# Corporate sustainability reporting in the European Union: a bibliometric analysis

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## *Abstract*

*This study presents a bibliometric analysis of research on corporate sustainability reporting in the European Union, examining scholarly trends from 2022 to 2025. Using Scopus data (66 peer-reviewed articles on the EU Green Taxonomy and Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD)), we apply descriptive and network analysis to map the evolving research landscape. Findings reveal rapid publication growth, with Sustainability Accounting, Management and Policy Journal as the dominant outlet. By visualizing citation networks and conceptual trends, this study uncovers gaps in green taxonomy-CSRD alignment research and directs future inquiry toward investment transparency and SDG-linked reporting. The results aid policymakers and scholars in prioritizing understudied areas to strengthen sustainability reporting frameworks in Europe.*

## 1. Introduction

In recent years, the European Union has emerged as a global leader in shaping corporate sustainability through stringent regulatory frameworks. The introduction of the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) and the EU Green Taxonomy marks a pivotal shift from voluntary ESG disclosures to mandatory, standardized reporting. The CSRD expands sustainability reporting requirements to nearly 50,000 companies, ensuring alignment with the European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS), while the Taxonomy establishes a science-based classification system to direct investments toward environmentally sustainable activities. Together, these policies aim to enhance transparency, combat greenwashing, and accelerate the EU's transition to a climate-neutral economy by 2050. However, the rapid evolution of these regulations has created a complex compliance landscape, raising questions about their combined influence on corporate behavior, investor decision-making, and regulatory effectiveness.

Existing literature has extensively examined the CSRD and EU Green Taxonomy as separate regulatory instruments. Studies on the CSRD have explored its implications for disclosure quality (Fiandrino et al., 2022), corporate governance (Velte, 2023), and SME readiness (Pizzi & Coronella, 2024). Meanwhile, research on Taxonomy has focused on its financial impacts (Tonnarello et al., 2025), alignment with climate policy (Fuest & Meier, 2023), and investor adoption challenges (Becchetti et al., 2022). Despite this growing body of work, there remains a critical gap: no study has systematically analyzed the interconnectedness of these two frameworks using bibliometric methods. Most research treats them in isolation,

overlooking how their regulatory synergy influences corporate sustainability strategies, capital allocation, and long-term ESG performance. To fully grasp the implications of the CSRD-Taxonomy interplay, key questions remain unanswered:

*RQ1*. *How has academic interest in these regulations evolved over time?*
*RQ2*. *Which journals, authors, and countries dominate this research domain?*
*RQ3*. *How does citation influence vary across the CSRD and EU Taxonomy literature?*

Researchers in different domains have used bibliometric analysis to underscore the relevance of the existing research in their domains (Baker et al., 2020; Chaurasia & Singh, 2024; Goyal & Kumar, 2021; Kumar et al., 2022; Kumari & Jaiswal, 2024; Pandey, 2025b, 2025a; Pandey et al., 2024; Rajni et al., 2022; Sardana & Singhania, 2022). A bibliometric analysis can provide empirical insights into these questions, mapping the intellectual structure of the field and identifying underexplored areas that warrant further investigation (Donthu et al., 2021; Mukherjee et al., 2022). Hence, this study conducts a comprehensive bibliometric analysis of peer-reviewed research on the CSRD and EU Green Taxonomy (2022–2025) using Scopus data. By applying descriptive analysis, bibliographic coupling, and citation network mapping, we identify key trends, influential works, and thematic clusters. Unlike previous reviews, this study exclusively employs bibliometric techniques to quantify research patterns, avoiding subjective thematic interpretations. The findings will help scholars, policymakers, and practitioners understand the current state of research and guide future studies toward high-impact areas.

The remainder of this paper is structured as follows: Section 2 details the bibliometric methodology, including data collection and analytical techniques. Section 3 presents descriptive findings on publication trends, leading sources, and influential authors. Section 4 examines conceptual networks, revealing dominant research themes. Section 5 discusses the conclusion and implications of the study.

## 2. Data and research methodology

### 2.1. Defining the appropriate terms for search:

This study leverages the Scopus database due to its extensive coverage of high-quality, peer-reviewed research across multiple disciplines. Scopus is widely recognized for its stringent indexing standards, ensuring the inclusion of credible academic sources while maintaining a broader disciplinary reach than comparable databases (Lal et al., 2023; Pandey, 2025b). To systematically identify relevant literature on the CSRD and the EU Green Taxonomy, we constructed an exhaustive search query incorporating key terminology derived from prior research in this domain. The search was restricted to publications between 2022 and 2025 to capture the most recent developments following the formal adoption of these regulatory frameworks. The search string includes − *"corporate sustainability reporting directive\*" OR "csrd" OR "EU taxonomy for sustainable activit\*" OR "European Union taxonomy for sustainable activit\*" OR "European Union green taxonomy" OR "EU green taxonomy".* The search was performed in titles, abstracts, and keywords to make sure that the documents obtained were relevant.

