

# ACATIS FAIR VALUE SPECIAL

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## Focus on ESG data for small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

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Increasing social awareness of environmental and social issues is having a growing impact on the financial market: The range of sustainable financial market products has grown rapidly in recent years - and continues to do so.

In addition, the European Union in particular is driving forward the transformation of the financial market into an enabler for a sustainable transformation by adopting comprehensive sustainable finance regulations and more extensive non-financial reporting requirements. Frameworks such as the Sustainable Financial Disclosure Regulation (SFDR), the EU Taxonomy or the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) affect financial market players as well as the real economy and are relevant for both large caps and SMEs.

Robust and consistent ESG data is essential for sustainable investments - because it provides the basis for decision-making that financial market players need, to select and manage their investments. The availability and consideration of ESG data is becoming more mainstream and the focus of application is broadening: It is no longer just ESG data on large caps that is relevant to investors, but also on SMEs, the systematic availability of which is not automatic.

Imug rating assists, together with its parent company Ethifinance, financial market players with their ESG concerns and provides global ESG data on both large caps and SMEs.

The current ESG research covers a total of 2'300 European small caps from 16 countries with a market capitalization of more than 150 million

Euro, as well as bond issuers, and is being expanded. The available coverage represents approximately 95 percent of the MSCI Europe Small Cap Index. Around 140 data points on 18 relevant ESG aspects are researched and evaluated. In addition, systematic controversy research, information on controversial products/services as well as taxonomy, SFDR and climate metrics are available.

For all investors who want to consider ESG aspects in their investment decisions therefore have no shortage of information on which to base their decisions. Regardless of whether a sustainable investment strategy is still at the beginning or already well established, there is sufficient suitable ESG data available for most applications. Prerequisite: The relevant ESG data must also be used on the investment side and integrated into the decision-making process.

A sustained systematic analysis of small and medium-sized enterprises is of great importance, as it is often here, that the truly sustainable innovations are to be found.

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Head of imug rating

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