

APPENDIX J - ELEVA ABSOLUTE RETURN EUROPE FUND

Template pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8, paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a, of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852

Product name:
ELEVA Absolute Return Europe Fund

Legal entity identifier (LEI):
213800FQB3SJZEYKX79

Environmental and/or social characteristics

Sustainable investment

means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.

The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not lay down a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.

Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?

Yes

No

It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective:** ___%

in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy

in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy

It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective:** ___%

It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of ___% of sustainable investments

with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy

with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy

with a social objective

It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments.**



What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?

ELEVA ABSOLUTE RETURN EUROPE FUND (the “**Sub-Fund**”) promotes a combination of environmental, social and governance (“**ESG**”) characteristics. This Sub-Fund integrates, in the long and the short invested pockets, binding ESG criteria in its investment management process. The main non-financial objective of ELEVA Absolute Return Europe Fund is to invest, on a long basis, in companies with good ESG practices (*i.e.* best in universe) or companies that are on an improving path regarding ESG practices (*i.e.* best efforts) while excluding companies that would not have a minimum absolute ESG score (40/100). At the same time, the Sub-Fund does not short any company with excellent ESG practices (*i.e.* with an ESG score > 80/100). The Sub-Fund also seeks to help companies, when deemed necessary

by the investment team, to improve their ESG practices by engaging in dialogue with them on a regular basis and by sharing with them areas of improvement on specific ESG topics.

The long book of the Sub-Fund seeks to invest in companies having a good behaviour towards their key stakeholders (Shareholders, Employees, Suppliers, Civil Society and the Planet). For instance, the Sub-Fund seeks to invest in companies with good corporate governance practices (e.g. Boards with gender and cognitive diversity and a sufficient level of independence), with good environmental and social practices (e.g. signatories of the UN Global Compact) and implementing carbon reduction measures (e.g. the long book of the Sub-Fund has an ESG KPI on carbon footprint).

The Sub-Fund is actively managed with no reference to a benchmark.

Sustainability indicators measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

● **What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?**

The sustainability indicators used by the Sub-Fund are (1) [ESG scoring](#) and (2) two Principal Adverse sustainability Indicators (PAI) – [carbon footprint \(Scope 1+2+3\)](#), and [exposure to companies without processes and compliance mechanisms to monitor compliance with UN Global Compact principles and OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises](#) – as further explained below.

1. ESG Score

1.1. Long invested pocket (Equity, Corporate and Sovereign bond issuers)

The ESG score will be available for at least 90% (in weight) of the long invested pocket (i.e. Equities, Corporate and Sovereign bonds, single name FDIs, money market instruments). The 10% tolerance (companies/assets with no ESG score) will be but not exclusively used to, among others, IPOs. Other instruments and products such as index FDIs, UCITS and Other UCIs, or equity basket swaps, are excluded from the calculation perimeter. The section below presents the approach declined by asset class eligible to ESG scoring.

Where investing on a long basis in equity and listed corporate bond issuers, the Sub-Fund's investment process counts 3 steps being based on a combination of non-financial and financial criteria. The sustainability indicator used in the context of the non-financial part of the process is the [ESG scoring](#) (i.e. an ESG score established internally by the Management Company and, where not available, an ESG score from a single external data provider).

The Management Company indeed uses a proprietary tool to internally analyse and score the companies on ESG criteria from 0 (worst score) to 100 (best score). The analysed ESG criteria include, among others:

- Shareholders (i.e. Governance criteria): quality of management team (track record, alignment of interest with shareholders, etc.), quality of the board of directors (board efficiency, gender diversity, checks and balances, etc.), quality of the relationship with shareholders (quality of risk management and controls, financial communication, respect of minority shareholders, etc.);
- Employees (i.e. Social criteria): quality of human resources (“HR”) management (HR policies, management of human capital, gender pay gap, etc.), employer brand equity (reputation as an employer, etc.), employees retention (employee training, turnover, etc.), safety & security (policy on accident prevention, history of accidents and risk management, etc.);
- Suppliers (i.e. a combination of Environmental, Social and Governance criteria): level of risk in the supply chain (complexity of supply chain, disruption risks, etc.), supply chain risk management and control (controls, audits, engagement on Corporate Social Responsibility issues, etc.);
- Civil Society (i.e. a combination of Social and Governance criteria): customers (products quality, customer satisfaction, etc.), state (fiscal behaviour, business ethics, process to monitor the compliance with UN Global Compact principles etc.), local communities (philanthropic approach, etc.);
- Planet (i.e. Environmental criteria): climate change (risks and policies, targets on carbon emissions reduction, performance on GHG emissions and intensity), energy management (risks and policies, share of non-renewable energy

