

Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8, paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a, of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852

Sustainable investment means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.

The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not lay down a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.

Product name: DWS Invest ESG CROCI Innovation Leaders
Legal entity identifier: 5493002T7XHBU985SZ06

Environmental and/or social characteristics

Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?

Yes

No

It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective:** __%

in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy

in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy

It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective:** __%

It promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of 10% of sustainable investments

with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy

with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy

with a social objective

It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments**



What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?

This sub-fund promotes environmental and social characteristics related to a general consideration of ESG criteria by excluding, for example, investments in companies with the worst norm-related issues towards international standards, issuers with the worst assessment in terms of environmental, social and governance aspects compared to their peer group and/or investments in companies whose involvement in controversial sectors exceeds predefined revenue thresholds.

Further, this sub-fund promotes a minimum proportion of sustainable investments in accordance with article 2(17) of the regulation on sustainability-related disclosures in the financial services sector (SFDR).

This sub-fund has not designated a reference benchmark for the purpose of attaining the environmental and social characteristics promoted.

Sustainability indicators measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?

The attainment of the promoted environmental and social characteristics as well as the sustainable investment is assessed via the application of an in-house ESG assessment methodology and ESG specific exclusion thresholds as further described in the section "What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?". The methodology applies different assessment approaches that are used as sustainability indicators which are:

- **Norm Controversy Assessment** used as an indicator for a company's exposure to norm-related issues towards international standards.
- **ESG Quality Assessment** used as an indicator for comparison of an issuer's environmental, social and governance aspects in relation to its peer group.
- **Freedom House Status** used as an indicator for the political and civil liberties of a country.
- **Exposure to controversial sectors** used as an indicator for a company's involvement in controversial sectors.
- **Exposure to companies subject to the EU Paris-aligned Benchmark exclusion criteria** as set forth in article 12(1) of Commission Delegated Regulation 2020/1818 (PAB-Exclusions).
- **Sustainability Investment Assessment** used as an indicator to measure the proportion of sustainable investments pursuant to article 2(17) SFDR.

What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?

Sustainable investments contribute to at least one of the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations (UN SDGs) that relate to environmental and/or social objectives, such as good health and well-being or climate action and/or to at least one other environmental objective such as climate change adaptation or climate change mitigation (as defined under the EU Taxonomy).

The extent of the contribution to individual sustainable investment objectives varies depending on the actual investments held in the portfolio.

DWS determines the contribution to a sustainable investment objective based on its Sustainability Investment Assessment which uses data from one or several data providers, public sources and/or internal assessments. An investment's positive contribution to an environmental and/or social objective is assessed based on the revenues which a company generates from the actual economic activities making such contribution (activity-based approach). Where a positive contribution is determined, the investment is considered sustainable if the issuer passes the Do No Significant Harm ("DNSH") assessment and the company follows good governance practices.

The share of sustainable investments in the portfolio as defined in article 2(17) SFDR is therefore calculated in proportion to the economic activities of the issuers that are considered as sustainable (activity-based approach). Notwithstanding the preceding, in the case of use-of-proceeds bonds that are considered as sustainable investment, the value of the entire bond is counted towards the portfolio's share of sustainable investments.

How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?

The sustainable investments in which the sub-fund invests are assessed to ensure they do not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective. This is achieved by taking into account the indicators for principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors (dependent on relevance) as described below. If a significant harm is identified, the investment cannot be considered sustainable.

How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?

The Sustainability Investment Assessment systematically integrates the mandatory principal adverse indicators on sustainability factors (dependent on relevance) from Table 1 and relevant indicators from Tables 2 and 3 of Annex I of the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1288 supplementing the SFDR. Taking into account these principal adverse impacts, DWS has established quantitative thresholds and/or qualitative values to assess a significant harm on any of the environmental or social sustainable investment objectives. These values are set based upon various external and internal factors, such as data availability or market developments and may be adapted going forward.

