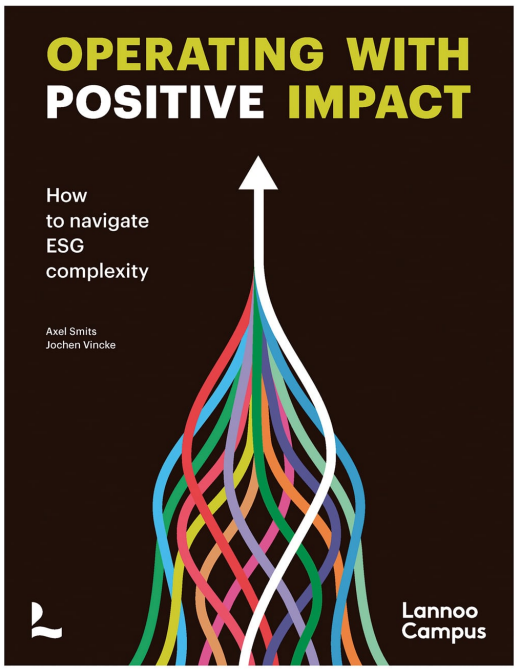
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Operating with positive impact

How to navigate ESG complexity

Axel Smits

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- Written for companies, based on solid experience
- Giving companies and business leaders an overview of what you need to know in terms of ESG and sustainability
- Providing in-depth analyses of ESG factors and what they mean for companies providing case studies, references and practical advice on: developing an ESG strategy and roadmap for transformation: ESG in transactions; ESG reporting best practices; and ESG-related legislation

We move from crisis to crisis, our climate is changing, and growing civil unrest could lead to violence or even civil war(s). We need a longer-term vision to bring hope and embed sustainable, real solutions in the way we live and do business. This book is a roadmap to help companies achieve a more positive impact, creating an 'impact economy' that considers the impact of our actions, and balances the needs of people and companies with the health of the planet. It presents practical guidance and insights on how to transform a business according to ESG principles, for long-term sustainability.

Since 2016, **Axel Smits** has been Chairman and Senior Partner at PwC Belgium, a network firm with a revenue of €400 million and around 2,400 employees. Before assuming his current position, he was head of both PwC's Belgian Tax and Legal practice, and its EMEA Tax and Legal network. In addition to his roles as Chairman and Senior Partner, Axel remains active as a client partner within the Belgian firm. He is also a member of the PwC Europe Board. A lawyer by training, with additional degrees in taxation, accounting and finance, Axel is a chartered tax consultant. For the first 20 years of his career, starting in 1990 with the predecessor firm Coopers & Lybrand, Axel was a chartered tax consultant with a particular focus on international tax planning. He served clients across the globe and was very active both as a speaker and as a writer of articles and books in his area of expertise. Topics included intellectual property as well as substance in international tax planning. Later on, while continuing to serve clients, Axel took on various management positions in the Belgian and EMEA firms, leading up to his current position. **Jochen Vincke** is Management Consulting Partner at PwC, coordinating services in the field of ESG, and consulting leader for PwC's EMEA industrial manufacturing industry practice. He is also a member of the Board of FlandersMAKE, a strategic research centre for the manufacturing industry, with over 750 researchers. Jochen's ambition is to help drive a new industrial model that makes an overall net positive contribution to society; a model built on innovation, data, customer proximity, and short and circular supply chains. After graduating as bio-engineer in environmental sciences, Jochen studied business economics and attained an MBA from Vlerick Business School. He is certified Master Black Belt in Lean Six Sigma. Jochen has extensive experience in industry, including the food and beverage, chemical, steel processing, pharmaceutical and process industries. He has worked with ESG matters throughout his career, from developing corporate social responsibility (CSR) policies, to coaching and training, and business transformation consultancy.

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