

Laudatio: UniNe-Ethics in Finance Award 2025, winner: Swisssanto Portfolio Fund

Sustainable Balance – Education Initiative Swiss Cantonal Banks

Distinguished guests, it is with immense pleasure and a profound sense of optimism that I stand before you today to present the winner of the UniNe-Ethics in Finance Award 2025.

In 2025, the Jury was presented with a wonderful array of initiatives, each demonstrating a commitment to ethical practices in finance. However, one initiative stood out with striking clarity and conviction. It is, therefore, with great honour that we bestow the UniNe-Ethics in Finance Award upon the **Swisssanto Portfolio Fund Sustainable Balance – Education Initiative Swiss Cantonal Banks**. The Jury's decision was one of high conviction, deeply impressed by several key aspects of this outstanding initiative:

First and foremost, its **Clear Ethical Purpose** resonated strongly. The initiative's dedication to supporting education is a powerful testament to the understanding that education is not merely a societal benefit, but a fundamental human right and a critical long-term investment in human capital. The **Universality** of the initiative is commendable. It beautifully embodies the idea that financial returns and positive social impact are not mutually exclusive but can, and indeed should, be pursued in concert. We were particularly impressed by the **Transparency** inherent in the fund. Its purpose is straightforward, clearly communicated, and easily understandable, fostering trust and ensuring that those who invest are fully aware of the positive change their capital is effecting. The emphasis on **Active Investor Participation** and ease of access is another cornerstone of its excellence. This initiative empowers investors to become direct agents of positive change. Furthermore, the **Transferability** of this model is a significant achievement. The approach can readily be adapted to other vital social or environmental impact fields, offering a blueprint for broader positive change.

Finally, the sheer **Innovation** of this initiative cannot be overstated. It provides a compelling basis for what many of us hope will be a paradigm shift in how investors perceive their role – not just as seekers of financial return, but as active stewards of societal well-being and progress.

As such, the Swisscanto Portfolio Fund Sustainable Balance – Education Initiative Swiss Cantonal Banks is more than just a financial product; it is a beacon, illuminating the path towards a future where finance serves humanity in its broadest sense. It demonstrates that ethical considerations can be seamlessly woven into the fabric of investment, yielding returns that are measured not only in financial terms but also in the currency of human potential and societal advancement.

We congratulate Swisscanto, Zürcher Kantonalbank and the Swiss Cantonal Banks (VSKB) for their vision, commitment, and pioneering spirit. May this award serve not only as recognition of your outstanding achievement but also as an inspiration to others in the financial industry to embrace innovation and ethical purpose with similar passion and dedication.

Thank you.

Neuchâtel, 28 May 2025