# THREE HILLS





For Professional Investors only

## **1. BUILDING BETTER BUSINESSES**

Welcome	05
About Three Hills	06
Highlights and year in review	08
Looking ahead	12

## 2. SUSTAINABILITY AT FUND LEVEL

Our approach to Sustainability	16
Sustainability in the investment cycle	18
Value creation	20
Portfolio performance	22

# 3. SUSTAINABILITY AT FIRM LEVEL

Three Hills Firm-level updates	40
Three Hills Spotlight – Impact research	42
Our foundation	44



# 1.BUILDING BETTER BUSINESSES

"We are confident that we can address some of the social and environmental challenges closer to home, building more resilient businesses and deploying capital to revert some of the negative trends on people and planet."

Mauro Moretti Founder & CEO June 2024

# WELCOME TO OUR 2023 **SUSTAINABILITY REPORT**

Welcome to Three Hills' (TH) annual sustainability report, now at its fourth edition.

reasons for optimism.

last few years. In this respect, 2023 was no different. Mounting tensions in the Middle East, together with food and energy crises across the globe disproportionately hit the most vulnerable in our society, and children in particular.

the progress we continue to see in our industry, are outlined in the following pages. where investors are taking ever more decisive of our planet and societies. For this reason this edition of our sustainability report, along with its illustrations, strives to convey positivism, standing and geopolitical environment.

Equally, we have reflected and challenged ourselves on what role we can play in this evolving can address some of the social and environmental challenges closer to home by building more resilient businesses and deploying capital to reverse some of the negative trends affecting people and the planet.

As part of this commitment, earlier this year, we launched our inaugural impact investing strategy, a dedicated vehicle classified as Article 9 under the Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (SFDR), focused on the themes of people, planet and progress. Our Three Hills Impact strategy is an

extension of our existing Article 8 strategy, Three Hills Capital Solutions (THCS), and aims to invest in businesses that contribute to important social or As we began drafting the foreword to this report, environmental needs across Europe. More on the we reflected on recent events and found few strategy and on its first investment can be found on p. 24-25. Ongoing volatility from the Covid-19 pandemic, We also continue to broaden our internal skills war in Ukraine, spiralling inflation and disrupted and capabilities to support our businesses with

global supply chains led to enormous economic, hands-on advice in order to make them more social and geopolitical challenges in the resilient and future focused. We opened our New York office to service our investors and clients alike, recently welcomed an additional Operating Partner to the UK office, and put in place a mandatory impact training curriculum for our Three Hills team to ensure consistent development across all our geographies. Further In these difficult times, we take comfort from results and initiatives at portfolio and firm-level

steps to play an active role in shaping the future Looking ahead, we remain hopeful. Appetite for sustainable investing is predicted to remain strong, and there are early signs that the newly implemented European SFDR generates in stark contrast to the current macroeconomic positive effects - according to a working paper of the European Corporate Governance Institute, carbon emissions declined more in SFDR-bound funds compared to similar funds not subject to landscape, notably where financial returns can European legislation. Lastly, 2024 will witness be complemented and augmented by improved the greatest democratic exercise in history, with non-financial outcomes. We are confident that we more voters heading to the polls than ever before. This represents an opportunity to instil better governance across public and private institutions which we will closely follow.

> With this we leave you to our report and look forward to engaging with you further and welcome your feedback.

Mauro Moretti Founder & CEO



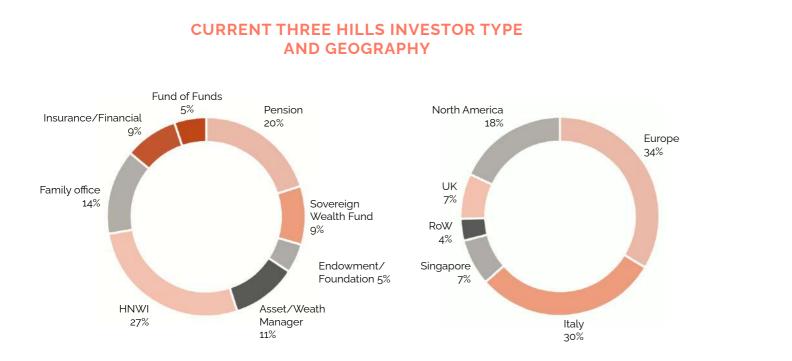
# ABOUT THREE HILLS

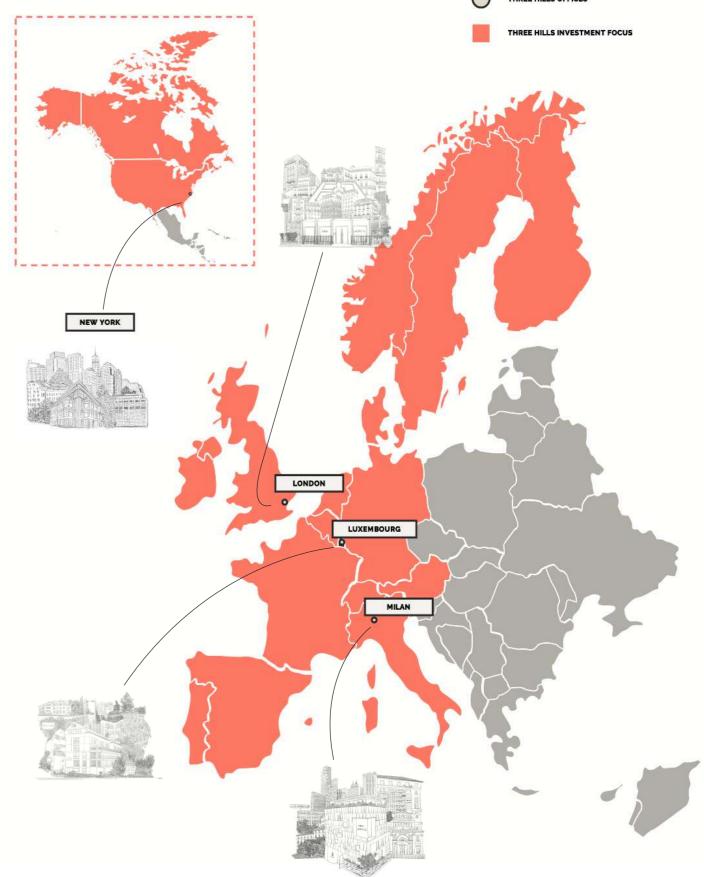
Founded in 2013, Three Hills is an innovative, multi-strategy asset manager providing flexible capital solutions to growing from four employees to over 65 professionals successful entrepreneurs and management teams in the European mid-market. Sustainability has formed a core pillar of Three Hills' foundations since inception and now, as a B Corporation, the Firm has cemented its genuine commitment to impact by pursuing profit with purpose, launching its first impact investing strategy, Three Hills Impact.

Three Hills is a pioneer in European structured capital, having financed the growth of many of Europe's highest quality entrepreneur-led businesses over the past 15 years. The Firm captures extensive proprietary dealflow thanks to its strong network and distinctive offering for business owners in need of a value-add partner. It provides businesses with tailored, less dilutive financing solutions as well as value-add partnerships to support growth trajectories, leveraging, for instance, the expertise of in-house operating partners.

The Firm has evolved considerably since inception, operating across offices in London, Milan, Luxembourg and recently, New York.

Three Hills currently manages €2.3 billion of assets across four Capital Solutions vintages, and one Impact, having successfully established itself as a reference provider of structured capital solutions in Europe. Three Hills' investor base counts a wide pool of high-quality private wealth and institutional investors, including public pension plans, foundations, insurance companies, consultants and sovereign wealth funds across Europe, North America and Asia. Each fund has received continued support from existing LPs, cementing Three Hills' position as the trusted partner in European structured capital.





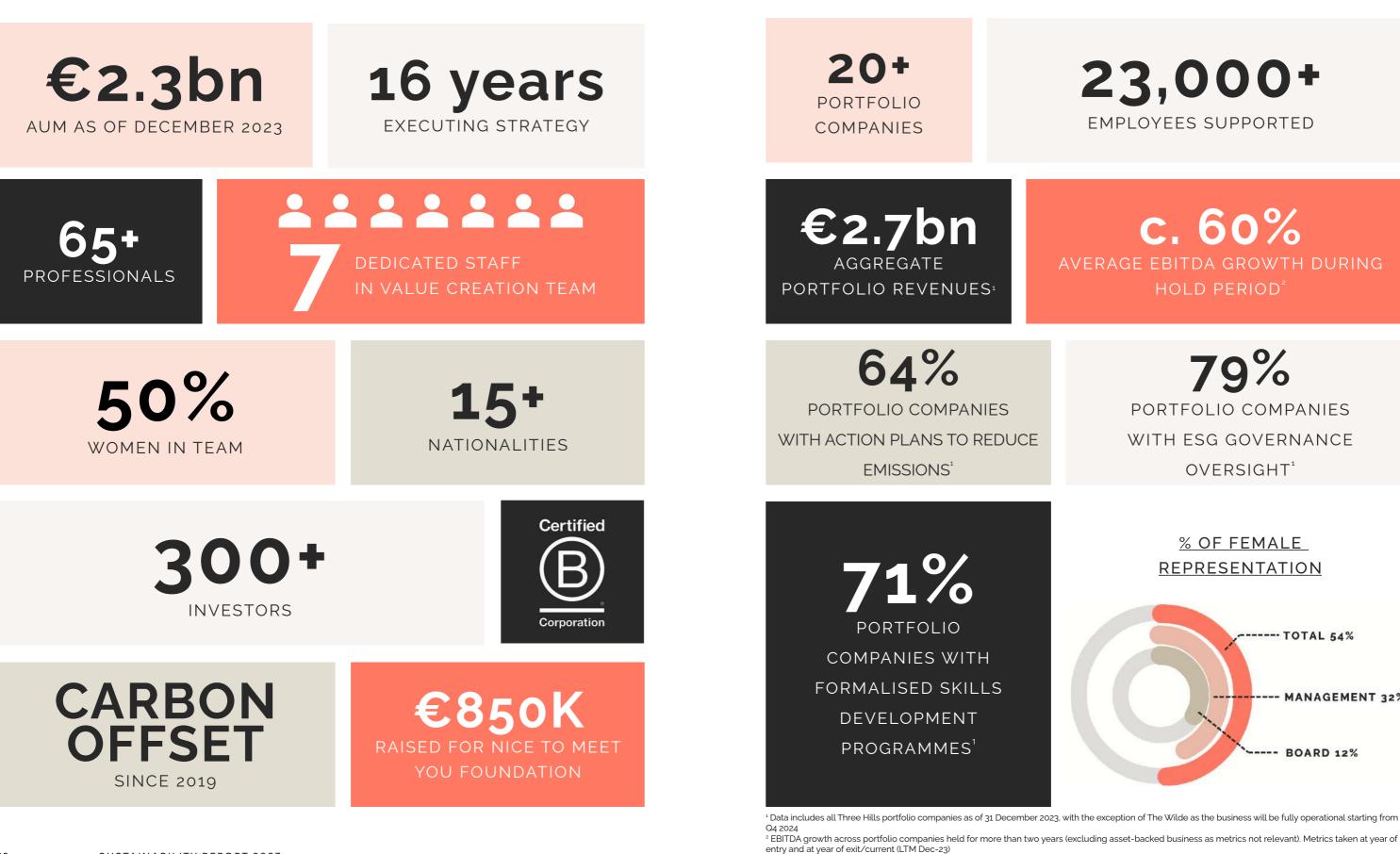
#### SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2023



