

Non-financial information

Corporate responsibility (CR)

RTL Group believes that CR adds value not only to the societies and communities it serves, but also to the Group and its businesses. Acting responsibly and sustainably enhances the Group's ability to remain successful in the future.

CR is integral to the Group's strategy. The core RTL brand was repositioned in 2021 with a new identity, a clear set of brand principles and a new design reflecting the diversity at RTL. With this, RTL has been strengthened as Europe's leading entertainment brand that stands for entertainment and independent journalism, as well as inspiration, energy and attitude. 'We act responsibly' is one of eight defined brand principles that guide the company's action and define what RTL stands for. At the heart of RTL's guiding principles and values is a commitment to embracing independence and diversity in its people, content and businesses.

In November 2022, the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) was adopted by the European Parliament. The new directive aims to significantly expand existing requirements for non-financial reporting. The reporting requirements of the CSRD will apply to RTL Group starting from the financial year 2024. This means RTL Group will again publish its own sustainability report from 2025 for the financial year 2024.

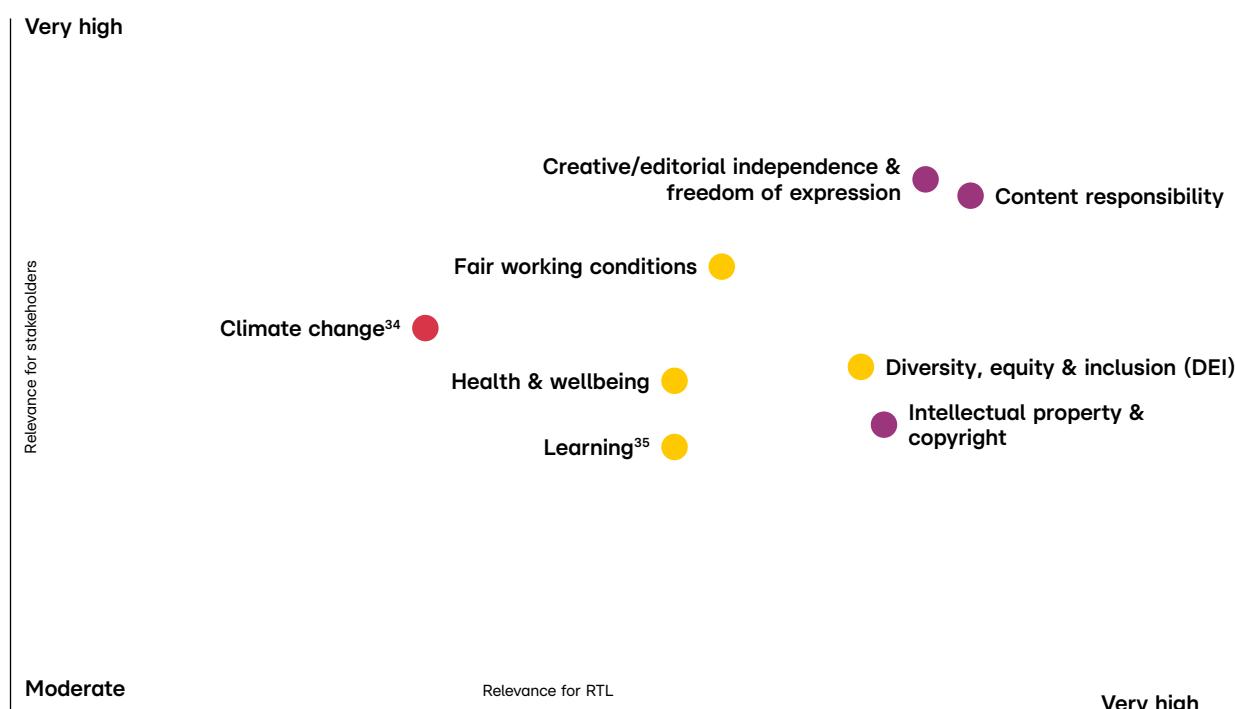
The information of the Combined Non-Financial Statement (which complies with the current European Directive 2014/95/EU and provisions by the law of 23 July 2016 regarding the publication of non-financial and diversity information in Luxembourg) can be found in the annual report of RTL Group's majority shareholder, Bertelsmann SE & Co KGaA. Further information on RTL Group's non-financial information can also be found in the GRI reporting of Bertelsmann SE & Co KGaA on bertelsmann.com.

