

# Meaningfulness Report

Accounting for Norselab's impact in 2023



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For further information, please contact the Investment Manager.

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Norselab 4

# We invest in our planet

Global industries are central to some of our times' most pressing challenges. The way the basic needs of people everywhere are met has outsized negative impacts on nature, climate, and societies. At the system level, our global industries are deeply unsustainable

Companies with products and services that challenge the status quo have the potential to transform industries and drive systemic change that can steer our world towards a livable climate, enough healthy food for all, and a replenished nature.

While innovation is taking place at a rapid pace, there is still an annual multi-trillion funding gap for the solutions our world urgently needs. To support systems change, Norselab aims to be part of a new breed of asset managers. We are purpose-built to rapidly launch a range of novel, commercially attractive impact products across asset classes, making impact investing an option for more sources of capital.

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# Norselab 🌾

# 1. Introduction

# Letter from Norselab's management team

2023 has been a year for testing the resilience of our business idea: building a leading European impact asset management firm. From the outset, we have designed the firm and expansion plans on three strategic pillars; an industry-leading approach to impact, institutional-grade governance, and solid financial returns. Our ultimate goal is to be part of a new breed of asset managers offering investment products across asset classes with an authentic impact approach - distanced from conventional ESG strategies - fit to attract more diverse sources of capital to impact investing.

In 2023, investments in Norselab funds created positive impact valued at USD 11 million.

"



We first established a foothold in growth equity after our inception in 2020. Already in late 2022, we expanded to a second vertical with credit. The timing for launching our first credit initiative has proven ideal. Throughout its first full year of operation, the strategy clearly hit a nerve in the market and has raised substantial assets, and delivered both outstanding returns and solid impact value creation.

The 2023 macro environment caused considerable headwinds in growth equity. However, our active ownership strategy has proven particularly effective in this period, as we've been able to help portfolio companies stretch runway and prioritize activities to strengthen their positioning in a revitalized venture capital market. Ensuring portfolio companies' survival through the rough patch lays the foundation for both future returns and impact outcomes.

We are also proud to share that an enhancement of our impact data allows us to estimate the USD-equivalent value of our annual impact for the first time: in 2023, investments in Norselab funds created positive impact valued at USD 11 million. This new metric allows us to more easily understand the scale of the positive impacts we create, and to share it with our various stakeholders in a language that is familiar to them.

This year, we hope to continue our growth journey by expanding into a third vertical with a new strategy. It is not an easy task, but our mission infuses our team with the high spirits and grit needed to keep pushing boundaries and building new products to help attract more capital to create a meaningful future for all.

Enjoy the read!

Team Norselab

Norselab's vision for the future

# A meaningful future for all

Norselab's mission

We invest in our planet, backing net-positive companies that accelerate the sustainable transition of global industries.

Norselab's values

### 1. We embody grit

When we believe in an idea, we are in it for the long run. We bring all our grit and smarts together into play to see it become a game-changer.

### 3. We embrace the unknown

Embracing the unknown, challenging conventions, and sparking change is our DNA. Keeping an open mind to people, ideas and ways of working keeps us ahead of the curve.

# 2. We do it together

We connect ideas, skills, and people that are serious about our future. Together we are stronger and wiser. Together, we can accomplish great things.

### 4. We KISS\*

Bringing simplicity to the complex, and clarity to the vagueness. Doing more with less. It's not about shortcuts, it's about understanding what matterst. Just KISS! (\*Keep it Simple, Stupid).

# Norselab at a glance

Building a leading European impact asset management firm.

With an uncompromising focus on creating a meaningful future for all, Norselab is dedicated to building a range of commercially attractive impact funds across asset classes, attracting more diverse sources of capital towards achieving the UN SDGs. Our funds invest in net-positive companies contributing to large-scale positive impact and industry transformation.

Norselab currently manages funds in two verticals: growth equity and credit. All Norselab strategies are governed by our industry-leading impact frameworks and disclose under SFDR Article 9, while being designed for long-term superior capital returns.

Norselab is backed by Capricorn Investment Group, one of the largest mission-aligned investment firms in the world.

Norselab is a Certified B Corp™.

### The fundamental elements of Norselab



# Meet our people

Total AUM1

\$352M

Impact capital raised in 2023

+\$138M

Inception

2020

Headquarter

Oslo

Geographic focus

Europe

SDG Aligned investments

**Employees** 

Investment focus

Impact

SFDR

Art. 9

Strategy verticals

Growth equity Credit

Gender balance, Norselab Group





All employees

Management

Board

Male Female





Partner, Chief Executive Officer Erik Syvertsen



Managing Director, Credit Tom Hestnes



Head of Risk, Credit Shatthik Barua



Impact Analyst Christiaan Griffejoen



Founder, Chief Investment Officer Yngve Tvedt



Portfolio Manager, Credit Ole Einar Stokstad



Head of Operations, Credit Line Tollefsen



Investor Relations Matilda Risan



Partner, Chief Impact & Comms Officer Maria de Perlinghi



Investment Partner, Growth Equity Alexander Nøstvik



Marketing & Comms Manager Maja Granli Jensen



Chief Exectuive Officer, Falk AS Mark Smyth



Group Finance & Compliance Officer Tonje Slorafoss



Investment Partner, Growth Equity Jean-G. Marquaire



Impact Analyst Oda Standal



Investment Partner,

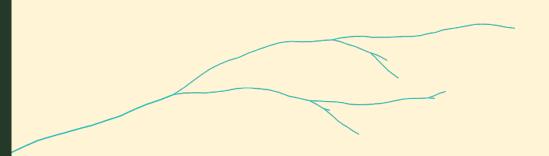
Investor Relations

Natalie Daw

Impact Analyst Inès van Tol

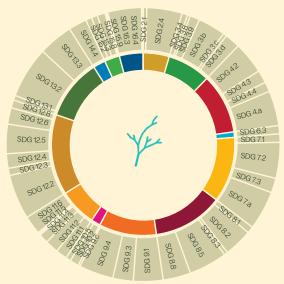


Ingrid Stene



# 2023 impact highlights

Impact created across Norselab strategies



### Portfolio SDG target contributions

Most portfolio companies contribute to several SDG targets. The figure shows the weighted average by holding value. In total, the portfolio contributed to 14 different SDGs. The most frequent company contributions are SDG 12, SDG 8, and SDG 7.

### Top 3 SDG Contributions



14% of AUM

Investments



of AUM

Investments



12%

Investments

Decent work and Economic growth; SDG 9, Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure; and SDG 12, Responsible consumption and Production. These SDGs are the SDGs with the most widely applicable targets. Improvement in the working environment, financing, and safety at work (SDG 8) are relevant in many industries. The same is the case for SDG 9 and SDG 12, goals that both address industrial efficiency, innovation, and large societal structures such as cities and large supply chains.

Many portfolio companies have contributed to SDG 8.

### Other selected contributions









## Key engagement topics

- Impact materiality
- GHG reduction targets
- Sustainability and impact reporting

# Norselab's net impact value creation

Quantified USD-equivalent net impact across Norselab funds



# The net impact model

The Upright Project estimates and quantifies the positive and negative impacts of a company's products and services. Based on data from over 200 million scientific articles, Upright is able to estimate the USD-equivalent value of the positive and negative impacts that a company has across social and environmental dimensions of sustainability. We subtract the companies' negative societal impact (in USD-equivalent) from the companies' positive societal impact (in dollar-equivalent) of each company to find the net impact. The impacts that we consider reflect the 17 SDG goals.

### What does the score indicate?

In 2023, Norselab's investment strategies created a net impact to the SDGs at an estimated value of \$ 11 006 240. This translates to \$ 38 487 worth of positive impact generated for every million dollars invested into our funds. This figure has already been adjusted for the value of negative impacts (such as CO2 emissions) of the companies.

# Our main thematic contributions

Impact themes where our investment strategies made a difference in 2023

Impact theme

**SDGs** 

Investments

# **Energy transition**

## Curbing climate change

The world requires a radical shift towards renewable energy and substantially increased efficiencies in our use of resources to curtail emissions while driving progress for a growing global population. Renewable energy production and energy efficiency solutions are crucial to reducing emissions from electricity generation, manufacturing, real estate, food and transport.











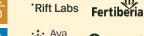
# Sustainable food systems Closing the food gap

Ensuring the diet of a growing population is healthy and sustainable requires widespread change in the way we produce and consume food. Climate change and exacerbated pressure on planet and ocean ecosystems continue to threaten food security. We need to transform production and harvesting methods to regenerative practices, improve yields, and reduce food waste to ensure enough healthy food for all.



















# Health and wellbeing

## Healthcare for all

Access to quality healthcare remains scarce for many people around the world. Some populations lack access to vital services, and climate change further exacerbates health issues and disproportionally affects lower-income populations. We must address both environmental and commercial factors leading to health disparities must be addressed.











# Circularity Preserving natural capital

Exploitative use of natural resources is a major driver of environmental degradation, contributing to pollution, biodiversity loss, and climate change. We need to reduce pressure on natural resources and materials by shifting to circular models —particularly in sectors with a high material footprint-reducing consumption, and promoting everything-as-a-service. This can help preserve natural capital and foster economic growth and resilience.









Plateful Carrot



# Shifting paradigms: Impact investing is here to stay

Let's hear from Norselab's Chief Impact Officer, Maria de Perlinghi

More capital is heading into impact investing - but it has yet to hit the speed and scale we need. Rapidly changing paradigms can help ensure that it's not too little, too late. We are gaining confidence in financial returns while realizing we can't afford to let climate change spiral out of control. Combined with the radical increase in sustainability transparency, this may fuel exponential growth in impact capital.

Money is power. And this power can be a force of change in an era of unprecedented challenges for humanity.

For many asset owners, the opportunity to contribute to solving the largest problem of modern society is a motivation to move into impact investing alone. But for the bulk of returns-driven capital sources in the financial markets, there is still the misconception that impact can't provide strong returns. It's time to debunk the myth so we can mobilize more of this capital, moving impact investing from a niche to the mainstream. We depend on this catalytic shift in the financial system to halt climate change, loss of natural capital and create a livable future.

Fortunately, impact investing is already showing solid signs of long-term growth and widespread adoption. According to a survey of investor sentiment by Morgan Stanley<sup>1</sup>, over half of individual investors plan to increase their sustainable investments this year, and 77% are interested in sustainable investing. Although sustainable investing spans a significantly broader scope than impact investing2, this still reasonably translates into a maturation and growing interest in investments that bring people and the planet into the equation. That's good news for humanity.



Morningstar "Over 50% of Investors Plan To Boost Sustainable Investments in 2024" 3101 2024 2. Morningstar states that they use "Sustainable investing" as an umbrella term for a range of investment approaches that address the impact of climate change and other environmental, social, and corporate governance issues on their investments, and that seek to deliver competitive financial results.

Several ongoing paradigm shifts may give impact investing the additional boost it needs:

We're about to bust the myth that impact investing necessarily means lower returns.

According to Global Impact Investing Network research, most impact investors target risk-adjusted, market-rate returns (74%). More interestingly, the research shows that the majority (79%) achieve their targeted returns<sup>3</sup>. Previous research has also established that top-quartile impact funds targeting market-rate returns perform similarly to funds in conventional markets<sup>4</sup>. This highlights that impact is an additional layer of competence required. Just like in conventional investing, robust fund manager selection is essential to achieve superior returns.

### The cost of inaction is hitting us hard.

According to the Climate Policy Initiative (CPI), ensuring we stay within the 1.5°C limit defined by the Paris Agreement requires USD 266 trillion in climate financing<sup>5</sup>. It would take exponential growth in impact investing to meet this capital need. However, can we, members of the global investor community, afford not to?

The amount of capital needed to fight climate change appears negligible compared to the CPI's cost of a business-as-usual warming scenario. The CPI estimates the "cost of inaction" to be a mind-boggling USD 1,266 trillion in economic and social costs. If runaway global warming plays out, we'll be confronted with direct losses from, e.g., reduced productivity and damages to assets from extreme weather events. Social costs will be incurred from negative health impacts linked to pollution, illnesses and heat, biodiversity loss, and increased conflicts due to migration, food insecurity, and water scarcity.

But climate change is starting to demonstrate its temper and destructive power, breaking all the wrong records: extreme heatwaves, wildfires, unprecedented flooding, droughts, and rising ocean temperatures. As climate change is no longer a faraway hypothetical event, people feel it creeping closer to their lives. This growing awareness and relevance drives popular demand for climate action and helps pull all the strings toward impact investing.

How long will we accept investing that destroys our common good?

Transparency and accountability are gaining ground. How long will we accept investing that destroys our common good?

"

Today, asset managers investing without a sustainability angle have a limited obligation to disclose information about their investments' impacts and, hence, the potential cost they are incurring on society. This starkly contrasts the requirements for impact- and sustainability-oriented financial players to document their achievements.

A range of conventional investments are causing massive negative impacts in the name of shortsighted returns. It's about time we require all financial players to inform the public and investors of the scale of the damage they are responsible for.

Greenwashing remains a serious issue in our economy, and we're right to address it. But even more so, we should be concerned with investments making our problems worse while flying under the radar. How long will investors be allowed to keep investing in companies that destroy our environment and incur enormous losses on global societies? The lingering opacity around the negative impacts of conventional investing is a significant blocker for change in the financial system, and I don't see it lasting.

As disclosure regimes tighten, we will likely view conventional investments in a different light. It is not likely that we will continue to condone investments that are incurring large-scale damage and cost to society. The recent market consultation on the Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (SFDR) floated the idea that a minimum of disclosures should apply to all products. If implemented, that puts a foot in the door to a fairer and more transparent financial system - likely strengthening impact investing's momentum.

Impact investing represents a paradigm shift in how we allocate capital and address global challenges.

#### How innovative financing can help

There is ample room for impact investing to grow. Of an estimated USD 440 trillion global stock of capital<sup>6</sup>, around USD 30 trillion is mobilized in so-called "sustainable investing", including the estimated USD 1.2 trillion allocated to impact investing<sup>8</sup>.

By some estimates, impact investing will continue to grow at a double-digit compound annual growth rate until 2030°. That's not enough.

More actors in the impact space are realizing that mobilizing capital across asset classes is crucial to catalyzing large-scale change. Most impact capital is still allocated in private equity and private credit, with other large asset classes needing to catch up in the number of players involved and the AUM allocated.

Investment managers play a crucial role in the growth of impact investing, as they raise capital from diverse sources and directly invest in the companies and projects that can solve our problems. An increasing number of emerging managers are also focusing on building out products across asset classes, tapping into the needs of more types of capital to attract them to impact.

Impact investing represents a paradigm shift in how we allocate capital and address global challenges. The confluence of growing trust in financial performance, rising awareness of climate and environmental urgencies, favorable regulatory development, and innovative finance gives us reason to be confident: Impact investing is here to stay. As asset managers, we are committed to seizing the unprecedented opportunity to take the lead in this change.

