

Communication on Progress

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Who we are and what we are standing for

software-systems.at is a financial service provider based in Diex/Carinthia, an idyllic village with most hours of sunshine in Austria. Direct interfaces to more than 450 investment companies around the world, direct connection to almost all stock exchanges and an ambitious Finance & Ethics Research Department form the basis for a customer service of high quality. The added value is being created by daily analysis of the world's cash in - and outflows, especially developed metrics for "sustainable investments" and the Finance & Ethics Academy cooperating with four universities. Since its foundation software-systems.at has been member of the Global Compact.

Structure

The company structure of software-systems.at is a coporation. The company's manager is Mr Richard Lernbass. Shareholder and active in the content management is Mrs Karin Ladinig. Third partner is Mr Gerd Steinacher, responsible for hard- and software administration.



(left side: main office of software-systems.at, right side: the Finance & Ethics Academy)

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Environment

The Finance & Ethics Academy was founded in 2004 – therefore a passive house was built. Since 2007 our company has been covering the entire stream from our own photovoltaic system. In 2009, a wind power plant was installed on an outbuilding and provides additional energy. Using the photovoltaic and wind system more energy is being generated than consumed.

Market and Society

As before, our goal is a positive impact on the market and society concerning sustainability. Financial products regarding responsible companies are of paramount importance. We emphasize this “green” form of investments by developing ratios like the T-Key (which refers to the transparency of an investment), or the SRI-FER-ratio (which indicates the consideration of companies within sustainable funds).

Reports

We inform our customers about the actual market situation of sustainable investment funds on a weekly base with special reports. If you are interested in receiving this weekly newsletter, please sign here: http://www.software-systems.at/php/fea.cms_fea_startseite.html.

Sensitive Values

Since 2008, we have been illuminating companies and publishing the results on our website under “sensitive values” for free. We analyze and compare companies to provide investors a better insight and to facilitate decisions. Our reports include company facts as well as further information about environmental pollution, human and labour rights violation, evidence of child labor and other sensitive areas.

The “Sensitive Values” are shown for everybody for free under http://www.software-systems.at/php/fea.cms_fer_sensible_werte.html

Finance & Ethics Academy

In 2004 the Finance & Ethics Academy (FEA) was founded by software-systems.at in Diex/Carinthia as an independent institution discussing new ethical and social processes in their impact.

The FEA has got an excellent analysis department with the Finance & Ethics Research and is managed in cooperation with four universities.

Finance & Ethics Congress

Every year we organize the Finance & Ethics Congress offering an intensive exchange and discussion on financial and sustainability issues. The goal is an equal treatment of economy, sociology and ecology. Social and ethical developments and their impacts should be investigated in order to ensure a livable environment and respect for all living beings. The congress publications can be obtained for free.

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EDA

software-systems.at developed the EDA in 2009. It is an indicator for investors concerning the "ethical dynamic content". This ratio shows us to what extent defined target criteria correspond to the content. The calculation screens investment products according to the specification positive or negative criteria. So it is possible to exclude e.g. nuclear power production, genetic engineering, armor or animal experiments. Positive criteria like "increase in renewable energies" and various other options might be noticed. So it is possible to select and evaluate positive and negative criteria as well for the first time in the history of financial analysis.

EDA-movie – please start



http://www.software-systems.at/cms/cms_eda_video.php

A great success was the development of a „sustainable financial database“ for ÖGUT/ Österreichische Gesellschaft für Umwelt und Technik (<http://www.oegut.at/>) in 2009. This database is accessible for everybody on our homepage. The Finance & Ethics Research team compiled a selection of funds which are approved in Austria. The funds can be detected which meet the investor's requirements best.

Therefore we offer a selection of positive and negative criteria

Due to the positiv criteria:

- increase in renewable energy
- enhancement of the environment
- recognition of the principles of the Global Compact

Due to the negative criteria:

- exclusion of human rights violation
- exclusion of nuclear production
- exclusion of gene modified products
- exclusion of cluster bombs, cluster mines, chemical weapons
- exclusion of animal experiments

The investor is asked to set his own priorities

<http://www.software-systems.at/eda/?id=a05b05efb6e6558137bc41cbe43b397f>

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Employees

In an energetic area among innovative technologies, modern infrastructures and traditional rural cultures 25 employees find optimal working conditions, where nature creates intellectual freedom and inspiration for a productive collaboration.

Our company is trying to promote skills and expertise of its employees. Everybody has the chance to make his interests come true. New ideas will be taken in consideration, flexible working hours and home working facilities are offered as well. There is a very high female proportion (80%).

In 2009 we installed a special library for our employees focused on economical, sustainable and ethical themes.

Human Rights and Corruption

Within our activities we constantly research and report issues like corruption and human rights - these results are published as "Sensitive values". We try to find as much information as possible about human rights and corruption in order to get a significant overview.

Human rights were of high interest at the Finance & Ethics Congress in 2009.

<http://www.software-systems.at/download/menschenrechte.pdf>

http://www.software-systems.at/php/fea.cms_fer_sensible_werte.html

Future Plans

In 2010 we are planning the foundation of SEFO/ Sustainability Forum.

Postgraduate studies will be offered in addition to the activities of the Finance & Ethics Academy with the beginning in autumn 2010:

MBA for Clerical Finance and MBA for Financial Planning

Our goal is to provide education and training in order to accelerate an added value which ensures all requirements for sustainable development.