



EUROPEAN GENDER EQUALITY INDEX LICENSED BY GENDER EXPERT EQUILEAP TO SWEDISH ONLINE BANK AVANZA

Tracker listed on the Stockholm Stock Exchange
based on the Top 75 European companies

Growing trend toward gender-lens investing
with fifth tracker launched in 18 months

Amsterdam, 8th March 2019 / Equileap is proud to announce the launch of the AVA Gender Equality Tracker by Avanza based on the Equileap European Gender Equality 75 Index. This provides Swedish investors with an opportunity to make a difference. These investors can now align their portfolio with their values while gender-lens investment is becoming mainstream around the world.

Diana van Maasdijk, CEO Equileap, explained: “Launching five exchange traded products over the past 18 months is proof indeed that businesses across the globe cannot continue to thrive without transparency around gender equality. When this issue hit a company’s ‘bottom line’, action will be taken to make sure every business focuses as much on gender equality as they do on other areas. Our latest collaboration with Avanza means gender equality investment is now readily available to anybody in Sweden, without even having to go through a banker.”

Equileap has been growing at a fast pace over the past few years, becoming the leading provider of data and insights related to gender equality in the corporate sector. The organisation has gathered a unique, comprehensive database, by investigating in-depth over 3,000 companies globally based on 19 criteria. Products & services are tailored for companies, governments and investors.

Karin Forseke, Chair Föreningen Storasyster and Advisory Board Equileap, comments: “Through years of research and analysis of thousands of businesses, Equileap has developed a global measure to provide real insight into how corporates behave when it comes to gender equality. This in turn is imperative to business performance. This tracker provides us with a benchmark for gender based investing. Sweden is finally catching up with other countries that already offer this market intelligence.”

Multiple financial products across the globe are now using Equileap data and indices, either as a benchmark or underlying. This announcement follows several launches over the past months including the [ELLE ETF by Luxor](#), a 20-times over-subscribed [USD 400 million bond by OBE](#), and [the Global Gender Equality UCITS ETF by UBS](#), all powered by Equileap data.

The Equileap European Gender Equality 75 Net Total Return Index (the Index) is part of [a Family of five Equileap gender equality indices](#) calculated by the index provider Solactive. The Index was designed to track the leading 75 European companies out of over 3,000 companies globally. To be included in the Index, components need to pass standard liquidity criteria as well as:

- **An in-depth gender screening** -- companies ranked according to Equileap proprietary Gender Equality Scorecard™ of 19 criteria including, among others, gender balance at all levels within the company, gender pay gap and equal pay for equal work, parental leave, work-life balance and policies promoting gender equality;
- **An ESG screening** -- exclusion of companies deriving the majority of their revenues from the weapons, gambling, or tobacco industries and exclusion of companies on the Norwegian Ethics Council List.

The tracker launched by Avanza is an Exchange-traded note (ETN). This is a structured product issued as senior debt notes. ETNs are traded on a major exchange, such as the Stockholm Stock Exchange during normal trading hours.

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NOTE TO EDITORS

About Equileap

Equileap is an organisation aiming to accelerate progress towards gender equality in the workplace, using the power of investments, grants and knowledge. Headquartered in Amsterdam and London, the organisation is a registered charity and all profits are used to support women through social impact projects that tackle the root causes of gender inequality. Equileap is the leading organisation providing data and insights on gender equality in the corporate sector. Products & services are tailored for companies, governments and investors. To date, USD 620 million has been invested in financial products powered by Equileap data. For more information, please visit www.equileap.org.

About Avanza

Avanza is a digital platform for savings and investments, founded in 1999. The Parent Company, Avanza Bank Holding AB (publ), is listed on the Stockholm Stock Exchange. Avanza's customer promise is a better return on your savings than with any other bank or pension provider in Sweden. Services include saving in shares, funds, savings accounts, mortgages and a strong pension offering. Avanza has more than 850,000 customers with over SEK 300 billion in total savings capital. This is equivalent to 3.8 percent of the Swedish savings market. Avanza is the largest in terms of number of transactions among Swedish banks on the Stockholm Stock Exchange including First North. During the last nine years, Avanza has won SKI's (Swedish Quality Index) award, "Year's Most Satisfied Savings Customers". For more information please visit investors.avanza.se/en.

About Solactive

Solactive AG is an innovative index provider that focuses on the development, calculation and distribution of tailor-made indices over all asset classes. As of March 2017, Solactive AG served approximately 350 clients in Europe, America and Asia, with approximately USD \$100 billion invested in products linked to indices calculated by the Company globally, primarily via 250 exchange traded funds from a number of well-known providers. Solactive AG was established in 2007 and is headquartered in Frankfurt. For more information, please visit www.solactive.com.

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