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LEO

THE FINANCIAL CENTRE'S MAG

SUSTAINABLE FINANCE

THE WINDS OF CHANGE:
WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE
FINANCIAL INDUSTRY?

**PICTET TECHNOLOGIES:
WHY WE CHOSE LUXEMBOURG**

**THE EU'S AMBITIOUS PLAN
TO LEAD THE WAY IN
SUSTAINABLE FINANCE**

**THE EXPANDING OFFER IN
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLING**



NICOLAS MACKEL,
CEO, LUXEMBOURG
FOR FINANCE

Dear readers,

In his recent book “Enlightenment now”, Steven Pinker is laying out the case for why we are living in the best of times given the relative absence of armed conflict, the advances of medicine, the progress of technology and many other examples showing why we have longer and better lives than any of our predecessors ever had.

One area however in which humanity has not moved in the right direction is that of the environment. This summer has again seen heat records being broken in Europe and the devastating consequences of global warming are being felt, often fatally, around the world. If we want to achieve the objec-

tives set out in the Paris agreement to which the vast majority of the world’s countries have committed, climate mitigation and adaptation projects will need financing well beyond the means of public resources. The international investor community needs to step up and has started to do so.

It is thus with great pride that we dedicate this edition of our quarterly LEO magazine once more to sustainable finance by bringing you the views of leading experts on this issue to explain emerging trends seen in green and sustainable investments as well as on new products being developed, such as Luxembourg’s green covered bond legal framework. Europe has been at the forefront of responsible investment for a long time, accounting for over half of global SRI assets. But there is more to be done. In this edition, we are therefore also taking a closer look at the EU’s ambitious action plan which will further connect finance with sustainability and help channel investments into environmentally-sustainable activities.

I would like to draw your attention also to the article on the first cohort of asset managers selected to join the International Climate Finance Accelerator (ICFA), set up by the Luxembourg Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Infrastructure together with 9 industry partners. These innovative asset managers, who were announced at LFF’s inaugural Sustainable Finance Forum in May this

year, tackle some of the most challenging issues in adapting to or mitigating the effects of climate change.

In our series “Why we chose Luxembourg” we feature Vincent Eggen, Managing Director of Pictet Technologies who tells us why Pictet decided to set up its “software factory” in Luxembourg and how they innovate and provide the digital solutions for this leading banking and investment group from Luxembourg.

Finally, since many media reports on Brexit relocations across Europe have underlined the importance of schooling, we share with you the latest efforts by Luxembourg’s government to increase the – already broad – offer of international curricula within its public (and thus free...) education system.

Enjoy the read

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ANY QUESTIONS?
GET IN TOUCH ON TWITTER - @LUXFINANCE

LUXEMBOURG RANKED 2ND IN THE EU IN NEW FINANCIAL CENTRE INDEX

THE INAUGURAL EDITION OF THE NEW FINANCIAL INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRES INDEX RANKS LUXEMBOURG AS THE 2ND FINANCIAL CENTRE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION, AFTER THE UK. IN TERMS OF INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY, LUXEMBOURG EVEN RANKS 3RD GLOBALLY BEHIND THE US AND UK BUT AHEAD OF MAJOR EUROPEAN AND ASIAN FINANCIAL CENTRES SUCH AS HONG KONG, SINGAPORE, GERMANY OR FRANCE.



ANT FINANCIAL CHOOSES LUXEMBOURG AS EUROPEAN BASE

Ant Financial, owner of Alipay, the world's leading third-party payment platform, has selected Luxembourg as their European hub to help connect their Chinese users with merchants in EU countries.

FINTECH FRIENDLY PSD2 NOW PART OF LUX LAW

Following approval by Parliament, PSD2 has been implemented in Luxembourg law. Enhanced collaboration between FinTechs and banks as well as increased consumer protection are key elements of the law.

J.P. MORGAN STRENGTHENS ITS LUXEMBOURG PRESENCE TO SERVE EUROPEAN CLIENTS

J.P. MORGAN HAS DECIDED TO ESTABLISH A SIGNIFICANT WEALTH MANAGEMENT HUB IN LUXEMBOURG AND INCREASE ITS CAPABILITIES IN ITS CORPORATE & INVESTMENT BANK - TREASURY SERVICES AND CUSTODY AND FUND SERVICES.

BANK OF SINGAPORE LAUNCHES LUXEMBOURG WEALTH MANAGEMENT ARM TO SERVE CLIENTS IN EUROPE

BANK OF SINGAPORE, THE DEDICATED PRIVATE BANKING OF OCBC BANK, HAS RECEIVED A LICENSE TO OPERATE A WEALTH MANAGEMENT SUBSIDIARY IN LUXEMBOURG. IT IS THE FIRST TIME A SINGAPOREAN BANK SETS UP SHOP IN THE COUNTRY.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO WATCH THE VIDEO
"PICTET TECHNOLOGIES:
WHY WE CHOSE LUXEMBOURG"



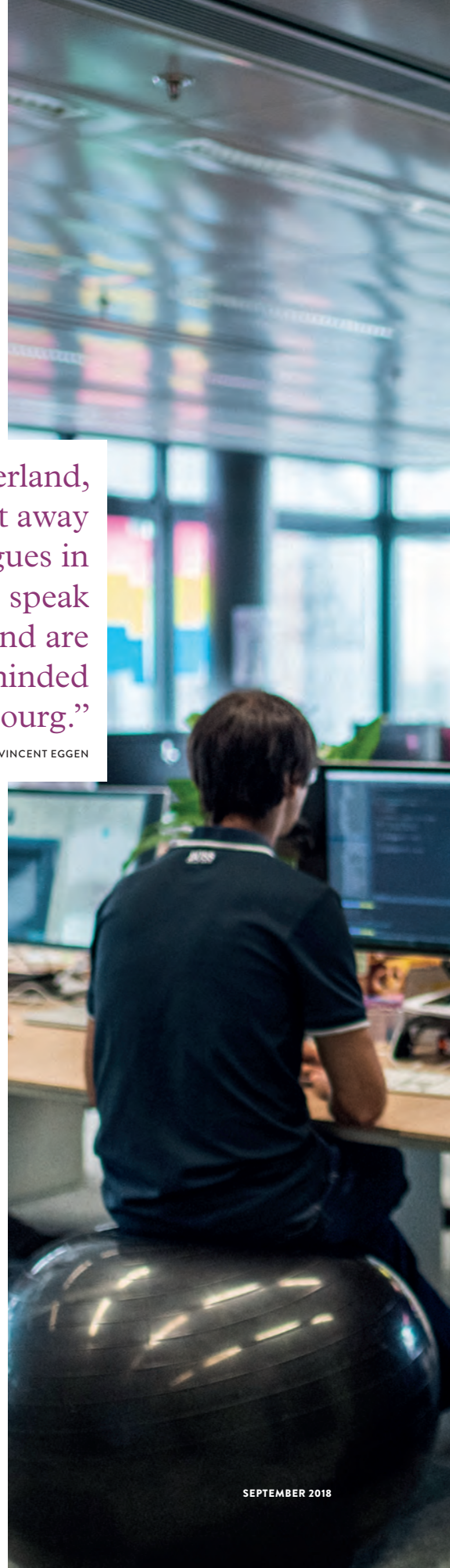
“We’re close to Switzerland,
under an hour’s flight away
from our colleagues in
Geneva and Zurich. We speak
French and English and are
very internationally-minded
in Luxembourg.”

VINCENT EGGEN

PICTET TECHNOLOGIES: WHY WE CHOSE LUXEMBOURG

PICTET TECHNOLOGIES OPERATES A UNIQUE AND AGILE SOFTWARE COMPANY IN LUXEMBOURG THAT WORKS FOR THE PICTET GROUP, THE LEADING INDEPENDENT WEALTH AND ASSET MANAGEMENT FIRM, HEADQUARTERED IN SWITZERLAND, ALREADY HAS A WELL-ESTABLISHED SUBSIDIARY IN LUXEMBOURG, WHICH EMPLOYS OVER 500 PEOPLE.

LFF SPOKE WITH VINCENT EGGEN, MANAGING DIRECTOR, PICTET TECHNOLOGIES, TO FIND OUT WHY LUXEMBOURG WAS A NATURAL CHOICE FOR DEVELOPING PICTET’S DIGITAL PLATFORM AND PROVIDING INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR ITS CLIENTS.





VINCENT EGGEN,
MANAGING DIRECTOR,
PICTET TECHNOLOGIES

“We have recruited both locally and also from Asia, Latin America and beyond. We’re very international, just like Luxembourg itself, with 16 different nationalities.”

VINCENT EGGEN

LFF: WHAT IS PICTET TECHNOLOGIES?

VE: Pictet Technologies was set up in Luxembourg in 2016. We’re the software factory of the

Pictet Group. Our mission is to develop the software engineering activity for the Group’s IT Division. We’re an accelerator, supporting innovation initiatives and the development of what will become the digital banking solutions of the future.

It’s a somewhat unique set-up, and a smart one too; and it’s also exceptionally well implemented. All the IT infrastructure, tools and environments we’re using are at the top level of what you can find anywhere in the industry.

LFF: WHAT IS THE ROLE OF PICTET TECHNOLOGIES WITHIN THE PICTET GROUP?

VE: We help to develop the Pictet Group’s software: its digital platform, web applications, all the portfolio management systems, compliance, reporting, and advisory tools. We work for the whole Group including Pictet Wealth Management and Pictet Asset Management.

We work closely with our colleagues in the IT Division in Geneva and use video conference systems to enhance how we work together.

LFF: IN WHICH AREAS DOES YOUR EXPERTISE LIE, AND HOW DOES THIS COMPLEMENT THE GROUP’S WORK?

VE: We’re close to Switzerland, under an hour’s flight away from our colleagues in Geneva and Zurich. We speak French and

English and are very internationally-minded in Luxembourg. We’re also close to the second largest Pictet office outside Switzerland, namely Luxembourg, which specialises in fund management and private banking.

Every banking environment today needs to be able to adapt quickly. Our mission is to help the development teams in every business line to adopt a more modern style of software engineering, i.e. moving away from traditional processes towards the “agile approach”, which is a rapid and flexible response to change. Our industry has learnt a lot in the past decades about how to be more efficient in software engineering, we’re implementing those new ways of working together.

LFF: HOW DO YOU SEE YOUR ACTIVITIES EVOLVING?