Onward and upward! The future is meaningful.

Global Impact Investing Network, 2023 GIINsight: Impact Investing Allocations, Activity & Performance.
 Global Impact Investing Network, GIIN Perspectives: Evidence on the Financial performance of Impact Investments

<sup>5.</sup> Between USD 5.4 trillion and USD 11.7 trillion per year until 2030, and then between USD 9.3 trillion and USD 12.2 trillion per year until 2050. Climate Policy Initiative (CPI), The Cost of Inaction, January 4, 2024.

Force for Good, Capital as a Force for Good. Solutions to Close the SDG Gap, 2023
 Global Sustainable Investment Alliance, Global Sustainable Investment Review 2022.

# Norselab 🎋

# 2. Meaningfulness

# Our take on impact: Meaningfulness

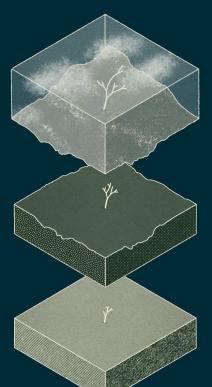
A three-layered impact philosophy guiding our investment strategies.

When we at Norselab started building our impact approach, one question was front and center: How can we do this right?

We wanted to step back from mainstream ESG and sustainable investing practices and rethink how we can invest to help achieve the scale and

depth of change we need to make our planet a livable place also in the future.

This reflection resulted in the philosophy that we live by here at Norselab; Meaningfulness.



### The *product* creates the impact

### How do we best tackle systemic problems?

We believe tackling systemic problems is best done by backing companies that make a profit from fixing them. Strategies that focus on incremental, operational changes in companies selling products that make the problems greater are deeply problematic; they may look like they are solving a problem, but in fact, they are making it worse.

## The impact is *net-positive*

### How can we assess a company's total legacy?

We believe in making sure a company's total footprint adds up to a net positive. This requires us to apply multiple perspectives in our assessments so that we understand both the positive and negative aspects of a company's impact. In our view, tunnel vision is an impact risk in itself.

# It solves a *real* challenge

### How do we focus on the right problems?

We believe every investment should put a dent in a real and sizeable sustainability challenge. This requires us to consult science on the problem at hand, and what's needed to solve it. Investing in solutions to assumed challenges gets us nowhere.

# The Architecture of Meaningfulness

How Norselab's impact is governed with Meaningfulness as the North Star.

# Meaningfulness

Proprietary impact philosophy overarching all investment strategies.

# Meaningfulness policy

Policy outlining the ten principles for Meaningful investments in Norselab funds and third-party frameworks and guidelines we adhere to.

Sustainability risk policy

Remuneration Policy

Impact data strategy

Underlying policies describe how we leverage sustainability-related information to identify and assess impact and sustainability risk in the world around us.

## Impact integration method

Detailed description of the methods and processes we apply in the investment process and in impact management. They are adapted to fit with the characteristics of each strategy.

SDG Guidance

Data routine

Meaningfulness Memo

Engagement approach

Product Governance Committee Portfolio impact training

Proprietary tools that ensure a systematic and consistent approach in our impact management.

Meaningfulness Report SFDR disclosures

Investor reporting

PRI UNGC reporting

PRI reporting UNGC reporting

Reporting commitments for transparency and accountability.

# Estimating the monetary value of impact

Net impact value creation expressed in USD-equivalent

As an impact investor, we require each investment to create a net positive impact on society. Our impact assessments include quantitative impact estimates delivered by a third-party data provider.

#### Ground rules for quantifying impac

Quantifying impact is incredibly challenging, and Impact investors work on the frontier of available knowledge and data. In an effort to understand the impact of our investments, we apply some ground rules for impact data:

Firstly, they should be based on well-established, peer-reviewed research to the extent possible. This is essential to help us interpret the complex interplay between economy, nature, and society.

Secondly, to understand the ripple effects of our investments, data should help map impacts throughout the value chain and across all material impact dimensions.

Thirdly, we should always be conscious of the challenges that come with assessing "net impact". Doing this requires us to compare different impacts. Comparing social and environmental impacts might be like comparing apples and pears. While the monetization of impact is not necessarily ideal, it might be the best way to quantify and compare impacts.

#### How we use quantified impact estimates

We aim to invest in companies that demonstrate a net positive contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Through literature research and proprietary datasets, we assess which SDG target(s) a potential investment might contribute to (layer 1).

In addition, we map potential negative impacts in other sustainability areas, helping us identify impact risk (layer 2). However, understanding if an investment's contribution to the SDGs is positive, net of all other potential negative contributions to the SDGs is a bigger challenge.

The net impact estimation data adds a third layer to our assessment of SDG contributions. They allow us to compare and add up monetary estimates of the positive and negative value-chain impacts for potential and current investments. Through this method, we can assess and monitor whether investments, taking into account all positive and negative impacts, create or destroy value in society.

# From net impact ratio to net impact value creation

As the quality and availability of impact data increases, we can enhance our impact measurement. In 2023, we decided to change from the net impact ratio metric (2021 and 2022 reports) to using a metric expressing net impact value creation in USD-equivalent. We had two main motivations for doing this. Firstly, while the ratio considers the size of a company's positive impact relative to the company's negative impact, the ratio does not inform on the absolute size of the impact on society.

This means that companies creating little impact (e.g., generic software) can have unnaturally scores than companies with physical assets and larger physical impacts (e.g. biogas). The new metric removes this bias. Secondly, we find that expressing impact creation in USD allows us to better understand the size of our impact, and communicate the value of our impact to stakeholders.

# Norselab's Theory of Change

The change we aim to spark with our impact asset management business

### Input Our strategy



# Activities Our contribution

WHAT WE CONTROL

WHAT WE EXPECT WILL HAPPEN

Through our positioning, network and institutional setup, we attract topperforming investment professionals to spearhead novel impact strategies in various asset classes.

We provide the governance platform, our impact framework and expertise, and initial capital to get the products rapidly off the ground. This enables investment professionals to focus on delivering stellar returns from investments that contribute significantly and concretely, through their products and services, to the UN Sustainable Development Gnals

# Outputs The results we help create

Our offering across asset classes make impact investing an option for more diverse sources of capital. By delivering market-rate returns and large-scale change in global industries, we inspire the market and prove that impact is the future of investing.

Through transparency, open communication and frequent engagement with the investing ecosystem, we build awareness, knowledge and confidence in impact investing.

- Increased impact AUM across asset classes
- Diversification of sources of impact capital
- Increased confidence in impact investing's ability to deliver marketrate returns and impact

# Outcomes The change we expect



- impact investing enters the mainstream across asset classes
- All capital contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals

# Impact The strategic achievement

A planet and people positive financial system ensuring a meaningful future for all.

# How we identify impact potential

### Our Meaningfulness assessment framework

#### Framework design

A robust assessment framework is essential in the operationalization of impact investing strategies. Ours has been designed with multiple objectives in mind:

- Placing the Meaningfulness Philosophy at the heart of our assessments
- Meeting institutional standards of structure and robustness
- Adaptability across asset classes
- Accomodating evolving sustainability regulations
- Conveying main findings in a clear and understandable way to stakeholders.

#### A multi-lens approach

The framework design recognizes that sustainability is complex. No single lens or data point tells the full story; therefore, we adopt a multi-lens approach, spend

significant analyst resources on fundamental research, and provide documentation for each due diligence that is as thorough on the impact side as on the commercial side.

#### The Meaningfulness Memo

The Meaningfulness Memo is a key piece of documentation in every investment decision. The memo summarizes findings from our impact due diligence process (outlined below), supported by evidence and data. The impact score attributed in the memo defines whether the company is eligible for investment or not (scorecard on the next page).

The memo also lays the foundation for our impact management in the ownership period, defining metrics, identifying risk and mapping gaps. The memo may also include strategy recommendations or formal requirements to include e.g. in investment agreements.



# The impact scorecard

We invest in impact-aligned and impact-generating companies

Our assessments culminate in a scorecard where we distinguish between two types of companies that fit with our funds' mandates: impact-aligned and impact-generating investments.

#### 5/5 - Impact-generating

In scope for Norselab

Potential for large-scale system impact in industries that are central to major sustainability challenges. Novel product, solution, or business model that may replace existing offerings, or that can lay the foundation for a new product category or industry. Substantial and/or differentiating contribution to the SDGs.

#### 4/5 - Impact-aligne

In scope for Norselab

Contributing to positive change without sparking big, catalytic shifts. Setting the standard for positive SDG contribution in new or established industries or product categories. Not necessarily a novel product or solution, but at minimum best-in-class improvements to existing products and solutions.

3/5 - Neutral

Impact thesis absent or weak for the company's products or services. Limited negative impacts and/or risk.

2/5 - Not satisfactory

Impact thesis present alongside substantial and/or unmitigated negative impacts.

1/5 - Deal breaker

Substantial controversy and/or ties to controversial industries, substantial negative impact with limited opportunity to mitigate.





# Safeguarding our impact integrity

The role of the Product Governance Committee

### An independent stage-gate in our process

The Product Governance Committee (PGC) is a good governance measure for all investment decision-making in Norselab funds. The PGC is entirely independent of the investment teams, and constitutes a stage-gate in the investment process of all funds. Norselab Group's Chief Governance Officer, Chief Impact Officer, Compliance officer, and the Head of Risk and Compliance serve on the PGC.

Before any investment is approved, each specific case must demonstrate alignment with the respective fund's mandate, guidelines, and investment restrictions, Norselab's Meaningfulness Policy, and commitments related to SFDR Article 9 categorization.

### The right to refuse insatisfactory impact

In its pre-trade reviews, PGC can approve or refuse investments based on these criteria. It may also request further investigation and documentation before approving investments. PGC holds negative veto power.

In daily operations, the PGC approval is delegated to Norselab's Chief Impact Officer, with the possibility to escalate issues to the full PGC for discussion and decision at any time.

### 18 rejected cases in 2023

Out of 61 investment cases that underwent due diligence in 2023, 43 were approved through delegated power, and 18 were rejected due to insufficient impact. Four of these cases were escalated on an ad hoc basis to the PGC.

In addition to the pre-trade checks, the PGC conducts a full post-trade review of all investments quarterly. The review includes a walk-through of approved investments, impact method or process changes or enhancements, as well as a follow-up of any ongoing issue in the fund portfolios.

The PGC is a central checks-and-balances mechanism that ensures our investment activities consistently meet our responsibilities and commitments.

 $\sim$  25

# How we bridge sustainability regulation and impact investing

### Entering the era of sustainability evidence

A range of recently adopted regulations aim to help direct more capital toward activities that contribute to a climate-neutral economy, alleviate pressure on natural resources, and reduce social inequality, while also tackling greenwashing.

First in line, the Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (SFDR) significantly impacts asset managers and other financial market participants. It imposes strict requirements to make sustainability-relevant information available to investors and the public. Combined with other regulations, the SFDR tightens the net around those who greenwash, and contributes to restricting activities that are harmful to the climate, the environment, and people. There is no longer room for claiming sustainability without documentation; we need evidence.

### Impact is a concept in its own right

The regulation has not been shaped with impact investing and its central principles in mind, and is sometimes criticized for not sufficiently supporting changemakers. In this context, it's essential to recognize that impact operates on established characteristics of intentionality, evidence-based decision-making, impact management, and

stewardship (GIIN), and to acknowledge that the regulation is no guarantee of impact.

While promoting transparency, SFDR also increases complexity for impact investors. The attention and amount of resources needed to navigate the regulation may pose a potential drawback for impact investing, shifting focus on reporting to the detriment of impact-investors' core mission: creating positive social and/or environmental change. Good reporting does not necessarily equal solid impact creation.

#### Norselab's stance on SFDR and impact

All Norselab funds disclose under SFDR Article 9, the category of funds that have a sustainable investment objective. We remain committed to upholding a robust, institutional-grade impact investing practice while investing the necessary resources to adapt to the regulations' requirements. We are enthusiastic about the opportunities these regulations present to reinvent our economy. We are confident that, by embracing these changes, we can continue to make a meaningful impact through our investments.

Access Norselab's Sustainability-related disclosures here.

# What are «Sustainable Investments»?

We invest in impact-aligned and impact-generating companies

The Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (SFDR) requires funds disclosing under Article 9 (often dubbed "dark green" funds) to make Sustainable Investments. The regulation describes Sustainable Investments as investments in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, that does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective, and follows good governance practices in particular with respect to sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff, and tax compliance.

This definition has been broadly criticized as vague. To a great extent, financial market participants have to define the boundaries for Sustainable Investments themselves.

Since inception, we at Norselab have looked to the UNs Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for guidance on which changes we need across the social and environmental dimensions of sustainability. As we opted to disclose our funds under Article 9, we also defined the Sustainable Investment Objective of our funds in line with the SDGs.

For every single investment, we perform a structured and disciplined assessment to document that the following applies:

# A. The investment has a significant contribution to the SDGs

Building on our lasting trust in the SDGs' ability to identify relevant societal challenges, we set a net positive contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals as the objective of our sustainable investments. The SDGs provide a globally recognized framework for identifying necessary change in society, across social and environmental aspects.

To ensure that our investments have a material and lasting impact, we assess whether companies'

products and solutions contribute to one of the 169 targets that have been developed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

# B. The investment does no significant harm to any sustainable objective

To guarantee that our investments remain impactful and to avoid exposure to assets with significant negative impact in any sustainability dimension, we apply the Do No Significant Harm (DNSH) and Meet Minimum Safeguards (MMS) principles in the SFDR.

The assessment of Principle Adverse Indicators and Sustainability controversies, combined with research into companies' potential negative impacts on the SDGs, allows us to rule out significant harm. Additional background checks related to UN Global Compact compliance, including assessments on corruption, labour rights, and human rights allow us to reduce risk to people and society.

# C. The investment promotes good governance

At Norselab, we take pride in our our institutional-grade governance. Through engagement with our investees, we commit to spreading the culture of good governance throughout our portfolios. We see that improved policies and impact reporting reduce risk throughout our investments' value chains and as such, our expectations exceed the minimum regulatory standards, best practices and all major UN, OECD and ILO guidances (UN Global Compact Principle, OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, etc.).

# Frameworks we adhere to

### Adopting best practices and engaging with the community

Impact investing is a young and dynamic field where ambitious actors collaborate and continuously strive to redefine and strengthen industry standards. Norselab aims to be an active contributor to developing best practices, and actively engage with the impact investing ecosystem to share, exchange and learn.

There is a growing number of organizations and initiatives working for impact. However, as a relatively young firm conscious of how we best spend our resources, we have chosen to join or adopt a handful of them.

#### Principles for Responsible Investments

In 2020, Norselab becomes a Principles for Responsible Investments (PRI) signatory, and has since reported annually to PRI on its investment activities. The PRI has developed a set of six principles through which investors can align with broader objectives of society. As a PRI signatory, Norselab has integrated the principles into its Meaningfulness Policy.