The RTL CR Board unites executives from RTL Group and RTL Deutschland and was enlarged in 2022 following the combination of RTL Deutschland and Gruner + Jahr. The Board meets monthly to coordinate projects in key areas such as diversity, creative/editorial independence and climate protection, to develop new ideas and to ensure efficient use of expertise in both the Corporate Centre and RTL Deutschland.

The CR Board also meets annually with participants from specialist departments within RTL Deutschland, such as Youth Protection, the association *Stiftung RTL – Wir helfen Kindern*, Communications, and RTL Group's Human Resources, Investor Relations and Compliance departments. The RTL Group CR Network – created in March 2014 and consisting of CR representatives from the Group and its business units – meets annually to share best-practices and knowledge. In addition, RTL Group established a Climate Task Force, consisting of members from all business units who meet to discuss, collaborate and define actions to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, with the target of becoming climate-neutral by 2030. In May 2022, RTL Group's largest business unit, RTL Deutschland, established a department for sustainability and diversity, equity & inclusion (DEI), with a direct reporting line to the unit's Chief Executive Officer.

RTL Group's CR activities focus primarily on the following issues: content responsibility, creative/editorial independence and freedom of expression, intellectual property and copyright, fair working conditions, diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), health, safety and wellbeing, learning (including digital media literacy) and climate change. These issues were identified in a materiality analysis in consultation with internal and external stakeholders. The core of the survey was the assessment of 19 CR topics – internally, according to their relevance for the business, and externally, according to their relevance for stakeholders. The survey was conducted in 2020 in close consultation with the Group's majority shareholder Bertelsmann.

Relevance matrix



Creative/editorial independence

RTL Group's broadcasting and news reporting are founded on editorial and journalistic independence. RTL Group's commitment to impartiality, responsibility and other core journalistic principles is articulated in its Newsroom Guidelines. Maintaining audience trust has become even more important in an era when news organisations and tech platforms have been accused of publishing misleading stories, and when individuals, radical political movements and even hostile powers post fake news on social networks to sow discord.

For RTL Group, independence means being able to provide news and information without compromising its journalistic principles and balanced position. Local CEOs act as publishers and are not involved in producing content. In each news organisation, editors-in-chief apply rigorous ethical standards and ensure compliance with local guidelines, which gives the Group's journalists the freedom to express a range of opinions, reflecting society's diversity and supporting democracy.

Employees

RTL Group has a diverse audience and a business based on creativity, and the Group therefore needs to be a diverse organisation. In 2022, the Group had an average of 12,975 full-time employees (total headcount: 18,623 including permanent and temporary staff) in more than 26 countries worldwide. They range from producers and finance professionals to journalists and digital technology experts.

RTL Group strives to be an employer of choice that attracts and retains the best talent, and equips employees with the necessary skills and competencies to successfully master the company's current and future challenges. It does this by offering training programmes and individual coaching in a wide range of subjects, from strategy and leadership to digital skills and health, safety and wellbeing. It reviews and, if necessary, adjusts its training offers on an ongoing basis.