VE: Things have evolved quickly since we successfully finished our first project for the Pictet Group at the end of 2016. We started two years ago with just a few staff members, and we’ve now grown to 81. This means that our current premises are becoming too small, so we’re expanding to a new floor in our building that will be ready in the coming weeks. We’ll continue our expansion, and the plan is to have a total headcount of 125.

Our “software factory” feels very much at home in the modern Belval site, once the site of Luxembourg’s biggest ironworks. It’s now one of the most ambitious urban development projects in Europe and reflects our innovative, yet grounded philosophy. We’re next to the Technoport, a technology-oriented business incubator, and the University of Luxembourg. It’s a fantastic location, extremely active. It’s great for engineers, and they love it and find it very efficient.

“There are plenty of great things about the ICT ecosystem in Luxembourg. The numerous data centres help IT companies to grow and have the right regulatory framework for them.”

VINCENT EGGEN

LFF: HAS IT BEEN EASY TO EXPAND YOUR OFFICE SPACE AND RECRUIT NEW TALENT?

VE: It has been quick and easy for us to increase our space in Belval, where there are lots of available options.

Creating an innovative and happy work culture was one of the most important things for us when we started out. At Pictet Technologies, our management style is similar to other technology start-ups. Our staff are empowered to have a lot of freedom and autonomy to do things.

We have a great team here that we have recruited both locally and also from Asia, Latin America and beyond. We're very international, just like Luxembourg itself, with 16 different nationalities. We have junior people, and senior people as well, so it's a really nice blend of energy and great minds working together.

We recently received an award as the best workplace in Luxembourg for a medium-size business from Great Place to Work,

so that certainly helps with recruitment. But most important is the Pictet brand, which stands for quality and innovation. That's why it's not been difficult for us to find the best talents.

LFF: HOW DOES THE INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (ICT) ECOSYSTEM IN LUXEMBOURG SUPPORT YOU?

VE: For entrepreneurs like me and a Group like Pictet, proximity to the authorities is helpful. It's easy to get in touch with decision-makers and get feedback in very constructive exchanges, which would be more difficult in other countries.

There are plenty of great things about the ICT ecosystem in Luxembourg. The numerous data centres help IT companies to grow and have the right regulatory framework for them. But I'd also say that it's great because Luxembourg is small. Once you are into the IT ecosystem, everyone knows everyone, so as a developer it's easy to get access to knowledge and share experience.

LFF: AND LOOKING AHEAD TO THE FUTURE...?

VE: These are exciting times, and we're contributing to something that's new, innovative and very important for the Pictet Group in this new digital world. We're defining together how the business will be done in the future. That's an exciting task for my team and for me.

GM

SUSTAINABLE FINANCE

AROUND 180 BILLION EUR OF ADDITIONAL INVESTMENTS A YEAR ARE NEEDED TO ACHIEVE THE EU'S 2030 TARGETS AGREED IN PARIS. PUBLIC SOURCES OF FINANCE ALONE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY FINANCING FOR CLIMATE AND MITIGATION PROJECTS. THE INTERNATIONAL INVESTOR COMMUNITY NEEDS TO STEP UP AND HAS STARTED TO DO SO.

LEADING EXPERTS IN THE FIELD SHARE THEIR VIEWS ON THE TASK AHEAD AND DISCUSS THEIR INNOVATIVE WORK TO MAKE THE WORLD MORE SUSTAINABLE.



The EU's ambitious plan to lead the way in sustainable finance

INDUSTRY EXPERTS SHARE THEIR VIEWS AS ACTION PLAN TAKES SHAPE

IN MAY 2018, THE EUROPEAN UNION PROPOSED A BROAD ACTION PLAN ON SUSTAINABLE FINANCE TO SUPPORT THE TRANSITION TO A LOW-CARBON, MORE RESOURCE-EFFICIENT AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY. TO ACHIEVE THE 2030 TARGETS AGREED IN PARIS, INCLUDING A 40% CUT IN GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS, THE EU MUST FILL AN INVESTMENT GAP ESTIMATED AT 180 BILLION EUR PER YEAR. THE FINANCIAL SECTOR IS EXPECTED TO PLAY A KEY ROLE IN REACHING THOSE GOALS.

SHOWING STRONG SUPPORT

As one of the leading financial centres for sustainable finance in the world, Luxembourg has warmly welcomed the ambitious EU action plan proposed earlier in the year.

"Luxembourg has been involved from the very beginning in this project and its representation in the various working groups has been material. I am therefore confident that Luxembourg will be among the first movers when it comes to the implementation of the regulation," says Christian Hertz, Director at Luxembourg Investment Solutions. For more than a decade Mr Hertz has specialised as a lawyer in sustainable finance and has led the Association of the Luxembourg Fund Industry ("ALFI") working group on sustainable investing.

The European Commission has set up a High-Level Expert Group ("HLEG") and a Technical Expert Group ("TEG") on Sustainable Finance, which are tasked with developing a unified classification system for sustainable economic activities, an EU

green bond standard, methodologies for low-carbon indices, and metrics for climate-related disclosure.

Industry experts from the European Investment Bank ("EIB"), ALFI, and the Grand Duchy's labelling agency LuxFLAG are working closely with the Commission on the different work streams. Moreover, Julie Becker, Member of the Executive Committee of Luxembourg Stock Exchange (LuxSE) was appointed Member of the HLEG on Sustainable Finance, whereas Jane Wilkinson, Head of Sustainable Finance at LuxSE, is a member of the TEG.

"The plan includes the development of a green taxonomy that for the first time sets out a Europe-wide classification for green finance. This is a crucial step to attracting broader support from capital market investors, which is essential to fill the financing gap for low carbon projects. Investors need to better understand both climate and environmental risks, and we are already improving our own procedures to achieve this," comments Jonathan Taylor, Vice-President at the EIB.

Since issuing the world's first green bonds in 2007, the EIB's Climate Awareness Bonds have raised more than 21 billion EUR. The EIB has had a single lending target, that 25% of all financing supports climate action. This has been met every year since the commitment was made in 2010.

DEFINING WHAT'S 'GREEN'

The EU aims to provide clarity on what sustainable investments are by creating a uniform, EU-wide classification system that gives businesses and investors a lingua franca to identify to what degree economic activities can be considered environmentally-sustainable.

Currently there is no single market definition of 'green'. This means that each borrower and investor develop their own criteria, which requires significant resources and leads to a risk of 'green washing' and loss of investor confidence through inconsistent green claims.

The EIB already shares experience that assists the technical expert group to better implement proposals for market classifications of climate change mitigation and the wider taxonomy for sustainable finance.

"Over the decades one lesson has been clear: that transparent standards and shared criteria for sustainability projects help to increase financial investment in this area. While the EIB has its own detailed standards and targets for climate, environment and social issues, we believe that a uniform European-wide



CHRISTIAN HERTZ,
DIRECTOR,
LUXEMBOURG INVESTMENT SOLUTIONS

“ESG considerations will now be systematically taken into account at all stages of the investment making and risk management process.”

CHRISTIAN HERTZ

definition will help capital market investors to increase their ambition and overall investment, including by corporates and municipalities. A European framework will help us both to target our financial support more efficiently and better measure impact over the long-term,” adds Taylor.

According to Julie Becker, the first and most fundamental is the building of a common sustainability taxonomy. Without this backbone the success of the plan will be limited.

“Transparency is vital to the growth of sustainable finance,” underlines Julie Becker. “Therefore, it will be extremely important to determine a broad common denominator. The work is complex and requires a step-by-step process leading towards an evolving regulation over time.”

At the same time, it’s important to ensure that with standardisation and transparency, enough room is left for innovation and technical advances to thrive. An energy-efficient car or building won’t be the same in five years. For this reason, Mrs Becker believes it will be important to maintain market innovation. *“The taxonomy will need to be dynamic and reviewed on a regular basis in order to reflect the changes in the economy and society.”*

One of the fundamental challenges of sustainable finance is that it boils down to ethics rather than finance. Investors’ choices are often driven by their own personal interests, rather than financial calculations.

“It’s not only about making sure the definitions are clear and understandable for all, but also about making sure that investors can access, at all times, the information they need to make their investment decisions. The Luxembourg Stock Exchange, via its Luxembourg Green Exchange platform, prides itself on being the leader in providing access to such information to international investors and building trust through clear communication about the different assets, activities and projects.”

ENSURING THE RIGHT DISCLOSURES

The second proposed regulation by the EU obliges institutional investors and asset managers to disclose how they integrate environmental, social and governance (“ESG”) factors into their risk processes. This regulation will probably be the most important in terms of scope because it applies to almost all people in the asset management sector.

The disclosure proposal is composed of two sections: one that applies to all asset managers and one that only applies to niche players who are actually targeting specific sustainable investments.

“The proposal is not the first one to do this, but what is new is that ESG will now become mandatory to all asset managers. The systematic need to conduct these checks will be a game changer for the industry. In my view it’s not a revolution, but it’s clearly a step further after the 2nd Shareholders Rights Directive (“SRD II”) which will be implemented in 2019. ESG considerations will now be systematically taken into account at all stages of the investment making and risk management process. While the mainstreaming was initially pushed by investors demand, we now see that policy makers start implementing the Paris agreement, which is the second big step in the ESG undertaking,” explains Hertz.

With regard to risk management, asset managers already have to take into account market risks, operational risks or reputational risks.

“If you invest in French or German government bonds, you are probably not looking at the sustainability risk. In the future, you will have to conduct the sustainability risk check on these government bonds, even if the ESG risk seems limited. If you were investing in oil or even in carmakers, you will certainly today already factor in the sustainability risks. Because both of them are identified as sensible industries. So, many asset managers are familiar with conducting sustainability risk checks.”





JONATHAN TAYLOR,
VICE-PRESIDENT,
EIB

“The plan includes the development of a green taxonomy that for the first time sets out a Europe-wide classification for green finance.”

JONATHAN TAYLOR

Commenting on the text of the proposal, Hertz believes the objective behind the EU package is well understood and very widely agreed upon by most asset managers and industry bodies. However, he also warns that the devil clearly lies in the details.

“Thankfully these proposals are quite short. There are a number of inconsistencies and inaccuracies, but I’m confident that these proposals will be adjusted by the EU council and the EU parliament in a manner which will clarify the points. It’s likely to go in the right direction,” adds Mr Hertz. The proof of the pudding will be, inevitably, in the eating.