### 2.2. Filtering of relevant literature

The search was performed in April 2025, wherein the Scopus database led to 465 documents. To ensure methodological rigor, we applied several inclusion criteria:

  i.    Only journal articles and review papers were retained, as these undergo full peer review, enhancing reliability.
  ii.   We focused on "Economics, Econometrics, and Finance" and "Business, Management, and Accounting" due to their direct relevance to corporate sustainability regulation.
  iii.  Only English-language publications were included to maintain consistency in analysis.

These filters reduced the dataset to 191 documents. Following a duplication check and manual screening of titles/abstracts, we excluded 125 irrelevant records, resulting in a final sample of 66 studies for bibliometric analysis.

**Table 1. Publication and citation trends**

| Years | TP | TC | TCP | TC/TP | TC/TCP | ≥ 50 | ≥ 20 | ≥ 10 | ≥ 5 | ≥ 1 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2022 | 9 | 272 | 9 | 30.22 | 30.22 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 2023 | 8 | 129 | 8 | 16.13 | 16.13 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| 2024 | 31 | 117 | 17 | 3.77 | 6.88 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 11 |
| 2025 | 18 | 18 | 3 | 1 | 6.00 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Total | 66 | 536 | 37 | | | 1 | 11 | 5 | 4 | 16 |
| % age | 100% | | 56.06% | | | 1.52% | 16.67% | 7.58% | 6.06% | 24.24% |

Note: TP – total publication, TC – total citation, TCP – total cited publication, TC/TP – citation per publication, TC/TCP – citation per cited publication, ≥ indicates citations more than or equal to that value.
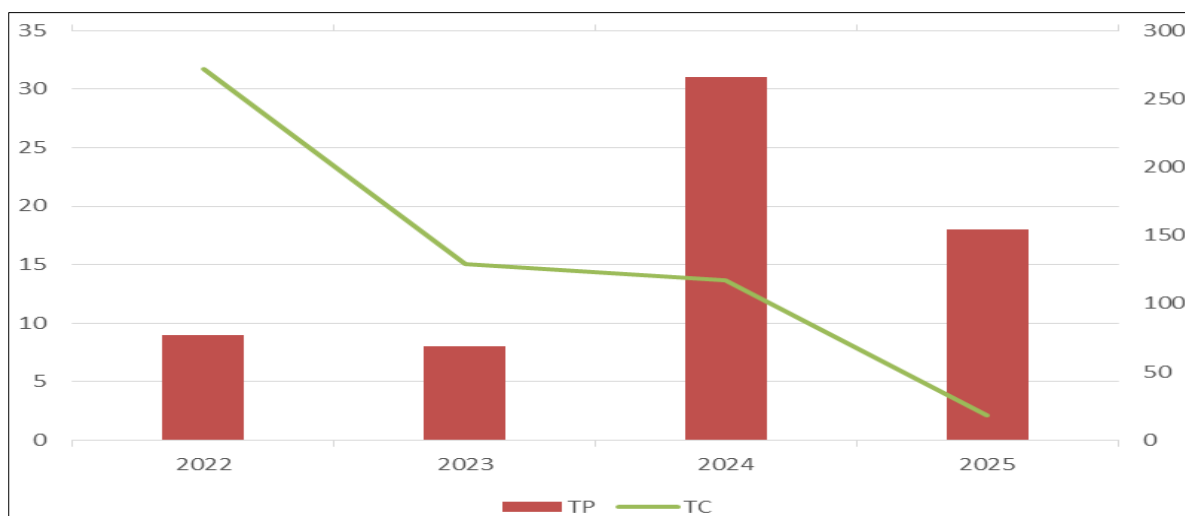


**Figure 1.** Publication and citation trends. Source: Created by the authors using MS Excel

## 2.3. Methods and tools

This study employs bibliometric analysis to quantitatively examine the research landscape of the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) and EU Green Taxonomy. Bibliometrics provides a rigorous, data-driven approach to assess scholarly impact and map intellectual structures within a research domain (Mukherjee et al., 2022). By analyzing publication patterns, citation networks, and bibliographic coupling relationships, this method reveals key trends, influential works, and emerging research fronts in sustainability reporting regulation. For our analysis, we utilized two specialized bibliometric tools: VOSviewer (Bastian et al., 2009; van Eck & Waltman, 2010) and Gephi (Bastian et al., 2009). These applications enable sophisticated network visualization and analysis of scholarly literature (Bhaskar et al., 2023; Bhaskar & Bansal, 2022; Boubaker et al., 2023; Jaiswal et al., 2024; Kumari & Jaiswal, 2024). Microsoft Excel supports data organization and preliminary analysis. Our methodology incorporated:

i. Descriptive analysis to identify top-cited articles, leading authors, journals, and countries
ii. Science mapping to conduct bibliographic coupling of authors, sources, and countries
iii. Network analysis to visualize author collaboration patterns and conceptual relationships

# 3. Descriptive results

## 3.1. Publication and citation trend

Table 1 highlights publication and citation trends in the literature on CSRD and EU green taxonomy, showing tremendous growth from nine articles in 2022 to 31 articles in 2024.

