# **Bloomberg MSCI Euro Corporate Liquid ex Financial SRI Sustainable Index**

The Bloomberg MSCI Euro Corporate ex Financial Liquid SRI Sustainable Bond Index is a fixed-rate, investment-grade corporate bond benchmark that follows the rules of the Bloomberg Euro Aggregate Corporate ex Financials Index and applies additional sector and ESG criteria for security eligibility. The index includes issuers with MSCI ESG Ratings of BBB or higher and negatively screens issuers that are involved in business activities that are restricted because they are inconsistent with certain values-based business involvement criteria, including activities related to controversial military weapons, and those issuers with a "red" MSCI ESG Controversy Score. Additionally, the index exclude issuers from emerging markets. The index was created in May 2019, with history backfilled to April 2013.

# **Rules for Inclusion**

Sector	Corporate (industrial and utility) issuers only from developed markets.				
Eligible Currencies	Principal and interest must be denominated in EUR.				
Quality	Securities must be rated investment grade (Baa3/BBB-/BBB- or higher) using the middle rating of Moody's, S&P and Fitch; when a rating from only two agencies is available, the lower is used; when only one agency rates a bond, that rating is used. In cases where explicit bond level ratings may not be available, other sources may be used to classify securities by credit quality:				
	<ul> <li>Expected ratings at issuance may be used to ensure timely index inclusion or to properly classify split-rated issuers.</li> </ul>				
	• Unrated securities may use an issuer rating for index classification purposes if available. Unrated subordinated securities are included if a subordinated issuer rating is available.				
Issuer Amount Outstanding	Issuers must have a minimum of €1bn in bonds outstanding before becoming eligible.				
Amount Outstanding	EUR500mn minimum par amount outstanding.				
Coupon	<ul> <li>Fixed-rate coupon.</li> <li>Original zero coupon issues are included.</li> <li>Callable fixed-to-floating rate bonds are eligible during their fixed-rate term only.</li> <li>Step-up coupons and those that change according to a predetermined schedule are also eligible.</li> </ul>				
Maturity	<ul> <li>At least one year until final maturity, regardless of optionality.</li> <li>Bonds that convert from fixed to floating rate, including fixed-to-float perpetual, will exit the index 1 year prior to conversion to floating-rate. Fixed-rate perpetual bonds are not included.</li> </ul>				
Market of Issue	Fully taxable, publicly issued in the global and regional markets.				



#### Seniority of Debt Senior and subordinated issues are included.

#### **Security Types**

## Included

- Bullet, putable, sinkable/amortizing and callable bonds
- Fixed-rate and fixed-to-floating capital securities

#### Excluded

- Treasury, government related and securitized bonds
- Floating-rate bonds, inflation-linked bonds
- Private placements and retail bonds
- Financials
- Emerging Market Issuers

### **Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) Rules**

#### **MSCI ESG Rating**

- Securities must have an MSCI ESG Rating of BBB or higher.
- Unrated issuers from sectors with ratings are excluded.
- Prior to April 8, 2021, MSCI ESG Ratings, Controversy Scores and Business Involvement data were applied at the ticker level, where every bond within the same ticker would have the same MSCI ESG Rating, with MSCI mapping ESG data from the entity with the largest debt outstanding (by market value) to all companies with the same Bloomberg ticker.
- From April 9, 2021, MSCI ESG data is applied at the bond level which may result in bonds with the same Bloomberg ticker having different MSCI ESG Ratings.
- MSCI ESG Ratings are generally updated annually, but may be reviewed more frequently as needed.

Business InvolvementThe index excludes issuers involved in the following business lines/activities as per the standardScreensBloomberg MSCI SRI screen:

- Alcohol
- Tobacco
- Gambling
- Adult Entertainment
- Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO)
- Nuclear Power
- Civilian Firearms
- Conventional Weapons
- Nuclear Weapons
- Controversial Weapons
  - o Landmine Manufacturing
  - o Cluster Bomb Manufacturing
  - o Depleted Uranium Weapons
  - o Chemical and Biological Weapons Components
- Thermal Coal
- Fossil Fuels

Involvement is defined for each restricted activity and may be based on % of revenue, total revenue, or any tie regardless of revenue (see Figures 7-8 on pages 14-16 for standard screen threshold in ESG Methodology on the <u>Bloomberg Terminal</u> or on the <u>website</u>).

From October 2020 until September 2021, the index additionally excluded issuers with greater than 5% revenue from the business activities related to:

- Thermal Coal
- Generation of Thermal Coal
- Unconventional Oil and Gas
- Arctic Gas
- Arctic Oil

From September 2021, the index additionally excludes issuers with greater than 5% revenue from business activities related to:

- Arctic Gas
- Arctic Oil

From June 2022, the index additionally excludes issuers involved in Human Rights controversies with severity of "very severe", "severe" or "moderate."

MSCI ESG ControversiesExcludes any issuer with a "Red" MSCI ESG Controversies score (equal to zero), which measures an<br/>issuer's involvement in major ESG controversies and how well they adhere to international norms and<br/>principles.

