# **Triodos Impact** Mixed Fund - Neutral

For professional investors and financial advisors only

# Quarterly Report Q1 2021

Triodos Impact Mixed Fund - Neutral aims to generate positive impact and competitive returns from a concentrated portfolio of global equity positions and investment-grade corporate, sovereign and sub-sovereign bonds. The fund selects investments for their contribution to our seven sustainable transition themes including Sustainable Food and Agriculture, Sustainable Mobility and Infrastructure, Renewable Resources, Circular Economy, Social Inclusion and Empowerment, Innovation for Sustainability, and Prosperous and Healthy People. As per 10 March 2021, all Triodos IM funds available for investors have been classified as article 9 products under SFDR which means that sustainability is a binding and mandatory part of the investment process and the objectives for these products.

# Key figures as of 31-03-2021

Net assets EUR 626.6 million

Number of shares outstanding 15,349,050

Share class\* I-cap

NAV per share EUR 42.77

Ongoing charges\*\*

0.66% (incl. 0.50% management fee)

Morningstar rating™ ★★★★

# Fund performance in brief

- Triodos Impact Mixed Fund Neutral generated a return (after costs) of 1.8%, while the benchmark yielded 3.7%.
- Global equity markets performed well, mostly as response to vaccine roll outs and the US fiscal stimulus package. All bond market segments posted negative returns, with steeper curves hurting long-dated bonds
- The fund remains defensively positioned with an underweight position in equities versus cash and a neutral position in bonds with an overweight to high-quality names.
- This report is based on the I-cap share class. See www.triodos-im.com for a full overview of EUR, GBP, institutional and retail share classes.
- \*\* The ongoing charges figure shown here is an estimate of the charges. Due to the amendments made to the fund charges as per 1 January 2021, the ex-post figure is no longer reliable. The UCITS' annual report for each financial year will include detail on the exact charges made.

### Return in % as of 31-03-2021

	3 months	YTD	1 year	3 year avg	5 year avg	3 year volatility	5 year volatility
Fund	1.8	1.8	16.9	6.7	4.8	6.8	5.7
Benchmark	3.7	3.7	22.6	8.2	6.7	8.8	7 1

All returns stated were calculated based on net asset value I-cap share, including reinvestment of dividends where applicable. Past performance is not a reliable indicator for future performance. The stated volatility is measured as annualised standard deviation, based on monthly returns. Source: Triodos Investment Management

# Rob van Boeijen, Fund Manager



"Rising interest rates on the back of inflation fears and the massive fiscal support in the US was a game changer for stock selection. Reopening sectors and equities with low valuation were clearly outperforming the growth

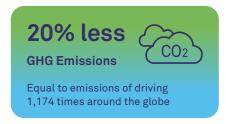
and momentum stocks. In this 'risk-on' market sentiment bonds posted negative returns."

### Market developments

Global equity markets extended their upward trend during the first quarter of the year, mostly in response to vaccine rollouts and a massive US fiscal stimulus package. Increasing inflation expectations on the back of growing money supply and value chain bottlenecks, led to more volatility in equity markets. Upbeat investor sentiment was however unaltered, supported by highly accommodative policy stances by all major central banks. Investors rotated from the pandemic winners in the tech and consumer sectors to sectors such as energy and financials, which usually benefit the most from an economic recovery. Rapid vaccination campaigns in both the US and UK stood in sharp contrast with the slow vaccine rollouts in the EU. This led to divergence in business activity, with the US being the clear front runner and the eurozone falling behind.

Eurozone government bond yields moved higher during the quarter, as investors reacted to rising inflation expectations, soothing central bank statements and the anticipated strong economic recovery. In line with the government bond market, eurozone investment-grade corporate bond yields increased during the quarter. Investment-grade corporate bonds outperformed sovereigns, while credit spreads remained largely unchanged on the quarter.

## Ecological footprint relative to benchmark







The footprints are calculated using carbon emissions data from ISS ESG, and water and waste data from S&PTrucost (copyright @ 2020 S&PTrucost Limited). For Triodos Impact Mixed Fund - Neutral, the ecological footprint is based on the equity and corporate bond of the portfolio. For the benchmark coverage by weight is 98% for carbon, 98% for water data and 98% for waste. Coverage of assets invested - by weight - is 73% for carbon, 65% for water, and 65% for waste.