### Global Impact Investing Network

In 2021, Norselab adopts the Global Impact Investing Network's (GIIN) definition of impact investing. The GIIN is a globally recognized impact investing network, dedicated to increasing its scale and effectiveness around the world. Norselab has engaged dialogue to officially join the GIIN and be part of a community of 400+ like-minded investors.



#### **UN Global Compact**

In 2022, Norselab Investment Management becomes a participant of the UNGC, and has since followed the Ten UNGC Principles Guidance to ensure good governance practices in current and prospective investee companies regarding human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption. The principles have been integrates into the Meaningfulness Policy.

#### **NorNAB**

Norselab is an early member of the Norwegian National Advisory Board for Impact Investing (NorNAB). NorNAB is a non-profit working for the growth and development of the impact investment ecosystem in Norway. Norselab has been represented in the Board of Directors since inception, and has actively contributed to the organization's work, such as the first market survey into Norwegian Impact investing, and NorNAB's "Guide to Impact Investments." (published in May 2024).

### B Corp™

Norselab Group AS and all subsidiaries successfully certifies as a B Corp. As an organization focused on product-driven impact, achieving this certification aligns well with our mission. The B Corp certification rewards companies that demonstrate mission lock, and that meet rigorous standards in social and environmental performance, transparency, and accountability.



# Impact and financial goals

### Aligning the impact and financial agendas

The creation of positive impact and consideration of sustainability risks are fully incorporated in the design and management of Norselab's compensation model.

As a firm entirely dedicated to impact investing, we commit to aligning remuneration with impact. We believe that this is best done by investing in companies that generate impact through their revenue-generating products or services, demonstrating an intrinsic tie between impact and growth. In such cases, the scale of the company's impacts increases with every new customer or user. This aligns the financial and impact agendas.

All our fund mandates require this collinearity. Furthermore, Norselab's systems for governing our impact practice, including the Meaningfulness Policy, are designed to avoid mission drift in investee companies and calls for action should such risks occur. This approach ensures that impact performance is an integral part of our overall performance.

### On impact-linked compensation

Our team recently conducted in-depth research into so-called "impact-linked compensation" (ILC) to evaluate how this could potentially be implemented at Norselab. Although we recognize that ILC is currently a hot topic in our industry—particularly on the private

equity side—we have, to date, concluded that such mechanisms may not be meaningful in light of the resources it would require to do it right. In our view, there is a considerable risk of pitfalls such as lack of ambition in goal-setting, and cherry-picking of metrics, which could lead to unintended skewing of incentives toward narrow aspects of impact.

Our impact approach, combined with the design of our fund mandates, the Meaningfulness Policy, and all supporting processes, lead us to conclude that impact-linked incentives would not further the impact of our investments. As much as we recognize that such mechanisms may make sense for firms targeting operational improvements in their portfolios, we believe that it has less value for asset managers who target collinearity between impact and profit.

We continuously assess and improve our impact framework with the aim of being at the forefront of our industry. As a team, when considering the implementation of changes in methods or mechanisms, we consistently ask ourselves: "Will this enhance robustness and integrity? And will it contribute to greater impact?". At the time of writing, we hence consider the integration of such mechanisms as having little to no benefit in advancing our impact mission.

# Norselab 1/2

# 3. Our impact in 2023



# Norselab Meaningful Equity

Growth Equity strategy

SFDR
Article 9

Investment focus
Impact

Stage Seed/Series A Geographic focus

Europe

### About the strategy

The Meaningful Equity strategy invests in a concentrated portfolio of growth companies with the potential for rapid, global scaling that are positioned to spark large-scale positive change in global industries. The strategy mainly backs companies based in the Nordics, around the central impact themes "Sustainable Food Systems", "Energy Transition and efficiency" and "Circularity".

Active ownership is a key component of the fund's value-creation strategy, and the investment team allocates significant resources to supporting portfolio companies across a range of business-critical areas. The strategy launched in June 2020, anchored by the Norwegian government's investment body, Investinor.

"

The investment team allocates significant resources to supporting portfolio companies across a range of business-critical areas

"

# Theory of Change

# Norselab Meaningful Equity

# Input

WHAT WE CONTROL

Our strategy



We invest in innovative companies with high commercial growth prospects and the potential to drive large-scale and systemic impacts in global industries, mainly within the themes of energy and energy efficiency, food systems, and circularity. By focusing on the impacts generated by the company's products and services, including their upstream and downstream effects, we ensure that commercial scaling and growth are the central levers for impact.

#### Activities Our contribution



We provide the necessary capital for companies in the growth stage. mainly in the Nordics, where there is scarce access to competent capital. We are very actively involved in the growth and development of the companies, taking significant minority positions and board participation, and offering extensive access to competence and considerable support within market positioning, fundraising, sustainability.

## Outputs

The results we help create



Investees scale their operations and expand to new regions, making their change-making products and services more broadly available. Results they contribute to:

- Increased production of renewable energy
- Reduced energy use in industries
- Greater access to food
- Reduced extraction of natural resources

### Outcomes

The change we expect



Investee companies disturb incumbent market practices and players by offering commercially attractive, novel, and sustainable solutions in global industries. As their foothold and reach increase, industries shift away from outdated and unsustainable practices to new solutions compatible with a sustainable future.

- A fossil-free energy system
- Reduced GHG emissions
- Sustainable food systems
- Circular resources and materials

### Impact

The strategic achievement A global economy within planetary boundaries, with a liveable climate, enough healthy food for all, and replenished nature.

#### Investment team



Chief Investment Officer Yngve Tvedt



Chief Impact & Comms Officer Maria de Perlinghi



Investment Partner Aksel Lund Svindal



Impact Analyst Oda Standal



Investment Partner Jean-Guillaume Marquaire



Impact Analyst Inès van Tol



Investment Partner Alexander Nøstvik



Impact Analyst Christiaan Griffeioen

## **Key Impact Metrics**

20/20

Investments contributing to SDGs \$1,533,975

USD net contribution to SDGs

33%

**EU Taxonomy** Eligibility

34

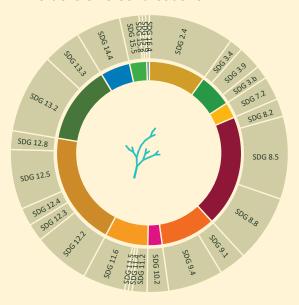
59%

Impact-generating companies

35%

Impact-aligned companies

### Portfolio SDG contributions



## Portfolio SDG target contributions

Most portfolio companies contribute to several SDG targets. The figure shows the weighted average by holding value. In total, the portfolio contributed to 12 different SDGs, the most frequent company contribution being SDG 12 and SDG 8.

## Top SDG Contributions



20% of AUM

Investments



20% of AUM

Investments



14% of AUM

5 Investments

# SFDR Environmental & Social Investments

77%

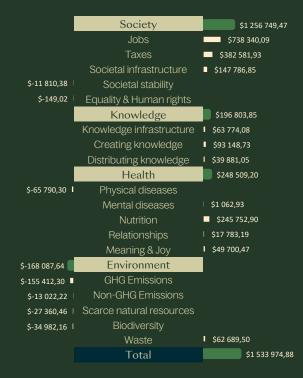
Share of investments with social impact

86%

Share of investments with environmental impact

# Meaningful Equity

Quantified USD-equivalent net impact across the portfolio



+ \$1.53 M<sup>1</sup>
Net contribution to the SDGs

# The net impact model

The Upright Project estimates and quantifies the positive and negative impacts of a company's products and services. Based on data from over 200 million scientific articles, Upright is able to estimate the USD-equivalent value of the positive and negative impacts that a company has across social and environmental dimensions of sustainability. We subtract the companies' negative societal impact (in USD-equivalent) from the companies' positive societal impact (in dollar-equivalent) of each company to find the net impact. The impacts that we consider reflect the 17 SDG goals.

### What does the score indicate?

In 2023, Norselab's growth equity portfolio created a net impact to the SDGs at an estimated value of \$1533 975. This translates to \$12 048 worth of positive impact generated for every million dollars invested into the strategy. This figure has already been adjusted for the value of negative impacts (such as CO2 emissions) of the companies.

# The impact of our portfolio companies

We invest in impact-aligned and impact-generating companies

Portfolio weight <sup>1</sup>	Investment	Industry	SDG contribution	Our impact from this investment <sup>2</sup>
18.7%	Ava Ocean AS	Seafood	2 **** 13 **** 14 ***********************	\$ 293,750.00
10.5%	Antec Biogas AS	Renewable Energy	7 summer 13 cm 12 some some some some some some some some	\$ 243,957.18
8.0%	Farmable AS	Agriculture technology	2 IND. 12 SOURCE ORDER O	\$ 3,614.35
7.1%	Ivaldi Group, Inc.	industrial technology	9 3034-30000 12 300000 000000 000000 000000 000000 000000	\$ 3,055.82
7.1%	Carrot AS	Circularity data	11 menomen 12 menomen	\$ 62,334.77
7.0%	Svenn AS	Property technology	12 monants or more or	\$ 81,919.30
6.4%	Qlearsite Ltd	HR technology	10 manuer 8 manuer and 1 manuer	\$ 60,755.39
5.9%	Varig Technologies AS	Property technology	9 300-0000	\$ 60,360.21
5.7%	Vanora AS	Maritime technology	13 mm	\$ 16,874.96
4.2%	Casi	Mobility technology	12 mm. CO	\$ 8,485.69

Portfolio weight <sup>1</sup>	Investment	Industry	SDG contribution	Our impact from this investment <sup>2</sup>
4.2%	Plateful AS	Food supply chain	9 someone 12 streets and 12 streets	\$ 280,470.45
4.1%	Wanda AS	Logistics	9 state sections 12 streets constraint CO	\$ 952.81
3.1%	DoMore Diagnostics AS	Health technology	3 institutes on the state of th	\$ 10,209.12
2.8%	Kontur AS	Infrastructure technology	11 SECONDARY SECONDARY A BELLEVILLE	\$ 83,890.20
2.1%	Squarehead Technology AS	Industrial technology	8 Statement over	\$ 79,154.03
1.6%	Beefutures Holding AS	Apiculture technology	2 *** 15 **	\$ 42,867.23
1.0%	Rift Labs AS	Agriculture technology	2 *************************************	\$ 50,019.97
0.6%	Looping AS	Packaging	12 common	\$ 11,490.68

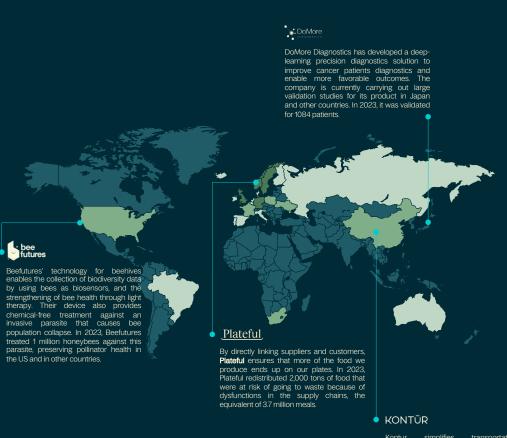
<sup>1.</sup> Portfolio weights calculated as the average of monthly portfolio weig

<sup>2.</sup> Using data from the Upright Project and applying Norselab's cus

# Driving global impact

> \$10 M (USD) in revenue
\$1 - \$10 M (USD) in revenue
\$0.1 - \$1M (USD) in revenue
\$0 - \$0.1M (USD) in revenue

Geographies where our portfolio companies benefit customers and stakeholders.



Kontur simplifies transportation infrastructure maintenance through automatic analysis of the subsurface. Kontur's technology is used worldwide to detect potential weaknesses along tens of thousands of highway kilometers, among which in China.

# Our value creation agenda

Active ownership is a fundamental to how we aim to create superior returns.

#### High influence in a concentrated portfolio

We invest in a concentrated portfolio, consistently acquiring significant minority stakes and taking board seats. We invest time and resources in building strong and trusting relationships with the founders, from the initial contact and throughout the ownership period.

This positioning provides significant influence on the strategic development of the companies, and serves as a key lever of value creation and risk mitigation. We take extraordinary steps to support our companies' growth journeys and ensure they deliver the intended impact.

Several people on our team have entrepreneurial experience, and in-depth competence in areas crucial for them to grow into global contenders in their respective industries.

Here are some examples of how we support our portfolio companies:

### Strategy and growth

As day-to-day sparring partners for management, we frequently engage in strategic discussions about business models, pricing, sales, and more. We also have a track record of assisting our companies ahead of new funding rounds, providing access to our

network, and helping them nail financial modeling and pitches.

In 2023, the challenging macro environment for growth companies was felt across our portfolio. The balancing act between growth and cash preservation has been a crucial task. Throughout the year, we worked closely with several companies to stake out and complete tough but necessary organizational changes, and to rethink strategic priorities.

During this period, our active strategy has proven its efficiency, helping companies stretch the runway through the rough patch, and refocus on priorities that put them in a favorable position as the market eases up.

#### Branding and communications

Thoughtful positioning, branding, and communication can equip a good company with superpowers. We have been active in rebranding several of our portfolio companies as we set them up for commercial scaling. Examples include Carrot (2021), Plateful, and Ava Ocean (both 2022).

In 2023, no such projects were initiated as it's been a year of cash preservation among most of our portfolio companies. However, we have continued to support them on PR and communication topics, and have several ongoing projects in the new year.



# Impact case study: Ava Ocean



The future of sustainable seabed harvesting

Ava Ocean, founded in 2016 in Ålesund, Norway, has developed a unique, seabed-friendly method for harvesting shellfish. The method allows for identifying, selecting, and sorting seafood species without harming marine ecosystems. The company's technology has reopened the fishery of Arctic scallops in the Barents Sea after 30 years of closure. Ava Ocean also actively contributes to increasing knowledge about human impact on marine life.

avaocean.no

Impact value creation in 2023

\$ 1.18 M

Impact potential

5/5 – Impact-generating

Discover all of Ava Ocean's impact contributions at the end of the report

#### Building sustainability competence

Sustainability is a core component of value creation. As an impact investor, it is our role to pull the levers that will maximize investees impact. An essential part of this is helping companies gain awareness and knowledge about their own positive and negative impacts and what would improve their net impact. This puts them in a position to better understand how their impact scales with expansion to new geographies or verticals.

Moreover, being alert and prepared for sustainability regulations is becoming a license to play. Sustainability regulation is an area of increasing complexity, where companies in the growth stage struggle to keep up. We consider it our responsibility to help them

understand and navigate the landscape so that they can work efficiently on the regulations that are relevant to them.

