

Capital at Risk

**April 2024** Reporting – Marketing documentation



# VIA Smart-Equity World (EUR / FX-hedged)

Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (SFDR) : Article 8

## Investment objectives & strategy

VIA Smart-Equity World is a UCITS fund invested in Global Equities through a systematic approach. Its strategy consists in selecting liquid global developed and emerging markets companies with the best value creation profile from a shareholder's point of view that have at the same time high profitability, good perspectives and have relatively inexpensive valuations. In order to better account for the economic reality of the stocks, their accounting data are normalized prior to assess their fundamentals. The portfolio is reviewed monthly to ensure proper reactivity, but it is rebalanced only by fraction to limit timing dependency and slippage. The strategy is implemented mostly through the purchase of stocks, but derivatives may also be used to reduce risk and enhance performance.

#### Historical performance & statistics (I EUR share class)\*



	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Fund	4.98%	21.77%	-18.18%	22.53%	13.20%	19.24%	-22.27%	20.43%	5.44%
Bench.	7.71%	23.90%	-16.15%	17.44%	11.52%	8.95%	-18.94%	6.77%	-0.03%

#### Market performance

	I-EUR	P-EUR	Bench.
1 Mth	-4.3%	-4.4%	-1.4%
YTD	5.4%	5.7%	0.0%
1 Y	19.7%	20.0%	2.3%
3 Y	5.5%	4.6%	-11.8%
5 Y	42.1%	37.7%	9.3%
Launch**	57.2%	39.2%	23.3%
31/12/2015	70.7%	64.3%	38.2%

## Economic value created O VIA leap\*

Economic Net Asset Value variation per unit (SI-USD)

	Initial NAV	SI-USD	Bench. USD
1 Mth	\$ 2 2 <i>1</i> 5	+\$ 31 (+1.4%)	-\$ 2 (-0.1%)
YTD	\$ 2003	+\$ 5 (+0.2%)	+\$ 30 (+1.5%)
1 Y	\$ 1736	<b>-\$ 13</b> (-0.8%)	+\$ 97 (+5.6%)
3 Y	\$ 1875	+\$ 205 (+11%)	+\$ 160 (+9%)
5 Y	\$ 1337	+\$ 359 (+27%)	+\$ 286 (+21%)
Launch	\$ 1000	<b>+\$ 514</b> (+51%)	+\$ 469 (+47%)
31/12/2015	\$ 1020	+\$ 517 (+51%)	+\$ 491 (+48%)

Download the VIA leap® reporting here

Sources: VIA AM, Bloomberg. Data range from December 31st 2015 to April 30th 2024. Performances between December 31st 2015 and March 24th 2016 are based on the VIA Smart Equity World strategy as calculated and published on Bloomberg by an independent calculation agent since December 31st 2015, net of all fees. Performance since March 24th 2016 is based on the live track of the VIA Smart Equity World fund. Past performances are not a reliable indicator of future returns. leap performances are computed using normalized data when available. When not ailable a gy and the benchmark. The benchmark d for the ecor eighted by market capitalization. \* ed instead for th

Key facts				
Strategy	Equities			
Geography	World			
Benchmark	MSCI ACWI Equal Weighted Index (M1WDEWGT)			
Reference Ccy.	USD			
Launch Date	24/03/2016			
No of holdings	228			
AuM (M USD)	67.0			
Legal information				
X7 '. T				

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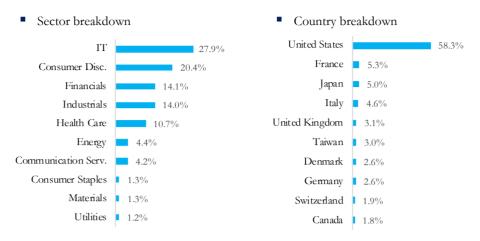
Inv. Manager	Veritas Investment Associates (VIA AM)
Man. Company	Eric Sturdza Management Company SA
Domicile	Luxembourg
Registration	LU, IT (EUR Instit. Only), FR, CH, AT, DE
Legal Form	SICAV / UCITS
Fund Admin.	Caceis Bank, Luxembourg Branch
Custodian	Caceis Bank, Luxembourg Branch
Auditor	KPMG
Sub./Red. Freq.	Daily
Cut-off	T - 1 12:00 CET