Of the 66 documents published from 2022 to 2025, about 56.06 (37) have been cited at least once. The year 2022 has attracted the most citations, with a total of 272 citations. These trends in the literature (see Figure 1) suggest that CSRD and EU green taxonomy have been receiving significant scholarly attention since 2022 and will continue to be a critical area of scholarly inquiry as researchers seek to understand their evolving concepts, regulatory framework, and societal impact.

## 3.2. Most productive and influential sources

Table 2a and Table 2b indicate the most productive and influential sources, respectively. "*Sustainability Accounting, Management and Policy Journal*" secured first place in the productive category with five documents, while "*Journal of Applied Accounting Research*" was at the top of the Table of most influential sources with 129 citations. 85% of the journals (productive and influential) have categories in Q1, 10% of the sources are categorized in Q2, and the remaining sources come under Q3 journals.

**Table 2a. Top productive sources**

| Sources | TP | TC | TC/TP | Ranking |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| "Sustainability Accounting, Management and Policy Journal" | 5 | 8 | 1.60 | Q1 |
| "Journal of Applied Accounting Research" | 3 | 129 | 43.00 | Q1 |
| "Management Decision" | 3 | 16 | 5.33 | Q1 |
| "Journal of Cleaner Production" | 3 | 37 | 12.33 | Q1 |
| "Accounting in Europe" | 3 | 39 | 13.00 | Q1 |
| "European Company and Financial Law Review" | 3 | 4 | 1,33 | Q1 |
| "Business Strategy and the Environment" | 2 | 20 | 10.00 | Q1 |
| "Journal of Global Responsibility" | 2 | 46 | 23.00 | Q2 |
| "Meditari Accountancy Research" | 2 | 29 | 14.50 | Q1 |
| "Economists' Voice" | 2 | 14 | 7.00 | Q3 |

Note: TP – total publication, TC – total citation, TC/TP – citation per publication

**Table 2b. Top influential sources**

| Sources | TC | TP | TC/TP | Ranking |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| "Journal of Applied Accounting Research" | 129 | 3 | 43.00 | Q1 |
| "Journal of Global Responsibility" | 46 | 2 | 23.00 | Q2 |
| "Resources, Conservation and Recycling" | 41 | 1 | 41.00 | Q1 |
| "Accounting in Europe" | 39 | 3 | 13.00 | Q1 |
| "Journal of Cleaner Production" | 37 | 3 | 12.33 | Q1 |
| "International Review of Financial Analysis" | 35 | 1 | 35.00 | Q1 |
| "Society and Business Review" | 34 | 1 | 34.00 | Q1 |
| "Meditari Accountancy Research" | 29 | 2 | 14.50 | Q1 |
| "Business Strategy and the Environment" | 20 | 2 | 10.00 | Q1 |
| "Accounting, Auditing and Accountability Journal" | 20 | 1 | 20.00 | Q1 |

Note: TP – total publication, TC – total citation, TC/TP – citation per publication

## 3.3. Most productive and influential countries

Table 3a and Table 3b present the top productive and influential countries, respectively. Among them, "Italy" is the top productive and influential country with 15 documents and 210 citations. 90% of the countries come from developed countries, and the remaining 10% are from developing countries.

## 3.4. Most influential documents

Table 4 presents the top-cited documents. Ottenstein et al. (2022), the most cited documents, with 57 citations, focus on the effect of Directive 2014/95/EU on sustainability reporting in the EU. Fiandrino et al. (2022) and De Wolf et al. (2023) are the second most cited documents with 41 citations each. Fiandrino et al. (2022), examining the multi-faceted dimensions for the disclosure quality of non-financial information in revising directive 2014/95/EU while De Wolf et al. (2023) highlights the whole Life Cycle Environmental Impact

Assessment of Buildings: Developing Software Tool and Databases Support for the EU Framework Level(s).