As we drive this agenda, we take into account that the companies will be on a journey of fast growth. This means two things: first, they should start early implementing routines in sustainability management. Building good governance is infinitely easier if you do it at the outset, instead of waiting until the company is large enough to formally be affected by regulation. Second, they need to take into account that their larger customers have an increasing need for sustainability documentation and data. This can easily turn into a roadblock for commercial development.

#### Tools and routines

In the Meaningful Equity strategy, we have several tools and routines to support companies on this journey:

#### Engagement in due diligence

We engage in direct dialogue on impact and sustainability topics in due diligence. This builds trust and understanding of the importance it holds for the future success of their company.

#### Sustainability requirements

Our term sheet includes sustainability requirements and investment agreements frequently contain specific clauses on impact and sustainability commitments.

#### Impact onboarding

We onboard companies to our assessments, including the areas of opportunity in impact and gaps we've identified in their sustainability management, and their impact risks. We define impact metrics and introduce them to our quarterly and annual impact reporting routines.

#### Mitigating greenwashing risk

Throughout the year, we support companies in mitigating greenwashing risk, by aligning communication with our science-based assessment of their impact.

#### Sustainability training program

We run a sustainability training program, in which companies are regularly invited to learn about sustainability topics relevant across the portfolio.

#### Recruiting sustainability professionals

We support portfolio companies in identifying and hiring sustainability professionals for their teams.

# The challenge

We don't talk enough about the seabed. It is misunderstood, and often overlooked. Yet, Ava Ocean's Dagny-Elise Anastassiou compares the seabed to a boat's trim tab: it is rarely talked about, but one movement can change the course of the whole vessel. However, up until now, the vast majority of human activity on the seabed has been destructive. Traditional dredging methods to harvest seafood such as scallops have resulted in significant amounts of CO2 released, and lasting harm on invaluable marine ecosystems, which take years to restore. For instance, kelp forests provide ecosystem services valued at US \$ 500bn a year.

As a result, seabed dredging is banned or restricted in some countries such as Norway, but about 1,000 dredgers for shellfish are still active in our oceans today.

The seabed is vital for all life on earth and holds abundant opportunities and unexplored seafood resources. As a large share of our global population depends on the ocean and its resources for food, employment, and community building, unlocking the seabed's wealth of resources while preserving its delicate ecosystem has the potential to create large-scale impact across a range of sustainability challenges.







### How Ava Ocean attacked the challenge

In close collaboration with research institutes and authorities, Ava Ocean has taken on the challenge of commercializing a first-of-its-kind harvesting method that allows for the identification, selection, and sorting of seafood species living on the seabed, without harming marine ecosystems.

By proving the effectiveness of its precision seabed harvesting technology in harvesting Arctic scallops, the Norwegian authorities reopened the fishery of Arctic scallops in the Barents sea, after 30 years of closure. Making Ava Ocean's method widely available in other regions and for other species has the potential to end harmful seabed dredging for good.

Through its active engagement in the community, and participation in four research projects, Ava Ocean contributes to increasing knowledge and understanding regarding humans' impact on oceans and marine life.

#### The results Ava Ocean created in 2023



#### Zero hunger

Increasing access to healthy seafood that was previously unavailable, or unexploited

In 2023, Ava Ocean had a successful first fishing season by harvesting over 4000 tons of Chlamys islandica scallops in the Barents sea, or the equivalent of 28.8 million portions of seafood.



# Decent work and economic growth

Promoting coastal communities revitalization

With a crew of 48 fishers on its vessel the Arctic Pearl, Ava Ocean enabled the employment of 48 people in areas where harvesting job opportunities did not exist.

Increased knowledge sharing among stakeholders by participating in four research projects and by being featured in four major international media outlets, including The Economist, The Times, and Forbes.



#### Life below water

and



Climate action

Enabling global fisheries to increase and promote marine ecosystems resilience

In 2023, Ava Ocean preserved the seabed, an invaluable carbon sink and habitat host, in its three fishing zones covering an area of 80 km<sup>2</sup>, by carrying out selective harvesting based on scientific insights.

## Hearing from Ava Ocean's Chief Impact Officer

# What has your collaboration with Norselal brought you so far?

- Norselab has been instrumental in making Ava Ocean the fast-growing business it is today. Their support extends well beyond financial backing; their insightful guidance in sustainable business development is invaluable to the Ava Ocean team. Norselab's belief in our vision and encouragement to think boldly are driving us forward to generate real positive change in the seafood industry. Norselab also had the vision to employ a sustainability professional like myself very early on our journey!

# You have been involved in a project that aims to restore kelp forests in Norway. What has Ava Ocean's role been?

- The OceanGreen project is a three-year project that aims to protect and restore kelp forests along the Norwegian coast by addressing the challenges posed by extensive sea urchin populations. It's a strategic collaboration between industry, civil society, and research environments, where Ava Ocean is taking the lead.

"Zombie" sea urchins are consuming large quantities of kelp, causing seabed desertification. This is problematic because kelp offers vital nurseries for juvenile fish, carbon storage, nitrogen recycling, and erosion protection. The development of specialized harvesters for sea urchins, based on Ava Ocean's

patented technology, is a key aspect of the initiative. Our plan is to create commercially viable products from harvested sea urchins. The potential to revitalize coastal communities through the project is very exciting. I look forward to being part of engaging and educating - and hopefully creating new employment opportunities.



Dagny-Elise Anastassiou, Chief Impact Officer at Ava Ocean



# Ava Ocean's technology is completely novel. How do you ensure it does not harm marine ecosystems?

- We collected our first baseline data for environmental monitoring in 2023. Our current fishing zones were rated 1.6 with the Shannon Diversity Index, which measures a community's diversity by considering the number of species, and evenness in abundance. Over 60 species inhabit our fishing zones! This means we have a great responsibility to maintain this level of biodiversity, and we will actively use this reference point in evaluating and tracking our environmental impact going forward.

# What are the changes we still need to see in your industry?

To effectively address the root causes of the challenges we face, we need to increase awareness and understanding of marine ecosystems and their interactions. Although the proliferation of sea urchins is undeniably a leading cause of the decline in kelp forests, overfishing of their natural predators is the underlying cause. Sea urchin populations spike because human activity has disturbed their habitats. While removing sea urchins is an effective long-term solution for restoring kelp forests, the primary challenge remains to rebalance ecosystems through controlled fishing and habitat restoration.



The Arctic Pearl. Photo: Marius Fiskum



# Norselab Meaningful Impact High Yield

High-yield credit

SFDR Article 9

Investment focus
Impact

Invest in High Yield Corporate Bonds Geographic focus

Nordics

### About the strategy

Norselab Meaningful Impact High Yield is the first actively managed, impact-focused high-yield credit fund in the Nordics disclosing under SFDR Article 9. The fund invests in corporate bonds issued by companies in the Nordics that bring a clear positive contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The strategy is based on a proven investment philosophy integrating rigid risk management in portfolio construction, and activism in favor of fair treatment and sustainability performance. It's tailored for long-term professional investors seeking an alphafocused approach to impact investments. Norselab Meaningful Impact High-Yield launched in late 2022.

The strategy is based on a proven investment philosophy integrating rigid risk management in portfolio construction, and activism in favor of fair treatment and sustainability performance.

# Theory of Change

### Norselab Meaningful Impact High Yield

Input Our strategy WHAT WE CONTROL

We invest in Nordic corporate high-yield bonds issued by companies that, through their products and solutions, contribute to the sustainable transformation and transition of industries.

Activities Our contribution



We provide financing for issuers that are aligned with impact or that issue bonds with an impact-generating or impact-aligned objective.

We frequently engage with issuers and intermediaries on impact, making our team's knowledge and expertise available to push for higher ambitions on material sustainability topics.

Outputs The results we

help create



Investees products and solutions contribute to

- development of medicines and healthcare
- increased production of renewable energy
- reduced material use and waste
- increased access to healthy foods
- improved public transport solutions

Our activism contributes to raising sustainability awareness and knowledge in the ecosystem, leading to

acceleration of the sustainable transition of industries

### Outcomes

The change we expect

WHAT WE EXPECT WILL HAPPEN



By delivering and developing more sustainable products and solutions, our investees contribute to

- Improved healthcare
- A fossil-free energy system
- A sustainable food system
- Healthier diets
- Circular materials and products
- Access to sustainable transportation

# Impact

The strategic achievement An economy within planetary boundaries that promotes the health and well-being of people.

#### Team



Managing Director, Credit Tom Hestnes



Ole Einar Stokstad



Oda Standal



Head of Risk Shatthik Barua



Impact Analyst Inès van Tol



Head of Operations Line Tollefsen



Christiaan Griffejoen

## **Key Impact Metrics**

Chief Impact & Comms Officer

Maria de Perlinghi

90/91

Investments contributing to SDG targets

\$8,570,918

USD net contribution to SDGs

41%

**EU Taxonomy** Eligibility

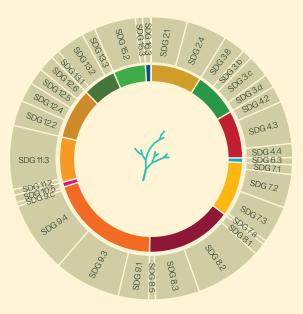
9%

Impact-generating companies

89% Impact-aligned

companies

#### Portfolio SDG contributions



### Portfolio SDG target contributions

Most portfolio companies contribute to several SDG targets. The figure shows the weighted average by holding value. In total, the portfolio contributed to 13 different SDGs, the most frequent company contribution being SDG 9, and SDG 8.

### Top SDG Contributions



20% of AUM

Investments



15% of AUM

Investments



10% of AUM
25 Investments

SFDR Environmental & Social Investments

74%

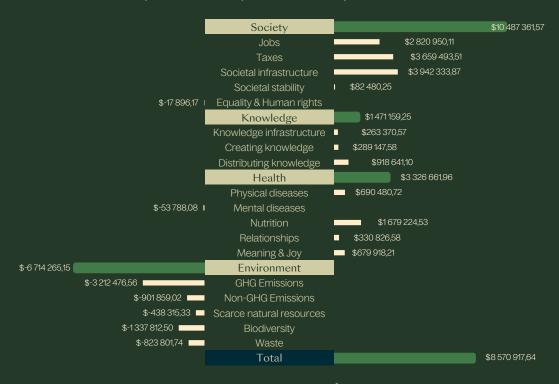
Share of investments with social impact

54%

Share of investments with environmental impact

# Meaningful Impact High Yield

Quantified USD-equivalent net impact across the portfolio



+ \$8.57 M<sup>1</sup>
Net contribution to the SDGs

# The net impact model

The Upright Project estimates and quantifies the positive and negative impacts of a company's products and services. Based on data from over 200 million scientific articles, Upright is able to estimate the USD-equivalent value of the positive and negative impacts that a company has across social and environmental dimensions of sustainability. We subtract the companies' negative societal impact (in USD-equivalent) from the companies' positive societal impact (in dollar-equivalent) of each company to find the net impact. The impacts that we consider reflect the 17 SDG goals.

# What does the score indicate?

In 2023, Norselab's high-yield credit portfolio created a net impact to the SDGs at an estimated value of \$ 8 570 918 to the SDGs. This translates to \$ 76 579 worth of positive impact generated for every million dollars invested into the strategy. This figure has already been adjusted for the value of negative impacts (such as CO2 emissions) of the companies.

# The impact of top holdings

We invest in impact-aligned and impact-generating companies

In 2023, the top holdings in the Norselab Meaningful Impact High Yield portfolio drove significant positive impact in Infrastructure, Clean energy and Climate change mitigation. Together, our top 10 investments created a positive impact of over 2.5 million USD.

Portfolio weight	Investment	Industry	SDG contribution	Our impact from this investment
4.6%	Fertiberia	Manufacturing	2 mm. 9 mm months	\$ 326,019.34
4.5%	VEF AB	Financial and insurance activities	9 menument   8 menument   7 manual m	\$ 132,281.47
4.1%	European Energy A/S	Electricity, gas, steam and air	7	\$ 197,661.68
3.7%	Solis Bond Company	Electricity, gas, steam and air	13 and 13 and 13 and 14 and 15	\$ 92,882.68
3.6%	Storskogen	Financial and insurance activities	9 ************************************	\$ 81,223.68
3.0%	Pihlajalinna	Human Health and Social Work	3 men security	\$ 1,144,149.31
3.0%	Hawk Infinity Software	Information and communication	9 menuncus 7 menuncus 2	\$ 114,422.41
2.8%	ML 33	Real Estate activities	9 maranese 13 mm	\$ 4,328.24
2.8%	Arenakoncernen	Administrative and support service	4 many 8 money on the control of the	\$ 448,943.43
2.8%	ViaCon	Construction	6 subsection   9 subsections   13 store	\$ -31,067.58

# Our engagement agenda

The recurring topics in our engagement with companies

Creating additional impact through strategies that invest in corporate high-yield bonds is more challenging than, for example, a growth equity strategy. Whereas the latter often involves early-stage innovation, the high-yield credit space confronts us with more established industries and companies.

However, making an impact through high-yield investments is possible. By adopting an activist mindset and engaging directly with issuers, we can help them identify and address their most material impact issues. Investing in large corporations can make it difficult to instigate process changes, and our

influence is sometimes limited. However, even small changes in these companies can lead to significant positive impacts due to their scale. Most of the time, we manage to achieve additionality by carefully selecting companies with a clear potential for impact and leadership that is more open to dialogue on sustainability initiatives. This approach allows us to drive meaningful improvements and contribute to positive outcomes in the high-yield space.

On the next page you can learn more about the topics we frequently discuss in direct dialogue with issuers.



## Product Impact

A double materiality assessment is an essential first step for companies to assess, improve, and showcase their impact. However, many companies identify material environmental or social concerns that in reality do not reflect where their impact is greatest.

Many companies focus primarily on the operational aspects of their business and neglect to address the positive and negative effects of their products. When conducting due diligence on such companies, our suggestions and recommendations are designed to shift their focus toward the most material impacts related to their products or services.

ININ Group provides an example of this. Read our engagement case study on page 56 to learn about their improved sustainability efforts.

### **Green Building Certifications**

Green building certification is a key metric we employ to evaluate the contributions of real estate companies to SDG 11. While certification alone does not guarantee sustainability, it does strengthen companies' claims regarding a building's resource efficiency and responsible practices throughout its lifecycle, and as such it is used as a proxy for companies' impact potential. We have collaborated with several companies, urging them - and in some cases convincing them - to pursue green building certifications for both managed properties and development projects. Certifications should always be multi-attributed and third-party conducted.

As an example: We engaged with a real estate investment company whose portfolio company did not meet our requirement regarding green building certifications. After discussing the potential for improvements, the company committed the portfolio company to certify all properties by 2030 and at least 30% of the company's portfolio by the end of the year.