THREE HILLS OFFICES

# **HIGHLIGHTS 2023 FIRM HIGHLIGHTS**

# **PORTFOLIO HIGHLIGHTS**





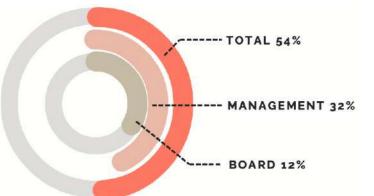
# 23,000+ EMPLOYEES SUPPORTED

# c. 60% AVERAGE EBITDA GROWTH DURING HOLD PERIOD<sup>2</sup>



## PORTFOLIO COMPANIES WITH ESG GOVERNANCE **OVERSIGHT**<sup>1</sup>

% OF FEMALE REPRESENTATION



<sup>1</sup> Data includes all Three Hills portfolio companies as of 31 December 2023, with the exception of The Wilde as the business will be fully operational starting from

# YEAR IN REVIEW 2023 / 24

#### **OPENING OF NEW YORK OFFICE**

Three Hills global footprint expanded to four locations across Europe and the US



**SEPTEMBER** 

#### **INVESTMENT IN LCAP WITH THREE HILLS FUND IV**

A UK based specialist Leadership Advisory & Analytics firm that focuses on high-growth companies

#### **ARRIVAL OF DANIEL KNIGHT** Joined as Investment Director to support

Three Hills Impact Investment Team



COD.

#### NOVEMBER

#### THREE HILLS IMPACT FUND **FIRST CLOSING**

Classified as Article 9, in compliance with EU Sustainability Financial Disclosure Regulation (SFDR)

#### **INVESTMENT IN HISPATEC** WITH TH IMPACT

A developer and distributor of agrifood software for management of farm operations

JANUARY

# <u>2023</u>

# 2024

#### OCTOBER

#### **INVESTMENT IN DIGITAL 360 WITH THREE HILLS FUND IV**

A benefit corporation providing innovative digital marketing and advisory services in the context of digital transformation processes in Italy



#### THREE HILLS HOSTS IMPACT LUNCH WITH SOCIAL IMPACT **AGENDA FOR ITALY**

Involving key players of the Italian impact investing industry



#### DECEMBER

#### THREE HILLS RECEIVES UNPRI SCORE

Improving last year performance and achieving an average of 85/100 point across all modules



#### SEC NEWGATE UK ACHIEVES **B CORP CERTIFICATION**

Reaching a total of 89 points as second portfolio company to achieve B Corp status



#### MARCH

**ARRIVAL OF TIM SPILLANE** 

Joined as Operating Partner to support the in-house Value Creation Team



#### **THREE HILLS WINS** SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

Winning in the Banking and Finance category of the Italian Legal Community Sustainability Awards for the second consecutive year







#### THREE HILLS ESG TEAM **INVOLVED IN EXECUTIVE EDUCATION PROGRAMMES**

Continuing partnership with Tiresia research centre for impact, innovation and entrepreneurship

APRIL





MAY

#### **INVESTMENT IN** LA BOTTEGA WITH **THREE HILLS FUND IV**

A manufacturer and distributor of wet and dry amenities for hotels



# LOOKING AHEAD

As sustainability concerns continue to increase in importance and affect how financial services and the wider market economy operate, we have established a set of clear priorities for our sustainability agenda moving forward.

Over the past 12-months, we have laid the foundations for our impact investment activity by expanding our spectrum of investment strategies beyond THCS, our Article 8 fund. We will strive to deploy this capital to address some of Europe's social and environmental challenges through attractive and innovative business models. For the nascent Three Hills Impact strategy, but also for THCS, we will continue to strengthen our internal assessment and measurement to enable better performance management, not least with the help of our in-house Value Creation Team.

Having made our second mandatory performance disclosure under SFDR, we are now looking forward to seeing the missing piece of the puzzle implemented, the EU Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD). To achieve the EU's climate objectives, these complementary disclosure regulations will provide additional transparency on both positive and negative effects on people and/or planet by companies, as well as providers of capital. In 2024, we will also support our portfolio companies in harmonising ESG standards and data collection processes to comply with the annual disclosure requirements that will be mandatory from 2026 onwards.

Lastly, we also wish to deepen our engagement with peers and our wider network in promoting better ESG and impact management. To that end, we are working with our strategic partner Tiresia, a European impact and social innovation research centre, to set up a joint Impact Finance Observatory in Italy to examine business models for enhanced impact generation.





# 2.SUSTAIN-ABILITY AT FUND LEVEL

This section provides an introduction to Three Hills' approach to sustainability, including how we embed ESG and impact considerations throughout the investment cycle and impact considerations. We will deep dive on our Value Creation Team before delving into Three Hills Impact as well as Three Hills Capital Solutions' Fund III and Fund IV portfolio results based on the 2023 sustainability survey.



# OUR **APPROACH TO** SUSTAINABILITY

#### **OUR PRINCIPLES**

and business success go hand-in-hand. Our goal minority positions in our portfolio companies, alignment is to ensure that our investments create attractive in values and true partnership with entrepreneurs is commercial returns for our investors, whilst mitigating crucial to optimise for value and positive sustainable negative effects, promoting sound business practices outcomes. We are well placed to be hands on partners and contributing to positive outcomes for people and - we take an active role on the board and support our the environment. Our focus on ESG factors and impact businesses with our extensive network, guidance, and of the business model of our companies allows us our in-house Sustainability and Value Creation Teams to make more informed investment decisions and to drive growth plans. build better, more resilient businesses. Specifically, managing sustainability issues within our portfolio We have also strengthened our external network to companies, meaning how the business is run (ESG) and help us test our newly developed impact investing the impact it generates through its business model (i.e. methodology. Such partnerships allowed us to unlock products or services), is a true long-lasting competitive significant value-add and adopt a research-based advantage. It can lead to stronger brands and pricing approach within our existing framework. power, greater operational efficiencies, lower costs, greater employee satisfaction, productivity and reduced exposure to regulatory risk.

Three Hills believes that responsible ownership Given our investment strategy, which tends to take

#### SUSTAINABILITY FOCUS AREAS

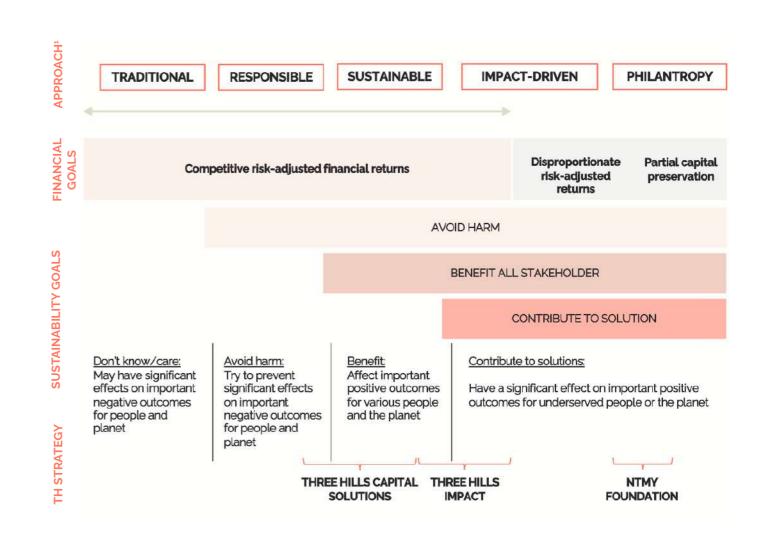
Throughout our investment process we aim to ensure Sustainability Survey, introduced in 2019 with the that we are aware of the material commercial and support of external sustainability consultants. sustainability related performance challenges and opportunities that our portfolio companies face. Based Notably, 2023 marked the first reference period on the types of assets and sectors we typically invest of mandatory reporting in accordance with SFDR in, we have therefore identified a core set of ESG areas requirements for our Funds, giving us the opportunity that are most material to our businesses (e.g., climate to test our framework against regulatory principles and change adaptation & mitigation, circularity, learning identify priority areas of improvement in our internal & development, health & safety, data protection and processes. We constantly review our approach to make board independence) and target United Nations sure that our monitoring tools are in line with industry Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) that and regulatory best practices and we periodically we believe we have the expertise and capabilities provide sustainability-related training at Firm-level to contribute towards. The in-depth assessment of to ensure cross-team alignment. We look forward to material ESG topics and relevant UN SDGs is carried the next reporting window to continue showcasing out pre- and post-investment through Three Hills' progress and further refine our framework.