The third proposed regulation by the EU Commission will create a new category of benchmarks comprising low-carbon and positive carbon impact benchmarks, which will provide investors with better information on the carbon footprint of their investments.

AMENDING EXISTING DIRECTIVES

The Commission has also been seeking feedback on amendments to delegated acts under the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (“MiFID II”) and the Insurance Distribution Directive (IDD), to include ESG considerations into the advice that investment firms and insurance distributors offer to individual clients.

While the MiFID proposal is less developed when compared to the disclosure obligations, this is where the taxonomy and uniform standardised labelling will come in handy. Bankers and insurers will be required to act in the best interests of the investors, having their sustainability preferences front of mind. Investors will need proof of their ESG strategy and as a result will want the assets they buy to meet a certain standard.

“All this will lead to an enhanced demand of SRI products and, at the end of the day, will also strengthen the need of having labels. The advantage of having a label is, at least when it



JULIE BECKER,
MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,
LUXEMBOURG STOCK EXCHANGE (LUXSE)

“In order for green assets to thrive, there needs to be a solid market framework and greater transparency.”

JULIE BECKER



MARIO MANTRISI,
GENERAL MANAGER,
LUXFLAG

“We are very conscious about the fact that at the end of the day we will need to find a consensus and define together the criteria of the labels in the future.”

MARIO MANTRISI

comes to the green-tech market, that it is easy to understand,” says Mario Mantrisi, General Manager at LuxFLAG.

At the same time, Christian Hertz warns that here, as for the others, the details throw up potential pitfalls: *“If a potential investor wants to be a good citizen and agrees to certain ESG factors when managing his assets, but only the niche funds become available to him and none of the main funds which apply some ESG strategies, then that’s where we might have a problem,”* warns Hertz. *“Impact funds, which really only invest in impact companies whose core activity is ESG, are by nature very limited in volume. You cannot expect the entire economy to have as sole focus environment, social or governance. So that for me today would be the major risk with the proposals as they stand; which would be that the MIFID changes would reorient investor’s money from what is generally ESG strategies today to impact only.”*

USING GREEN LABELS

One of the other areas of interest in the EU action plan for Luxembourg’s financial sector is that of fund labels.

As soon as the taxonomy becomes clearer in 2019, the Commission will create “EU Ecolabels” for financial products and will explore possible measures to incorporate climate and environmental risks into prudential requirements in line with the EU taxonomy.

Luxembourg’s labelling agency LuxFLAG already has a wide range of labels addressing investment funds and bonds, making it the leader in the cross-border sustainable finance labelling landscape.

“LuxFLAG started with a microfinance label. This was a first for the industry at that time. Today, we are the leader and have approximately 50% of the worldwide AuM in microfinance funds labelled by LuxFLAG. We are well-known for our rigorous process,” says Mantrisi.

“The common green taxonomy will be very important for an actor like LuxFLAG, especially in view of the future eco-labels.”

The number of countries with fund labelling agencies in Europe is currently limited to Luxembourg, France, Germany, Austria and Sweden. Given its broad cross-border reach, LuxFLAG could therefore further strengthen its position as key labelling player in light of upcoming EU label propositions. *“The collaboration with the EU Commission and the other labelling agencies is on good terms. We are very conscious about the fact that at the end of the day we will need to find a consensus and define together the criteria of sustainability labels in the future,”* adds Mantrisi.

Luxembourg has put an entire ecosystem of expertise in place, focused on providing financing to the underserved in developing countries through microloans and other financial products. *“It’s the eco-system in particular that determines the strength of the Luxembourg financial centre. Even if a Danish asset manager is based in London instead of Luxembourg, he will turn to us for his labels because he knows he can trust the quality standards of LuxFLAG,”* stresses Mantrisi.

LuxFLAG is a public-private initiative. *“What differentiates us from other labelling agencies is that we are independent. We can afford to go for the highest quality standards only. To put it bluntly, we are not obliged to give a label to someone because of money.”*

The first EU label is expected to be a climate finance label. Depending on the criteria proposed by the EU, LuxFLAG will keep its existing labels, create a new one with the EU label criteria, or change the LuxFLAG into the EU label.

“It’s too early to tell how the labels will be harmonised. However, our clients do not need to worry. Our existing LuxFLAG labels will definitely be compatible with these from the EU. Considering the high quality of our criteria, we are convinced that there won’t be any surprises,” concludes Mario Mantrisi.

THINKING BEYOND THE EU

Although the EU is set to lead the way and strengthen its position as frontrunner in the area of sustainable finance – taking bold steps that have consequences across an entire bloc of countries – it should be noted that some countries such as China have already put a taxonomy in place.

“Wherever possible we work closely with other financial institutions, including multilateral and national promotional banks to align our approaches. One example of successful cooperation is a joint white paper with the China Green Finance Committee. This compared international green bond standards and identified taxonomies to improve comparability of disclosure and reporting. We do have a broad range of policy goals, not only in relation to sustainability. Achieving these requires a significant coordination effort across the Bank,” adds Jonathan Taylor.

Moreover, the Exchange solidified its relationship with China, which is the largest green bond issuer globally.

China needs to access the international investor community for around 50% of its funding of green bonds and so requires innovative global partnerships. Therefore, Luxembourg and China decided to build bridges through the launch of the Green Bond Index Series and Green Bond Channel.

“The comparability is crucial, not only within the EU but also with other countries. That’s why we need to talk the same language, even if standards may differ at an international level. Otherwise the lack of consistent standards and information disclosure requirements will remain a barrier to cross-border green capital flows. In order for green assets to thrive, there needs to be a solid market framework and greater transparency. At the Luxembourg Green Exchange we work hard to provide the answers to this need,” concludes Julie Becker.

LR



PIERRE AHLBORN,
CEO AND MANAGING DIRECTOR,
BANQUE DE LUXEMBOURG

SUSTAINABLE INVESTING: PRODUCTS AND TRENDS

SUSTAINABLE AND RESPONSIBLE INVESTING CONTINUES TO GROW, SPANNING A WIDE RANGE OF PRODUCTS. WE HAVE TAKEN A LOOK AT THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS AND TRENDS.

GEOGRAPHY AND GENDER

Banque de Luxembourg has been advising international clients on socially responsible investing ("SRI") for more than a decade since the bank launched its first SRI fund in 2007.

"Initially, Belgian and Dutch clients, as well as clients from the northern countries seemed to be most open to the idea of sustainable investing. Today, things have changed," says Pierre Ahlborn, CEO and Managing Director at Banque de Luxembourg.

In addition to millennials, women are also more receptive to socially responsible investments. A study by Morgan Stanley in 2017, revealed that 84% of women, compared to only 67% of men, show interest in SRI products and solutions.

"We have witnessed this first hand as we run an initiative called Femme et Patrimoine. Since its launch in 2011, we've clearly seen that women are very attentive to the topic," adds Mr Ahlborn.

A DECADE OF GROWTH

For a long time, SRI products were reserved to institutional and knowledgeable clients, but today a much larger share of private clients can access them. *"Today, most SRI funds are UCITS products so they are accessible to a larger band of clientele,"* comments Mr Ahlborn.

Also, retirement savings plans and sovereign funds have included non-financial criteria in the selection of their investments. *"They have been strong drivers of change. Their selection processes have triggered a multiplication of funds that are labeled SRI".*

Finally, SRI funds do not seem to be penalised in terms of performance. Investors should not expect to do better than traditional stock investing, but there is no sign that SRI investments perform worse than a traditional stock portfolio.

Nonetheless, one of the challenges that has been experienced is that the performance of a number of SRI funds was impacted by external factors such as public subsidies or taxes. *"Especially in solar energy,*

"SRI investing generates interest from a significant part of our clients, regardless of their nationality and country of residence."

PIERRE AHLBORN

“Millennials have a particular affinity for the dual bottom line approach of impact investing.”

GILBERT SCHINTGEN



governments worldwide suddenly decided to encourage solar energy, then the subsequent government decided to abolish them. This sort of thing causes major damage and is a specific issue in green funds,” says Mr Ahlborn.

CHANGES IN CLIENT RELATIONSHIP MANAGEMENT

The new EU action plan on sustainable finance puts the interests of potential investors centremost. To ensure that sustainability factors are in compliance with investors’ preferences, the EU will amend the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (“MiFID II”) and Insurance Distribution Directive (“IDD”) regulatory frameworks

for banks and insurers respectively. As a result, change management programs for client relationship managers have become necessary.

“Our investment advisors and relationship managers are being trained in order to acquire the knowledge and skills to explain SRI and to inform the client what we are doing. We have decided to more resolutely go in the direction of generalising an SRI approach throughout the bank,” explains Mr Ahlborn.

It’s easy to feel disoriented by the different labels that exist. Therefore, client relationship managers need to help clients understand which criteria the bank has chosen.



GILBERT SCHINTGEN,
MANAGING DIRECTOR AND MEMBER
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS,
UBS FUND MANAGEMENT (LUXEMBOURG)

"We have decided to enlarge UN PRI (United Nations Principles of Responsible Investment) and SRI principles to all the solutions that we offer. As a basis, we have chosen internationally accepted standards, such as the UN PRI, and from there on we refine the strategy and exclude, for example, investments in coal."

MILLENNIALS AND IMPACT INVESTING

One trend that will certainly help to drive further growth in sustainable investments is the power and influence of the younger generations.

"Millennials have a particular affinity for the dual bottom line approach of impact in-

vesting," says Gilbert Schintgen, Managing Director and Member of the Board of Directors at UBS Fund Management (Luxembourg). UBS has a wide range of active and passive funds domiciled in Luxembourg and ESG considerations are integrated in all actively managed funds.

According to the recently published UBS/PwC Billionaires report, many millennials inheriting billionaire wealth see business success as a way of benefiting society. Their view is that business goals must deliver not only returns to the family, but also tangible benefits to a wide group of stakeholders – including employees, customers, and society at large.

"While corporate sustainability has often been criticised as "greenwashing", young billionaires are passionately committed to their cause and we see this influencing the sustainability objectives of our clients," he adds.

