuring job security and a safe and healthy working environment and supporting employment promotion and employment stability (Target 8.5, 8.8). For

example, the employment contracts with our employees based in Reutlingen and Munich are premised on German national law, and either uphold or surpass requirements in areas such as minimum wage, job security, paid vacation day standards, and anti-discrimination. iPoint's Social Charter, which applies to all employees, managers, and executives of the company, covers minimum standards in areas such as equal treatment; freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining; and remuneration, working time, and paid leave.

And our workforce composition reflects our commitment to inclusion, gender equality, and sexual orientation non-discrimination. As of July 1, 2022, our male-to-female ratio at the Reutlingen and Munich locations was 63%, 31% of our upper-level managers were female, 28% of our employees were over the age of 50 years, 2% of employees have disabilities, and 22% of our employees had a citizenship other than German, belonging to 16 different nationalities. In this context, the compatibility of work and family is an important concern for iPoint. For us, it is a matter, of course, to offer employees flexible working time models and extensive remote work arrangements wherever possible. We are aware that not every activity allows for flexible working to the same extent. The aim is to enable every employee to combine pri-

vate life and work in the best possible way. The part-time rate at iPoint is 21% (an increase of 7% since our last report). We also actively support employee reintegration into the workplace – for those who, for example, return after parental leave or after a long illness – with individualized plans.

➡ Regularly optimized annual performance reviews between managers and employees serve to discuss performance, goals, and individual development opportunities. These mandatory reviews are conducted according to uniform criteria (Target 8.3).

➡ iPoint has implemented several measures to support the progressive improvement of global resource efficiency in consumption and production and to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production (Target 8.4). For further details, please refer to the subchapter on SDG 12 in this section.

➡ iPoint has in place several policies and measures to support the eradication of forced labor, the ending of modern slavery and human trafficking, and securing the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labor, including recruitment and use of child soldiers (Target 8.7). For example, iPoint's Social Charter, which provides guidance to all employees, managers, and executives of the company on

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their daily conduct, contains a chapter on the prohibition of child labor and forced labor, and we regularly mobilize our corporate channels to raise awareness among our internal and external stakeholders about the practice of forced and compulsory labor, human trafficking, and child labor. Furthermore, we preferably work with vendors who place great value on certifications, labels, and standards which are based on internationally recognized standards of decent work – including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, ILO conventions, and national laws – and attest that companies treat workers fair, source, and sell ethically and responsibly, and comply with social criteria.[40]

➡ We are continuously working on measures to offer our employees a safe and attractive working environment (8.8). With respect to occupational health and safety, we currently have four specifically trained first responders, three specifically trained fire protection assistants, and one safety officer at our headquarters.

➡ Further measures to promote decent work include:

• regularly conducted surveys to measure and improve employee satisfaction;

• an idea management process, inviting employees to submit their suggestions for improvement and ideas on various topics in their department or in other areas that offer added value to their iPoint colleagues;

• a company pension scheme for employees who have been employed by iPoint since January 1, 2020, combining an old-age insurance and a health insurance module.

SDG 12 (ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns)

The goal of ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns is near and dear to iPoint, not just externally, in relation to our core products, but also internally. To underline our commitment to achieving this goal, we were part of pertinent programs, organizations, and projects in the reporting period, e.g.:

➡ ISO Technical Committee for the Circular Economy (ISO/TC 323)[41]

➡ One Planet Network, "a platform for Sustainable Development Goal 12",[42] and One Planet Network's Consumer Information Programme for Sustainable Consumption and Production (CI-SCP),[43] which implements and supports projects, undertakes research, identifies and encourages policies, and provides collaboration opportunities for anyone looking to engage and assist consumers in sustainable consumption.

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Our internal workflows, processes, and operations aligned with this important SDG include, among other things, measures in the following areas:

➡ Improving energy use, minimizing emissions: We are continuously re-assessing where we may improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our energy use, and reduce CO2 emissions (Target 12.1). In this context, we pay particular attention to passenger transportation since this area causes by far the largest amount of GHG emissions at iPoint. Apart from encouraging carpooling and the use of public transport in order to reduce emissions and to relieve road traffic, we also have a corporate car policy which places restrictions on the type of vehicle and the permissible emissions, resulting in employees downsizing their vehicles. iPoint's Reutlingen site features two electric vehicle charging stations, and 44% of our fleet are currently alternatively powered company cars (electric and hybrid) – a 14% increase compared to the previous reporting year. Encouraging remote work from home with virtual meetings and reducing the volume of physical travel for our employees and customers to the bare minimum during the COVID-19 pandemic also supported us in reducing our environmental footprint in the current reporting year.

➡ Sensitizing and educating stakeholders: In order to improve their willingness to engage in sustainable consumption, we are constantly raising our internal and external stakeholders' awareness and educating them on this topic. This includes, for example, using our social media to promote national or international awareness days, e.g., European Week for Waste Reduction,[44] World Cleanup Day[45] and Global Recycling Day,[46] or implementing campaigns to proactively inform our employees about precautionary approaches to environmental challenges.

➡ Proactive environmental management systems: We have implemented several measures to achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources (Target 12.2) by establishing and maintaining proactive environmental management systems, including:

• switching to certified organic tea;
• improving food packaging;[47]
• tracking and reducing water use by installing motion-activated taps which prevent water usage longer than required;
• partnering with vendors who implement circular business models.[48]

➡ Monitoring and reducing waste: We monitor and track our waste (12.4) and continually encourage iPoint's employees to separate waste correctly by providing instructions and charts next to the central waste bin stations at iPoint's headquarters (12.5). We also use environmentally friendly pack-

iPoint

aging made of cellulose without plastic coating PET for 100% of the meals we provide at our headquarters through an external catering service.[49] In addition, we participated in the initiative handysfuerdieumwelt.de - Die Handysammlung für die Umwelt (Mobile phone collection for the environment) to contribute to environmental protection. By collecting old cell phones, the raw materials contained in the devices can be recovered and pollutants can be treated in an environmentally friendly manner. Where possible, the devices are refurbished, repaired, and put to new use. Devices that are not suitable for further use are recycled by certified recycling companies. The proceeds from each recycled cell phone are used to support environmental and nature conservation projects run by Deutsche Umwelthilfe.[50]

SDG 13 **(take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts)**

We strive to contribute to this goal by decarbonizing our operations through continuously improving energy efficiency and reducing the carbon footprint of our processes (Target 13.1). Measures that we – as a software and service provider with no production or handling of physical goods – have taken to achieve this goal include:

→ supporting and encouraging climate-friendly travel and commute, including carpooling, use of public transport, and cycling;[51]

→ using digital communication and collaboration tools;[52]

→ reducing the volume of work-related travel by facilitating remote working from home as a preventive measure to protect employees and external visitors during the COVID-19 pandemic;

→ consuming electricity from renewable sources (so-called "Ökostrom");[53]

→ using climate-neutral printing services.[54]

Furthermore, we are committed to educating our internal and external stakeholders and raising awareness on climate change mitigation, adaptation, and impact reduction (Target 13.3), e.g. by

→ supporting and promoting initiatives committed to climate protection like "Stadtradeln";[55]

→ informing our employees about the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) and its approval of iPoint's aims to reduce emissions in line with science to help limit global warming to well-below 2°C.[56]

IV. Advancing the SDGs

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SDG 17 (strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development)

Many challenges of the present and the future are complex and affect a wide variety of players along the value chain. Therefore, we rely on close partnerships with our stakeholders to jointly develop practicable and future-proof solutions for our industry.

Apart from being a partner in several research projects (see next page), iPoint is also a member of several initiatives, work groups, industry associations, programs, and organizations to develop the systems, processes, and procedures needed to comply with environmental and human rights-related regulations and directives, to interact with regulators and policy makers and bring technology to the next stage, and to advance the SDGs.

These include (selection):

- Automotive Industry Action Group (AIAG),[57]
- Catena-X Automotive Network,[58]
- CEWI (short for: Circular Economy als Schlüsselstrategie einer klimaneutralen und ressourceneffizienten Wirtschaft = Circular Economy as a key strategy for a climate-neutral and resource-efficient economy),[59]
- Consumer Information Programme for Sustainable Consumption and Production (CI-SCP)[60] of One Planet Network,[61]
- Entrepreneurs for Future,[62]
- Forum for Sustainability through Life Cycle Innovation (FSLCI),[63]
- Frauenhofer-IPA Exfo (Expert Forum Global Environmental Compliance),[64]
- Global Battery Alliance (GBA),[65]
- IHK Netzwerk Nachhaltigkeit,[66]
- International Association of Trusted Blockchain Applications (INATBA),[67]
- IPC Association Connecting Electronics Industries,[68]
- ISO Technical Committee on Circular Economy (ISO/TC 323),[69]
- #ManagersForFuture,[70]
- Open Hybrid LabFactory,[71]
- Responsible Minerals Initiative (RMI),[72]
- Unternehmen zusammen für Nachhaltigkeit – wir bleiben dran! (Companies together for sustainability – we're staying on task!),[73]
- Verband für Umwelt- und Nachhaltigkeitsmanagement e.V. (VNU; Association for European Sustainability and Eco-Management Professionals).[74]

IV. Advancing the SDGs

3. R&D Projects

iPoint's research and development activities are aimed at providing innovative solutions for customers, supporting sustainable development, and at the same time strengthening the competitiveness and thus the growth of the company. iPoint is involved in several R&I projects on national and international level which relate to one or more of the SDGs. Current projects include:

Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) Projects:

- → *GABRIELA – Ganzheitliche Bearbeitung von Kunststoffrecyclingpfaden für ressourceneffiziente und kreislauffähige Leichtbau-Batteriegehäuse = holistic processing of plastic recycling pathways for resource efficient and recyclable lightweight battery cases*
  - *Project description*: The GABRIELA project aims to manufacture battery cases for electromobility using recycled plastics and lightweight construction technologies in order to reduce CO_2 emissions and the use of primary raw materials and to develop a circular product. Special attention is paid to the recycling and recyclability of the product. The task of ifu is to analyze the complete life cycle with the help of a life cycle assessment (LCA) by using the software Umberto. The evaluation is carried out by means of the web application iPoint Product Sustainability.

- *Funding*: Funded under the initiative Technology transfer program lightweight (Technologietransfer-Programm Leichtbau, TTP LB) of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK) and supervised by the research project management Jülich.
- *Project partners*:
  - iPoint-systems gmbh
  - APK AG
  - Kautex Textron GmbH & Co. KG
  - Vecoplan AG
  - TU BA Freiberg (IART)
  - TU Dresden (ILK)
  - TU Braunschweig (IWF)
- *Duration*: 07/2022-07/2025
- SDGs:
  - 9
  - 12
  - 13

- → **LiKE: Lightweight construction technologies in cross-life cycle products of the energy transition**
  - *Project description*: The aim of the LiKE project is to revise selected components in terms of their carbon footprint

and transform them into more sustainable, recyclable products by means of a holistic and cross-lifecycle product development and the use of resource-conserving lightweight construction technologies. In this project, the focus is on the electrical machine and a high-speed switching unit for energy transmission networks. ifu's task is to support the project by including ecological aspects and principles of the circular economy into the product development process so that these can be taken into account in the early phases. To reach the target set in the project the software Umberto and the web application iPoint Product Sustainability are used.

- *Funding*: Funded under the initiative Technology transfer program lightweight (Technologietransfer-Programm Leichtbau, TTP LB) of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK) and supervised by the research project management Jülich.
- *Project partners*:
  - Siemens AG
  - iPoint-systems gmbh
  - Polysecure GmbH
  - MetisMotion GmbH
  - TU Dresden, Institute of Lightweight Engineering and Polymer Technology (ILK)
  - THM recycling solution GmbH
  - TU Bergakademie Freiberg, Institute of Mineral Processing Machines (IART)
  - Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Institute for Microstructure Technology (IMT)
- Duration: 2021-2023
- Website: https://tu-dresden.de/ing/maschinenwesen/ilk/das-institut/news/like-leichtbautechnologien-in-lebensphasenuebergreifenden-kreislaufprodukten-der-energiewende (German website)
- SDGs:
  - 9
  - 12
  - 13

➡ **COOLBat: CO2-saving lightweight solutions on the next-generation battery housing demonstrator**

- *Project description*: COOLBat aims to reduce CO_2 emissions through the development, optimization, and scaling of lightweight materials and technologies for a battery housing in the field of electromobility. The focus is on innovative materials and processes for function-integrated lightweight construction and resource efficiency. iPoint's involvement lies in the ecological evaluation with

consideration of the entire product life cycle with different scenarios. The software Umberto and the web application iPoint Product Sustainability is meant to be used to reach the goal of the project.

- *Funding*: Funded under the initiative Technology transfer program lightweight (Technologietransfer-Programm Leichtbau, TTP LB) of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK) and supervised by the research project management Jülich.
- *Project partners*:
  - iPoint-systems gmbh
  - Fraunhofer
    » IWU
    » IFAM
    » IST
    » WKI
  - Auto-Entwicklungsring Sachsen GmbH
  - Basdorf Lampe und Partner GmbH
  - Compositence GmbH
  - INVENT GmbH
  - LXP Group GmbH

- MID Solutions GmbH
- Synthopol Chemie Dr. rer. Pol. Koch GmbH & Co. KG
- Tigres GmbH
- Trimet Aluminium SE
- Mercedes-Benz AG
- *Duration*: 05/2021-04/2024
- *Website*: https://www.iwu.fraunhofer.de/de/presse-und-medien/presseinformationen/PM-2021-CoolBat-15-Prozent-weniger-CO2.html (German website)
- SDGs:
  - 7
  - 9
  - 13

iCAREPLAST – Integrated Catalytic Recycling of Plastic Residues Into Added-Value Chemicals.

