

# The Briefing Report

ESG's impact on the fund industry

## Ground-breaking research

The first studies on the adoption of ESG business practices

IFI Global's research department, on behalf of the Briefing Report, has been working with partners in the UK and US on two ground-breaking ESG fund manager research studies. These studies have several differences but both of them, for the first time, have collected data on the uptake of ESG practices by asset managers.

As the Briefing Report has reported on a number of occasions, whilst many fund management organisations have been quick to launch their own sustainable investment products a lot of them have been less interested in adapting their businesses to the ESG era ahead. These research studies have looked at where fund managers are on the uptake of ESG business practices, across all the main areas that are covered by the E, the S and the G.

We intend to conduct these studies annually. That will allow us to track ESG business practice adoption by the fund industry every 12 months. We also intend to follow take-up of ESG business practices by industry service providers too. We will have more to say on that next month.

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## In praise of the SFDR

There's been a lot of criticism from the fund industry of the onerous and complex Level 2 SFDR requirements coming in across the EU next January but the human rights due diligence it requires is critical for true sustainability, claims Andrea Sildarriaga, the co-founder of the Sila Advisory.

'Low carbon technologies, such as wind turbines and electric vehicles, produce millions of tonnes of toxic e-waste each year. And the explosion in the use of mobile phone batteries has fuelled huge growth in the mining of minerals such as cobalt, which are sourced from supply chains that employ children under appalling conditions. While the world surges forward in the development of green products, the catastrophic human costs and social impacts of those green industries have largely been ignored', she says.

Andrea Sildarriaga, who is a lecturer on business and human rights at Sciences Po School of Management, adds that 'fortunately, the EU has quietly taken a major step towards addressing this blind spot.

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