#### OUR PRODUCTS AND THE SPECTRUM OF CAPITAL

Our approach is tailor made considering the type of assets we typically invest in and the relevant Three Hills strategy. These include:

- The survey is used across all Three Hills strategies and serves as both a diligence tool for new investments and a strategy can be found on p. 28 - 29.
- integrated in all investment stages. Notably, Three Hills Sustainability Team actively engages with management teams since the early stages of each deal to develop the impact thesis and identify tailored metrics to assess the approach can be found on p. 24 - 25.

The below graph highlights how Three Hills strategies and foundation are positioned in the spectrum of capital. Our differentiated approach allows us to be actively involved in most verticals of the spectrum, spanning from responsible investment to impact-driven strategies and philanthropy.



<sup>1</sup>Source: Bridges Fund Management and Impact Management Project

THREE HILLS CAPITAL SOLUTIONS: With the launch of THCS IV, in 2022, we updated our Sustainability Survey tool to reflect best market practices and implement relevant sustainability frameworks (e.g., SASB, EDCI) within our approach. template to measure progress throughout the year for the existing portfolio. The Fund is classified as Article 8 under the EU SFDR regulation and, besides promoting relevant environmental and social characteristics, it also uses the UN SDGs as a lens to identify the most material sustainability topics that guide our active management efforts. More on THCS IV

THREE HILLS IMPACT: Launched in 2023 and classified as Article 9 under the EU SFDR regulation, the strategy aims to invest in companies whose core business model generates a meaningful positive social or environmental outcome. The Fund uses thematic goals aligned to the UN SDGs and leverages an impact management and measurement approach environmental and social outcomes generated. Such data driven approach also applies apply third party frameworks (including the Impact Management Project) to measure the sustainable investment objective. More on Impact investing

# SUSTAINABILITY IN THE

#### quidelines set out in our Sustainability Policy. Supported by the Sustainability Team, the Investment Team is responsible for ensuring that material sustainability factors are fully integrated into the investment analysis.

Our Sustainability Survey and impact management and measurement framework then help us work with portfolio companies to identify risks, potential value drivers, pathways for the generation of positive outcomes and draft an action plan

The Investment Team is guided by the processes and As SFDR regulation came into full effect in 2022, we worked on upgrading the Sustainability Survey to fully reflect our Investment approach. Common metrics are assessed alongside with sector specific KPIs and tailored impact metrics to provide a comprehensive overview of the performance and good governance practices of the underlying businesses.

> At Investment Committee, the commercial and sustainability findings are discussed side-by-side to evaluate the full potential of the asset.

We work closely with management teams throughout the Embedding appropriate governance structures and investment process to identify potential sustainability value assigning responsibility for sustainability related topics at drivers and help mitigate risks. Post-investment, these board-level, we collect updates on initiatives quarterly and insights serve as a baseline to draw-up value creation undertake a holistic review on an annual basis, which feeds initiatives and agree on an action plan. into our public disclosure.

We also collaborate to help our businesses measure, At exit, we support our entrepreneurs with identifying monitor and disclose their performance on an ongoing suitable growth opportunities, applying both commercial basis to drive better decision-making, contribute to the and sustainability lenses. generation of commercial value and ensure compliance with SFDR periodic reporting requirements.

### PRE INVESTMENT

# NVESTMENT CYCLE

### SOURCE

- Identify attractive businesses by applying a commercial and sustainability lens
- Ensure businesses are compliant with our Sustainability Policy and **Exclusion List**
- Screen against potential red flags with reference to SFDR requirements

### SELECT

- ESG assessment to identify material risk and return factors leveraging the Sustainability Survey
- Preliminary assessment of the presence of monitoring systems for sustainability indicators and Principal Adverse Impact indicators (PAIs)

### **ENGAGE**

- Collaborate with management teams to define long-term vision and design action plan to accelerate growth
- Embed sustainability in short and long-term value creation activities
- Establish board-level accountability for sustainability

## **MEASURE &** MANAGE

- Define material business to track
- Annual performance assessment through
- Direct engagement with management teams to ensure continuous progress

# INVESTMENT CYCLE

### POST INVESTMENT

sustainability KPIs for the

Sustainability Survey tool

EXIT	

- Assess and evidence legacy of TH activity upon exit
- Support crafting the narrative from acquisition to exit
- Assist business in future buyer selection (where relevant)

# VALUE CREATION

The Value Creation Team represents the foundation for our engagement strategy in all funds. The team leverages expertise in five core fields to work as Over the last 12 months, the Value Creation Team an active partner across the deal cycle and drive focused on streamlining its activities across different sustainable growth.

Three Hills investment strategy allows the Team to position itself as an active partner for management teams and develop an effective and sustainable business strategy during the holding period. Below are reported some examples of the value creation activities carried out by a senior member of the Firm with specific background relevant for each field.

#### **COLLABORATIVE ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS** WITH PORTFOLIO COMPANIES

deal stages, aiming to formalise a collaborative approach and efficiently prioritise material issues. As shown on p.21, our work resulted in an updated due diligence framework that allows to carry out a comprehensive analysis of our target companies and adjust our engagement efforts pre-investment.

The team meets monthly to share updates on active workstreams, discuss resource allocation across portfolios and identify opportunities for cooperation

**ESG & IMPACT** 

ESG mission / identity

#### **STRATEGY & FINANCE**

- Strategic M&A planning Talent development
- Post-acquisition value creation
- Business integration
- Accounting & financial management



#### DIGITAL

- Proposition design
- Tech Due Diligence
- Digital marketing set up
- Interim CDO/CCO
- Content management





**TECHNOLOGY** 

Tech choices

platforming

Tech stack review

Product analysis

· Optimisation and re-

Principal

**HUMAN CAPITAL** 

#### Organisational development • ESG and Impact DD

- Building leadership teams Impact measurement and Performance management management
  - Firmwide ESG implementation



#### **FINANCE**

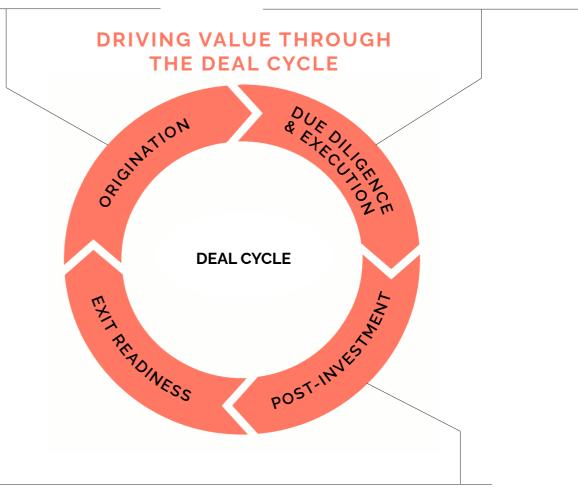
- Working capital optimization
- Reporting and insights
- Financial transformation



#### Sourcing impactful business models

With the launch of TH Impact, the Sustainability Team increased its involvement in origination efforts, aiming to support investment teams in the identification of attractive opportunities for the fund.

Active involvement during early discussions with prospective entrepreneurs is paired with frequent interactions with the TH network of impact investors and advisors who have developed expertise in the investment themes of the fund, as well as industry deep dives carried out with our research partner, Tiresia (see p. 42 - 23).



#### **Employee performance management**

We believe that sound employee management is a key driver for business success. We strive to support our companies at all levels of their organisations, focusing on building robust leadership teams and promoting professional development and wellbeing for all employees. Three Hills have steered LCap's People Strategy with a focus on integrating and aligning teams and ways of working, whilst acquiring additional revenue-driving talent. In parallel, we have developed and launched a new reward approach that better recognises revenue generation & cross-selling delivery, linking into an upweighted performance management system