In light of the new EU SFDR regulation, Triodos Investment Management has conducted a review of the model used to calculate the relative ecological footprint of our Impact Equities and Bonds funds. Much to our regret we found an oversight in the methodology used, which has resulted in reporting of incorrect numbers. This oversight has been addressed and the correct numbers are now included in this quarterly report.

For some indicators, the recalculated and correct numbers display a higher ecological footprint than expected, especially for waste generated relative to the benchmark. The main cause for this is that our Impact Equities and Bonds funds have a concentrated number of holdings relative to the benchmark, hence higher relative weights in individual positions, resulting in relatively large deviations in ecological footprint exposure.

Furthermore, while we select companies based on overall positive impact, not all of this impact is measured, disclosed or reported on. Whereas the model calculations for the ecological footprint figures only take into account current (negative) impact (Scopes 1-2 as defined by the GHG Protocol for water, waste and emissions generated), the positive impact of many of our portfolio companies is transitional (such as water, waste and emissions avoided), for which data is still hardly available and thus not used in the calculations. For instance, as we invest in companies promoting the transition from plastic to paper packaging, the model calculations only measure Scopes 1-2 (waste-generating manufacturing operations), leaving out the indirect positive impact (such as plastic waste avoided, Scope 4).

In order to meet the requirements of the new SFDR regulation by the end of this year, we will further improve our impact management reporting in the coming months, which will entail both direct and indirect positive impact of our portfolios.

# Financial review Q1 2021

### Portfolio developments

The fund continued to focus on the long-term integrated financial and sustainability potential of companies in the equity portfolio. The steepening of yield curves triggered a massive investor rotation from growth stocks into value stocks which typically have a more cyclical character and benefit from a rise in long-term interest rates and/or a yield curve steepening. We continue to be of the view that equity markets will sooner or later correct to reflect more normalised cashflow-based valuations.

The fund maintained its defensive positioning within the bond portfolio by keeping its overweight to high-quality names. All bond market segments posted negative returns, with steeper curves hurting long-dated bonds most. Government bonds of European peripheral countries outperformed the broader government bond market as country spreads tightened further over the quarter. Corporate bond markets were hit by higher rates but outperformed on a relative basis on the back of strong risk sentiment. Lower-quality BBB names outperformed the broader investment grade market.

### Companies added to the portfolio during the quarter:

### **Equities**

 Pearson, a British company providing education products and services, was added as part of the Social Inclusion and Empowerment theme. Pearson has refocused its business, hiring a new CEO with in-depth digitalisation knowledge and we believe the company is undervalued and has strong growth potential. Pearson is focused on growing its business in virtual learning, higher education, English language learning, workforce skills and assessments & qualifications.

### **Bonds**

 The fund has participated in the newly issued green bond from German public transport corporation
 Hamburger Hochbahn. The proceeds of the bond will be used to finance new projects including acquiring new metro rolling stock, zero-emission buses, and upgrading depots and tracks for better energy efficiency and larger passenger capacity, and refurbishing stations with better energy efficient lighting and new user-friendly ticketing systems. The

- green bond contributes to our Sustainable Mobility and Infrastructure theme.
- The Fund invested in a new green bond issued by Japanese precision motor manufacturer Nidec.
   The proceeds of the bond are used for capital expenditures and R&D expenses related to the production of traction motors used in electric vehicles. This green bond contributes to our Sustainable Mobility and Infrastructure theme.
- Contributing to the same transition theme, the fund has also participated a green bond issued by Italy.

### Companies sold during the quarter:

### **Equities**

- In January, Xylem and Baxter International were removed from the portfolio. The latter, a US medical technology company, due to lack of clear theme fit and falling confidence in the execution of its strategy and business model.
- In February Symrise, a German flavor and fragrance company, was removed from the portfolio due to increased risk of disappointing short-term growth outlook despite being fully valued.