FROM ILLIQUID TO LIQUID

Gilbert Schintgen expects an increasing trend towards impact strategies. Previously this has been a challenge for institutional investors, even though there is a clear demand for investment strategies that have a positive social and environmental impact. *"Traditionally, impact investing has been concentrated in illiquid asset classes such as private equity and private debt. Moves to set up impact investing strategies into more liquid assets have been controversial, mainly because key impact investing criteria such as "intent", "measurement", "verification" and "additionality" are difficult to prove."*

However, new methodologies are being developed to overcome these obstacles. *"Within our business we are working extensively to mainstream impact investing through our more liquid strategies such as fixed income and publicly listed equities. We're doing this through the use of new measurement techniques and strategic engagement approaches designed to target specific outcomes,"* explains Mr Schintgen.

STRONG DEMAND FOR ACTIVE AS WELL AS PASSIVE FUNDS

Demand for both passive and active sustainable funds has been very strong. *"Growth rates in our sustainability strategies have been over 75% annually over the past two years, reflecting strong demand from both institutional and private clients in sustainable investment strategies,"* continues Mr Schintgen.

UBS' actively managed sustainable funds use a combined analysis of sustainability and financial performance. Sustainability performance is measured via a propriety score that

UBS has developed, and companies in the sustainability funds need to be in the top 40% within their industry groups and the top half of their alpha potential versus sector peers to qualify for investment. In addition, we have a broad range of passive and ETF strategies that integrate sustainability criteria, from best-in-class sustainability ETFs, to the Climate Aware Strategy, which integrates carbon and climate change data into a passive-like rules based strategy with a low tracking error versus FTSE Developed World.

UBS has also found that partnering with leading institutional investors has been one of the best drivers of innovative new products, as these partnership often help to address gaps in the marketplace on sustainable investment.

Gilbert Schintgen explains: *"We are partnering with a large Dutch institutional investor on developing a unique set of impact measurement metrics, which has provided a basis for the launch of an impact equity fund, which provides a unique opportunity to apply the principles of impact investment to the public equities space. We also worked together with a UK institutional investor on developing the Climate Aware Strategy, which combines a quantitative, forward-looking assessment of future climate change risks into a passive equity strategy. This strategy is supplemented by an engagement program where we reach out to high risk companies to realise positive changes and orient company strategies towards behaviour that reduce climate change risk."*

CONSOLIDATION

The sustainable investment market is diverse and growing, which reflects a wide range of approaches to integrating sustainability.

"In terms of sustainability data providers and research providers, there has been a large amount of consolidation in the market with three main providers emerging, MSCI, Sustainalytics, and ISS/Ethix/Oekom. In terms of raw data both Bloomberg and Thomson Reuters have sustainable data offerings. This



JACQUES FAVEYROL,
CEO,
CARDIF LUX VIE

consolidation is to be expected similar to the consolidation of mainstream data providers. There may be some additional consolidation in the market, but there are not many smaller independent providers left in the market of any great significance,” concludes Mr Schintgen.

THE LONG-TERM VIEW: ENERGY TRANSITION

Insurers must make sure they can meet their commitments many years down the line, therefore investing sustainably has become fundamental part of their strategy.

For instance, BNP Paribas Cardif aims to double its positive impact investments by 2020 while accelerating the energy transition. The insurer has stopped financing coal-fired power plants and has outlined a strategy to more than double its investments in the renewable energy sector (from 6.9 billion EUR in 2014 to 15 billion EUR in 2020).

Cardif Lux Vie started to manage its own General Fund in 2012, which stood at 8.1 billion EUR at the end of December 2017. *“Two years ago, we adopted an SRI methodology relying on the rating method of Vigéo Eiris to select securities according to financial as well as relevant extra-financial criteria, such as the ESG performance, the carbon footprint and the energy transition strategy. The ESG performance analysis favours companies which are “Best in Class” in their sector, whereas the analysis of carbon emission and energy transition policy favours companies with solid energy transition strategies on a “Best Effort” basis,”* says Jacques Faveyrol, CEO at Cardif Lux Vie.

In addition to the Vigéo method, the asset management team pays particular attention to the sectorial exposure, as exemplified by their limited bond investments in utilities generating power from non-renewable sources.

Regarding indirect investments (via funds) held in the general fund portfolio, although ESG and carbon filters are not necessarily

applied on their underlying assets, the SRI profile is taken into account amongst other factors before investing. *“Since 2014, we have not invested in any newly launched Private Equity, Infrastructure or Private Debt funds whose purpose would be directly and predominantly to fund fossil energy extraction projects (coal, oil, natural gas),”* adds Jacques Faveyrol.

A STANDARDISED FRAMEWORK

What many have learned is that there is a true lack of consistency in the overall SRI framework, which means that institutional investors are also facing some difficulties in communicating on the impact, as there are no shared metrics to measure the environmental impact of their investments.

“A standardised framework will definitely support growth and trust in responsible investment strategies, in terms of concepts as well as metrics. People need to understand what impact they have when they choose such an approach: monitoring financial performance alone is not enough to get investors to validate the conscious choice they have made,” continues Jacques Faveyrol.

As a consequence, the creation of labels will strengthen clients’ trust in socially responsible funds by providing greater transparency. Lastly, financial education can and must contribute in raising awareness among potential investors about the goals and methodologies of responsible investments. Indeed, institutional investors have an important role to play as disseminators of information.

LR

“A standardised framework will definitely support growth and trust in responsible investment strategies, in terms of concepts as well as metrics.”

JACQUES FAVEYROL

THE WORLD'S FIRST LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR GREEN COVERED BONDS

IN JUNE 2018, LUXEMBOURG BECAME THE FIRST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD TO ESTABLISH A LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR GREEN COVERED BONDS, A NEW TYPE OF COVERED BOND (KNOWN AS THE RENEWABLE ENERGY COVERED BOND OR LETTRE DE GAGE ÉNERGIES RENOUVELABLES) TO ROLL OUT THE NEXT GENERATION OF GREEN BONDS.

Previously, Luxembourg law specified four categories of covered bonds: public covered bonds, mortgage backed bonds, movable asset-backed bonds and mutual bonds. Now there is a new category – renewable energy bonds.

“The cover pool will be defined by law on renewable energy assets. We cannot source brown and green bond issues out of the same cover pool – which is different in other countries,” explains Thorsten Schmidt, Member of the Board of Directors NORD/LB Luxembourg S.A. Covered Bond Bank. Over the years, he has witnessed how NORD/LB bank evolved from a northern German wind energy pioneer to a specialist for project financing in the renewable energy sector around the globe.

The range of assets that can be financed under the new law is broad, including energy production projects, storage, transport, transmission – as long as more than 50% is related to renewable energy.

“The covered bonds can be backed by renewable energy assets such as wind, solar, geothermal, hydrothermal, hydropower and biomass projects,” adds Schmidt.

REVITALIZATION OF THE COVERED BOND MARKET

Luxembourg is the birthplace of green bonds. The first green bond, the Climate

Awareness Bond, was issued by the EIB in 2007. Since then, international capital markets have been one of the most successful ways for raising capital to combat climate change.

“In order to limit global warming to clearly below two degrees, different calculations suggest that enormous investments of billions of USD will have to be made in the energy sector worldwide by 2035. This demonstrates that, without the participation of institutional investors, it will be impossible to reach the ambitious climate protection goals. And there is still an investment gap. Financing of clean energy is part of the strategic business of many banks, so it's worthwhile for them to rethink how to finance its lending to renewable energy projects, now that the new framework in Luxembourg is in place,” says Schmidt.

CLEAR RULES OF THE GAME

With this legal framework for green covered bonds, Luxembourg is responding to investors' demands for clear rules.

Issuers will be obliged to channel revenue from issues into the renewable forms of energy as indicated in the law. The definition in the bill defines strict criteria and reflects the understanding of renewable energy taken from the EU Directive 2009/28 Art. 2 (a) on the “use of energy from renewable sources”. In addition, risks are mitigated by loan-to-value rules that will be dealt

with in an accompanying circular to the law, yet to be published.

“This legally binding framework for a new covered bond product, backed by renewable assets, makes Luxembourg a pioneer in the development of green financial products. You can't change a bill overnight – that's the beauty of it. So, investors can rely on the law.”

FIRST GREEN COVERED BOND ISSUANCE

NORD/LB aims to become the first bank in the world to issue the new Lettre de Gage Renewable Energy, which will concentrate on financing wind projects.

“This global début will hopefully be followed by many more green Luxembourg covered bonds. We are still in the early stages of preparing to issue a deal and would like to issue the first lettres de gage énergies renouvelables early in 2019,” concludes Schmidt.

LR



THORSTEN SCHMIDT,
MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS,
NORD/LB LUXEMBOURG S.A.

THE WINNING ASSET MANAGERS ON STAGE
AT THE SUSTAINABLE FINANCE FORUM LUXEMBOURG 2018





CREATING THE CLIMATE FINANCE LEADERS OF TOMORROW

COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE AND IN PARTICULAR EMERGING COUNTRIES, HAVE TO FIND NEW INNOVATIVE FINANCIAL MEANS TO MITIGATE AND ADAPT TO THE NUMEROUS EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE. THE NEWLY CREATED INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE FINANCE ACCELERATOR (ICFA), A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP, IS A KEY EXAMPLE OF LUXEMBOURG'S EFFORTS TO BRING THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS TOGETHER WITH THE AIM OF CREATING FUTURE LEADERS OF FUND MANAGERS INVESTING IN CLIMATE FINANCE AND INCREASE THE NUMBER OF CLIMATE FINANCE INVESTMENT FUNDS.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE FIRST EDITION OF THE SUSTAINABLE FINANCE FORUM LUXEMBOURG LAST MAY, IT ANNOUNCED THE FIRST COHORT OF INTERNATIONAL ASSET MANAGERS TO JOIN THE ACCELERATOR. WE SPOKE WITH THE WINNERS, ALL CURRENTLY RAISING CAPITAL, TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THEIR INNOVATIVE KEY PROJECTS AND THE ADDED VALUE OF GETTING OFF THE GROUND WITH THE HELP OF ICFA.

“Governments and business communities continue to invest mainly in fossil fuel generation to meet their energy demands due to the lower investment cost, even if the total lifetime cost surpasses that of renewables.”

TERJE OSMUNDSEN



RUN-OF-THE-RIVER HYDRO, MUTOBO II, RWANDA

ACCELERATING CLEAN ENERGY GROWTH FOR ALL

The clean energy revolution is here, but for countries most in need, the transition is far too slow. Electricity consumption in developing countries is 20-100 times lower per capita than in the OECD. While these countries hold significant renewable energy potential, the lack of international equity and debt finance available for decentralised generation is a major hurdle.