## **Rebalancing Rules**

Minimum ESG Exclusions	From 28 February 2021, the following criteria will be applied. On the last business day before month end, using the Forward Universe of the previous day, after applying the Non-ESG criteria rules for inclusion, defined above, and additionally removing any non-ESG rated bonds, the number of issuers for the eligible universe are defined.
	If, after having additionally applied the ESG selection criteria above, less than 20% of the total number of issuers in the eligible universe are excluded, then the eligible issuers are ranked in the order below, according to the following criteria:
	MSCI ESG Rating score (higher Ticker ESG Rating score preferred to remain in the index)
	• MSCI ESG Controversies score (higher Ticker Controversies score preferred to remain in the index)
	Then based on this ranking, issuers will be excluded from the index, until the number of excluded issuers is higher than 20% of the eligible universe total number of issuers. If, more than one issuer has the same ESG Rating and Controversy score and is required to be removed to reach the 20% threshold, then all issuers with the same ESG Rating and Controversy score are removed.
Frequency	For each index, Bloomberg maintains two universes of securities: the Returns (Backward) and the Projected (Forward) Universes. The composition of the Returns Universe is rebalanced at each month- end and represents the fixed set of bonds on which index returns are calculated for the next month. The Projected Universe is a forward-looking projection that changes daily to reflect issues dropping out of and entering the index but is not used for return calculations. On the last business day of the month (the rebalancing date), the composition of the latest Projected Universe becomes the Returns Universe for the following month.

Index Changes	During the month, indicative changes to securities (credit rating change, sector reclassification, amount outstanding changes, corporate actions, ticker changes, etc.) are reflected daily in both the Projected and Returns Universe of the index. These changes may cause bonds to enter or fall out of the Projected Universe of the index on a daily basis, but will affect the composition of the Returns Universe at month-end only, when the index is next rebalanced.
Reinvestment of Cash Flows	Intra-month cash flows from interest and principal payments contribute to monthly index returns but are not reinvested at a short-term reinvestment rate between rebalance dates. At each rebalancing, cash is effectively reinvested into the Returns Universe for the following month so that index results over two or more months reflect monthly compounding.
New Issues	Qualifying securities issued/announced, but not necessarily settled, on or before the month-end rebalancing date, qualify for inclusion in the following month's index if required security reference information and pricing are readily available.

## **Pricing and Related Issues**

Sources & Frequency	All index-eligible bonds are priced on a daily basis by Bloomberg's evaluated pricing service, BVAL.				
Pricing Quotes	Bonds are quoted as a percentage of par.				
Timing	<ul> <li>4:15pm (London time).</li> <li>On early market closes, prices are taken as of 12:15pm (London time), unless otherwise noted.</li> <li>If the last business day of the month is a UK holiday, prices from the previous business day are used.</li> </ul>				
Bid or Offer Side	Bonds in the index are priced on the bid side. The initial price for new corporate issues entering the index is the offer side; after the first month, the bid price is used.				
Settlement Assumptions	<ul> <li>T+1 calendar day settlement basis.</li> <li>At month-end, settlement is assumed to be the first calendar day of the following month, even if the last business day is not the last day of the month, to allow for one full month of accrued interest to be calculated.</li> </ul>				
Verification	Daily price moves for each security are analyzed by the index pricing team. Index users may also challenge price levels, which are then reviewed and updated as needed.				
Calendar	The Euro Corporate Liquid ex Financial SRI Sustainable Index follows the UK bond market holiday schedule. For month-end dates, the European calendar may also be employed in the event a UK holiday falls on a month-end date but European markets remain open.				

# **Accessing Index Data**

- INDE<GO> The Bloomberg Indices dashboard page, which contains daily, monthly, and year-todate index returns for key indices from each index family as well as a link to index publications.
- IN<GO> The Bloomberg Index Browser displays the latest performance results and statistics for the indices as well as history. IN presents the indices that make up Bloomberg's global, multi-asset

	class index families into a hierarchical view, facilitating navigation and comparisons. The "My Indices" tab allows a user to focus on a set of favorite indices.			
	• DES <go> - The index description page provides transparency into an individual index including membership information, aggregated characteristics and returns, and historical performance.</go>			
	<ul> <li>INP<go> - The Bloomberg Indices Publications page, which includes methodologies, factsheets, monthly reports, announcements and technical notes. A user may also subscribe to index publications via the "Actions" button.</go></li> </ul>			
	• PORT <go> - Bloomberg's Portfolio &amp; Risk Analytics solution includes tools to analyze the risk, return, and current structure of indices. Analyze the performance of a portfolio versus a benchmark or use models for performance attribution, tracking error analysis, value-at-risk, scenario analysis, and optimization.</go>			
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	Index methodology and factsheets			
	Current performance numbers for select indices			
Data Distribution	Index subscribers may choose to receive index data in files. Files may include:			
	Index level and/or constituent level returns and characteristics for any indices			
	<ul> <li>Automatic delivery of files via email or SFTP following the completion of the index production process after market close</li> </ul>			
	Clients may receive standard files or may customize file contents			
	Index data is also available via authorized redistributors			

Index Ticker

134998EU: Total Return Euro Unhedged

## **Index Licensing**

Bloomberg requires index data licenses for services and products linked to the Indices

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- Bond Pricing Service
- Index-Linked Insurance Products
- OTC Derivative Products
- Custom Index Solutions
- Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs)
- Mutual Funds
- Separately Managed Accounts (SMAs)

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