

MSCI EUR Corporates IG Climate Change ESG Select Index Methodology

April 2021

Contents		
1	Introduction	4
2	MSCI ESG Research	5
2.1	MSCI ESG Ratings	5
2.2	MSCI Climate Change Metrics	5
2.3	MSCI ESG Controversies	6
2.4	MSCI ESG Business Involvement Screening Research	6
3	Constructing the MSCI EUR Corporates IG Select Index	7
3.1	Underlying Universe	7
3.2	Eligibility Criteria	7
3.2.1	Country of Domicile	7
3.2.2	Security Type	7
4	Constructing the MSCI EUR Corporates IG Climate Change ESG Select Index	8
4.1	Defining the Eligible Universe	8
4.2	Defining the ESG Screening Criteria	8
4.3	Defining the Liquidity Screening Criteria	8
4.4	Defining the Security Selection Criteria	9
4.5	Determining the Index Weights	9
5	Maintaining the MSCI EUR Corporates IG Select Index	10
5.1	Quarterly Index Review	10
6	Maintaining the MSCI EUR Corporates IG Climate Change ESG Select Index	10
6.1	Quarterly Index Review	10
7	PRICING	11
	Appendix I: List of Eligible Developed Markets Countries	12

Appendix II: ESG-based Exclusion Criteria	13
Appendix III: Security Selection Buffer Example	16

1 Introduction

The MSCI EUR Corporates IG Climate Change ESG Select Index is designed to represent the performance of a strategy that seeks systematic integration of environmental, social and governance (ESG) norms and reflect the opportunities and risks associated with the transition to a lower carbon economy in Investment Grade Corporate Bond investing.

The MSCI EUR Corporates IG Select Index, (herein, the “Intermediate Parent Index”) is constructed from the MSCI EUR IG Corporate Bond Index (herein, the “Parent Index”) by applying selection criteria using country of domicile and security type based on coupon, seniority, maturity, age of bond, credit rating and bond size.

The MSCI EUR Corporates IG Climate Change ESG Select Index (herein, the “Index”) is constructed from the eligible universe defined above by incorporating business exclusion screens including Controversial Weapons, Nuclear Weapons, Nuclear Utilities, Conventional Weapons, Tobacco, Thermal Coal, Unconventional Oil & Gas, ESG Controversy Score, Environment Controversy Score and ESG Rating. Additionally, companies that are not in compliance with the United Nations Global Compact principles are also excluded from the index.

Securities are further selected by applying a liquidity screen within each sector-maturity bucket, followed by security selection based on target count and highest MSCI Low Carbon Transition¹ (LCT) scores within each sector-maturity bucket². A security selection buffer of 50% is applied during the security selection and the resulting constituents are weighted in proportion of their weights in the Parent Index. The index is finally diversified by capping the issuers in the index at 4%.

¹ Please refer to Appendix II: MSCI Low Carbon Transition Risk Assessment and <https://www.msci.com/climate-change-solutions> for further details regarding the MSCI Low Carbon Transition score and category

² There are 33 sector-maturity buckets corresponding to 11 GICS sectors and 3 Maturity buckets (1-4 years, 4-7 years and 7-10 years).

2 MSCI ESG Research

MSCI ESG Research provides in-depth research, ratings and analysis of the environmental, social and governance-related business practices of thousands of companies worldwide. It consists of an integrated suite of tools and products to efficiently manage research, analysis and compliance tasks across the spectrum of ESG factors.

The Index uses company ratings and research provided by MSCI ESG Research. In particular, this index uses the following MSCI ESG Research products: MSCI ESG Ratings, MSCI Climate Change Metrics, MSCI ESG Controversies and MSCI ESG Business Involvement Screening Research.

For details on MSCI ESG Research’s full suite of ESG products, please refer to: <https://www.msci.com/esg-investing>

2.1 MSCI ESG Ratings

MSCI ESG Ratings provides research, analysis and ratings of how well companies manage environmental, social and governance risks and opportunities.

