S&P Dow Jones Indices

A Division of S&P Global

# S&P Europe 350 Buyback Index Methodology

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S&P Dow Jones Indices: Index Methodology

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### Introduction

### Index Objective and Highlights

The S&P Europe 350 Buyback Index is designed to measure the equal-weighted performance of the 70 constituents in the S&P Europe 350<sup>®</sup> (the "underlying index") with the highest buyback ratio over a period of 12 months, as detailed in *Index Construction*.

For information on stock eligibility criteria and index management rules of the S&P Europe 350, please refer to the S&P European Indices Methodology at <u>www.spglobal.com/spdji/</u>.

### **Supporting Documents**

This methodology is meant to be read in conjunction with supporting documents providing greater detail with respect to the policies, procedures and calculations described herein. Sections of the methodology refer to the relevant supporting document for further information on a specific topic. The list of supporting documents for this methodology and the hyperlinks to those documents is as follows:

Supporting Document	URL
S&P Dow Jones Indices' Equity Indices Policies & Practices Methodology	Equity Indices Policies & Practices
S&P Dow Jones Indices' Index Mathematics Methodology	Index Mathematics Methodology

This methodology was created by S&P Dow Jones Indices to achieve the aforementioned objective of measuring the underlying interest of each index governed by this methodology document. Any changes to or deviations from this methodology are made in the sole judgment and discretion of S&P Dow Jones Indices so that the index continues to achieve its objective.

# **Eligibility Criteria**

### Index Eligibility

The index draws its universe from the underlying index as of the rebalancing reference date.

### **Multiple Share Classes**

Each company is represented once by the Designated Listing. For more information regarding the treatment of multiple share classes, please refer to Approach B within the Multiple Share Classes section of the S&P Dow Jones Indices' Equity Indices Policies & Practices Methodology.

### **Index Construction**

### **Constituent Selection**

The selection of index constituents is done as follows:

The reference period for the calculation of the buyback ratio is defined as the 12-month (or four-quarter) period ending one quarter prior to the rebalancing reference date. Thus, for the rebalancing effective after the market close on the third Friday of October, the reference date is after the market close of the last business day of September, and the reference period is the 12-month period ending on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

The buyback ratios of the underlying index's constituents are calculated as the monetary amount of cash paid for stock repurchases during the reference period divided by the company's total market capitalization at the beginning of the reference period. Constituents are then ranked in descending order based on the buyback ratio. The top 70 securities form the index.

If a situation occurs whereby there are fewer than 70 eligible stocks, first, the reference period is expanded to the rebalancing reference date, if the target is still not met stocks eligible in the previous rebalancing period are included based on their previous buyback ratio ranking, until there are 70 constituents in the index.

### **Constituent Weightings**

Index constituents are equal weighted.

### **Index Calculations**

The index is calculated by means of the divisor methodology used in all S&P Dow Jones Indices' equity indices.

For more information on the index calculation methodology, please refer to the Equal Weighted Indices section of S&P Dow Jones Indices' Index Mathematics Methodology.

### **Index Maintenance**

### Rebalancing

The index is rebalanced quarterly, after the close on the third Friday of January, April, July, and October of each year. The rebalancing reference dates are after the close of the last business day of December, March, June, and September, respectively.

The index is equal weighted using closing prices on the Thursday prior to the second Friday of the rebalancing month as the reference price. Index share amounts are calculated and assigned to each stock to arrive at the equal weights based on the reference price.

**Additions.** Except for spin-offs, additions are only made to the index during the quarterly rebalancings. To be eligible for addition to the index, a company must meet the ranking criteria detailed in *Index Eligibility*.

**Spin-Offs.** Spinoffs are added as a constituent at a zero price at the market close of the day before the ex-date (with no divisor adjustment) and are removed after at least one day of regular way trading (with a divisor adjustment).

For more information on spin-offs, please refer to S&P Dow Jones Indices' Equity Indices Policies & Practices Methodology.

**Deletions.** Constituents removed from the underlying index are removed from the index simultaneously. Deletions due to delistings, acquisition, or any other corporate event resulting in the deletion of the stock from the index causes the weights of the rest of the stocks in the index to change. Relative weights stay the same.