How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:

The alignment of sustainable investments with, amongst others, the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights is evaluated through the Norm Controversy Assessment (as further described below). Companies with the worst Norm Controversy Assessment of "F" are excluded as an investment.

The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.



Principal adverse impacts are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?

Yes, the sub-fund considers the following principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors from Annex I of the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1288 supplementing the SFDR:

- Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (no. 1);
- Carbon footprint (no. 2);
- GHG intensity of investee companies (no. 3);
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector (no. 4);
- Violations of United Nations Global Compact principles and OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises (no. 10); and
- Exposure to controversial weapons (no. 14).

The aforementioned principal adverse impacts are considered by applying the exclusions as outlined in the section "What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?". The investment strategy does not apply a dedicated steering mechanism of the values of principal adverse impact indicators at overall portfolio level.

Further information on principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors will be provided in a sub-fund specific annex to the annual report.

No



The Investment strategy guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

What investment strategy does this financial product follow?

This sub-fund pursues a strategy based on equities as main investment strategy. The sub-fund's assets are invested predominately in large and mid-cap developed or emerging markets equities that have intellectual capital according to the CROCI Investment and Valuation Group and are considered undervalued according to the CROCI methodology and the CROCI Innovation Leaders investment strategy. The investment strategy will generally select approximately one hundred shares out of the CROCI company coverage universe.

Further details regarding the main investment strategy are specified in the Special Section of the Sales Prospectus.

At least 80% of the sub-fund's net assets are allocated to investments that meet the promoted environmental and social characteristics as described in the following sections. The alignment of the portfolio with the binding elements of the investment strategy used to attain the promoted environmental and social characteristics as well as the PAB-Exclusions is continuously controlled via the sub-fund's investment guidelines monitoring.

What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?

ESG assessment methodology

The sub-fund aims to achieve the promoted environmental and social characteristics by assessing potential assets via an in-house ESG assessment methodology, regardless of their economic prospects for success, and by applying exclusion criteria based on this assessment.

The ESG assessment methodology is using a proprietary software tool which sources data from one or several ESG data providers, public sources and/or internal assessments to derive overall assessments. The methodology applied to derive such overall assessments can be based on different methods, such as prioritizing one data vendor, worst-of or averaging approach. Internal assessments may take into account factors such as an issuer's future expected ESG developments, plausibility of data with regard to past or future events, the willingness to engage in dialogue on ESG matters and/or ESG-related decisions of a company.

Further, internal ESG assessments for investee companies may consider the relevance of the exclusion criteria for the market sector of the investee company.

The proprietary software tool uses, amongst others, the approaches described below to evaluate the adherence to the promoted ESG characteristics and whether investee companies follow good governance practices. The assessment approaches include, for example, exclusions related to revenues generated from controversial sectors or the exposure to such controversial sectors. In some of the assessment approaches, issuers receive one of six possible assessments, with "A" representing the best and "F" the worst assessment. If an issuer is excluded based on one assessment approach, the sub-fund is prohibited from investing in that issuer.

Given the periodical reconstitution of the sub-fund's portfolio, the sub-fund may hold an investment whose ESG assessment has deteriorated post its acquisition by the sub-fund management. While the sub-management ensures continued monitoring of the promoted environmental and social characteristics as well as the PAB-Exclusions, the sub-fund's portfolio may contain such deteriorated asset for a period of potentially up to three months.

Depending on the investable universe, the portfolio allocation and the exposure to certain sectors, the assessment approaches described below may be more or less relevant which is reflected in the number of issuers being actually excluded.