consumption/production, targets, performance on energy consumption), water (risks and policies, targets, performance), biodiversity and other (risks and policies, targets, performance), environmental impact of products (taxonomy-aligned products, exposure to fossil fuels, eco-design, circular economy etc.).

The scoring methodology includes penalties for controversies, if any.

For private corporate bond issuers, sovereign, quasi-sovereigns and supra-national issuers, the Management Company uses a single external data provider identical to that for the equities and scores the companies on ESG criteria from 0 (worst score) to 100 (best score). The scoring methodology includes penalties for controversies, if any. Countries on the GAFI “black list” are excluded. The case of listed corporate bond issuers is covered above in the Equity section.

1.2. Short invested pocket

Corporate issuers in the short invested pocket are analysed and scored on ESG criteria using either an ESG score established internally by the Management Company and, where not available, an ESG score from a single external data provider. The Sub-Fund does not short any company with excellent ESG practices (i.e. with an ESG score >80/100).

2. ESG key performance indicators

The long invested pocket of the Sub-Fund must also show a better performance than its initial investment universe on two Principal Adverse sustainability Indicators (PAI):

- [carbon footprint](#) (in tons of CO2 equivalent/million euros invested, covering Scope 1+2+3); and
- [exposure to companies without processes and compliance mechanisms to monitor compliance with UN Global Compact principles and OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises](#) (sum of the weights).

The invested equities, corporate bonds, long corporate single name FDIs, corporate money market instruments are in scope. The Sovereign issuers, and other instruments and products such as index FDIs, UCITS and Other UCIs, or equity basket swaps, are excluded from the calculation perimeter.

- **What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?**
Not applicable.

- **How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?**
Not applicable.

----- *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

Not applicable.

----- *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights?*

Not applicable.

Principal adverse impacts are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

The EU Taxonomy sets out a “do not significant harm” principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.

The “do no significant harm” principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.



Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?

Yes

No

For long equity and listed corporate bond issuers, the Sub-Fund takes into consideration the 14 principal adverse impact indicators applicable to investee companies and 2 optional ones (investments in companies without carbon emission reduction initiatives and investment in companies without workplace accident prevention policies).

- PAI 2, 10, 11 and 14 are taken into consideration in a quantitative way, with maximum exposure or thresholds in place (through Strict Exclusion or through the binding ESG key performance indicators described above).
- PAI 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 13 and the 2 optional ones are taken into consideration in a qualitative way, mainly through the criteria analysed during the ESG analysis.
- PAI 7, 8, 9, 12 are only taken into consideration when the data is available (available data for these PAI is scarce). However, engagement on these topics may be conducted with companies to help improve disclosure.

For private corporate bond issuers, the PAI indicators are taken into consideration in a qualitative way when the data is available. Engagement on these topics may be conducted with companies to help improve disclosure too.

For long Sovereign issuers, the two Sovereign PAI indicators (GHG Intensity of investee countries and Number of investee countries subject to social violations) are taken into consideration in a qualitative way when the data is available.

The information on principal adverse impacts will be available in the annual report of ELEVA UCITS Fund.



What investment strategy does this financial product follow?

The Sub-Fund implements several sustainable approaches under steps 2 and 3, as defined by the Global Sustainable Investment Alliance: exclusionary screening, norm-based screening, positive ESG screening (i.e. “best in universe” or “best efforts”).

The weighted average ESG score of the ELEVA Absolute Return Europe Fund long pocket has to be higher (i.e. better) than the average ESG score of its initial investment universe.