### Biodiversity efforts

Since the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Protocol in 2022, biodiversity efforts have become essential for many businesses. Nonetheless, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions remain the primary focus for most companies when addressing environmental challenges. We frequently collaborate with companies to heighten their awareness of biodiversity impacts and advocate for specific actions to mitigate these effects. Additionally, we encourage the setting of quantitative goals and the inclusion of key performance indicators (KPIs) on biodiversity in their environmental reporting.

#### Reporting

Sustainability reporting is becoming increasingly common among listed companies globally, transitioning from the exception to the norm. However, the depth of reporting can vary significantly. Some companies creating substantial positive impacts from their products have very limited sustainability reporting. Many companies have started to report on more traditional ESG metrics, but often overlook information or metrics that could highlight their most material impacts - the impacts from their products and service.

As an example: A real estate company specializing in developing and operating elderly homes undertakes numerous initiatives to enhance the standard of living and foster joy and meaning for a growing elderly population. While the company publishes an annual sustainability report that includes data on waste, energy usage, and gender balance within its management and board, it could improve its reporting by focusing more on the efforts related to its healthcare services and products. Examples could include the types of leisure activities offered to their residents, information on how they work to enhance their standard of living, and evidence of how those efforts impact the quality of life of the beneficiaries.

# Conditionality case study

扒

How we engaged with ININ Group to enhance impact

As part of our strategy, we occasionally grant conditional approval of investments. In these cases, the issuers have not fully met our Meaningfulness requirements. For a conditional approval to take place, companies must be close to meeting our requirements and show a track record of committing to and achieving sustainability objectives. Furthermore, the approval is dependent on the company's commitment to furthering its sustainability efforts in line with our requirements within a limited time frame. Below is an example of how this can be executed.

#### About ININ Group

ININ Group's strategy is to create value by identifying investment opportunities in SMEs within the Nordic infrastructure and industry services niche, with a growing focus on green infrastructure and industry services. They buy and build companies, combining private equity ownership and a value creation mindset with an industrial approach and long-term horizon.

#### inin.no

### How we engaged

Our assessment of ININ concluded that the company was in the early stages of its sustainability journey but had the potential to improve its positive contributions.

We identified the following engagement points for the company and met with the company's management on several occasions to share our recommendations.

#### ININ Group should:

- Develop a clear group-level sustainability policy and strategy.
- Engage with portfolio companies on climate targetsetting
- Implement portfolio-wide sustainability reporting
- Publishing and integrating sustainability reporting in the annual report

Our goal was for ININ to formally commit to disclosing a sustainability roadmap for 2024, including a group sustainability policy, materiality assessment, sustainability targets, and integrated sustainability reporting.

#### ININ Group's SDG contribution

Norselab assessed that ININ Group has positive contributions to target 8.3 by deploying capital, competence, and analytics solutions to the small and medium-sized companies they acquire.



#### Decent work and economic growth

#### Target 8.3

«Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services.»

ININ Group also demonstrates a contribution to target 9.3 by focusing on SMEs in the infrastructure services segment.



#### Industry innovation and infrastructure

#### Target 9.3

«Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets».

#### Results of engagement

ININ Group was very reactive on the back of our conversation and prepared a vision for 2024 that was presented to us in December 2023. ININ Group made a formal commitment in line with the goal we had set for the engagement. Following the successful engagement, there have been several follow-up meetings with ININ Group in connection to their sustainability work. Management has consistently displayed interest in receiving our guidance and views on their sustainability efforts. In addition to the planned engagement topics, we have had the opportunity to advocate for why it is important to increase focus on companies' products and services in understanding impact materiality.



# The following efforts have been undertaken by the company:

- Stakeholder mapping
- Stakeholder dialogue
- Double materiality assessment
- Formulating sustainability targets
- Collecting available data and assessing data providers for estimation and collection of remaining datapoints
- Created group-level sustainability policy

#### Yet to be completed:

- Publishing the company's sustainability policy
- Data collection for the group's first Sustainability report
- Creating and publishing sustainability report in line with CSRD policy.

We will keep monitoring ININ Group's progress and achievements in line with our own commitments.

### Key success factors for ININ Group's progress

#### Monthly Roadmap Follow-Ups

We consider the company's roadmap as crucial for the rapid progress in its sustainability efforts. Short deadlines help keep momentum, and although some processes may take longer than projected, the detailed and structured approach likely helped avoid stagnation in the sustainability projects.

#### Committed management

When management is receptive and actively embraces new sustainability initiatives, it significantly enhances their integration and effectiveness. Management's commitment ensures that sustainability becomes a core aspect of the company rather than a peripheral activity merely meant to ensure alignment with regulatory and stakeholder demands.

#### Defined roles and responsibilities

ININ Group approached its sustainability efforts with clearly defined responsibilities. The Chief Sustainability Officer plays a central role in the company's management. The CEO's overarching responsibility for sustainability initiatives underscores the relevance of sustainability at the highest executive level. The board of subsidiaries is responsible for ensuring that subsidiaries implement measures according to the group policy.



# Norselab Real Estate Credit Opportunities

Thematic high-yield credit

SFDR Article 9

Investment focus
Impact

Invest in High Yield Corporate Bonds Geographic focus

Nordics

## About the strategy

Norselab Real Estate Credit Opportunities is the first thematic fund investing in high-yield corporate bonds in the Nordic real estate sector. The fund invests in bonds issued by companies with a clear contribution to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and discloses under SFDR Article 9. The concentration in the fund is high, and the strategy aims to deploy the team's vast experience with distressed situations to spearhead restructurings on behalf of bondholders. The fund launched in late 2023.

Norselab Real Estate Credit Opportunities is the first thematic fund investing in high-yield corporate bonds in the Nordic real estate sector.

# Theory of Change

### Norselab Real Estate Credit Opportunities

# **Input**Our strategy



We invest in high-yield bonds issued by companies in the Nordics that, through their business models, are leading the way for sustainable real estate in line with the SDGs. These companies particularly focus on emissions reductions, the safekeeping of local biodiversity, and/or increasing the societal benefit of real estate.

# Activities Our contribution

WHAT WE CONTROL



We are the first impact-focused fund in this space, making financing available for issuers actively seeking to enhance sustainability in the real estate sector. This attracts considerable attention from both issuers and intermediaries, raising awareness and knowledge of sustainability in the ecosystem.

We frequently engage with issuers and intermediaries on impact, making our team's knowledge and expertise available to push for higher ambitions on material sustainability topics.

# Outputs





Investees contribute to an increase in sustainable building practices that contribute to:

- increased share of renewable energy in real estate
- reduced energy use in real estate
- increased occurrence of vegetated roofs
- development of infrastructure for critical services
- increased share of affordable housing solutions

Our activism contributes to raising sustainability awareness and knowledge in the ecosystem, leading to

acceleration of the sustainable transition of the real estate sector

### Outcomes

The change we expect



By setting new standards for real estate, investees contribute to accelerating the development of sustainable living and urban development. This will include:

- Carbon-neutral real estate
- Restoration and protection of biodiversity
- Access to critical services for all
- Housing for all

## **Impact**

The strategic achievement

Thriving cities and communities that promote the well-being of people and nature.

#### Team



Managing Director, Credit Tom Hestnes



Senior Portfolio Manager Ole Einar Stokstad



Impact Analyst Oda Standal



Head of Risk Shatthik Barua



Impact Analyst Inès van Tol



Head of Operations Line Tollefsen



Impact Analyst Christiaan Griffejoen

## Key Impact Metrics

Chief Impact & Comms Officer

Maria de Perlinghi

31/31

Investments contributing to SDG targets

\$897,739

USD net contribution to SDGs

78%

EU Taxonomy Eligibility

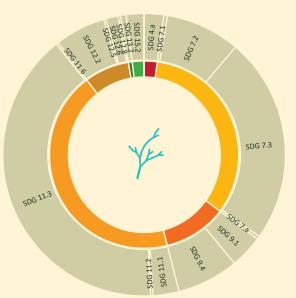
58

10%

Impact-generating companies

90%
Impact-aligned companies

#### Portfolio SDG contributions



## Portfolio SDG target contributions

Most portfolio companies contribute to several SDG targets. The figure shows the weighted average by holding value. In total, the portfolio contributed to 7 different SDGs, the most frequent company contribution being SDG 11 and SDG 7, consistent with the strategy's thematic focus.

### Top SDG Contributions



44% of AUM
28 Investments



33% of AUM
17 Investments



11% of AUM
6 Investments

# SFDR Environmental & Social Investments

74%

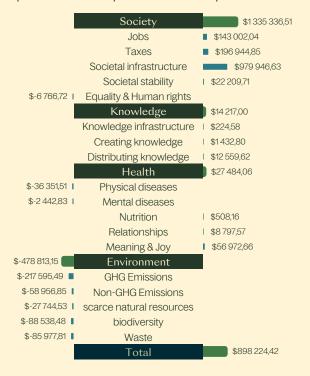
Share of investments with social impact

57%

Share of investments with environmental impact

# Norselab Real Estate Credit Opportunities

Quantified USD-equivalent net impact across the portfolio



+ \$ 0.89 M<sup>1</sup>
Net contribution to the SDGs

### The net impact model

The Upright Project estimates and quantifies the positive and negative impacts of a company's products and services. Based on data from over 200 million scientific articles, Upright is able to estimate the USD-equivalent value of the positive and negative impacts that a company has across social and environmental dimensions of sustainability. We subtract the companies' negative societal impact (in USD-equivalent) from the companies' positive societal impact (in dollar-equivalent) of each company to find the net impact. The impacts that we consider reflect the 17 SDG goals.

#### What does the score indicate?

In 2023, Norselab's Real Estate credit portfolio created a net impact to the SDGs at an estimated value of \$898 224 to the SDGs. This translates to \$12 562 worth of positive impact generated for every million dollars invested into the strategy. This figure has already been adjusted for the value of negative impacts (such as CO2 emissions) of the companies.

# The impact of top holdings

We invest in impact-aligned and impact-generating companies

In 2023, the top holdings in the Norselab Real Estate Credit Opportunities portfolio drove significant positive impact in Sustainable Cities, Infrastructure and Clean Energy. Together, our top 10 investments created a positive impact of over 800k USD.

Portfolio weight <sup>1</sup>	Investment	Industry	SDG contribution	Our impact from this investment <sup>2</sup>
13.2%	Bonava AB	Construction	7 manufacture 9 manufacture 12 monarcure COO	\$ 434,595.71
12.8%	FastPartner AB	Real Estate activities	7 minutes  7 minutes  • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	\$ 8,168.63
11.0%	K2A Knaust Andersson AB	Real Estate activities	11 Microsoft Transport	\$ 6,137.82
9.9%	SBB Norden	Real Estate activities	11 annual con-	\$ 5,054.11
8.9%	Wastbygg Gruppen AB	Construction	7	\$ 318,942.35
7.1%	Corem Kelly AB	Real Estate activities	7 minutes  7 minutes  • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	\$ 2,991.73
6.7%	Titania Holding AB	Real Estate activities	11 menonalism	\$ 1,620.78
5.5%	Genova Property Group	Real Estate activities	11 MONOMATICS 77 STREET OF	\$ 3,852.84
5.3%	Offentliga Hus i Norden	Real Estate activities	7 manufacture 9 montuments 12 montuments and non-zero concerns and	\$ 4,215.27
4.7%	YIT Oyj	Construction	7 minutes 9 minutes 2 minutes 10	\$ 98,987.71

# The road to net-zero in Real Estate

Certification and emission-reduction plans

25%

Average share of certified buildings (or building value)

43%

Share of investments with SBTi targets

## Scope 1+2 emissions for the 2023 portfolio<sup>1</sup>



### What we look for in building certification

We use green building certifications as one of several proxies for sustainable buildings. Green building certifications strengthen companies' claims that their buildings are resource efficient throughout their lifecycle. We always ask that the certification be multi-attributed and conducted by a third party.

For development projects, we recommend aiming for the highest certification levels, such as BREEAM Outstanding or LEED Platinum. Given the characteristics of older buildings, we recommend aiming for the highest possible certification. This is often more environmentally efficient than demolishing buildings and achieving a higher certification in new buildings.

### Science-Based reduction targets

Another proxy we use to assess the sustainability of a real estate company is their net-zero reduction targets and GHG reduction plans. We recommend using the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) as it is a leading organization in corporate climate action. The SBTi's diligent and transparent criteria regarding real estate emission reductions ensure that net-zero targets are scientifically grounded and aligned with the the Paris Agreement. By relying on a third-party like the SBTi, we can more confidently assess the credibility and ambition of a company's sustainability efforts.

# Norselab 🎋

# 4. Progress & Plans



# Strengthening our impact practice

Our plans to enhance our impact approach in 2024

### Improving our data management

In 2024, we aim to further improve the robustness of our impact measurement and management, by leveraging the global increase in impact data. Norselab will continue to explore and assess access, applicability, and quality of data, and implement new data sources into our framework and methods with caution. Among other planned initiatives are the implementation of greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reporting and the improvement of our impact data management architecture.

### Setting impact targets in the portfolio

Norselab's investment strategies ensure that impact is integrated in investees' business models. In the growth equity strategy, we already define impact metrics to track investee companies' positive contributions to the UN SDGs. As their impact is closely intertwined with their commercial growth, we have to a large extent relied on commercial target-

setting. This year, we will work on setting impactspecific targets for the companies. We will engage with them for the target setting, and take the opportunity to lift their impact competence further. We aime to motivate our investees to take greater ownership of- and chase after their impact potential.

# Building an approach to exits in growth equity

To preserve the impact we create throughout our ownership period in the growth equity strategy, it's crucial that companies stay on course and continue to deliver positive social and environmental outcomes after an exit. It is therefore relevant to consider the buyers of our companies and their agendas. We have initiated work on an exit strategy that ensures to the best of our ability that companies go on to scale their impact outcomes further. We plan on continually test and refine the strategy as more exits occur.

# What we promised and how we did

Did we fulfill our commitments from last year's report?