• PAB-Exclusions

In accordance with the applicable regulations, the sub-fund applies the PAB-Exclusions and excludes all of the following companies:

a. companies involved in controversial weapons (manufacturing or selling of anti-personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons) assessed as part of the assessment of the "Exposure to controversial weapons" as described below;

b. companies involved in the cultivation and production of tobacco;

c. companies that are found in violation of the United Nations Global Compact principles or the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises (assessed as part of the "Norm Controversy Assessment" as described below);

d. companies that derive 1% or more of their revenues from exploration, mining, extraction, distribution or refining of hard coal and lignite;

e. companies that derive 10% or more of their revenues from the exploration, extraction, distribution or refining of oil fuels;

f. companies that derive 50% or more of their revenues from the exploration, extraction, manufacturing or distribution of gaseous fuels;

g. companies that derive 50% or more of their revenues from electricity generation with a GHG intensity of more than 100 g CO₂ e/kWh.

The PAB-Exclusions are, in particular, not applied for sight deposits with credit institutions and certain derivative instruments. The extent of the application of the PAB-Exclusions in relation to use of proceeds bonds is described below under the section "Use of proceeds bond Assessment".

• Norm Controversy Assessment

The Norm Controversy Assessment evaluates the behaviour of companies in relation to generally accepted international standards and principles of responsible business conduct within, amongst others, the framework of the principles of the United Nations Global Compact, the United Nations Guiding Principles, the standards of the International Labour Organization and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises. Examples of topics covered within these standards and principles include, but are not limited to, human rights violations, violations of workers' rights, child or forced labour, negative environmental impacts and business ethics. The Norm Controversy Assessment evaluates reported violations of the aforementioned international standards. Companies with the worst Norm Controversy Assessment of "F" are excluded as an investment.

• ESG Quality Assessment

The ESG Quality Assessment distinguishes between investments in companies and investments in sovereign issuers.

For companies, the ESG Quality Assessment allows for a peer group comparison based on an overall ESG assessment, for example, concerning the handling of environmental changes, product safety, employee management or corporate ethics. The peer group for companies is made up from the same industry sector. Companies that score higher in this comparison receive a better assessment, while companies that score lower in the comparison receive a worse assessment. Companies with the worst assessment of "F" are excluded as an investment.

For sovereign issuers, the ESG Quality Assessment assesses countries based on a peer group comparison considering environmental and social criteria as well as indicators for good governance including, for example, the political system, the existence of institutions and the rule of law. Sovereign issuers with the worst assessment of "F" are excluded as an investment.

• Freedom House Status

Freedom House is an international non-governmental organization that classifies countries by their degree of political and civil liberties. Based on the Freedom House Status, countries that are classified as "not free" are excluded as an investment.

• Exposure to controversial sectors

Companies that are involved in certain business areas and business activities in controversial areas ("controversial sectors") are excluded according to their share of total revenues generated in such controversial sectors as follows:

- a. Manufacturing of products and/or provision of services in the defence industry: 5% or more
- b. Manufacturing and/or distribution of civil handguns or ammunition: 5% or more
- c. Manufacturing of products in and/or provision of services for the gambling industry: 5% or more
- d. Manufacturing of adult entertainment: 5% or more
- e. Manufacturing of palm oil: 5% or more
- f. Nuclear power generation and/or uranium mining and/or uranium enrichment: 5% or more
- g. Unconventional extraction of crude oil and/or natural gas (including oil sand, oil shale/shale gas, arctic drilling): more than 0%
- h. Companies that derive 25% or more from thermal coal mining and thermal coal-based power generation as well as companies with thermal coal expansion plans, such as additional expansion of coal mining, coal production or coal usage. Companies with thermal coal expansion plans are excluded based on an internal identification methodology.

Further, companies involved in the manufacturing or selling of nuclear weapons or key components of nuclear weapons are excluded and the shareholdings within a group structure may be taken into consideration.

• Exposure to controversial weapons

Companies are excluded if they are identified as being involved in the manufacturing or selling of controversial weapons or key components of controversial weapons or other related specific activities (anti-personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical and biological weapons, blinding laser weapons,

weapons with non-detectable fragments, depleted uranium weapons/munitions and/or incendiary weapons using white phosphorus). In addition, the shareholdings within a group structure may be taken into consideration for the exclusions.

