

# **Integrating ESG in Social Enterprises in Northern Vietnam: Insights from Practice for Supporting Vulnerable Communities**

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## **Abstract**

This article explores the integration of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles in social enterprises (SEs) operating in Northern Vietnam, particularly those supporting people with disabilities and promoting social responsibility. Using a qualitative approach, the research combines literature review with an online survey conducted by Google Forms. Research results show that while the “Social” dimension is deeply embedded in SEs' missions, the “Environmental” and “Governance” aspects remain underdeveloped. Digital tools are primarily used for outreach and basic operations but have yet to be fully leveraged for ESG tracking and impact reporting. Research results also pointed out the reasons that limit the application of digital technology in ESG integration in social enterprises are due to: the lack of ESG frameworks, digital capacity, and policy support tailored to SEs. The study highlights the potential of simple, scalable ESG tools and inclusive digital solutions to support sustainable growth. It calls for stronger collaboration among policy-makers, universities, and intermediaries to build an enabling ESG ecosystem for social enterprises in Vietnam

**Keywords:** ESG integration; Digital transformation; Social enterprises; Sustainable development; North of Vietnam

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