- *Project description*: The main goal of the iCareplast project is to develop a cost- and energy-efficient recycling process for a large part of today's non-recyclable plastics and composites from municipal waste. In this process, heterogeneous plastic mixtures are converted into valuable chemicals via chemical routes with successive catalyst and separation steps. iPoint is developing its Umberto 11 LCA software and iPoint Product Sustainability web

application to assess the environmental impact of the iCareplast pilot plant. As part of the project, iPoint is developing interfaces and tools for machine monitoring and energy management system to enable a dynamic live LCA based on real-time data.

- *Funding*: Funded within the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement Nº 820770.
- *Project partners*:
  - iPoint-systems gmbh
  - Agencia Estatal Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas
  - Universitat Politècnica de València
  - TU Braunschweig
  - Laboratório Nacional de Energia e Geologia I. P.
  - BioBTX B.V
  - Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine
  - University of Twente
  - Kerionics S.L.
  - URBASER S.A.
- *Duration*: 10/2018-10/2022
- *Website*: https://www.icareplast.eu/
- *SDGs*:
  - 3
  - 12

➡ LCT: Life Cycle Technologies for Hybrid Structures

- *Project description*: The aim of the LCT project is to develop methods and technologies for the design of components in multi-material construction with integrated, holistic consideration of technical, economic, and ecological target variables and, above all, to investigate the use and end-of-life options in greater detail with the aid of targeted condition monitoring. iPoint develops an intelligent and automated data selection that can be used for LCA models (especially for serial production). Apart from that iPoint is also building a powerful interface for dynamic modeling of production processes and developing an automated scenario calculation. Umberto 11 and iPoint Product Sustainability applications are used to assess the environmental aspects of the production process-, material- and component-specific data with subsequent storage in a database.
- Funding: Funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)
- *Project partners*:
  - TU Braunschweig
    - » Institute for Joining and Welding
    - » Institute for Machine Tools and Manufacturing Technology
  - Fraunhofer Institute for Wood Research

- Wilhelm-Klauditz-Institut (WKI)
- iPoint-systems gmbh
- INVENT GmbH, Procon X-Ray GmbH
- Surfactor GmbH
- Volkswagen AG
- thyssenkrupp Steel Europe SE
- ZwickRoell GmbH & Co. KG
- *Duration*: 2020-2024
- *Website*: https://www.hybridleichtbau.fraunhofer.de/de/forschungsprojekte/lct.html (German website)
- SDGs:
  - 9
  - 12

⊖ **CARBO BRAKE: Design, simulation testing and life cycle analysis of Brake Calipers made from carbon fiber reinforced composites**
  - *Project description*: The main objective of the project is to develop a Process-Structure-Properties linkage methodology to optimize thick-walled carbon fiber reinforced composites for complex, functional applications. The brake caliper is a visionary demonstrator with high thermo-mechanical and vibro-acoustic requirements. iPoint is conducting a quantitative Life Cycle Analysis that en-

ables product developers to consider ecological aspects like the Carbon Footprint.

  - *Funding*: Funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)
  - *Project partners*:
    - GDTech (GD)
    - MSC Software Belgium S.A
    - Université de Liège
    - iPoint-systems Austria
    - Graz University of Technology
    - JKU Linz IPPE
    - Hintsteiner Group
    - Fagor Arrasate
    - RUIMOLDES
  - *Duration*: 07/2021-06/2024
  - *Website*: https://projekte.ffg.at/projekt/4206144 (German website)
  - SDGs:
    - 9
    - 12
    - 13

➔ **KOLIBRI/ANTISTATIC: Complex lightweight structures for electronic applications within mobility**

- *Project description*: The Kolibri project addresses new concepts for the production of mass-reduced and sustainable power electronics modules. The aim is to develop several lightweight heat sink prototypes for various mobility applications in the automotive, aerospace, and rail sectors. Both aluminum foams and additively manufactured and galvanized plastic foams will be used. The project takes into account the entire life cycle of the prototypes and designs it to be as resource-efficient as possible. In the process, iPoint is preparing life cycle assessments for the various prototype demonstrators and developing an interface that enables access to environmental data in the CAD software at an early stage of product development.

- *Funding*: Funded under the initiative Technology transfer program lightweight (Technologietransfer-Programm Leichtbau, TTP LB) of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK) and supervised by the research project management Jülich.

- *Project partners*:
  - iPoint-systems gmbh
  - Siemens AG
  - Valeo Siemens eAutomotive
  - Siemens Mobility
  - TU Dresden
    - » Institute for Lightweight Construction and Plastics Technology
  - NRU GmbH
  - TU Bergakademie Freiberg
  - METROM Mechatronische Maschinen GmbH
  - Fraunhofer
    - » Institute for Electronic Nano Systems
    - » Institute for Machine Tools and Forming Technology IWU

- *Duration*: 12/2021-11/2023
- *Website*: https://www.wotech-technical-media.de/womag/ausgabe/2022/06/16_kb_tu-freiberg_kolibri_06j2022/16_kb_tu-freiberg_kolibri_06j2022.php (German website)
- *SDGs*:
  - 9
  - 12
  - 13

→ *ACTion – Advanced Shaped Sandwich Composites for Mechanical, Thermal and Acoustic Applications*

- *Project description*: The aim of the ACTion project is to research automotive lightweight design with complex sandwich structures based on the IQ-Foam process developed by Volkswagen. In addition, a design tool for sandwich composites is being developed that enables the simulation of thermal, mechanical, and acoustic properties. iPoint provides an interface solution for the implementation of a multidisciplinary life cycle engineering approach that enables the automated collection and analysis of manufacturing data in real time. iPoint's LCA software solution Umberto facilitates the modeling and assessment of manufacturing data that can be used to identify and visualize the potential associated environmental impacts and costs.
- *Funding*: German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).
- *Project partners*:
  - ElringKlinger AG
  - iPoint-systems gmbh
  - INVENT GmbH
  - Volkswagen AG

- TU Braunschweig
  - » Institute for Acoustics (InA)
  - » Institute of Joining- and Welding Technology (ifs)
  - » Institute of Machine Tools and Production Technology (IWF), Chair of Sustainable Manufacturing and Life Cycle Engineering
- *Duration*: 10/2019-09/2022
- *Website*: https://www.tu-braunschweig.de/iwf/nplce/forschungsprojekte/action
- SDGs:
  - 7
  - 9
  - 12

→ **Design for Circularity (DfC)-Industry**

- *Project description*: Only if the entire life cycle of products is known already in the design process, companies can evaluate circular economy improvements in terms of economic efficiency, climate friendliness, and resource efficiency. This is exactly what this project aims to shed light on. The goal is to develop a set of rules for a Design for Circularity (DfC) that can support circular economy strategies and business models in the product development process. In parallel, the environmental and resource efficiency assessment of

products is to be combined with artificial intelligence (AI) methods. iPoint's focus within this project is the development of data and interaction concepts for the integration of the solution approaches into design and development environments.

- *Funding*: Funded under the funding program for resource efficiency in the context of the energy transition (Ressourceneffizienz im Kontext der Energiewende) of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK) and supervised by the research project management Jülich.
- *Project partners*:
  - Institut for Industrial Ecology (INEC/Pforzheim University)
  - Robert Bosch GmbH
  - German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI-SEE)
  - iPoint-systems gmbh
- *Duration*: 02/2022-01/2024
- *Website*: https://www.hs-pforzheim.de/forschung/institute/inec/detailansicht/news/dfc_industry_die_hochschule_pforzheim_startet_industrieforschungsprojekt (German website)
- *SDGs*:
  - 9
  - 12

Resource Management Projects:

➡ **MaFImA: Material Flow Based Improvement Assessments**

- *Project description*: The main objective of the project is to further develop the material flow cost accounting (MFCA) method by elaborating methodological principles. MFCA is a method which is standardized according to ISO 14051 with the aim to reduce material and efficiency losses in companies. A prototypical and IT-supported expert system developed within the scope of the project is to enable the simplified derivation of measures. Furthermore, the measures will be evaluated holistically with regard to their costs and environmental aspects. In addition, the MFCA method shall be made better known and disseminated in companies in Baden-Württemberg. Furthermore, general data structures and models are to be developed in order to improve and partially automate the currently still very time-consuming data collection in MFCA projects. The identification of measures is a time-consuming part of a successful resource efficiency project, as it requires a high degree of technical know-how as well as detailed knowledge of the processes. The expert system is intended to support the identification of suitable measures.
- *Funding*: Funded by the Projektträger Karlsruhe (PTKA) within the framework of the call for proposals "Digitalization and ultra-efficiency".

- *Project partners*:
  - iPoint-systems gmbh
  - Ministry for the Environment, Climate and Energy Management Baden-Württemberg (Umwelttechnik Baden-Württemberg, UT BW)
  - Project Management Agency (Projektträger Karlsruhe, PTKA)
- Duration: 01/2020-03/2023
- Website: https://www.hs-pforzheim.de/en/research/research_institutes/inec/projects/mafima
- SDGs:
  - 9
  - 12

Digital Product Passport (DPP) Projects:

➡ **DIBICHAIN – Digital representation of circular systems using Blockchain technology**

- *Project description*: Resource efficiency in supply chains can only be achieved if details on the product's origin, composition, and production process are known. On the other hand, actors in the supply chain are often not willing to expose their identity or manufacturing details. DIBICHAIN aims to map material and product life cycles using distributed ledger technology (DLT) to enhance a circular economy. While DLTs are usually known to provide full transparency between their actors, this project considers the concerns of companies exposing their full identity on the ledger. The aircraft component "Bionic Partition" served as an exemplary use case to identify the most relevant categories of needed product information for the development of a software demonstrator. As part of the demonstrator, iPoint provides a SustainHub-related prototypical application that enables supply chain actors to request and declare product carbon footprints and recycling information and to publish them anonymously on the DLT.
- *Funding*: As part of the blockchain strategy of the German Federal Government, which was adopted in September 2019, DIBICHAIN is funded within the framework of the

measure "Resource-efficient recycling management – innovative product cycles" (ReziProK) of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).

- *Project partners*:
  - iPoint-systems gmbh
  - Capgemini
  - Blockchain Research Lab gGmbH
  - CHAINSTEP GmbH
  - Airbus
- *Duration*: 07/2019-06/2022
- *Website*: https://www.blockchainresearchlab.org/de/forschung/dibichain/ (German website)
- SDGs:
  - 9
  - 12
  - 13
  - 15

- **ReDiBlock: Ressourcenschonung durch Distributed-Ledgers- und Blockchain-Technologie für die industrielle Produktion und Kreislaufwirtschaft (Resource efficiency through distributed ledger and blockchain technology for industrial production and circular economy)**
  - *Project description*: This project aims to design and develop a distributed ledger technology (DLT) infrastructure that meets the requirements of a sustainable economy and so-

ciety and increases the efficiency of the circular economy. Hereby, supply chain actors can track the life cycle of raw materials and products in a trustworthy way and make responsible decisions based on it. iPoint in this project supports system analysis and the creation of a design concept. The supply chain of the precious metal sector serves as a use case and supports iPoint's development of a prototype for a DLT-associated digital material passport.

- *Funding*: Ministry of Environmental Affairs Baden-Wuerttemberg
- *Project partners*:
  - iPoint-systems gmbh
  - THINKTANK Industrial Resource Strategies (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, KIT)
  - Institute for Applied Informatics and Formal Description Methods (KIT)
  - Institute for Industrial Ecology (Pforzheim University of Applied Sciences)
- *Duration*: 10/2020-10/2022
- *Website*: https://pudi.lubw.de/de/projektdetailseite/-/project/128675 (German website)
- SDGs:
  - 8
  - 9
  - 12
  - 15

CE-Pass: Circular Economy –Digital Product Passport

- *Project description*: The project aims to evaluate the feasibility of a product passport and the associated data exchange to improve products' sustainability and circularity. Use cases include a traction battery for electric vehicles and components of a combustion engine. iPoint is working on the development of a front-end prototype of a digital product passport that incorporates the perspectives of selected stakeholders. Relevant automotive industry standards and formats will be considered to ensure seamless interoperability. The project results will significantly support the decision-making processes of relevant actors along the value chain.
- *Funding*: The project is supported by four organizations. Project coordinator is the Salzburg Research Forschungsgesellschaft m.b.H.
- *Project partners*:
  - Salzburg Research Forschungsgesellschaft m.b.H.
  - AVL List GmbH
  - iPoint-systems Austria
  - University of Graz – Institute for Systems Sciences, Innovation and Sustainability Research

- *Duration*: 01/2022-12/2024
- *Website*: https://projekte.ffg.at/projekt/4141442 (German website)
- *SDGs*:
  - 9
  - 12

LCA & DPP Projects:

IDcycLIB: Innovation platform of a green, detectable and directly recyclable lithium-ion battery

- *Project description*: With the growing demand for efficient battery systems, the requirements for batteries are constantly increasing. IDcycLIB's goal is to design and produce a more sustainable lithium-ion battery with a focus on Design for Recycling and the introduction of an efficient recycling process. iPoint is working on the development of the digital battery pass and the sustainability assessment that accompanies the product development.
- *Funding*: Funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) .

