

# State Street SPDR Bloomberg U.S. High Yield Corporate Scored UCITS ETF

## Website disclosure for an Article 8 fund



### A. Riepilogo

State Street SPDR Bloomberg U.S. High Yield Corporate Scored UCITS ETF (il “**Fondo**”) è un fondo indicizzato che replica la performance dell’Indice Bloomberg SASB Scored US Corporate High Yield Ex-Controversies Select (l’“**Indice**”). L’Indice è stato designato allo scopo di soddisfare le caratteristiche ambientali e sociali promosse dal Fondo. Le caratteristiche ambientali e sociali promosse dal Fondo sono quelle dell’Indice designato dal Fondo e più in particolare i punteggi R-Factor™ utilizzati nella costruzione dell’Indice.

Il Fondo promuove caratteristiche ambientali o sociali, ma non ha come obiettivo un investimento sostenibile.

Le caratteristiche ambientali e sociali promosse dal Fondo sono quelle dell’Indice designato dal Fondo e più in particolare i punteggi R-Factor™ utilizzati nella costruzione dell’Indice. I punteggi R-Factor™ seguono un approccio all’attribuzione di punteggi ESG che consiste nel tenere conto di tutta la gamma degli indicatori “finanziariamente rilevanti” allo scopo di isolare i catalizzatori di valore sostenibile legati ad ambiente, capitale umano, capitale sociale, modello di business, leadership e corporate governance. L’Indice esclude inoltre gli emittenti connessi a controversie legate a eventi estremi, armi controverse, violazioni dei principi del Global Compact delle Nazioni Unite (“**UNGC**”), armi da fuoco civili, estrazione di carbone tecnico e tabacco.

Il Gestore degli investimenti e/o il Subgestore degli investimenti, per conto del Fondo, investono secondo una strategia di campionamento stratificato, descritta in maggiore dettaglio nella sezione del Prospetto denominata “Obiettivi e politiche d’investimento – Fondi indicizzati”, principalmente in relazione ai titoli inclusi nell’Indice e sempre in conformità con i Limiti agli investimenti illustrati nel Prospetto.

Il Gestore degli investimenti adotta una metodologia ESG vincolante che mira a costruire un portafoglio in cui almeno il 90% del patrimonio del Fondo sia investito in titoli allineati alle caratteristiche ambientali e sociali promosse dal Fondo. La quota rimanente (<10%) del portafoglio, costituita da liquidità e disponibilità liquide equivalenti detenute a discrezione del Gestore degli investimenti, non sarà allineata alle caratteristiche ambientali e sociali promosse. Nella misura in cui il Fondo possa ricorrere a strumenti finanziari derivati, questi non verranno utilizzati per soddisfare le caratteristiche ambientali o sociali promosse dal Fondo. Il Fondo non si impegna a effettuare investimenti sostenibili ai sensi del Regolamento SFDR o del Regolamento sulla tassonomia.

La percentuale del portafoglio del Fondo investita in titoli inclusi nell’Indice costituirà un indicatore di sostenibilità utilizzato per misurare il raggiungimento di ciascuna delle caratteristiche ambientali o sociali promosse dal Fondo.

Il link alla metodologia dell'Indice che illustra le caratteristiche ambientali o sociali promosse dal Fondo è disponibile nel relativo Supplemento ed è riportato di seguito.

Le fonti di dati utilizzate per soddisfare le caratteristiche ambientali o sociali rilevanti sono illustrate in dettaglio nella metodologia dell'Indice.

Sussiste il rischio che il fornitore di indici possa commettere errori, come valutare in modo inesatto i criteri di esclusione descritti nella Politica d'investimento e/o includere/escludere erroneamente componenti nel processo di selezione. I dati relativi agli investimenti sostenibili possono essere basati su determinate ipotesi, previsioni, proiezioni, visioni e opinioni, che a loro volta possono basarsi sulle tendenze di mercato attuali o su eventi futuri previsti. Considerata la natura in evoluzione e innovativa dei modelli di dati, delle metodologie e delle ipotesi, nonché l'incertezza intrinseca nella previsione di eventi futuri, non si può garantire che i dati relativi agli investimenti sostenibili siano sempre accurati o corretti, né che tali dati soddisfino gli obiettivi o i requisiti di uno specifico cliente o investitore. Alcuni dati potrebbero inoltre non essere ottenuti a causa della mancata disponibilità di fonti di dati.

State Street Investment Management supervisiona i fornitori esterni, compresi i fornitori di indici, in linea con il proprio programma di gestione del rischio di terzi. State Street Investment Management interagisce regolarmente con i fornitori di indici per la revisione dei livelli di servizio e conduce inoltre verifiche mirate su processi, sistemi e controlli di sistema, dati, controlli di qualità e sicurezza informatica di tali fornitori.

Le politiche di impegno non sono direttamente integrate nella strategia di investimento del Fondo. L'esercizio del voto per delega e le attività di impegno sono condotti in conformità ai termini della Politica relativa all'esercizio del voto per delega e alle attività di impegno del Servizio di stewardship in materia di sostenibilità.

Il Fondo ha designato l'Indice allo scopo di soddisfare le caratteristiche ambientali e sociali promosse dal Fondo. La metodologia dell'Indice prevede una revisione continua e ribilanciamenti alla fine di ogni mese.

Si rimanda alla metodologia dell'Indice Bloomberg SASB Scored US Corporate High Yield Ex-Controversies Select:

<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 Scored US Corporate High Yield 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 website below:

[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, 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 US Corporate High Yield Bond Index (the "**U.S. HY Corporate Index**"), the Index selects securities eligible for the U.S. HY 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. HY 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/>



## 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 and financial materiality across industries 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. Sustainable investing scoring and screening is subject to inherent methodological limitations. Any assessment of sustainable investing 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 sustainable investing performance. In particular there may be potential inconsistencies, inaccuracy or a lack of availability of required sustainable investing 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 sustainable investing data to be processed; and
- The identification of relevant factors for the sustainable investing analysis.

Sustainable investing 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 sustainable investing data is always accurate or correct or that the sustainable investing 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. For certain markets and types of issuers, companies or securities there may be significant limitations in the amount of sustainable investing data that is available or no sustainable investing data may be available such that no screening is performed by the index provider. In certain situations where screening data is not available for an issuer, an investee company or a security, the index provider may develop and use alternative screening methodologies, as a proxy, use data relating to a different entity to the issuer or the investee company, which presents a risk that this data may not accurately reflect the sustainability or other characteristics of the issuer or the investee company. In certain situations, even where screening data is available it may not be used as part of the index provider's screening process. It is not expected that such limitations would affect how the environmental and social characteristics promoted by the Fund are met.



## J. Due diligence

State Street Investment Management oversees external vendors, including index providers, in line with its third party risk management programme. State Street Investment Management 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 engagement policies are not directly embedded into the Fund’s investment strategy, proxy voting and engagement activities in respect of securities held by the Fund are conducted pursuant to the terms of the Sustainability Stewardship Service Proxy Voting and Engagement Policy (the “**Sustainability Policy**”). The Sustainability Policy focuses on risks and opportunities that may impact long-term value creation, with a focus on sustainability priorities such as climate change, nature, human rights and diversity.



### 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 Scored US Corporate High Yield 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 Scored US Corporate High Yield Ex-Controversies Select Index methodology:

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

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