The weight of issuers analysed and scored on ESG criteria must be higher than 90% of the long invested pocket (i.e. Equities, Corporate and Sovereign bonds, long single name FDIs, money market instruments). The 10% tolerance (companies/assets with no ESG score) will be, but not exclusively, used

The **investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

to, among others, IPOs. Other instruments and products such as index FDIs, UCITS and Other UCIs, or equity basket swaps, are excluded from the calculation perimeter.

Where investing on a long basis in equities and equity-related instruments, the Sub-Fund's investment process **counts 3 steps** being based on a combination of non-financial and financial criteria.

Step 1/ From a broad universe predominantly made of all companies (all market capitalisations, all sectors) with their registered office in Europe (*i.e.* European Economic Area, UK, Switzerland), the Sub-Fund focuses on companies meeting the following financial criteria:

- Liquidity, measured through daily liquidity for each company; and
- Minimum market cap is set at 5 billion euros unless that company has a strong balance sheet and a sufficient revenue growth.

These criteria define the so-called initial investment universe (in order to compare the Sub-Fund with its investment universe on ESG criteria) and is made of circa 800 companies. This initial investment universe may include non-European issuers belonging to the OECD.

Step 2/ Strict Exclusion: the Management Company excludes companies from the initial investment universe which have significant negative impacts on specific ESG factors.

Step 3/ Fundamental analysis: the Management Company does a fundamental analysis of each company which is considered for investment on financial criteria. The Management Company also performs an analysis on non-financial criteria. In case of timing constraints, the analysis on non-financial criteria can be conducted post-investment in compliance with the ESG coverage constraints of the Sub-Fund.

Where investing on a short basis in equity-related instruments, the Management Company will seek to focus on three particular types of opportunities:

- companies where the Management Company considers there to be a disconnect between the credit and the equity market perception of the fundamentals of those companies;
- companies that the Management Company considers overvalued and at a negative inflexion points; and;
- companies that the Management Company considers belonging to long term challenged industries.

Companies excluded as per step 2 "strict exclusion" (see above, in the long invested pocket section) are also excluded in the short invested pocket.

The alignment with ESG characteristics is conducted in different ways, depending on the instrument type:

- **Equities and listed corporate bond issuers on a long basis:** issuers invested in this category are scored on ESG criteria using the Management Company's proprietary methodology and, where the proprietary ESG scoring is not available, an ESG score from a single external data provider. The ESG score of these instruments have a binding effect. The exclusion policy does apply to these instruments (see Step 2 above and next question).
- **Private corporate bond and Sovereign bonds on a long basis:** for private corporate bond issuers, sovereign, quasi-sovereigns and supra-national issuers, the Management Company uses a single external data provider identical to that for the equities and scores the companies on ESG criteria from 0 (worst score) to 100 (best score). The scoring methodology includes penalties for controversies, if any. Countries on the GAFI "black list" are excluded. The case of listed corporate bond issuers is covered above in the Equity section. The ESG score of these instruments have a binding effect (see next question).
- **Corporate single name FDIs on a short basis:** companies in the short invested pocket are analysed and scored on ESG criteria using either an ESG score established internally by the Management Company and, where not available, an ESG score from a single external data provider. The ESG score has a binding effect. Companies excluded as per step 2 "strict exclusion" (see above) are also excluded in this pocket.

- Sovereign single name FDIs on a short basis: countries on the GAFI “black list” are excluded.

The Sub-Fund’s strategy in relation to the ESG characteristics is integral part of the Sub-Fund’s investment strategy which is continuously monitored via the risk control and related systems in place. In addition to ongoing monitoring, pre-trade controls are also performed.

● ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

1. Corporate issuers and corporate single name underlying:

The Sub-Fund excludes companies from the initial investment universe which have significant negative impacts on specific ESG factors as follows:

Companies having violated the UN Global Compact, UN Guiding Principles, ILO convention and OECD guidelines for multinational enterprises; involved in extremely severe controversies; exposed to controversial weapons, nuclear weapons, tobacco, palm oil, and thermal coal.

For more information on the criteria and applicable thresholds, please refer to the ESG Policy and the Coal Policy, available on the ELEVA Capital website:

<https://www.elevacapital.com/en/our-responsible-approach#approach> .