Oslo- and Nairobi-based Empower New Energy, a renewable energy impact investment fund, was created in early 2017 to find a solution to the financing gap of the smaller scale projects. Over the next two years, it intends to raise over 200 million USD to finance growing portfolio of small and medium-sized solar and hydropower projects in Sub-Saharan Africa, leading to verifiable CO2 reductions, job creation and community development.

Terje Osmundsen, CEO and one of the two founders explains: *“Today, non-recourse project finance in emerging countries is the main solution for financing renewable energy projects, which works well for large scale projects of 40-50 million USD upwards but is not suited for small and medium-sized, because of the time and high transaction costs.”*

Financing problems are to be added to a lack of know-how and resource among local developers, utilities and regulators combined with a lack of transparency, fear of corruption and illegitimate use of climate funds.

“Governments and business communities continue to invest mainly in fossil fuel generation to meet their energy demands due to the lower investment cost, even if the total lifetime cost surpasses that of renewables,” explains Osmundsen.

“Our business model is to apply our standardised project evaluation, financing and management tools for investments in small- and medium scale renewable energy projects. We bundle investments into a portfolio of projects. When projects are built and has been in operation for a period, we raise green bonds to refinance the portfolio of quality solar PV and small hydro projects which span over multiple off-takers and countries,” he adds.

Structured as an impact accelerator vehicle, investment money is deposited for channeling down to each of the project special purpose vehicles in the project portfolio. Investors ranges from DTIs to private impact investors while the sweet spot for investing is 1 to 10 million USD per project.

Empower’s CEO explains that ICFA’s support and coaching will be of valuable importance in the creation process of the fund.

“Building up an investment fund management business in a new area like climate finance requires a lot of time and resources, the possibility to get technical and financial support is extremely valuable.”

HYDRO POWER GENERATION

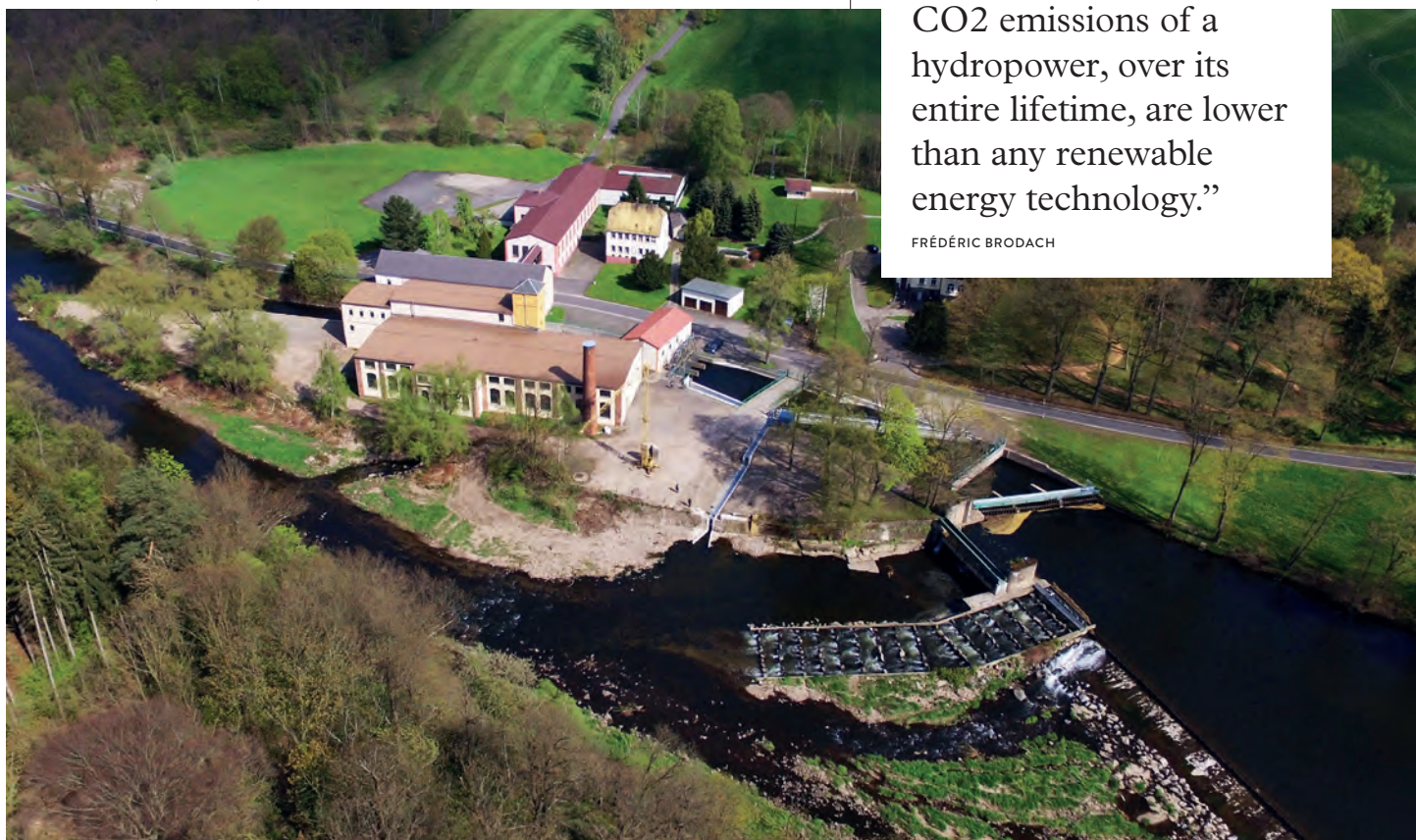
Accelerating the clean energy revolution is also the focus of Serimus Hydro, a Luxembourg-based asset manager focusing on small hydroelectric power plants.

“There is a clear need to focus on that technology, especially when it comes to small hydropower assets below 10 MW that are decentralised assets existing in many places worldwide,” explains its Managing Director, Frédéric Brodach.

“We’ve hardly seen any fund that is exclusively focused on hydro power, despite the fact that the CO2 emissions of a hydropower, over its entire lifetime, are lower than any renewable energy technology.”

FRÉDÉRIC BRODACH

HYDROPOWER PLANT, RIVER MULDE, GERMANY



“We’ve hardly seen any fund that is exclusively focused on hydro power, despite the fact that the CO₂ emissions of a hydropower, over its entire lifetime, are lower than any renewable energy technology.”

FRÉDÉRIC BRODACH

Small hydropower is a clean, renewable, and predictable energy source. “It is the largest renewable force in the world,” he adds. Its lifespan that can reach up to 80 years makes it interesting to long-term investors. “It is often attractive for family offices, foundations and pension funds. Those will be the kind of investors we will speak to,” he adds.

The Serimus Hydro Fund will finance the development and construction of new hydro power plants as well as the modernisation and operation of existing plants in Europe and Latin America, a geographical zone where the International Energy Agency considers that 72% of the technical potential of hydro power is not exploited to date. Current main projects focus on Austria and Chile.

“Investors interested in this niche sector require specific technical know-how,” he highlights. To address this need and to securely access satisfying deal-flow, the asset manager includes a team of specialised German engineers with a cumulated hydro-record of more than 40 years.

“Our role will be to bundle several smaller projects, to bring them to the state-of-the-art technical standards, and to invest in order to ensure full compliance with stringent environmental regulation. At the end of the fund’s 12-year lifetime aggregated, digitalised and standardised projects will be sold off to investors that

have less technical knowledge or market access in those regions. We will pursue and measure verifiable social and environmental impact targets,” explains Brodach.

Benefitting from Luxembourg’s networks of experts in the field of sustainable finance is a key element praised by Serimus Hydro’s Managing Director.

“In Luxembourg, you have access to all the service providers in a very small perimeter. It doesn’t take you much time to connect with each other and to get everyone working in the same direction. There is also a clear focus when it comes to green finance. It is a very good place to do business.”

CLIMATE ADAPTED, SOCIALLY INCLUSIVE AGRICULTURE

“ICFA was our first financial and technical backer for the Akipeco Fund. It accelerated our visibility and gave us additional credibility as it attracted tremendous interest. We are moving faster than we could have done without their support,” explains Serge Mayaka, Founder and Managing Principal of Akipeco Inc, the Toronto-based capital advisory firm launching the Akipeco Fund. The Akipeco Fund will invest in businesses and projects that enable climate smart and socially inclusive agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa, while enhancing food security and livelihoods.

“Africa’s long-term stability, growth and resilience is critically dependent upon food production and land use that is adapted for current and accelerating climate and population pressures.”

SERGE MAYAKA

"We will do this in ways that leave countries and communities with a greater share of the economic benefits of the renewable natural resources they depend upon, and with those resources managed for the long term in a more efficient and climate smart manner," explains Mayaka, whose Kenyan origins makes Africa a region dear to his heart.

"It is the most compelling region in terms of risk to climate. Agriculture and soft-commodities are critically important in Sub-Saharan Africa, in terms of employment and income generation, food security. Africa's long-term stability, growth and resilience is critically dependent upon food production and land use that is adapted for current and accelerating climate and population pressures," he adds.

The Fund's investment themes will be centered on production models and input efficient agricultural technologies and that enable more food to be produced on less land, as well as keeping more of what's made by addressing food spoilage via handling and storage assets between production and markets. The fund will also focus on emerging opportunities to meet growing regional and global demand for protein, such as sustainable aquaculture, and on the restoration and use of degraded lands for food production.

The common thread in these investment themes is on managing down the amount of land required to produce the food required to meet rapidly growing consumption needs, all while maintaining or increasing current income, and adapting long-term to the impact of climate change on what can be efficiently produced in different regions.

"These solutions require significant innovation and blended capital to implement new production practices and manage various risks while targeted impacts take hold, and to monetise the environmental assets that are created over time. It is a very active investment strategy, before and after initial capital deployment," he adds.

"We have a lot to do, and we will not achieve our goals on our own. With the ICFA and the broader Luxembourg sustainable finance ecosystem we have access to the types of partners and support we need for the Akipeco Fund."

"With the ICFA and the broader Luxembourg sustainable finance ecosystem we have access to the types of partners and support we need for the Akipeco Fund."

SERGE MAYAKA

TRANSFORMING FARMING THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

While Africa has been long attractive for direct investments, growing opportunities are arising in South-East Asia as exemplified by UBERIS, a venture capitalist using smart technologies to disrupt established supply chains models in South-East Asia including countries such as Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, Philippines and Indonesia.