IV. Advancing the SDGs

iPoint

- *Project partners*:
  - Carl Padberg Zentrifugenbau GmbH (CEPA)
  - Fraunhofer
    » ISC
    » IIS
  - Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nürnberg
  - Polysecure GmbH
  - Pure Devices GmbH
  - MAB Recycling GmbH
  - iPoint-systems gmbh
  - Leclanché GmbH
  - EurA AG
  - BASF SE
- *Duration*: 10/2021-09/2024
- *Website*: https://cepa.de/unser-neues-forschungspro-jekt-idcyclib-73 (German website)
- *SDGs*:
  - 7
  - 9
  - 12

Others:

➡ **Life AskREACH**
- *Project description*: The project aims to improve the substitution of Substances of Very High Concern (SVHCs) by increasing consumer transparency and thus demand for SVHC-free products and supporting industrial actors in identifying SVHCs in their products and fulfilling their information obligations under REACH Article 33(2).
- *Funding*: Funded under the LIFE Programme of the European Union (No. LIFE16 GIE/DE/000738)
- *Project partners*: The project is implemented by several partners from 13 EU states and supported by several institutions (e.g. ECHA, Cefic).
- *Duration*: 07/2017-08/2022
- *Website*: https://www.askreach.eu/
- *SDGs*:
  - 3
  - 12
  - 16
  - 17

iPoint

➔ *Christian Doppler Laboratory for Sustainable Product Management enabling a Circular Economy*

- *Project description*: The lab at the University of Graz seeks to shed light on the convoluted web of global supply chains and to develop a scientifically-solid basis for sustainability assessments of products and services in a circular economy.
- *Funding*: Christian Doppler Laboratories are financed jointly by the public purse and the participating companies. The most important public sponsor is the Austrian Federal Ministry of Digital and Economic Affairs (BMDW).
- *Project partners*:
  - ARA – Altstoff Recycling Austria
  - AVL
  - iPoint-systems gmbh
- *Duration*: 2018-2025
- *Website*: https://circular.uni-graz.at/en/
- *SDGs*:
  - 8
  - 12

➔ **4. Social commitment: Supporting the SDGs via charitable causes and organizations**

iPoint has a long-standing tradition of contributing to charitable causes around Christmas time, and over the years, iPoint has donated to quite a number of charitable causes and organizations which have programs that are tied to many of the SDG themes.[75] Spread out over reporting year 2021/22, we have made donations to:

- Ride For Freedom (SDG 3, 8, 13, 17)[76]
- Plant for the Planet (SDG 4, 13)[77]
- Welcome Dinner Hamburg (SDG 2, 10, 17)[78]
- PATRIZIA Foundation (SDG 4, 10, 17)[79]
- Green City e.V., (SDG 3, 4, 11, 13, 15)[80]
- Food Gatherers (SDG 1, 2, 3, 4, 10, 11)[81]
- Ein Herz für Kinder (SDG 1, 3, 4, 10)[82]
- "Sport makes strong" project of the Bruderhaus Diakonie (SDG 1, 3, 10, 11)[83]
- Plogging Challenge (SDG 3, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17).[84]

V. Living Up To UNGC's 10 Principles

iPoint

Businesses should work against all forms of corruption, including extortion and bribery

Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights within their sphere of influence

Businesses should encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies

Businesses should make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abusesman rights

Businesses should undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility

Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining

Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenge

Businesses should uphold the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labor

Businesses should eliminate discrimination in respect of employment and occupation

Businesses should uphold the effective abolition of child labor

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

V. Living Up To UNGC's 10 Principles

iPoint

On August 7, 2017, iPoint was officially welcomed as a signatory of the UN Global Compact (UNGC). Upon joining the world's largest voluntary corporate responsibility initiative, we have committed ourselves to support, implement, and uphold the UNGC's Ten Principles.[85] In October 2019, we deepened our commitment and took on a more active role by the election of Dr. Katie Boehme, then Director People, Communications, and Sustainability at iPoint, to the steering committee of the Global Compact Network Germany (DGCN) as a representative of the business community for the period 2019-2021.[86] In July 2021, she was re-elected for the period 2021-2023.[87] The document at hand is our Communication of Progress for reporting year 2021/22. In the following paragraphs we describe our main actions to continually improve the integration of the Global Compact and its principles in the areas of human rights, labor, environment, and anti-corruption into our business strategy, culture, and daily operations.

iPoint

Human Rights

Principle 1: Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights.

External focus

Offering our solutions

iPoint is a software and services provider specializing in digital solutions for companies and their supply chain. As such, we allow vital information to flow through entire value chains in an automated and controlled fashion. The very information accompanying the transformation from materials to products often concerns the subject of human rights. For instance, iPoint's Conflict Minerals solution (for tin, tungsten, tantalum, gold, and cobalt) facilitates the flow of information regarding mineral provenance, mode of production, supplier chain of custody, due diligence, corrective action, assurance, and company policies. More than 62,000 companies worldwide are using our solution which is based on the Conflict Minerals Reporting Template (CMRT)[88] and the Cobalt Reporting Template (CRT)[89] of the Responsible Minerals Initiative (RMI).[90]

In recognition of our solutions in the area of responsible sourcing, iPoint's founder Joerg Walden was honored as "Best Social Product Compliance Software Solutions CEO (Europe)" by CEO Monthly and was featured in their Global CEO Excellence Awards 2021 magazine in September 2021.
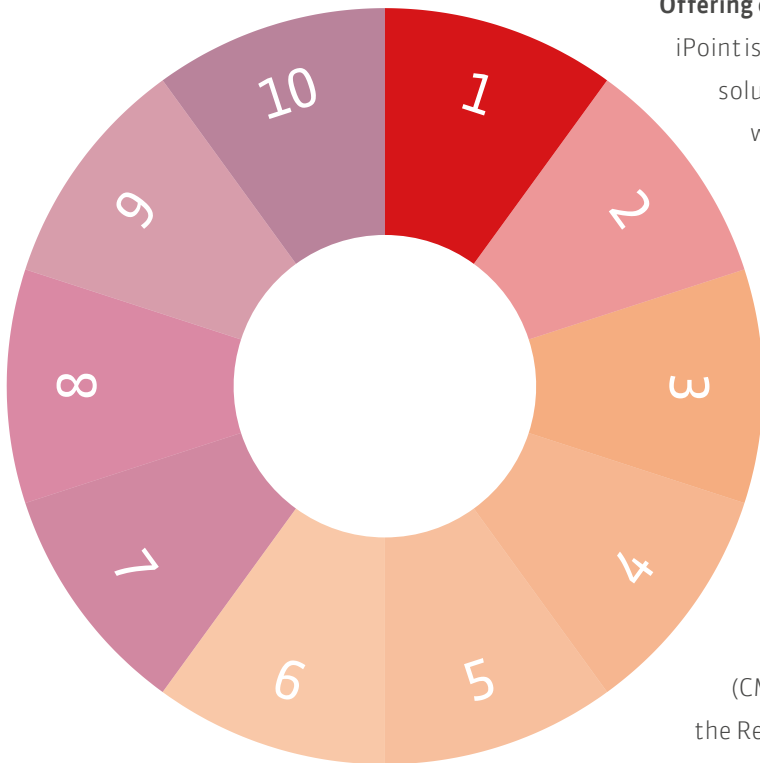
V. Living Up To UNGC's 10 Principles
Human Rights

Sharing our expertise

Along these lines, over the reporting period iPoint also contributed to conferences and fora, and hosted or organized events on this topic:

topics	presentation / discussion title	more information
• Business & Human Rights – Geographical Focus (Webinar)	German Supply Chain Due Diligence Act and EU Due Diligence Legislation	➡ link

Supporting human rights-premised fora

We also financially contributed to the following events where human rights were front and center of the agenda:

event	location	more information
• Automotive Industry Action Group (AIAG) 2022 Corporate Virtual Responsibility Summit	Virtual event	➡ link
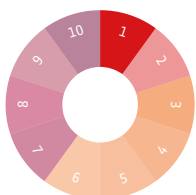
V. Living Up To UNGC's 10 Principles
Human Rights

Releasing human rights-related publications

In the reporting period, we also published or were featured in articles on human rights-related topics, including:

title	publication channel	more information
• Using blockchain to achieve the SDGs and solve social challenges	Corporate blog iPoint	link
• Due Diligence: French Law As a Model for Germany and the EU?	Global Goals Yearbook 2021, p. 112-113	link
• Blockchain for Social Impact	Report by Blockchain Association INATBA	link

iPoint

Engaging in collective action on social responsibility

We work hand in hand with industry associations and collective action groups that were explicitly established to tackle complex human rights issues. For example, iPoint is a member of the Responsible Minerals Initiative (RMI),[91] of the Automotive Industry Action Group (AIAG),[92] and of IPC,[93] to develop the systems, processes, and procedures needed to comply with U.S. Conflict Minerals legislation (Dodd-Frank Section 1502) and the EU Conflict Minerals regulation (Regulation (EU) 2017/821 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017). In 2012, iPoint partnered with AIAG to develop the iPoint Conflict Minerals Platform (iPCMP),[94] a solution today used by more than 62,000 companies around the globe via the iPoint SustainHub platform. Furthermore, iPoint is a founding member of the International Association of Trusted Blockchain Applications (INATBA),[95] and in March 2022 iPoint founder Joerg Walden has been re-elected as co-chair of the INATBA working group "Social Impact".[96] Based on the assumption that Blockchain and Distributed Ledger Technologies (DLTs) offer a unique set of tools to tackle some of the most pressing issues humanity is facing today – including climate change, modern slavery, poverty, inequality, food waste, fraud, and corruption –, the working group aims to leverage Blockchain and DLT to achieve positive socio-economic impact and advance societal goals such as the SDGs.

Supporting human rights via charitable causes and organizations

Spread out over the reporting year 2020/21, we financially supported the following NGOs, charitable organizations, and initiatives that work to support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights:

- Ein Herz für Kinder (A Heart for Children)[97]
- Ride For Freedom – End Modern Slavery[98]
- PATRIZIA Foundation[99]
- Run For Ukraine[100]
- Rare Diseases Run.[101]

iPoint

Internal focus

Upholding employee rights

Satisfied, healthy, informed, skilled, motivated, and committed employees are a basic condition for sustainable company development. The employment contracts with each of our 107 iPoint-systems gmbh employees based in Reutlingen and Munich are premised on German national law, and either uphold or surpass requirements in areas such as minimum wage, job security, and paid vacation day standards. For example, all our employees have permanent employment contracts, and we offer an attractive pension plan. In Germany, where most of our employees are based, our contracts reflect the constitution of Germany (Grundgesetz), which guarantees the rights as outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.[102]

We pay attention to healthy nutrition as well as employee fitness and health. Workstations are ergonomic, and height-adjustable standing desks are available to everyone working at the Reutlingen headquarters on request. The company provides – free of charge – mineral water in glass bottles (not plastic bottles), coffee, and tea to every employee every day on the headquarters office premises.

We see the health and fitness of iPoint's employees as both the basic prerequisite for and an indicator of the performance, competitiveness, and long-term success of our company. This is why sports are explicitly promoted at iPoint: Since 2014, we have been rewarding and encouraging participation in public sports competitions and events through our iAmFit campaign.

These include, for example, running and long-distance cycling competitions and fitness tests to obtain the German Sports Badge (Deutsches Sportabzeichen). To equip its athletic employees, the company worked with sports outfitter Trigema[103] to fashion Germany-made, sustainably-produced running and cycling jerseys.

V. Living Up To UNGC's 10 Principles
Human Rights

Ensuring occupational health and safety

With respect to occupational health and safety, we currently have four specifically trained first responders and three specifically trained fire protection assistants at our headquarters. Each year the company holds mandatory occupational safety events at the headquarters. The regular inspection of our office premises and the work equipment used, as well as regular consultations, guarantee our employees' safety and risk protection in the workplace.

Ensuring privacy and protection of data

The protection and security of customer- and business-related data have always played an important role at iPoint – not only since the implementation of the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

In May 2022, a re-certification audit of our information security management system in accordance with DIN EN ISO/IEC 27001:2017 and of iPoint's compliance with the most common data protection laws, guidelines, and specifications such as the GDPR was carried out remotely and on site at our headquarters. ISO/IEC 27001 helps organizations keep information secure (e.g., concerning financial information, intellectual property, employee de-

tails, or third-party information). The audit certified that all of our processes are systematically implemented and monitored in line with globally accepted standards. To further ensure the privacy and protection of our customers' data, iPoint was also certified according to TISAX® (Trusted Information Security Assessment Exchange), a standard for information security defined by the automotive industry established by the German Association of the Automotive Industry (VDA).

In order to create employee awareness of the requirements of data protection and cyber security, we post regular updates and news on data protection issues on our Intranet. In addition, every employee is required to complete a GDPR training on a regular basis. In May 2022, we introduced a new online awareness training for cyber security for all employees.
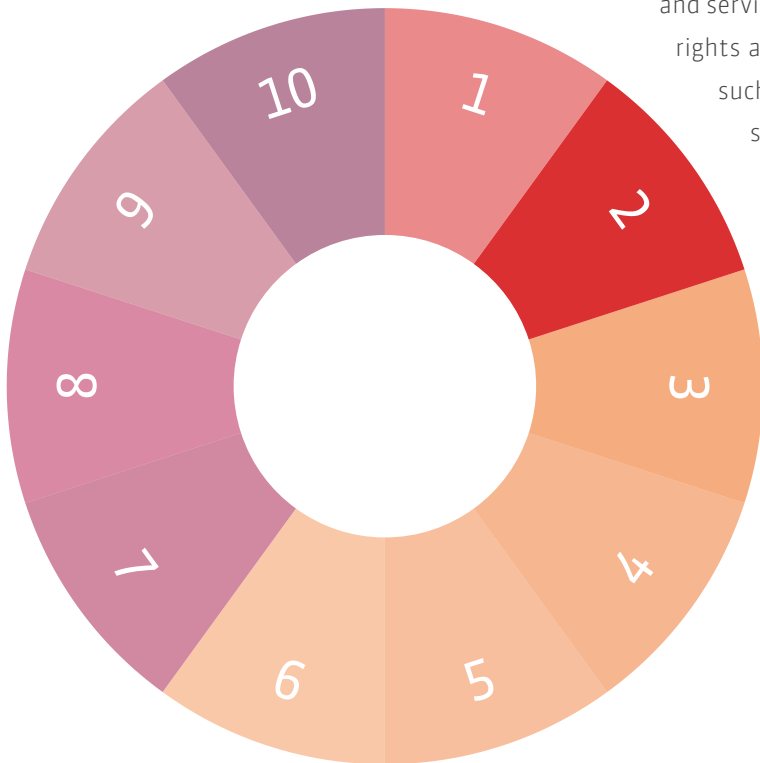
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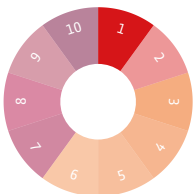
Human Rights

Principle 2: Businesses should make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.