The main non-financial objective of the Sub-Fund is to invest, on a long basis, in companies with good ESG practices (*i.e.* best in universe) or companies that are on an improving path regarding ESG practices (*i.e.* best efforts) while excluding companies that would not have a minimum absolute ESG score (40/100).

The long invested pocket of the Sub-Fund must also show a better performance than its initial investment universe on two Principal Adverse sustainability Indicators (PAI):

- carbon footprint (in tons of CO2 equivalent/million euros invested, covering Scope 1+2+3); and
- exposure to companies without processes and compliance mechanisms to monitor compliance with UN Global Compact principles and OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises (sum of the weights).

In the event of non-compliance with this commitment, the Management Company has two Business Days to comply.

At the same time, the Sub-Fund does not short any company with excellent ESG practices (*i.e.* with an ESG score > 80/100). The exclusion policy also applies to the short invested equities.

2. Sovereign issuers and sovereign single name underlying:

The 40/100 minimum ESG score also applies to the sovereign, quasi-sovereigns and supra-national issuers and sovereign single name underlying. Countries on the GAFI “black list” are excluded

● ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

A minimum ESG score of 40/100 apply on a long basis to corporate and sovereign issuers and single name underlying. In the event that a corporate, sovereign issuer or single name underlying sees its ESG score drop below the minimum required by the Management Company for ELEVA Absolute Return Europe Fund (*i.e.* 40/100 score), the position will be sold no later than 3 months after the score has been downgraded in the best interest of the Shareholders.

The long invested pocket of the ELEVA Absolute Return Europe Fund must have a weighted average ESG score superior to the average ESG score of its initial investment universe. Equities, bonds, long single name FDIs, money market instruments are in scope. Other instruments and

products such as index FDIs, UCITS and Other UCIs, or equity basket swaps, are excluded from the calculation perimeter.

Good governance practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

Asset allocation describes the share of investments in specific assets.

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies;
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy;
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

The Sub-Fund cannot take any equity short position in companies with excellent ESG practices (i.e. with an ESG score > 80/100). In the event that a company sees its ESG score go above the maximum required by the Management Company for ELEVA Absolute Return Europe Fund (i.e. 80/100 score), the short position on the company will be closed no later than 3 months after the score has been upgraded, in the best interest of the Shareholders.

● **What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?**

Assessing company’s governance practices is an integral part of the Management Company proprietary ESG Scoring methodology (see the answer to question “What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?”). Governance criteria (essentially located in the pillars Shareholders and Civil society) account for 30% to 40% of the ESG score, depending on a company’s sector. Where the proprietary ESG scoring is not available, the ESG score from a single external data provider also considers governance practices.



What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?

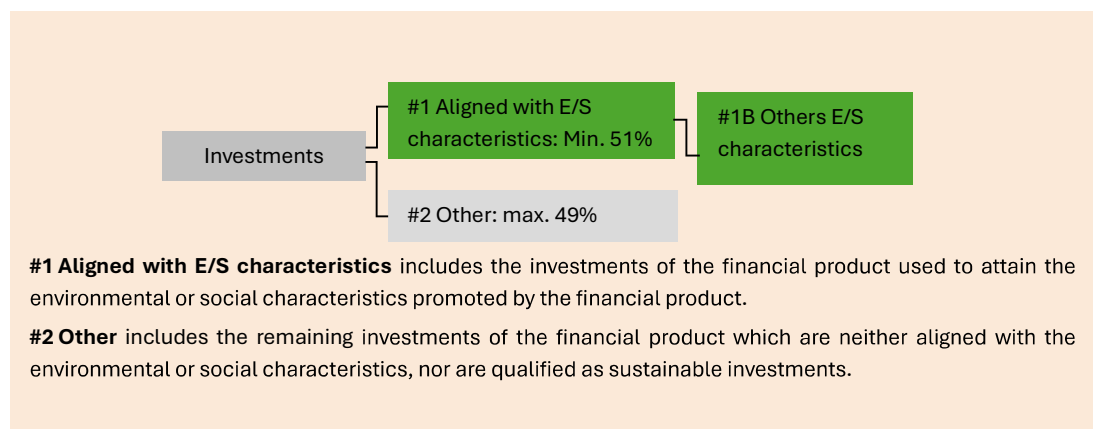
#1 Investments aligned with E/S characteristics: minimum 51%. The Sub-Fund invests at least 51% of its net assets that have been determined as “eligible” as per the ESG process in place (hence in investments that are aligned with the promoted environmental and social characteristics). For the sake of clarity, the minimum of 51% will be calculated as the sum of all ESG-scored outstandings divided by the net asset value of the Sub-Fund.

