

European Responsible Investment Network (ERIN)

About the Network

Power in Europe's investment industry is concentrated in the hands of opaque and unaccountable institutions. According to the European Commission, the EU's pensions and insurance sector holds assets of around €12 trillion, making them extremely important actors in the economy. As such, they have huge influence on corporate behaviour. Despite fantastic ongoing campaigns that target these actors across Europe, we see potential for many more initiatives focused on the power and investment practices of pension funds and other large investors. Moreover, given that investors act globally, we see a need for enhanced civil society collaboration. To address this opportunity, ShareAction is creating a network of civil society organisations (CSOs) from across Europe to enable sharing of best practice and skills in investor-focused campaigning. To counterbalance the lobbying power of the financial services industry, we also want to strengthen the voice of European civil society in policymaking to help create a fairer and more responsible investment system.

Vision & mission of ERIN

Our vision is to create an **investment system in Europe that is a force for good, serving savers, society and the environment**. The aim is to improve the public accountability and investment practices of Europe's pension and investment sector, as well as mobilising the power of investors to promote sustainable corporate conduct.

How could the Network be useful your organisation? The mission of our Network is to connect CSOs across Europe that have a shared interest in fair and sustainable investment, and shareholder activism, to enable joint capacity building, sharing of best practice and learning, mobilisation of support for investor-focused campaigns across borders, and the development of new initiatives. We want the Network to be a resource for sharing intelligence on these issues, including on relevant opportunities for advocacy at the EU policy level. Additionally, we hope that members will be able to find partners to collaborate with on campaign initiatives and funding bids through the network. Finally, we will gather evidence of successful campaigns, and of the benefits of sustainable investment policy and practice by investors, to distribute across the network.

Membership benefits

- **Access training, expertise and intelligence-sharing from across the Network** in shareholder activism, institutional investor engagement, campaigning tools to raise public awareness and pressure and other related issues, much of which will be facilitated through our members-only platform
- **Gain opportunities for collaboration and joint fundraising for new investor-focused campaigns**
- **Find out about RI-relevant policy developments on national, EU and international level, and participate in joint advocacy activities for a more transparent and accountable investment system**, for example through collaborating on public consultation responses or sending joint letters to policymakers, investors and companies
- **Participate in our conferences**; the next one is planned for September 2017, which we foresee as a platform for strengthening partnerships and initiating new campaigns
- **Receive regular updates and analysis** from ShareAction on the latest Responsible Investment developments from across the Network that are relevant to your civil society organisation
- **Gain access to the member-only online hub** to join the conversation with fellow members

Topic areas

- **Engagement with pension funds and other institutional investors** - sharing intelligence on how to mobilise asset owners to adopt sustainable investment policies on topics including

<2 degree alignment and low carbon investments, engagement on human rights and workers' rights issues and the Sustainable Development Goals

- **Promoting Sustainable and Responsible Investment through policy on domestic and European level**, including on integrating sustainability requirements in the EU Capital Markets Union, implementation of the EU Shareholder Rights Directive and adoption of the recommendations of the Financial Stability Board's Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures
- **Using shareholder activism to leverage the power of the investment system** to achieve positive social and environmental change, for example through AGM (annual general meeting) activism and the creation of investor coalitions

With 32 member organisations from 12 countries (see www.shareaction.org/european-network) ERIN is up and running. The network was officially launched at our first annual conference in June 2016. To guide network priorities we have set up a **steering group**. If you are keen to contribute to shaping the strategy and priorities of the network, please get in touch with Friederike (see below).

Membership criteria

Primarily, ERIN members should identify with the mission and purpose of the Network and be willing to contribute to the movement for a sustainable and accountable investment system. We value your active involvement and hope that members can commit to being 'movement generous' by taking actions to sustain the movement (e.g. share their learning and support other organisations' campaigns). This is however subject to your capacity; we understand that you will choose specific working streams that are of strategic interest to your work and do not expect you to participate in all Network activity.

There is **no fee to join ERIN**. Communications will largely be web-based, with some meetings in person, most likely on an annual basis.

About ShareAction

ShareAction (www.shareaction.org) is a ground-breaking UK-based charity that has championed Responsible Investment by pension funds and other investors for over a decade. We are recognised as the leading NGO that monitors and engages with the investment industry in the UK. We are a membership based organisation with 18 members from some of the UK's largest trade unions and NGOs, such as Greenpeace, Oxfam and Friends of the Earth. We count over 40,000 individual supporters on our database who took over 60,000 online actions in the last year.

Some of our key successes to date include:

- Track record in combating low pay in the UK through the building of influential investor coalitions, such as for our Living Wage campaign which has been backed by investors with £50 billion in assets under management and achieved sign-up of a nearly [a third of the FTSE100 companies to the UK Living Wage standard](#).
- Building a movement of savers who engage with their pension funds over issues they are concerned about, for example through using our [email tool](#) to engage their pension funds on the risks of climate change or facilitating meetings between pensions funds and their members.

Find out more

If you have any questions or would like to discuss potential participation in more detail, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Friederike Hanisch, European Network Manager, on +44 (0)20 3475 7872 or friederike.hanisch@shareaction.org.