#### **Bonds**

· No bonds were sold

# Performance analysis

The fund generated a return of 1.8%, while the benchmark yielded 3.7%. The contribution of our tactical asset allocation was negative with underweighting equities and holding cash. Currency allocation contributed negatively as the equity positions are more focused on Japan and Europe and were therefore impacted by the stronger US Dollar. Sector allocation within the equity component contributed negatively to relative performance given the fund's zero-weighted positions in Energy and Financials. Fossil fuels don't meet our minimum standards and positive impact from listed financial companies is still limited. Stock selection within sectors was positive. Bonds performed in line with the benchmark.

# Performance attribution in % (gross returns vs. benchmark)\*

Q1 2021	Average weight		Total return		Allocation	Selection	Currency
	Portfolio	Benchmark	Portfolio	Benchmark	effect	effect	effect
Fixed Income	48.09	49.05	-1.72	-1.71	0.04	-0.01	0.00
Equity	45.67	50.95	5.84	9.32	-0.19	-0.27	-1.39
Cash	2.85	0.00	0.00		-0.04	0.00	0.00
Holdings in funds	3.38	0.00	1.48		-0.03	0.00	0.00
Total	100.00	100.00	1.87	3.75	-0.21	-0.27	-1.39

 $Source: Triodos\ Investment\ Management,\ Bloomberg.\ Note:\ based\ on\ average\ weights,\ fund\ performance\ gross\ of\ management\ fees\ and\ dividends.$ 

### Investment outlook

- Most advanced economies will have administered vaccines to the majority of their citizens in the first half of 2021. The coming months will therefore be a transition phase, in which restrictions can gradually be lifted and global economic activity can start picking up.
- Successful vaccination campaigns in the US and UK mean that these countries can lift restrictions earlier than eurozone countries.
- Monetary and fiscal policies will remain extremely accommodative.

#### **Bonds**

- Government bond yields have been rising but are still near historic lows.
- Low eurozone medium-term inflation expectations and subdued near-term economic growth prospects will likely force the ECB to remain extremely accommodative. This will keep European government bond yields low for longer.
- The same goes for credits, where the focus seems to be on central bank measures and the anticipated strong economic recovery.
- We prefer high quality names as the COVID-induced recession is bound to lead to financial difficulties further down the road.
- These considerations make us want to maintain a neutral position in bonds.

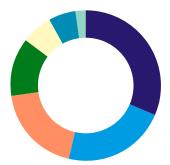
### **Equities**

- Equity valuations are still elevated, with the US
  equity market continuing to look expensive compared
  to its European and Asian counterparts; We think that
  current earnings expectations are still relatively high
  and that negative earnings surprises are lurking, in
  which case lower equity prices and valuations would
  be entirely warranted.
- Rising inflation expectations resulting in sudden rises in bond yields form an additional risk for equity markets.
- We assume that central banks can't keep financial assets inflated forever.
- We therefore remain underweight in equities.

### **Impact**

Our investment selection centres around positive impact. We select companies that contribute to the progress of our seven sustainable transition themes and that meet our strict minimum standards. The breakdown of fund holdings across themes are as follows:

### Breakdown by transition theme



	% of portfolio	
Sustainable Mobility and Infrastructure	31.4%	
Prosperous and Healthy People	22.3%	
Social inclusion and Empowerment	19.1%	
Innovation for Sustainability	12.7%	
Renewable Resources	6.5%	
Sustainable Food and Agriculture	5.8%	
Circular Economy	2.2%	

The pie chart represents the holdings in corporate, sub-sovereign, impact bonds and equity. Regular sovereign bonds are used for risk mitigation and liquidity management of the portfolio.

