## North American Equity Indexed Fund

High risk







### Fund Objective

Bank of Ireland Life's fund invests in the State Street US Screened Index Equity Fund (the SSGA fund). The SSGA fund aims to provide exposure to the performance of US equities. The SSGA fund aims to track, as closely as reasonably possible, the performance of the MSCI USA Screened Choice Index (EUR) over the long-term. Please note, the return of the Bank of Ireland Life fund may be different to the return of the SSGA fund due to time delays between when an investment is invested in the Bank of Ireland Life fund and then in the SSGA fund and as small amounts of cash can be held by the Bank of Ireland Life fund also. The SSGA fund incorporates environmental, social and governance (ESG) characteristics.

## **Fund Facts**

Investment Aim	The fund aims to track, as closely as reasonably possible, the performance of the MSCI USA Screened Choice Index (EUR) over the long-term.	
Style	Passively managed.	
Investment Manager of the Underlying Fund	State Street Global Advisors Europe Limited (SSGA).	
Asset Mix*	Equity-based.	
Key Fund Risks	Market risk, single asset class risk, regional risk & currency risk.	
Recommended Investment Time Frame	Medium to long-term (at least 5-7 years).	
Sustainable Finance Disclosure Classification	The <b>Eurozone Equity Indexed Fund</b> is classified as an Article 8 Fund. Article 8 Funds are funds which promote environmental or social characteristics (although not exclusively) and which invest in companies that follow good governance practices ("Light Green or Article 8 funds"). Please read the separately available document 'How SSGA assesses the environmental, social and governance ("ESG") profile of issuers'. This is available <u>here</u> or from your Advisor.	
Risk Rating	High Risk.	
	The above risk category has been determined by Bank of Ireland Life. Separately European Union (EU) law requires that a risk indicator be applied to the fund if certain products are held (excludes pensions), and it may differ from the Bank of Ireland Life risk category. The EU indicator is stated in the Fund Information Sheet and can be found on our website at <u>https://fundcentre.bankofireland.</u> com/#KIDS. Please see the Smart Funds or Target Saver brochure for further details.	

\* The investment manager of the underlying fund may use the equities of this fund for the purpose of securities lending in order to earn an additional return for the fund. While securities lending increases the level of risk within the fund it provides an opportunity to increase the investment return.

Warning: Past performance is not a reliable guide to future performance. Warning: The value of your investment may go down as well as up. Warning: This fund may be affected by changes in currency exchange rates. Warning: If you invest in this fund you may lose some or all of the money you invest.

#### Diversification across sectors and stocks

The State Street US Screened Index Equity Fund is a passively managed equity index fund that aims to provide investors with exposure to a diversified basket of US equities, diversified across industry sectors and stocks.

MSCI, a global provider of stock market indexes and the provider of the index that the SSGA fund tracks employs the screening/exclusion criteria based on their methodologies.

#### Passive management

Passive management or index investing aims to remove the potential risk that can come from choosing a single fund manager. The goal of a passively managed fund is to match as closely as possible the return of the index being tracked. By tracking broad indices, passive portfolios can provide good diversification, and consequently are potentially less risky than an actively managed portfolio.

### ESG exclusion criteria

- Global standards complies with the ten principles of the United Nations Global
   Compact these set out fundamental responsibilities in the areas of human rights,
   labour, environment and anti-corruption. To find out more click <u>here</u>.
- Controversial weapons (cluster munitions, landmines, depleted uranium weapons, biological/chemical weapons, blinding lasers, non-detectable fragments and incendiary weapons).

### Returns

It is important to understand that the return of the **North American Equity Indexed Fund** may be different to the return of the underlying SSGA fund. This is because of time delays between when your investment is invested in the Bank of Ireland Life fund and subsequently invested in the underlying SSGA fund and also due to small amounts of cash held by the **North American Equity Indexed Fund**.

### Currency

The fund's value can be affected by changes in currency exchange rates as it does not have any protection in place against currency movements.

**STATE STREET** GLOBAL ADVISORS

### More Information about the Investment Manager of the Underlying Fund

SSGA has a proud heritage of passive and ESG investing.

- With over three decades of experience, they have provided high quality passive funds that can help lower costs and allow investors to keep more of what their portfolios earn over time.
- Signatory to UN Principles of Responsible Investing (PRI) Since<sup>†</sup>: 3 May 2012.

<sup>†</sup> In 2005, the United Nations established a body that developed the Principles for Responsible Investing ("PRI"). The Principles for Responsible Investment are a set of six principles that set a global standard for responsible investing.

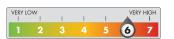
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Fund Overview

## Minimum Recommended Investment Period

Investing should always be considered over the medium to long-term (at least 5-7 years) so as to give the underlying assets time to grow in value. However, even long-term investing involves risk as values will fluctuate over time.

