

# Sustainability@Commerzbank

Corporate Responsibility Newsletter

February 2016 | Issue 6

## Sustainable Development Goals: Ambitious goals for sustainable development

In the autumn of 2015, the goals were adopted under a consensus reached in New York by all 193 countries represented in the United Nations: 17 goals summed up in the so-called Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). They build on the Millennium Development Goals, which were valid from 2000 to 2015. The SDGs are also agreed for a 15-year period. In contrast to the first generation, however, they are no longer focused to the same degree on developing countries. This time the goals apply to all states, and explicitly call for action by civil society organisations and by the private sector as a whole.



The goals extend from ending poverty (Goal 1) to building resilient infrastructure (Goal 9) and taking action on climate change (Goal 13) – a wide range of objectives defined concretely in 169 sub-targets.

But how will they be implemented and what contribution will be made by Commerzbank? Concrete action to achieve targets will take place at regional and local levels – and this will include action by companies. The commitments of Commerzbank range from the financing of renewable energy sources and educational programmes within the framework of

its corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives to the exclusion of listed investment products related to basic foodstuffs. The steps taken by Commerzbank are not new. Most have been part of our corporate strategy or CSR philosophy for many years. The Sustainable Development Goals now provide a new framework for our actions that encourages us to continue addressing the challenges of our times in a dialogue with customers, suppliers and the financial sector.

The Sustainable Development Goals and the contributions of Commerzbank in this area are described in our Sustainability Portal.

### Further information:

- [Site of the United Nations on the Sustainable Development Goals](#)
- [CR Portal of Commerzbank on the Sustainable Development Goals](#)

### Imprint

**Publisher:** Commerzbank AG, Corporate Responsibility, Rüdiger Senft (V.i.S.d.P)

**Editors:** Christoph Ott, Thekla Wiessner

**Feedback:** [sustainability@commerzbank.com](mailto:sustainability@commerzbank.com)

**Publication:** quarterly

You can subscribe to or unsubscribe from the newsletter via the above-mentioned e-mail address or on the [Commerzbank Sustainability Portal](#).

**Sustainability online:** [www.sustainability.commerzbank.com](http://www.sustainability.commerzbank.com)

## In a nutshell: Sustainability initiatives at Commerzbank

### Committed to the German Sustainability Code renewed

Commerzbank has again issued a commitment to the German Sustainability Code. The code defines the essence of corporate sustainability in terms of 20 criteria, backed by performance benchmarks. In addition, it states minimum requirements for sustainability communication and thus offers a framework for non-financial reporting. The code is promoted by the Council for Sustainable Development. Commerzbank issued a commitment for the first time in 2013. [► More](#)

### Sustainable and ethical investments



Since September 2015, in addition to funds issued by strategic partners, Commerzbank has offered its own sustainable fund to private and institutional clients. The fund, entitled "Commerzbank Globale

Aktien – Katholische Werte", is geared to the investment needs of churches. However, it is intended for all investors interested in a sustainable fund. The fund's investment universe matches the criteria of the German Conference of Bishops, and excludes companies in sectors such as alcohol, gambling, tobacco, armaments, nuclear energy, genetic research and stem cell research. It is managed by Commerz Funds Solutions. [► More](#)

### EUR 130,000 for Johanniter refugee aid

Last year's call by Commerzbank for donations to the refugee aid initiative of the German charity "Die Johanniter" (St. John's Ambulance) brought in a total of EUR 65,000. This amount was doubled by the Bank, and was used for aid efforts in Berlin, Düsseldorf, Frankfurt, Hamburg and Munich. At those locations, the charity supports emergency housing, reception centres and integration projects, among other activities. With its donation, Commerzbank is providing funding in particular for orientation courses, refugee sponsorship arrangements, language courses and an educational and holiday programme for refugee children.

### Commerzbank Foundation sponsors project in Lübeck, Germany: "The Manns: Literature as an event"

Since mid-September 2015, pupils from a secondary school in Lübeck, Germany, have been working with the staff at Buddenbrookhaus, a museum dedicated to the novel Buddenbrooks, its author Thomas Mann, and the other famous writers in the Mann family. The goal of the school project is to identify the perspectives and needs of young book lovers and incorporate the results in a new concept for the museum's permanent exhibition and in a planned special exhibition. [► More \(German only\)](#)

### 2015 Christmas campaign: making wishes come true

Again in 2015, Commerzbank employees helped make wishes come true. More than 550 children from seven facilities caring for children and refugees in the Frankfurt region prepared Christmas wish lists. The cards were snapped up eagerly by Commerzbank staff, and the Bank's young trainees transported the gifts to the children and adolescents. The Commerzbank Christmas wish campaign began in 2007 and is now carried out in several cities. [► More](#)

### Commerzbank Foundation sponsors Bucerius Law Clinic

The Bucerius Law Clinic was established under the joint auspices of the Bucerius Law School and Diakonie Hamburg, the social services organisation of the Protestant churches. It provides free legal advice on issues related to social, family, employment and immigration law to individuals referred by the various social services of the Diakonie. Advice is provided by teams made up of one lawyer and two students from the Bucerius Law School. The service is intended for individuals who, due to their personal situation or limited financial resources, have limited access to qualified legal advice and would otherwise have difficulty asserting their rights. [► More \(German only\)](#)

### Sustainability rating in stock recommendations

At the beginning of 2016 Commerzbank became the first German bank to include the sustainability rating of oekom research in its stock recommendations for private clients. Alongside the classical company information and ratings, clients receive a brief summary of how a company is rated in terms of sustainability for consideration in their investment decisions. [► More](#)