20



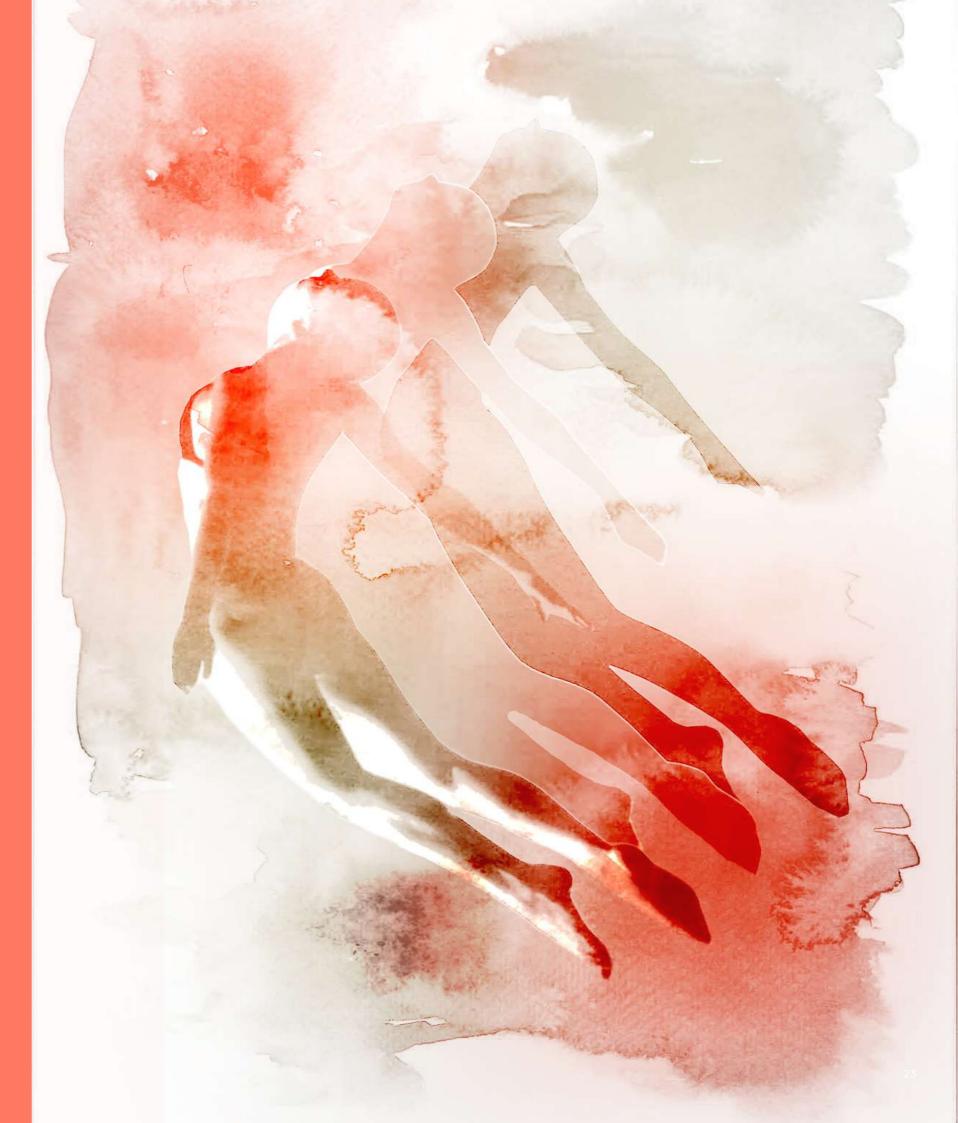
#### Tech due diligence update

Leveraging technology is crucial in today's digital world. We partnered with Crosslake, a firm specialising in technology for private equity portfolios, to develop a Technology Maturity Assessment Framework, now used across our portfolio and non-tech deal targets. This framework uses a self-assessment survey to identify critical areas like IT strategy, cyber security, enterprise IT and data management.

This approach allows consistent data capture, benchmarking, and progress tracking. Successful implementations have enhanced IT alignment, strengthened cyber security, and achieved cost savings through platform consolidation. For instance, at Sabatino, we documented a comprehensive technology plan, conducted a security penetration test, and unified technology platforms to reduce costs.

# PORTFOLIO PERFOR-MANCE

The following pages provide a detailed summary of the TH Impact, THCS IV and THCS III portfolio, illustrating the themes that drive our different investment strategies and the progress that has been made on sustainability topics during the period.



# TH IMPACT PORTFOLIO

#### **IMPACT MEASUREMENT & MANAGEMENT APPROACH**

Three Hills Impact (TH Impact) represents the first step of our journey as impact investors and a natural continuation of the Three Hills Capital Solutions strategy. Having committed more than half of our invested capital to business models that go beyond ESG integration and generate positive impact for people and/or planet, we are now expanding our spectrum of capital towards businesses that contribute to solving urgent social and environmental issues.

In addition to pursuing a sustainable investment objective (compliant with the provisions of Article 9 of the EU SFDR Regulation), TH Impact pairs Three Hills' structured capital solutions with a tailored impact measurement and management approach, developed in line with internationally recognised impact frameworks. A brief representation of our impact investment themes and measurement approach can be found on the right-hand side. Notably, our approach is aligned to the *Impact* Management Project<sup>1</sup>, an industry-led initiative that aims to provide investors and business with a seamless framework to assess the environmental and social outcomes generated.

TH Impact invests in businesses that promote a solution to a social or environmental challenge and substantially contribute to at least one UN Sustainable Development Goal (UN SDGs). In our view, impact and commercial success go together. For each investment, we identify and assess the positive outcomes that the core business models of our portfolio companies generate for people or the planet. Additionally, tailored indicators are identified in collaboration with our management teams with the goal of improving performance throughout the holding period and support businesses in managing and disclosing their impact results.

To solidify Three Hills' commitment to impact investing, a dedicated investment team and investment committee have been appointed and focus on sourcing and executing deals in line with our framework. The TH Impact Team also leverages the support of the Three Hills Sustainability Team which is responsible for the definition of the impact thesis, the identification of the key performance indicators linked to each deal and the promotion of impact-related value creation initiatives post-investment. Additionally, to ensure best practices from investment selection to investor reporting, an exclusive partnership with a leading European impact investment research centre, Tiresia, was put in place. Tiresia is the research centre for impact, innovation and entrepreneurship and forms part of the School of Management of the Politecnico of Milan, Italy. Additional information on our partnership can be found on page 42.

In January 2024, TH Impact completed its first investment in **HISPATEC**, a leading specialist in software and agrifood technology for the speciality crops segment. The investment gave us the opportunity to test our impact management and measurement approach in practice, working in close cooperation with the company's management team and entrepreneur. We are excited to continue working with Hispatec and deliver meaningful positive environmental impact in one of the most carbonintensive industries in the world.

TH Impact's first investment confirms our commitment to investing in purpose-led and future-proof business models, focusing on building strong relationships with our entrepreneurs. In 2024, we aim to continue our capital deployment efforts and support the global growth of the impact investing movement in private markets.



БS

THEMI

SDGs

S

EXAMPLE

ωz

BUSI

Sustainable agriculture

	WHAT	О who	 ноw м∪сн		<u>с</u> RISK
Signature positinega organistica nega nega organistica nega organistica nega nega organistica organistica organistica organistica organistica	nerating ive or tive outcome? nerating rtant or portant pmes?	- Reaching well-served or underserved populations?	<ul> <li>Touching few or many people?</li> <li>Generating marginal or deep change?</li> <li>Generating short- term or long-term change?</li> </ul>	- Contributing marginally or significantly to the change that would have happened anyway?	• Facing low-level or high-level of impact risk?

#### **IMPACT CLASSIFICATION**

BUSINESS CLASSIFICATION BASED ON QUALITATIVE & QUANTITATIVE INPUT Five Dimensions of Impact | Impact Frontiers

#### A voiding harm

Healthy living and corporate

well-being

Disease prevention

Mental health services

Businesses that, at a minimum, identify where the organization is causing harm to people's well-being or the planet, and improve those outcomes. ----- TH Impact focus

#### Benefit stakeholders

Businesses that, in addition to acting to avoid harm, also maintain or cause improved well-being for one or more groups of people and/or the condition of the natural environment.

#### Contribute to solutions

Businesses that, generate positive outcomes for the well-being of a group of people or the condition of the natural environment where the outcome had been previously unsustainable due to policy failure, market dynamics or resource scarcity.

<sup>1</sup> Source: Impact Management Project

24

#### PLANET

3. RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION

	11 ALLENGER	12 EDUARDA
28	I.A.	CO
A P	THE LET	00

- Affordable energy and renewables
- Recycling and waste management
- Future of food and aquaculture

#### **PROGRESS**

#### 1. DIGITAL TRANSITION AND TRANSFORMATION



- Smart cities
- Digital services
- Enterprise efficiency
- Cybersecurity, AI
- Product safety and compliance

# #hispatec agrointeligencia

#### Developer and distributor of software solutions for sustainable management of agrifood operations

DESCRIPTION: Established in 1986 and headquartered in Almeria. Hispatec is a leading specialist in software and AgriFood Technology for the specialty crops segment in Spain and Latin America. With a comprehensive suite of innovative products that collectively span the entire AgriFood value chain (from seed to point of sale), Hispatec has a complete and specialised range of solutions in the market. Its suite is sold under different brand names: Agrosales (focused on farming input supply); Efemis (farm management software); ERP Agro (packer/processor ERP software); Track (facilitating shipping and transport supply chain tracking); and Margaret (data and analytics for farmers and packers). Three Hills' funding will be used to unlock Hispatec's ambitious new product development plan and support its geographic expansion strategy.

#### **IMPACT THESIS:** Improved carbon and resource efficiency of AgriFood value chains

Hispatec's products serve as a cornerstone for enhancing the efficiency of its clients' operations, in turn leading to a reduction in: (i) food loss; (ii) water, energy and fertiliser consumption; and (iii) greenhouse gas emissions. The company's innovative solutions not only enhance the environmental sustainability of processes, but also foster value chain traceability for cultivators and consumers, contributing to the promotion of food safety and security. The attainment of positive environmental impacts is paired with significant cost efficiencies that clients achieve, demonstrating strong lockstep between outcome generation and financial growth.