Selecting local service providers
In our assessment, the risk of our Germany-based, software- and service-oriented company itself being complicit in human rights abuses is close to zero. Immediate service providers, such as catering services, are carefully vetted to make sure that their business practices are legal. Yet, we are aware that the risk of complicity exists in every sector and every country. That said, we employ continued vigilance and regular communication to ensure that this risk remains close to zero. The actual incidence rate lies at 0%.

Human Rights: Measurement of Outcomes

➡ iPoint has received zero (0) claims of human rights abuses related to our business or operations.

iPoint

Labor

Principle 3: Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining.

German law fully protects the right of employees to freely associate, join a labor union, and engage in collective bargaining, and iPoint fully respects and upholds these rights and freedoms. Moreover, our Social Charter contains a chapter on "Freedom of Association and the Right to Collective Bargaining", which underlines our commitment to this principle.

Principle 4: Businesses should uphold the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labor.

Advancing human rights-oriented reporting tools

Given the risk to corporations of forced labor in their supply chains, and the genuine concern many private sector actors have about such realities in their supply chains, we have been offering the electronic Labor Rights Template (eLRT), a free, open-access Excel-based data exchange standard developed by an independent consultant and designed to support companies in their compliance with global human trafficking and modern-day slavery legislation.[104] Underpinning this tool are two accompanying white papers, one exploring the emerging transnational legal framework creating disclosure and/or due diligence requirements for subject companies,[105] and the other a supporting guide to the tool.[106]

iPoint's electronic Labor Rights Template is listed in a toolkit to advance reporting on modern slavery which the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) and the Responsible Labor Initiative (RLI) launched in December 2019. eLRT is recommended as a tool which "can provide valuable input and guidance for
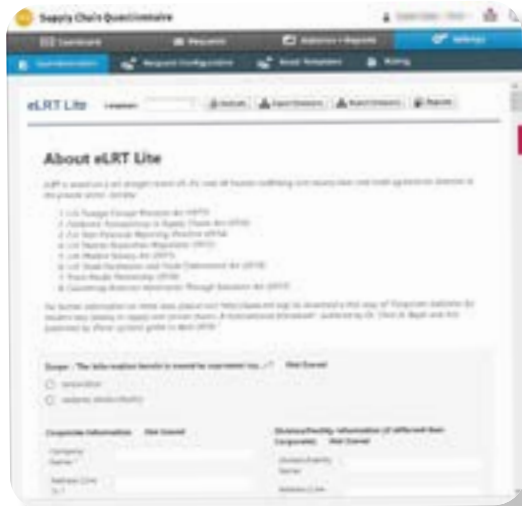
V. Living Up To UNGC's 10 Principles
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iPoint
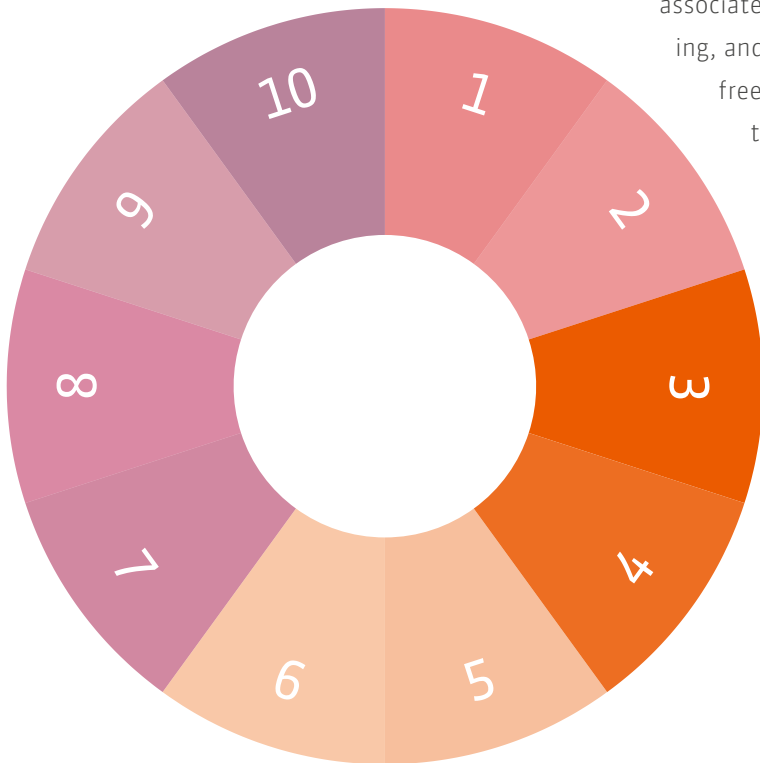
- reporting on due diligence and policies, [...]
- reporting on progress of implementing due diligence mecha-nisms, [...] and
- reporting on effectiveness of actions".[107]

The electronic Labor Rights Template (eLRT) is also available via the iPoint Supply Chain Survey of the iPoint SustainHub.

Raising awareness

To raise awareness about the practice of forced and compulso-ry labor as well as human trafficking, we regularly mobilize our social media platforms and other corporate media. Typical oc-casions include, for example, planned or new regulations and agreements[108] as well as national or international awareness days.[109] In April and May 2022, iPoint also supported a cycling tour to raise awareness of modern slavery and specifically child trafficking in sport, led by human rights activist and cycling Guinness World Record holder Gordon Miller, as German Coun-try Sponsor. Taking place from April 28-May 15, 2021, during the "Ride For Freedom German Bundesliga Cycling Tour 2022" Gordon Miller cycled around 2,500 km from Munich via Stutt-gart to Berlin, passing the 18 Bundesliga clubs. Simultaneously, cyclists, sponsors, and fans across Germany supported the tour in several Bundesliga cities, starting in Munich. The very mis-sion of the tour was to utilize the universal appeal and power of cycling to deliver positive social impacts and specifically to raise awareness, educate, and forge partnerships to end modern slavery.[110] Within Europe's football industry, there are an esti-mated 15,000 human trafficking victims each year,[111] many of which are youths.[112]

iPoint

Labor

Principle 5: Businesses should uphold the effective abolition of child labor.

Adhering to laws and regulations

iPoint adheres to minimum age provisions of German labor laws and regulations. We also take account of and refer to international standards like ILO Convention No. 138 and 182, e.g. in the chapter on "Prohibition of Child Labor and Forced Labor" of our Social Charter.[113]

Procuring responsibly

As a software and services company, iPoint does not have traditional supply chains. However, we are conscious of the fact that even our consumables such as office materials, computers, food, etc. have a history and origin. We work with suppliers to make sure that the history of our consumables is a happy one. For example, at our headquarters in Reutlingen, we work with the Germany-based vendor Green Promotion[114] as provider of our promotional giveaways. This vendor places great value on certifications, labels, and standards like FAIRTRADE,[115] the Global Organic Textile Stan-

dard (GOTS),[116] the german BIO label for organic farming,[117] or the FSC label for controlled forest management.[118] For our office supplies, we work with betz bürowelt[119], who use 100% green electricity. With the photovoltaic system on the company roof, they produce more CO_2-neutral electricity than they consume, and in addition, they rely on hydropower from the region. Moreover, betz pays attention to a conscious use of resources by its suppliers in the production of their products, and takes back all packaging resulting from its deliveries.[120]

Raising awareness

With 1 in 4 children engaged in child labor in the world's poorest countries, and roughly half of them engaged in hazardous labor, as things stand, there cannot be too much awareness-raising on the subject.[121] To this end, we also leverage our social media platforms and other corporate media to raise awareness and draw attention to this subject.[122]
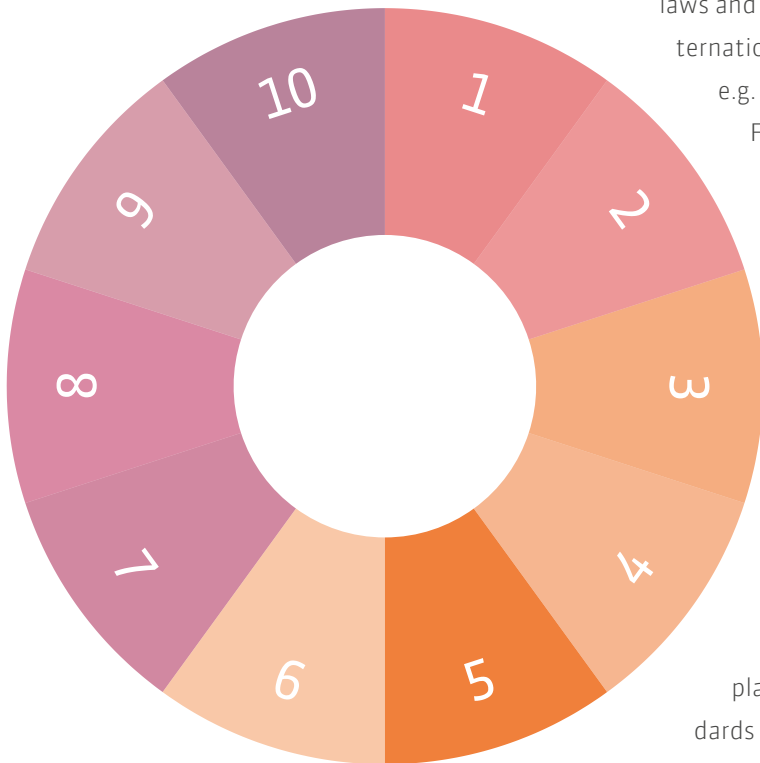
Labor

Principle 6: Businesses should uphold the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

At iPoint, men and women from various nations and age groups, with different cultural, religious, ethnic, and social backgrounds, and sexual orientation work side-by-side. Our workforce diversity shapes our corporate culture and has a positive impact on creativity, innovation, and performance, as well as employee motivation. With their unique individual skills, experience, and viewpoints, and often working in heterogeneous teams, our employees not only achieve better results, but also expand the potential for new ideas and innovation within the company. Twenty-two percent (22%) of our employees had a citizenship other than German over the reporting period, whereby the non-German employees belonged to 16 different nationalities.

We treat each other with respect, appreciation, and mutual acceptance, are committed to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and act in accordance with Germany's Anti-Discrimination Act (Antidiskriminierungsgesetz). In general, we at iPoint nurture an inclusive culture, starting with the first day on the job. Each new employee is presented with our Code of Conduct (Verhaltenskodex) – defining and condemning all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment – which must be signed.

iPoint's employee composition reflects our commitment to inclusion, gender equality, and sexual orientation non-discrimination. As of July 1, 2022, iPoint-systems gmbh (Reutlingen and Munich locations) had 107 employees, a number which includes trainees and part-time student employees (8 trainees, 6 working students). Our male-to-female ratio was 63%. 31% of our upper-level managers were female. 28% of our employees were over the age of 50 years. We also had 2% of employees with disabilities over the reporting period. Equal opportunity also specifically means that our personnel and salaries are selected on the basis of the applicant's qualifications and motivation, not on the basis of ethnic origin, race, gender, or religion.

Another specific measure we take at iPoint to address discrimination and eliminate it within the workplace is keeping up-to-date records on recruitment, training, and promotion that provide a transparent view of opportunities for employees and their progression within the organization.
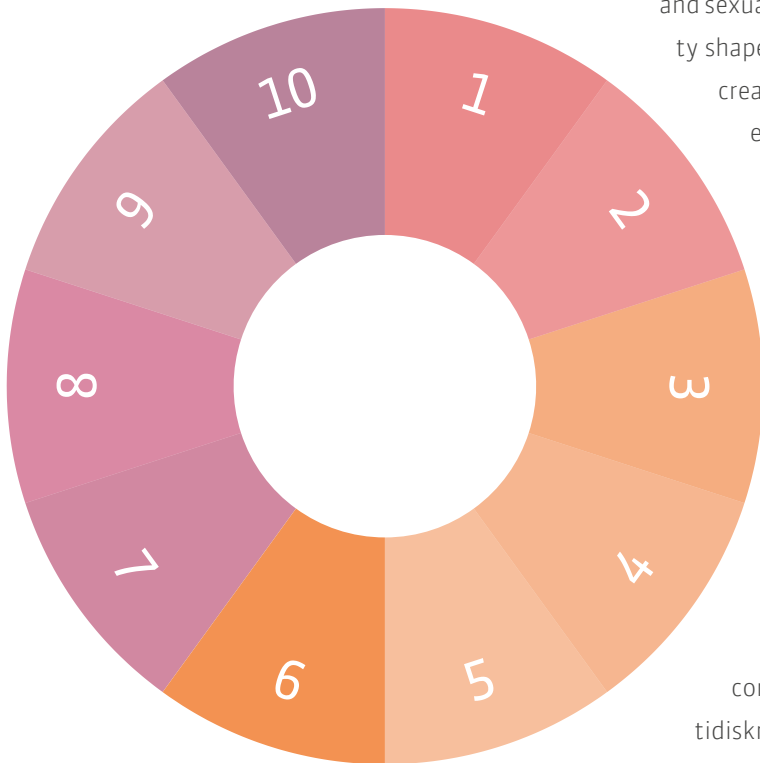
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63% Company male-to-female ratio

28% Employees over 50 years

3% Employees with disabilities

31% Female upper-level managers

21% Part-time employees

22% Non-German citizenship

iPoint also actively supports employee reintegration into the workplace (for those who e.g., took parental leave or were ill) with individualized plans. Furthermore, working part-time is a distinct option for our staff, and 21% of our employees did so over the reporting period (an increase of 7% compared to our previous report).

Labor: Measurement of Outcomes

➔ In the reporting period under consideration, iPoint has received zero (0) discrimination or labor-related claims.

Environment

Principle 7: Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges.