³⁴ The different environmental topics have been pooled

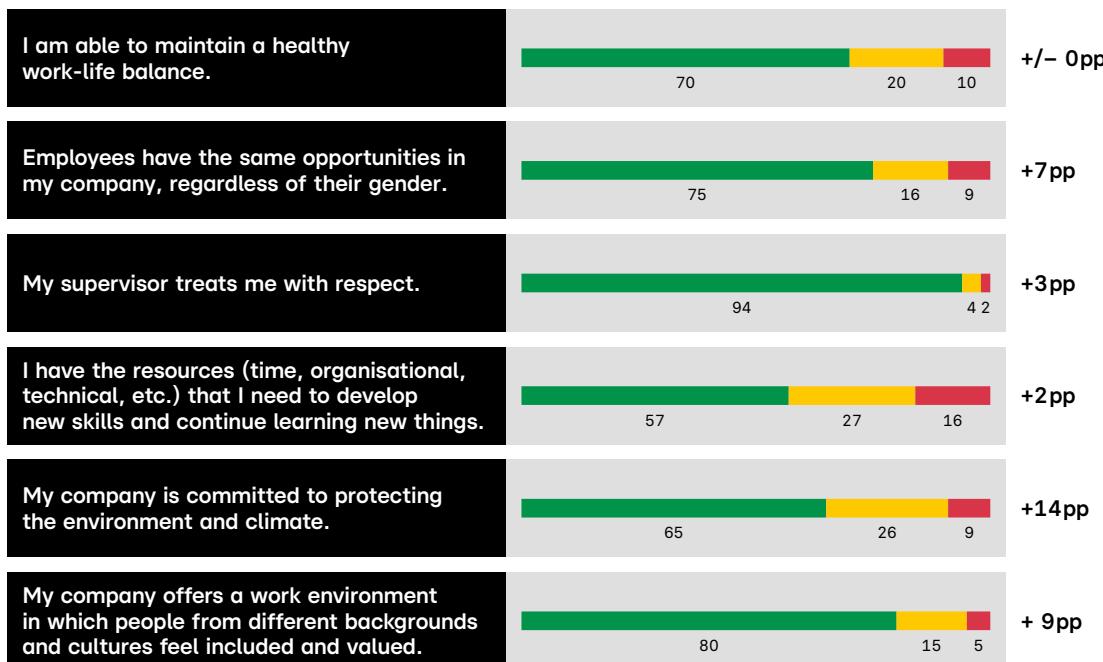
³⁵ Including digital media literacy

RTL Group's corporate culture is founded on creativity and entrepreneurship. The Group strives to ensure that all employees receive fair recognition, treatment and opportunities, and is committed to fair and gender-blind pay. The same applies to the remuneration of freelancers and temporary staff, ensuring that such employment relationships do not compromise or circumvent employee rights. The Group also strives to support flexible-working arrangements.

The Covid-19 crisis has deeply changed the world of work. The balance between working in the office and remotely is a relevant step to continue offering flexibility and efficiency for those employees whose functions do not require office presence.

Every two years, RTL conducts its employee survey. In 2021, RTL Group received a response rate of 81 per cent, corresponding to 7,795 respondents from 74 companies across 23 countries and in 11 languages (excluding temporary workers and Groupe M6). Compared to the 2019 survey, RTL Group achieved higher scores and only positive deviations, particularly for CR-related topics, communication from senior management, engagement, and supporting the company's strategy. Since 2021, the employee survey includes a new CR Index, to help track the progress of RTL Group-wide CR initiatives. The next employee survey will be conducted in 2023.

Employee survey 2021³⁶: CR Index at 73.5% – Target: 80%



Diversity

RTL Group's commitment to diversity is embedded in its processes and articulated in its corporate principles. The cornerstone is the RTL Group Diversity Statement that reinforces the company's commitment to promoting diversity and ensuring equal opportunity. It sets guidelines and qualitative ambitions for the diversity of the Group's people, content and businesses.

RTL Group is committed to making every level of the organisation more diverse with regard to nationality, gender, age, ethnicity, religion and socio-economic background. The Group places a special emphasis on gender diversity. RTL Group's workforce overall is balanced by gender (with 47 per cent men and 53 per cent women as at 31 December 2022) while women account for 36 per cent of top management positions (31 December 2021: 28 per cent), and 33 per cent of senior management positions (31 December 2021: 24 per cent).

³⁶ Calculation based on the average of positive responses to six questions of the 2021 Employee Survey in the following categories: Health & wellbeing; Diversity, Equity & Inclusion; Fair working conditions; Learning; Climate change

Top management generally encompasses the members of the Executive Committee, the CEOs of the business units and their direct reports, members of the Management Boards, and the Executive Committee direct reports at RTL Group's Corporate Centre. Senior management generally encompasses the Managing Directors of the businesses at each business unit, the heads of the business units' departments and the Senior Vice Presidents of RTL Group's Corporate Centre (unless classified as members of top management).

