

## Product name: US Small and Mid-Cap Portfolio

Legal entity identifier: 549300A6L7IWT5FH3I46

### Environmental and/or social characteristics

**Sustainable investment** means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.

The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not lay down a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.

Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?	
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> It will make a minimum of <b>sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ___%</b> <input type="checkbox"/> in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy <input type="checkbox"/> in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy	<input type="checkbox"/> It <b>promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics</b> and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of ___% of sustainable investments <input type="checkbox"/> with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy <input type="checkbox"/> with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy <input type="checkbox"/> with a social objective
<input type="checkbox"/> It will make a minimum of <b>sustainable investments with a social objective ___%</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It promotes E/S characteristics, but <b>will not make any sustainable investments</b>



### What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?

The environmental and/or social characteristics ("E/S Characteristics") promoted by the Portfolio include:

- ESG Integration. When making investment decisions, including the ongoing assessment and monitoring of the Portfolio's holdings, AB uses fundamental research to assess target issuers. As part of the AB Stewardship Approach, fundamental research includes the consideration of ESG Factors, meaning AB will assess ESG Factors for a target issuer at every stage of the investment decision-making process. This includes ESG scoring of equity securities.
- Engagement. AB encourages issuers to undertake actions that may promote better outcomes for environmental and social objectives as well as benefits to financial outcomes of the issuer and/or the Portfolio.
- Exclusions listed out in the Prospectus. The Portfolio excludes investments in certain sectors as further outlined in the Prospectus.

More information on these characteristics can be found in AB's Sustainability-Related Disclosures [www.alliancebernstein.com/go/EQ8webdisclosures](http://www.alliancebernstein.com/go/EQ8webdisclosures) and more information on the AB Stewardship Approach can be found at [www.alliancebernstein.com/go/ABGlobalStewardship](http://www.alliancebernstein.com/go/ABGlobalStewardship)

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

#### ● What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?

AB measures the attainment of E/S Characteristics promoted through various quantitative and qualitative methodologies including the measurement of documented ESG research, engagement, and relevant investment exclusions, subject to satisfactory data and data sourcing.

This includes, but is not limited to, reviewing, monitoring, and/or measuring the various ESG Factors or topics that are considered as part of the various quantitative and qualitative methodologies.

More information on these indicators can be found in AB's Sustainability-Related Disclosures [www.alliancebernstein.com/go/EQ8webdisclosures](http://www.alliancebernstein.com/go/EQ8webdisclosures)

#### ● What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?

N/A

- **How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?**

N/A

- **How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?**

N/A

- **How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:**

N/A

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do not significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*



## Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?

☒ Yes, the Portfolio considers the following PAIs:

- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises (#10)
- Lack of processes and compliance mechanisms to monitor compliance with UN Global Compact principles and OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises (#11)
- Exposure to controversial weapons (#14)

For PAIs 10 and 11, AB monitors for breaches of the UN Global Compact principles for securities held by a Portfolio and for any breach, AB will undertake additional research to clarify the breach and make a determination whether the security should remain in the Portfolio's investible universe.

For PAI 14, the Portfolio excludes controversial weapons.

The specific PAI indicators that are taken into consideration may evolve over time. Additional information on PAIs will be published in the Fund's annual report, as required by SFDR Article 11(2).

☐ No



## What investment strategy does this financial product follow?

As outlined in the relevant Portfolio Description, the Portfolio is actively managed and AB uses the AB Stewardship Approach when seeking to achieve the investment objective. Through the AB Stewardship Approach, fundamental research includes a robust ESG integration process, whereby AB assesses and incorporates ESG Factors in all phases of the investment process. More information on the Portfolio's investment objective and investment strategy can be found in the relevant Portfolio Description in the Prospectus.

- **What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?**

The Portfolio promotes E/S Characteristics by holding securities that AB believes promote E/S Characteristics. A security may be deemed to promote one or more E/S Characteristics if the following binding elements are satisfied:

- Documented ESG integration via evidenced ESG research and Engagements;
- The issuer of the security follows good governance practices according to AB's Good Governance Policy; and

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anticorruption and antibribery matters.

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

- The Portfolio's investment exclusions are met.

More information on ESG integration, ESG research, and engagements can be found in AB's Sustainability-Related Disclosures [www.alliancebernstein.com/go/EQ8webdisclosures](http://www.alliancebernstein.com/go/EQ8webdisclosures) More information on exclusions used by the Portfolio can be found in the Prospectus. More information on AB's Good Governance Policy can be found below.

- **What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?**

N/A

- **What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?**

AB has developed a proprietary Good Governance Policy using a combination of external and internal data sources along with assessments or scoring based on specific governance criteria, including sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance. The specific governance indicators includes UN Global Compact principles and controversies related to the governance criteria. The foregoing Good Governance Policy is subject to, and dependent on, available data.