**Table 3a. Top productive countries**

| Counties | TP | TC | TC/TP | Country Status |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| "Italy" | 15 | 210 | 14.00 | Developed |
| "Germany" | 9 | 118 | 13.11 | Developed |
| "Spain" | 8 | 123 | 15.38 | Developed |
| "Poland" | 7 | 9 | 1.29 | Developing |
| "France" | 3 | 34 | 11.33 | Developed |
| "Belgium" | 3 | 12 | 4.00 | Developed |
| "United States of America" | 3 | 41 | 13.67 | Developed |
| "Finland" | 3 | 4 | 1.33 | Developed |
| "Ireland" | 3 | 22 | 7.33 | Developed |
| "Hungary" | 3 | 6 | 2.00 | Developing |

Note: TP – total publication, TC – total citation, TC/TP – citation per publication

**Table 3b. Top influential countries**

| Countries | TC | TP | TC/TP | Country Status |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| "Italy" | 210 | 15 | 14.00 | Developed |
| "Spain" | 123 | 8 | 15.38 | Developed |
| "Germany" | 118 | 9 | 13.11 | Developed |
| "United States of America" | 41 | 3 | 13.67 | Developed |
| "Switzerland" | 41 | 2 | 20.50 | Developed |
| "Austria" | 37 | 2 | 18.50 | Developed |
| "Czech Republic" | 35 | 2 | 17.50 | Developed |
| "France" | 34 | 3 | 11.33 | Developed |
| "Ireland" | 22 | 3 | 7.33 | Developed |
| "Egypt" | 20 | 2 | 10.00 | Developed |

Note: TP – total publication, TC – total citation, TC/TP – citation per publication

*3.5. Most productive and influential authors*

Table 5a and Table 5b indicate the top productive and influential authors, respectively. While "Velte, Patrick" is the top productive author with three documents, "Cardella, Mauro" is the most influential author, receiving 72 citations.

## 4. Science mapping

*4.1. Bibliographic coupling of authors*

Figure 2 illustrates the bibliographic coupling of authors, revealing that Erben, Saskia; Jost, Sebastien; Attenstein, Philipp; Weuster, Carl William; and Tormo-Carbó, Guillermina exhibit the highest total link strength, each recording a value of 472, with one publication and 57 citations individually. Cordella, Mauro ranks second, with a total link strength of 463, based on two publications and 72 citations. The third position is occupied by Fernandez-Feijoo, Belen; Posadas, Stefania Carolina; Ruiz-Blanco, Silvia; and Tarquinio, Lara, each registering a total link strength of 426, supported by one publication and 29 citations, respectively.

*4.2. Bibliographic coupling of sources*

Out of the 46 sources, 28 have a minimum of one citation. Figure 3 presents the bibliographic coupling of sources, highlighting how these sources are connected through shared references (Donthu et al., 2021). *"Journal of Applied Accounting Research"* has the highest total link strength of 119, with 129 citations and three documents followed by "*Meditari Accountancy Research"*, which has a total link strength of 102, along with 29 citations and two documents, and "*Accounting in Europe"*, which has a total link strength of 99, with 39 citations and three documents.

**Table 4. Top influential articles**

| Label | Titles | Journals | R | TC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ottenstein et al. (2022) | "From Voluntarism to Regulation: Effects of Directive 2014/95/EU on Sustainability Reporting in the EU" | "Journal of Applied Accounting Research" | Q1 | 57 |
| Fiandrino et al. (2022) | "The Multi-faceted Dimensions for the Disclosure quality of Non-financial Information in Revising Directive 2014/95/EU" | "Journal of Applied Accounting Research" | Q1 | 41 |
| De Wolf et al. (2023) | "Whole Life Cycle Environmental Impact Assessment of Buildings: Developing Software Tool and Databases Support for the EU Framework Level(s)" | "Resources, Conservation and Recycling" | Q1 | 41 |
| Hummel and Jobst (2024) | "An Overview of Corporate Sustainability Reporting Legislation in the European Union" | "Accounting in Europe" | Q1 | 37 |
| Alessi and Battiston (2022) | "Two Sides of the Same Coin: Green Taxonomy Alignment Versus Transition Risk in Financial Portfolios" | "International Review of Financial Analysis" | Q1 | 35 |
| Balogh et al. (2022) | "Towards Comprehensive Corporate Sustainability Reporting: An Empirical Study of Factors Influencing ESG disclosures of Large Czech Companies" | "Society and Business Review" | Q1 | 34 |
| Velte (2023) | "Does Sustainable Board Governance Drive Corporate Social Responsibility? A Structured Literature Review on European Archival Research" | "Journal of Global Responsibility" | Q2 | 32 |
| Becchetti et al. (2022) | "Measuring Investments Progress in Ecological Transition: The Green Investment Financial Tool (GIFT) Approach" | "Journal of Cleaner Production" | Q1 | 31 |
| Lombardi et al. (2022) | "The Climate-related Information in the Changing EU Directive on Non-financial Reporting and Disclosure First Evidence by Italian Large Companies" | "Journal of Applied Accounting Research" | Q1 | 31 |
| Posadas et al. (2023) | "Institutional Isomorphism Under the Test of Non-financial Reporting Directive: Evidence from Italy and Spain" | "Meditari Accountancy Research" | Q1 | 29 |