# Portfolio as of 31-03-2021

### Top 5 Sovereign bonds\*

1.	0.500% Dutch Government bond 2019 - 2040	Green bond	1.1%
2.	1.350% Irish Government bond 2018 - 2031	Green bond	0.9%
3.	5.150% Spanish Government bond 2013 - 2028	Regular bond	0.8%
4.	4.500% Italian Government bond 2013 - 2024	Regular bond	0.8%
5.	4.650% Spanish Government bond 2010 - 2025	Regular bond	0.7%

### Top 5 Non-sovereign bonds\*

1.	0.000% Kreditanstalt fuer Wiederaufbau 2020 - 2028	Green bond	0.8%
2.	0.150% Eurofima 2019 - 2034	Green bond	0.7%
3.	0.000% NRW Bank 2021 - 2031	Green bond	0.7%
4.	0.050% BNG Bank NV (Bank Nederlandse Gemeenten) 2019 - 2029	Regular bond	0.7%
5.	0.395% Danone 2020 - 2029	Regular bond	0.6%

### Top 5 Equity holdings\*

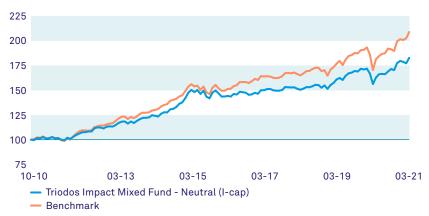
1.	KDDI	1.9%
2.	Taiwan Semiconductor	1.6%
3.	Roche Holding	1.5%
4.	Anthem	1.5%
5.	Danone	1.5%

### Return last calendar years in %

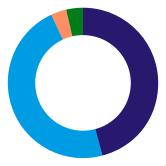
	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Fund	5.0	12.9	-0.9	3.7	0.3
Benchmark	5.6	15.8	-1.4	3.5	6.4

All returns stated were calculated based on net asset value I-cap share. Source: Triodos Investment Management

# Return chart since inception\*



Asset allocation\*
As per end of March 2021



### % of portfolio

Equities	46.1%
Bonds	47.1%
Investment Funds	3.3%
Liquidities	3.5%

## Liquidity profile

### **Equities**

Time to liquidate 99% within 1 day.

### Sovereign bonds

Time to liquidate 100% within 1 day.

### Non-Sovereign bonds

Time to liquidate 100% within 1 week.

Source: Triodos Investment Management

 $<sup>\</sup>hbox{* Source:} \\ \hbox{Triodos Investment Management, RBC Investor Services}$ 

# Sustainability in the spotlight Renewable Resources



The fund invests in seven transition themes that are key to helping society overcome systematic sustainability challenges. In the below case study on

Vestas, we zoom in to the theme 'Renewable Resources'. Learn more about how we invest in this theme here.

# Case Study: Vestas

In February, Danish wind turbine manufacturer **Vestas** launched its new super-sized offshore wind turbine. A characteristic of offshore turbines is that they are taller, heavier and can generate more energy than onshore turbines. The hub height of Vestas' new offshore turbine (i.e. the distance from the turbine platform to the rotor) will be at least 10 meters more than the hub height of the largest competitor turbines. With a turbine diameter of 236 meters, this is the largest offshore wind turbine currently announced, reducing the cost unit of capacity installed and offering exponential production growth. The first prototype of this new offshore model is expected to be installed in 2022, while serial production is scheduled for 2024.

# Active engagement with companies in portfolio

As part of our engagement project on excessive remuneration American logistics REIT **Prologis** was identified as having a generous compensation package. A call was set up with the company to discuss the topics executive remuneration as well as ESG strategy. In the meeting, we called attention to transparency on the types of green building certifications included in the certification target, since comprehensive certifications (e.g. BREEAM, LEED) should be preferred. We also underscored that expanding the number of buildings certified should not be a goal in itself, as the level of sustainability achieved should be the focus. Prologis explained minimum thresholds for the level of certification had been set as part of the Green Bond Framework and efforts will continue to progress on this topic. On remuneration the dialogue focused on the excessive compensation package compared to peers, intelligibility of the proxy statement, limited disclosure on bonus targets and CEO salary which was lowered to \$1. Prologis stated it is unlikely that the fixed pay of the CEO will increase in the short-term, but the company was open to receiving our feedback to improve their proxy statement disclosure in a follow-up call.

See how Triodos Investment Management maximises its influence on the companies it invests in through deliberate shareholder action: www.triodos-im.com

# Triodos Investment **Management**

Triodos Investment Management (Triodos IM) is a globally active impact investor. We see impact investing as a driving force in the transition to a green, inclusive and resilient economy.

