

Socially Responsible Investment Policy

March 2021

# **About CapitalatWork**

CapitalatWork Foyer Group S.A. is a European player in wealth management for private and professional clients.

Located in Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands, CapitalatWork Foyer Group's mission is to become your privileged partner in the structuring, transmission and management of your assets.

The private banking division manages more than EUR 8,3 billion (31 December 2020) and relies on the expertise and motivation of more than 120 specialists at your disposal:

- ----- advisors
- ----- managers
- ------ independent analysts



Our assets under management (in millions of EUR)

CapitalatWork Foyer Group is a member of Foyer S.A.

Foyer S.A., founded in 1922, is an insurance group established in Luxembourg.

— approximately EUR 1 billion of equity capital

- ----- public company held by family shareholders
- a high reputation for integrity, prudence and reliability

## **Our Investment Philosophy**

#### **Long Term Vision**

For our investments, we've always believed that past performances, both on financial reports and the stock market, cannot forecast the future. It has historically happened that companies that used to be the leader of their market have found themselves at the bottom of the pit although it seemed they had everything to succeed. More often than not, this happened because the company was not able to perceive the new trends and adapt its business accordingly. Of course we don't deny that a company's history can provide helpful insights from which assumptions can be based on and the future can be interpreted. This is the reason why our investment approach is derived from a bottom-up analysis in which we carefully examine the fundamentals of a business and its opportunities. Our main point of focus is therefore how a company will adapt and evolve in its own environment.

#### **Value Creation**

As our core business is to maximize risk-adjusted returns for our clients, we always invest in companies that we consider being under-valued by the market. Our philosophy entails that those companies retain a positive potential that has not yet been realized by the market in the larger sense. Indeed, the most stable businesses theoretically have the most foreseeable operations and therefore bear the least risks. Through our analysis, we build a financial model that forecasts a company's activities for the coming years and, in the process, evaluate the impact of future threats and opportunities under different scenarios. We therefore only invest in companies when our model suggests there exists positive potential looking-forward. For that purpose, our team of analysts scrutinizes the news and companies' reports every day and keeps our financial models upto-date by constantly reflecting on our investments' perceived value.

#### **Risk Management**

To ensure the stability of our investments and client's portfolio, we are always seeking companies with strong business models that are capable of generating cash flows in a sustainable way. With our bottom-up approach, we seek to mitigate risk as we dig into a company's fundamentals and differentiate what is likely to contribute to its growth and what would most likely hold the company back.



## **Sustainable Finance**

In a world where the awareness about environmental protection and societal inequality has significantly grown, the financial industry has not been spared. It has indeed been noted over the past decade that investors have exhibited their desire to allocate their capital in products considering such criteria. As such, SRI investment funds (Socially Responsible Investment), corporate and sovereign green bonds and numerous rating systems based on ESG factors (Environment, Social, corporate Governance) have emerged rapidly. It is becoming clear that beyond the fundamentals of traditional finance, investors have been paying attention to the way a company engages in the fight against global warming or to the general quality of its work environment before investing in it. While these products have exhibited similar performances to the more common investment vehicles, they add an ethical aspect and offer a highly sought-after diversification.

At CapitalatWork, we have the duty to be part of this large perspective and recently started offering our clients the possibility to opt for socially responsible investments. Although our initial philosophy already promotes our investments to be made exclusively in companies exhibiting superior business models and capable of generating sustainable cash flows, we formalized a methodology incorporating ESG criteria, known as the "CapitalatWork Responsible Investment Methodology". Our first and main goal has always been to put the interests of our clients first, through a coherent diversification of their capital. Our alternative responsible management solution provides a methodical and transparent way to put into practice our own but also our client's moral principles.



**G** OVERNANCE

Socially Responsible Investing (SRI) "Offer quality asset management resulting from a strict and responsible methodology approved by specialized and professional associations"



As of today, a universal and standardized definition of a Socially Responsible Investing does not formally exist. To fill that gap, the European Commission has adopted in 2018 an action plan in order to build a common language, aka a taxonomy or standard classification system, to label the products, benchmarks and projects incorporating a responsible ideology. Until an agreement is reached, we have decided at CapitalatWork to use our own language and define what a Socially Responsible Investment means to us and how it is integrated in our management.

This definition lays the foundations of the way we envision the future of investing and from where we will keep evolving. Harmonizing our interpretations makes it easier to move forward and provides a common understanding of our philosophy. In order to do so, we have developed a framework, or policy, that defines the boundaries of our investments. Among others, our Socially Responsible Investment policy incorporates controversies leading to severe abuse, the general and common sustainable development goals and the effort to report and encourage best practices. It goes along the following four guidelines:

3 pillars to Socially Responsible Investing

- CapitalatWork approvals list
- Activity exclusion
- Best-in-Class selection



# The 3 pillars to Socially Responsible Investing

### Integration

Make ESG a growing part of our investment criteria in order to positively influence a more global transition.

