

For immediate release

RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT IN FRANCE CONTINUES TO GROW WITH VARYING DEGREES OF IMPACT ON THE COMPOSITION OF PORTFOLIOS

Paris, 8 June 2016. Novethic is publishing its annual survey on responsible investment in France, carried out in partnership with the French Social Investment Forum (FIR). Responsible investment now concerns €746 billion and can be divided into three categories according to the impact of the ESG criteria analysis of issuers on the composition of the portfolio. The Novethic research centre considers that €54 billion of assets has a highly significant impact, a category referred to as “high-impact SRI”.

+29% in 2015: continuous and dynamic growth driven by insurers

The survey, led with active SRI players (55 asset managers and some 10 asset owners), establishes the overall amount of assets managed according to environmental, social and governance (ESG) criteria at €746 billion. Holding almost two-thirds of the total (or €465 billion), insurers are the main driving force behind the development, with the conversion of their traditional assets to responsible investment assets responsible for 55% of the growth. The responsible investment market today is largely dominated by asset owners, holding 90% of the total €746 billion in assets, three-quarters of which in bonds.

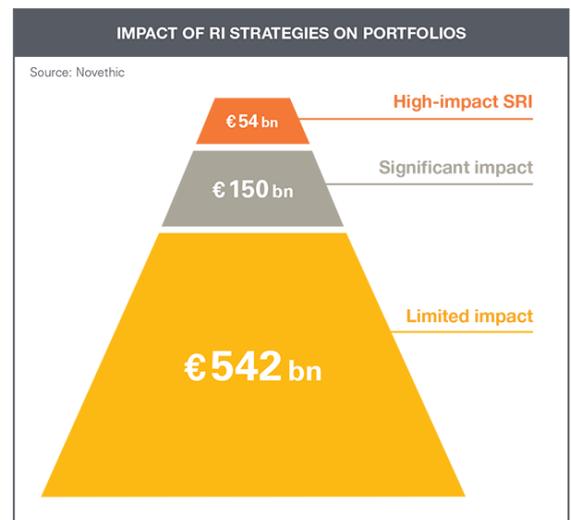
“High-impact SRI” practiced by some 30 asset managers

The survey distinguishes between three levels of impact of the analysis of companies on ESG criteria when selecting portfolio securities. The most significant, “high-impact SRI”, concerns €54 billion, or 7% of total AuM (Assets under Management). This category combines the most demanding ESG selection approaches and theme-based investments in environmental and/or social areas.

Climate impact on green investments

Theme-based AuM increased five-fold in 2015 to a total €43 billion, of which 34% are invested exclusively in green assets. Private investors are showing a concrete interest in theme-based responsible investment, owning more than one-third of AuM.

Lastly, the survey measures the impact of climate commitments on investors, which have three types of target: low-carbon index funds, green bonds and theme-based environmental funds focused on renewable energy, energy efficiency and water. The strongest momentum is to be found in green bonds.



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ABOUT THE FIR



The French Social Investment Forum (FIR) is a multi-stakeholder organisation that works to promote SRI and the corresponding best practices. It created and runs the SRI Week, dialogues with large companies on environmental, social and governance issues, and has awarded the “Finance and Sustainable Development” European academic research award since 2005. Chaired by Thierry Philipponnat, the FIR is a founding member of Eurosif. www.frenchsif.org

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