MSCI ESG Ratings provides an overall company ESG rating - a seven-point scale from ‘AAA’ to ‘CCC’. In addition, the product provides scores and percentiles indicating how well a company manages each key issue relative to industry peers.

For more details on MSCI ESG Ratings, please refer to: <https://www.msci.com/esg-ratings>

2.2 MSCI Climate Change Metrics

MSCI Climate Change Metrics is designed to support investors seeking to achieve a range of objectives, including measuring and reporting on climate risk exposure, implementing low carbon and fossil fuel-free strategies, and factoring climate change research into their risk management processes. It provides Carbon Emissions, Fossil Fuel exposure, environmental impact (i.e., clean technology) data and screens, as well as climate-related risk exposure and management assessment on companies such as Low Carbon Transition scores and categories.

For more details on MSCI Climate Change Metrics, please refer to <https://www.msci.com/climate-change-solutions>.

2.3 MSCI ESG Controversies

MSCI ESG Controversies provides assessments of controversies concerning the negative environmental, social, and/or governance impact of company operations, products and services. The evaluation framework used in MSCI ESG Controversies is designed to be consistent with international norms represented by the UN Declaration of Human Rights, the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, and the UN Global Compact. MSCI ESG Controversies Score falls on a 0-10 scale, with “0” being the most severe controversy.

For more details on MSCI ESG Controversies, please refer to :

<https://www.msci.com/documents/10199/acbe7c8a-a4e4-49de-9cf8-5e957245b86b>

2.4 MSCI ESG Business Involvement Screening Research

MSCI ESG Business Involvement Screening Research (BISR) aims to enable institutional investors to manage environmental, social and governance (ESG) standards and restrictions reliably and efficiently.

For more details on MSCI ESG Business Involvement Screening Research, please refer to http://www.msci.com/resources/factsheets/MSCI_ESG_BISR.pdf.

3 Constructing the MSCI EUR Corporates IG Select Index

3.1 Underlying Universe

The selection universe for the MSCI EUR Corporates IG Select Index is defined by the constituents of the underlying Parent Index which is the MSCI EUR IG Corporate Bond Index.

3.2 Eligibility Criteria

The following criteria are applied to the Parent Index to derive the MSCI EUR Corporates IG Select Index.

3.2.1 Country of Domicile

Securities included in the MSCI EUR Corporates IG Select Index must belong to issuers domiciled in developed market countries defined in Appendix I.

3.2.2 Security Type

Only Plain Vanilla Bonds³ with the following features are eligible for inclusion in the MSCI EUR Corporates IG Select Index:

- **Coupon:** Only securities with fixed coupons are eligible.
- **Seniority:** Only Senior issues are eligible.
- **Maturity:** Each index constituent must have a maturity greater than or equal to 1.5 years as measured from the Effective Date⁴. Each index constituent must also have a maturity less than or equal to 10 years as measured from the Effective Date.
- **Age of security:** Each bond must have an issuance date less than or equal to 3 years prior to the Effective Date.
- **Credit Rating:** Each bond must have a minimum rating of Baa3 / BBB- as rated by Moody's / S&P. For bonds that are rated by both S&P and Moody's, the lower rating will be used to determine the index eligibility criteria.

³ Plain Vanilla Bonds have fixed Coupon Rate and Time of Coupon Payments, fixed Date of Maturity, fixed Face Value/Par Value.

⁴ Defined in Section 5.1

- **Security size threshold:** Each bond must have a notional amount outstanding greater than or equal to Euro 500 million.

4 Constructing the MSCI EUR Corporates IG Climate Change ESG Select Index

Constructing the MSCI EUR Corporates IG Climate Change ESG Select Index involves the following steps:

- Defining the Eligible Universe
- Defining the ESG Screening Criteria
- Defining the Liquidity Screening Criteria
- Defining the Security Selection Criteria
- Determining the Index Weights

4.1 Defining the Eligible Universe

The eligible universe for the MSCI EUR Corporates IG Climate Change ESG Select Index is defined by the constituents of the universe defined in Section 3.