• **Use-of-Proceeds Bond Assessment**

This assessment is specific to the nature of this instrument and an investment in use of proceeds bonds is permitted only if the following criteria are met. Firstly, all use of proceeds bonds are checked for compliance with the Climate Bonds Standards, similar industry standards for green bonds, social bonds or sustainability bonds (such as ICMA Principles) or the EU Green Bond Standard or whether bonds have been subject to an independent review.

Secondly, certain exclusion criteria (including the applicable PAB-Exclusions) are applied, where relevant and where sufficient data is available, at the level of the bond and/or in relation to the issuer of the bonds which can lead to the exclusion of the bond as an investment.

• **Target Fund Assessment**

Target funds are eligible if they are aligned with the PAB-Exclusions (starting from 21 May 2025) and, where applicable, the Freedom House Status. The target fund assessment relies on target fund related information acquired from external data sources or is evaluated in relation to the underlying assets of the portfolios of the target funds. Considering the diversity of data vendors and methodologies as well as the target fund portfolio rebalancing, this sub-fund may be indirectly exposed to certain assets that would be excluded if invested directly.

Sustainability Investment Assessment

Further, for the proportion of sustainable investments, DWS measures the contribution to one or several UN SDGs and/or to other environmental sustainable objectives via its Sustainability Investment Assessment which evaluates potential investments in relation to different criteria to conclude whether an investment can be considered as sustainable as further detailed in the section “What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?”.

What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?

The applied ESG investment strategy does not pursue a committed minimum reduction of the scope of the investments.

Good governance

practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?

The assessment of the good governance practices of the investee companies (including assessments related to sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance) is part of the Norm Controversy Assessment which evaluates a company's behavior within generally accepted international standards and principles of responsible business conduct. Further information can be found in the section “What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?”. Companies with the worst Norm Controversy Assessment of “F” are excluded as an investment.



What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?

This sub-fund invests at least 80% of its net assets in investments that are aligned with the promoted environmental and social characteristics (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics). Within this category, at least 10% of the sub-fund's net assets qualify as sustainable investments (#1A Sustainable). Thereof the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that is not compliant with the EU Taxonomy is 2% of the sub-fund's net assets and the minimum share of socially sustainable investments is 2% of the sub-fund's net assets. The actual share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that is not compliant with the EU Taxonomy and of socially sustainable investments depends on the market situation and the investable investment universe.

Up to 20% of the sub-fund's net assets may be invested in assets which are either out-of-scope of the ESG assessment methodology or for which ESG data coverage is incomplete (#2 Other) as further detailed in the section "What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?".

A more detailed description of the specific asset allocation of this sub-fund can be found in the Special Section of the Sales Prospectus.

Asset allocation

describes the share of investments in specific assets.

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- turnover

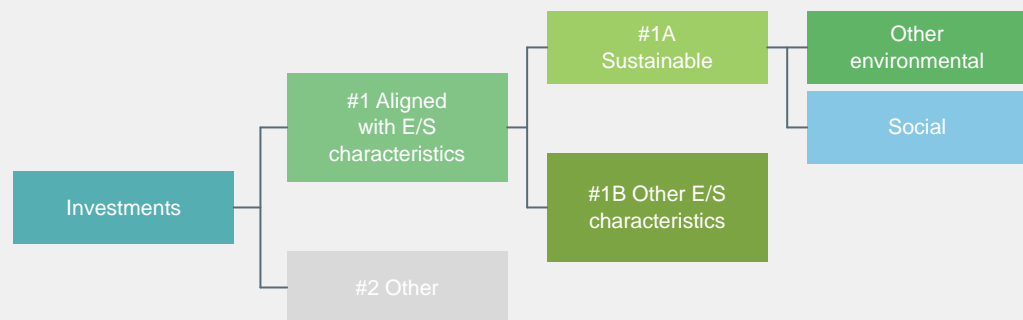
reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies

- capital expenditure

(CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.

