

Impact Verification Statement

about Stone Soup Consulting Honesty Report 2021-2022.

October 2023



Verification Summary

As a result of the Verification of Stone Soup Consulting's 2021- 2022 Honesty Report, dated October 2023, EQA can conclude, with limited assurance, that Stone Soup Consulting, Lda, hereinafter Stone Soup Consulting, has an Honesty Report 2021-2022, no matter has come to our attention that would lead us to believe that the Selected Information contained in this Report has not been reliably obtained and is not fairly presented, or that there are material misstatements or omissions, as set out in the Technical Annex to EQA's Verification Statement dated 24/10/2023.

The Selected Information verified by EQA are the impact indicators defined by Stone Soup Consulting for the period from 01/01/2021 to 31/12/2022. The verified indicators are the following:



Stone Soup Consulting activities help community members increase their intellectual capital.



Stone Soup Consulting provide networking opportunities to support the growth of the community professional network.



Community members sense of belonging to Stone Soup Consulting community increases.



Stone Soup Consulting promote flexibility and foster work-life integration to increase their well-being at work.



The quality of Stone Soup Consulting recommendations, products and deliverables help organisations be more efficient.



Organisation's ability to deliver impact improves.



Organisations increase their strategic and operational capacities.



About the company:

- **Client:** Stone Soup Consulting, Lda.
- **Location:** Portugal.

About the verifier:

- **Verifier:** European Quality Assurance Spain S.L.
- **Contact:** calidad@eqa.es

Scope of the verification:

Honesty Report 2021-2022, prepared by Stone Soup Consulting, Lda, which includes the performance of the impact indicators related to the organization's activity, during the period 2021-2022.

Date of issuance of Statement: 31/10/2023.

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Technical Annex to the Independent Assurance Statement, with a limited level of assurance, on the Stone Soup Consulting Lda. Honesty Report 2021-2022.

I. Context

Stone Soup Consulting, Lda., (hereinafter Stone Soup Consulting) is a forward-thinking and proactive international consultancy with a social heart. A network of consultants and experts who share the same values and work with different types of organizations interested in enhancing their social value.

Acting in partnership, Stone Soup Consulting helps these organizations to maximize their social value. They work through shared processes in the creation and implementation of strategies that identify paths for the development of the organization.

In this regard, as part of its commitment to transparency with its community, Stone Soup Consulting has prepared its Stone Soup Consulting Honesty Report 2021-2022, hereinafter the Report, which contains the results of the impact indicators of its activity, for the period from January 1, 2021, to December 31, 2022.

Stone Soup Consulting has commissioned European Quality Assurance Spain, S.L. (hereinafter EQA) to verify the performance of the impact indicators (hereinafter the Selected Information) for the period 01/01/2021 to 31/12/2022. The Selected Information is contained in Stone Soup Consulting's Honesty Report 2021-2022, dated October 2023, issued by the organisation.

Organisation:

Stone Soup Consulting, Lda.

Registered Office

*R. Manuel Viegas Guerreiro 1, 2770-193
Paço de Arcos, Portugal*

In this context, EQA has been required to verify the Selected Information contained in the Report, carrying out a verification process based on our own verification methodology and best market practices in verification.

II. Scope and Objective

Objective: The objective of the verification is to ensure that the information reported by the organisation in Stone Soup Consulting's Honesty Report 2021-2022, dated 28/03/2023, is accurate, complete, transparent, and free of errors or omissions.

Scope of the Verification: on the Selected Information contained in Stone Soup Consulting's Honesty Report 2021-2022, which represents the performance of the impact indicators for the period 01/01/2021 to 31/12/2022. Our engagement also involved understanding the measurement methodology applied by Stone Soup Consulting. Our verification process does not involve an on-site visit to any of Stone Soup Consulting's facilities.

In compliance with the commitment undertaken, we have carried out the verification, with a limited level of assurance, on the Report. In this regard, our work has been limited to the verification of the following Selected Information:

Indicators
Stone Soup Consulting activities help community members increase their intellectual capital.
Stone Soup Consulting provides networking opportunities to support the growth of the community members' professional network.
Community members sense of belonging to Stone Soup Consulting community increases.
Stone Soup Consulting promotes flexibility and fosters work-life integration to increase community members well-being at work.
The quality of Stone Soup Consulting's recommendations, products and deliverables help organizations be more efficient.
Organisation's ability to deliver impact improves.
Organisations increase their strategic and operational capacities.

III. Verification procedure

Reference Standard: EQA Impact Verification Methodology and Procedures.

The assignment has been carried out according to a proprietary methodology, based in turn on the International Standard **UNE-EN ISO/IEC 17029:2019**.

The procedures performed are based on the professional judgment of the experts involved in the process and include consultations, observation of processes, evaluation of documentation, analytical procedures, and sample review tests, which are generally described below:

- Meetings with Stone Soup Consulting's General Management, responsible for providing the information contained in the Report.
- Analysis of the collection and internal control processes of the quantitative data contained in the Report, regarding the reliability of the information, using analytical procedures and review tests based on sampling.
- Analysis of the qualitative information contained in the Report to determine if it is in line with our general knowledge of the processes and the supporting documentation.