**Good governance**  
practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

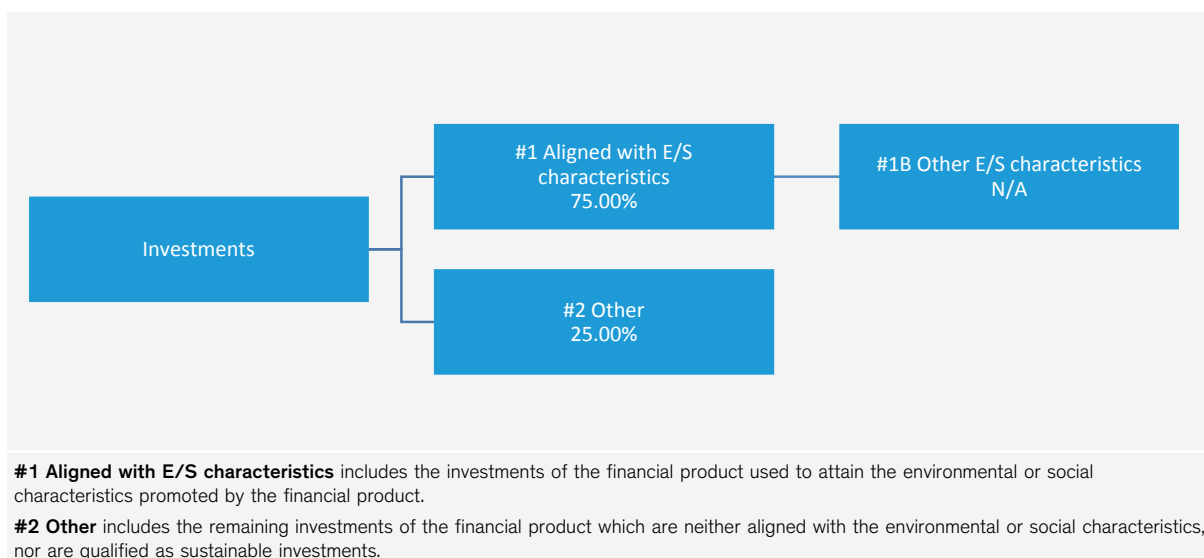


## What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?

**Asset allocation**  
describes the share of investments in specific assets.

#1 Minimum Aligned with E/S: 75%

#2 Maximum Other: 25%



Based on the Portfolio's net assets. All numbers are shown based on normal market conditions and are based on the average holdings of each month end for the fiscal year. The Portfolio will publish information regarding the percentage of net assets that promote E/S Characteristics in the Fund's annual report.

- **How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?**

The Portfolio may use derivatives for hedging, efficient portfolio management, and other investment purposes. For derivatives used for other investment purposes, exposure may be to securities that are deemed to promote E/S Characteristics.



## To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?

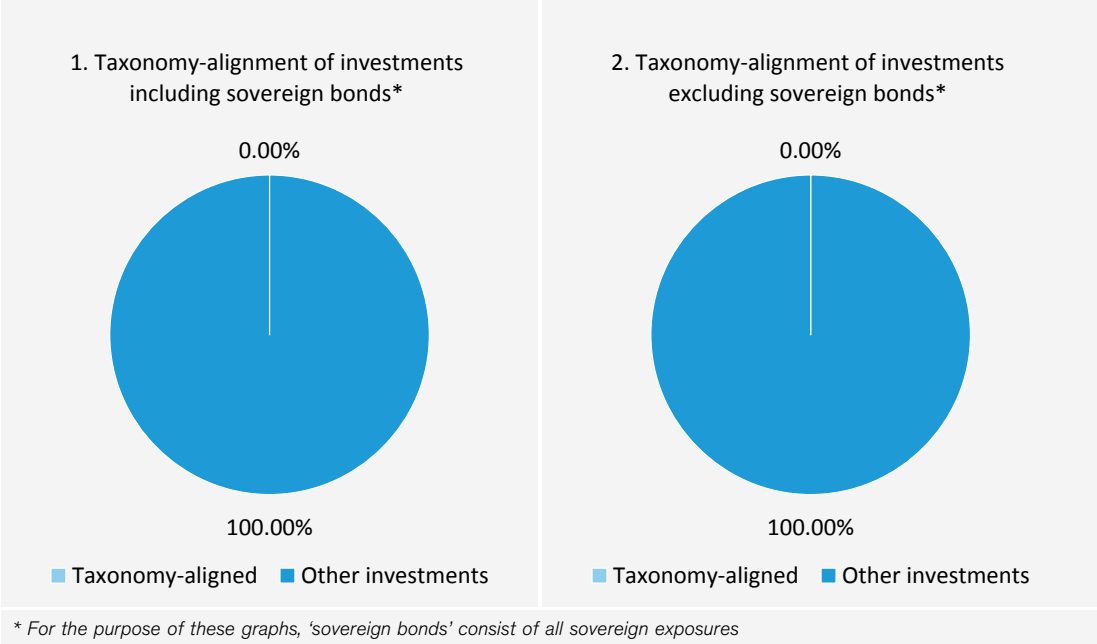
N/A

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made

by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.  
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

The two graphs below show in green the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds\*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.



**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

● What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?  
N/A



What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?  
N/A



are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.



What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?  
N/A



## What investments are included under “#2 Other”, what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?

This includes:

- Securities that AB believes can be held by the Portfolio in order to achieve its investment objective but are not deemed to promote E/S Characteristics, as outlined above, subject to satisfaction of AB's Good Governance Policy.
- Cash and cash-equivalents held as liquidity, risk management purposes, or collateral management purposes.
- Derivatives used for the purposes outlined in Portfolio Descriptions in the Prospectus. Exposure to securities that promote E/S Characteristics will be captured in #1 Aligned with E/S Characteristics.

For these assets, there are no minimum environmental or social safeguards.



## Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?

Not applicable

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the sustainable investment objective.



## Where can I find more product specific information online?

More product-specific information can be found on the website: [www.alliancebernstein.com/go/EQ8webdisclosures](http://www.alliancebernstein.com/go/EQ8webdisclosures)