UBERIS backs high-growth young social enterprises with both an environmental and social impacts in sectors such as smart agriculture, access to energy and clean water. It is the only fund whose sole focus is on Southeast Asia, a territory with more than 3 decades of economic growth but lagging behind in terms of impact investing.

"Technology plays a key role in developing impact investing and helping small and medium companies (SMEs) grow their businesses," explains its CEO, Cyrille Antignac.



SOLAR FOR RURAL ELECTRIFICATION IN MYANMAR PERFORMED BY ONE OF UBERIS PORTFOLIO COMPANY.

“Technology plays a key role in developing impact investing and helping small and medium companies (SMEs) grow their businesses.”

CYRILLE ANTIGNAC

“FinTech and Digital technologies are a backbone for innovation. Blockchain technologies play a key role allowing more inclusive supply chains and easier access to markets,” he adds.

Key example is a project aimed at providing digital services to farmers in Myanmar, a country that leapfrogged from no to full connectivity and 100% smartphone use within less than 3 years.

“Having access to mobile phone applications enable farmers to access financing or make mobile payments. They can address their lack of access to high-quality information about weather, growing conditions and leverage connectivity to improve their harvest. In the end, they are more efficient in their work and enjoy greater financial stability and independence,” adds Antignac.

The visibility given by the accelerator is also a key element for Cyrille Antignac

who highlights Luxembourg’s efforts and influence in the field of climate finance. *“It is very good to have an accelerator for impact funds as the sector is small and support must go in priority to impact fund sponsors in order to help social ventures ultimately”.*

BRIDGING THE ADAPTATION GAP

Increased frequency of extreme weather events is putting the limelight on the actions taken to anticipate the risks arising from climate change and minimise their damage.

This is the key role of the Climate Resilience and Adaptation Finance & Technology Transfer Facility (CRAFT) concept proposed by The Lightsmith Group, an investment company specialising in sustainable investments targeting superior returns. CRAFT is the concept for the first commercial investment vehicle to focus on

expanding the availability of technologies and solutions for climate adaptation and resilience.

Focus areas include energy, water, food and agriculture, and climate resilience solutions.

“We believe that adaptation demands the same attention and urgency for climate action that mitigation does,” highlights Jay L. Koh, Co-Founder and Managing Director of The Lightsmith Group.

Investors are becoming more and more aware and interested in managing their own climate risks with an increased attention into the potential to invest in resilience. A study released by the Global Adaptation & Resilience Investment Working Group (GARI) shows that over 70% of private investors surveyed see both risk and investment opportunity from the impact of climate change. Nevertheless, only a limited amount of investment has been targeted against the problem.

“Adaptation will require us to understand exactly how climate change is likely to increase different types of risks. Our idea is to invest in growth-stage companies that have already analysed many of these risks and provide

them with capital to scale up their technologies globally in areas such as supply chain analytics, weather modeling, precision agriculture or water efficiency,” he adds.

The intentional inclusion of technology transfer from developed to developing countries into the fund concept will help build capacity in developing countries. As demand builds, investee companies can also begin to expand into lower income countries.

Koh highlights the added value of benefiting from the unrivalled fund expertise available in Luxembourg through the accelerator.

“The deep expertise of Luxembourg around the creation, management and monitoring of an investment fund strategy is very useful, particularly in early stages of the development of new investment strategies.”

ADDED-VALUE FOR THE INSURANCE SECTOR

As climate change risks are rising, insurers must adapt to climate change while better data can help them price more accurately climate risks.

“As an example, the catastrophe modeling industry helps the insurance and re-insurance industry to determine how to underwrite insurance policies. Investing in companies that can help analyse these kinds of risks is a useful way of increasing their capabilities as the problem of extreme weather gets larger,” explains the CEO of The Lightsmith Group.

“This can be applied to other sectors beyond the insurance and the re-insurance sectors that can use that same kind of models to help people in sectors such agriculture, real estate or infrastructure as the need for risk analysis data and technology becomes larger because of climate change. The community of innovators in the heart of Europe has huge potential value to addressing climate change,” he concludes.

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“We believe that adaptation demands the same attention and urgency for climate action that mitigation does.”

JAY L. KOH

“The deep expertise of Luxembourg around the creation, management and monitoring of an investment fund strategy is very useful, particularly in early stages of the development of new investment strategies.”

JAY L. KOH

ICFA: A VALUABLE SUPPORT

ICFA WILL SUPPORT THE SELECTED WINNING COMPANIES OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS THROUGH ITS ACCELERATOR PROGRAM, IN THE FORM OF BOTH TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT SUCH AS FINANCIAL LEVERAGE WITH ACCESS TO A SOFT LOAN AND FUNDRAISING ASSISTANCE, TRAININGS AND PERSONALISED COACHING OR SUPPORT TO THE FUND AFTER ITS LAUNCH.

SUSTAINABLE FINANCE IN ACTION

Find out why Luxembourg is an ideal hub for sustainable finance.

Luxembourg Stock Exchange a Trendsetter in Green Securities

2007 LuxSE listed the world's first Green Bond, issued by the European Investment Bank.

2016 LuxSE launches the Luxembourg Green Exchange (LGX). The first platform dedicated to green securities with enhanced transparency and reporting standards.

LGX is the world's leading venue for listed green and social securities: largest global market share of listed green bonds.

The Leading European Sustainable Investment Funds Domicile

Since 2006, Luxembourg's pioneering fund labeling agency LuxFLAG has helped raise private capital for sustainable and responsible investment projects by providing clarity and transparency for investors. The agency offers five labels.

39%

Luxembourg has the leading European market share of responsible investment funds.

**OVER
61%**

of assets in micro-finance investment vehicles (MIVS) world-wide are in Luxembourg domiciled funds.

2/3

of AUM in European impact funds are domiciled in Luxembourg.

LUXEMBOURG FUNDS ACCOUNT FOR



45%

of AUM in environment strategy funds in Europe.



57%

of AUM in social strategy funds Europe.



42%

of AUM in remaining ecological investment strategies in Europe.

CHINA AND LUXEMBOURG

Accelerating the green bond revolution.

JUNE 2017

LuxSE and Shanghai Stock Exchange launch a Green Bond Index Series, consisting of two indices reflecting the value of green bonds issued and listed on the stock market in Shanghai (SSE Green Corporate Bond Index and SSE Green Bond Index).

JUNE 2018

LuxSE and Shanghai Stock Exchange expand their co-operation and launch the first 'Green Bond Channel' between China and Luxembourg.

SEPT 2018

LuxSE and China Central Depository & Clearing (CCDC) agree to simultaneously display prices of CCDC's three domestic green bond indices.

LuxSE signs a tri-party agreement with the Shanghai Stock Exchange and Bank of China to further develop the Green Bond Channel project.

AN IDEAL ENVIRONMENT FOR PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP STRUCTURES

Luxembourg has a strong track record in socially responsible and impact investments and provide the perfect environment for climate finance funds.

A Label of Quality

Since 2006, Luxembourg's pioneering fund labeling agency LuxFLAG has helped raise private capital for sustainable and responsible investment projects by providing clarity and transparency for investors. The agency offers five labels.

Luxembourg-EIB Climate Finance Platform

Joint platform created by Luxembourg and the European Investment Bank (EIB), with the aim to mobilise investments for projects with a strong impact in the fight against climate change.

International Climate Finance Accelerator (ICFA)

A public-private Partnership creating future leaders of fund managers investing in climate finance.



CLIMATE FINANCE



GREEN BOND



ESG



ENVIRONMENT



MICROFINANCE


Free-of-charge international schooling in Luxembourg expands

LUXEMBOURG HAS BEEN LEADING THE WAY IN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION FOR DECADES AND OFFERS A VAST SELECTION OF STATE-SUBSIDISED PRIVATE SCHOOLS TO CATER FOR THE GROWING EXPAT COMMUNITY. SINCE 2011, THE COUNTRY HAS BEEN INVESTING HEAVILY IN ITS FREE PUBLIC SCHOOL OFFERING IN ENGLISH, WITH THE CREATION OF THREE FREE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS OFFERING THE CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL CURRICULUM, THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE AND THE EUROPEAN BACCALAUREATE. AN ADDITIONAL THREE NEW SCHOOLS BASED ON THE EUROPEAN SCHOOL SYSTEM, OFFERING ENGLISH, GERMAN AND FRENCH SECTIONS ARE SET TO OPEN THIS MONTH. WE TALK TO THE SCHOOL DIRECTORS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MICHEL LUCIUS AND INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL JUNGLINSTER TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE GROWING OFFER.

“If you want the next generation to be fit and responsible members of society, you have to invest in education, and that means keeping classes sizes as small as possible.”

TOM NOBER



A full-page photograph of a man standing in a modern building lobby. The man is wearing a dark blazer, a light-colored shirt, and olive green trousers. He is standing next to a large concrete pillar. The background shows a multi-level atrium with glass railings and a polished floor. The word "LIFESTYLE" is printed at the top center.

LIFESTYLE

TOM NOBER,
DIRECTOR,
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL JUNGLINSTER

“We know when our students leave, they go to leading universities. I think our responsibility, as a school is to make sure we provide them with the environment where they can learn and get to that high level.”

PASCALE PETRY

“When I say to parents that it’s free, you don’t have to pay fees, no inscription, no enrolment, and school books are free, they are a bit sceptical. They think something that doesn’t cost money couldn’t be high quality,” says Tom Nober, Director of International School Junglinster. The school, opening in September, situated in one of the most popular commuting areas in the country, is already proving popular with expats. It offers the highly regarded European Baccalaureate which is accepted by universities across Europe.

“In September, we have families relocating from US, UK, Russia, and India, as well as pupils coming from expat families already settled in Luxembourg. We still have places in our English and German sections, except Primary Year 2, but where there is a substantial demand we will consider creating additional classes,” he adds.

PRIORITY FOR EXPAT FAMILIES

The primary school has a capacity of 250 students and is located in a new state of the art building directly adjacent to the secondary school. The selection process is transparent with priority given to students who are coming from abroad.

“We liaise closely with families relocating from overseas and prioritise their needs. For students living in Luxembourg, we select them by where they live first of all, and we also look closely at the dossier applications to see if our school makes the best sense for the student. We also conduct interviews to make sure that students accepted in the primary and secondary cycle are a good fit for our school.”