#### Available share classes

	Instit. (I)	Private (P)
Launch Date**	27/01/2017	14/06/2017
Min. Invest.	EUR 0.2m	EUR 1,000
Entry Charge (max.)	0.50%	0.50%
Exit Charge	0.00%	0.00%
Mgmt. Fees	0.84%	1.60%
Operat. Exp.	0.22%***	0.22%***
Subscript. Tax	0.01%	0.05%
Ongo. Chgs.	1.07%	1.87%
Perf. Fees	10.00%	10.00%
NAV	1571.80	1391.92
Share cla	sses ident	tifiers

ISIN	LU1369532905	LU1369533382	
BBG	VIASMIE LX	VIASEPE LX	

### Portfolio analysis



Sources: VIA AM, Bloomberg - asset breakdown and top holdings as of April 30th 2024

Portfolio fundamentals

	<b>Profitability</b> <sup>3</sup>		Valuation <sup>4</sup>		Earnings Growth*
	Accounting	Normalized <sup>1</sup>	Accounting	Normalized <sup>1</sup>	
Fund	20.6%	25.0%	15.9	15.6	18.1% / 9.6%
Synthetic benchmark <sup>2</sup>	22.4%	19.6%	17.8	19.5	19.2% / 15.8%

Computation methodology change for calculating average portfolio valuation: P/E <1x are excluded to avoid outliers

\*The 1st number corresponds to the expected 12-months earnings growth, the 2nd corresponds to the expected 12-months earnings growth in 12 months.

1. Normalized Data aim to reflect the economic reality of corporates on a comparable basis.

2. The synthetic benchmark is composed of 3050 companies from developed and emerging markets making up the fund selection universe, weighted by market cap.

3. Accounting profitability is calculated using the RoE/RoEA, while the normalized version uses the Economic Profitability (when available).

4. Accounting valuation is calculated using the P/E ratio, while the normalized version uses the economic P/E (when available).

## Managers' update

**Markets:** after a very positive first quarter, global equity markets are taking a break. They show a performance of -3.2% for the MSCI ACWI Market Cap and -1.2% for the Equal Weight version. Over the first four months of the year, we can nevertheless note the marked underperformance of the average capitalization at +0.5%, compared to +4.6% for the Market Cap index. In April, the change in "atmosphere" seemed to be linked to a disappointment in the expectations of central banks to relax. In this context, the VIA Smart Equity World fund underperforms its benchmark, with a monthly decline of 4.4% (SI-USD), but it has maintained a significant lead since the start of the year.

Factors and Stock Selection (relative to the Market Cap. benchmark): in April, the factor contributions emerged in positive territory, mainly due to overexposure to the Value factor. But sectoral exposure is less favourable, notably with underexposure to the Materials.

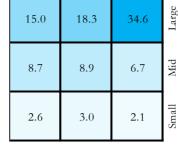
The stock selection showed a negative contribution, notably with the sharp declines of stocks such as Tenaris or Icon at -15% and -11% respectively over the month. The first disappoints on its margin forecasts of less than 25%, the second on expectations of results for the coming quarters. The underweight of the Big Tech, which proved positive, couldn't compensate.

The latest monthly selection is always very diverse, ranging from Microsoft to Taiwanese semiconductor companies, including a Brazilian bank, like Banco do Brasil, with a PER of 4x and a RoE close to 20%.

**Outlook:** There are very different approaches to successful long-term equity investing. In contrast to passive management that selects and weights stocks based on their sizes, we prefer a two-step approach, betting that if we can select companies capable of offering the maximum wealth creation for shareholders, then the portfolio's market value will follow suit. Despite the volatility displayed during multiple contraction/expansion phases, this "super factor" explains much of the long-term equity market performance. Moreover, when markets deviate from their economic performance, it generally presents investment or divestment opportunities. With the VIA Smart Equity World fund, we adopt a diversified, Buy & Hold approach with the goal of maximizing value creation over the long run. As such, the fund exhibits relatively satisfactory fundamentals with a 25% economic profitability (Economic Profitability) for a 15.6x economic PER (FEV/Economic Assets/Economic Profitability), while ensuring a significant diversification with more than 220 different positions.

Please find the VIA leap<sup>®</sup> monthly report, measure of the fund's real economic performance <u>here</u>. This reporting, unique in the world, intends to offer a measure of the wealth creation of our strategies, compared to the benchmark wealth creation and their respective Mark-to-Market performances.

