

SPDR Bloomberg SASB U.S. Corporate ESG ETF Opplysninger på nettstedet til et artikkel 8-fond



A. Sammendrag

SPDR Bloomberg SASB U.S. Corporate ESG UCITS ETF ("fond") er et indeksfond som sporer utviklingen til Bloomberg SASB U.S. Corporate ESG Ex-Controversies Select Index. Denne indeksen har blitt valgt for at man skal oppnå de miljømessige og sosiale egenskapene som fremmes av fondet. De miljømessige og sosiale egenskapene fremmes av fondet gjennom indeksen fondet har valgt, nærmere bestemt R-Factor™-scoren som brukes ved sammensetningen av indeksen.

Fondet fremmer miljømessige eller sosiale egenskaper, men har ikke bærekraftig investering som mål.

De miljømessige og sosiale egenskapene fremmes av fondet gjennom indeksen fondet har valgt, nærmere bestemt R-Factor™-scoren som brukes ved sammensetningen av indeksen. R-Factor™ har en tilnærming til ESG-scoren som går ut på å fange opp hele spekteret av "økonomisk vesentlige" indikatorer. Hensikten er å isolere langsiktige bærekraftige verdidrivere på tvers av dimensjonene miljø, menneskelig kapital, sosial kapital, forretningsmodell, ledelse og eierstyring. I tillegg ekskluderer indeksen utstedere som er markert med: kontroverser knyttet til ekstreme hendelser, kontroversielle våpen, brudd på FNs Global Compact-prinsipper ("UNGC"), sivile våpen, termisk kullutvinning og tobakkselskaper.

Investeringsforvalteren og/eller underforvalteren skal, på vegne av fondet, investere ved å bruke en stratifisert utvelgingsstrategi som er nærmere beskrevet i "Investment Objectives and Policies – Index Tracking Funds" i prospektet. Investeringene skal hovedsakelig skje i verdipapirene i indeksen, og de skal til enhver tid være i samsvar med investeringsbegrensningene som er angitt i prospektet.

Investeringsforvalteren benytter en bindende ESG-metodologi som tar sikte på å sette sammen en portefølje der minst 90 % av fondets eiendeler investeres i verdipapirer som er i samsvar med de miljømessige og sosiale egenskapene som fondet fremmer. Den gjenværende delen (<10 %) av porteføljen, som består av kontanter og kontantekvivalenter som investeringsforvalteren holder etter eget skjønn, vil ikke være i samsvar med de miljømessige og sosiale egenskapene som fremmes. I den utstrekning fondet kan bruke finansielle derivater, vil disse ikke bli brukt til å oppnå de miljømessige eller sosiale egenskapene som fondet fremmer. Fondet forplikter seg ikke til å gjøre bærekraftige investeringer i henhold til SFDR eller taksonomiforordningen.

Hvor stor andel av fondets portefølje som investeres i verdipapirer som inngår i indeksen, utgjør en bærekraftindikator som brukes til å måle oppnåelsen av de ulike miljømessige og sosiale egenskapene som fondet fremmer.

Koblingen til indeksmetodologien som fanger opp de miljømessige og sosiale egenskapene som fondet fremmer, er gjort tilgjengelig i det relevante tillegget og er inkludert nedenfor.

Datakildene som brukes til å oppnå de relevante miljømessige og sosiale egenskapene, er nærmere

beskrevet i indeksmetodologien.

Det foreligger en risiko for at indeksleverandøren gjør feil, som for eksempel kan være feilvurdering av sorteringskriteriene beskrevet i investeringspolicyen, inkludering av ukorrekte komponenter og/eller utelatelse av korrekte komponenter i screeningsprosessen. ESG-data kan være basert på visse forutsetninger, prognoser, fremskrivninger, synspunkter og meninger, som igjen kan være basert på dagens markedstrender eller forventede fremtidige hendelser. Gitt den evolverende og innovative naturen til datamodeller, metodologier og forutsetninger og den iboende usikkerheten ved prognoser om fremtidige hendelser, kan det ikke garanteres at ESG-dataene alltid er nøyaktige eller korrekte, eller at ESG-dataene vil tilfredsstillende målene eller kravene til en bestemt kunde eller investor. Videre kan det forekomme at data ikke kan hentes inn på grunn av manglende tilgang til datakilder.