SMALL CLASS SIZES AND SUBSIDISED AFTERSCHOOL CARE

Luxembourg offers the highest teacher salaries and smallest class sizes in Europe (OECD.Stat), which has supported Nober with his mission to recruit a new team of teaching staff. At Junglinster International School classes are capped at 15 in primary school and 25 in secondary school. *“If you*

want the next generation to be a generation that is fit to be a responsible member of society, you have to invest in education, and investing in education means keeping classes as low as possible but in a reasonable margin.”

The school offers primary classes (from age 6 to 11) as well as secondary classes (from age 12) in German and English-speaking sections. Starting in Primary Year 1, students choose a second language, either French/German or English. For pupils arriving after the first year of primary school, extra support is given in the second language to enable the child to catch up. Pupils can also get help with homework at the state subsidised afterschool club, part of the full day wrap around care available on campus.

EXTRA SUPPORT FOR LANGUAGE LEARNING

“If we need to give a student extra lessons in French, then he gets more lessons in French. The major asset of the Luxembourg system is the multi-language system, and we want to give the opportunity for kids to learn a second and a third language which is very important. We have to think global and to give them the opportunity to speak more than one language.”

The school playground will likely be a mix of languages as the international English and German streams start out in September, but the aim is for all pupils to be able to connect with each other and the community in Luxembourgish.

“What’s very important for me is to build bridges from the international school to the national schooling system, that is something we are now working on. We want our students to connect with the local community, and that’s the reason we are offering a lot of activities together with the local Luxembourgish school. We offer golf, tennis, drama lessons, technology, science clubs, where students from the international school and the local Luxembourgish school could be together in a class, and I call that a linguistic pool where you as a student can learn a language very quickly by doing fun stuff and not being in the classroom.”

PASCALE PETRY,
DIRECTOR,
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MICHEL LUCIUS

DANIEL REDINGER,
PRIMARY SCHOOL HEAD,
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MICHEL LUCIUS

HIGHLY RECOGNISED INTERNATIONAL CURRICULA

Hence Luxembourgish is taught as the language of integration and communication from year one onwards. Students who complete the English primary cycle have the choice of entering the secondary school to work towards the European Baccalaureate, as well as moving to study for the IB at Lycée Athénée (see article in edition March 2017), or to move to GCSE and A-levels at Michel Lucius International School which has offered free English language education in secondary since 2011.

International School Michel Lucius has been awarded Cambridge International School status and is approved to offer Cambridge Primary, Cambridge Secondary, including Cambridge IGCSE and Cambridge AS and A level.

“It’s essential that we have an internationally recognised curriculum and that the benchmarks are internationally recognised,” explains Pascale Petry, Director, International School Michel Lucius.

SECURING PLACES AT WORLD LEADING UNIVERSITIES

“We know when our students leave, they go to leading universities. I think our responsibility, as a school is to make sure we provide them

“What often surprises new families coming from overseas is that there is no waiting list for after-school care. We work in particular with a non-profit organisation that provides daycare from seven in the morning, until seven in the evening.”

DANIEL REDINGER

with the environment where they can learn and get to that high level. Our standards are very high, and I think it's through innovative teaching, and in working together that we can provide this quality teaching environment."

The secondary school boasts a modern new campus, in the Limpertsberg district of the city. There is no catchment area which allows students from across the country to attend, with easy access to the free bus network which transports pupils directly to the school campus. *"Every child has a wide choice of A-levels, and we offer all the main subjects. We have sciences, maths, English, art, music, computer science, history, geography, economics, business. We are an UCAS centre as well, which means students can take their UCAS Undergraduate application for entry into British universities through us. We can make sure that whatever our students choose as a subject combination is possible in this school, and we support students through exams and the university application process."*

This year's graduates are not only heading for universities in the UK but across Europe.

"A lot are going to study in the UK, but we also have a lot of students heading to the Netherlands, and Scandinavian countries who offer degrees in English, as well as some even joining the University of Luxembourg."

STATE-OF-THE-ART CLASSROOMS REFLECT NEW TECHNIQUES OF TEACHING

The primary school opened last year, with shuttle buses provided free of charge from convenient locations across the city to enable parents to avoid the school hour rush. The school management team has created a coherent educational approach from Year 1 to the A levels, giving learners the opportunity to benefit from a coherent curriculum and a consistent pedagogical approach.

"We provide our learners with an environment that fosters their critical thinking skills and allows them to become confident actors in a glob-

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MICHEL LUCIUS



“We provide our learners with an environment that fosters their critical thinking skills and allows them to become confident actors in a global community.”

DANIEL REDINGER

al community. For example, children follow an innovative Philosophy programme from Year 1 and we highly value the learning and teaching of scientific enquiry skills,” explains Primary school head, Daniel Redinger. “The outlook is to have three classes of between 15 to 20 pupils per year group. Each class has a homeroom but we also have science rooms, philosophy rooms, music, art, ICT, so we have great opportunities for the kids.”

LANGUAGES: OPENING A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITIES

The school teaches the Cambridge curriculum for all core subjects except for languages which follows the benchmarks of the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) for Languages to ensure that the language curriculum is taught to international standards. *“I think what we have is a real opportunity to have an international school but also offer and bring in some of the linguistic diversity and history of Luxembourg.”*

Subsidised wrap around care is available for parents at all Luxembourg state schools. *“What often surprises new families coming from overseas is that there is no waiting list for after-school care. We work in particular with a non-profit organisation that provides daycare from seven in the morning, until seven in the evening. We also offer holiday care which alleviates the strain of working parents.”*

While most of the teachers are native English speakers, a substantial number of Luxembourgish school teachers, have studied in the UK to Masters level. Redinger went through the Luxembourgish school system himself, going on to complete a Masters in English Literature and Linguistics, and PhD in Linguistics with a focus on multilingualism at the University of York. Having acquired substantial experience in the UK and at St George's International School Duisburg-Düsseldorf, Redinger moved back to Luxembourg three years ago.

“I think what is interesting for us as a school as well when it comes to recruitment is that we have a lot of teachers now, like me, who have been in the international school circuit and it's big, but it's in some ways a small world as well. A lot of these teachers are very well connected, and it gives us more connections across different schools around the globe.”

GM

ENGLISH SCHOOL OFFERS IN LUXEMBOURG

PUBLIC FREE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS:

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL DIFFERDANGE & ESCH-SUR-ALZETTE
Qualification: European Baccalaureate

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL JUNGLINSTER
Qualification: European Baccalaureate

LYCÉE ATHÉNÉE DE LUXEMBOURG
Qualification: International Baccalaureate

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MONDORF-LES-BAINS
Qualification: European Baccalaureate

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MICHEL LUCIUS
Qualification: Cambridge Curriculum (GCSE/A-levels)

PRIVATE SCHOOLS:

EUROPEAN SCHOOL, LUXEMBOURG I AND II
Qualification: European Baccalaureate

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF LUXEMBOURG
Qualification: International Baccalaureate

LYCÉE PRIVÉ EMILE-METZ
Qualification: 'Régime de la formation de technicien' in English

OVER THE RAINBOW INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
Qualification: European Baccalaureate

ST. GEORGE'S INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
Qualification: Cambridge Curriculum (GCSE/A-levels)



NISHNA BHEEROO-MEETARBHAN,
SENIOR CORPORATE COUNSEL,
BRE EUROPE REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT

WORK, LIVE AND LUXEMBOURG: BALANCE A GREAT CAREER IN FINANCE WITH YOUR LIFE

LUXEMBOURG OFFERS A WORK-LIFE BALANCE THAT IS DIFFICULT TO FIND ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD. ITS CENTRAL LOCATION IN THE HEART OF EUROPE, QUALITY OF LIFE AND RANKING IS THE SAFEST CAPITAL IN THE WORLD, HELPS THE COUNTRY TO REMAIN A WORLD LEADER IN ATTRACTING AND RETAINING TALENT. WE MEET FOUR PEOPLE WHO MOVED TO LUXEMBOURG TO GROW THEIR CAREERS IN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SERVICES TO ASK WHY IT'S A GREAT PLACE TO WORK AND LIVE.

“Everywhere you go around Luxembourg, it’s easy to meet people, people willing to make friends, willing to share their experiences. That was an essential part of knowing that this is probably going to my home for a long, long time.”

NISHNA BHEEROO-MEETARBHAN

WORK, LIVE AND CONNECT

“When I moved to Luxembourg in 2015, I was very apprehensive about joining a brand new country, and a company that I knew nothing about,” explains British/Mauritian national Nishna Bheeroo-Meetarbhan. “I went out of my comfort zone, and I think that was one of the best of things I could have done for myself and my career.”

Nishna studied to become a barrister in the UK before heading to Luxembourg for an opportunity to grow professionally.

“I knew of Luxembourg to be the financial hub of the EU and I thought it’s not too far away from home, so why not give it a go.”

Starting off in a boutique law firm, she has accelerated her career, becoming Senior Corporate Counsel, BRE Europe Real Estate Investment.

“It’s a very dynamic sector, and the professional network here really helps. It makes you feel comfortable, it makes you feel supportive, it makes you feel very welcome, and it gives you all the opportunities that you can take on.”