#2 Others: maximum 49%. As a result, up to 49% of the Sub-Fund investments may not be aligned with the E/S characteristics.

It is intended that the Sub-Fund’s net market exposure will be in the range of minus 10% to plus 50% of the net asset value.

For more information regarding the investment categorised as “#2 Other” (i.e. the aim of their use and the safeguards in place), please refer to the element available under the question “What investments are included under “#2 Other”, what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?”.

A more detailed description of the specific asset allocation of this Sub-Fund can be found in the prospectus of this financial product.



● **How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?**

FDIs may be used to achieve exposure to underlying securities in line with the investment policy on both a long and short basis. Single name FDIs can be used to attain the environmental or

social characteristics promoted by the Sub-Fund, in the sense that they are included in the scope of several ESG binding elements as presented above.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.



To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?

Not applicable.

Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy³⁶?

Yes :

In fossil gas


In nuclear energy

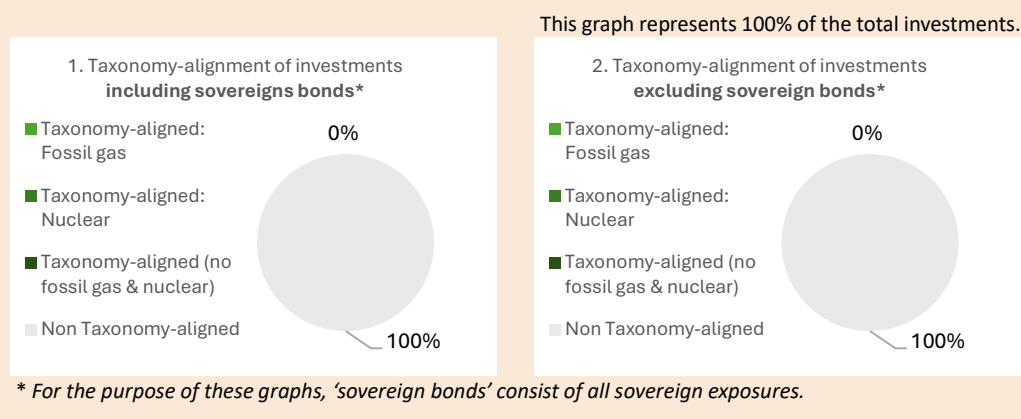
No

The two graphs below show in green the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.

Enabling activities directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

Transitional activities are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

 are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.



What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?
Not applicable.



What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy? Not applicable.



What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?
Not applicable.



What investments are included under “#2 Other”, what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?

The Sub-Fund might invest, in aggregate, up to 49% of the Sub-Fund’s Net Asset Value in:

1. cash and cash equivalent;
2. financial derivatives instruments (index as underlying);
3. companies with no ESG score;
4. UCITS and Other UCIs; or, among others,
5. equity basket swaps.

³⁶ Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change (“climate change mitigation”) and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

For the sake of clarity, the above-mentioned investment, in aggregate, will never exceed the total of 49% aforementioned.

The investments indicated in n. 1, 2, 4 and 5 may be held for technical purposes and/or on a temporary basis. The investments indicated in n. 3 are held for investment purposes to provide investors with a wider range of opportunities.

The Sub-Fund does not consider any minimum environmental or social safeguards on these remaining investments “#2 Other”.

Reference benchmarks are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.



Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes? *Not applicable.*

- **How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?**
Not applicable.
- **How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?**
Not applicable.
- **How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?**
Not applicable.
- **Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?**
Not applicable.



Where can I find more product specific information online?

More product-specific information can be found on the website:
<https://www.elevacapital.com/en/our-responsible-approach> ; and
<https://www.elevacapital.com/lu/funds/eleva-absolute-return-europe>