RTL Group's long-term ambition is for women and men to be represented equally at all levels. In 2022, RTL Group's Executive Committee reviewed the Group's objectives and set the following quantitative targets: to increase the share of women in top and senior management positions to at least one third by the end of 2022 and at least 40 per cent by the end of 2025. The Group reports on its progress towards these diversity targets each year. At the end of 2022, the ratio of women in top and senior management positions was 34 per cent, up 14 percentage points compared to 2016 when RTL Group reported those measures for the first time (2016: 20 per cent; 2021: 28 per cent). By achieving its 2022 target, RTL Group reached an important milestone on the way to ensuring at least 40 per cent of top and senior management positions are held by women by the end of 2025.

The importance of diversity is also reflected in the content the Group produces. Millions of people who turn to RTL Group each day for the latest local, national and international news need a source they can trust. RTL Group therefore maintains a journalistic balance that reflects the diverse opinions of the societies it serves. The same commitment to diversity applies to the Group's entertainment programming: it is essential for RTL Group to create formats for a wide range of audiences across all platforms. Content should represent the diversity of society, so many different segments of society can identify with it.

In 2022, Fremantle continued to make progress towards building an equitable and inclusive culture across its business and content. During Pride month, for example, Ryan J Brown, writer and creator of *Wreck*, a six-part comedy horror series for the BBC, highlighted the importance of queer representation in TV with predominately LGBTIQ+ lead characters.

Fremantle also continued its partnership with The TV Collective on the Breakthrough Leaders programme in the UK, supporting 150 black, Asian and minority-ethnic future leaders. In Sweden, Fremantle's leadership team is participating in an external mentoring programme, All of Us, for young people of colour in the creative industries and supporting the WomenUp programme – which consists of 40 women and their mentors – to address the female leadership gap. In the US, a partnership with *Fresh Films* supports 400 young people from under-represented backgrounds based in 27 national locations nationwide.

Inclusive casting and storylines across Fremantle show – two things continued to provide a platform for different voices and perspectives, influence authentic storytelling, and promote empathy and understanding. *Heartbreak High* was recognised for its diverse casting and nuanced storytelling, featuring young Australians who are from First Nations communities, queer, disabled and/or neurodivergent. The series *Planet Sex*, fronted by Cara Delevingne, had a predominantly female and non-binary crew, and was filmed across the world incorporating intersectional LGBTIQ+ communities with a global reach and outlook.

In Germany, RTL Deutschland initiated its first diversity week to place LGBTIQ+ people at the centre of its content. RTL Deutschland's diversity week created awareness on different platforms, including a marketing campaign with RTL testimonials from the queer community and special formats such as the RTL primetime show *Viva la Diva – Wer ist die Queen?* or a LGBTIQ+ print special in the educational magazine *Geo Wissen*. Furthermore, the German RTL+ original film *Weil wir Champions sind* (Because we are champions) – which tells the story of an inclusive basketball team – featured nine actors with disabilities.

RTL Nederland focuses on diversity, equity and inclusion both on its linear channels and its streaming service Videoland. In 2022, RTL Nederland launched the first season of the drag entertainment show *Make Up Your Mind* and released the second and third seasons of the gay dating show *Prince Charming* on Videoland. Videoland original documentaries such as *Nikki*, *De Wereld Van Eva* and *Tussen De Lakens Met Geraldine* also focus on societal issues.

Society

As a leading media organisation and broadcaster, RTL Group has social responsibilities to the communities and audiences it serves. These responsibilities are particularly serious when it comes to children and young people. The Group complies fully with child-protection laws and ensures its programming is suitable for children – or broadcast when they are unlikely to be viewing. RTL Group also strives to give back to its communities by using its profile to raise awareness of, and funds for, important social issues, particularly those that might otherwise receive less coverage or funding.

As part of this support, the Group provides free airtime worth several million Euro to charities and non-profit organisations to help them raise awareness of their cause, as well as donating significant amounts of money to numerous charitable initiatives and foundations. Finally, RTL Group's flagship fundraising events (*Télévie* in Luxembourg, and *RTL-Spendenmarathon* in Germany) raised €45,434,477 for charity in 2022 (2021: €34,307,869³⁷ still including *Télévie* in Belgium).

³⁷ The total amount of donations for 2021 was restated

Intellectual property and copyright

RTL Group's primary mission is to invest in high-quality entertainment programmes, fiction, drama, news and sports, and to attract new creative talent to help the Group contribute to a vibrant, creative, innovative and diverse media landscape. Strong intellectual property rights are the foundation of RTL Group's business, and that of creators and rights-holders.