Note: TC – total citation, R – Scimago journal ranking

**Table 5a. Top productive authors**

| Authors | TP | TC | TC/TP | Total link strength |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| "Velte, Patrick" | 3 | 53 | 17.67 | 4 |
| "Aboud, Ahmed" | 2 | 20 | 10.00 | 0 |
| "Becchetti, Leonardo" | 2 | 32 | 16.00 | 0 |
| "Cordella, Mauro" | 2 | 72 | 36.00 | 0 |
| "Eliwa, Yasser" | 2 | 20 | 10.00 | 0 |
| "Krasodomska, Joanna" | 2 | 2 | 1.00 | 0 |
| "Saleh, Ahmed" | 2 | 20 | 10.00 | 0 |
| "Zarzycka, Ewelina" | 2 | 2 | 1.00 | 0 |

Notes: TP – total publication, TC – total citation, TC/TP – citation per publication

**Table 5b. Top influential authors**

| Authors | TC | TP | TC/TP | Total link strength |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| "Cordella, Mauro" | 72 | 2 | 36.00 | 0 |
| "Erben, Saskia" | 57 | 1 | 57.00 | 7 |
| "Jost, Sebastien" | 57 | 1 | 57.00 | 7 |
| "Ottenstein, Philipp" | 57 | 1 | 57.00 | 7 |
| "Weuster, Carl William" | 57 | 1 | 57.00 | 7 |
| "Zulch, Henning" | 57 | 1 | 57.00 | 7 |
| "Velte, Patrick" | 53 | 3 | 17.67 | 4 |
| "Fiandrino, Simona" | 41 | 1 | 41.00 | 3 |
| "Gromis Di Trana, Melchior" | 41 | 1 | 41.00 | 3 |
| "Lucchese, Antonella" | 41 | 1 | 41.00 | 3 |

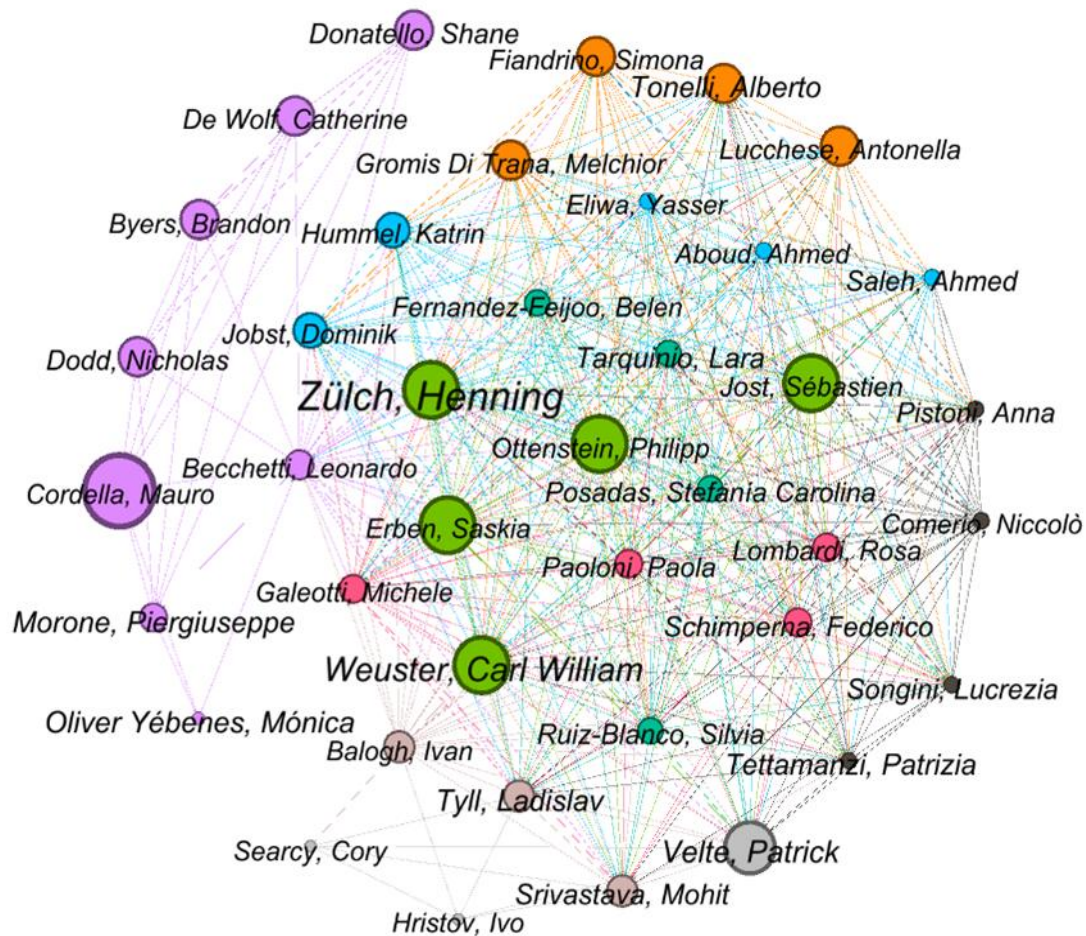Notes: TP – total publication, TC – total citation, TC/TP – citation per publication