IV. Stone Soup's Liability

Stone Soup Consulting's management is responsible for the preparation, content, and presentation of Stone Soup Consulting's Honesty Report 2021-2022. This responsibility includes the design, implementation, and monitoring of internal control as deemed necessary to enable the Report to be free from material misstatement. In addition, Stone Soup Consulting's management is responsible for defining, implementing, adapting, and maintaining the management systems from which the information necessary for the preparation of the Report is obtained.

V. EQA's Liability

EQA's responsibility is limited to expressing our conclusion in a limited assurance independent verification statement as to whether or not the Selected Information contains material misstatements based on the procedures performed and evidence obtained.

The scope of a limited assurance engagement is substantially less than that of a reasonable assurance engagement and, therefore, the assurance provided is less.

This statement should in no way be construed as an auditor's report.

VI. Independence and quality control

As a verification and certification body, EQA has implemented a management system to ensure impartiality, objectivity, and technical competence both in the management of the body and in its verification activities. EQA is accredited to verify according to the ISO 14065 international standard. Its assessment method follows ISO 17020, ISO 17021 and ISO 17065.

The audit team has complied with the requirements of independence, impartiality, and other ethical requirements, basing its actions on the fundamental principles of integrity, objectivity, competence and professional diligence, confidentiality, and professional behaviour.

VII. Conclusion

Taking into account all the information gathered in the verification process and as a result of the procedures performed and evidence obtained, no matters have come to our attention that would lead us to believe that the Selected Information contained in Stone Soup Consulting's Honesty Report 2021-2022 dated October 2023 has not been reliably obtained and that the information is not fairly presented, or that there are material misstatements or omissions.

Our conclusion is based on, and subject to, the matters set out in this Independent Assurance Statement. In this regard, we consider that the evidence we have obtained provides a sufficient and appropriate basis for our conclusion.



Ignacio Martínez

EQA General
Manager

31 October 2023

Liability exemption

Transparency in the relationship between EQA and Stone Soup Consulting, Lda.: EQA has not executed limited assurance engagements for Stone Soup Consulting, Lda; and there is no established relationship (financial or otherwise) between EQA and Stone Soup Consulting, Lda.

This verification statement issued by EQA is limited to providing an independent opinion with a limited level of assurance on the Selected Information included in Stone Soup Consulting's Honesty Report 2021-2022, dated October 2023, a document prepared by Stone Soup Consulting, Lda.

Work procedures under a limited assurance level are intended to provide a certain level of confidence, therefore, work procedures under a limited assurance level are less rigorous compared to a reasonable assurance level. In this case, the contracted service falls exclusively under a limited assurance level.

This verification statement is based on information provided by Stone Soup Consulting, Lda. EQA has not carried out an on-site verification to check the accuracy of the information provided by Stone Soup Consulting, Lda. The accuracy, completeness and reliability of the information compiled is the responsibility of Stone Soup Consulting, Lda. Accordingly, EQA does not warrant that the information presented in this document is complete, accurate or up to date, nor does it accept any liability for errors or omissions.

Providing this statement does not mean that EQA certifies the tangibility, excellence, or irreversibility of the activity of Stone Soup Consulting, Lda.

This verification statement shall not be construed or interpreted as a representation, warranty, or recommendation by EQA, express or implied, as to the suitability of any investment decision or any type of business transaction.

The contents of this report should not be construed as a representation or warranty by EQA, express or implied, as to the suitability for investment decision making or any type of business transaction. Accordingly, this statement is provided for informational purposes only, does not constitute investment advice, financial advice or a prospectus and does not represent an evaluation of the financial performance of Stone Soup Consulting, Lda.

EQA is not responsible for any use of the verification statement outside the scope of our engagement. Furthermore, the verification statement also does not address the decisions of Stone Soup Consulting, Lda., or the investment decisions of a third party, and accordingly, the verification statement does not express and should not be considered as an expression of opinion about Stone Soup Consulting, Lda. or any financial aspect thereof. Accordingly, the parties agree to hold EQA, its directors, employees, or contractors harmless from any use of the verification statement other than as provided for in this contract and, consequently, from any claim that may be asserted against EQA in that regard.

EQA is not liable for any loss incurred because of information or data provided by Stone Soup Consulting, Lda.

Restriction on distribution and use of this statement: At the discretion of Stone Soup Consulting, Lda., provided that this document is distributed in its entirety.



European Quality Assurance Spain S.L. - EQA is an international **certification and verification body for environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG)** standards, whose purpose is to generate confidence in the market regarding the integration of sustainability factors in the strategy and operation of organisations.

EQA is the first Spanish verifier to be approved by **Climate Bond Initiative - CBI**.

EQA operates globally and **provides Sustainable Financial Instrument Verification, Impact Verification and Socially Responsible Investment Verification services.**

It also provides verification services in Climate Change, Corporate Social Responsibility, Compliance, R&D&I, among others.

EQA is an entity that adheres to **excellence, quality and independence** within its policies and procedures. It is committed to providing its clients with products and services with high added value for its stakeholders, because of its technical competence and scientific research, in collaboration with a large network of scientific experts, universities and research centres worldwide.

For further information please visit: <https://eqa.es/>