4.2 Defining the ESG Screening Criteria

The screening criteria defined in Appendix II is applied to the Eligible Universe. The remaining securities are eligible for inclusion in the Index. The exclusions are based on the data provided by MSCI ESG Research and are determined quarterly coinciding with the rebalance frequency of the Index.

4.3 Defining the Liquidity Screening Criteria

The universe of securities after applying the above steps is divided into 33 sector-maturity buckets corresponding to 11 GICS sectors and 3 Maturity buckets (1-4 years, 4-7 years and 7-10 years). Within each sector-maturity bucket, the security with highest notional amount outstanding within each issuer is selected.

4.4 Defining the Security Selection Criteria

- A target security selection count is determined for each sector-maturity bucket based on the below criteria by applying an initial target count of 100 for the index:
 - If the universe after the liquidity screening criteria step above has 400 bonds and using 100 as the initial target count of the Index, the target security count % applicable to each sector-maturity bucket is determined as: $100/400 = 25\%$. This implies 25% by count (rounded up) of each sector-maturity bucket will be selected in the Index. Due to the rounding up within each sector-maturity bucket, the final count of securities in the Index may be more than 100.
- The target count of securities determined above, are selected from each sector-maturity bucket based on highest LCT score.
- A security selection buffer of 50% is applied during security selection within each sector-maturity bucket (explained in Appendix III).

4.5 Determining the Index Weights

- The securities eligible for inclusion in the Index, are weighted in proportion of their weights in the Parent Index which is market value weighted.
- The maximum weight of any issuer in the Index is capped at 4% in accordance with the MSCI Capped Indexes methodology⁵.

⁵ Please refer to the MSCI Capped Indexes methodology at www.msci.com/index-methodology

5 Maintaining the MSCI EUR Corporates IG Select Index

5.1 Quarterly Index Review

The MSCI EUR Corporates IG Select Index is reviewed on a quarterly basis, with the Effective Date being the first business day of January, April, July and October. In general, the pro forma indexes are announced three business days before the effective date.

In general, MSCI uses latest available MSCI ESG Research data on the announcement date for the rebalancing of the MSCI EUR Corporates IG Select Index.

At each Index Review, the eligible universe is updated, and the composition of the index is reassessed based on the methodology described in Section 3.

6 Maintaining the MSCI EUR Corporates IG Climate Change ESG Select Index

6.1 Quarterly Index Review

The MSCI EUR Corporates IG Climate Change ESG Select Index is reviewed on a quarterly basis, with the Effective Date being the first business day of January, April, July and October. In general, the pro forma indexes are announced three business days before the effective date.

In general, MSCI uses latest available MSCI ESG Research data on the announcement date for the rebalancing of the MSCI EUR Corporates IG Climate Change ESG Select Index.

At each Index Review, the eligible universe is updated, and the composition of the index is reassessed based on the methodology described in Section 4.

7 PRICING

The Index construction from inception to March 31, 2021 is based on price sourced from Refinitiv only whereas the index construction from April 1, 2021 to July 30, 2021 is based on price sourced from both Refinitiv and IDC. The index construction after July 30, 2021 will be based on price sourced from Refinitiv only.

If an index constituent is no longer priced (intra-rebalancing) by the pricing source or the price is unavailable, the last available price is used.

