

# PRESS RELEASE

## ELFA releases updated ESG Fact Sheets to enhance ESG disclosure and engagement between borrowers and lenders in the European leveraged finance market

**3 July 2024, London:** ELFA has updated its ESG Fact Sheets to enhance ESG disclosure and foster engagement between borrowers and lenders in the European leveraged finance market across all sectors. Updates are undertaken annually with the input of credit analysts, corporate borrowers and ESG specialists.

This year, the ESG Fact Sheets are Excel-based and incorporate additional questions on the EU Taxonomy, Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), and biodiversity and deforestation. ELFA would like to express gratitude to climate scientists from the University of Oxford, whose input has been integrated to ensure that the ESG Fact Sheets are suitably aspirational.

The series now also includes an ESG Fact Sheet on the Education sector. The Education ESG Fact Sheet is the result of ELFA's seventh ESG Workshop, bringing together sub-investment grade corporate borrowers, investors, and a credit rating agency to delve into the relevant ESG topics arising in the education sector.

Key findings from the Education ESG Workshop included: the strong focus on mental health support for students, gender-based violence prevention policies and practices, and diversity and inclusion initiatives. The discussion also included data security concerns, particularly managing student information and privacy, and compliance challenges with the CSRD and European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS). Despite the challenges, borrowers underscored the significant reputational risks of failing to comply with the CSRD, highlighting its compliance as paramount. To read and download our updated ESG Fact Sheets please visit our resource library [here](#).

Sabrina Fox, ELFA's Chief Executive Officer, commented: "ELFA's ESG Fact Sheets remain the go-to ESG disclosure and engagement resource for European leveraged finance borrowers. As such, we continue our annual updates to ensure that they remain responsive to lender needs whilst also reflecting borrower input and commentary from the wider market, including climate scientists from the University of Oxford. We mustn't lose sight of the reasons behind the market's focus on environment, social and governance standards - by releasing this latest iteration in Excel, we have created an even more user-friendly resource to ensure as smooth a path as possible to achieving our collective goals."

**Ends**

### About ELFA

ELFA is a trade association comprised of European leveraged finance investors from over 60 institutional fixed income managers, including investment advisers, insurance companies, and pension funds. ELFA seeks to support the growth and resilience of the leveraged finance market while acting as the voice of its investor community by promoting transparency and facilitating engagement among European leveraged finance market participants. For more information, please visit ELFA's website: [www.elfainvestors.com](http://www.elfainvestors.com).

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