### **Corporate Actions**

For more information on corporate actions, please refer to the Equal Weighted Indices section of S&P Dow Jones Indices' Equity Indices Policies & Practices Methodology.

### **Other Adjustments**

In cases where there is no achievable market price for a stock being deleted, it can be removed at a zero or minimal price at the Index Committee's discretion, in recognition of the constraints faced by investors in trading bankrupt or suspended stocks.

### **Currency of Calculation and Additional Index Return Series**

The index calculates in U.S. dollars and euros.

The index's final closing values convert all stock prices used in the index calculation at the spot foreign exchange rate provided by WMR at the closing time of the index (approximately 5:10 PM London Time). A stock which has stopped trading still makes an impact on the index due to spot Forex rate fluctuations of its currency.

In addition to the indices detailed in this methodology, additional return series versions of the indices may be available, including, but not limited to: currency, currency hedged, decrement, fair value, inverse, leveraged, and risk control versions. For a list of available indices, please refer to the <u>S&P DJI</u> <u>Methodology & Regulatory Status Database</u>.

For information on various index calculations, please refer to S&P Dow Jones Indices' Index Mathematics Methodology.

For the inputs necessary to calculate certain types of indices, including decrement, dynamic hedged, fair value, and risk control indices, please refer to the Parameters documents available at <a href="http://www.spglobal.com/spdji/">www.spglobal.com/spdji/</a>.

### **Base Date and History Availability**

Index history availability, base date, and base value are shown in the table below.

Index	Launch	First Value	Base	Base
	Date	Date	Date	Value
S&P Europe 350 Buyback Index	09/30/2014	01/21/2000	01/21/2000	1000

### Index Data

### **Calculation Return Types**

S&P Dow Jones Indices calculates multiple return types which vary based on the treatment of regular cash dividends. The classification of regular cash dividends is determined by S&P Dow Jones Indices.

- Price Return (PR) versions are calculated without adjustments for regular cash dividends.
- Gross Total Return (TR) versions reinvest regular cash dividends at the close on the ex-date without consideration for withholding taxes.
- Net Total Return (NTR) versions, if available, reinvest regular cash dividends at the close on the ex-date after the deduction of applicable withholding taxes.

In the event there are no regular cash dividends on the ex-date, the daily performance of all three indices will be identical.

For a complete list of indices available, please refer to the daily index levels file (".SDL").

For more information on the classification of regular versus special cash dividends as well as the tax rates used in the calculation of net return, please refer to S&P Dow Jones Indices' Equity Indices Policies & Practices Methodology.

For more information on the calculation of return types, please refer to S&P Dow Jones Indices' Index Mathematics Methodology.

### Index Governance

### **Index Committee**

An S&P Dow Jones Indices Index Committee manages the index. All committee members are full-time professional members of S&P Dow Jones Indices' staff. The Committee meets regularly. At each meeting, the Committee reviews pending corporate actions that may affect index constituents, statistics comparing the composition of the index to the market, companies that are being considered as candidates for addition to the index, and any significant market events. In addition, the Index Committee may revise index policy covering rules for selecting companies, treatment of dividends, share counts or other matters.

S&P Dow Jones Indices considers information about changes to its indices and related matters to be potentially market moving and material. Therefore, all Index Committee discussions are confidential.

S&P Dow Jones Indices' Index Committees reserve the right to make exceptions when applying the methodology if the need arises. In any scenario where the treatment differs from the general rules stated in this document or supplemental documents, clients will receive sufficient notice, whenever possible.

In addition to the daily governance of indices and maintenance of index methodologies, at least once within any 12-month period, the Index Committee reviews the methodology to ensure the indices continue to achieve the stated objectives, and that the data and methodology remain effective. In certain instances, S&P Dow Jones Indices may publish a consultation inviting comments from external parties.

For information on Quality Assurance and Internal Reviews of Methodology, please refer to S&P Dow Jones Indices' Equity Indices Policies & Practices Methodology.

### **Index Policy**

### Announcements

All index constituents are evaluated daily for data needed to calculate index levels and returns. All events affecting the daily index calculation are typically announced in advance via the Index Corporate Action report (.SDE), delivered daily to all clients. Any unusual treatment of a corporate action or short notice of an event may be communicated via email to clients.