SSGA fører tilsyn med eksterne leverandører, inkludert indeksleverandører, i henhold til dets tredjeparts risikostyringsprogram. SSGA er regelmessig i kontakt med indeksleverandører for å gjennomgå servicenivå, og de foretar også målrettede gjennomganger av indeksleverandørenes prosesser, systemer, systemkontroller, data, kvalitetskontroller og IT-sikkerhet.

SSGAs retningslinjer for engasjement er ikke direkte integrert i fondets investeringsstrategi. SSGAs Asset Stewardship-program konsoliderer imidlertid alle stemme- og engasjementsaktiviteter på tvers av aktivaklasser uavhengig av investeringsstrategi eller geografisk region, og dette gjør de også på vegne av fondet.

Fondet har valgt indeksen for å oppnå de miljømessige og sosiale egenskapene som fremmes av fondet. Indeksmetodologien sørger for løpende gjennomgang og rebalansering ved hver månedsslutt.

Det henvises til Bloomberg SASB U.S. Corporate ESG Ex-Controversies Select Index-metodologien:

<https://www.bloomberg.com/professional/product/indices/>



B. No sustainable investment objective

The Fund promotes environmental or social characteristics, but does not have as its objective a sustainable investment.



C. Environmental or social characteristics of the financial product

The environmental and social factors promoted by the Fund are those which contribute to the R-Factor™ scores applied to index constituents including the Bloomberg SASB U.S. Corporate ESG Ex-Controversies Select Index (the "Index"), which are a function of an assessment and rating by the Index provider of various environmental, social and governance characteristics for companies in the

index universe.

For more information on R-Factor™ scores, please refer to the SSGA website:

[https://www.ssga.com/uk/en_gb/intermediary/ic/capabilities/esg/data-scoring/r-factor-transparent-esg-](https://www.ssga.com/uk/en_gb/intermediary/ic/capabilities/esg/data-scoring/r-factor-transparent-esg-scoring#:~:text=R%2DFactor%E2%84%A2%20is%20the,materiality%20in%20the%20scoring%20process.)

[scoring#:~:text=R%2DFactor%E2%84%A2%20is%20the,materiality%20in%20the%20scoring%20process.](https://www.ssga.com/uk/en_gb/intermediary/ic/capabilities/esg/data-scoring/r-factor-transparent-esg-scoring#:~:text=R%2DFactor%E2%84%A2%20is%20the,materiality%20in%20the%20scoring%20process.)

In addition, the Index excludes issuers that are tagged with extreme event controversies, controversial weapons, United Nations Global Compact principles (“UNGC”) violations, civilian firearms, thermal coal extraction and tobacco companies.



D. Investment Strategy

The investment policy of the Fund is to track the performance of the Index (or any other index determined by the Directors from time to time to track substantially the same market as the Index) as closely as possible while seeking to minimize as far as possible the tracking difference between the Fund’s performance and that of the Index.

The Index is an investment grade (high quality), fixed-rate, Euro-denominated benchmark that optimizes its R-Factor™ score, an environmental, social and governance (“ESG”) rating, provided by State Street Global Advisors®. Based on the Bloomberg U.S. Corporate Bond Index (the “U.S. Corporate Index”), the Index selects securities eligible for the U.S. Corporate Index, then aims to exclude certain issuers based on their ESG characteristics considering both their ESG rating and their involvement in certain controversial business activities as outlined in the Index methodology.. Then, the Index weights securities using an optimisation process, in order to seek to maximise the portfolio ESG rating, while controlling for active total risk. The active total risk refers to the variation between the Index and the U.S. Corporate Index.

The Investment Manager and/or Sub-Investment Manager, on behalf of the Fund, invests using the stratified sampling strategy as further described in the “Investment Objectives and Policies – Index Tracking Funds” section of the Prospectus, primarily in the securities of the Index, at all times in accordance with the Investment Restrictions set forth in the Prospectus.

Companies deemed not in violation by the Index provider of the UNGC principles are considered to exhibit good governance. For information on the methodologies used in the construction of the Index and further information on the exclusion criteria and data sources, please refer to Bloomberg’s index methodology description which can be found at the following link:

<https://www.bloomberg.com/professional/product/indices/bloomberg-barclays-indices>



E. Proportion of investments

At least 90% of the Fund’s assets are invested in securities that are constituents of the Index and aligned with environmental and / or social characteristics, while the Index provider applies ESG ratings on all the Index constituents. The Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments within the meaning of the SFDR or the Taxonomy Regulation. The Fund may hold 10% of its assets in cash or cash equivalents and derivatives used for currency hedging and efficient portfolio management purposes, at the Investment Manager’s discretion. Such assets will not be aligned with environmental and social characteristics, nor will there be any environmental or social safeguards in

place.