**Figure 2.** Bibliographic coupling of authors. Notes: Minimum 1 document and at least 10 citations, out of 195 authors, 49 meet the threshold, 40 are connected. Source: Created by the authors using VOSviewer and Gephi

*4.3. Bibliographic coupling of affiliated countries*

Figure 4 illustrates the bibliographic coupling of affiliated countries, highlighting the interconnectedness of nations through author contributions related to the CSRD and the EU Green Taxonomy. Out of the 31 countries included in the network, 31 meet the predefined thresholds and are all interconnected. Among these, Italy records the highest total link strength of 1,021, supported by 210 citations and 15 documents, followed by Spain and France, with total link strengths of 726 and 525, based on 123 and 34 citations, and contributing eight and three documents, respectively.

*4.4. Citation analysis of documents*

Figure 5 presents the citation analysis of documents, revealing distinct patterns in scholarly engagement with CSRD and EU Green Taxonomy research. The network demonstrates several influential works, with Ottenstein et al. (2022) emerging as the most cited document (57 citations), serving as a foundational reference for studies examining the transition from voluntary to mandatory sustainability reporting. This is followed by Fiandrino et al. (2022) with 41 citations, highlighting its significance in discussions about non-financial disclosure quality.

The clusters indicate regulatory transition studies (2022 publications) focusing on NFRD implementation, CSRD operationalization research (2023-2024) addressing compliance challenges, and Taxonomy integration works (2025), exploring financial impacts. Notably, newer 2025 publications like Tonnarello et al. (2025) and Boungou and Dufau (2025) show limited citations due to their recent publication, but their high PageRank scores (0.088 and

0.039, respectively) suggest a growing influence. The *Journal of Applied Accounting Research* appears to be a key outlet, hosting three of the top-cited papers.



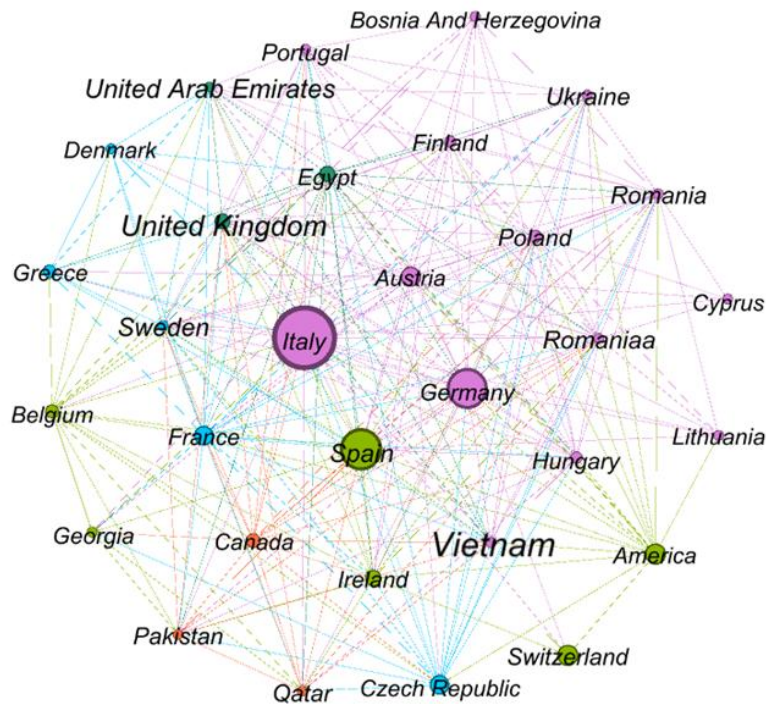**Figure 3.** Bibliographic coupling of sources. Notes: Minimum 1 document and at least 1 citation, out of 46 sources, 28 meet the threshold, all 28 are connected. Source: Created by the authors using VOSviewer and Gephi

Further, the analysis reveals geographic concentration, with European institutions dominating production. However, citation weights show disproportionate influence from early works (2022-2023), suggesting the field is still establishing its theoretical foundations. Normalized citation metrics indicate Hummel and Jobst (2024) and Aboud et al. (2024) as having a particularly high impact relative to their publication year.