Appendix I: List of Eligible Developed Markets⁶ Countries

Country of Domicile
Austria
Belgium
Denmark
Finland
France
Germany
Ireland
Italy
Luxembourg
Netherlands
Norway
Portugal
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
United Kingdom

⁶ Please refer to Appendix I of the MSCI Corporate Bond Indexes Methodology

Appendix II: ESG-based Exclusion Criteria

Nuclear weapons:

- All companies that manufacture nuclear warheads and/or whole nuclear missiles.
- All companies that manufacture components that were developed or are significantly modified for exclusive use in nuclear weapons (warheads and missiles).
- All companies that manufacture or assemble delivery platforms that were developed or significantly modified for the exclusive delivery of nuclear weapons.
- All companies that provide auxiliary services related to nuclear weapons.
- All companies that manufacture components that were not developed or not significantly modified for exclusive use in nuclear weapons (warheads and missiles) but can be used in nuclear weapons.
- All companies that manufacture or assemble delivery platforms that were not developed or not significantly modified for the exclusive delivery of nuclear weapons but have the capability to deliver nuclear weapons.
- All companies that manufacture components for nuclear-exclusive delivery platforms.

Nuclear utilities

- All companies that own or operate nuclear Power Plants.

Conventional Weapons:

- All companies deriving 10% or more aggregate revenue from weapons systems, components, and support systems and services.

Tobacco:

- All companies classified as a “Producer”.
- All companies deriving 5% or more aggregate revenue from the production, distribution, retail, supply and licensing of tobacco-related products.

Thermal Coal:

- All Companies deriving 5% or more revenue (either reported or estimated) from the mining of thermal coal (including lignite, bituminous, anthracite and steam coal) and its sale to external parties.

- It excludes revenue from metallurgical coal; coal mined from internal power generation (e.g. in case of vertically integrated power producers); intra-company sales of mined thermal coal; and revenue from coal trading.

Unconventional Oil & Gas:

- Companies that derive more than 0% revenue from unconventional oil and gas. It includes revenues from oil sands, oil shale (kerogen-rich deposits), shale gas, shale oil, coal seam gas, and coal bed methane. It excludes all types of conventional oil and gas production including Arctic onshore/offshore, deep water, shallow water and other onshore/offshore.

International Norms:

- All companies that fail to be in compliance with the United Nations Global Compact principles.

ESG Controversy Score (“Red Flags”):

- Securities of companies having faced very severe controversies pertaining to ESG issues are not eligible for inclusion in the Index. This is implemented by excluding constituents of the Eligible Universe with MSCI ESG Controversy Score = 0 (“Red Flag” companies). For more details on MSCI ESG Controversies Score, please refer to <https://www.msci.com/esg-integration>.

Environment Controversy Score (“Orange Flag” and “Red Flag”):

- Securities of companies having an Environment Controversy Score of 1 or 0.
- This metric is an assessment of controversies (if any) related to a firm’s impact on the environment. Factors affecting this evaluation include whether a company is involved in controversies related to land use and biodiversity, toxic spills and releases, energy and climate change, water management, operational non-hazardous waste, environmental impact of products and service, and management of supply chain environmental impact.

ESG Rating:

- Securities of companies having an MSCI ESG Rating of “CCC”.

Missing Scores:

- All companies with missing LCT Score and ESG Score are excluded from the Index.

Controversial Weapons:

- All companies with any tie to Controversial Weapons (cluster munitions, landmines, depleted uranium weapons, biological/chemical weapons, blinding lasers, non-detectable fragments and incendiary weapons), as defined in Appendix I of the MSCI Global Ex-Controversial Weapons Indexes available at <https://www.msci.com/index-methodology>.

Appendix III: Security Selection Buffer Example

A security selection buffer of 50% is applied during the on-going index review. For example, assume it is required to select 40 securities from a specific sector-maturity bucket, then buffers are applied between ranks 21 and 60. The securities in the eligible universe (after applying the Liquidity Screening Criteria) with a LCT score ranked at or above 20 will be added to the Index on a priority basis. The existing constituents that have a LCT score rank between 21 and 60 are then successively added until the number of securities in the Index reaches 40. If the number of securities is below 40 after this step, the remaining securities in the eligible universe with the highest LCT score rank are added until the number of securities in the Index reaches 40.