F. Monitoring of environmental or social characteristics

The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund are based on the Index, which optimises an ESG rating that is constituted by a “responsibility factor” (“R-Factor™”). The R-Factor approaches ESG scoring by capturing the full spectrum of “financially material” metrics to isolate long-term sustainability drivers of value across environmental, human capital, social capital, business model, leadership and corporate governance dimensions.

The scoring methodology systematically integrates best-in-class data, transparent sustainability framework, financial materiality across industries and corporate governance standards to define one R-Factor score for every company.

The Fund rebalances on a monthly basis, in line with the Index rebalancing frequency.



G. Methodologies

The index methodology which captures the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product is made available in the fund supplement.



H. Data sources and processing

The data sources used to attain the relevant environmental or social characteristics are detailed in the index methodology.



I. Limitations to methodologies and data

There is a risk that the index provider may make errors, such as incorrect assessment of the screen criteria described in the Investment Policy and/or include incorrect/exclude correct constituents in the screening process. ESG scoring and screening is subject to inherent methodological limits. Any assessment of ESG criteria by an Index is based on the data provided by third parties. Such assessments are dependent upon information and data that may be incomplete, inaccurate or unavailable, which could cause incorrect assessment of an issuer’s ESG performance. In particular there may be potential inconsistencies, inaccuracy or a lack of availability of required ESG data,

particularly where this is issued by external data providers. These limitations may include but are not limited to issues relating to: - Missing or incomplete data from companies (for example, relating to their capacity to manage their Sustainability Risks) which have been used as input for any scoring model; - The quantity and quality of ESG data to be processed; and - The identification of relevant factors for the ESG analysis.

ESG data may be based on certain assumptions, forecasts, projections, views and opinions which may be based on current market trends or anticipated future events. To assess company involvement in different activities and to estimate revenue shares as accurately as possible, data providers strive to obtain information directly from companies and issuers. Sources of data include annual reports, regulatory filings, sustainability reports, press releases, investor presentations, company websites, and other company disclosures. Given the developing and innovative nature of data models, methodologies and assumptions and the inherent uncertainty in predicting forward-looking events, it cannot be guaranteed that the ESG data is always accurate or correct or that the ESG data will satisfy the aims or requirements of any specific client or investor. Furthermore, there may be data that cannot be sourced due to the lack of availability of data sources.



J. Due diligence

SSGA oversees external vendors, including index providers, in line with its third party risk management programme. SSGA engages with index providers regularly for service level reviews and also undertakes targeted reviews of index providers' processes, systems & systems controls, data, quality controls & IT security.



K. Engagement policies

Is engagement part of the environmental or social investment strategy?

- Yes
 No

While SSGA engagement policies are not directly embedded into the Fund's investment strategy, for SSGA the informed exercise of voting rights coupled with targeted and value-driven engagement is the most effective mechanism of creating value and managing Sustainability Risk for the investors. SSGA's Asset Stewardship programme consolidates all voting and engagement activities across asset classes, irrespective of investment strategy or geographic region. The engagement strategy is built on SSGA's ability to prioritise and allocate resources to companies and issues that have the greatest potential impact. SSGA's Asset Stewardship programme is underpinned by 3 separate pillars, that is, (i) providing information and guidance to investee companies on the development of ESG practices across key issues, (ii) engaging with portfolio companies to encourage transparent, accountable, high performing boards and companies, and (iii) by exercising voting rights in a manner that reflects long term investment objectives for the purpose of influencing the activity or behaviour of the issuers. To support this process, SSGA has developed proprietary in-house tools to help identify companies for active engagement based on various financial and ESG indicators.



L. Reference benchmark

Has a reference benchmark been designated for the purpose of attaining these characteristics promoted by the Fund?

- Yes
- No

The Fund is an index fund tracking the performance of the Bloomberg SASB U.S. Corporate ESG Ex-Controversies Select Index. The Index has been designated for the purpose of attaining the environmental and social characteristics promoted by the Fund. The Index applies an ESG scoring and screening methodology using the R-Factor™ scores.

The Index methodology provides for ongoing review and rebalances at each month-end.

Please refer to Bloomberg SASB U.S. Corporate ESG Ex-Controversies Select Index methodology:

<https://www.bloomberg.com/professional/product/indices/>

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