

Call for Papers: VBA Journal Winter 2024

The Future of ESG Investing: Trends, Innovations, and Challenges for Performance and Accountability

In a time when Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) criteria are playing an increasingly prominent role in the investment world as well as in politics, the question arises: Does sustainable investing come at the expense of financial returns, or does it just offer opportunities for added value? And do those who make choices about this know how to substantiate and justify it to stakeholders?

The editorial board invites authors to contribute to the discussion on the relationship between ESG investing and financial performance, in both a narrow and broad sense.

Possible topics include:

- Investing for ESG - Does sustainability cost returns or does it deliver better or equivalent return/risk ratios?
- Given the recent discussion in Dutch politics about "activism" of pension funds: is sustainability in the interest of the participant and can it come at the expense of returns?
- Empirical research on the performance of ESG investments versus traditional investments and any long-term effects on portfolio choices. Is there a difference between listed and private investments? Can you include ESG in ALM?
- Sectoral analyses: differences in ESG impact between industries.
- Methodologies for measuring and comparing ESG performance, including visible and measurable performance of Impact investing.
- The role of engagement and active shareholding in improving both ESG scores and financial results.
- How do you assess and justify ex-post choices in terms of return, risk and sustainability (impact)?
- Case studies of successful and less successful ESG integration strategies.
- The future of ESG investing: trends, innovations and challenges.
- What is the role and influence (positive/negative) of regulation on ESG investing and returns?
- What are the relevant developments in the US and/or other parts of the world? Is this going to spill over to Europe and is the clock being turned back?
- E, S, and G: are the three dimensions equally important? Consider, for example, the relationship to returns.

We encourage both quantitative and qualitative approaches, as well as interdisciplinary research that combines financial, ecological and social perspectives. It is important, however, that this is well-substantiated.

Via this call for papers, we invite interested authors to submit a summary of their contribution to the editorial office (irma.willemsen@cfasociety.nl) by 26 August 2024. It must be original work that has not been published elsewhere. The article can be submitted in both English and Dutch.

Further information on, for example, author instructions and previous journals can be found at <https://cfasociety.nl/>