

Sustainability @Commerzbank

Corporate Responsibility Newsletter

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“Commerzbank Globale Aktien – Katholische Werte” fund receives label of approval from Forum Nachhaltige Geldanlagen

Sustainable investments are in greater demand than ever before. At the end of 2015, the sustainable investment market in Germany, Austria and Switzerland had a total volume of EUR 326.3 billion. That represented a 65 percent year-on-year increase. The structure of the solutions can vary widely among products and providers, however. The common feature of all sustainable investment products is that social criteria are taken into account when selecting the individual investments, and not only risk, return and liquidity.

Since September 2015, Commerzbank has offered a sustainable investment fund of its own. The fund, entitled “Commerzbank Globale Aktien – Katholische Werte” (“Commerzbank Global Stocks – Catholic Values”; WKN: CDF2RK), was designed to meet the investment needs of churches. However, it is intended for all investors interested in a sustainable fund. The fund is based on the MSCI World Index, which covers more than 1,600 stocks in 23 countries. From that index, the fund selects more than 700 stocks that are aligned with the guiding principles of the Catholic Church and included in the Catholic Value Custom Index. The fund's investment universe reflects the ethical and sustainability criteria of the German Conference of Bishops. The fund excludes companies involved in abortion, stem cell research and animal testing as well as nuclear power, weapons, genetic engineering, alcohol, tobacco and gambling. From this investment universe, the Commerzbank Asset Management team selects stocks with attractive valuations, high dividend expectations and below-average risk. This enables investors to achieve higher returns as compared with an index tracking fund if the selected stocks outperform the underlying index. Conversely,

the fund price can decrease if individual underlying stocks lose value or as a result of overall market trends.

The volume of the sustainability fund is equal to approximately 9% (as per the end of 2015) of the total fund volume of the managed mutual funds of Commerzbank Asset Management.

The fund meets the quality standard for sustainable investments in the German-speaking countries developed by the Forum Nachhaltige Geldanlagen e.V. (FNG), which represents the sustainable investment sector. The independent auditor Novethic has conducted an audit of the fund's stringent and transparent strategy and its application. The fund received the FNG Label in November 2016 with one star. Currently only 38 funds carry the FNG Label.



Further information:

- [🔗 Funds certified by FNG \(german only\)](#)
- [🔗 Information on the fund in the Sustainability Portal](#)

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In a nutshell: Sustainability initiatives at Commerzbank

Sustainable asset management expanded

Commerzbank offers individual sustainable asset management, taking into account social, ethical and ecological aspects of companies along with the conventional investment criteria (return, risk and liquidity). On the equity side, the sustainable asset managers select only stocks assigned "prime" status by oekom research. In addition, companies involved in nuclear power, arms, gambling and tobacco are excluded from the investment universe as well as companies associated with controversial business practices. Individual asset management with sustainability criteria is offered from an initial investment of EUR 500,000. [▶ more](#)

Starting in 2017, Commerzbank Environmental Internship also offered in the Hunsrück-Hochwald National Park

With its 25-year history, the Commerzbank Environmental Internship is our most successful project in the area of environmental education. Starting in January 2017, the programme will be extended to the new Hunsrück-Hochwald National Park. The Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) has classified this protected area as a "hotspot region for biodiversity". The application phase is now underway for the approximately 70 internships in 25 German conservation areas, national parks and biosphere reserves. Students in all fields have until 15 January 2017 to apply. [▶ more](#)

Sustainability report scores high credibility ranking

In the 2015 sustainability report rankings compiled by the Institute for Ecological Economy Research (IÖW/future), Commerzbank scored 481 points and was ranked fourth of 79 major corporations assessed. The average score was 311 points. Moreover, Commerzbank was one of just two companies to achieve the maximum possible score in the category "Credibility". [▶ more](#)

Commerzbank working together with Aktion Mensch

Since November, Commerzbank employees have benefited from a cooperative arrangement with the non-profit organisation Aktion Mensch. Through a company-wide volunteer portal they have access to the Aktion Mensch volunteer database with more than 10,000 opportunities across Germany. With the portal, Commerzbank wishes to support the employees' voluntary activities and encourage them to give their time to good causes. [▶ more](#)

Support for the "Angekommen" integration project

The Commerzbank Foundation has joined forces with "Miteinander in Hessen", a state foundation dedicated to promoting public engagement, as the principal sponsors of a project to help with the integration of refugees in Wiesbaden. More than 130 trainers, volunteer coordinators and volunteers are making a commitment to help refugees learn German and become acclimatised in Germany. The Commerzbank Foundation has enabled the project to budget its activities for the next three years. [▶ more \(german only\)](#)

Excellent sustainability performance

Since September 2016, Commerzbank has been listed in the STOXX Global ESG Leaders sustainability index. That places it among the 300 global companies ranked highest for their comprehensive inclusion of environmental, social and governance criteria in their business activities.



Moreover, the Bank was reaffirmed among the "Sector Leader Financials" in the DACH region in the 2016 CDP rankings. With a score of A-, Commerzbank is among the top 15 percent of all financial services providers in this region. [▶ more](#)

CO2 compensation with social benefits

Commerzbank is continually reducing the CO2 emissions from banking operations. And since 2015 the Bank has been offsetting the emissions that cannot be avoided. For example, Commerzbank recently purchased and retired 20,000 carbon credits from a solar water heating project in South Africa. Along with the environmental aspects, the programme also has social benefits: It has created hundreds of new jobs, and the solar water heaters are improving the quality of life for 80,000 households. [▶ more](#)

Leopoldina Early Career Award 2016

The 2016 winner of the Leopoldina Early Career Award of the Commerzbank Foundation is Dr. Lena Henningsen. The award, sponsored by Commerzbank, has been granted every two years since 2010 by the Academy of Sciences Leopoldina. Dr. Henningsen, an associate professor at the Institute of Sinology at the University of Freiburg and a member of the Young Academy, was honoured in recognition of her outstanding research on current Chinese culture, her promotion of an intercultural dialogue, and communicating a differentiated picture of China. The Leopoldina Early Career Award carries a stipend of EUR 30,000. [▶ more \(german only\)](#)