What we promised	How we did	Status
Expand with new impact funds.	We launched the first thematic high-yield fund in Nordic Real Estate, disclosing under SFDR Article 9 and leveraging our Meaningfulness framework. This aligns with our ambition to expand with novel impact products across asset classes.	Completed
What we promised	How we did	Status
Grow the impact team.	We grew our impact team by one full-time position, dedicating a total of four full-time positions to upholding quality and integrity across all of our impact-related activities.	Completed
What we promised	How we did	Status
Enhance our impact framework.	We have automated parts of our due diligence screening process to increase scalability and mitigate the risk of human error. We are currently exploring solutions for integrating GHG accounting and reporting across our portfolios.	Completed
What we promised	How we did	Status
Develop an approach to engagement.	We have structured our approach to engagement with companies both before and after investments. This engagement typically involves initial inquiries and feedback on the management's sustainability efforts, meetings with company leadership, sharing engagement outcomes following due diligence, and tracking the efficiency of our engagement initiatives.	In progress
What we promised	How we did	Status
Build an approach to exits.	We have developed an initial strategy to preserve the impact of our growth equity portfolio companies post-exit.  This approach will undergo testing and potential adjustments as we execute more exits going forward.	Completed

How we did	Status
We were an early joiner of an initiative to launch the Norwegian National Advisory Board for Impact Investing, (NorNAB.), a non-profit dedicated to promoting impact investing in Norway, and connected to the global network of GSG Impact. Norselab is represented on its Board of Directors, and has contributed substantially to several of the organization's workstreams to increase awareness and knowledge of impact investing. Furthermore, we participated as speakers and panelists on impact topics at numerous events, and hosted our own, full-day event dedicated to impact investing, "Norselab Impact Day".	Completed
How we did	Status
We conducted research into various options for implementing impact-linked compensation, and came to the conclusion that such a mechanism is not necessarily fit for enhancing our impact performance. Read our stand on this on page 29.	Completed
	We were an early joiner of an initiative to launch the Norwegian National Advisory Board for Impact Investing, (NorNAB.), a non-profit dedicated to promoting impact investing in Norway, and connected to the global network of GSG Impact. Norselab is represented on its Board of Directors, and has contributed substantially to several of the organization's workstreams to increase awareness and knowledge of impact investing. Furthermore, we participated as speakers and panelists on impact topics at numerous events, and hosted our own, full-day event dedicated to impact investing, "Norselab Impact Day".  How we did  We conducted research into various options for implementing impact-linked compensation, and came to the conclusion that such a mechanism is not necessarily fit for enhancing our

# Paying it forward

Giving back to the impact investing community

Norselab is dedicated to contributing to the impact investing community through various initiatives aimed at sharing knowledge, shaping best practices, advancing the impact investing agenda and helping attract more capital towards creating meaningful change.

#### Sharing expertise

We believe in the power of knowledge sharing and lend our expertise to peers both in intimate settings and as speakers and panelists at events. We contribute with content such as market insights and emerging trends, case studies, regulatory developments and impact assessment and measurement. Such interactions in the ecosystem contributes to dialogue among industry leaders, investors, and other stakeholders.

#### Method transparency

We openly share central information about our impact practice to inspire others who are new to impact investing and to provide valuable insights to companies on how we evaluate their impact. By being open about our processes and the criteria we set, we aim to make impact investing more approachable to all and encourage more players to adopt and refine their own impact practices. We hope that our openness not only builds trust but helps to elevate industry standards.

#### Active participation in NorNAB

As a committed member of the Norwegian National Advisory Board for Impact Investing (NorNAB), we contribute to advancing the impact investing ecosystem in Norway. Norselab is represented on the Board of Directors, and contributions include participating in strategy development, sharing of resources and insights, and helping shape policy recommendations. Notably, we have been instrumental in co-editing Norway's first comprehensive guide to impact investing, a resource designed to educate and guide new and existing

investors on best practices and key considerations in the field.

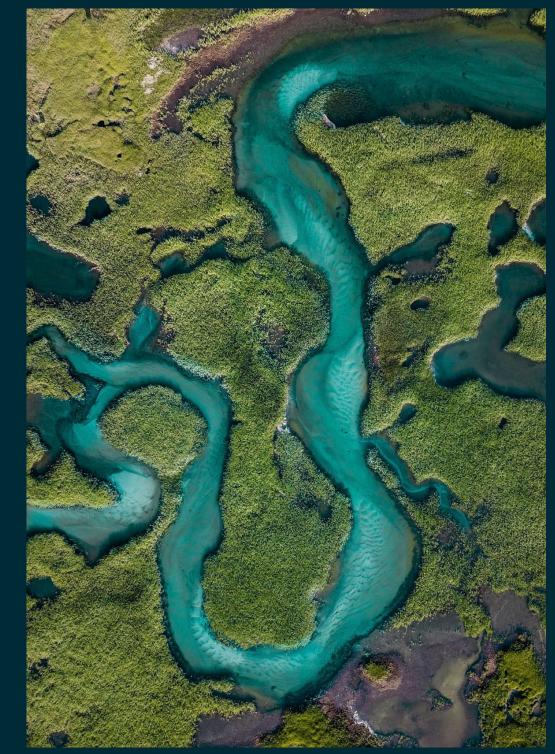
#### Norselab Impact Day 2023

In 2023, we hosted the first Norselab Impact Day during Oslo Innovation Week. This event was dedicated to putting impact at the forefront of the investment world. It brought together the Norwegian impact investing community and international stakeholders, aiming to foster dialogue, share best practices, and inspire collective action. Key topics included:

- Impact actions: Doing what works
- Showcasing impact-focused funds and their portfolio companies
- Insights from leading impact investors
- The Nordic impact opportunity

Norselab Impact Day was a significant milestone in our ongoing efforts to elevate the importance of impact investing. By bringing together a diverse group of stakeholders, we facilitated discussions and knowledge sharing, highlighting the Nordic region as a leader in impact investing, and inspiring participants to take actions towards a sustainable future.

Through these efforts, Norselab is dedicated to nurturing a vibrant and effective impact investing community to accelerate the growth and influence of the sector.



# Norselab 4

# Impact overview of Norselab's growth portfolio

# Portfolio overview

All portfolio case studies are available at norselab.com/portfolio



### antec

Creating our renewable future.



An abundant ocean in harmony.



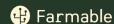
Creating a world of circular materials.



Enabling the scaling up of car subscription services



Improving patient care with Al-powered cancer treatment diagnostics



Empowering farmers to feed the world



Shaping the future of supply chains by sending files, not parts

## KONTŪR

Pioneering subsurface mapping for safer communities

# *Plateful*

Ensuring more food reaches the plate

# **Qlearsite**

Make work better with employee feedback.



Precision acoustic detection.



A proud and responsible building community.



The premier, global platform for ocean procurement.



Sustainability in every building



Enabling circular logistics

\*Rift Labs

Pioneering lighting for resource-efficient food production



Durable and reusable transport packaging



Game-changing tools to impact the beekeping and pollination industries

With us since: 2021 Sector: Maritime Technology

# An abundant ocean in harmony.

Ava Ocean was founded in 2016 by Øystein Tvedt in Alesund, Norway. In close collaboration with research institutes and authorities, the company has developed a unique, seabed-friendly method for harvesting shellfish. Making Ava Ocean's technology widely available has the potential to end harmful seabed harvesting practices for good.

Net impact value creation in 2023 (USD)

\$ 1.18 M

Impact potential

The most common catching method for shellfish globally, so-called dredging, causes widespread damage to the seabed ecosystems, which can take up to 10 years to recover. And, by some estimates, nearly 500 million metric tons of edible protein will be required to feed the global population in 2050, of which the ocean could produce up to two-thirds.

# The change we need

Ava Ocean's innovative technology makes it possible to identify, select and sort species found on the seabed without harming surrounding ecosystems. This gives the world access to nutritious proteins while protecting fragile marine ecosystems and preserving invaluable carbon sinks.



# Ava Ocean's impact metrics

400 tons 500 tons in 2022

Ava Ocean harvested 400 tons of Arctic scallops to help meet global demand for healthy and nutritious food.

# 48 jobs 28 in 2022

Ava Ocean created 48 new jobs in their local community.

 $80~km^2$  NEW METRIC

dredging practices.

Ava Ocean preserved the seabed in an area of 80 km<sup>2</sup> previously exposed to devastating

## Ava Ocean's impact contribution



Zero Hunger

Target 2.4

Ava Ocean contributes to sustainable food production systems by gently and efficiently harvesting resources that have until now been unavailable and unexploited.



Decent work & economic growth

Target 8.5

Ava Ocean generates jobs in areas where harvesting employment opportunities don't exist and contributes to preserving jobs where upcoming regulations may limit or ban dredging.

Climate action

Target 13.2

Ava Ocean's innovative technology preserves naturally stored carbon from the seafloor.



Life under water

Target 14.4

Ava Ocean practices regenerative fishing through precision harvesting and real-time data collection.



With us since: 2021 HQ: Norway Employees: 38 Sector: Renewable Energy

### Creating our renewable future.

Founded in 2011, Antec has developed an effective and circular technology that turns biowaste into valuable resources such as biogas, biofertilizers, circular fuels, clean heat, and renewable electricity. The technology replicates nature's undisputed market leader in digestion: the cow.

antecbiogas.com

Net impact value creation in 2023 (USD) 1

\$1.43 M

Impact potential

5/5 – Impact-generating

#### The problem

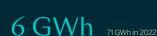
GHG emissions from the energy sector are on the rise though global emissions need to be drastically reduced. Being dependent for energy on large producers of fossil fuels is threatening countries' energy security. In parallel, the world generates over 1bn ton of organic waste annually. In 2030, we could generate 5 billion tons of organic waste.

#### The change we need

Biogas production prevents emissions with a threefold emissions mitigation effect: it prevents the emissions of the decomposition of organic waste, replaces fossil fuels as energy sources, and the fertilizer made by its byproduct helps return carbon into the soil. By converting local organic waste into valuable energy, biogas enhances energy security.



### Antec's impact metrics



Antec reactors installed have a total capacity of 6 GWh.

#### Antec's impact contribution



Affordable and clean energy

#### Target 7.2

Antec's technology produces green energy from a resource that would otherwise go to waste, and contributes to increasing the renewable energy share in the global energy mix.



Climate action

#### Target 13.2

Antec's technology contributes to the reduction of emissions by replacing fossil fuels, preventing organic residues decomposition and reducing the production of fertilizers.

### 13 520 tons 31,000 in 2022

An estimated 13,520 metric tons of waste was treated in Antec's reactors.

### 12168 tons 28,000 in 2022

An estimated 12,168 metric tons of fertilizer was produced in Antec's reactors, reducing the need for mineral fertilizers.



Responsible consumption and production

#### Target 12.2

Antec's technology ensures efficient use of resources by offering market-leading gas yield from food waste and by repurposing waste from the biogas production into agricultural fertilizers.



With us since: 2023 HQ: Norway Employees: 12 Sector: Apiculture technology

# Game-changing tools to impact the beekeeping and pollination industries

Located in Norway and France, Beefutures combines biotechnology, data science, and 30 years of beekeeping know-how. They have developed digital tools that support pollinator-friendly agriculture and urban landscape rehabilitation. More recently, Beefutures developed an innovative technology that gathers data through bees to inform and promote biodiversity-friendly agriculture practices and cities

Net impact value creation in 2023 (USD) 1

\$ 0.21 M

Impact potential

5/5 – Impact-generating

beefutures.io

#### The problem

Bees play an instrumental role in producing a third of the world's food supply. However, they are threatened by habitat loss, intensive farming practices, changes in weather patterns, excessive use of agrochemicals, and invasive species such as the varroa mite. The extinction of pollinators could result in up to 570 billion USD of agricultural losses.

#### The change we need

Bee health and safety should be a priority. Beyond their role as pollinators, bees provide critical information we can use to evaluate the impact of human activities on biodiversity. This can assist beekeepers, farmers, municipal planners and others in supporting pollinator-friendly agriculture and urban landscape rehabilitation.



### Beefutures' impact metrics

Í

Zero hunger

Beefutures' impact contribution

29 NEW METRIC

29 beehives deployed near agricultural lands.

Target 2.

Beefutures enables the optimal management of honeybees, increasing apiculture and agriculture productivity.



Life on land

1 M

1 million honeybees treated against varroa mites and for increased resiliency.

Target 15.8

Beefutures protects honeybees against the varroa mite, indirectly protecting wild bees.

Farget 15.5

Through Beefutures' light treatment, honeybees experience higher immunity and resiliency.

 $750\;km^2\;{}_{\scriptscriptstyle{NEWMETRIC}}$ 

750 km² of area in which biodiversity is monitored by honeybees.



Life on land

Target 15.9

By collecting and interpreting bee data, Beefutures can assess the biodiversity gains from more responsible agricultural practices.

With us since: 2021 HQ: Norway Sector: Circularity data management

## Creating a world of circular materials.

Carrot was founded in 2017 and is headquartered in Bergen, Norway. By collecting data about the type, quantity and whereabouts of waste, Carrot generates insights for customers, such as waste management companies, malls, commercial properties and residential buildings, so that they can refunnel valuable materials into value chains and build incentive structures to reuse, repurpose or recycle their waste.

Net impact value creation in 2023 (USD)

\$ 0.2 M

Impact potential

We use 90 bn tons of materials and generates more than 2 bn tons of waste every year. Reusing, remanufacturing, and recycling materials is essential to minimize adverse impacts on the planet and society. Yet, the lack of integrated value chains, adequate data, and user participation are impeding the development of a circular resource system.

### The change we need

Collecting data on waste before it is thrown away changes our perception of resources and enables new circular value chains that don't even exist yet. By rewarding people for what they return, Carrot has the potential to use data to create a world of circular materials and close the circularity loop.



60% 62% IN 2022

Carrot's software helped customers achieve a sorting rate of 60%.



Sustainable cities and communities

Target 11.6

Carrot creates insights for individuals to make valuable resources available for reuse, recycling, or repurposing.

### 1120 tons NEW METRIC

Carrot helped users to divert 1120 tons of waste.



Responsible consumption and production

Target 12.5

Carrot enables the reduction of residual waste, and maximizes the use of existing resources.

10,669 23,000 IN 2022

Users of Carrot's software.



Responsible consumption and production

Target 12.8

Households and tenants are empowered to improve their waste sorting by using Carrot to track and understand how their efforts count.

With us since: 2021 HQ: Norway Employees: 29 Sector: Carsharing

# Enabling the scaling up of car subscription services.

Casi, previously imove, was founded in 2018 and currently provides a Platform-as-a-Service (PaaS) enabling Original Equipment Manufacturers (such as Hyundai), car dealers and car rental providers to offer car subscription services with a smooth end-customer experience. Casi's clients are located in various European markets.

casi.auto

Net impact value creation in 2023 (USD) 1

\$ 0.14 M

Impact potential

4/5 - Impact-aligned

#### The problem

Vehicle production is resource-intensive and associated with unsustainable sourcing practices. The automotive industry is still marked by the significant production of waste at the end-of-life stage, sometimes exported to other regions. Owning one's own vehicle is still highly valued around the world, as it is associated with flexibility and privacy.

#### The change we need

Mobility-as-a-service business models are shaping the future of sustainable mobility. They promote the maximization of existing products utilization, extension of vehicle lifetime and increased control over end-of-life. They also reduce the barriers to the adoption of electric vehicles, contributing to cut emissions associated with private transportation.



### Casi's impact metrics

2,753 cars 1610 IN 2022

2753 cars are live on Casi's subscription platform.

5 NEW METR

Customers that are Original Equipment Manufacturers.

39% NEW METRIC

Share of Electric Vehicles in the total fleet.