This network structure suggests the literature is evolving from regulatory analysis (2022-2023) toward implementation studies (2024) and financial impact assessments (2025), with emerging work beginning to connect CSRD and Taxonomy requirements. The limited cross-citation between clusters indicates opportunities for greater theoretical integration.

## 5. Future research agendas

Based on the bibliometric analysis and identified gaps in the literature, several promising avenues for future research emerge. First, there is a critical need to explore the interplay between the CSRD and the EU Green Taxonomy, particularly how their combined implementation influences corporate strategy, capital allocation, and long-term environmental performance. Future studies should develop integrated theoretical frameworks that bridge regulatory compliance with financial and environmental outcomes. Second, the readiness and challenges faced by SMEs under the CSRD warrant deeper investigation, including the role of digital tools and assurance mechanisms in facilitating compliance. Third, researchers should

examine the global spillover effects of EU sustainability regulations on non-EU firms and markets, assessing whether these standards become de facto global benchmarks. Fourth, more empirical work is needed on the role of auditors and assurance providers in enhancing the credibility and comparability of sustainability reports. Finally, future studies could employ longitudinal and comparative methodologies to assess the real-world impact of these regulations on corporate behavior, investor decision-making, and ultimately, the transition to a sustainable economy.



**Figure 4.** Bibliographic coupling of countries. Notes: Minimum 1 document and at least 0 citation, out of 31 countries, all 31 meet the threshold, all 31 are connected. Source: Created by the authors using VOSviewer and Gephi

## 6. Conclusion and implications

This study employs bibliometric analysis to evaluate 66 scholarly articles on the CSRD and the EU Green Taxonomy. The findings highlight the *Journal of Applied Accounting Research* as the most influential journal, while *Sustainability Accounting, Management and Policy Journal* is the most productive. *Cordella, Mauro,* is identified as the most prolific author, and the article titled *"From Voluntarism to Regulation: Effects of Directive 2014/95/EU on Sustainability Reporting in the EU"* is the most impactful contribution. *Italy* stands out as both the most productive and influential country within this domain. The citation analysis of documents reveals the need for integrated theoretical frameworks in sustainability reporting. Key findings of this bibliometric study provide critical insights into the evolving research arena on CSRD and EU Green Taxonomy (see Table 6).

The study highlights the growing academic and regulatory convergence around CSRD and the EU Green Taxonomy, emphasizing their combined potential to reshape corporate transparency, stakeholder engagement, and sustainable finance practices. Overall, the study offers a valuable roadmap for academicians, policymakers, and industry practitioners to navigate this evolving regulatory landscape. The study presents actionable implications for policymakers and corporate stakeholders (see Appendix 1), aimed at enhancing regulatory compliance and supporting institutional capacity-building.
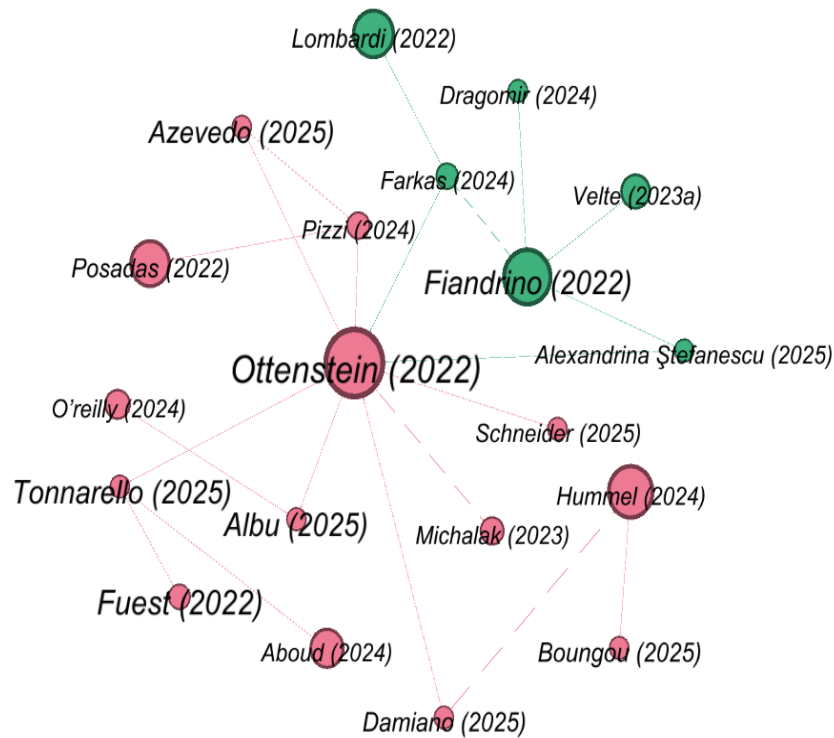
**Figure 5.** Citation analysis of documents. Notes: At least 0 citation, out of 66 documents, all 66 meet the threshold, only 20 are connected (Cluster 1: Pink, Cluster 2: Green). Source: Created by the authors using VOSviewer and Gephi