#### **INDUSTRY:** Software development and distribution

#### DATE OF INVESTMENT: 2024

**DEAL TYPE:** Shareholder reorganisation

#### HQ: Spain

#### EMPLOYEES: 180+

#### SDG ALLIGNMENT:



SDT 12.2 - Achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources

#### INDUSTRY MATERIAL TOPICS

- Data security and customer privacy
- Risk management
- Integration of sustainability
- Diversity & inclusion
- Employee engagement

#### **IMPACT** THEME

**STRATEGY** 

#### Planet/Progress

**TRENDS** 

31% of human-caused greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions originate from AgriFood systems and their supply chains



With Three Hills' support, Hispatec is updating its software solutions to allow clients to measure GHG emissions related to their operations and value chains

Population increase and higher food consumption will require a ~70% increase of agricultural production by 2050. Today, ~15% of harvested food is lost before it reaches final customers



Hispatec's products allow farmers to track food waste during processing operations (from farm gate to shipment)

Agriculture accounts for ~70% of all freshwater withdrawals globally



Hispatec's suite of products enable farmers to make informed decisions to boost resource efficiency and unlock significant savings

### FIVE DIMENSIONS OF IMPACT

Dimension	Question	Information / Data	Assessment
1000000	What outcome are we addressing?	Improved carbon and resource efficiency of agrifood value chains	Negative Positive
WHAT	Is the outcome positive or negative?	Hispatec enable resource efficiency in farm operations, focusing on food waste, recycled plastic use and nitrogen use	
	Is the outcome important to the stakeholders?	Business model is a significant driver of decarbonisation and efficiency of agrifood value chains	Unimportant
WHO	Who is the stakeholder that benefits from the product or service?	The Planet, with specific focus on Spain and LATAM	
0	Is the stakeholder underserved or well-served with respect to the outcome?	Need for decarbonisation and increased resource efficiency is urgent	Well-served Underserved
нош мисн	Is the product or service generating marginal or deep change?	Client data show significant change in terms of food waste (-7% vs EU average), recycled plastic use (+10% vs EU average) and nitrogen use (well below EU regulatory threshold)	Marginal Deep
Ξ	Is the product or service generating short-term or long-term outcomes?	Medium-lasting intervention, as Hispatec solutions fully integrate with clients' systems / ERPs and are periodically updated	Short-term
	What is the business contribution to what would likely happen anyway?	Hispatec is one of the few players that offers end-to- end products, hence providing high quality solutions that allow real time access to data and inform farmers activities	Likely worse
RISK		<ul> <li>Evidence risk: lack of systems to process raw data on positive impact generated</li> </ul>	
$\triangle$	Is the business facing high or low- levels of impact risk?	<ul> <li>Stakeholder participation risk: engagement of small/medium-sized farmers</li> </ul>	Low High
		- External risk: adverse macroeconomic scenarios	

#### **ESG LEADERSHIP**

#### ENVIRONMENTAL

### SOCIAL

> Achieved A-grade energy efficiency rating in the Almeria office

> Implemented system to measure CO2 emissions related to company's car fleet. Leases are periodically updated to introduce EV and hybrid cars

> Engaged with dedicated supplier for the management of office IT waste

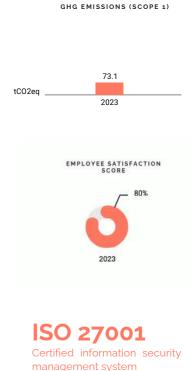
> Kept employee turnover (13%) below average in the global technology industry

> Developed equality plan and employee handbook that includes all relevant HR policies and internal procedures

> Conducted employee satisfaction survey focused on social environment at work. remuneration and training

#### GOVERNANCE

- > Developed partnerships with AMETIC (Asociación Multisectorial de Empresas de la Electrónica, las Tecnologías de la Información y la Comunicación) and Association GIS (Grupo de Innovacion Sostenible) to promote industry sustainable development
- > Adopted code of ethics and whistleblowing guidelines included in employee handbook
- > Nominated information security committee responsible for the development and maintenance of Hispatec's information security management system



# THCS IV PORTFOLIO

#### RESULTS OF SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT

Three Hills Capital Solutions IV (THCS IV) investment For instance, specialist recruitment platform, KERNEL strategy formalises our commitment to drive sustainable development across our portfolios. As highlighted in the "Our Approach to Sustainability" section on p.16, THCS IV is classified as Article 8 under the EU SFDR regulation, resulting in the regulatory requirement to promote environmental and social characteristics during the investment period.

Since the start of the investment period in February 2022, six businesses were funded, giving us the opportunity to progressively enhance our ESG due diligence approach and post-investment active management efforts. For most portfolio companies, 2023 represented the second reporting year with reference to sustainability-related information. This allowed us to assess performance against previously set objectives and identify further opportunities to work on in the coming year. Additionally, this reporting window allowed Three Hills to refine the Sustainability Survey tool, which was formally updated last year. The Sustainability Survey is now fully aligned with internationally recognised reporting standards such as the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB), the ESG Data Convergence Initiative (EDCI) and the Global Industry Classification Standards (GICS).

Our assessment methodology also supported the reporting of relevant data and information included in the present report. The current facing page highlights the sustainability KPIs monitored at portfolio-level, measuring its contribution towards environmental and social goals as defined under SFDR. Additionally, the following section of the report presents specific case studies that highlight further metrics and qualitative insights regarding relevant ESG initiatives rolled out by portfolio companies.

During the last reporting period, we had the opportunity to consolidate the relationship with historical management teams and start collaborating with new ones, progressing on shared action plans and setting the foundation for future commercial growth and sustainable development of business models.

GLOBAL, started its journey to achieve the B Corp certification and implemented a digital tool for measurement and reporting of carbon emissions. CARETECH, a UK provider of social care for individuals with special needs, made significant progress in its CARE4 strategy, setting multi-year targets related to the reduction of the Group's environmental footprint, the improvement of employees' well-being and the continuous support to local communities that are impacted by the business. Hotel operator, CASTELLET HOSPITALITY, formally implemented an ESG Roadmap focused on, among others, energy efficiency, reduction of food waste and elimination of single use plastic.

In October and November 2023, Three Hills completed two additional investments, establishing partnerships with **DIGITAL 360**, an Italian provider of innovative digital marketing and advisory services, and LCAP, a UK-based specialist leadership advisory & analytics firm. We are excited to start working with the two businesses and support management teams in further driving their sustainable development strategies. We are currently working with the entrepreneurs and management teams of the two companies to prioritise concrete action plans to address material sustainability issues.

Recent investments confirm our commitment to provide preferred capital solutions to profitable and sustainable business models across Europe. As more capital will be deployed in the upcoming months, Three Hills will continue to focus its efforts to promote ESG characteristics in its investments. We aim to continuously expand and innovate our investment strategy to consolidate Three Hills' leadership role in the structured capital market.

# FUND IV OVERVIEW

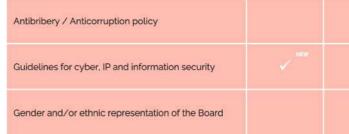
THCS IV promotes the following environmental and social characteristics:

- Reduction of negative environmental impacts 1.
- Promotion of a safe and healthy work environment 2.
- Promotion of sound organisational structures and a diverse and inclusive work environment 3.

We monitor the attainment of the environmental and social characteristics promoted through the following sustainability indicators.

			····· INVEST	ED IN 2023 -	
ENVIRONMENTAL	CareTech	kernel	SABATINO.	DIGITAL 360	LCop
Implementation of environmental policies / management systems					×
Measurement of GHG emissions					
Presence of energy efficiency plans / renewable strategies					

SOCIAL						
Formalised employee policies	~	~	~	~	~	~
Well-Being and H&S programmes	~	~	~	~	~	~
Diversity & Inclusion policy		~	~		~	~



		*
	1	×
√ <sup>NEW</sup>		



#### FRENCH HOTEL INVESTMENT AND OPERATION PLATFORM

**INDUSTRY:** Accommodation

DATE OF INVESTMENT: 2022

DEAL TYPE: Growth Capital,

Shareholder reorganisation

Hospitality

HQ: France

00

CORE

h

**BUSINESS** 

Hotels that achieved the

Green Key certification

EMPLOYEES: 230+

SDG ALIGNMENT:

**DESCRIPTION:** Founded in 2017, Castellet Hospitality has a portfolio of 25 budget and midscale hotels in the South-East of France, mostly operating under the Accor, Louvre Hotel Group and B&B hotel franchise brands. Castellet owns the freehold of the majority of its hotels, providing additional downside protection thanks to a strong real estate portfolio. Leveraging its expertise and high-quality portfolio, the Group targets and provides professional hospitality services to business and leisure costumers.

Three Hills funding supports business growth through a buy-and-build strategy, with four hotels acquisitions having completed in tandem with the transaction and three new openings in 2023. Such strategy will build on the Group's well-established business approach, allowing Castellet to succeed in one of the most resilient market segments.

