

## News

### Swiss Life Investment Foundation launches "Infrastructure Global (EUR)" and "Infrastructure Global (CHF hedged)" investment groups

15 September 2020

The Swiss Life Investment Foundation is expanding its product range with an investment solution for infrastructure, and offering investors access to the bundled infrastructure expertise of Swiss Life Asset Managers.

The infrastructure investment groups invest via Swiss Life Asset Managers collective investment vehicles in a diversified and high-quality portfolio of infrastructure facilities located in Europe (incl. Switzerland), America and OECD countries. The portfolio focuses on infrastructure investments in the areas of renewable energy, utilities, communication, transport and social infrastructure. Particular attention is paid to stable and regular distributions from operating activities.

#### **Advantages of infrastructure investments**

Infrastructure investments offer investors an attractive risk/return profile, regular distributions and protection in the event of rising inflation. Due to the low correlation with other asset classes, infrastructure investments reduce the risks of a BVG portfolio and increase diversification. The combination of long-term and stable yields with high ongoing earnings makes this asset class particularly attractive for pension funds, especially in the current low interest rate environment. The Federal Council has approved the introduction of a 10% quota for infrastructure investments. Under certain conditions, pension funds no longer have to include infrastructure investments in the 15% quota for alternative investments as of 1 October 2020. The new investment

groups meet the conditions for infrastructure investments set out in the ordinance (Art. 53, cl. 1d<sup>bis</sup> BVV 2).

In order to offer investors flexibility, the investment groups are being launched without a fixed term ("ever-green" structure). In addition, investors can choose between an investment group where at least 80% of foreign currency risks are hedged against the Swiss franc and an investment group with the euro as its reference currency.

Stephan Thaler, Managing Director of the Swiss Life Investment Foundation, says: "Thanks to this expansion of our offering, our customer base - which has grown to just under 600 investors - will be given easy, transparent and efficient access to the infrastructure expertise of Swiss Life Asset Managers."

#### **Many years of experience in the infrastructure investment segment**

By opting for these investment groups, investors will benefit from the combined infrastructure expertise of Swiss Life Asset Managers and Fontavis. Swiss Life Asset Managers has been investing in infrastructure for its insurance companies and third-party clients for many years and has a team of 35 investment specialists who manage assets of CHF 6.3 billion. Since the end of 2019, these have included the subsidiary Fontavis, a leading asset manager specialising in clean energy infrastructure.

#### **Contributing to the sustainable development of national economies**

When selecting their investments, the infrastructure investment specialists at Swiss Life Asset Managers and Fontavis take ESG criteria into account as an integral part of the investment process. By participating in the planned investment groups, investors can, among other things, contribute to making the energy supply more sustainable while also taking ESG criteria into account.

## Information

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### Swiss Life Investment Foundation

Founded in 2001 by Swiss Life Ltd, the Swiss Life Investment Foundation is currently entrusted with total assets of CHF 11.7 billion from 580 pension funds and collective foundations. It is thus one of the five largest investment foundations; its investors include a third of Switzerland's employee benefits institutions. The range of 27 investment groups comprises eight fixed-income, nine equity and four Swiss real estate products, as well as an alternative investment product and five BVG mixed-asset products. The Swiss Life Investment Foundation is represented at the Conference of Managers of Investment Foundations (KGAST) and is supervised by the Occupational Pension Supervisory Commission (OPSC).

### Swiss Life Asset Managers

Swiss Life Asset Managers has more than 160 years of experience in managing the assets of the Swiss Life Group. This insurance background has exerted a key influence on the investment philosophy of Swiss Life Asset Managers, which is governed by such principles as value preservation, the generation of consistent and sustainable performance and a responsible approach to risks. That's how we lay the groundwork for our clients to make solid, long-term plans – in self-determination and with financial confidence. Swiss Life Asset Managers offers this proven approach to third-party clients in Switzerland, France, Germany, Luxembourg and the UK.

As at 30 June 2020 assets under management for third-party clients amount to CHF 82.9 billion. Together with insurance mandates for the Swiss Life Group, total assets under management at Swiss Life Asset Managers stood at CHF 256.0 billion. Swiss Life Asset Managers is a leading real estate manager in Europe<sup>1</sup>. Of the assets totaling CHF 256.0 billion, CHF 71.4 billion is invested in real estate. In addition, Swiss Life Asset Managers has real estate under administration of CHF 28.3 billion through its subsidiaries Livit and Corpus Sireo. Total real estate under management and administration at the end of June 2020 thus came to CHF 99.7 billion.

Swiss Life Asset Managers employs more than 2200 people in Europe.

<sup>1</sup> INREV Fund Manager Survey 2020 (AuM as of 31.12.2019)

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