For more information, please refer to the Announcements section of S&P Dow Jones Indices' Equity Indices Policies & Practices Methodology.

### **Pro-forma Files**

In addition to the corporate actions file (.SDE), S&P Dow Jones Indices provides constituent pro-forma files each time the index rebalances. The pro-forma file is typically provided daily in advance of the rebalancing date and contains all constituents and their corresponding weights and index shares effective for the upcoming rebalancing. Since index shares are assigned based on prices prior to the rebalancing effective date, the actual weight of each stock at the rebalancing differs from these weights due to market movements.

Please visit <u>www.spglobal.com/spdji/</u> for a complete schedule of rebalancing timelines and pro-forma delivery times.

#### **Holiday Schedule**

The index is calculated daily, throughout the calendar year. The only days the index is not calculated are on days when <u>all</u> exchanges where the index constituents are listed are officially closed.

A complete holiday schedule for the year is available on S&P Dow Jones Indices' Web site at <u>www.spglobal.com/spdji/</u>.

### Rebalancing

The Index Committee may change the date of a given rebalancing for reasons including market holidays occurring on or around the scheduled rebalancing date. Any such change will be announced with proper advance notice where possible.

### **Unexpected Exchange Closures**

For information on Unexpected Exchange Closures, please refer to S&P Dow Jones Indices' Equity Indices Policies & Practices Methodology.

### **Recalculation Policy**

For information on the recalculation policy, please refer to S&P Dow Jones Indices' Equity Indices Policies & Practices Methodology.

For information on Calculations and Pricing Disruptions, Expert Judgment and Data Hierarchy, please refer to S&P Dow Jones Indices' Equity Indices Policies & Practices Methodology.

### **Contact Information**

For questions regarding an index, please contact: <u>index\_services@spglobal.com</u>.

### **Index Dissemination**

Index levels are available through S&P Dow Jones Indices' Web site at <u>www.spglobal.com/spdji/</u>, major quote vendors (see codes below), numerous investment-oriented Web sites, and various print and electronic media.

### Tickers

In addition to the indices detailed in this methodology, additional return series versions of the indices may be available, including, but not limited to: currency, currency hedged, decrement, fair value, inverse, leveraged, and risk control versions. For a list of available indices, please refer to the <u>S&P DJI</u> <u>Methodology & Regulatory Status Database</u>.

Index	Return Type	BBG
S&P Europe 350 Buyback Index (USD)	Price Return	SPEBBUP
	Total Return	SPEBBUT
	Net Total Return	SPEBBUN
S&P Europe 350 Buyback Index (EUR)	Price Return	SPEBBEP
	Total Return	SPEBBET
	Net Total Return	SPEBBEN

### Index Data

Daily constituent and index level data are available via subscription.

For product information, please contact S&P Dow Jones Indices, <u>www.spglobal.com/spdji/en/contact-us</u>.

### Website

For further information, please refer to S&P Dow Jones Indices' Web site at www.spglobal.com/spdji/.

## Appendix

**ESG Disclosures** 

E	EXPLANATION OF HOW ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL & GOVERNANCE (ESG) FACTORS ARE REFLECTED IN THE KEY ELEMENTS OF THE BENCHMARK METHODOLOGY <sup>1</sup>		
1.	Name of the benchmark administrator.	S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC.	
2.	Underlying asset class of the ESG benchmark. <sup>2</sup>	N/A	
3.	Name of the S&P Dow Jones Indices benchmark or family of benchmarks.	S&P DJI Equity Indices Benchmark Statement	
4.	Do any of the indices maintained by this methodology take into account ESG factors?	No	
Appendix latest update:		January 2021	
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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The information contained in this Appendix is intended to meet the requirements of the European Union Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/1817 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/1011 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the minimum content of the explanation of how environmental, social and governance factors are reflected in the benchmark methodology and the retained EU law in the UK [The Benchmarks (amendment and Transitional Provision) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019].