We have built up in-depth knowledge throughout our 25+ years of impact investing in sectors such as Energy & Climate, Financial Inclusion and Sustainable Food & Agriculture. Triodos IM also invests in listed companies that support sustainable solutions for the future. Assets under management as per end of December 2020: EUR 5.4 billion. Triodos IM is a wholly owned subsidiary of Triodos Bank, a leading expert in sustainable banking.

### Contact

We welcome you to contact our Investor Relations team to learn more about our impact investment opportunities.

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### **Fund facts**

Fund inception date June 2010

I-cap launch date March 2012

Asset type Long-only, mixed equity / fixed income

#### Benchmark

50% MSCI World Net Total Euro 30% iBoxx Euro Non-Sovereigns Eurozone Net Total Return 20% iBoxx Euro Sovereigns Eurozone Net Total Return

ISIN code LU0504302943

Bloomberg code TRISMIC:LX

### Investment manager

Triodos Investment Management

Fund manager Rob van Boeijen

**Currency** EUR

Valuation Daily

Domicile Luxembourg

Legal status Open-ended sub fund of SICAV I

Supervisor CSSF in Luxembourg

Risk level based on European guideline

4 (1= low 7= high risk)

Investment horizon Long term

Custodian, paying agent, registrar, transfer agent RBC Investor Services Bank SA

Auditor PwC Luxembourg

### Disclaimer

Triodos Impact Mixed Fund - Neutral is a sub-fund of Triodos SICAV I, which is established in Luxembourg. Triodos SICAV I, including its sub-funds, is supervised by the Luxembourg regulator, the Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier (CSSF). Triodos Investment Management BV is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Triodos Bank NV. Triodos Investment Management BV is the advisor of Triodos Impact Mixed Fund - Neutral. The information contained in this report (hereinafter "information") is based on sources considered to be reliable, but unless otherwise indicated, all figures are unaudited and are not guaranteed. This information has been compiled with care by Triodos Investment Management BV. The distribution of the Prospectus and the offering of the Shares may be restricted in certain jurisdictions and with regard to certain nationalities. Please refer to the Prospectus for further details. Investment decisions must only be made on the basis of the Prospectus, and not on any information provided in this communication. Investing in shares is not the same as investing money in a bank account as your capital is at risk and you may not get back the full amount that you invested. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results. The value of Triodos Impact Mixed Fund - Neutral is determined in part by the developments on the financial markets or other markets. This report is for information purposes only and is intended for international distribution. No rights can be derived from this information. Any action derived from this information is always at the investors' own risk. The information does not release a (potential) investor from making his/her own assessment. In particular, the (potential) investor is advised to assess the information, with the assistance of an advisor if necessary, with regard to its compatibility with his/her own circumstances in view of any legal, regulatory, tax, and other implications. The information included in this document does not constitute investment advice or an investment recommendation in any way or form. Please refer to the prospectus in connection with the most recent annual and semi-annual financial statements for further information about the expenses and risks that apply specifically to Triodos Impact Mixed Fund - Neutral. Avoid unnecessary risks. Please read the KIID. The prospectus and KIID for Triodos SICAV I, which includes information about Triodos Impact Mixed Fund - Neutral (in English) may be obtained free of charge from Triodos IM in Zeist, telephone +31 (0)30 694 24 00 or via www.triodos-im.com. In Germany, for Triodos SICAV I, the Prospectus and the KIID (both in German) as well as the financial statements (in English) may be obtained free of charge from Triodos Bank in Frankfurt, telephone +49 (0) 69 7171 9100 or via www.triodos.de. This financial promotion has been approved by Triodos Bank NV (incorporated under the laws of the Netherlands with limited liability, registered in England and Wales BR3012). Authorised by the Dutch Central Bank and subject to limited regulation by the Financial Conduct Authority and Prudential Regulation Authority. Details about the extent of our regulation by the Financial Conduct Authority and Prudential Regulation Authority are available from us on request. Registered office: Triodos Bank, Deanery Road, Bristol, BS1 5AS. VAT reg no 793493383.