Monitoring climate change and risks

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), "Human activities are estimated to have caused approximately 1.0°C of global warming above pre-industrial levels".[123] Human-induced climate change and its related impacts are a global challenge, affecting every country on every continent and posing a threat to the way we live and to the future of our planet. Several cities, councils, and jurisdictions worldwide have already declared a climate emergency. The international Fridays for Future movement of school students striking for climate and demanding action to prevent further global warming and climate change also underlines this sense of urgency – as well as the importance of this principle (and SDG 13). Also, the legislator is now taking action to accelerate the transition to a climate-neutral economy, e.g., with the German "Climate Protection Act"[124] and the newly introduced "Fit for 55" strategy of the European Commission.[125]

Taking this challenge very seriously, we at iPoint are aware that high and increasing anthropogenic greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions – with energy production, commercial enterprises, transport, agriculture, and private households as their chief sources – are one of the main drivers of climate change.[126] Alarmed by these risks, iPoint is continuously re-assessing where we as a software and service provider – with no production or handling of physical goods – may improve our own performance to prevent environmental damage. iPoint strongly supports the goal of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to limit future global warming to below 2° or 1.5° Celsius relative to the pre-industrial level.

Increasing our commitment to fight climate change, iPoint has committed itself to the Science-Based Target Initiative (SBTi). This initiative provides a science-based methodology for companies in order to set company-internal GHG-reduction goals which are in line with the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement to limit climate change.[127]

Conducting life cycle assessments

In line with the saying that you can only manage – and improve – what you measure, we have established an environmental management system (EMS) at our Reutlingen headquarters – where
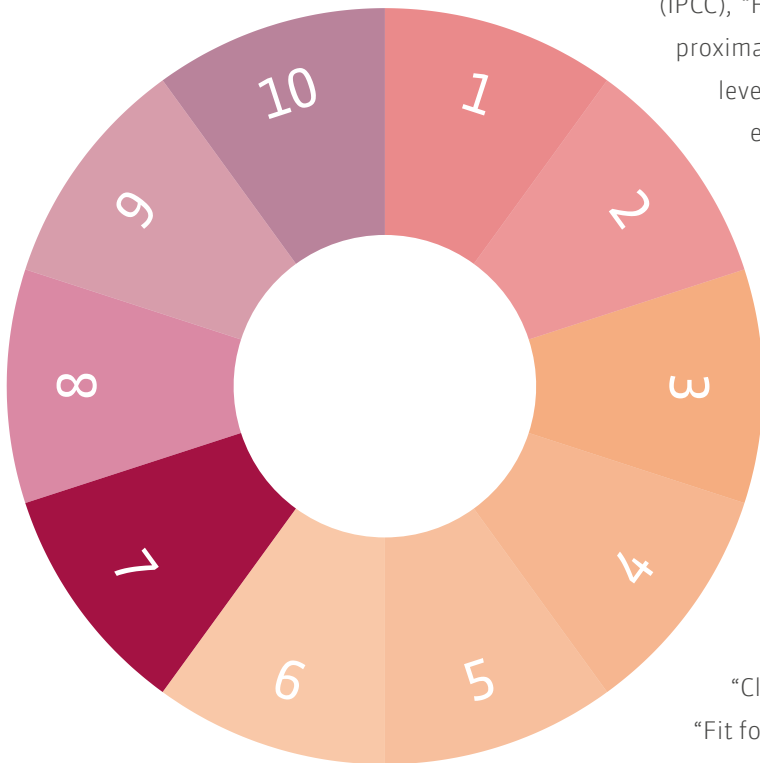
60% of our iPoint Group employees work –, which we use to find ways of optimizing our operational environmental performance. The recording of operational environmental impacts, such as GHG emissions from business activities, is conducted according to international standardized norms ISO 14040 and ISO 14044. Continuously improving the quality of our EMS, which is based on the international environmental management standard ISO 14001, we are executing an action plan as a basis to achieve an ISO 14001 certification which will be achieved in 2022. Furthermore, we are expanding our EMS to include criteria of the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS).[128]

iPoint also measures its environmental footprint by carrying out life cycle assessments (LCAs) on a regular, currently two-year basis to record and evaluate environmentally relevant procedures. We did so in accordance with ISO 14040ff requirements, and according to the defined two-year schedule. In 2021, all relevant data were collected in order to assess iPoint's environmental effects in the form of a life cycles assessment. Following the turnus, we are currently undertaking the organizational life cycle assessment for 2021.

Showing iPoint's commitment, we are continuing our efforts to execute an LCA of high quality. For example, we continue to calculate the consump-

tion of each significant consumer, e.g. all illuminants. Furthermore, we have started our journey to include scope 3 emissions among scope 1 and 2. This is the first step to not only capture and manage iPoint's own GHG emissions, but also those of our upstream and downstream value chain. This commitment to consequently reducing our emissions is backed by iPoint's participation in the UN Global Company Climate Ambition Accelerator programme.[129] With this, iPoint lays the foundation to achieve the science-based Targets for GHG and future climate neutrality (Net Zero). As a result, iPoint has defined a NetZero target for its scope 1 and 2 emissions.

We also intend to carry out LCAs for subsequent reporting periods, which will enable iPoint to evaluate measures through an ongoing controlling process. Weak points are revealed, and appropriate corrective measures can be taken where necessary. Our regular life cycle assessments ensure that trends are captured, and degrees of target achievement measured.

Ongoing Measures to Improve our Environmental Performance
→ *Sustainable energy supply*: At our Reutlingen headquarters and Hamburg site, iPoint only consumes electricity from renewable sources (so-called "Ökostrom"), at a significantly higher cost to the company than regular electricity. We gladly absorb that cost impact, as it is one concrete step we can

take. iPoint's smaller locations will evaluate to use also sustainable energy supply. The increased remote work from home and the related energy consumption state a new challenge which iPoint intends to tackle in the next years.

→ *Corporate vehicles*: To conduct official business or due to their leadership position, certain Reutlingen-based employees currently receive a company car. Our employees are encouraged to choose environmentally sound vehicles. This has, in fact, resulted in employees downsizing their vehicles. This is also reflected in the increase in the number of alternatively powered company cars (electric and hybrid) from 30% to 44%, which marks a 14% increase compared to the previous reporting year. iPoint's Reutlingen site currently features two electric vehicle charging stations. To meet this growing demand for alternatively powered company cars, we are currently evaluating an increase in charging stations.

→ *Less international business travel*: Part of the reason we opt to set up country offices is to offset carbon emissions through international travel. The specific locations of our country offices are chosen in such a manner that they have ready access to public transport infrastructure. Due to the global pandemic and the resulting travel restrictions, international business travel was further kept at a minimal level of activity.

→ *Encouragement of carpooling, use of public transport and cycling*: We encourage carpooling and the use of public transport in order to reduce emissions and to relieve road traffic. The flexible working hours enable the use of carpooling opportunities. By traveling on business by rail, we were able to conserve resources compared to traveling by car, saving 2.669 kg of CO_2, respectively. We are part of a business program of a German railway company Deutsche Bahn AG, which uses 100% green energy for business trips and also compensates for indirect emissions, which is why every trip by Deutsche Bahn is CO_2-free.[130] Thus, we were able to keep our train travel-related carbon footprint at zero. On request, iPoint takes over the costs of local public transport for trainees. To support our employees who use public transportation and bicycles to commute to our headquarters, iPoint has leased "bike boxes" at the Reutlingen Central Station from the city. These small, individually lockable bike garages allow employees to park their two-wheeled steeds in a dry, theft- and vandal-proof place to continue their trip to work or way home. In a quest to encourage our employees to commute to work by bicycle, we also promote participation in relevant initiatives – which is often also driven by our staff. From June 25 to July 15, 2022, for example, iPoint's Reutlingen employees participated in the Germany-wide campaign
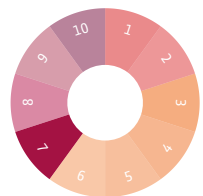
"STADTRADELN", which aims at making a contribution to climate protection and setting an example for increased bicycle promotion in communities. Our iPoint cycling team covered a total of 1,557 km and was thus able to save 239.8 kg of CO_2 emissions.[131]

- *Use of digital communication and collaboration tools*: iPoint's sustainability culture maximizes digital communication and collaboration tools such as GoToMeeting, GoToWebinar, Microsoft Teams, SharePoint, and Confluence in order to simplify paperless collaboration as well as reduce our CO_2 footprint and the volume of physical travel for our employees and customers.

- *Facilitation of remote work from home*: Since June 2022, we have a home office policy in place which permits employees to work remotely for up to 50% of their weekly working hours in order to reduce their volume of travel. This policy builds on an employee survey we conducted in February 2022 as well as on the positive experiences we made with remote work and further preventive measures to protect employees and external visitors during the high phases of the COVID-19 pandemic, when we temporarily even switched entirely to telecommuting and virtual meetings, which in the end also supported us in reducing our CO_2 footprint even more.
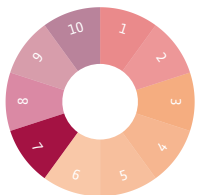
Working in a green headquarters building

The specially built company headquarters in Reutlingen, into which we moved in December 2014, meets the latest environmental standards. It is characterized by high resource efficiency with regard to building materials, energy sources, and water technology. A number of features make it especially eco-friendly:

- large windows allow for much natural light to enter the building, and indoor lighting relies on LED lights which enable a clear reduction in energy consumption;

- the building furthermore regulates its temperature through a geothermal heat pump – a central heating and cooling system that transfers heat or cold air to or from the ground (while substantially more expensive to install than viable alternatives, iPoint does count on the geothermal pump to pay for itself over the coming decades);

- the building's open design reduces the need for ventilation, heating, and therefore also reduces electricity consumption;

- hand dryers were installed in the bathroom to render paper towels obsolete;

- with a vegetation layer on its roof, from above the building is literally turning green; it reduces the amount of wastewater, as a large part of the rainwater is absorbed by the plants;

- plants within the building provide fresh oxygen.

Improving our waste management

During the current reporting period, we continually reminded iPoint's employees to follow the instructions and charts on correct waste separation provided next to the central waste bin in the kitchens on every level in iPoint's headquarters. This measure not only enabled us to optimize our waste separation but has also led to a reduction of trash bags: Instead of many small bags, the garbage is collected in large 120 liter bags, some of which are reused.

At our headquarters in Reutlingen, iPoint's staff can make use of a daily lunch offer which we provide in cooperation with the catering company Menue-Manufaktur Hofmann at subsidized rates. 100% of the ready-portioned menus, which also include vegetarian and vegan meals, are served in packaging made of cellulose without plastic coating PET. As the industry has not yet reached this stage, we appreciate that Menue-Manufaktur Hofmann has developed an alternative packaging based on cellulose.[132] "Indeed, packaging improvements and innovations offer significant power to contribute to achieving SDG 12 and its specific targets."[133]

Environment

Principle 8: Businesses should undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility.

Selecting business partners with sustainability criteria

Our commitment to sustainability extends to the products and services we procure, and implicates our business partners, such as Microsoft as technology partner,[134] memo as office stationary supplier,[135] and Romina Mineralbrunnen as beverage supplier.[136]

Engaging in environmental sustainability collective action

Collective action – i.e. actions undertaken by an alliance of individuals and/or groups towards a collective purpose – is indispensable when matters are concerned that involve a multitude of stakeholders and competing interests. To foster the cause of the global commons, iPoint engages in a number of joint initiatives and trade associations, such as the Expert Forum Global Environmental Compliance,[137] the IHK Netzwerk Nachhaltigkeit,[138] and the VNU Verband für Nach-haltigkeits- und Umweltmanagement e.V.[139] We are also an organizational member of the Forum for Sustainability through Life Cycle Innovation (FSLCI).[140]

In the current reporting period, we have joined the Automotive Network Catena-X[141] where we are actively supporting in the areas of Circular Economy (material passports) and sustainability (Product Carbon Footprint) as well as the Global Battery Alliance,[142] a multi-stakeholder, pre-competitive partnership pursuing the vision to

➡ establish a circular battery value chain as a major driver to achieve the Paris Agreement,

➡ establish a low-carbon economy in the value chain, create new jobs and additional economic value, and

➡ safeguard human rights and economic development consistent with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

With regards to our pledge for SBTi, iPoint's environmental management team participated in the UN Global Compact Climate Ambition Accelerator, a six-month program launched in July 2021 to accelerate progress towards setting science-based targets and achieving net zero.
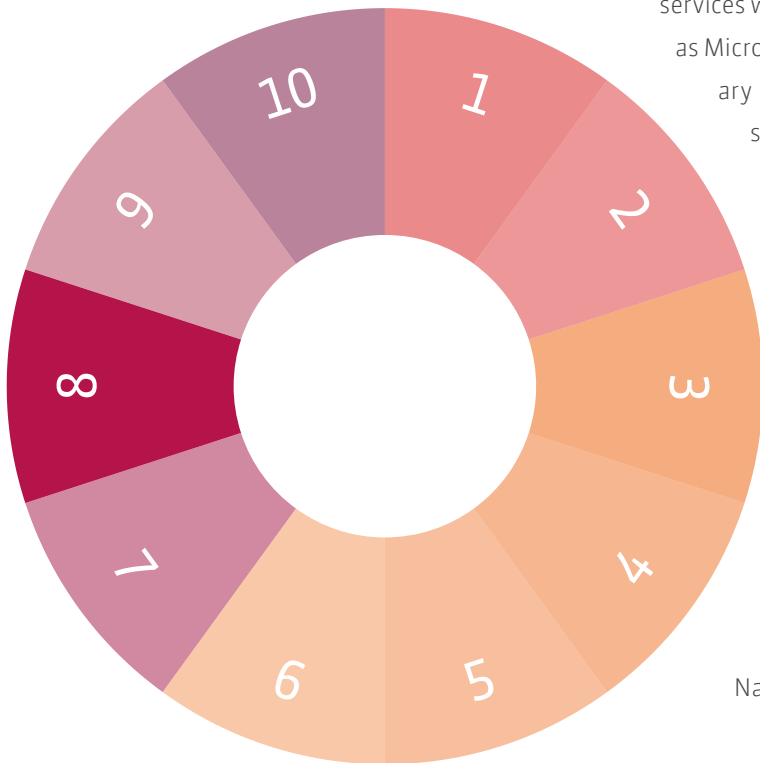
V. Living Up To UNGC's 10 Principles
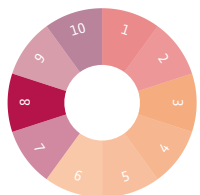## Environment

iPoint

Raising awareness

iPoint remains committed to protecting the climate, also by creating awareness of the climate crisis. We regularly mobilize our staff and utilize our social media platforms and other corporate media to raise awareness about environmental issues and promote greater environmental responsibility. Typical occasions include national or international awareness days.[143]

