

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENGAGEMENT POLICY

CBL PO006

Generally available information



Approved	At the Council meeting of CBL Asset Management IPAS on 31.01.2023 Minutes No 119/2023
Accepted	At the Board meeting of CBL Asset Management IPAS on 23.12.2022 Minutes No 050/2022
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Document control

Version	Effective date	Amendments	Number of pages
1.0	11.10.2019	New document	4
2.0	25.01.2021	General changes. The policy specifies the following: the terms used, information on conflicts of interest that may arise in relation to sustainability and engagement considerations, sections on the process of integrating ESG factors and engagement.	5
3.0	26.01.2022.	General modifications. Changes of owner of the process/product.	5
4.0	31.01.2023.	Document reviewed, no changes.	3

Organisational and administrative conditions

Owner of the process/product: Sustainable Investment Specialist.

Title of the process/product: Management of customer portfolios, funds, investments and pension plans.

Framework and purpose of the document

The Company believes that environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors may affect the value of the investments made by the Company over time. Sustainable investment approach is developing fast. The Company shares the view that by integrating ESG factors in asset management, the return on investment grows or the impact is neutral at a lower overall risk level, as demonstrated by academic research as well. Moreover, integrating ESG factors into the asset management process contributes to the sustainable development of the world as well.

In June 2019, the Company signed a declaration confirming its commitment to adopt and implement the UN Principles for Responsible Investment. Consequently, the Company undertook to respect the following six principles:

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

The purpose of this policy is to define the core principles and elements to ensure that ESG factors and engagement principles are followed in providing services in managing investment funds, state funded pension schemes or pension plans established by private pension funds and individual investment portfolios.

Scope

The Policy is binding and the Company adheres to it in the management of all asset classes included in the portfolios under the management of the Company.

The Policy is established pursuant to Article 75(4) of the Law on Investment Management Companies and the UN-supported Principles for Responsible Investment: www.unipri.org, as well as taking into account best practices in this area.

Terms and abbreviations

Bank – AS Citadele Banka.

Company – “CBL Asset Management” IPAS.

Entity – Within the meaning of this Policy, an entity whose issued financial instruments are included in the assets managed by the Company.

ESG factors – Environment, social and governance factors.

Inhumane weapons – weapons that may have a disproportionate and indiscriminate impact on civilians.

Policy – The given Sustainability and Engagement Policy.

PRI – Investor-led and the United Nations-supported responsible investment organisation that established Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI): www.unpri.org.

Transparency Report – A report on ESG activities prepared by the Company and submitted to the PRI.

General provisions

1. The Company as a manager of investment funds, state funded pension schemes, pension plans established by private pension funds and individual investment portfolios, acts in accordance with the best long-term interests of its clients, i.e., ultimate beneficial owners.
2. The Company's asset management process is active, including a fundamental and/or a quantitative assessment of investment factors, depending on the asset class.
3. The Policy defines the main principles for assessing ESG factors and implementing thereof in the asset management process.
4. The Company integrates the ESG factors in risk management processes.
5. The Company ensures compliance with the disclosure requirements regarding the integration of the ESG factors and engagement.
6. The Company, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, develops internal documents governing the ESG risk management procedure.
7. The Company identifies the types of conflicts of interest that may arise in connection with sustainability and involvement considerations, in particular by exercising its voting rights at the General Meetings of the Company's shareholders. The Company does not support decisions that increase ESG risks as well as takes measures to prevent, manage and detect such conflicts of interest. If necessary, the decision on exercising voting rights is considered by the Management Board of the Company.

Integration of sustainability (ESG) factors

8. The Company's investments are based on risk analysis, taking into consideration entities' financial and operational factors such as the entity's business model, strategic opportunities and the ESG risk level inherent in its operations and the management thereof.
9. For each asset class, the integration of ESG factors is adapted to the way the particular asset class is managed. In general, the Company evaluates both absolute and industry relative ESG risk in asset management, applying the best-in-class investment approach.
10. To avoid financing of an entity that has a clearly negative impact on the community and environment, the Company particularly distances itself from investments in entities which are included in the EU sanctions lists or whose core business activity is related to pornography and production and development of inhumane weapons.
11. The integration of ESG factors is the responsibility of the managers of investment funds, state funded pension schemes or pension plans established by private pension funds as well as of individual investment portfolios.
12. For analysing the impact of the ESG factors inherent in investments, the Company uses ratings assigned by international credit rating and information agencies as well as the Company's internal ratings regarding the investees' ESG risk level.
13. The Company takes measures to ensure that investment funds, state funded pension schemes or pension plans established by private pension funds integrate ESG factors in their investment process along with the assessment of significant risks, and take actions as far as possible to mitigate the ESG impacts, both potential and actually adverse.