RTL Group's Code of Conduct and Information Security Policy set a high standard for the protection of intellectual property. All employees are expected to comply with copyright laws and licensing agreements and to put in place appropriate security practices (password protection, approved technology and licensed software) to protect intellectual property. Sharing, downloading or exchanging copyrighted files without appropriate permission is prohibited. Violations can be reported to the Compliance department via its reporting channels, which include a user-friendly speak-up system.

Anti-corruption and anti-bribery

The foundation for lasting business success is built on integrity and trustworthiness, and RTL Group has zero tolerance for any form of illegal or unethical conduct. Violating laws and regulations – including those relating to bribery and corruption – is not consistent with RTL Group's values and could damage the Group. Non-compliance could harm the Group's reputation, result in significant fines, endanger its business success and expose its people to criminal or civil prosecution.

The Compliance department provides Group-wide support on anti-corruption, anti-bribery and other compliance-related matters. In addition to centralised management by the Compliance department, each business unit has a Compliance Responsible in charge of addressing compliance issues, including anti-corruption.

For information about RTL Group's Audit Committee see page 87.

Representatives of RTL Group management sit on the RTL Group Corporate Compliance Committee. The committee, which is chaired by RTL Group's Chief Financial Officer, is responsible for monitoring compliance activities, promoting ethical conduct and fighting corruption and bribery. It is kept informed about ongoing compliance cases and the measures taken to prevent compliance violations.

The RTL Group Anti-Corruption and Integrity Policy is the Group's principal policy for fighting corruption. It outlines rules and procedures for conducting business in accordance with anti-corruption laws and Group principles.

RTL Group's policies, including anti-corruption and integrity, anti-trust and compliance organisation, were updated and streamlined in 2022. The policies are split into ten categories, with a Business Process Owner for each category, who is the main contact for any questions regarding the respective policy.

Human rights

Respect for human rights is a vital part of RTL Group's Code of Conduct, which includes a decision-making guide that clarifies how to comply with the company's standards in case of doubt. The Group's commitment to responsible and ethical business practices extends to its business partners. In 2017, RTL Group established the RTL Group Business Partner Principles, which sets minimum standards for responsible business relationships. To cover all centrally important aspects of human rights in one place, RTL Group published a specific Human Rights statement in 2022. The statement explicitly refers to the standards of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations' Global Compact and applies to the entire Group. To report suspected human-rights violations or unethical practices, employees and third parties can contact RTL Group's compliance reporting channels (directly or through a web-based reporting platform) or an independent ombudsperson. In all cases, they may do so anonymously.

Environment

RTL Group is a media company with no industrial operations and therefore does not consume significant amounts of raw materials or fossil fuel and is not a major polluter. The Group is mindful that resource conservation and climate protection are key challenges for the 21st century. For this reason – together with employees and stakeholders – RTL Group is committed to minimising its impact on the environment, by reducing its energy use and its direct and indirect greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. It codified this commitment in February 2018 by issuing its Environmental Statement.

RTL Group has measured and published its carbon footprint since 2008. Serving as the key indicator for evaluating and continually improving the Group's climate performance, it was formerly calculated based on each country's average energy mix. To improve data quality, since 2017 it has been calculated based on the emissions associated with the Group's individual electricity supply contracts. This new, more detailed baseline takes into account hotel stays, refrigerant losses, commuting, IT devices and own and commissioned productions, as well as electricity consumption, paper, business travel, water and wastewater.

At the start of 2020, RTL Group decided to become carbon neutral by 2030. It will reach this goal in two steps. By 2025, the Group will be carbon neutral with regards to company-related carbon dioxide emissions. Here, the focus will be on switching to green electricity, reducing business travel and offsetting the remaining emissions. By 2030, the Group will reach carbon neutrality, including both company-related emissions (scope 1 and 2) and emissions from the production of its programmes and products (scope 3).