#### Casi's impact contribution



Responsible consumption and production

Target 12.5

Through its Platform-as-a-service solution, Casi increases the use rate and lifetime of existing cars, and promotes the conversion to Electric vehicles

It also enables Original Equipment Manufacturers to retain vehicle ownership and thus have control over end-of-life.



With us since: 2021 HQ: Norway Employees: 5 Sector: Healthcare technology

# Improving patient care with Al-powered cancer treatment diagnostics.

Founded in 2018, DoMore Diagnostics has developed a deep-learning precision diagnostics solution that guides oncologists in choosing the best patient treatment path after cancer removal surgery. DoMore Diagnostics is currently leading in colorectal and gastrointestinal cancers.

domorediagnostics

Net impact value creation in 2023 (USD) 1

\$ 0.03 M

Impact potential

5/5 – Impact-generating

#### The problem

Cancer rates are set to increase by 70% by 2050. However, many patients still receive inappropriate or futile cancer treatment due to inaccurate cancer prognosis methods, resulting in economic costs to society and a significant human cost for individuals. In addition, workforce shortage reduces the time specialists can spend on each patient's prognosis.

### The change we need

DoMore's digital pathology technology uses deep learning to enable more accurate colorectal cancer prognosis and better assess if further treatment is beneficial. Fewer patients receive unnecessary treatment, treatment costs decrease, and cancer specialists can treat cases more efficiently in the current context of workforce shortage.



<sup>1</sup> Using data from the Upright Project and applying Norselab's custom value mapped to the SDGs. Read more about this metric on page 21. Norselab owns 33% of the company and has therefore contributed to 33% of this impact value creation.

#### DoMore's impact metrics

#### DoMore's impact contribution

1,084 1,122 in 2022

1,084 patients for which the product tests have been validated.



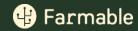
Life on land

Target 3.4

DoMore Diagnostics enables more precise cancer prognosis and treatment. A number of patients can avoid receiving damaging treatment that would bring no benefits.

1

1 approved patent



**HQ**: Norway Sector: Agriculture technology

## Empowering farmers to feed the world

Founded in 2018, Farmable contributes to solving the global challenge of producing more healthy food without extending farmland or the use of resources. By building a farm management platform that reinvents how fruit and vegetable farmers gather, organize and use their data, Farmable's objective is to become the farmers' go-to solution for everything they need to face the digital future of farming.

Net impact value creation in 2023 (USD)

\$ 0.01 M

Impact potential

5/5 – Impact-generating

10% of our global population is undernourished today, and the demand for food is projected to increase by 60% by 2050. To keep pace with a growing population, food production increase will need to come from more frequent harvesting cycles, and higher yields. Pesticides are required to boost yields but come with significant negative impacts.

#### The change we need

The digitalization of agriculture is a prerequisite for the critical transformation of food and land systems. Emerging technologies could increase yields, and improve input efficiency. Farmable is reinventing how fruit and vegetable farmers gather, organize and use data to improve yields with less input, and ensure reporting in compliance with regulations.



40,000 farms 28,000 in 2022

40 000 farms used Farmable's software around the globe.



Zero hunger

Farmable improves agricultural yield by gathering and organizing farm data. Transformed into actionable insights, and recommendations for the farmer, they may optimize production, and grow more food.

7,000 4,000 in 2022

Farmable has 7 000 monthly active users.



Decent work & economic growth

Target 8.8

Farmable helps farmers make better decisions to increase productivity, in a sustainable way. Farmable reduces occupational risks of handling and using pesticides by making the status of chemical hazards across the farm readily available to all crew.

38,906 jobs logged 23,409 in 2022

38 906 jobs logged in Farmable's software, among which spray jobs.



Responsible consumption and production.

Farmable calculates the exact amount of chemicals needed to spray a specific field and ensures that all rows are sprayed but sprayed only once. This reduces the total amount of agrochemicals used in fields.



With us since: 2020 HQ: USA Employees: 5 Sector: Industrial technology

# Shaping the future of supply chains by sending files, not parts.

Founded in 2016, Ivaldi creates a more sustainable future for supply chains by reducing the need for inventory, warehouse storage, material waste, and logistics. Through its digital spare parts library and its network of qualified print partners, Ivaldi ensures the right parts are manufactured on demand when and where needed, saving costs, time and carbon footprint while providing safe and durable parts.

Net impact value creation in 2023 (USD)

\$ 0.01 M

Impact potential

5/5 – Impact-generating

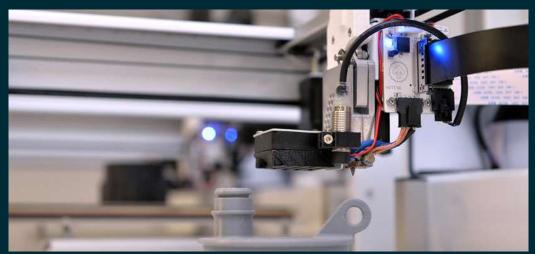
ivaldi con

#### The problem

Companies need quick access to spare parts for equipment maintenance, or must face a loss of efficiency, additional costs, and prematurely retired equipment. Manufacturing and shipping parts from across the globe to store them is an inefficient use of resources, contributes to waste creation and to international shipping emissions.

#### The change we need

Additive Manufacturing reduces the carbon and material footprint of supply chains. Ivaldi has the potential to disrupt the global spare parts market by ensuring safe and durable spare parts are manufactured when and where needed. This can prevent equipment from being retired unnecessarily.



#### Ivaldi's impact metrics

93,111 358,556 in 2022

93 111 apare parts analyzed using Ivaldi's technology to assess if a part can be digitized.

31 1677 in 2022

31 spare parts digitized using Ivaldi's technology, certified in the digital library.

#### Ivaldi's impact contribution



Industry, innovation and infrastructure

Target 9.4

Ivaldi contributes to the retrofitting of the global spare parts supply chain by enabling customers to send files instead of physical parts through the digitization of spare parts, leading to reduced emissions, and significant improvement of resource efficiency while saving costs.



Responsible consumption and production

Target 12.5

The local additive manufacturing of spare parts enabled by Ivaldi contributes to waste prevention and promotes material efficiency.

With us since: 2021 **HQ**: Norway Employees: 25 Sector: Infrastructure technology

### Pioneering subsurface mapping for safer communities

Founded by in 2001, Kontur has developed patented radar devices that, combining an array of radar sensors simultaneously emitting radio signals on several frequencies, enable the 3D-modelling of subsurface areas down to 5 meters. Kontur is developing and manufacturing products based on Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) technology.

Net impact value creation in 2023 (USD) 1

\$ 0.5 M

Impact potential

4/5 - Impact-aligned

### The problem

Infrastructure can fail due to critical weaknesses that were not identified soon enough. Due to the aging of infrastructure and the increased frequency of climate events, there is a need for timely detection of such weaknesses. Inadequate maintenance creates a risk of infrastructure accidents which often result in high costs and loss of life.

#### The change we need

Subsurface mapping with GPR has emerged as an indispensable practice for infrastructure maintenance, offering crucial insights into geological compositions, soil stability, and potential hazards lurking beneath the surface such as cracks or sinkholes. Using GPR, the normal lifetime of a road can be extended from 20 to an estimated 30 years.



#### 1. Using data from the Upright Project and applying Norselab's custom value mapped to the SDGs. Read more about this metric on page 21. Norselab owns 17% of the company and has therefore contributed to 17% of this impact value creation.

#### Kontur's impact metrics

## Kontur's impact contribution

### 8 sectors Same as in 2022

Kontur's technology was deployed across 8 different sectors.



Sustainable cities and communities

Kontur's technology enables safer transport infrastructure for all (roads, bridges, railways) by detecting possible threats before they cause accidents such as sinkholes, rendered more frequent by heavy rains and droughts.

23 NEW METRIC 23 approved patents.



### Durable and reusable transport packaging

Founded in 2017, Looping specializes in the production of durable and reusable transport packaging for construction modules, housing modules and steel containers. They offer reuse as a service, making circular packaging a cost efficient and safe choice while reducing mounting time and unnecessary waste for their clients. The product innovation itself eliminates the use of disposable plastic.

looping.ecc

Net impact value creation in 2023 (USD)

\$ 0.06 M

Impact potential

4/5 – Impact-aligned

#### The problem

Plastics, though highly versatile, threaten ecosystems due to inadequate recycling and management. Global action is crucial to address the rise in virgin plastic production by 2040, potentially doubling mismanaged plastic levels. The construction sector is the second-largest consumer of plastic resins worldwide, mainly for construction components.

#### The change we need

Improving how plastics are collected and recovered is necessary. Cutting down on producing virgin plastic, using less in industries, setting goals to reuse materials, and reducing reliance on single-use plastics are all critical. Sharing standardized, reusable packaging, market participants allows to address structural waste in the logistics sector.



### Looping's impact metrics

New – invested in 2023

Single-use plastic waste reduction from products sold.

#### Looping's impact contribution



Responsible consumption and production

Target 12.5

Looping provides a reusable plastic substitute to single-use plastic construction module covers.

With us since: 2021 HQ: Norway Employees: 26 Sector: Food supply chain

## Ensuring more food reaches the plate

Founded in Oslo in 2017, Plateful works to ensure that more of the food produced in the world today reaches people's plates. Enabling seamless cooperation between producers, wholesalers, and customers, Plateful helps make better use of food resources. Their online platform enables professional clients such as canteens and chefs to register and order from available food surplus products.

plateful.no

Net impact value creation in 2023 (USD) 1

\$1.29 M

Impact potential

5/5 – Impact-generating

#### The problem

30% of produced food is lost or wasted, accounting for 50% of total GHG emissions from food systems. This is an inefficient use of existing agricultural resources, and a missed opportunity to increase a country's food sovereignty and sustain its producers' livelihoods. Norway being a net food importer, the number of its smallholding farms has halved.

#### The change we need

To maximize the use of our natural resources, we need to ensure all food produced ends up on someone's plate. Connecting directly the demand and supply for quality produce can significantly reduce edible food waste. This enables suppliers to have an additional revenue stream, which can preserve livelihoods.



#### Plateful's impact metrics

2,000 tons 1242 tons in 2022

2 000 tons of surplus food products saved through the Plateful platform, the equivalent of

#### Plateful's impact contribution



Industry, innovation and infrastructure

Target 9.4

Plateful contributes to the sustainable retrofitting of the food industry by connecting demand and offer throughout the value chain and helping to redefine industry standards.



Responsible consumption and production

Target 12.3

Plateful ensures that more food that is produced ends up in our plates, thereby reducing food waste.

3.7 million meals.

With us since: 2020 HQ: United Kingdom Employees: 11 Sector: HR technology

### Make work better with employee feedback

Founded in 2015, Qlearsite is a state-of-the-art provider of smart employee insights. The uniqueness of Qlearsite is found in its proprietary methodology and a leading-edge natural language processing technology for employee data. Qlearsite uncovers and presents employee insights in an intuitive way.

glearsite.com

Net impact value creation in 2023 (USD) 1

\$ 0.10 M

Impact potential

4/5 - Impact-aligned

#### The problem

Leaders need to know their people and the issues affecting them. However today, employee well-being is overestimated as management's perception of employee well-being and employees' experience widely differ. Many surveying tools fail to capture the intangible feeling of inclusion and well-being in the workplace.

#### The change we need

Natural Language Processing represents an opportunity to identify how views and opinions influence the way employees' experience is told. Dataled decisions can improve employee engagement, increase employee retention, reduce absenteeism, and boost people productivity.



#### Qlearsite's impact metrics

35,537 136,335 in 2022

35 537 people were surveyed using the Qlearsite platform.

## 2% 22% in 2022

2% average improvement in organizational fitness score on the Qlearsite platform.

#### Qlearsite's impact contribution



Reduced inequalities

Target 10.2

Qlearsite empowers organizations to reduce bias and discrimination in the workplace by measuring employees' sentiments equally and fairly with Natural Language Processing.



Decent work & economic growth

Target 8.5

Qlearsite increases employee well-being and productivity by allowing employers to connect with their people and understand the issues in the workplace.

### \*Rift Labs

With us since: 2023 HQ: Norway Employees: 16 Sector: Agriculture technology

# Pioneering lighting for resource-efficient food production

Rift Labs was established in 2010. Based on its' patented LED software and intelligent lighting control applications, the company has developed lighting and sensor-based solutions for Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA). This technology optimizes plant growth by providing the exact light amounts necessary for each growth stage, reducing energy expenses and enhancing yields.

riftlahe com

Net impact value creation in 2023 (USD)

\$ 0.22 M

Impact potential

5/5 – Impact-generating

#### The problem

Agriculture is one of the leading causes of deforestation, biodiversity loss, and freshwater consumption. Simultaneously, the world needs a dramatic increase in food production to eliminate hunger and keep up with population growth. Increased food production therefore needs to be fueled by increased yield, not land expansion.

#### The change we need

CEA offers an alternative to traditional farming that can reduce water consumption, deforestation, and biodiversity loss significantly while increasing efficiency and yields in crop production. LED lighting is the most efficient lighting system for food growth in CEA.



### Rift Labs' impact metrics

### Rift Labs' impact contribution



Zero hunger

New – invested in 2023

Tons of food per KwH provided.

Target 10.2

Rift Labs' technology increases agricultural yield by enabling precision farming solutions, which reduces the need for new land for agricultural practices, and prevents contamination from pesticides in nature.

### New – invested in 2023

Tons of food per square meter.



Life on land

#### Target 15.5

Rift Labs' LED-light solution enable controlled environmental agriculture (CEA) that requires less land than traditional agriculture, thereby minimizing deforestation and biodiversity loss. Through their enabling of CEA, Rift Labs also contributes to a more climate-resilient food system.



With us since: 2021 HQ: Norway Employees: 59 Sector: Industrial technology

### Precision acoustic detection

Founded in 2014, Squarehead's audio sensors provide ground-breaking insights into the performance of machinery and can predict quality deviations through listening. Squarehead has the potential to improve predictive maintenance and quality control radically.

schead com

Net impact value creation in 2023 (USD) 1

\$ 1.16 M

Impact potential

4/5 – Impact-aligned

#### The problem

In industrial settings, faulty machinery can lead to the production of batches that are later discarded. Failing to detect faulty machinery in a timely manner can also reduce its lifetime. In addition, monitoring machine performance is often manual, which exposes workers to potentially harmful noise environments.

### The change we need

Squarehead's technology used in industrial settings enables the timely identification of faulty machinery, prompting machine maintenance. This can lengthen the equipment's lifetime and prevent waste. Machine performance is monitored from afar, reducing workers' exposure to a potentially harmful noise environment.



## <sup>1</sup> Using data from the Upright Project and applying Norselab's custom value mapped to the SDGs. Read more about this metric on page 21. Norselab owns 7% of the company and has therefore contributed to 7% of this impact value creation.

