# ESG Data & Technology



Moderator: Bahar Gidwani, CFA, FSA, CSRHub

**Panelists:** 

- Maximilian Horster, Ph.D. ISS ESG
- Maria Mähl, Arabesque
- Libby Bernick, Impact-Cubed
- Cornelius Graubner, FactSet Truvalue
- Ashwin Joshi, CFA, BlackRock

### Thank you to our Sponsors: FitchRatings MORNINGSTAR DBRS

### CSRHub's Big Data Algorithm Delivers Powerful Consensus Ratings

CSRHub Technology Aggregates Disparate ESG Sources to Create Consistent Consensus Ratings.

12 major "Wall Street" sources. Crowd, government, NGO, and publication inputs.

Drill Down to 12 subcategory levels of ESG (Environment, Social and Governance) Ratings and Rankings on 30,000 companies. Inspect the available data on another 20,000. Public, private, governments.

14 Years of Ratings and Rankings History.

Bahar Gidwani, CFA, bahar@csrhub.com

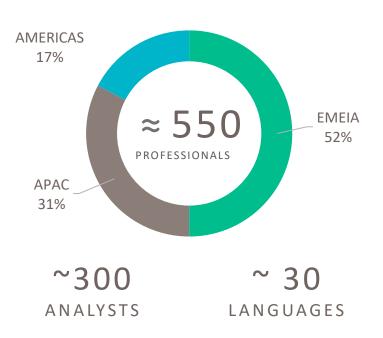


# ISS ESG ▷

### STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

30 YEARS EXPERTISE TO DELIVER INSIGHT + ACTION

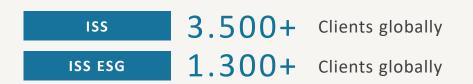








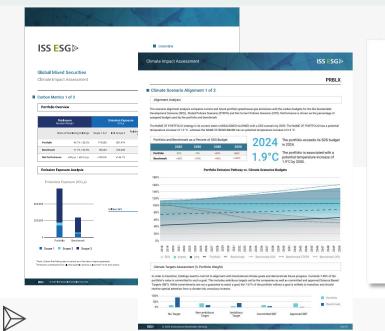
### CLIENTS WORLDWIDE TRUST OUR EXPERTISE

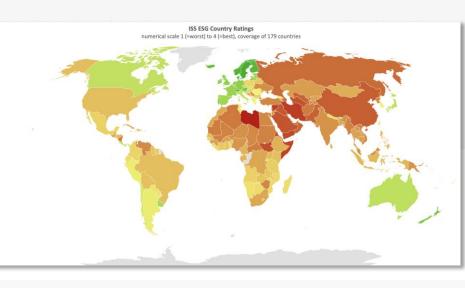


All data as of May 2022 (approximate). \*) Out of a total of ~2'800 ISS colleagues globally

### FIXED INCOME ESG USE CASES & TOOLS







#### MARCH 9, 2022

ISS ESG Provides Climate-Related Data and Reporting Under Eurosystem Central Banks Framework Agreement

### ISS ESG ▷

# HUMAN VERSUS MACHINE?

### ISS ESG ▷

### **Data Identification**

- AI, Machine Learning & Natural Language Processing automatically locate relevant information.
- It requires thousands of specialists hours to develop training data for educating the algorithm

Machines, if trained properly, can identify relevant data points.

### **Data Collection & Extraction**

- Machines can state for thousands of companies if a certain topic is mentioned – in real time.
- Machines can not judge and extract quality and error-proof data.

Machines can make data-processing super efficient but can't yet extract quality results.



### **Rating Companies**

- ESG ratings require deep company & industry knowledge.
- Machines can't pass judgment on ESG strategies, have no specialist business knowledge, can't cut through marketing spin etc.

Machines can't replace analysts for a comprehensive ESG assessment.



Thesis after four years of AI experience:

The future of quality ESG research and ratings will not be machines, but machine-augmented analysts.

# Business as usual\*

\*Is no longer an option.



### The Market-Leading Solution Provider

ESG Book is the global leader in ESG data and technology.

### Innovative Solutions to Meet New Client Demands

### ESG Data

Gain access to the ESG data of over 25,000 companies worldwide, including over 9,000 listed corporations. Combining analyst research with AI, ESG Book covers over 450 data points per company, mapped against leading frameworks.

### ESG Analytics

ESG Book provides access to a suite of market-leading sustainability analytics that enable clients to gain deeper insights into ESG risks and opportunities, together with a range of products to meet regulatory requirements.

### ESG Technology

Through a SaaS data management and corporate disclosure platform, ESG Book enables clients to assess over 50,000 corporate disclosures. Our solutions are delivered through the latest API technology for seamless integration. Cloud-based data platform

**150+** ESG data experts

**450** + ESG metrics per company

25,000 + Companies covered

15,000,000

Data points daily

### The Data Problem

Inconsistency and lack of transparency is holding back ESG growth.

### 1. Data Quality

2. Comparability

Capital markets require good ESG data to allocate finance efficiently to more sustainable outcomes. However, there is a lack of accessible, reliable corporate sustainability information available. The complexity of hundreds of different frameworks leads to inconsistencies and a lack of comparability, increasing the burden for both investors and companies.