### Risk Rating – High Risk



Bank of Ireland Life has rated its **North American Equity Indexed Fund** a high risk investment fund. High risk funds have the following characteristics:

- The potential return from high risk investments is much higher than deposits or inflation.
- The focus is on maximising the potential return to investors, rather than minimising risks.
- Some high risk funds may consist almost entirely of one asset class or be concentrated in one geographic region or sector.
- Investors' capital is not secure and may fluctuate significantly. Investors may get back substantially less than they originally invested.

## Key Fund Risks

Market risk (value can fluctuate in line with market movements), single asset class risk (exposure to just one asset type), regional risk (exposure to only one geographic area) and currency risk (exposure to changes in currency exchange rates) are risks that arise from investing in this fund that investors should be aware of.

This fund has exposure to non-euro assets and this brings additional risk of how changes in currency exchange rates can impact the value of the fund. For more information, please ask your Advisor for our **"Investing & Risk"** document.

## Product Availability

The North American Equity Indexed Fund is available to investors through the following Bank of Ireland Life products:

- Smart Funds
- Target Saver
- Personal Retirement Bond

- Personal Pensions
- Approved Retirement Fund (ARF)
- PRSA (non-standard)

### Charges

Charges vary per product type. For details of the charges that apply talk to your Advisor.

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### Next Steps

To find out more about the **North American Equity Indexed Fund**, talk to the Advisor in your local Bank of Ireland branch, or visit:



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Terms and conditions apply. Where relevant, exit tax (currently up to 41%) applies to gains on life assurance investment policies. A Government levy (currently 1% of the premium) is payable on all premiums paid to a life assurance policy. The information set out is of a general nature, may have been condensed or be incomplete and should not be relied upon without seeking professional advice.

We believe the information to be reliable but we cannot guarantee its accuracy. The information set out does not constitute an offer or recommendation to buy or sell any investments or to subscribe to any investment services. Details are as at the date of this document unless otherwise stated and may change over time. For further details please refer to the fund brochure. Terms and conditions as set out in your policy conditions apply.

The North American Equity Indexed Fund has been developed solely by Bank of Ireland Life. While the underlying State Street US Screened Index Equity Fund aims to track as closely as reasonably possible the performance of the MSCI USA Screened Choice Index over the long-term, there is no trade connection between Bank of Ireland Life and the MSCI USA Screened Choice Index. MSCI® does not sponsor, advise, recommend, endorse or promote the North American Equity Indexed Fund and has no liability whatsoever to any person arising out of their investment in the North American Equity Indexed Fund.

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Life assurance and pension products are provided by New Ireland Assurance Company plc trading as Bank of Ireland Life. New Ireland Assurance Company plc trading as Bank of Ireland Life is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland. Member of Bank of Ireland Group. Bank of Ireland Life may hold units in the funds mentioned on its own account.

Advice on Bank of Ireland Life products is provided by Bank of Ireland. Bank of Ireland trading as Bank of Ireland Insurance & Investments, Insurance & Investments or Bank of Ireland Premier, is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland. Bank of Ireland is a tied agent of New Ireland Assurance Company plc for life assurance and pensions business. Member of Bank of Ireland Group.



#### 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 include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.

Template pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8, paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a, of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 Product name: State Street US Screened Index Legal entity identifier:

a index **Legal entity identifier:** 549300GJIUYMSW1FVL54

## **Environmental and/or social characteristics**

### Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?

• Yes	• × No
It will make a minimum of sustainable investments with an environmental objective:% in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy	its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of% of sustainable investments with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy
It will make a minimum of sustainable investments with a	<ul> <li>It promotes E/S characteristics, but will not make any sustainable investments</li> </ul>



social objective: %

Equity Fund

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

The State Street US Screened Index Equity Fund is an index fund tracking the performance of the MSCI USA ex UNGC and CW Index ("Index"). The environmental and social characteristics promoted by the Fund is the Index designated by the Fund. The Index represents the performance of the broad U.S. equity market while excluding companies that are associated with Controversial Weapons or fail to comply with United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) principles.

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?

The Index represents the performance of the broad U.S. equity market while excluding companies that are associated with Controversial Weapons or fail to comply with UNGC principles. Consequently, the attainment of the associated environmental and social characteristics is measured through the Index exclusions of companies that are associated with Controversial Weapons and the companies that fail to

comply with the UNGC principles. The proportion of the Fund's portfolio invested in securities included in the Index will constitute sustainability indicator used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the Fund.

As such, the Fund does not intend to hold any securities that do not meet the relevant ESG criteria above.

# 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?

The Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments within the meaning of the SFDR or the Taxonomy Regulation.

#### 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.

# 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?

The Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments.

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 no 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 Fund considers Principal Adverse Impacts ("PAI") on sustainability factors in the application of the Index exclusions. Specifically, the Index considers

- Violations of UN Global Compact Principles
- Exposure to controversial weapons

Further information on the PAIs will be found in the periodic reports for the Fund.