### Squarehead's impact metrics

## 8 ECONOMIC GROWTH

### Squarehead's impact contribution

Decent work & economic growth

4 in 2022

Squarehead's technology was used in 5 plants to detect faulty machinery, contributing to worker safety and increasing productivity.

Target 8.5

Squarehead identifies machine failure at a distance and in a timely manner, reducing workers' exposition to harmful noisy environments.

With us since: 2020 HQ: Norway Employees: 15 Sector: Property technology

### A proud and responsible building community

Founded in 2014, Svenn provides builders with the freedom they need to do the work they love. With its all-in-one digital solution, Svenn aims to ease the burden on builders brought about by regulations, customer expectations, and sales processes by enabling them to have control on all projects, and to operate more safely, and efficiently.

svenn.com

Net impact value creation in 2023 (USD) 1

\$ 0.2 M

Impact potential

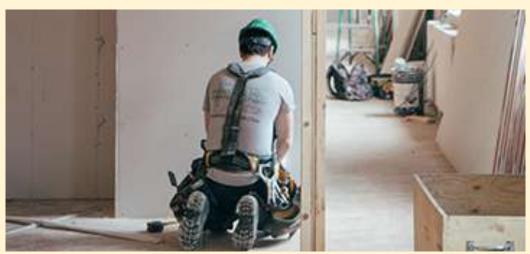
4/5 - Impact-aligned

#### The problem

The construction industry, one of the most material and energy-intensive industries, has one of the highest occupational safety and health rate. In addition, though SMEs in the construction sector make up a large part of the economy, they are more vulnerable to business and occupational health risks. Having systems to manage these is a critical issue.

### The change we need

IT can help SMEs in the construction industry to deliver high-quality product by enabling builders to store, transmit, and display information. Svenn helps craftsmen by giving them the digital tools needed to run their daily operations in a more efficient, profitable and compliant manner, and mitigate the negative impacts of the construction industry.



### Svenn's impact metrics

604 486 in 2022

604 companies used the quality management and HSE features on Svenn's software.

#### Svenn's impact contribution



Decent work & economic growth

Target 8.8

Svenn creates a safe and secure working environment with a feature that enables HSE set-up, central approval and ISO 9001 compliance. Svenn's experts ensure that the users' HSE and internal controls and QA routines are revised annually at no extract cost.

3,970 2,105 in 2022

There were 3 970 active users of the quality management and HSE features on Svenn's Software.



Responsible consumption and production

Target 12.

Svenn enables contractors to deliver better overall quality in construction projects with the Quality Assurance module. This increases the proportion of buildings that are made to last and contributes to more efficient use of resources through prolonged lifespans of buildings.



**HQ**: Norway Sector: Maritime technology

### The premier, global platform for ocean procurement

Founded in 2018, Vanora aims to solve the problem of fragmented market information impeding charterers from choosing vessels that promote more sustainable ocean procurement. Vanora is the premier, global platform for responsible ocean procurement, setting the standards for transparent and convenient practices.

Net impact value creation in 2023 (USD)

\$ 0.04 M

Impact potential

4/5 - Impact-aligned

Shipping is responsible for 2 percent of global carbon emissions. Current short-term measures are not nearly ambitious enough to put shipping on the net zero pathway. Existing chartering systems and procurement processes are largely inefficient and opaque, with little attention to sustainability metrics such as emissions.

### The change we need

Companies need to commit to minimize their environmental impact and ensure human rights are respected. Vanora enables more informed environmental choices by comparing vessels' available specifications, including type of fuel, fuel consumption, and emissions. The platform empowers the users to rule out vessels that do not match their sustainability standards.



## 2,500 vessels 2079 in 2022

2 500 vessels monitored on emissions on Vanora's platform.



Climate action

Target 13.3

Vanora builds knowledge and capacity for climate action. Through the vessel green score, charterers become aware of each vessel's footprint and can choose the vessel with the best environmental performance.



With us since: 2020 HQ: Norway Employees: 15 Sector: Property technology

### Sustainability in every building

Varig was founded in 2018., and empowers people who plan, build, operate, or use buildings to make sustainable choices. Varig's data-driven and easy-touse solution provides data on buildings and insights to their owners and other relevant stakeholders. The company aims to become an intelligent and proactive insight provider for all players in the property business and help them act on the parameters that matter.

Net impact value creation in 2023 (USD)

\$ 0.14 M

Impact potential

5/5 – Impact-generating

### The problem

The construction and real estate industry accounts for 40% of global energy-related emissions and 40% of final energy consumption. It is also a key driver for global resource depletion. The industry lacks robust and accessible data-driven tools to create a widespread understanding of how real estate can reduce its negative environmental impacts.

#### The change we need

The real estate industry must become significantly more energy, resource-efficient, and mitigate its impact on biodiversity. By collecting data and creating insights on buildings' environmental performance, Varig empowers users and owners alike to understand the environmental footprint of their buildings, and act on improvement areas.



#### Varig's impact metrics

 $3,873~\rm km^2$  3090 km² in 2022

3 873 square meters in Varig's database. contributing to transparency and improvements.

#### Varig's impact contribution



Industry, innovation and infrastructure

Target 9.4

Varig showcases buildings' emission, energy, and material intensity compared to others, enabling building managers to take action to improve their buildings' environmental performance.

## 600 buildings 413 in 2022

Varig's overview feature is used to educate users in 600 buildings.



Responsible consumption and production

Target 12.2

Varig raises awareness on the importance of resource efficiency through a dashboard of material footprint for each building.





### Enabling circular logistics

Wanda offers a circular tech and logistic platform to facilitate item management for storage, maintenance, repair, sharing, rental, and sales. Wanda has developed an ultra-convenient logistics platform, with a focus on the utilization of existing buildings, 100% electric fleet, and drivers that are part of the core team rather than being outsourced.

Net impact value creation in 2023 (USD) 1

\$ 0.01 M

Impact potential

4/5 - Impact-aligned

#### The problem

Items are being discarded because people no longer use them, don't have space to store them or time and skills to care for them. These current linear consumption patterns lead to the depletion of resources and high volumes of waste generation. As the urban population grows, so will the pressure on cities to solve these imperative challenges.

#### The change we need

Everything-as-a-service business models enable the circular economy by increasing product use and making sure they are looped back into the value chain. Wanda re-imagines how unused space and underutilized items can be made available to people again by transporting people's belongings to storage, repair, or facilitating their resale through the platform.



### Wanda's impact metrics

135,050 NEW METRIC

transportation.

135 050 stimated tons of CO2e avoided from Wanda's total operations, due to the use of an electric fleet and an optimized network of

## Wanda's impact contribution



Industry, innovation and infrastructure

Wanda optimizes a network of distributed real estate and logistics.



Industry, innovation and infrastructure

Wanda operates an electric logistics network.

16.7% 4% in 2022

16.7% of orders were circular transactions including maintenance, repairs or sharing services.



Responsible consumption and production

Wanda enables unused items to be transported, maintained, repaired, or resold, avoiding them from being thrown away.

# Norselab 🐔

## Appendix<sup>1</sup>

### Preliminary PAI Indicators & Taxonomy

Meaningful Equity I<sup>1</sup> portfolio

2,060.7

Tons CO<sub>2</sub>-eq
Total GHG emissions

50.2%

Exposure Non-renewable energy share

0.1

GWh/M€ revenue Energy consumption intensity per high impact climate sector (G)

0%

Exposure UNGC/OECD norm violations

0%

Exposure Controversial weapons 33.9

Tons CO<sub>2</sub>-eq/M€ invested Carbon footprint

0.0

GWh/M€ revenue Energy consumption intensity per high impact climate sector (A)

0%

Exposure

Negatively affecting
biodiversity-sensitive areas

100%

Exposure
Companies without
UNGC/OECD compliance
mechanisms

 $\mathsf{C}$ 

Identified cases of severe human rights issues and incidents 413.7

Tons CO<sub>2</sub>-eq/M€ revenue Scope 1. 2 & 3 GHG intensity by sales

0.0

GWh/M€ revenue Energy consumption intensity per high impact climate sector (C)

 $\mathbf{O}$ 

Tons ing Emissions to water

14.2%

Unadjusted gender pay gap

100%

Exposure
Companies without carbon
emission reduction initiative

0%

Exposure Fossil fuel sector

0.1

GWh/M€ revenue Energy consumption intensity per high impact climate sector (D)

59

Hazardous waste and radioactive waste ratio

14.7%

Board gender diversity

35.1%

EU Taxonomy eligibility

30.1%

EU Taxonomy alignment

Based on company reported data overlayed with the Upright Project estimated data, when available. The PAI data is prepared in accordance with the SFDR regulation and the latest guidance from ESMA.

EU Taxonomy eligibility and alignment are based on the EU Taxonomy's Climate Delegated Act and the Environmental Delegated Act. The Growth Equity Funds invest in the early stages of a company. Most early-stage companies have not fully implemented the due diligence processes required under the EU Taxonomy's minimum safeguards, and may not have full documentation to meet the do no significant ham requirements. As portfolio companies grow. Norselab actively encourages and supports portfolio companies in implementing documentation and due diligence processes to increase EU Taxonomy alignment.

#### Notice from The Upright Project

This report contains impact-related and sustainability-related indicators that are based on data produced by Upright Oy (Upright). Due to the limited availability of underlying information and the nature of the indicators, the produced information intrinsically includes some inaccuracy. Upright continuously seeks to improve the accuracy of its indicators by using the best available information and the best available statistical methods for integrating information from different sources. Upright does not warrant the accuracy of the information, and shall not be liable for any direct or indirect damages related to the information it provides. The information in this report is reproduced with permission from Upright, and may not be redistributed without permission from Upright.

Meaningfulness Report - Accounting for Norselab's impacts in 2023

### Preliminary PAI Indicators & Taxonomy

Meaningful Equity II<sup>1</sup> portfolio

182.6

Tons CO<sub>2</sub>-eq
Total GHG emissions

58.2%

Exposure Non-renewable energy share

 $\mathbf{O}$ 

Tons Emissions to water

-35.2%

Unadjusted gender pay

100%

Exposure
Companies without carbon
emission reduction initiative

38.8

Tons CO₂-eq/M€ invested
Carbon footprint

0.0

GWh/M€ revenue Energy consumption intensity per high impact climate sector (C)

0

Tons
Hazardous waste and radioactive waste ratio

23.0%

Board gender diversity

11.5%

EU Taxonomy eligibility

200.1

Tons CO<sub>2</sub>-eq/M€ revenue Scope 1. 2 & 3 GHG intensity by sales Exposure

Fossil fuel sector

0%

Negatively affecting

biodiversity-sensitive areas

100%

Exposure

Companies without

UNGC/OECD compliance

mechanisms

Identified cases of severe

human rights issues and

incidents

0.0

GWh/M€ revenue Energy consumption intensity per high impact climate sector (H)

0%

Exposure
UNGC/OECD norm
violations

0%

Exposure Controversial weapons

9.7%

EU Taxonomy alignment

High Yield credit portfolio

41,930.0

Tons CO<sub>2</sub>-eq Total GHG emissions

46.3%

Exposure Non-renewable energy share

0.1

GWh/M€ revenue Energy consumption intensity per high impact climate sector (F)

0.2

Tons Emissions to water

16.1%

Unadjusted gender pay gap

91.7%

Exposure Companies without carbon emission reduction initiative 512.0

Preliminary PAI Indicators & Taxonomy

Tons CO₂-eq/M€ invested Carbon footprint

0.0

GWh/M€ revenue Energy consumption intensity per high impact climate sector (A)

0.0

GWh/M€ revenue Energy consumption intensity per high impact climate sector (H)

0.

Tons
Hazardous waste and radioactive waste ratio

28.6%

Board gender diversity

40.8%

EU Taxonomy eligibility

83.1

Tons CO₂-eq/M€ revenue Scope 1.2 & 3 GHG intensity by sales

0.1

GWh/M€ revenue Energy consumption intensity per high impact climate sector (C)

0.

GWh/M€ revenue Energy consumption intensity per high impact climate sector (L)

0.0%

Exposure UNGC/OECD norm violations

0.0%

Exposure Controversial weapons

15.4%

EU Taxonomy alignment

0%

Exposure Fossil fuel sector

0.0

GWh/M€ revenue Energy consumption intensity per high impact climate sector (D)

0%

Exposure Negatively affecting biodiversity-sensitive areas

82.1%

Exposure Companies without UNGC/OECD compliance mechanisms

O

Identified cases of severe human rights issues and incidents

Based on company reported data overlayed with the Upright Project estimated data. when available. The PAI data is prepared in accordance with the SFDR regulation and the latest guidance from ESMA.

EU Taxonomy eligibility and alignment are based on the EU Taxonomy's Climate Delegated Act and the Environmental Delegated Act. The Growth Equity Funds invest in the early stages of a company. Most early-stage companies have not fully implemented the due diligence processes required under the EU Taxonomy's minimum safeguards, and may not have full documentation to meet the do no significant ham requirements. As portfolio companies grow. Norselab actively encourages and supports portfolio companies in implementing documentation and due diligence processes to increase EU Taxonomy alignment.

#### Notice from The Upright Project

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### Preliminary PAI Indicators & Taxonomy

Real Estate credit portfolio

15.5

Tons CO<sub>2</sub>-eq
Total GHG emissions

15.0%

Exposure Non-renewable energy share

0.0

Tons
Hazardous waste and radioactive waste ratio

20.5%

Board gender diversity

78.4%

EU Taxonomy eligibility

1.4

Tons CO<sub>2</sub>-eq/M€ invested Carbon footprint

0.1

GWh/M€ revenue Energy consumption intensity per high impact climate sector (L)

0.0%

Exposure
UNGC/OECD norm
violations

0%

Exposure Controversial weapons

10.9% EU Taxonomy alignment

**U.**2

Tons CO<sub>2</sub>-eq/M€ revenue Scope 1. 2 & 3 GHG intensity by sales

0%

Exposure Negatively affecting biodiversity-sensitive areas

69.3%

Exposure
Companies without
UNGC/OECD compliance
mechanisms

0

Identified cases of severe human rights issues and incidents 0.0%

Exposure Fossil fuel sector

0.0

Tons Emissions to water

4.9%

Unadjusted gender pay gap

76.4%

Exposure Companies without carbon emission reduction initiative



## Thoughts or questions about this report?

Get in touch with our impact team at impact@norselab.com

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Meaningfulness Report - Accounting for Norselab's impacts in 2023

#### We invest in our planet

Norselab is a leading Nordic impact investment platform based out of Oslo, Norway. With an uncompromising focus on creating a meaningful future for all, we invest in companies that drive large-scale positive impact and industry transformation.

Norselab currently manages funds in two verticals: growth equity and credit. All Norselab strategies are governed by our industry-leading impact frameworks and disclose under SFDR Article 9, while being designed for long-term superior capital returns.

Norselab is backed by Capricorn Investment Group, one of the largest mission-aligned investment firms in the world.

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