Contact us

clientservice@msci.com

AMERICAS

Americas	1 888 588 4567 *
Atlanta	+ 1 404 551 3212
Boston	+ 1 617 532 0920
Chicago	+ 1 312 675 0545
Monterrey	+ 52 81 1253 4020
New York	+ 1 212 804 3901
San Francisco	+ 1 415 836 8800
São Paulo	+ 55 11 3706 1360
Toronto	+ 1 416 628 1007

EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA

Cape Town	+ 27 21 673 0100
Frankfurt	+ 49 69 133 859 00
Geneva	+ 41 22 817 9777
London	+ 44 20 7618 2222
Milan	+ 39 02 5849 0415
Paris	0800 91 59 17 *

ASIA PACIFIC

China North	10800 852 1032 *
China South	10800 152 1032 *
Hong Kong	+ 852 2844 9333
Mumbai	+ 91 22 6784 9160
Seoul	00798 8521 3392 *
Singapore	800 852 3749 *
Sydney	+ 61 2 9033 9333
Taipei	008 0112 7513 *
Thailand	0018 0015 6207 7181 *
Tokyo	+ 81 3 5290 1555

* = toll free

ABOUT MSCI

MSCI is a leader provider of critical decision support tools and services for the global investment community. With over 50 years of expertise in research, data and technology, we power better investment decisions by enabling clients to understand and analyze key drivers of risk and return and confidently build more effective portfolios. We create industry-leading research-enhanced solutions that clients use to gain insight into and improve transparency across the investment process.

The process for submitting a formal index complaint can be found on the index regulation page of MSCI's website at: www.msci.com/index-regulation.

To learn more, please visit www.msci.com.

Notice and disclaimer

This document and all of the information contained in it, including without limitation all text, data, graphs, charts (collectively, the "Information") is the property of MSCI Inc. or its subsidiaries (collectively, "MSCI"), or MSCI's licensors, direct or indirect suppliers or any third party involved in making or compiling any Information (collectively, with MSCI, the "Information Providers") and is provided for informational purposes only. The Information may not be modified, reverse-engineered, reproduced or disseminated in whole or in part without prior written permission from MSCI. All rights in the Information are reserved by MSCI and/or its Information Providers. The Information may not be used to create derivative works or to verify or correct other data or information. For example (but without limitation), the Information may not be used to create indexes, databases, risk models, analytics, software, or in connection with the issuing, offering, sponsoring, managing or marketing of any securities, portfolios, financial products or other investment vehicles utilizing or based on, linked to, tracking or otherwise derived from the Information or any other MSCI data, information, products or services. The user of the Information assumes the entire risk of any use it may make or permit to be made of the Information. NONE OF THE INFORMATION PROVIDERS MAKES ANY EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTIES OR REPRESENTATIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE INFORMATION (OR THE RESULTS TO BE OBTAINED BY THE USE THEREOF), AND TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT PERMITTED BY APPLICABLE LAW, EACH INFORMATION PROVIDER EXPRESSLY DISCLAIMS ALL IMPLIED WARRANTIES (INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, ANY IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF ORIGINALITY, ACCURACY, TIMELINESS, NON-INFRINGEMENT, COMPLETENESS, MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE) WITH RESPECT TO ANY OF THE INFORMATION. Without limiting any of the foregoing and to the maximum extent permitted by applicable law, in no event shall any Information Provider have any liability regarding any of the Information for any direct, indirect, special, punitive, consequential (including lost profits) or any other damages even if notified of the possibility of such damages. The foregoing shall not exclude or limit any liability that may not by applicable law be excluded or limited, including without limitation (as applicable), any liability for death or personal injury to the extent that such injury results from the negligence or willful default of itself, its servants, agents or sub-contractors. Information containing any historical information, data or analysis should not be taken as an indication or guarantee of any future performance, analysis, forecast or prediction. Past performance does not guarantee future results. The Information should not be relied on and is not a substitute for the skill, judgment and experience of the user, its management, employees, advisors and/or clients when making investment and other business decisions. All Information is impersonal and not tailored to the needs of any person, entity or group of persons. None of the Information constitutes an offer to sell (or a solicitation of an offer to buy), any security, financial product or other investment vehicle or any trading strategy.