As part of its aim to reduce carbon emissions, Fremantle collaborated with Bafta's Albert to launch a carbon calculator and certification toolkit for the TV industry in January 2021. The toolkit is an authority on environmental sustainability, allowing carbon emissions caused by content productions to be calculated and, above all, provides a controlled way of reducing those emissions. Examples from 2022 include the Wildside films *Siccità* and *L'immensità*, both of which were Albert certified.

In 2022, seven shows from RTL Nederland were certified sustainable or carbon neutral by Albert for the first time. Those formats include *Love Island* and *Beat the Champions*. In addition, more than 20 other shows were monitored by Albert. This is an essential step towards the decarbonisation of productions in the Netherlands. In November 2022, the channels and platforms of RTL Nederland raised awareness of plastic pollution during the campaign week RTL Samen Groener (RTL Greener Together).

To reduce carbon emissions, RTL Deutschland has been striving for more sustainable TV productions since 2020. Since mid-2022, minimum ecological standards adopted throughout the industry by broadcasters and production companies in Germany have been applied to selected productions. RTL Deutschland aims to produce 50 per cent of its fictional content according to those standards. These standards are used to strive for environmentally and resource-friendly production methods. If the standards are met, the official 'green motion' label is awarded by the Green Shooting³⁸ working group. In 2022, RTL Deutschland produced 13 productions in compliance with the standards, of which more than 30 per cent have been awarded the 'green motion' label. The German Fremantle production company, Ufa, was awarded the 'green motion' label for its series *Irgendwas mit Medien* (Something with media) for the German public broadcaster MDR. *Irgendwas mit Medien* was produced using sustainable electricity, with minimal reliance on generators powered by diesel, and used sustainable transportation.

For RTL Group's environmental indicators according to GRI standards, please visit rtl.com.

Innovation

Innovation at RTL Group focuses on three core topics: continuously developing new, high-quality TV formats; using all digital distribution channels; and better monetisation of the Group's audience reach using personalisation, recommendations and the addressing of target groups.

In 2022, RTL Deutschland started the expansion of RTL+ into a cross-media entertainment service, comprising video, music, podcasts and audio, which is a unique selling proposition in the German-speaking market. The service's innovative recommendation algorithm, based on intelligent text, audio and video analysis, ensures that users are offered personalised content suggestions across all media types.

RTL Group's special creative unit, Format Creation Group (FC Group), continuously develops new non-scripted formats exclusively for RTL broadcasters and their streaming services. The unit aims to fulfil the growing demand for exclusive content by developing innovative formats and intellectual property, fully owned and controlled by RTL Group. In June 2022, M6 in France launched the successful FC Group format *Who can beat us?* – a general knowledge game pitting 100 candidates against six of the channel's experts on their favourite topic.

Another innovative focus point is addressable TV advertising, which combines the broad reach of linear TV with targeted digital advertising. RTL Group continuously develops its advertising technologies or acquires the necessary technology in this area. In May 2022, RTL Group's European ad-tech business Smartclip fully acquired the French ad-tech company Realytics, which systematically analyses the impact of TV advertising on advertiser websites and ensures data availability for digital ad decisioning. In December 2022, Smartclip and Ad Alliance launched addressable targeting complements for linear TV advertising with the new TV Add Ons. With this technology, dynamically tailored advertising banners can be integrated into existing TV spots and spot motifs can be completely exchanged – contact class-optimised, socio-demographically targeted or location-based.

The Group's advertising sales houses continue to introduce innovative and award-winning advertising formats. In Germany, Ad Alliance started a pilot project to introduce programmatic print advertising, allowing advertisers and agencies to book print advertising according to digital principles. In France, the advertising sales house M6 Publicité introduced 6Scan, a new augmented reality (AR) advertising format. The technology enables viewers of Groupe M6 TV channels to project the featured product in AR by scanning a QR code displayed on the screen. Potential buyers can see the product take shape in their current location – for example, a sofa would be projected directly into their living room.

³⁸ The 'Green Shooting' working group, founded and led by MFG Filmförderung in 2017, is working on the transformation towards a more ecologically sustainable production method. The working group includes the production companies Bavaria Fiction, Constantin, Ufa, We Are Era and Ziegler Film, the broadcasters ARD, RTL Deutschland, ProSiebenSat.1, Sky, SWR and ZDF, the streaming services Disney+ and Netflix and further industry associations.