In July 2022, iPoint sponsored the plogging challenge "Gemeinsam Gewinnen" (Winning Together) on July 13. Together with the two local sports clubs TusSies Metzingen and Tigers Tübingen, players and fans of the three clubs as well as sponsors were invited to participate in the cross-city and cross-team plogging challenge to pick up as much trash as possible while jogging. "Plogging" is the name of this trend sport originating in Sweden, which combines jogging with picking up garbage along the way. Plogging followers rely on the interval effect of stopping to run while picking up trash. During the two-hour challenge, the participating ploggers collected almost 2 tons of garbage in the Neckar-Alb region of southern Germany.[144]

Promoting the (Digital) Circular Economy

Take – make – use – dispose. This is the still prevailing linear economy system. Products which are thrown away, buried in landfills, or burnt at the end of their primary use phase can not only contain valuable materials consisting of finite natural resources, but also hazardous materials harmful to humans or the environment. We at iPoint strongly believe that the solution to many of these problems lies in the combination of the Circular Economy, which allows companies and society to manufacture, use, and re-use truly sustainable products, with digital data – an approach we at iPoint have come to call the "Digital Circular Economy". Currently, we are working to add digital product passport building blocks to our product portfolio to enable a holistic, "horizontal" approach to collecting, analyzing, and reporting product and material data. Utilizing the digital product passport approach would enable to capture environmental and social sustainability data in a standardized, comparable format and enable all actors in the value and supply chain to work together towards a circular economy.

To promote a (Digital) Circular Economy and show how we as a software company can support manufacturers and suppliers in creating more circular products and setting up circular processes, we have created a range of material on the topic of Digital

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Circular Economy and the Digital Product Passport, including a series of video clips, which we have accumulated on a webpage and a new overview on Digital Product Passports.[145] With our logo already reflecting iPoint's commitment to the Circular Economy, a cross-departmental team including representatives from Corporate Communications, Sustainability Strategy, and Product Management, came together in the fall of 2020 to launch a project to review and revise our purpose, vision, and mission in order to more strongly emphasize the centrality of the circular economic model to our organization, strategy, and culture – with the Circular Economy taking center stage.[146] In July 2022, there has been a refresher campaign on iPoint's purpose, vision, and mission.[147]

In the reporting period, we also published or were featured in several media pieces concerning the (Digital) Circular Economy, e.g.

| title	publication channel / medium	more information
• iPoint participates in CEWI project ("iPoint beteiligt sich an CEWI Projekt")	Umweltdialog	→ link
• Digital product passports: pioneers for sustainable management ("Digitale Produktpässe: Pioniere für nachhaltiges Wirtschaften")	Umweltdialog	→ link
• How the automotive & electronics industry transitions towards the Circular Economy	iPoint blog	→ link
• Digital technologies for sustainable product management in a circular economy	iPoint blog	→ link
• The Digital Product Passport – a prerequisite for a Circular Economy	iPoint blog	→ link
• Digital Product Passports as Enabler of the Circular Economy	Chemie Ingenieur Technik	→ link
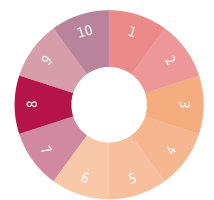
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Informing and educating

iPoint often hosts – or participates in – national and international events that are intended to educate or inform interested stakehold-ers. Over the reporting period, our subject matter experts hosted events, facilitated, discussed, and presented several topics, e.g.

topics	presentation / discussion title	more information
Circular Economy	• Speeding up the Circular Economy and Sustainability with the Catena-X Digital Product Passport	➔ link
	• Circular Economy – Environmental management digital tomorrow (Circular Economy – Umweltmanagement morgen digital)	➔ link
EU Battery Directive	• Global CAFÉ Legislation Summary & EU Battery Directive	➔ link
DPP	• Digital Product Passports for Carbon Transparency	➔ link

In addition to contributing expertise, we also put money where our mouth is. Over the reporting period, we sponsored confer-ences or fora that had implicit or explicit environmental objectives. Examples include:

| event	location	more information
• AIAG 2022 VIRTUAL Corporate Responsibility Summit	Virtual event	➔ link
• Carbon Neutral Vehicles & LCA Virtual Congress 2022	Virtual event	➔ link
• IMDS & Product Chemical Compliance Conference 2021	Virtual event	➔ link
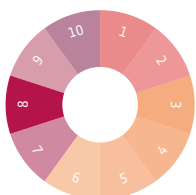
Improving our paper policy

In a bid to further improve our paper policy, we have switched our entire in-house paper consumption to FSC®- and ISO 14001-certified paper, produced in the EU and qualified with the EU Ecolabel – guaranteeing that the products' main environmental impacts are reduced in comparison to similar products on the market.

For our corporate publishing needs (e.g. flyers, brochures, etc.), we demonstrate environmental responsibility by carefully selecting print services. For our printing needs, we work with FSC®- and ISO 12647-2-certified printers to achieve ecologically sustainable printing results. Furthermore, we use the climate-neutral printing services offered by our printers in cooperation with ClimatePartner.[148] For each print order, the generated carbon emissions are calculated in line with ISO 16759 and offset via a certified project that can be chosen from the project portfolio of ClimatePartner.[149] Due to the virtualization of events during the Covid-19 pandemic, printing has been reduced considerably.

Choosing sustainable gifts

In a bid to lead by example, our gifts and giveaways for trade fairs, conferences, customer visits, and employees are selected according to ecologically and socially sustainable standards. The decisive factors here are corresponding certifications or information provided by the vendors as well as an assessment of whether the products meet our corporate criteria.[150] Current promotional gifts include reusable, REACH-compliant fabric bags, plantable pencils,[151] eco-ballpoint pens[152], and USB flash drives as well as eco-powerbanks.[153] Moreover, instead of giving customers and employees take-home-presents, we hand out vouchers from sustainability-oriented online shops, notably, GoodBuy.[154] Placing great importance on the sustainable impact of its products, Goodbuy sends its packages in a climate-positive way.[155] We also hand out tree vouchers from Plant for the Planet,[156] an organization which aims to raise awareness about the issue of climate change and actively combat it through tree-planting campaigns.
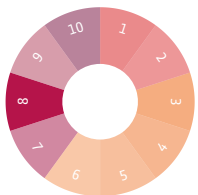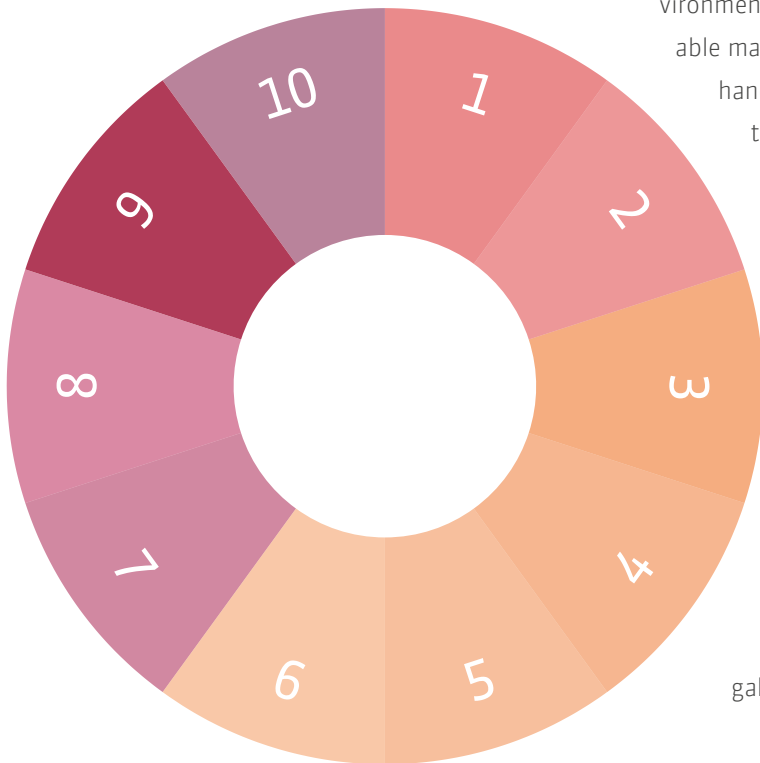
Environment

Principle 9: **Businesses should encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.**

Offering our software and services

Environmentally sound technologies should protect the environment, are less polluting, use resources in a more sustainable manner, recycle more of their wastes and products, and handle residual wastes in a more acceptable manner than the technologies for which they were substitutes.[157] As one of the globally leading software and consulting companies for environmental product compliance and sustainability, the development and diffusion of environmentally-friendly technologies is a raison d'être of iPoint and part of our core business portfolio. iPoint's digital solutions permit an automated and secure exchange of relevant information across the entire value creation network and product life cycle – from product design, manufacturing, and use, to reuse and recycling. Our solutions portfolio includes software that enables manufacturing companies to comply with legal requirements, regulations, and directives addressing

hazardous and substances such as California Proposition 65, the US Toxic Substances Control Act, EU RoHS, EU ELV, and EU REACH.

The incorporation of the ifu Institute for Environmental IT Hamburg GmbH – a company highly specialized in LCA and MFCA – was completed in August 2022. This allows us to offer pertinent software and services, and accompany our customers on their quest to become circular with their products. What started out in 2013 as a B2B cooperation to develop design and evaluation tools for functional, ecologically-optimized, multi-material, lightweight automotive components in mass production (research project "MultiMaK"), flourished into a corporate merger in 2018 and was completed in 2022 with the full incorporation of ifu into iPoint-systems gmbh and the ifu software products as well as respective services in the iPoint Suite and iPoint services portfolios. Our joint "Live LCA" project, which began in 2017, also implemented with other industry and research partners, set out to develop a software solution enabling companies to combine available material and energy consumption data for a real-time calculation of LCA and Material Flow Cost Accounting (MFCA), thereby reducing the costs for EPDs (Environmental Product

iPoint

Declarations) and LCAs by 90%.[158] This new solution has been available as part of the iPoint Suite under the name of "iPoint Product Sustainability" since December 2019.

At the German Stevie® Awards 2022, iPoint's Product Sustainability software has been awarded a Silver Stevie® Award in the category "Products for Climate Protection". "It's great to see all the factors that the software for calculating environmental impacts considers. In the end, this can have a positive effect not only on climate protection but also on the economic efficiency of the products," the jury of the German Stevie® Awards mentioned.[159]

Industry Cooperations, Memberships, and R&D Projects

In line with SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), iPoint takes a strategic collaborative approach to implementing this UNGC principle. Important cooperations and memberships include:

- → ACTion – Advanced Shaped Sandwich Composites for Mechanical, Thermal and Acoustic Applications: R&D project with ElringKlinger, INVENT GmbH, Technical University of Braunschweig, and Volkswagen AG funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF),[160]
- → Christian Doppler Laboratory for Sustainable Product Management enabling a Circular Economy: Research laboratory at the University of Graz with ARA – Altstoff Recycling Austria and AVL,[161]
- → CEWI – The circular economy as a key strategy for a climate-neutral and resource-efficient economy,[162]
- → Consumer Information Programme for Sustainable Consumption and Production (CI-SCP) of One Planet Network (until April 2022),[163]
- → DIBICHAIN – Digital representation of circular systems using Blockchain technology: R&D project with Airbus, Altran Deutschland, Blockchain Research Lab, and CHAINSTEP,[164]
- → Forum for Sustainability through Life Cycle Innovation (FSLCI) – Vice Chair of the Executive Board,[165]
- → Global Battery Alliance – Establishing a sustainable and responsible battery value chain,[166]

V. Living Up To UNGC's 10 Principles
Environment

- iCAREPLAST – Integrated Catalytic Recycling of Plastic Residues Into Added-Value Chemicals: R&D project with Agencia Estatal Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Universitat Politècnica de València, Technical University Braunschweig, National Laboratory of Energy and Geology, BioBTX B.V., Imperial College London, University of Twente, KERIONICS S.L., and URBASER, S.A.,[167]
- ISO Technical Committee on Circular Economy (ISO/TC 323),[168]
- Life Ask REACH – Project with several partners from Europe, funded under the LIFE Programme of the European Union (No. LIFE16 GIE/DE/000738),[169]
- ReDiBlock: Ressourcenschonung durch Distributed-Ledgers- und Blockchain-Technologie für die industrielle Produktion und Kreislaufwirtschaft (Resource efficiency through distributed ledger and blockchain technology for industrial production and circular economy),[170]
- Verband für Umwelt- und Nachhaltigkeitsmanagement e.V. (VNU; Association for European Sustainability and Eco-Management Professionals) – Member of the Executive Board,[171] and
- World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) – Innovation member in the project Value Chain Carbon Transparency Pathfinder – an ambitious initiative dedicated to enabling a widescale exchange of primary, carbon emissions data.[172]

Environment: Measurement of Outcomes

- During the reporting period, iPoint received zero (0) complaints concerning environment-related violations.

iPoint

Anti-Corruption

Principle 10: Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

Ethical and responsible behavior are the cornerstones of a successful business in a dynamic global marketplace. Anti-corruption clauses are therefore included in iPoint's standard employee contracts which we introduced in March 2018. Furthermore, iPoint's Social Charter contains several paragraphs on what kind of ethical, responsible behavior is expected from our employees.