Gen Z (56%) and

travellers are the

most concerned

with sustainable

travel, focusing

on waste and CO2

millennial (51%)



#### Sustainable travel

The French Decret

Tertiaire imposes

ENDS

gradual energy efficiency targets for

buildings, reducing energy consumption by 60% by 2050

energy audits EG≺ hotel network and STRAT developed a roadmap for the reduction of energy consumption

### protection Castellet completed throughout the Group's

As of 2023, 6 Group's hotels achieved the Green Key certification. Castellet aims to certify its entire portfolio by 2025

#### identify labour shortage as a key risk to growth. The hospitality industry historically faces high employee turnover rates (30%-35%) reduction and habitat

Over 80% of hotel operators

Castellet fosters employee retention (89%) through the definition of clear career pathways, training programmes and bonus schemes

#### ENVIRONMENTAL

> Continued working on energy efficiency and reduction of carbon emissions, also exploring the use of renewables

> Eliminated single-use plastic from all hotel rooms and installed water fountains in most locations

> Launched two pilot projects for the installation of EV charging stations

#### > Maintained positive gender diversity

SOCIAL

credentials, with 70% women in management positions and low gender pay gap (<3%)

> Updated employee incentive scheme, including ESGrelated targets (e.g., achievement of Green Key certification)

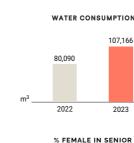
> Worked on introducing environmental stewardship training programmes to be rolled out in 2024

#### GOVERNANCE

> Formally implemented ESG Road Map, fostering sustainability integration across the business

> Nominated internal ESG Committee to lead sustainability strategy at hotel-level

> Rolled out information security training, involving all hotel managers and relevant employees



280.89

2022

tCO2ea



GHG EMISSIONS (SCOPE 1 AND 2)

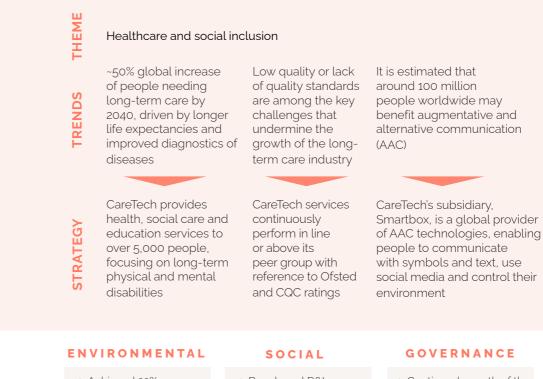
378.52



#### UK SOCIAL CARE PROVIDER FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN WITH **BEHAVIOURAL HEALTH ISSUES AND DISABILITIES**

DESCRIPTION: Founded in 1993, CareTech is a leading UK private provider of healthcare, education, social care, training and technology innovation for adults and children with complex needs. Users include those with learning disabilities, autistic spectrum disorder, sensory impairment, or mental health complications. The Group operates in more than 550 locations in the UK and internationally, serving over 5,000 beneficiaries.

Three Hills provided capital to support business delisting from the AIM market while enabling CareTech to expand its impact radius in other UK regions. In 2023, CareTech's subsidiary, Smartbox completed the acquisition of Talk To Me Technology, a US-based company specialised in Augmentative & Alternative Communication (AAC) Systems.



> Achieved 33% reduction in direct carbon emissions across UK operations (vs 2021 baseline)

> Revised environmental targets, including 2050 commitment to Net Zero, increased volume of recycled waste and promotion of biodiversity

> Rolled-out CARE4 One Planet Living programme to ensure that each service has a local plan to deliver change

#### > Developed D&I > Continued growth of the Strategy Framework to CareTech Foundation's ensure inclusiveness reach, with 1.9M and fairness; female beneficiaries having been representation remained supported significant (70%) > Further strengthened > Initiated review of ESG governance through employee engagement practices that encompasses feedback mechanisms and talent attraction efforts > Achieved significant reductions in short-term (-39%) and long-term

(-5%) absence

nomination of internal

**INDUSTRY:** Social care and educational services DATE OF INVESTMENT: 2022 **DEAL TYPE:** Shareholder reorganisation HQ: UK EMPLOYEES: 10,400+

#### SDG ALIGNMENT:



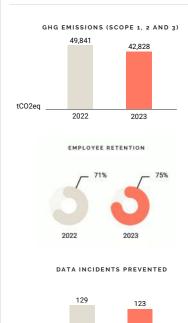
#### CORE BUSINESS

77% Registered services with Good/Outstanding Ofsted rating

84% CQC inspections grading Good/Outstanding

73% Children feel positive about CareTech services

94% Children feel positive about where they live



2022

2023

FSG Committee and CARE4 Leadership Group > Updated procurement

policy to include sustainability requirements. In 2024, the policy will be rolled out to

GOVERNANCE

top suppliers

31

#### kernel MULTI-BRAND RECRUITMENT PLATFORM, FOSTERING LOCAL EMPLOYMENT ON A GLOBAL SCALE

pools to meet clients'

and limited talent pools diversity, inclusion and

needs

DESCRIPTION: Kernel Global ("Kernel") is a multi-brand, multi-niche group of industry leading recruitment businesses that operates globally with operations across the UK, US, Hong Kong and Germany. The Group comprises of two key brands: Dartmouth Partners, an award-winning recruitment consultancy, and Pure Search, a market leader across the Tax, Legal and Risk & Compliance verticals. Relying on over 160 gualified professionals and a deep network of around 460,000 candidates, Kernel provides recruiting services to over 1,200 clients.

Three Hills provided capital to support the management team in progressing its ambitious growth plans through both M&A and organic growth. Over the past 12 months, Kernel focused its efforts on its US operations, further expanding its footprint by opening an office in Charlotte. Additionally, the Group launched the Classroom to Boardroom Foundation, extending its reach of influence to tackle socioeconomic diversity for young people.

The tight job market

have increased the

significance of quality

recruitment, soft skills

М Providing diverse talent with access to exceptional careers A skills-focused TRENDS is crucial to identify the most competent

strategy for hiring talent individuals to meet changing market needs

STRATEGY on levels of technical,

and alignment with company values Kernel actively assesses its candidates to build a professional, global network based

Kernel professionals DE&I is a key element to each Kernel brand's are sector specialists with deep knowledge search and recruitment in their markets, process, building a trusted network of leveraging cross- brand diverse professionals and industry and cultural fit collaboration to identify the right candidate to delivering industry-leading meet clients' needs DE&I activities

#### ENVIRONMENTAL

> Defined first carbon emissions baseline leveraging ecology digital tool

> Implemented specific recycling areas in all offices to foster correct waste management

> Digitalised all event and core collateral for teams, reducing marketing print footprint to almost zero

### > Updated candidate

feedback mechanisms to ensure transparent and formative communication

SOCIAL

> Rolled out employee satisfaction survey at Kernel-level, achieving 95% participation and an overall engagement score of 68%

> Evolved approach to leadership development, with increased focus from internal Performance and Development team to strength capability and retention

#### GOVERNANCE

> Recognised for the third time, as one of the Financial Times 1000 Fastest Growing Companies in Europe

> Initiated the process to achieve the B Corp certification, currently undertaking the B Impact Assessment

Continued to develop the work and reach of the Classroom to Boardroom Foundation, supporting students from year 10 upwards to unlock their professional potential through creating introductory career programmes with clients and industry partners

**INDUSTRY:** Recruitment DATE OF INVESTMENT: 2023 DEAL TYPE: Growth capital. Shareholder reorganisation HQ: UK EMPLOYEES: 160+ SDG ALIGNMENT:



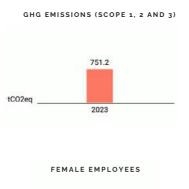
#### CORE BUSINESS

IAL IMPACT GENERATED BY M TO BOARDROOM FOUNDATION

30 Students place in the industry

460 One-to-one interactions with students

3,100 Students engaged during events







#### MANUFACTURER OF TRUFFLE PRODUCTS WITH DIVERSIFIED SUPPLIER BASE ACROSS EUROPE

DESCRIPTION: Founded in 1911, Sabatino Tartufi ("Sabatino") is a family-owned manufacturer of truffle products and flavour solutions headquartered in West Haven (Connecticut, US), with origins and operations in Mostecastrilli (Italy). In addition to premiumquality truffle-based products, the company sells fresh truffles across various end markets, including foodservice, retail and B2B channels in North America, Europe and Asia. Sabatino relies on over 100 professionals and a network of partnerships with large truffle farms in Europe to source quality raw materials and ingredients.

Three Hills' funding is used to drive growth through the institutionalisation of the business, new key hires, product development and significant marketing initiatives. Leveraging Three Hills' deep connections in the Italian food and retail market, Sabatino is well positioned for its next growth phase.

THEME	Production and distril	butior	n of responsibly sourced	l food pro
TRENDS	Changing consumer preferences and risir costs require produc and process innovat to drive business growth	ng et	Growing consumers' attention to environmental impacts of food supply chains and natural ingredients	Health still driv purcha prices
STRATEGY	Sabatino relies on its professionals and a network of external chefs and foodservice operato to periodically launc new products that m consumers' demand	h 1eet	Sabatino developed partnerships with local suppliers to foster short food supply chains and holds relevant certification to guarantee product traceability	Sabatin include: organic pair qua nutrient
EN	IRONMENTAL		SOCIAL	GOV
> F				
pla eff	Rolled out project to install lar panels in the Italian ant alongside energy ficiency interventions	ha HF sh	Implemented employee andbook that includes all R-related policies and is ared with all employees	> Appoint Developm Sabatino's including sustainab
pla eff > E wit to	lar panels in the Italian ant alongside energy	ha HF sh Þe he	andbook that includes all R-related policies and is	Developn Sabatino's including
pla eff > E wit to pre wa > I mo	lar panels in the Italian ant alongside energy iciency interventions Established partnership th local food banks donate short-dated pducts and tackle food	ha HF sh be plu hc hc sy tra	andbook that includes all R-related policies and is ared with all employees Implemented employee enefit package including ealth insurance, retirement ans and additional	Developm Sabatino's including sustainab > Implem and whist promoting conduct a

32

THREE HILLS

Increasing focus on	
diversity, inclusion and	SOCI/ CLASSROOM
ESG within organisations	
requires recruiters to	
develop diversified talent	93

#### oducts

and well-being ive consumers' ases despite rising

no's offering es healthy and c product lines that ality and taste with nt-rich ingredients

#### VERNANCE

nted new Chief ment Officer to shape s strategic initiatives, g commitment to bility

nented anti-bribery stleblowing policies ng ethical business and employee n

ed relevant quality eability certifications, g BRC Food, Non-GMO DA Organic

**INDUSTRY:** Food manufacturing and distribution DATE OF INVESTMENT: 2023 DEAL TYPE: Growth capital, Shareholder reorganisation HQ: US EMPLOYEES: 110+

SDG ALIGNMENT:



#### CORE **BUSINESS**

RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

100% Suppliers adhere to Sabatino's Code of Conduct

#### Diversified

Supply chain to mitigate climaterelated risks and scarcity of raw materials

0 Claims related to product requirements/labelling received





#### DIGITAL MARKETING AND ADVISORY SERVICE PROVIDER FOR COMPANIES AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATIONS

DESCRIPTION: Digital 360 is a leading Italian provider of innovative digital marketing and advisory services in the context of digital transformation processes, with a distinctive proprietary content production platform. Through its network of 40+ websites, the Group operates across two business units: (i) Demand Generation, focused on enhancing tech companies' marketing activities through a revolutionary approach based on creative content creation and (ii) Advisory & Coaching, dedicated to supporting companies and public administrations in the process of digital transformation through standardised and bespoke services.