- operational expenditure

(OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.



#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

#2 Other includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

The category **#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** covers:

- The sub-category **#1A Sustainable** covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives.
- The sub-category **#1B Other E/S characteristics** covers investments aligned with the environmental or social characteristics that do not qualify as sustainable investments.

How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?

Derivatives are currently not used to attain the environmental and social characteristics promoted by the sub-fund.



To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?

The sub-fund does not commit to invest a minimum proportion of sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy. Therefore, the promoted minimum percentage of environmentally sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy is 0% of the sub-fund's net assets. However, certain investments' underlying economic activities may be aligned with the EU Taxonomy.

Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy¹ related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy?

Yes:

In fossil gas

In nuclear energy

No

The sub-fund not take into account the Taxonomy-alignment of companies active in the fossil gas and/or nuclear energy sectors. Further information on such investments, where relevant, will be disclosed in the annual report.

¹ Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

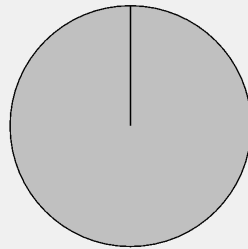
To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

Enabling activities directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

Transitional activities are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

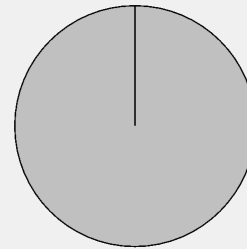
The two graphs below show in green the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.

1. Taxonomy-alignment of investments including sovereign bonds*



<input type="checkbox"/> Taxonomy-aligned: Fossil gas	0.00%
<input type="checkbox"/> Taxonomy-aligned: Nuclear	0.00%
<input type="checkbox"/> Taxonomy-aligned (no fossil gas and nuclear)	0.00%
<input type="checkbox"/> Taxonomy-aligned	0.00%
<input type="checkbox"/> Non Taxonomy-aligned	100.00%

2. Taxonomy-alignment of investments excluding sovereign bonds*



<input type="checkbox"/> Taxonomy-aligned: Fossil gas	0.00%
<input type="checkbox"/> Taxonomy-aligned: Nuclear	0.00%
<input type="checkbox"/> Taxonomy-aligned (no fossil gas and nuclear)	0.00%
<input type="checkbox"/> Taxonomy-aligned	0.00%
<input type="checkbox"/> Non Taxonomy-aligned	100.00%

This graph represents 100% of the total investments.

*For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures

What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?

The sub-fund is not committed to a minimum share of investments in transitional or enabling activities.



are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.



What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?

The minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy is 2% of the sub-fund's net assets.



What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?

The minimum share of socially sustainable investments is 2% of the sub-fund's net assets.



What investments are included under “#2 Other”, what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?

At least 80% of the sub-fund's net assets are aligned with the promoted environmental and social characteristics (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics). Up to 20% of the sub-fund's net assets may be invested in assets which are either out-of-scope of the ESG assessment methodology or for which ESG data coverage is incomplete (#2 Other). Full ESG data coverage is required for the assessment of direct investments in companies in relation to good governance practices and the PAB-Exclusions.

Assets under “#2 Other” can include all asset classes as foreseen in the specific investment policy, such as sight deposits with credit institutions and derivatives.

These assets can be used by the portfolio management for performance, risk diversification, liquidity and hedging purposes. These assets can also include investments whose ESG assessment has deteriorated post-acquisition for a period of potentially up to three months.

Minimum environmental or social safeguards are not or only partially considered for the sub-fund's investments falling within “#2 Other”.



Reference benchmarks are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?

This sub-fund has not designated a reference benchmark to determine whether it is aligned with the environmental and social characteristics that it promotes.



Where can I find more product specific information online?

More product-specific information can be found on the website: <https://funds.dws.com/en-lu/equity-funds/LU1968687985/> as well as on your local country website www.dws.com/fundinformation.