It is not possible to invest directly in an index. Exposure to an asset class or trading strategy or other category represented by an index is only available through third party investable instruments (if any) based on that index. MSCI does not issue, sponsor, endorse, market, offer, review or otherwise express any opinion regarding any fund, ETF, derivative or other security, investment, financial product or trading strategy that is based on, linked to or seeks to provide an investment return related to the performance of any MSCI index (collectively, "Index Linked Investments"). MSCI makes no assurance that any Index Linked Investments will accurately track index performance or provide positive investment returns. MSCI Inc. is not an investment adviser or fiduciary and MSCI makes no representation regarding the advisability of investing in any Index Linked Investments. Index returns do not represent the results of actual trading of investable assets/securities. MSCI maintains and calculates indexes, but does not manage actual assets. Index returns do not reflect payment of any sales charges or fees an investor may pay to purchase the securities underlying the index or Index Linked Investments. The imposition of these fees and charges would cause the performance of an Index Linked Investment to be different than the MSCI index performance. The Information may contain back tested data. Back-tested performance is not actual performance, but is hypothetical. There are frequently material differences between back tested performance results and actual results subsequently achieved by any investment strategy. Constituents of MSCI equity indexes are listed companies, which are included in or excluded from the indexes according to the application of the relevant index methodologies. Accordingly, constituents in MSCI equity indexes may include MSCI Inc., clients of MSCI or suppliers to MSCI. Inclusion of a security within an MSCI index is not a recommendation by MSCI to buy, sell, or hold such security, nor is it considered to be investment advice. Data and information produced by various affiliates of MSCI Inc., including MSCI ESG Research LLC and Barra LLC, may be used in calculating certain MSCI indexes. More information can be found in the relevant index methodologies on www.msci.com.

MSCI receives compensation in connection with licensing its indexes to third parties. MSCI Inc.'s revenue includes fees based on assets in Index Linked Investments. Information can be found in MSCI Inc.'s company filings on the Investor Relations section of www.msci.com. MSCI ESG Research LLC is a Registered Investment Adviser under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 and a subsidiary of MSCI Inc. Except with respect to any applicable products or services from MSCI ESG Research, neither MSCI nor any of its products or services recommends, endorses, approves or otherwise expresses any opinion regarding any issuer, securities, financial products or instruments or trading strategies and MSCI's products or services are not intended to constitute investment advice or a recommendation to make (or refrain from making) any kind of investment decision and may not be relied on as such. Issuers mentioned or included in any MSCI ESG Research materials may include MSCI Inc., clients of MSCI or suppliers to MSCI, and may also purchase research or other products or services from MSCI ESG Research. MSCI ESG Research materials, including materials utilized in any MSCI ESG Indexes or other products, have not been submitted to, nor received approval from, the United States Securities and Exchange Commission or any other regulatory body. Any use of or access to products, services or information of MSCI requires a license from MSCI. MSCI, Barra, RiskMetrics, IPD and other MSCI brands and product names are the trademarks, service marks, or registered trademarks of MSCI or its subsidiaries in the United States and other jurisdictions. The Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS) was developed by and is the exclusive property of MSCI and Standard & Poor's. "Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS)" is a service mark of MSCI and Standard & Poor's. MIFID2/MIFIR notice: MSCI ESG Research LLC does not distribute or act as an intermediary for financial instruments or structured deposits, nor does it deal on its own account, provide execution services for others or manage client accounts. No MSCI ESG Research product or service supports, promotes or is intended to support or promote any such activity. MSCI ESG Research is an independent provider of ESG data, reports and ratings based on published methodologies and available to clients on a subscription basis. We do not provide custom or one-off ratings or recommendations of securities or other financial instruments upon request.

Privacy notice: For information about how MSCI collects and uses personal data, please refer to our Privacy Notice at <https://www.msci.com/privacy-pledge>.