

Explanation Universe Construction and Monitoring of allowed Investments (Process description with regard to the Thematic Equities, Global SDG Equities and Global Gender Equality Impact Equities products classified under Article 9 of SFDR)

1. RobecoSAM Thematic Equities

1.1. Overview

The RobecoSAM sustainable thematic strategies invest in companies providing ingenuity and innovation to address the global challenges of climate change, resource scarcity, land & water pollution, rapid urbanization, deteriorating infrastructure, and escalating chronic disease & healthcare expenses. Our thematic strategies cover Water, Circular Economy, Energy, Materials, Mobility and Healthy Living. Each strategy invests in a portfolio of companies from a pre-defined theme-specific universe; eligible companies must, as a rule of thumb, derive 20% of individual company current revenues from activities related to the theme. Stock selection results in concentrated, conviction-led portfolios of companies active along the investment theme value chain and trading at an attractive price.

1.2. Universe Construction

For each thematic strategy, the Portfolio Managers select investments from a theme-specific universe of companies. The respective eligible universes from which the themes draw, are evolving over time, ensuring they capture the latest markets and sustainability trends. Given market dynamics, the relevance of specific investment areas can decline over time giving way to newly emerging and rapidly growing ones. Dedicated thematic analysts screen the investment universe on an ongoing basis to identify companies worldwide that offer products and services addressing these specific sustainability challenges.

Portfolio Managers and analysts monitor the investment universe on an ongoing basis and perform a structural review on a semi-annual basis. With the support of our sustainability investing research team, the investment team analyzes the latest trends and developments within the theme and implements them in the universe. ESG factors are a fundamental part of this work. Companies that do not meet defined sustainability criteria are removed from the universe. Finding new innovative investment opportunities also leads to specific topics that require more research from a sustainability perspective. Innovative products and services may be deemed controversial due to a mix of both positive and potentially negative impacts. For such businesses the investment team defines an own opinion and formulates requirements (e.g., minimum standards, policies, disclosures etc.) that need to be fulfilled in order to make the respective companies investable.

Each thematic universe comprises all those companies that have a significant thematic fit, and consequently, represent potential investment candidates. In general, a minimum of 20% of individual company current revenues should be derived from activities related to the theme; additional companies can be added selectively if a company is expected to have a significant impact on the industry in the future (e.g., dominant technology or market position, or strong growth in the respective field). At the portfolio level, a minimum of 50% of the weighted company revenues must be derived from activities related to the strategy's theme.

The universe should be broad enough to ensure diversification and allow for active investment choices, but still limited to companies with a strong thematic rationale. Typically, the thematic universes include between 150-400 companies, depending on the theme. Each thematic universe is structured into four investment clusters, each including a number of sub-clusters. Given the sustainable investment objective of the thematic strategies, most companies in the investment universe implicitly contribute to the targets as formulated in the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The investment universe for the RobecoSAM Sustainable Thematic Equity strategies is maintained in an internal database. In cases where a new company is detected by the investment team (Portfolio Manager/Analysts) during the year, equity analysts are entitled to add such a company to the universe provided that all prerequisites are met.

1.3. Second-line Monitoring

The fund is only allowed to invest in companies that are part of the investment universe. To ensure compliance with this requirement and to allow for second-line monitoring, the universe is coded in the Portfolio Management system by Robeco's restriction team. Pre-trade compliance prevents the Portfolio Manager from investing in a company not being part of the investment universe.

In order to avoid any investments that significantly harm the strategy's sustainable investment objective, portfolio holdings also are monitored for their SDG Scores. The strategies are only allowed to invest in companies with a positive or neutral SDG score on the basis of the SDG Framework. For more information on the SDG Framework and the proprietary SDG rating methodology, see <https://www.robeco.com/en/key-strengths/sustainable-investing/sustainability-reports-policies.html>. Negative SDG scores are only allowed in exceptional cases when approved by the internal SDG Committee.

1.4. Calculation of a Strategic Theme Reference

Officially, the RobecoSAM sustainable thematic strategies are benchmarked against the MSCI World Index as they seek to outperform the market in the long-term. Robeco has developed the Strategic Theme Reference (STR), a representative replication of the universe of stocks in which the theme can invest, to serve as an internal benchmark for portfolio management as well as risk management purposes.

The STR is constructed using an adjusted market capitalization methodology with a rebalancing twice a year. Companies above a market capitalization of USD 10 billion are capped to the maximum weight of USD 10 billion, whereas all other companies are weighted according to their market capitalization. Companies with a market capitalization below USD 200 million are excluded from the eligible investment universe and thereby the STR. The minimum USD allocation is set at 45% to avoid that the STR deviates too far from the MSCI World Index with regard to currencies. Strategic minimum or maximum cluster weights may be applied if requested by the investment team in order to keep a certain equilibrium on the final cluster weights. The STR is calculated by Robeco's Performance Measurement team.

The use of the STR is to measure and understand the performance of an investment theme. It indicates the performance of the theme in a neutral and passive way. It makes it possible to separate the performance of an actively managed investment strategy relative to a broad market index (e.g., MSCI World Index) into the contribution of the theme and the active management. The STR also plays an important role in the Robeco risk control framework. Serving as a reference point, it makes it possible to set internal investment guidelines to be applied to the active portfolio management. The guidelines set maximum deviations with regard to countries, sectors/clusters and currencies and add some maximum allocation thresholds.