For iPoint, sustainability means achieving long-term growth. Economic sustainability is anchored in iPoint's business processes, solutions, and customer relationships. We strive for continuous, sustainable improvement of the quality of our business processes and products. To this end, in May 2022 we had our quality management system audited (certification audit) in accordance with ISO 9001. Organizations that are ISO 9001-certified have a single and complete set of managed and applied procedures, regularly updated and audited.[173] ISO 9001:2015 clause 7.5.3 addresses honesty in record keeping.

The investigation of corruption risks is part of our company-wide risk management. iPoint's employee contracts contain written compliance regulations regarding the issuance and acceptance of gifts, donations, etc. There is also a written process for selecting and evaluating suppliers. Participating in anti-corruption joint action, iPoint has endorsed the Call to Action: Anti-Corruption and the Global Development Agenda by signing the letter of support on August 2, 2018.[174] With the letter iPoint affirms its commitment to integrate anti-corruption into our strategies and operations, and work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

Anti-Corruption: Measurement of Outcomes

- During the reporting period, there have been zero (0) infractions on the grounds of corruption or bribery, either alleged or verified.
- During the reporting period, no disciplinary action was required concerning corruption.
- During the reporting period, the total number of confirmed cases where contracts with counterparties were terminated or not renewed due to corruption-related infringements was zero (0).

VI. Looking Forward

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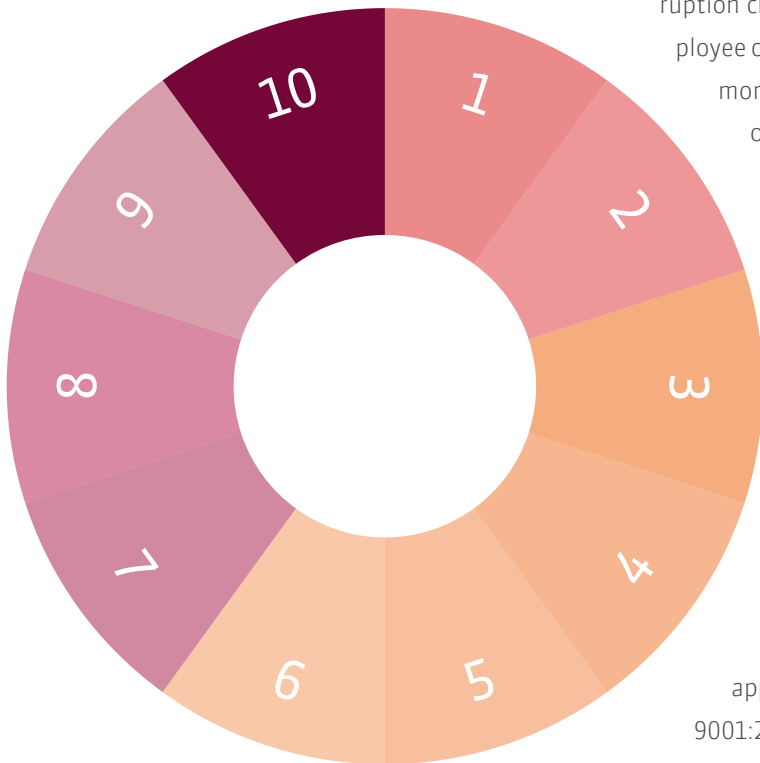
Over the next reporting period, we plan to undertake the following initiatives in line with the UNGC principles.

Overarching (SDGs, all UNGC principles)

Corporate procurement policy
We plan to evaluate an official corporate procurement policy for sustainable office supplies and promotional items with selection criteria that include social responsibility, environment-related, and other sustainability dimensions, also making sure that no human rights violations occur among iPoint's service providers or suppliers.

SDG impact measurement
In the forthcoming reporting period, we – in cooperation with stakeholders – plan to define objectives via which we intend to continue to contribute to prioritized SDGs and their targets, and determine the indicators we will use to measure progress against them.

Education on the SDGs
Furthermore, we plan to continue to educate our internal and external stakeholders on the SDGs and SDG-related matters via our corporate communication channels.

Expertise sharing
iPoint will continue to contribute subject matter expertise covering one or more UNGC principles and SDGs at conferences, fora, and in publications.

Sponsorship of conferences and events
iPoint will continue to host and sponsor conferences where one or more SDGs and UNGC principles are front and center.

Human Rights

Further developing our Human Rights-oriented tools and services
We are closely monitoring the developments in Germany, the European Union, and the rest of the world concerning mandatory due diligence legislation and, wherever it makes sense, we intend to expand and adapt our human rights-oriented solutions and services to these developments in order to support companies in complying with these new laws in line with related UNCG principles and SDGs.

VI. Looking Forward

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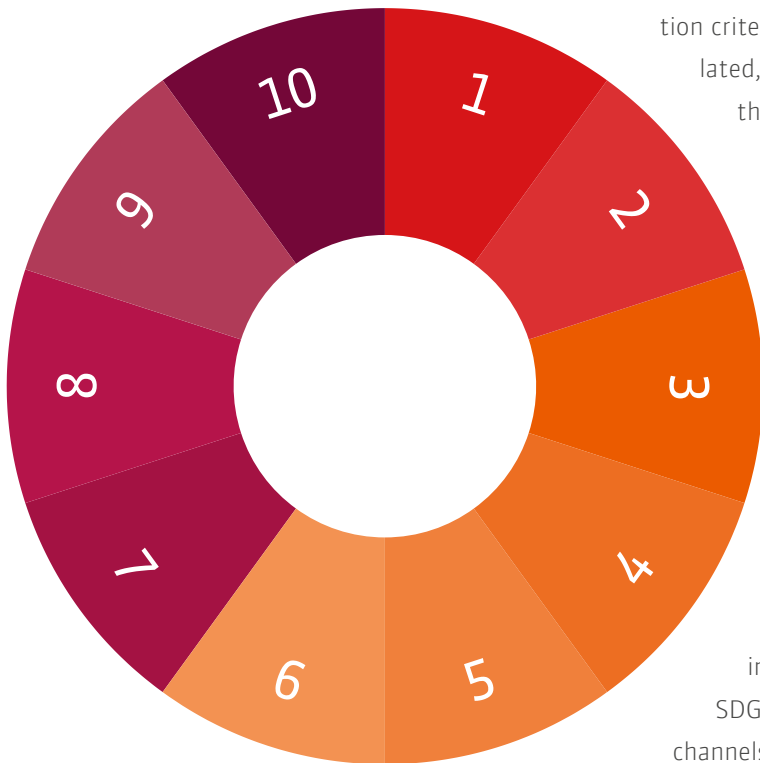
Labor

Increasing the number and quality of apprenticeships

In a quest to increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant technical and vocational skills for employment, we plan to offer apprenticeships to more trainees in the upcoming reporting period.

Fostering lifelong learning

In the upcoming reporting period, we plan to continue to promote lifelong learning opportunities for all employees and access to skills development training and particular occupations via four measures:

1. Establishing an improved performance management process and creating role descriptions for every employee as the basis for identifying training and development needs of our staff.
2. Funding professional training courses for all our staff.
3. Establishing the iPoint Academy as foundation of and central space for all learning, training, and systematic professional development at iPoint.
4. Offering our staff Lunch&Learn sessions as an alternative to formal training courses and events.

Promoting better health and fitness

Since corporate commitment to promoting better health demonstrably reduces sick leave and fluctuation, increases employee satisfaction, and thus leads to more productivity and competitiveness, iPoint has planned to continue or introduce new measures in the upcoming reporting period, including:
- funding employees' participation in sports competitions,
- offering corporate sports courses on a regular basis,
- providing additional courses for mental health, e.g., on resilience, meditation, and relaxation techniques.

Ensuring privacy and protection of data

In the upcoming reporting period, we plan to have our information security management system audited (surveillance audit) in accordance with ISO/IEC 27001, thereby continuing our efforts to ensure privacy as well as protect and keep our company's, customers' and employees' information secure. Furthermore, we plan a SOC (Systems and Organizational Controls) audit also focusing on data protection and security.

VI. Looking Forward

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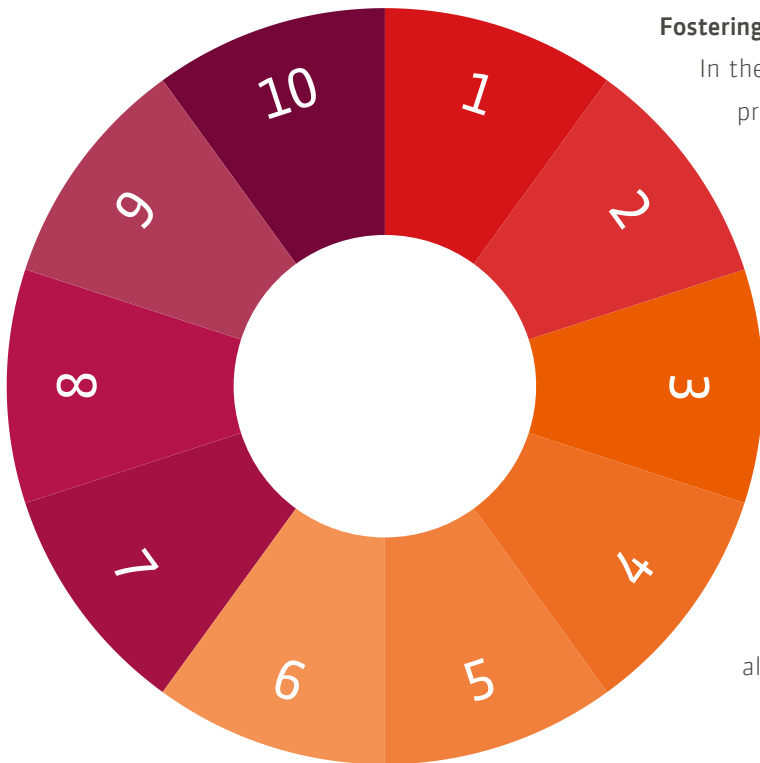
Environment

Further developing our tools and services for environmental compliance and sustainability

We are closely monitoring the developments concerning mandatory and voluntary environmental diligence around the globe (e.g., TSCA, UK REACH, Circular Economy Action Plan, carbon transparency, etc.). Wherever it makes sense, we intend to expand and adapt our respective solutions and services to these developments in order to support companies in complying with these new requirements in line with related UNCG principles and SDGs.

Upscaling and audit of EMS

In the upcoming reporting periods, we plan to extend the Environmental Management System (EMS) to cover all sites of iPoint. Furthermore in 2022, we are going to certify our EMS according to the international environmental management standard ISO 14001.

Carbon neutrality plan

iPoint is committed to gradually reducing our carbon emissions to the point of carbon neutrality and has already taken specific steps in this direction. Based on our commitment to reduce our GHG emissions in line with the SBTi and iPoint's participation in the UN Global Company Climate Ambition Accelerator, we are going to formalize a carbon neutrality plan.

Increase e-vehicle fleet

We plan to increase the amount of alternatively powered company cars again in the upcoming reporting period.

Anti-corruption

Constantly striving for continuous, sustainable improvement of the quality of our business processes and products, including anti-corruption measures, we plan to have our quality management system audited (surveillance audit) in accordance with ISO 9001. ISO 9001:2015 clauses 7.5.3 addresses honesty in record keeping.

To further ensure product-related data security, iPoint is planning a SOC (Systems and Organizational Controls) certification in the upcoming reporting period, including the ongoing enforcement and review of iPoint's Social Charter and its corruption and bribery provisions as a measure in this.
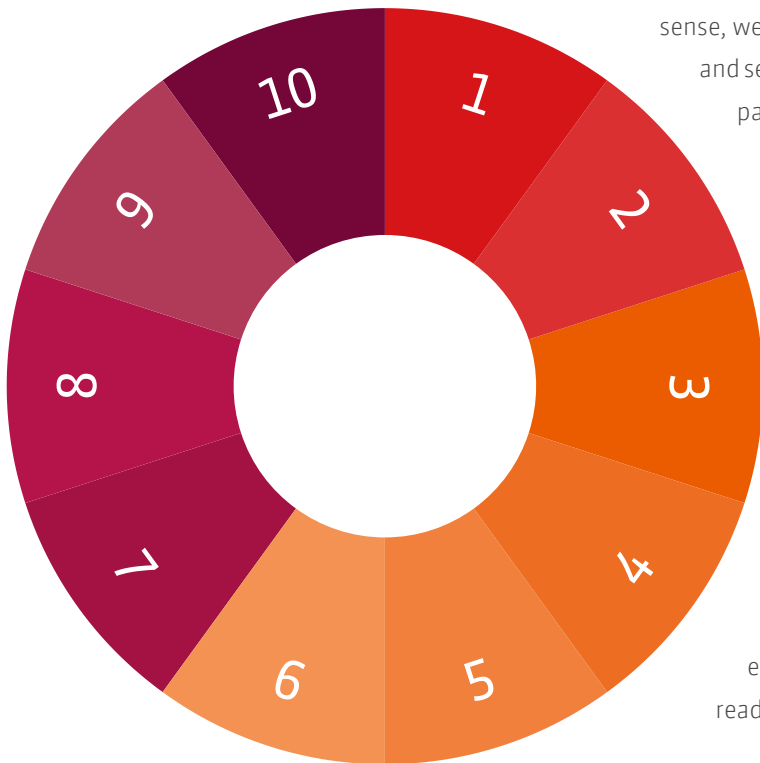
VII. Disclosure Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

iPoint

This report contains "forward-looking statements"[175] based on current assumptions, plans, estimates and forecasts which include, but are not limited to, statements about iPoint's expected future vendor due diligence and engagement efforts and development of related processes. Although we believe that the expectations, opinions, and comments reflected in these forward-looking statements are reasonable, such statements are subject to risks and uncertainties that cannot be controlled or accurately predicted by us, and we can give no assurance that such statements will prove to be correct. Actual outcomes may differ materially from those expressed or implied in such statements.

