



Press release

Kick-off for professional cooperation between Robeco, University of Zurich and ETH Zurich

Zurich, May 4, 2022 – Science and economy jointly strengthen their commitment to sustainable capital investments through a professional cooperation between the University of Zurich (UZH), ETH Zurich (ETH) and Robeco Switzerland Ltd. (Robeco) in the field of "Sustainable Finance". For all three players, the topic of "Sustainable Investing" is of strategic importance.

Against this backdrop, Robeco, as a globally recognized provider of sustainable investment strategies, together with the leading educational institutions UZH and ETH, have decided to strengthen their joint commitment to sustainable investments and to establish an in-depth professional exchange for this purpose.

The cooperation, whose overarching goal is the symbiotic and interdisciplinary pooling of the most capable personalities on the topic of "Sustainable Investing" from science and economy, promotes research as well as its practical application and is therefore pertinent for Switzerland as a research location and financial center.

As an initial step, two cross-institutional research projects are planned that will be conducted independently by UZH and ETH and technically supported by Robeco. In this framework, leading researchers from both institutions will benefit from the methods of Robeco's Sustainable Investing Research and Sustainable Investing Data Engineering departments. Both departments are domiciled in Switzerland.

Furthermore, the cooperation ensures the professional support of the joint degree program "Master of Science UZH ETH in Quantitative Finance" (MScQF) as well as further educational offers regarding "Sustainable Investing" in the future. Within this framework, both the inclusion of practice-related research topics and the rewarding of the best master's thesis in the MScQF with an award including monetary prize are foreseen. Since many years, the MScQF has consistently ranked among the three best programs of its kind in Europe and in the top 10 worldwide.

Prof. Dr. Günther Dissertori, Dean of ETH Zurich, commented: «The practical implementation of scientific research is a major concern of ETH Zurich and Switzerland as a research location. Given this background, the promising cooperation with the University of Zurich and Robeco in the area of Sustainable Investing is most welcome.»

Prof. Dr. Gabriele Siegert, Deputy Dean of the University of Zurich, added: «Research and teaching should encourage professional exchange with, among others, the economic sector. The cooperation with ETH Zurich and Robeco follows this path and enables the University of Zurich to contribute its competencies in the area of Sustainable Investing in a targeted manner.»

The UZH and ETH have found in Robeco an experienced and credible partner in the field of sustainable investing, which aims to support the further development of Switzerland towards a hotspot for sustainable asset management, as **Dr. Martin K. Weber, Chair of the Board of Directors of Robeco Switzerland Ltd.**, emphasizes: «The overarching cooperation with the University of Zurich and the ETH Zurich consolidates Robeco's pioneering role in Switzerland and Robeco as a global provider of sustainable investment strategies, and promotes the Swiss financial center as an international competence center for sustainable asset management.»

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The Investment Engineers

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About the cooperation partners:

University of Zurich (UZH) / ETH Zurich (ETH)

Since 2009, UZH and ETH offer the joint degree program "Master of Science UZH ETH in Quantitative Finance" (MScQF), which forms the platform for the present cooperation. For years, the Master's program has been consistently ranked among the top three programs of its kind in Europe and ranks in the top 10 worldwide. Scientists at UZH and ETH are increasingly addressing the issue of sustainability in the field of banking and finance, with specific attention also being paid to this in the training and continuing education programs.

Robeco

Robeco is a pure-play international asset manager founded in 1929 with headquarters in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, and 16 offices worldwide. A global leader in sustainable investing since 1995, its unique integration of sustainable as well as fundamental and quantitative research enables the company to offer institutional and private investors an extensive selection of active investment strategies, for a broad range of asset classes. As at 31 December 2021, Robeco had EUR 201 billion in assets under management, of which EUR 195 billion is committed to ESG integration. Robeco is a subsidiary of ORIX Corporation Europe N.V. More information is available at www.robeco.com.

Robeco Switzerland Ltd. is a FINMA-licensed asset manager for collective investment schemes. At our Zurich offices, we employ around 90 people in the Investments, Sustainable Investment Research, Corporate Services and Sales Switzerland departments. The Swiss location is a pioneer in sustainable investing, based on a commitment shaped by a long-standing cooperation with Swiss market leader Sustainable Asset Management ([RobecoSAM](#)), which was founded in 1995 and acquired by Robeco in 2006.