Engagement

14. The Company carries out engagement activities in the Entities assuming that it contributes to creating a long-term value.
15. In the opinion of the Company, engagement activities can be attributed to both existing and potential investments. Existing investments are subject to active ownership as described in Paragraph 20.
16. The objective of engagement is to promote sustainable operations and development of those Entities, in whose financial instruments the Company invests.
17. When implementing the established investment policy, the Company's main engagement activities are focused on the Entities in which the Company has made the most material investments.
18. The Company primarily engages with the Entities, particularly by using its voting rights if the Company has at least 5% of the total voting rights. In the communication with the Entities invested in about material financial and non-financial factors and risks, the Company pays particular attention as to whether the Entity:
 - 18.1. has a clearly defined operational strategy;
 - 18.2. has published financial and non-financial results and disclosed significant risks;
 - 18.3. has disclosed its capital structure;
 - 18.4. does not cause negative impact on the community and its staff (social impact);

- 18.5. reduces the negative impact on environment caused by its activities;
- 18.6. respects good corporate governance principles.
- 19. The engagement activities are the responsibility of the managers of the investment funds, state funded pension schemes, pension plans established by private pension funds and individual investment portfolios.
- 20. The engagement activities are carried out in a variety of ways, including:
 - 20.1. direct communication with the investee Entity's management in person as well as otherwise, for example, via e-mails or webinars;
 - 20.2. using voting rights at the shareholders' meetings of the investee Entities;
 - 20.3. using external initiatives in cooperation with other investors, e.g., the PRI Cooperation Platform where applicable, which possibly results in a greater impact on the management of the investee Entities.
- 21. When carrying out an engagement activity, the Company ensures that:
 - 21.1. prior to carrying out the engagement activities, the issues significant to the particular Entity are assessed;
 - 21.2. communication with the Entity is only about significant issues and occurs in accordance with the approaches specified in Paragraph 20;
 - 21.3. after the completion of the engagement activities, information on the engagement is summarised in the Company's IT system.
- 22. Through engagement, the Company ensures controlling of the Entity's further actions on these issues. If the Entity does not make improvements in material matters, the Company may change the investment decision in relation to this Entity, including selling the investment.

Reporting obligation _____

- 23. Each year, the Company includes in the financial statements of the investment funds, state funded pension schemes and pension plans established by private pension funds and individual investment portfolios under its management that are publicly available on its website a report on the implementation of the engagement policy if, according to this Policy, they are considered material and if the number of the voting rights used meets the requirements of Paragraph 18, inter alia, disclosing:
 - 23.1. general information about the Company exercising its voting rights;
 - 23.2. explanations of significant voting in the reporting period.

Responsibility and Policy implementation control _____

- 24. The Portfolio Management Department of the Company ensures that the investment funds, state funded pension schemes, pension plans established by private pension funds and individual investment portfolios managed by the Company comply with the Policy.
- 25. For the integration of ESG factors in the Company's processes, the responsible member of the Management Board of the Company assigns an employee with appropriate knowledge for analysing ESG factors. The responsibility of the employee is to facilitate the integration of ESG factors into the asset management process and advise portfolio managers on the integration of these factors and the implementation of engagement activities.
- 26. The responsible employee provides the Management Board of the Company with a Transparency Report on the progress of the implementation of ESG principles and engagement at least on an annual basis.
- 27. The Management Board of the Company instructs the responsible departments to take organisational or administrative measures for effective integration of ESG principles in the Company's processes and sustainability risk assessment.
- 28. The Management Board of the Company promotes maintaining and developing knowledge about ESG issues in the industry in general as well as for the Company's employees, inter alia, organising respective training at least once a year.
- 29. The Management Board of the Company ensures that the objectives of the portfolio managers include the integration of ESG factors and the implementation of engagement activities.
- 30. The Management Board of the Company is responsible for the implementation of the Policy and accepting of internal regulations that ensure the implementation of the Policy. The Company has a member of the Management Board in charge of ESG issues.
- 31. The Policy is reviewed at least once a year.
- 32. The Council of the Company approves the Policy and ensures an overall monitoring of its implementation involving, to the extent possible, the Internal Audit Department of the Bank's Group.