**Table 6. Summary of Findings**

| Analysis | Outcomes |
|---|---|
| Total publication | 66 |
| Citations | 536 |
| Total cited publication | 37 |
| Publication trend | Publication growing from 9 to 31 from 2022 to 2024, and 18 documents in 2025 (not completed) |
| Most influential article | Ottenstein et al. (2022) - "From Voluntarism to Regulation: Effects of Directive 2014/95/EU on Sustainability Reporting in the EU" |
| Most productive and influential sources | *Productive: "Sustainability Accounting, Management and Policy Journal"* <br> *Influential: "Journal of Applied Accounting Research"* |
| Most productive and influential country | *Productive: "Italy"* <br> *Influential: "Italy"* |
| Most productive and influential author | *Productive:" Velte, Patrick"* <br> *Influential: "Cordella, Mauro"* |
| Bibliographic coupling of authors | Erben, Saskia; Jost, Sebastien; Attenstein, Philipp; Weuster, Carl William; and Tormo-Carbó, Guillermina exhibit the highest total link strength, i.e., 472 each author. |
| Bibliographic coupling of sources | *"Journal of Applied Accounting Research"* has the highest total link strength of 119. |
| Bibliographic coupling of countries | "Italy" records the highest total link strength of 1,277. |
| Citation analysis of documents | Low cross-citation between regulatory vs. financial clusters shows the need for integrated theoretical frameworks in sustainability reporting. |

Despite its contribution, this study has some limitations. Firstly, it exclusively relies on the Scopus database, potentially omitting relevant studies from other sources such as the Web of Science. Secondly, only Scopus-indexed articles were included; future studies may consider a broader scope to ensure a more comprehensive synthesis. Lastly, citation analysis was used

for clustering in the SLR. Future research can conduct a more exhaustive review to deepen the understanding of regulatory impacts and cross-sectoral integration in sustainability reporting.

## Declaration of Conflicting Interests

## Funding information

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**Appendix 1. Implications for Policymakers and Corporate Stakeholders**

| Findings | Implications For Policymakers | Implications For Corporate Stakeholders |
|---|---|---|
| **Publication & Citation:** Rapid Growth from 2022 to 2025 | 1. Policymakers should focus on increasing public funding and institutional backing to Sustainability reporting research, especially in countries with low publication outputs, to ensure broader participation in EU policy discourse. <br> 2. Government and EU bodies should facilitate researcher-practitioner collaboration platforms to translate emerging academic findings into implementable sustainability strategies. | 1. Corporate leaders should stay updated on regulatory developments and scholarly insights to maintain competitive compliance. |
| **Influential Documents:** Key articles focus on Regulatory Impact on corporate-reporting, compliance trends, and legislative evolution | 3. Policymakers should consider integrating insights from impactful literature into training modules for corporates and SMEs to improve reporting accuracy and engagement. | 2. Managers must align internal ESG strategies with CSRD requirements and taxonomy metrics to ensure regulatory approval sand investor confidence. |
| **Productive & Influential Countries:** Italy leads in both metrics <br> **Bibliographic coupling of Authors, Sources, Countries:** Identifies the key players and collaboration clusters | 4. Other EU member states should examine Italy's institutional and academic frameworks for sustainability reporting and replicate successful models. <br> 5. Collaborations among top-cited journals and international authors should be institutionalized through EU-funded research consortia. | 3. Industry associations in other countries can benchmark best practices from Italian firms already aligned with CSRD and EU Green Taxonomy. <br> 4. Corporates can identify leading sources, authors, and countries within these clusters to benchmark their sustainability practices, adopt global best practices, and engage with thought leadership in the field. |
| **Citation analysis of documents** | 6. The findings highlight gaps in SME readiness and taxonomy-aligned reporting, urging clearer guidance and support for effective CSRD implementation. | 5. Top-cited works reveal key compliance challenges—materiality, assurance, and disclosure quality—helping firms strengthen ESG reporting strategies. <br> 6. Low cross-citation between regulatory vs. financial clusters shows need for integrated theoretical frameworks in sustainability reporting. |