### Transparency

Provide full transparency on each part of our investments through a sustained and healthy dialogue.

### Commitment

We always act in the best interest of our clients for whom responsible investing has become a priority

CapitalatWork aims at contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals as set by the United Nations in 2015 for the year 2030. Those 17 goals provide a blueprint to promote peace and prosperity for all people on the planet, now and into the future. They call for urgent actions by all members of every industry in order to preserve the health, education, and economic growth of every country while battling the climate change issue. CapitalatWork is proud to be particularly involved in of 8 of them through our investments.



# **CapitalatWork approves**

## The 10 Principles of the United Nation Global Compact



We believe certain business practices should not find their way into today's corporations. As such, several aspects touching upon Human Rights, Labor Rights, the Environment and Anti-Corruption should be a standard and commonly accepted among business. In order to promote exemplary corporate practices, we approve of the United Nation initiative and their principles.

- 1. Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and
- 2. Make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses
- 3. Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;
- 4. The elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;
- 5. The effective abolition of child labour; and
- 6. The elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.
- 7. Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;
- 8. Undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and
- 9. Encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.
- 10. Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

## The 6 Principles for Responsible Investment (UN PRI)

As a wealth manager, we have the duty to act in the best and long-term interests of our clients. We believe environmental, social, and corporate governance issues can affect the performance of investment portfolios and recognize that applying the following principles help us align investors with broader objectives of society. We therefore approve of them.

- 1. We will incorporate ESG issues into investment analysis and decision-making processes.
- 2. We will be active owners and incorporate ESG issues into our ownership policies and practices.
- 3. We will seek appropriate disclosure on ESG issues by the entities in which we invest
- 4. We will promote acceptance and implementation of the Principles within the investment industry.
- 5. We will work together to enhance our effectiveness in implementing the Principles.
- 6. We will each report on our activities and progress towards implementing the Principles.





# **Activity exclusions**

CapitalatWork does not wish to invest in activities that operate or are involved in industries that we consider inadequate. Several sectors are especially notorious for the harm they have caused to individuals or the environment and supporting them would not make sense. However, we realize that some nations and populations are dependent on those activities and we encourage the establishment of policies as a necessary way to prevent further physical or moral damages.

We consider the following activities to be especially of high controversy due to their negative implications and choose to disregard them to some extent.



We believe limiting our exposure to those industries will not only lessen the intrinsic risks linked to our portfolio, it will also allow us to focus on entities that promote sustainable development. Of course, we encourage companies of the aforementioned industries to implement forwardlooking policies that support good practices.





# **Best in Class Selection**

From our point of view, the exclusion of some precise industries alone will not be enough to promote sustainable economic development. As we wish to disregard nonessential and exceptionally controversial sectors, we also wish to encourage especially well performing entities in term of ESG. Our commitment to our clients is to maximize risk-adjusted returns and we believe strong responsible players will be more likely to have lower volatility in their revenue streams and balance sheets. Surely, this can have the potential to boost their financial performances and ultimately be reflected in their valuation.

Each company is given an individual ESG risk rating, which evaluates the way a company addresses the different risks linked to material ESG matters. The rating is created in the following way:

- First, each company's exposure to material ESG issues is determined. The "materiality" aspect is important as some aspects of ESG can be material for some companies while completely irrelevant for others (corporate governance is evaluated for every company). This method enables us to focus on key issues linked to each company's industry and sensitivity.
- 2. Second, the amount of risk of the exposure that is manageable is identified, categorizing the rest as unmanageable risk.
- 3. Third, the amount of manageable risk that is actually managed is identified, categorizing the rest as the management gap (manageable but not managed).
- 4. Fourth, adding the management gap (3.) to the unmanageable risk (2.) provides the unmanaged risk.





The resulting unmanaged risk is translated into a score from 0 (best) to 100 (worst), although an ESG risk rating score above 30 already indicates high risk. We set our minimum investment standard at 30, meaning that we do not invest in companies having an ESG risk rating of 30 or above. This method enables us to primarily select companies that exhibit low idiosyncratic risks due to high ESG standards and practices.

As we aim to build our portfolio with the best performers in terms of sustainability, we also determined that we would only invest in the best 40% companies of an industry. For that, we use a comparative ranking that each company gets according to their sub-industry peers' risk rating. Each company is therefore ranked in a percentile ranging from the 1st to the 100th (e.g. in this case, being ranked in the 30th percentile means that the company is within the best 30% of its industry). We therefore only consider companies that have a percentile ranking below the 40th.



This Socially Responsible Investment Policy is what we believe to be our way of promoting righteous corporate conduct while remaining within our primary focus of creating value. We will continuously improve our transparency through different monitoring and reporting processes in order to keep our clients informed about our developments and act as the supporter of sustainable investing. We acknowledge that the financial world is evolving and that our Socially Responsible Investment Policy will have to be updated over time to reflect our transforming views.

The management of CapitalatWork



Wealth Management 🗲 Foyer Group

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