🗆 No



What investment strategy does this financial product follow?

The investment strategy guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance. The investment policy of the Fund is to track the performance of the Index as closely as possible using the Replication Strategy as further described in the "Investment Strategies" section of the Prospectus, while seeking to minimise as far as possible the tracking difference between the Fund's performance and that of the Index.

Securities in the Fund are selected primarily from the constituents of the Index. Essentially, the portfolio of the Fund would be a near mirror-image of the Index. The Fund also may, in exceptional circumstances, invest in securities not included in the Index but that are believed to closely reflect the risk and distribution characteristics of securities of the Index. The Fund may also hold (i) securities which, in the opinion of the Investment Manager, are likely to become part of the Index and (ii) securities acquired through corporate activity which may not form part of the Index. Securities in the Index are weighted by free float-adjusted market capitalisation after screening out securities based on an assessment of their adherence to ESG criteria i.e., non-compliance with UNGC principles and controversial weapons.

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?

Securities in the Fund are selected primarily from the constituents of the Index, while the Index provider applies the exclusion criteria on all of the Index constituents. This results in the exclusion of any securities considered as not compliant with the UNGC principles (international norms in relation to the environment, human rights & communities, labour rights & supply chains, customers and governance). Additionally, any securities associated with controversial weapons are excluded from the Index.

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

### N/A

### Good governance

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

Asset allocation

describes the

investments in

specific assets.

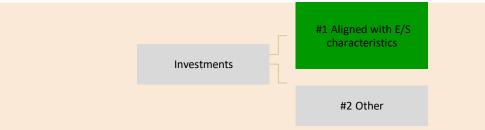
share of

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

The assessment of good governance practices is implemented through the negative screening utilised by the Index. Companies deemed by the Index provider to not violate UNGC principles are considered to exhibit good governance.

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

The Investment Manager employs a binding ESG methodology which aims to build a portfolio where at least 90% of the Fund's assets are invested in securities which are #1 Aligned with environmental and social characteristics as outlined in the table below. The remaining portion (<10%) of the portfolio, consisting of cash as well as cash equivalents in place held at the Investment Manager's discretion, will be classified under #2 Other in the below table and will not be aligned with the promoted environmental and social characteristics.



**#1** Aligned with E/S characteristics includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#20ther** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by

To the extent that the Fund may use financial derivative instruments, these will not be used to

attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the Fund.

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.



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

N/A

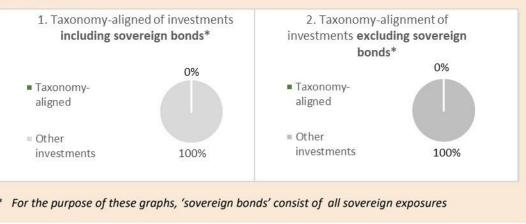
the financial product?

#### 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. 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<sup>\*</sup>, 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.



### What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?

As the Fund does not commit to invest in any "sustainable investment" within the meaning of the Taxonomy Regulation, the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities within the meaning of the Taxonomy Regulation is therefore set at 0%.



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

The Fund promotes environmental and social characteristics but does not commit to making any sustainable investments. As a consequence, the Fund does not commit to a minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy.

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?

The Fund may hold a portion of its assets in cash or cash equivalents or use financial derivative instruments at the Investment Manager's discretion, which would be classified under #2 Other in the above table. Such assets will not be aligned with environmental and social characteristics nor will there be any environmental or social safeguards in place.



Reference benchmarks are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote. 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?

The Fund is an index fund tracking the performance of the MSCI USA ex UNGC and CW Index. The Index has been designated for the purpose of attaining the environmental and social characteristics promoted by the Fund. The Index integrates exclusion criteria relating to companies that are associated with Controversial Weapons or that fail to comply with the UNGC Principles.

### How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?

The Index is reviewed and rebalanced on a quarterly basis, with the changes implemented as of the close of the last business day of February, May, August and November.

Investors should note the Index Risk, Index Error Risk and Tracking Risk disclosures included in the Risk Information section of the Prospectus.

### How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?

The Fund rebalances on a quarterly basis, in line with the Index rebalancing frequency. Investors should note in this respect the Index Risk, Index Error Risk and Index Tracking Risk disclosures included in the Risk Information section of the Prospectus.

### How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?

The Index is based on MSCI USA Index, its parent index, which captures large and mid-cap representation across the U.S. equity market. The Fund's designated Index (i.e., MSCI USA ex UNGC and CW index) represents the performance of the broad U.S. equity market while excluding companies that are associated with Controversial Weapons or fail to comply with UNGC principles. Constituent selection is based on data from MSCI ESG Research.

### Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?

Please refer to MSCI's index methodology description which can be found at the following link: https://www.msci.com/index-methodology (index code 731082)



Please search for State Street US Screened Index Equity Fund under the "Fund Groups" heading.