Luxembourg offers a nurturing environment for young professionals who find it easy to connect. *“Everyone moves in with the ambition, but they still want to be able to integrate, make friends, and spend their hours outside of the office in a nice way. Everywhere you go around Luxembourg, it's easy to meet people, people willing to make friends, willing to share their experiences. That was an essential part of knowing that this is probably going to be my home for a long, long time.”*

Nishna continues to acquire new skills, and her employer is supporting her as she pursues an MA in Risk Management. *“One of the most promising aspects about the financial sector is the fact that companies are supportive of further training and constant professional development. I make that work-life balance work for me and make the most of both having a full-time job and continually improving my skills.”*

WORK, LIVE AND LOVE

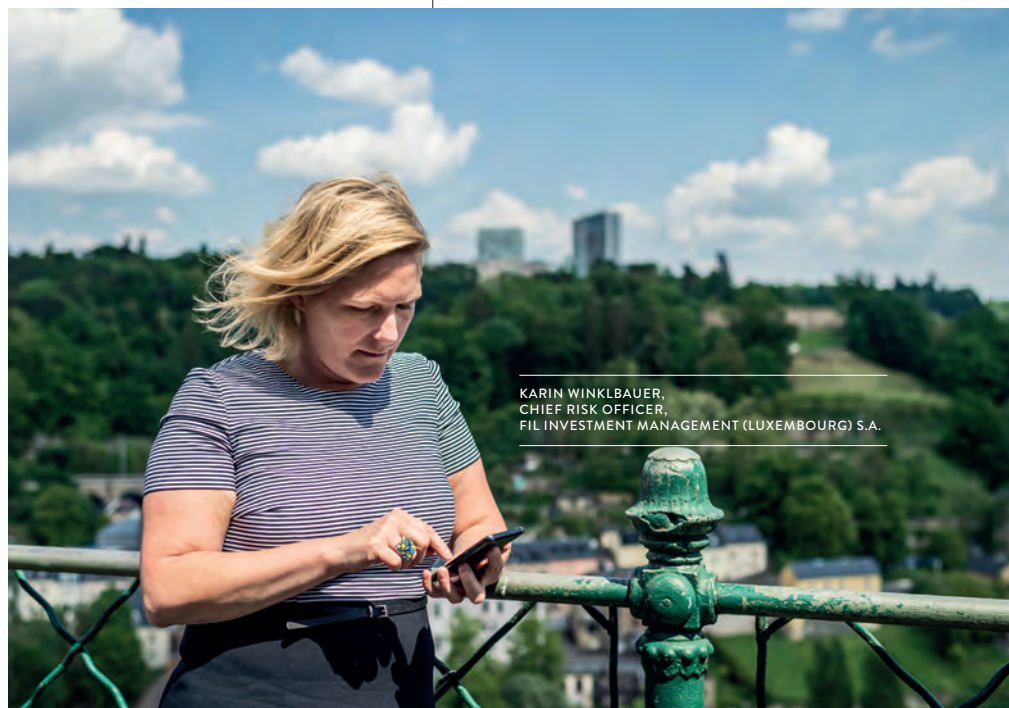
“It was fantastic to start in Luxembourg because there are endless opportunities to work within risk whether it is within a bank, insurance, fund industry or EU institution.” explains Austrian national Karin Winklbauer, Chief Risk Officer, FIL Investment Management (Luxembourg) S.A.

“Luxembourg is an active and fast developing financial centre. It has changed quite a lot over the last ten years. It's amazing to see how risk management has developed, and it's nice to be part of that ever changing and relevant topic.”

Karin began her career in finance in Vienna after graduating in business and economics from the University of Passau. She moved to Luxembourg in 2008 to pursue a career in risk management starting off in the banking sector and now in the funds' industry.

“Many global players came to Luxembourg, and the range of risk positions got bigger and bigger and the role of risk manager has changed dramatically. We have 120 billion USD assets under management, and on a daily basis, you are dealing with all kinds of risk. What I love

about my job is being part of an ever-changing and challenging topic which is never the same. You come to the office, and you don't know what happens, what expects you.”



KARIN WINKLBAUER,
CHIEF RISK OFFICER,
FIL INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT (LUXEMBOURG) S.A.

Karin finds balancing work and family life easy. Her employer offers her flexible working which allows her to be with her kids whenever they need her. She loves the international environment that Luxembourg offers her children and the opportunities this brings to support the development of her career.

“The Luxembourg Financial Centre is supportive for women. What is unique here in Luxembourg is the flexible working and the offer of public and private nurseries and schools which allow you to pursue your career while your kids are going to school and having fun there. There is a lot of educational choices, and you can choose different types of schools and languages. The distances are also really short which helps. It takes me only ten minutes from work to pick up the kids and take them home.”

“What is unique here in Luxembourg is the flexible working and the offer of public and private nurseries and schools which allow you to pursue your career while your kids are going to school and having fun there.”

KARIN WINKLBAUER

“Once I had the job offer, I had to go through the work permit and visa process. From the day I started, it took me five weeks to get all the papers done.”

HIMMAT GUNDECHA

“You can leave work, and you can be home very quickly, and you can go straight out with your kids, you can meet friends for dinner and go to a concert. You have time, and I think that’s the balance that you get here.”

DEIRDRE RYAN



HIMMAT GUNDECHA,
SENIOR BUSINESS ANALYST,
NOMURA BANK LUXEMBOURG



DEIRDRE RYAN,
VICE PRESIDENT, CLIENT RELATIONSHIP MANAGER,
STATE STREET LUXEMBOURG

WORK, LIVE AND BOWL

“Luxembourg was first known to me from the Luxembourg steel industry: Lakshmi Mittal, the owner of ArcelorMittal, comes from the same region in India as my family. Secondly, I was working for financial services industry in India, and we used to work for Luxembourg business, so I knew Luxembourg was one of the leading financial centres in Europe,” explains Indian national Himmat Gundecha who holds a BA in Management Studies and an MSC in Finance from the University of Strathclyde.

Before moving to Luxembourg, Himmat worked as a business analyst for global financial services companies in Mumbai. Securing his first position at BNP Paribas Luxembourg in 2014, he obtained his work visa within five weeks, fulfilling his ambition to further develop his career in a leading European financial centre. *“Once I had the job offer, I had to go through the work permit and visa process. From the day I started, it took me five weeks to get all the papers done. The Luxembourg government were very responsive to all my queries. It was a very smooth process. There was no confusion.”*

For the past three years, Himmat has been working for a Japanese bank, Nomura.

“Language is never a barrier here in Luxembourg. Nomura Bank Luxembourg is the perfect example of East meets West, where you have different languages spoken at work but everyone works together as one. I don’t see any challenges through my work related to communication and the best part about my work is to have all the freedom to work on as a business analyst because you always need that freedom to drive and implement your solutions.”

Himmat’s passion is cricket, and after work, he can be found practising at the Optimists, the oldest cricket club in Luxembourg. *“It’s nice to practice cricket after work for a couple of hours before you go home especially during summers when you have nice sun outside until 9, 10 in the evening. Coming from India, I was surprised and amazed that they practice crick-*

et to such a high level and the efficient transport infrastructure makes it efficient and convenient to get there.”

WORK, LIVE AND ROCK

“Luxembourg is the second largest fund centre in the world, and it’s the largest in Europe, so it’s a vital place to be,” explains Deirdre Ryan, Vice President, Client Relationship Manager, State Street Luxembourg.

The Irish national and University College Cork graduate Deirdre Ryan began her career at a financial services provider in Dublin, before moving to Luxembourg to consolidate her experience. An opportunity in London gave her further expertise in financial services, but to become an expert in the global fund industry, she made a move back to Luxembourg.

“Since living here, I have been able to develop my career from project management into client relationship management. I love the job that I am in, and I have had lots of opportunity within my role in the company to develop and to become an expert in the global fund industry. I think what is great for the job that I do is that I am constantly in contact with people not only in Luxembourg but also with clients and colleagues in London, New York and in Hong Kong because we are very much in the centre of everything here.”

Living a fifteen-minute commute from the office, Deirdre juggles busy family life and career, while taking advantage of the easy access to culture and entertainment in the city.

“Luxembourg offers lots of fabulous green spaces and even in the centre of the city you’ve got many beautiful children’s parks and playgrounds. With all of the cultures that you have in Luxembourg, that brings with it just a variety of places to go and eat, to go and drink and catch up with friends. In the summer, it’s beautiful out on the terrace. You’ve got some nice rooftop bars that you can also head to and catch up with friends.”

Den Atelier, an intimate live music venue in the city, hosts many world-famous headlining acts and is one of Deirdre’s favourite hot spots in the city. *“It’s small and about 800 people capacity. And that’s why we love going there. It’s a fantastic place to go. I think what Luxembourg gives you is time. You can leave work, and you can be home very quickly, and you can go straight out with your kids, you can meet friends for dinner and go to a concert. You have time, and I think that’s the balance that you get here.”*

GM

WATCH THE VIDEO SERIES
FEATURING 9 EXPATS
WHO MOVED TO LUXEMBOURG
#MOVETOLUX



UPCOMING EVENTS

2018 **09.10** **FT CLIMATE FINANCE SUMMIT, LONDON**

Luxembourg for Finance will be among the speakers at the second annual **FT Climate Finance Summit** “Aligning Policy and Practice – Investing for a 2 Degree World” on 9 October 2018 in London.

Discussions will focus on key themes such as accessing emerging market investments, addressing the perceived and real challenges for institutional investors and the potential and future of blended finance to impact on the future of climate related investments.

2018 **27.11** **LUXEMBOURG FOR FINANCE & BÖRSEN-ZEITUNG, FRANKFURT**

Börsen-Zeitung, the main daily newspaper in Germany exclusively dedicated to financial markets, and Luxembourg for Finance will host a dialogue on sustainable investments between Robert Scharfe, CEO of the Luxembourg Stock Exchange and Annika Milz, Head of Institutional Asset Management, Fidelity International. The keynote will be given by Yves Mersch, Member of the Executive Board of the European Central Bank.

2018 **28.11** **FT BREXIT & BEYOND SUMMIT 2018, LONDON**

Luxembourg for Finance is among the speakers at the **fourth FT Brexit and Beyond Summit** organised by Financial Times Live in London on Wednesday, 28 November 2018 (Venue: Hilton Tower Bridge London).

Discussions will explore the economic transition facing the UK, find out about new trading relationships, listen to case studies of how businesses are planning for the future and discuss how success can be achieved in a post-Brexit landscape.

SAVE THE DATE **2018** **12.12** **LUXEMBOURG FOR FINANCE & L'OPINION, PARIS**

Luxembourg for Finance and the French daily newspaper L'Opinion will organise a joint conference in Paris with round table discussions on Brexit, green finance and the future of digital products and services in finance. More details to follow on www.luxembourgforfinance.com.

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VIEW THE FULL
EVENTS PROGRAMME.



IMPRESSUM

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FUTURING SUSTAINABLE FINANCE

LUXEMBOURG IS READY FOR THE FUTURE OF SUSTAINABLE FINANCE

Futuring is about building on experience and anticipating future needs. Everyone knows we need solutions for a sustainable future. Home to the Luxembourg Green Exchange (LGX) - the first and only dedicated platform for sustainable, social and green securities - Luxembourg has long been a pioneer in sustainable finance. Luxembourg is *the* primary centre for listing green bonds and the leading European domicile for responsible and impact funds. A pioneer in cross-border fund distribution and sustainable finance labels, Luxembourg offers a new generation of investors the instruments needed to finance positive, sustainable change.

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