Morningstar Stylebox<sup>TM</sup> (in %)



Value Core Growth For confidentiality purposes, the stylebox is presented with a 3-months lag. Data as of January 31st, 2024 © 2024 Morningstar, Inc. All rights reserved. The information contained bersin: (1) is proprietary to Morningstar and/or is content providers; (2) may not be copied or distributed; and (3) is not warranted to be accurate, complete, or timely. Neither Morningstar nor its content providers are responsible for any damages or losses arising from any use of this information. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

#### Top holdings

1	Microsoft Corp	3.79%
2	Apple Inc	2.27%
3	Alphabet Inc	2.24%
4	Amazon.com Inc	2.09%
5	Novo Nordisk A/S	2.07%
6	Booking Holdings Inc	2.06%
7	Fiserv Inc	1.50%
8	NVIDIA Corp	1.50%
9	Marathon Petroleum Corp	1.46%
10	Motorola Solutions Inc	1.46%

#### Rewards



The VIA Smart Equity World Fund received a 4-star Morningstar Rating<sup>TM</sup> Overall. The rating is for the SI-USD share class only; other classes may have different performance characteristics. Rating as of April 30th 2024.



The VIA Smart Equity World Fund received a Morningstar 4-Globe Sustainability Award. Out of 7993 International Flex Cap Equity Funds as of December 31st 2023. Based on 99.8% of AuM. Data is based on long positions only.

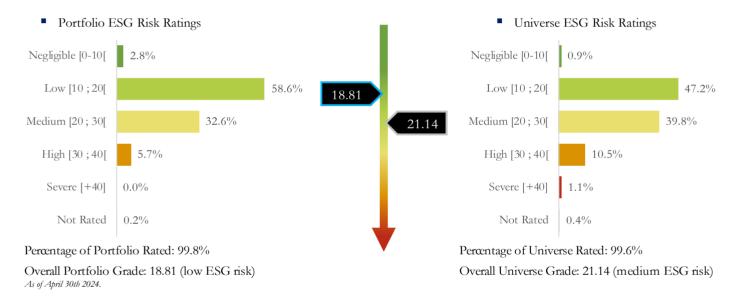


The VIA Smart Equity World Fund received a Morningstar Low Carbon Award. Carbon Metrics as of December 31st 2023. Based on 96% of AuM. Data is based on long positions only.

The Morningstar<sup>®</sup> Sustainability Rating<sup>TM</sup> is intended to measure how well the issuing companies of the securities within a fund's portfolio holdings are managing their financially material environmental, social and governance, or ESG, risks relative to the fund's Morningstar Global Category peers. The Morningstar<sup>®</sup> Low Carbon Designation<sup>TM</sup> is intended to allow investors to easily identify low-carbon funds across the global universe. The designation is an indicator that the companies held in a portfolio are in general alignment with the transition to a low-carbon economy.

## ■ Sustainalytics Rating<sup>™</sup>

VIA AM incorporates ESG criteria into its investment strategies through three pillars: compliance with an exclusion list of controversial issuers (thermal coal, weapons, tobacco, etc.); consideration of off-balance sheet issues (dismantling of power plants, pension fund deficit, etc.); integration of Sustainalytics Ratings<sup>TM</sup>.



#### How to interpret the ESG Risk Ratings?

- Negligible Risk (Overall Score of 0-9.99 points): Enterprise value is considered to have a negligible risk of material financial impacts driven by ESG factors
- Low Risk (10-19.99 points): Enterprise value is considered to have a low risk of material financial impacts driven by ESG factors
- Medium Risk (20-29.99 points): Enterprise value is considered to have a medium risk of material financial impacts driven by ESG factors.
- High Risk (30-39.99 points): Enterprise value is considered to have a high risk of material financial impacts driven by ESG factors.
- Severe Risk (40 and higher points): Enterprise value is considered to have a severe risk of material financial impacts driven by ESG factors

The elements specific to VIA AM's ESG approach and to the information requirements of the European regulation (EU) 2019/2088 – The Sustainable Finance Disclosure (SFDR) - can be found in section 4.11 (Sustainability Risks and ESG promotion) of the VIA AM SICAV's Prospectus, which is available on the management company's website as well as in the ESG tab at the following link: <u>https://www.via-am.com/en/esg</u>.

Voting right policy and reports can be found on the following link: <u>https://www.via-am.com/en/legal-notice</u>.

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Risk factors: VIA AM recommends that investors carefully read section 5 "General risk factors" of the product prospectus.

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The MSCI ACWI Equal Weighted Index represents an alternative weighting scheme to its market cap weighted parent index, MSCI ACWI. The index includes the same constituents as its parent (large and mid cap securities from 23 Developed Markets (DM) and 24 Emerging Markets (EM) countries. However, at each quarterly rebalance date, all index constituents are weighted equally, effectively removing the influence of each constituent's current price (high or low) Between rebalances, index constituent weightings will fluctuate due to price performance.

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