Three Hills' funding was used to delist the business from the Euronext Growth segment of Borsa Italiana and supports the management team in executing its ambitious expansion plans, with the company having successfully executed and completed over 30 M&A acquisitions to date.

Digital transformation and content development

Ξ DS

ш

М

Learning are transforming the demand generation Z industry and advisory Ľ businesses

Al and Machine

Digital 360 launched "Al4Business", the first EG≺ Italian editorial project entirely dedicated to RAT

services are increasingly looking for partners that incorporate sustainability and purpose-driven marketing

Buyers of B2B

demand generation

Digital 360 is formally classified as a Benefit Corporation, aiming to promote digital innovation as a driver of sustainable and inclusive growth

Technological and digital innovation requires additional focus on safeguarding digital assets. Between 2021 and 2023, data breaches increased by 72% globally

Digital 360 advisory

services include information

& cybersecurity as a core

area of action, focusing

on security systems and

regulatory compliance

Data breaches reported to the GDPR reporting year

**INDUSTRY:** Digital marketing &

DATE OF INVESTMENT: 2023

DEAL TYPE: Growth capital.

advisory services

EMPLOYEES: 510+

SDG ALIGNMENT:

CORE

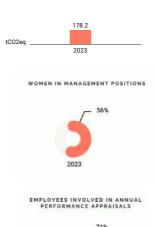
BUSINESS

2.1 million

Delisting

HQ: IT

GHG EMISSIONS (SCOPE 1 AND 3





### COMPANIES

**DESCRIPTION:** LCap is a UK specialist Leadership Advisory & Analytics firm that focuses on high-growth companies and private equity-backed businesses. The Group has a global client base comprising of more than 160 investment funds and high growth companies. LCap goes to market through the following Brands: (i) DRAX, Leadership Advisory and Executive search for Private Equity, (ii) DRAX Affinity, Leadership Advisory and Executive search for Digital Leadership, iii) Rowan, Leadership Advisory and Executive search for Digital Leadership regional family and privately owned high growth businesses, (iv) Altus Partners: Leadership Advisory and Executive search for investment professionals and M&A specialists for funds and their investee companies and (v) LCap Analytics, pre and post leadership insights.

Three Hills' investment in LCap supports an active M&A strategy, which will allow the company to continue its expansion plan, with ambitions of completing 3-5 acquisitions. With a healthy pipeline of attractive prospective opportunities, LCap will further cement its industry leadership position.



all employees, including healthcare

development director to drive business growth and retain key talent

> Developed employee handbook that outlines the Group's core values and behavioural guidelines

> Defined system to periodically monitor client and candidate feedback, featuring 1-to-1 meetings and formal email checks

### ENVIRONMENTAL

Al innovation in public

administrations and

private businesses

#### > Implemented internal system to monitor carbon emissions, including Scope 3 emissions from business travels

> Supported companies and public administrations in achieving operational efficiency targets that unlock positive environmental impacts

> Developed partnerships with non-profit organisations for the reuse of outdated computers and IT equipment

#### SOCIAL

#### > Established partnerships with local academic institution for the attraction of young talents and publication of digital innovation observatories

> Developed internal training catalogue, updated annually and accessible to all Group's employees

> Achieved gender equality certification for five Group companies, in line with UNI/PdR 125:2022 standard

> Supported social projects to promote the inclusion of vulnerable groups into the labour market through digitalisation

#### GOVERNANCE

> As part of Benefit Corporation commitments, published bi-annual Impact Report and quantified the Group's positive impact through the B Impact Assessment tool

> Implemented information security management systems in six Group companies, also achieving the ISO 27001 certification

> Nominated Group Sustainability Manager with direct report to the Chairman

#### SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2023

THREE HILLS

Process" to promote energy,

water and material savings

during and after working

hours



0

data protection authority during the

Rising focus on diversity and limited talent pools and inclusion and ESG skills will require recruiters to develop guality hiring, soft skills diversified talent pools to meet clients' demand

#### **LEADERSHIP ADVISORY & ANALYTICS FOR HIGH-GROWTH**

LCap's platform is designed to promote behavioural and physical diversity in leadership teams, evaluating all aspects of an individual that are material to their probability of success in a specific role

#### GOVERNANCE

> Formalised Group's policy booklet that includes the set of key documentation that regulates Group's operations

> Provided data security training sessions to all employees, leveraging the support of an external provider

> Continued efforts to provide industry insights focused on market trends and success pathways for high-growth companies

**INDUSTRY:** Analytics Consulting and Executive Search DATE OF INVESTMENT: 2023 DEAL TYPE: Growth capital Shareholder reorganisation HQ: UK EMPLOYEES: 130+ SDG ALIGNMENT:

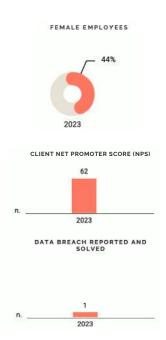


#### CORE BUSINESS

CANDIDATE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

#### 1000 +

Assignments across the Group



# THCS III PORTFOLIO

#### **RESULTS OF ESG ASSESSMENT**

For the fourth consecutive year, we are proud to share the ESG progress that the THCS III portfolio has made over the course of the last reporting period. As the investment period came to it's end in 2022, in 2023, we have focused on consolidating the ESG-related initiatives implemented in previous years and further progress in the defined growth pathways. Three Hills had the opportunity to develop the relationship with existing management teams and entrepreneurs and double down on driving ESG best practices across the portfolio.

As for 2023, all material ESG data was gathered through our Sustainability survey, which included all portfolio companies within THCS III, with data captured in line with the respective company's FY 2023 year-end. As for last year, the survey included THE WILDE, although the business will not be fully operational until the end 2024.

As further illustrated on the current facing page, ESG progress across the portfolio was related to both the formalisation of commitments through appropriate policies and the implementation of initiatives to effectively tackle material ESG issues. We elected to report comparative data with reference to the previous reporting period and to 2019, in order to give an overview of how portfolio's performance has improved since inception.

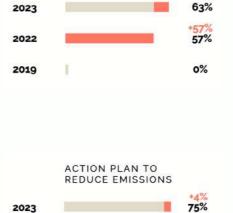
Whilst last year significant resources were allocated to the reduction of negative environmental impacts across the portfolio, in 2023 our focus switched back to more socialoriented initiatives, with specific reference to employee engagement and well-being. For instance, portfolio company **SEC NEWGATE**, a global communication group, implemented a Human Resources Management System focused specifically on the promotion of Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) and certified in line with the ISO 30415:2021 standard. Such initiative was paired with the introduction of a training curriculum dedicated to equality promotion and a D&I hotline accessible to all employees. Spanish software provider, GOAL SYSTEMS, formally adopted an Equality Plan that sets the firm-wide objectives, responsibilities and risk management action with reference to D&I topics. The plan is supported by specific KPIs

to periodically assess performance and foster improvement across all employee management activities, starting from the hiring process. IMS, a UK-based vehicle telematics company, nominated an internal People Executive Committee, which took accountability for employee engagement initiatives and remuneration. Dutch hotel operator, BOREALIS, dedicated significant effort to the update of its training platform, ensuring improved accessibility and prioritisation of material topics for the company, such as first aid and evacuation procedures.

Substantial improvements to environmental and governance topics were also achieved. THE WILDE, developer and operator of member clubs, implemented its first ESG statement that formalises the businesses' commitment to promoting environmental, social and governance topics across its operations. UK environmental services provider, RECYCLING LIVES SERVICES, adopted a digital carbon accounting platform and is currently working with SBTi to re-certify its decarbonisation targets related to Scope 1, 2 and 3 CO2 emissions. IMS is also leveraging the support of an external parties to progressively reduce and offset its carbon emission and recycle office waste.

In addition, we are proud to report that the ESG commitments of THCS III portfolio companies were recognised through the achievement of relevant certifications. SEC NEWGATE completed its journey to B Corporation certification with reference to its UK branch, whilst its Italian branch was legally recognised as a B Corporation in 2022.

Three Hills will continue to support entrepreneurs and management teams to ensure continuous progress during the ESG journey of THCS III portfolio companies. As our Value Creation Team grows in size and competencies, we are striving to provide strategic guidance to drive business growth from all perspectives.



2022

2019

**ENVIRONMENTAL** 

ENVIRONMENTAL

POLICY ADOPTED

+6%

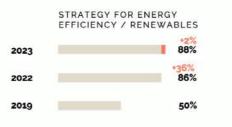
+24%

71%

33%



SOCIAL









NOTE: This year we have decided to include data and information related to The Wilde, as the business will be fully operational in late 2024.

#### **GOVERNANCE**

# 3.SUSTAINABILITY AT FIRM LEVEL

It has been a positive year for the Three Hills community. The following section shares some of the powerful social, environmental and governance changes we have driven forward across the Firm, as well as our charitable initiatives supported by the Firm's foundation.