### 3. Transparency

For sustainable finance to be effective, greater trust in ESG data is needed. Currently, there are too many opaque sustainability ratings in the market. 4. Timeliness

Corporate ESG data is still largely reported on an annual basis, meaning that investors lack up-to-date information to guide capital flows.

### 5. Greenwashing

Opaque and anecdotal reporting, often by human analysts, can give rise to biased analysis and the risk of greenwashing.



### ESG Data & Technology

Panel Discussion at the FIASI ESG and Fixed Income Event, May 2022

Libby Bernick, CEO

www.impact-cubed.com



### **ABOUT IMPACT CUBED**

- Headquartered in London, UK and trusted by ٠ over 35 top institutional asset managers representing over \$1Tn in AuM.
- Award winning, tech-enabled ESG data and ٠ investment solutions created by investors, for investors
- Factual, unbiased factor data for any investment ٠ strategy
- Portfolio analytics platform to simplify fund ٠ analysis, securities research, and reporting
- Data covers all listed corporate and sovereign ٠ issuers of debt



**WINNER 2018 Research Innovation** 



**WINNER 2019 Best Innovation** 



SHORTLISTED 2019 **Best Research Paper** 



**Corporate Factor** 

Objective factors that span

corporate sustainability, risk

Data

and impact

Sovereign Data

**WINNER 2019 Best Thought** Leadership Paper

2019 Top 10 Impact Measurement Services



**WINNER 2020 Best Independent** House for ESG Research



Sustainable Products and

Company revenues classified to 2,300+ business activities to show positive

solutions, controversial activities, and impact

Services

Climate

**WINNER 2020 Best ESG Specialist** Data Provider



ESG and Impact Factor Data

Coverage of all

globally listed

companies' (40,000+) equity and debt, and all

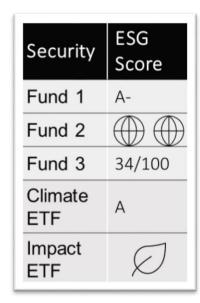
### HOW ARE FIXED INCOME INVESTORS USING ESG DATA?



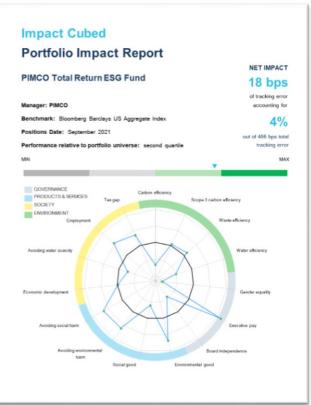
Risk



### Ratings



### Reports



### WHAT MIGHT FIXED INCOME INVESTORS ALSO CONSIDER?

Using tech to harvest data and (most importantly) create more complete information that gives investors better insights on ESG and impact.



Isn't this what investors care about?



 Forward looking, empirical insights showing how issuers are deploying capital to more sustainable, low carbon business models and economies

### Factor Data + Ratings

No greenwashing accusations



- Unbiased, objective factor data measuring outcomes
- Digital sourcing, quality assurance for timely global coverage of all listed issuers
- Issuer + Issuance: comparable, complete analysis

### **Investments + Reports**

Differentiated products



- Cross-sectional, values focused analysis
- Comparing factual ESG performance on plain and green bonds: are green bonds worth the "greenium"?
- Fixed income maturity and carbon ROI

### FactSet ESG Overview



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FOR ESG

R E S E A R C H 2 0 2 1

ESG Investing

Awards 2021

PROVIDER

YEAR

Sustainable

DATA PROVIDER

2021

Inside Market Data &

nside Reference Data

#### **Comprehensive ESG Ecosystem**

Over 40 third-party ESG datasets to create the most complete view of ESG performance

#### **Differentiated ESG Insights**

Real-time intelligence from FactSet's Truvalue Labs to objectively assess corporate ESG behavior

### **Unparalleled Flexibility**

Configurable ESG solutions to integrate ESG into the investment process on your own terms

### Sustainable investing at BlackRock

#### Investment Management

Integration of ESG insights and data into all active and advisory investment processes and portfolio construction.

### Sustainable Investment **Solutions**

Extensive platform encompassing index and active funds across all asset classes, designed to help clients meet their sustainability and financial objectives.

#### **Data &** Technology

Aladdin allows investors and clients to understand and manage portfolio risk

### Sustainable **Investing** at **BlackRock**

### **ESG Research**

Dedicated sustainable research team focuses on the link between ESG and financial materiality, producing insights that drive firm investment processes.

#### **Company Engagement**

Fundamental investors and Investment Stewardship team engage with companies we invest in on sustainability-related issues that impact long-term financial performance

#### **Transparency & Reporting**

We want clients and investors to clearly see the sustainability risks of their investments. We publicly provide this information on both sustainable and non-ESG focused strategies.

### **BLK by the Numbers**

#### \$509 billion Assets under

300+

100%

advisorv

strategies

in active and

management in dedicated sustainable strategies\*

#### \$696 billion

Assets under management in additional strategies which utilize ESG screens

Sustainable mutual fund and ETF offerings

3,500+ Annual stewardship engagements

#### \$3.46 trillion ESG Integrated

In assets incorporate ESG insights

Source: BlackRock Sustainable Investing, as of December 31, 2021. All values in \$USD. \* Comprised of ESG Broad, ESG Thematic, Impact strategies and selected priority screened products

#### BlackRock.

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