2. RobecoSAM SDG Global Equities

2.1. Overview

The RobecoSAM Global SDG Equities strategy invests in a diversified portfolio of companies that make a significant positive contribution to the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Its investment

philosophy is based on our strong belief that current social and environmental challenges not only pose a threat, but also open up new investment opportunities. Companies that are characterized by good management and foresight and that contribute to the SDGs through innovative products and services will have a long-term competitive advantage.

2.2. Universe Construction

The Portfolio Managers select investments from a universe of companies that is built on three factors:

First, companies are selected that are assigned with a positive SDG score on the basis of the SDG Framework. For more information on the SDG Framework and the proprietary SDG rating methodology, see <https://www.robeco.com/en/key-strengths/sustainable-investing/sustainability-reports-policies.html>. Applying the SDG Framework, analysts of the SI research team analyze each company for significant and measurable impact towards one or several of the SDGs, meaning a holistic assessment including business models, products and services, as well as operations is performed. Companies that get classified as high or medium positive impact companies (SDG Score +3 or +2) become investable for the strategy.

Second, companies that score below average regarding their Smart ESG score are eliminated from the initial universe. The RobecoSAM Smart ESG scores are proprietary ESG ratings based on the Corporate Sustainability Assessment performed by S&P. Initial raw data is then engineered further internally with the insights of our quantitative analysis with the aim to correct for unwanted biases in the best possible way. Companies with a Smart ESG Score below 20 are excluded from the eligible investment universe for the portfolio. Overrides are allowed in cases where a detailed fundamental analysis conducted by Robeco's SI research team confirms that an investment can be justified.

Third, all companies that are part of Robeco's exclusion list for impact investing funds are excluded from the universe.

The investment universe for RobecoSAM Global SDG Equities is maintained in an internal database. It is systematically updated once a year by IT/Data Management based on the most accurate data. In cases, where a new company is detected by the investment team (Portfolio Manager/Analysts) during the year, equity analysts are entitled to add such a company to the universe provided that all three conditions mentioned above are met.

2.3. Second-line Monitoring

The Fund is only allowed to invest in companies that are part of the investment universe. To ensure compliance with this requirement and to allow for second-line monitoring, the universe is coded in the Portfolio Management system by Robeco's restriction team. Pre-trade compliance prevents the Portfolio Manager from investing in a company not being part of the investment universe.

3. RobecoSAM Gender Equality Impact Equities

3.1. Overview

The Global Gender Equality Impact Equities strategy invests in companies which are leaders in elevating women and diversity, reducing inequalities and providing an environment in which all employees can flourish. The strategy focuses on sustainable high-quality companies that exhibit a high degree of gender equality through diverse workforces at all levels including at the board level, pay equity practices, talent retention programs, commitment to the well-being of all employees including a systematic approach to employee satisfaction. We have a broad view on what gender "equality" entails, and therefore also consider other forms of "diversity" such as ethnic, nationality, disability, etc., alongside

female advancement and pay equity practices in our assessment of companies.

3.2. Universe Construction

The Portfolio Managers select investments from a universe of companies that is built on the following:

First, companies that exhibit a high degree of gender equality are selected based on the RobecoSAM Gender Equality score. The RobecoSAM Gender Equality score is a proprietary gender equality performance rating system including criteria such as board nomination process and representation, workforce diversity and talent retention, equal remuneration, employee health and well-being and trend of employee engagement. The initial raw data is sourced from the SAM CSA (Corporate Sustainability Assessment), performed by S&P. The raw data is then engineered further internally with the insights of our quantitative analysis with the aim to adjust for unwanted biases in the best possible way. Companies that exhibit a high gender equality performance become investable. In addition, a company can be added to the universe independent of the Gender Score if a detailed fundamental analysis of the Portfolio Manager/equity or SI analyst shows that its business model positively contributes to the development and advancement of gender equality.

Second, companies that score below average regarding their Smart ESG score are eliminated from the initial universe. The RobecoSAM Smart ESG scores are proprietary ESG ratings based on the Corporate Sustainability Assessment performed by S&P. Initial raw data is then engineered further internally with the insights of our quantitative analysis with the aim to correct for unwanted biases in the best possible way. Companies with a Smart ESG Score below 20 are excluded from the eligible investment universe for the portfolio. Overrides are allowed in cases where a detailed fundamental analysis conducted by the SI Research team confirms that an investment can be justified.

Third, all companies that are part of Robeco's exclusion list for impact investing funds are excluded from the universe.

The investment universe for Global Gender Equality Impact Equities is maintained in an internal database. It is systematically updated once a year by IT/Data Management based on the most accurate data. In case a new company is detected by the investment team (Portfolio Manager/Analysts) during the year, equity analysts are entitled to add such a company to the universe provided that all three conditions mentioned above are met.

3.3. Second-line Monitoring

The fund is only allowed to invest in companies that are part of the investment universe. To ensure compliance with this requirement and to allow for second-line monitoring, the universe is coded in the Portfolio Management system by Robeco's restriction team. Pre-trade compliance prevents the Portfolio Manager from investing in a company not being part of the investment universe.

In order to avoid any investments that significantly harm the strategy's sustainable investment objective, portfolio holdings also are monitored for their SDG Scores. The strategies are only allowed to invest in companies with a positive or neutral SDG score on the basis of the SDG Framework. For more information on the SDG Framework and the proprietary SDG rating methodology, see <https://www.robeco.com/en/key-strengths/sustainable-investing/sustainability-reports-policies.html>. Negative SDG scores are only allowed in exceptional cases when approved by the internal SDG committee.

Contact

Robeco Institutional Asset Management B.V.

Carola van Lamoen
Head of Sustainable Investing
Weena 850
3014AD Rotterdam
The Netherlands

c.van.lamoen@robeco.nl
www.robeco.com