

Dear reader

We launched the 21st edition of our annual Handbook on 28 November. The first two editions were titled the Corporate Social Investment and Development Handbook and then, for the next 17, the CSI Handbook. Last year we changed the name to The Trialogue Business in Society Handbook. This was more than just a change in title; it was about the positioning of CSI as an integral part of business. The feedback from clients and readers has been overwhelmingly positive and I believe this is attributed to a growing consciousness in the business community of the interdependence between business and society. We hear about 'shared value', 'purpose-driven businesses' and the focus on business values – these are no longer terms used to serve a PR agenda, but concepts that are now actively pursued within businesses and supported by business leadership.

Trialogue plans to continue to explore the notion of business functioning in harmony with society. In doing so, we have no intention of diminishing or diluting the important role played by CSI and will continue to highlight the developmental value derived from CSI programmes, as well as emphasise how CSI can and should support the entire business in making a positive societal impact.

We recognise that as a business we are reliant on partnerships with companies and other like-minded organisations if we are to have a significant influence. Through our Handbook, conference, Knowledge Hub and our participation in the Global Exchange, we are pursuing content partnerships through which we act together to uncover good practice, developmental lessons and innovations.

I am immensely appreciative of those of you who continue to support our work, as well as to my team for their exceptional work this year.

I wish you a peaceful festive season and look forward to reconnecting in the new year.

Best wishes,

Nick Rockey  
Trialogue Managing Director

## 1 THE TRIALOGUE BUSINESS IN SOCIETY HANDBOOK 2018 REPORTS FIRST REAL INCREASE IN CSI SPEND SINCE 2013



According to our latest annual research into the state of CSI in South Africa, companies spent an estimated R9.7 billion on CSI, education remained the most popular development sector, supported by 92% of companies surveyed, and non-profit organisations remained the most popular channel through which companies directed their CSI. Read more key findings from local and global research, learn about various corporate approaches to development, and enjoy a range of thought provoking

articles on developmental topics.

[Download The Trialogue Business in Society Handbook 2018](#)

## 2 SAVE THE DATES: THE TRIALOGUE BUSINESS IN SOCIETY CONFERENCE 2019

Since national elections will take place in May 2019, our industry-leading conference is scheduled for 16 and 17 April, with pre-conference workshops on 15 April. Registration and programme details will be available early in 2019. We look forward to seeing you there!



[Watch highlights from our 2018 conference](#)

## 3 CALL FOR CASE STUDIES TO BE FEATURED ON THE TRIALOGUE KNOWLEDGE HUB

Sharing your case study on the Knowledge Hub will help raise the visibility of your work and your organisation, and allow others working in the sector to build on your experiences. We invite case studies in any of the following topics:



Contact Trialogue Knowledge Hub manager, Ruen Govinder, for more information:  
[rgovinder@trialogue.co.za](mailto:rgovinder@trialogue.co.za)

## 4 INVESTING IN FUNCTIONAL LITERACY, EARLIER



Trialogue's November CSI Forum, presented in partnership with Volkswagen South Africa, explored how education interventions need to happen earlier in children's lives in order to equip them with the necessary skills for effective, broader learning. Forum delegates discussed the various building blocks required to improve literacy rates and embed a culture of reading in schools and communities.

[Read more here](#)

## 5 SUPPLY CHAIN SUSTAINABILITY: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The mid-year EY Trialogue Sustainability Forum discussed sustainability in supply chains. Organisational supply chains represent around 50% to 70% of corporates' sustainability footprint. Consumer goods supply chains alone account for more than 60% of global greenhouse gas emissions, 80% of water withdrawals and 75% of forced and child labour infringements. With this picture as background, organisations are coming under increasing pressure to identify, manage and report on sustainability risks within their supply chains.

[Read more here](#)

***We wish you a happy and safe festive season!***

