

SOLACTIVE SUSTAINABLE GOALS EUROPE MV INDEX



Graph: The Sustainable Development Goals highlighted for each company represent the goals correlated to the theme(s) for which they were eligible for selection in the index.



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Contributions to the 17 SDG



SDG Contribution

The contribution to the 17 objectives of the SDG is achieved through a projection model of the 8 SDG themes taking into account the behaviour and services of the issuers



SES

Development tools

SES provides goods and services contributing to sustainable development, addressing the theme Access to information. SES provides satellite, ground infrastructure and connectivity solutions. This includes the operation of a multi-orbit, multi-frequency satellite-based network, with more than 50 satellites in geostationary orbit to provide network solutions for customers. Through the Video segment, it distributes over 8,300 TV channels to global audiences whilst through the Network segment, the company provides managed global connectivity and data service solutions for a wide range of fixed and mobile applications, including for government authorities such as the Luxembourg State, the US Department of Defence, and NASA, in addition to Orange, Teleglobal and Telefonica. These services appear to represent a significant share (20-30%) of the company's revenue in 2019.

Corporate governance

Britvic

Britvic achieves an advanced performance in Corporate Governance. Its Board members display a high level of independence (75% of the members) and diversity (37% are women). The internal controls system covers CSR issues (water, societal impacts of products and product safety), the Audit Committee has a comprehensive role in overseeing internal and external controls, and relevant processes dedicated to the management of CSR risks are in place, such as balanced scorecard and materiality assessment. No restrictions on shareholder voting rights have been identified and all the elements of executive remuneration are disclosed. However, bonuses do not seem to be linked to CSR performance.

Basic needs

Novartis

Novartis is a Swiss manufacturer of pharmaceutical and consumer healthcare products. Through the Innovative Medicines division, Novartis provides patent-protected prescription medicines, which includes the research, development, manufacture and sales of pharmaceuticals, with a particular focus on neuroscience, immunology, dermatology, respiratory, cardio-metabolic, and established medicines. Through the Sandoz division, the company offers generic pharmaceuticals and biosimilars, including anti-infection medicines. In January 2020, Novartis acquired The Medicines Company, which produces pharmaceuticals to support cardiovascular therapeutics and cholesterol-lowering therapy. Pharmaceuticals represent 100% of the company's net sales from continuing operations in 2019.



Basic needs

Suez provides services in the areas of water and waste, including delegated management of drinking water and wastewater treatment services, water treatment engineering, and waste collection, recovery and disposal activities. In 2018, the company had drinking water production sites in France, Spain and Latin America, operated 1,674 water treatment plants in France - which treated nearly 1,156 million cubic meters of wastewater - and provided waste collection services for over 23.5 million people and nearly 196,500 industrial and commercial customers. The company also offers smart metering solutions for clients to provide a means of optimal water resource management and builds and operates a number of sea-water desalination plants in the Middle East.

Societal development

Suez displays an advanced performance on the Societal development theme. The company's commitment to address access to water and sanitation in developing countries is backed by relevant targets. The company aims to allocate 4 million euros per year to the Suez Foundation and support 30 projects focusing on access to essential services in countries where the need is greatest by 2021. In addition, Suez sponsors numerous initiatives to ensure water is affordable for customers and promotes water access in developing countries. For example, in the context of its project 'Water for Slums' in Mumbai, the local team created two multi-stakeholders platforms, gathering local elected representatives, NGOs, academics, medias etc., at both ward and city levels, in order to discuss and collectively define the project. Suez also reports on capacity building programmes and financial support to improve the social condition of waste pickers surrounding its landfills, through training sessions for both personal and technical development, along with assistance to create an independent cooperative for informal workers. Finally, Suez has issued a formalised commitment to respect and promote human rights in its Human Rights Policy, supported by measures including training programmes, internal/external audits and a Human rights potential impact matrix.