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The <sup>1</sup>underlying assets' are defined in European Union Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/1816 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/1011 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the explanation in the benchmark statement of how environmental, social and governance factors are reflected in each benchmark provided and published.

### Disclaimer

### Performance Disclosure/Back-Tested Data

Where applicable, S&P Dow Jones Indices and its index-related affiliates ("S&P DJI") defines various dates to assist our clients in providing transparency. The First Value Date is the first day for which there is a calculated value (either live or back-tested) for a given index. The Base Date is the date at which the index is set to a fixed value for calculation purposes. The Launch Date designates the date when the values of an index are first considered live: index values provided for any date or time period prior to the index's Launch Date are considered back-tested. S&P DJI defines the Launch Date as the date by which the values of an index are known to have been released to the public, for example via the company's public website or its data feed to external parties. For Dow Jones-branded indices introduced prior to May 31, 2013, the Launch Date (which prior to May 31, 2013, was termed "Date of introduction") is set at a date upon which no further changes were permitted to be made to the index methodology, but that may have been prior to the Index's public release date.

Please refer to the methodology for the Index for more details about the index, including the manner in which it is rebalanced, the timing of such rebalancing, criteria for additions and deletions, as well as all index calculations.

Information presented prior to an index's launch date is hypothetical back-tested performance, not actual performance, and is based on the index methodology in effect on the launch date. However, when creating back-tested history for periods of market anomalies or other periods that do not reflect the general current market environment, index methodology rules may be relaxed to capture a large enough universe of securities to simulate the target market the index is designed to measure or strategy the index is designed to capture. For example, market capitalization and liquidity thresholds may be reduced. In addition, forks have not been factored into the back-test data with respect to the S&P Cryptocurrency Indices. For the S&P Cryptocurrency Top 5 & 10 Equal Weight Indices, the custody element of the methodology and selection of index constituents with the benefit of hindsight and knowledge of factors that may have positively affected its performance, cannot account for all financial risk that may affect results and may be considered to reflect survivor/look ahead bias. Actual returns may differ significantly from, and be lower than, back-tested returns. Past performance is not an indication or guarantee of future results.

Typically, when S&P DJI creates back-tested index data, S&P DJI uses actual historical constituent-level data (e.g., historical price, market capitalization, and corporate action data) in its calculations. As ESG investing is still in early stages of development, certain datapoints used to calculate certain ESG indices may not be available for the entire desired period of back-tested history. The same data availability issue could be true for other indices as well. In cases when actual data is not available for all relevant historical periods, S&P DJI may employ a process of using "Backward Data Assumption" (or pulling back) of ESG data for the calculation of back-tested historical performance. "Backward Data Assumption" is a process that applies the earliest actual live data point available for an index constituent company to all prior historical instances in the index performance. For example, Backward Data Assumption inherently assumes that companies currently not involved in a specific business activity (also known as "product involvement") were never involved historically and similarly also assumes that companies currently involved in a specific business activity were involved historically too. The Backward Data Assumption allows the hypothetical back-test to be extended over more historical years than would be feasible using only actual data. For more information on "Backward Data Assumption" please refer to the FAQ. The methodology and factsheets of any index that employs backward assumption in the back-tested history will explicitly state so. The methodology will include an Appendix with a table setting forth the specific

data points and relevant time period for which backward projected data was used. Index returns shown do not represent the results of actual trading of investable assets/securities. S&P DJI maintains the index and calculates the index levels and performance shown or discussed but does not manage any assets.

Index returns do not reflect payment of any sales charges or fees an investor may pay to purchase the securities underlying the Index or investment funds that are intended to track the performance of the Index. The imposition of these fees and charges would cause actual and back-tested performance of the securities/fund to be lower than the Index performance shown. As a simple example, if an index returned 10% on a US \$100,000 investment for a 12-month period (or US \$10,000) and an actual asset-based fee of 1.5% was imposed at the end of the period on the investment plus accrued interest (or US \$1,650), the net return would be 8.35% (or US \$8,350) for the year. Over a three-year period, an annual 1.5% fee taken at year end with an assumed 10% return per year would result in a cumulative gross return of 33.10%, a total fee of US \$5,375, and a cumulative net return of 27.2% (or US \$27,200).

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