All forward-looking statements speak only as of the date of this report. It cannot be guaranteed, nor can any liability otherwise be assumed by iPoint and the companies of the iPoint Group, that these forward-looking statements will prove complete, correct or precise, or that expected and forecast results will actually be achieved in the future. We do not undertake any obligation to update or publicly release any revisions to forward-looking statements to reflect events, circumstances, or changes in expectations after the date of this report.

References

1   The iPoint Group includes:

    1) iPoint:
       - iPoint-systems gmbh, Reutlingen, Germany (headquarters)
       - iPoint-systems gmbh, Hamburg, Germany
       - iPoint-systems gmbh, Munich, Germany
       - iPoint-systems gmbh, Berlin, Germany
       - iPoint-Austria GmbH, Vienna, Austria
       - iPoint-systems AB, Växjö, Sweden
       - iPoint Ltd., Manchester, United Kingdom
       - iPoint Inc., Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA (central office USA)
       - iPoint Japan Co Ltd, Tokyo, Japan
       - iPoint Ltd., Shanghai, China

2   Cf. https://www.unglobalcompact.org/take-action/sdg-ambition.

3   3.9: "By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination".

4   8.2: "Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors".

5   8.4: "Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, with developed countries taking the lead".

6   8.7: "Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms".

7   9.4: "By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities".

8   12.2: "By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources".

9   12.4: "By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment".

10   12.5: "By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse".

11   12.6: "Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle".

12   12.A: "Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production".

13   13.1: "Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries" .

14   13.3: "Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning".

15   16.2: "End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children".

16   16.4: "By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime".

17   In these areas, we made the biggest impact (either by increasing our positive impact or reducing our negative impact) and/or also invested a significant amount of time or money in the past reporting year. The other SDGs also played a role at iPoint, but they are not priority, high-impact areas or are areas we only indirectly impacted - e.g., we contributed to SDG 11 (Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable) via several campaigns like the plogging event (supporting clean-up initiativ by picking up trash) or different local cycling events (for further information please refer to the chapter on UNGC principles 7 (p. 48ff) and 8 (p. 53ff). This is also reflected in the bubble heat map for this and the other lower prioritized SDGS.

18   https://www.facebook.com/iPointWorld/photos/a.255816197870586/4893206777464815/.

References

19 https://www.facebook.com/iPointWorld/photos/a.255816197870586/4754826501302844/.

20 https://www.facebook.com/iPointWorld/posts/4312935458825286.

21 https://www.facebook.com/iPointWorld/photos/a.255816197870586/4924474604338032/.

22 https://www.instagram.com/p/CbFdYO8KStO/.

23 https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6917833372975153152/.

24 Cf. https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6902265780319129600/.

25 Cf. https://www.linkedin.com/posts/ipoint-systems-gmbh_internationalwomensday-women-powerwoman-activity-6906976834618335232-R7RZ/.

26 Cf. https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6904440326019190785/.

27 Cf. https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6925413342622715905/.

28 Cf. https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6886683264384344064/.

29 Cf. https://www.facebook.com/iPointWorld/photos/a.255816197870586/4963861750399317/.

30 Cf. https://www.linkedin.com/posts/ipoint-systems-gmbh_on-occasion-of-global-recycling-day-ipoint-activity-6910600730961698816-AUSp/

31 Cf. https://www.facebook.com/iPointWorld/posts/4225044620947704.

32 Cf. https://www.ipoint-systems.com/news/details/webinar-co2-fussabdruck-und-berechnung-co2-footprint-and-calculation/.

33 Cf. https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6895380555517820928/.

34 Cf. https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6846080876464357377/.

35 E.g., Joerg Walden: The Principle of Folding or How We Can Grow Sustainabl. March 12, 2022,
    https://www.linkedin.com/posts/joerg-walden_circulareconomy-digitalization-sustainability-activity-6908340902948175872-dZA4/

36 Learn more here: https://www.ipoint-systems.com/news/details/ipoint-wins-gold-stevie-award/.

37 For details, please refer to the chapter on UNGC Principle 7 in this report (p. 51).

38 For details, please refer to the chapter on UNGC Principle 7 in this report (p. 51).

39 For details, please refer to the chapter on UNGC Principle 7 in this report (p. 50).

40 For further information, please refer to the chapter on UNGC Principle 5 in this report (p. 45).

41 ISO: Technical Committees. ISO/TC 323. Circular economy, https://www.iso.org/committee/7203984.html.

42 One Planet Network: A platform for Sustainable Development Goal 12, https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/platform-sustainable-development-goal-12.

43 One Planet network: Consumer Information for SCP, http://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/consumer-information-scp.

44 Cf. https://www.facebook.com/iPointWorld/posts/4474685192650311.

45 Cf. https://www.facebook.com/iPointWorld/photos/a.255816197870586/4267885239996975/.

46 Cf. https://www.linkedin.com/posts/ipoint-systems-gmbh_on-occasion-of-global-recycling-day-ipoint-activity-6910600730961698816-AUSp.

47 For further information, please refer to the chapter on UNGC Principle 7 in this report (p. 52).

48 For example, we are part of the bahn.business programme of the German railway company Deutsche Bahn AG, which uses 100% green energy for business trips and also compensates for indirect
    emissions, which is why every trip by Deutsche Bahn is CO_2-free. Cf. Deutsche Bahn: Business travel with bahn.business,

References

     https://www.bahn.de/micro/view/bahnbusiness-en/index.shtml.

49   For further information, please refer to the chapter on UNGC Principle 7 in this report (p. 52).

50   Handy für die Umwelt, https://www.handysfuerdieumwelt.de/ (German website).

52   For details, please refer to the chapter on UNGC Principle 7 in this report (p. 50f).

52   For details, please refer to the chapter on UNGC Principle 7 in this report (p. 51).

53   For details, please refer to the chapter on UNGC Principle 7 in this report (p. 51).

54   For details, please refer to the chapter on UNGC Principle 7 in this report (p. 49).

55   For details, please refer to the chapter on UNGC Principle 8 in this report (p. 58).

56   Cf. https://www.stadtradeln.de/home.

57   SBTi is a partnership between the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP), the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC), World Resources Institute (WRI), and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). The initiative helps participating companies establish science-based targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and independently assesses companies' targets. Cf. SBTi, https://sciencebasedtargets.org/.

58   AIAG is an auto industry trade association where members collaborate to develop common global standards for quality, supply chain, and corporate responsibility issues. Cf. AIAG, https://www.aiag.org/.

59   Catena-X is a global network and the first integrated, collaborative, open data ecosystem for the automotive industry based on European values. All players are networked in end-to-end value chains, in which all partners are on an equal ground, have sovereign control over their data and no lock-in effects occur, which provides a sustainable solution for the digitalization of supply chains and supports the cooperation and collaboration of market participants and competitors. Cf. Catena-X, https://catena-x.net/en/.

60   The project CEWI is funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment and supported by the 2° Foundation (Stiftung 2°), the Wuppertal Institute, and WWF Germany. Cf. CEWI, https://www.cewi-projekt.de/.

61   CI-SCP implements and supports projects, undertakes research, identifies and encourages policies, and provides collaboration opportunities for anyone looking to engage and assist consumers in sustainable consumption. Cf. http://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/consumer-information-scp.

62   Cf. Entrepreneurs For Future, https://www.entrepreneurs4future.de/ (German website).

63   The FSLCI's mission is to "be the global voice of the Life Cycle community to accelerate the transition towards a sustainable society by promoting global, systematic and effective application of Life Cycle Innovation." Cf. FSLCI: Vision & Mission, https://fslci.org/vision-mission/.

64   Fraunhofer Institute for Manufacturing Engineering and Automation IPA is one of the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft's largest institutes. The focus of their research and development work is on organizational and technological issues related to the manufacturing industry. Cf. Frauenhofer IPA, https://www.ipa.fraunhofer.de/en.html.

65   The Global Battery Alliance (GBA) is a public-private collaboration platform to help establish a sustainable battery value chain by 2030. The GBA brings together leading international organizations, NGOs, industry actors, academics and multiple governments to align collectively in a pre-competitive approach, to drive systemic change along the entire value chain. Cf. Global Battery Alliance, https://www.globalbattery.org/.

66   The IHK Netzwerk Nachhaltigkeit (Network Sustainability of the German Chamber of Industry and Commerce) is concerned with social, ecological and economic responsibility. The network provides up-to-date information and promotes the cross-industry exchange of expertise and experience. Cf. IHK Reutlingen: IHK-Netzwerk Nachhaltgkeit, https://www.reutlingen.ihk.de/netzwerke/netzwerke-f-n/nachhaltigkeit/ (German website).

67   INATBA offers developers and users of Distributed Ledger Technologies (DLT) a global forum to interact with regulators and policy makers and bring blockchain technology to the next stage. INATBA's working groups focus on a range of topics, including: climate action, education, energy, healthcare, mobility, privacy, social impact, and supply chain. Cf. INATBA, https://inatba.org/; INATBA: Organization, https://inatba.org/organization/. The social impact working group is co-chaired by iPoint CEO Joerg Walden. Learn more here: iPoint-systems: INATBA launches "Social Impact & Sustainability" Working Group. July 15, 2019, https://www.ipoint-systems.com/news/details/inatba-launches-social-impact-sustainability-working-group.

References

68   IPC is a global trade association serving the printed board and electronics assembly industries, and has specific data exchange standards supported by iPoint's solutions, e.g.: IPC-1752A, which allows companies in the supply chain to share information on materials in products, and IPC-1755, developed in partnership with the Automotive Industry Action Group (AIAG), the Responsible Minerals Initiative (RMI), and the Japan Electronics and Information Technology Industries Association (JEITA), allows companies in the supply chain to exchange information related to Conflict Minerals. For more information: IPC: Materials Declaration Data Exchange Standards, http://www.ipc.org/ContentPage.aspx?pageid=Materials-Declaration.

69   This technical committee of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) focuses on "standardization in the field of Circular Economy to develop frameworks, guidance, supporting tools and requirements for the implementation of activities of all involved organizations, to maximize the contribution to Sustainable Development." Cf. ISO: Technical Committee. ISO/TC 323 Circular economy, https://www.iso.org/committee/7203984.html.

70   Launched by the European social partner CEC European Managers and inspired by the Fridays For Future movement, the initiative aims to transform management for the benefit of people and the planet by implementing the Paris Agreement and the SDGs. Cf. Managers For Future, https://www.managersforfuture.eu/; Managers For Future: Manifesto of the ManagersForFuture Movement, https://static.websitecreator.eu/var/m_1/14/14a/7823/396081-MFF_Manifesto-9bf31.pdf?download.

71   The Open Hybrid LabFactory is a research campus within the Lightweight Construction Campus and one of the leading addresses in Germany for the research and development of hybrid components of the future. The Open Hybrid LabFactory e. V. (OHLF), the TU Braunschweig and the Fraunhofer Gesellschaft provide this joint platform for industrial partners and the participating public institutions to accelerate research and development projects. Cf. Open Hybrid LabFactory, https://open-hybrid-labfactory.de/#Anker-Top (German website).

72   iPoint joined the Responsible Minerals Initiative (RMI) – then known as the Conflict-Free Sourcing Initiative (CFSI) – as one of the first vendor members in 2016. Cf. iPoint-systems: iPoint Joins CFSI as Vendor Member. November 10, 2016, https://www.ipoint-systems.com/newsroom/news-detail/ipoint-joins-cfsi-as-vendor-member/. RMI offers a range of tools and resources including the Responsible Minerals Assurance Process, the Conflict Minerals Reporting Template, the Cobalt Reporting Template, Reasonable Country of Origin Inquiry data, and a range of guidance documents on responsible minerals sourcing. Cf. RMI, http://www.responsiblemineralsinitiative.org/.

73   This initiative is dedicated to climate protection, biodiversity, circular economy, a socially just economy, and demands that these and other sustainability issues continue to have top priority in the political agendas in these challenging times. Cf. Nachhaltig zusammen!, https://nachhaltig-zusammen.de/ (German website).

74   The VNU Verband für Nachhaltigkeits- und Umweltmanagement e.V. is an independent community of experts and users of environmental and sustainability management systems. It designs management systems through committee action, support their practical implementation in companies, and facilitates networking between members and stakeholders through conferences and regional meetings. Cf. VNU, https://www.vnu-ev.de/en/. Martina Prox of our subsidiary ifu Institute for Environmental IT Hamburg has been a member of the VNU Executive Board since March 2018. She represents the interests of the VNU in the liaison to the ISO committee ISO/TC207/SC1, where environmental management standards are developed and updated. Cf. VNU: Board, https://www.vnu-ev.de/en/about-us/board.

75   Previous beneficiaries of iPoint donations include (excerpt): Alliance for Climate Education, AnnieCannons, Inc., ARCHE IntensivKinder, the German Bone Marrow Donation Register (Deutsche Knochenmarkspenderdatei), Eldoret Kids Kenia, Förderverein für krebskranke Kinder Tübingen e. V. (sponsoring association supporting cancer-striken children Tuebingen), the German foundation Give Education a Chance ("Gib Bildung eine Chance"), Hospice Veronika, JAM Deutschland e.V., Lebenshilfe Reutlingen, Make a Wish Foundation (Michigan), March of Dimes (Michigan), nez e.V. – „Nachhaltige Entwicklung – gemeinsam für die Zukunft" (Sustainable development – together for the future"), Not For Sale, Raise Hope for Congo, the Regional Group of the Registered Mucoviscidosis Association (Regionalgruppe Zollernalb-Tübingen des Mukoviszidose e.V.), Sea Shepherd, the Wikimedia Foundation, and YouthVille Detroit.

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Imprint

iPoint

Sustainability Report & Communication on Progress 2021/22, published on November 4, 2022.

The collection and presentation of the content in the 2021/22 Sustainability Report are the product of the work of all units of iPoint-systems gmbh and the iPoint Group, including all of its subsidiaries in Germany and abroad.

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