

Press release

Swiss Sustainable Finance creates a standardised basis for comparing the sustainability of real estate funds

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In Switzerland, residential and commercial real estate generate around a quarter of the country's CO₂ emissions. Real estate investors therefore have a great deal of leverage to make a substantial contribution to Switzerland's climate targets. However, it is important for both direct and indirect real estate investors to operate with comparable sustainability indicators and information in order to be able to make reliable decisions. For this reason, Swiss Sustainable Finance (SSF) publishes a "standard questionnaire on sustainability criteria for real estate investments".

Real estate investors are increasingly looking for comparable sustainability information. A standardised questionnaire offers advantages for all parties involved: while indirect real estate investors benefit from increased transparency thanks to the comparability of information and key figures, providers of direct real estate investment products reduce the effort involved in answering the relevant questions.

Objective of a transparency standard

The "Swiss Sustainable Real Estate Group", an informal group of various direct real estate investors, developed a standardised questionnaire back in 2022 in order to be able to answer investors' questions on the topic of sustainability in a uniform manner and thus increase comparability. This questionnaire has now been updated and is being published by SSF as a new transparency standard. It is relevant for banks and asset managers who offer direct real estate investments as well as for institutional investors who rely on third-party products for their real estate investments. "A standard questionnaire increases comparability and reduces the workload for everyone involved. At the same time, regular further development involving all players in the real estate investment value chain can ensure that the questionnaire is adapted to current developments and always contains the most relevant information," explains Sabine Döbeli, CEO of Swiss Sustainable Finance.

Standardised basis for investment decisions in the real estate sector

The "Standard questionnaire on sustainability criteria for real estate investments" covers information on three levels: Firstly, at the organisational level, it covers topics such as membership and commitments to sustainability initiatives, organisation and resources, and ESG strategy. Secondly, at the process level, it deals with sustainable investment approaches and the ESG ratings used, as well as transparency and reporting. Thirdly, a special focus is placed on the transparency of energy and CO₂ key figures, with the

AMAS environmental indicators forming the core of the quantitative key figures. Hendrik Kimmerle, Senior Project Manager at SSF, comments: "The information requirements of real estate investors are constantly increasing. By continuously developing the standard questionnaire in collaboration with our members, we can ensure that processes are simplified and that investors can make well-informed investment decisions at all times".

Further information:

[> SSF Website](#)

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The mission of **Swiss Sustainable Finance (SSF)** is to strengthen Switzerland's position as a leading voice and actor in sustainable finance, thereby contributing to a sustainable and prosperous economy. The association, founded in 2014, has representative offices in Zurich, Geneva and Lugano. Currently, SSF unites over 250 members and network partners from financial service providers, investors, universities and business schools, public-sector entities and other interested organisations. Through research, capacity-building and the development of practical tools and supportive frameworks, SSF fosters the integration of sustainability factors into all financial services. An overview of SSF's current members and partners can be found on its website: sustainablefinance.ch