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DWS Invest ESG Equity Income

This financial product promotes environmental and social characteristics and qualifies as product in accordance with Article 8(1) of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088.

No sustainable investment objective

This financial product promotes environmental or social characteristics, but does not have as its objective sustainable investment.

The sub-fund commits to partially invest in sustainable investments. To ensure those sustainable investments do not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective following processes are implemented:

DNSH Assessment

The DNSH assessment is an integral part of the DWS Sustainability Investment Assessment and evaluates whether an issuer with a contribution to a UN SDG causes significant harm to any of these objectives. In case that a significant harm is identified, the issuer fails the DNSH assessment and the investment cannot be considered sustainable.

Integration of adverse impacts on sustainability factors

As part of the DNSH assessment under article 2(17) SFDR, the DWS 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 Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (SFDR). Taking into account these adverse impacts, DWS has established quantitative thresholds and/or qualitative values to determine if an issuer significantly harms any of the environmental or social 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.

Alignment with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights

As part of its sustainability investment assessment, DWS further evaluates through its DWS Norm Assessment the alignment of a company with international norms. This includes checks in relation to adherence to international norms, for example, the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the principles of the UN Global Compact and the standards of the International Labour Organization. Companies with the worst DWS Norm Assessment score (i.e., a letter score of "F") cannot be considered sustainable and are excluded as an investment.

Environmental or social characteristics of the financial product

This sub-fund promotes environmental and social characteristics related to climate, governance and social norms as well as general ESG quality through the avoidance of (1) issuers exposed to excessive climate and transition risks, (2) companies with the worst DWS Norm Assessment (i.e. as regards compliance with international standards of corporate governance, human rights and labour rights, customer and environmental safety and business ethics), (3) companies with very severe unresolved controversies regarding the principles of the United Nations Global Compact (UN Global Compact), (4) issuers scored among the worst in terms of environmental, social and governance risks compared to their peer group, (5) countries flagged as "not free" by Freedom House, (6) companies whose involvement in controversial sectors exceeds a predefined revenue threshold, and/or (7) companies involved in controversial weapons.

This sub-fund further promotes a minimum proportion of sustainable investments with a positive contribution to one or several of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs).

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

Investment strategy

This sub-fund pursues a strategy based on equities as main investment strategy. At least 70% of the sub-fund's assets are invested in equities from international issuers that are expected to deliver an above-average dividend yield. Up to 30% of the sub-fund's assets may be invested in money market instruments and bank balances.

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

The sub-fund's assets are predominantly allocated into investments that comply with the defined standards in respect to the promoted environmental and social characteristics as described in the following sections. The sub-fund's strategy in relation to the promoted environmental and social characteristics is integral part of the DWS ESG assessment methodology, which is continuously monitored via the sub-fund's investment guidelines.



Proportion of investments

This sub-fund invests at least 51% of its net assets in investments that are aligned with the promoted environmental and social characteristics. At least 15% of the sub-fund's assets qualify as sustainable investments in the sense of article 2(17) SFDR. Up to 49% of the investments are not aligned with these environmental or social characteristics. A more detailed description of the specific asset allocation of this sub-fund can be found in the Special Section of the Sales Prospectus.

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

Monitoring of environmental or social characteristics

The ESG investment limits resulting from the ESG assessment methodology and investment limits for eligible assets which are described in the prospectus are coded and embedded into the Investment Management System where they are monitored pre- and post-trade on a daily basis to ensure the compliance with the investment guidelines. The pre-trade monitoring ensures that investment limits are complied with before trading. In case a breach is detected in post-trade monitoring it will be investigated for its cause and scope, addressed and corrected.

Methodologies

The attainment of the promoted environmental and social characteristics as well as the sustainable investment is assessed via the application of an in-house DWS ESG assessment methodology as further described in 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 a variety of assessment approaches that are used as sustainability indicators to assess the attainment of the promoted environmental and social characteristics, which are as follows:

- **DWS Climate and Transition Risk Assessment** is used as indicator for an issuer’s exposure to climate and transition risks.
- **DWS Norm Assessment** is used as indicator for a company’s exposure to norm-related issues towards international standards.
- **UN Global Compact-Assessment** is used as indicator for whether a company is directly involved in one or more very severe, unresolved controversies related to the principles of the UN Global Compact.
- **DWS ESG Quality Assessment** is used as indicator for comparison of an issuer’s environmental, social and governance risks in relation to its peer group.
- **Freedom House Status** is used as indicator for the political-civil freedom of a country.
- **Exposure to controversial sectors** is used as indicator for a company’s involvement in controversial sectors.
- **DWS exclusions for controversial weapons** is used as indicator for a company’s involvement in controversial weapons.
- **DWS-Methodology for determining sustainable investments pursuant to Article 2(17) SFDR (DWS Sustainability Investment Assessment)** is used as indicator to measure the proportion of sustainable investments.

Data sources and processing

For the purpose of assessing the assets concerning sustainability DWS utilizes commercial vendor data from ESG Book, ISS ESG, Morningstar Sustainalytics, MSCI ESG and S&P TruCost. This information is supplemented with NGO data, e.g. from Urgewald. Quality and process controls apply on both sides, by the vendor and by DWS. DWS applies an internal software solution, the DWS ESG Engine, to standardize and aggregate the inbound ESG data into DWS ESG assessments, which are then used in the investment process. As DWS’s ESG assessments are based on external vendor data, it does not estimate ESG data on its own.

Limitations to methodologies and data

Limitations to sustainability data originate mainly from the fact that they may carry a high amount of subjectivity (e.g. with qualitative ESG ratings or estimation processes for numerical data). DWS aims to mitigate that challenge by utilising multiple vendors.

Due Dilligence

The due diligence carried out on the underlying assets of a financial product is governed by relevant internal policies, key operating documents and handbooks. The due diligence is founded on the availability of ESG data which the management company sources from external ESG data vendors. In addition to the external quality assurance by the vendors, the management company has processes and governance bodies in place that control the quality of the ESG signals.

Engagement policies

An engagement activity can be initiated with the individual issuers regarding matters such as strategy, financial and non-financial performance, risk, capital structure, social and environmental impact as well as corporate governance including topics like disclosure, culture and remuneration. The engagement activity can be exercised by, for example, proxy voting, company meetings or engagement letters.

Designated reference benchmark

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