Fair work

Suez achieves an advanced performance on the Fair work theme. Suez' management of Human Resources stands as a clear strength, with relevant processes in place to ensure fair work within its operations. The company has issued a formalised commitment to freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining, backed by regular internal audits and monitoring of labour rights risks. Regarding reorganisation management, Suez has signed a master agreement with the France Group Works Council in 2016 and allocates extensive measures in this regard, including internal mobility, re-training, outplacement services and financial compensation. As part of its 2017-2021 Sustainable Development Roadmap, Suez has set quantified targets towards non-discrimination, health and safety and career management, among others. The company has put in place relevant measures to address these issues - monitoring, training, reporting system, flexitime initiatives, OHSAS 18001 certification -, with associated indicators showing mixed trends. Over the 2015-2019 period, the lost-time injury frequency rate (LTIFR) and the accident severity rate have decreased while the company's turnover rate has increased over the same period.

Suez (1/2)



Business Ethics

Suez displays an advanced performance in the Business Ethics theme. It signed a convention with Transparency International France, which outlines steps to be taken by the company to prevent corruption and is member of the Water Integrity Network, which was formed to support anti-corruption activities in the water sector worldwide. The company has also implemented comprehensive external and internal controls to prevent corruption and anti-competitive practices, notably internal and external audits, risk assessments, external investigations of allegations, a dedicated confidential email address and an approval procedure for gifts & invitations. The company conducts training and e-learning modules aimed at preventing ethics risks, including corruption. They take into account local situations and are based on a risk mapping conducted in 2017 at the Group and Business Unit level. Suez also commits to ensure transparency Register, the company discloses its annual lobbying expenditures, its membership in trade unions, its participation in expert groups at EU-level, and the group's subjects of interest. Suez also joined the French High Authority for Transparency in Public Life (HATVP) Register.

Suez (2/2)

Corporate Governance

Suez displays an advanced performance in the Corporate Governance theme. The company has a CSR Committee that is part of the Board and that reviews most of the relevant CSR reviews at Board level. In addition, the Board's independency rate is high (58% of its members) and the majority of Board members are women (58%). Moreover, the Audit Committee has a comprehensive role in overseeing internal and external controls and strong processes dedicated to the management of CSR risks are in place, including risk mapping and a reporting system to the Board. In addition, the company publishes significant CSR reporting on key material issues, which are assessed by an independent third party, and has presented to shareholders and investors its CSR strategy covering all relevant CSR issues. All elements of executive remuneration are disclosed on an individual basis and CSR performance objectives are considered in the determination of variable remuneration of senior executives. However, the company has been accused in October 2020 of violating shareholders' rights following the alleged issuance of "poison pill" against takeover bid by Veolia.



Energy & Climate Change

Gecina is a French real estate investment company specialised in the rental of commercial real estate and residential properties. The company develops, buys, sells and rents properties in France. It reports that 79% of all surface areas delivered in 2018 were HQE certified (French certification awarded to building construction and management that stands for "high environmental quality"), with eight assets obtaining the BREEAM In Use certification (assessment and certification scheme designed to help building managers reduce and improve the environmental performance of existing non-domestic buildings). As of December 2018, 58% of Gecina's office space had HQE Operation certification and BREEAM In Use, representing 59.4% of the company's total floor space.

Gecina Corporate Governance

Gecina achieves an advanced performance in Corporate Governance. Its Board members display a high level of independence (55% of its members) and diversity (45% are women) and have a broad expertise, reinforced by regular training. The company has a CSR Committee that is part of the Management Committees and has been transparent on presenting its CSR strategy to shareholders, which covers all relevant CSR issues. The Audit Committee has a comprehensive role in overseeing internal and external controls, and relevant processes dedicated to the management of CSR risks are in place. In terms of shareholders' rights, no restriction has been identified. Finally, the company reports on its executives' remuneration. However, it is not transparent on long term incentives' performance conditions and the ratio of CEO compensation vs. average employee salary has increased over the 2017-2019 period.