# THREE HILLS FIRM-LEVEL UPDATES

#### CARBON RETIREMENT

Since 2019, we have worked with our legacy portfolio company, ACT, a leader in environmental certificate trading, to retire our energy consumption and business travel. This represents a direct and quantifiable impact on climate change mitigation, monitored, verified and certified.

**ENVIRONMENTAL** 

In addition to our carbon reduction efforts, in 2023,

we focused on tackling the carbon footprint of our

London headquarters through the purchase of energy

backed by Renewable Energy Guarantee of Origin

(REGO) certificates. 100% of our purchased electricity

was certified by the Carbon Trust and met the GHG

Protocol Scope 2 Guidance Quality Criteria.

**RENEWABLE ENERGY** 

#### SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONS

We are committed to the responsible use of materials across all offices and limit the environmental footprint of our travels. We continued our efforts to improve travel policies, recycling practices and going paperless on a day-to-day basis (for example during our annual performance review). In 2023, 100% of our office waste was diverted from landfill and destined to recycling, refuse derived fuel and anaerobic digestion.

#### TALENT MANGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

All employees are involved in yearly training plans, featuring courses and workshops with industry experts. In 2023, the training curriculum was directed towards career development, focusing on inclusion, resilience, communication and giving feedback.

# SOCIAL

#### **EMPLOYEE WELLBEING**

We have recently launched a global Employee Assistance Programme, featuring a confidential platform available for all regions which offers access to telephone, virtual and face-to-face counselling services on health & lifestyle, work & home life, legal information, and financial guidance. Additionally, we continued to offer access to gym memberships, yoga classes and massages as firm believers in the priority of employee wellbeing.

#### **OUR B CORPORATION (B CORP) CERTIFICATION**

In December 2022, the Firm achieved the B Corp certification, joining a select group of companies reinventing business as a force for good by pursuing profit with purpose. The B Corp certification is a recognition of a company's high ESG standards, placing equal levels of importance on all stakeholders. Our efforts were awarded with an impressive result of 126 points (with 80 points required for certification), placing the Firm in the top performing B Corps within its segment.

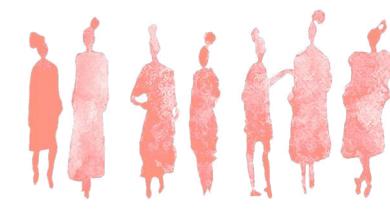
# GOVERNANCE

#### **SUSTAINABILITY** GOVERNANCE

In 2023, we appointed a new ESG Hub, a five-person committee consisting of representatives of multiple Three Hills divisions. The Hub focuses on advancing the sustainability agenda across all business verticals and makes sure that our values are reflected at all levels of our organisation.

**INVESTMENT** 

Three Hills has been a signatory of the United Nations Principle for Responsible Investment since 2018. This year we had the opportunity to showcase progress in our sustainability approach, achieving significant improvements in all modules of the assessment: 5/5 for the Private Equity module, 4/5 for Policy, Governance and Strategy and 4/5 for Confidence building measures.



#### **DIVERSITY & INCLUSION**

We strongly believe that a diverse working environment fosters personal and professional growth, also supporting business success. Three Hills employees represent over 15 nationalities, and we strive to keep a stable gender balance: 50% of employees are women and 35% of senior leadership roles are filled by women.

#### COMMITMENT TO RESPONSIBLE

# THREE HILLS SPOTLIGHT **IMPACT RESEARCH**

#### WHAT IS TIRESIA?

TIRESIA (Technology Innovation and Research for Social Impact) is the competence centre of the School of Management of the Politecnico di Milano dedicated to the study of impact-oriented innovation, entrepreneurship, and finance. In recent years, TIRESIA has dedicated significant resources to consolidating its scientific expertise and its international reputation, putting them to good use in the development of operational tools to support new social entrepreneurship.

TIRESIA's consolidated experience in strategic consultancy on sustainability and social impact measurement supports large corporations and financial players, as well foundations and third sector organisations.

Additionally, TIRESIA runs academic courses focused on sustainability, impact, and purpose as part of the educational offerings at the Politecnico di Milano and GSoM, the Graduate School of Management of the Politecnico di Milano.

#### **TIRESIA & TH IMPACT PARTNERSHIP**

In 2022, Three Hills established a partnership with TIRESIA for the development of an observatory, leveraging the Firm's positioning in the European impact investing space and TIRESIA's research-based approach. Additionally, TIRESIA supports Three Hills across all stages of TH Impact's investment process, providing advisory services in the field of impact measurement, deal analysis and value creation postinvestment.

The collaboration aims to study the impact investing industry, monitoring its current trends and proposing forecasts on its evolutionary trajectories, focusing on multiple industries and geographies. The observatory adopts the perspective of studying the supply and demand side of impact capital allocation (i.e., impact investors and investee companies). Adopting a dual perspective is crucial, as it provides a comprehensive understanding of the impact investing ecosystem, ensuring alignment between the expectations of both capital providers and entrepreneurs. Such an approach allows to effectively identify market trends, industries and business models that contribute to the generation of social and environmental value in the context of investment strategies that seek risk-adjusted financial returns.

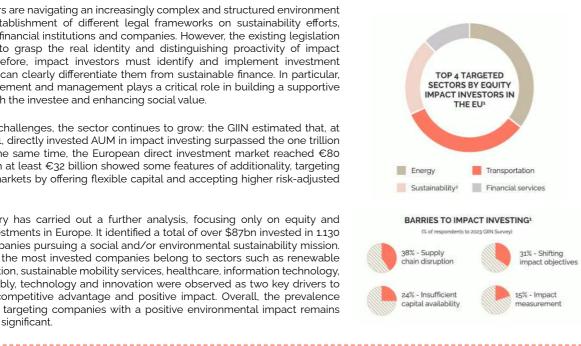
This year's spotlight provides an overview of the impact investing landscape globally and in Europe, doubling down on how social-oriented business model are integrated in investment strategies.

#### ------ IMPACT INVESTING OUTLOOK

Impact investors are navigating an increasingly complex and structured environment due to the establishment of different legal frameworks on sustainability efforts, targeting both financial institutions and companies. However, the existing legislation seems to fail to grasp the real identity and distinguishing proactivity of impact investing. Therefore, impact investors must identify and implement investment strategies that can clearly differentiate them from sustainable finance. In particular, impact measurement and management plays a critical role in building a supportive relationship with the investee and enhancing social value.

Despite these challenges, the sector continues to grow: the GIIN estimated that, at the end of 2021, directly invested AUM in impact investing surpassed the one trillion threshold. At the same time, the European direct investment market reached €80 billion, of which at least €32 billion showed some features of additionality, targeting underserved markets by offering flexible capital and accepting higher risk-adjusted returns.

The observatory has carried out a further analysis, focusing only on equity and equity-like investments in Europe. It identified a total of over \$87bn invested in 1.130 European companies pursuing a social and/or environmental sustainability mission. In this sample, the most invested companies belong to sectors such as renewable energy production, sustainable mobility services, healthcare, information technology, and food. Notably, technology and innovation were observed as two key drivers to achieve both competitive advantage and positive impact. Overall, the prevalence of investments targeting companies with a positive environmental impact remains relatively more significant



\* Source: Primary data accessed through the Crunchbase platform and elaborated by TIRESIA. The analysis focused on 1.130 companies with a social or environmental mission that went through at least one round of investment

<sup>2</sup> The 'Sustainability' sector includes companies concerned with the creation of manufactured products through economically-sound processes that minimise negative environmental impacts while conserving energy and natural resources

# SOCIAL - ORIENTED **BUSINESS MODELS**

In the impact investing space, social enterprises represent a relevant opportunity to focus on innovative business models in sectors with significant potential to generate positive social and environmental outcomes. Social enterprises are defined by their commitment to addressing social issues while adopting business-oriented strategies to do so. The assessment of primary and secondary data supports the attractiveness of business strategies whose primary objective is the creation of social value, highlighting both the economic sustainability and the achievable positive impact of the analysed transactions. Sectors such as food, healthcare, education, and social inclusion seem promising to target, given the detection of several innovative approaches. For instance, common business models include developing new, more sustainable types of food and integrating circularity principles into food production.

Digital platforms play a crucial role in various areas: easing access to healthcare services, serving as a one-stop-shop for caregivers, creating communities of medical professionals, and connecting them with patients. In the context of education, technology increases accessibility, fosters children's development, shifts the focus to emotional and relational well-being, and supports lifelong learning programs emphasising inclusion and diversity. Furthermore, technology promotes the empowerment of vulnerable people through assistive technologies and boosts social capital through inclusive neighbourhood care and citizen participation.

side of investment rounds in social-oriented business models, the study identified three key trends:

- 1. The investigation noted how the presence of technology has made social-oriented companies more attractive to investors, allowing them to identify more robust and desirable business models.
- wellness for everyone.
- quality and comparability still represent crucial challenges when assessing social value creation.

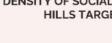
# 10 million

Number of social enterprises, globally<sup>2</sup>

#### \$2 trillion

Annual revenue generated by social enterprises<sup>2</sup>

C. 50% Of global social enterprises are led by women<sup>3</sup>



<sup>a</sup> Source: De Beule, F., Bruneel, J., & Dobson, K. (2023). The internationalization of social enterprises: The impact of business model characteristics <sup>2</sup> Source: Schwab Foundation & World Economic Forum. (2024). The State of Social Enterprise 2024 <sup>3</sup> Source: The State of Social Enterprise in Europe – European Social Enterprise Monitor 2021-2022

Social enterprises are defined by their commitment to addressing social issues while adopting business-oriented strategies to do so<sup>1</sup>

### By looking at the characteristics (e.g., mission, target clients, disclosure of data on positive outcomes generated) of the supply and demand

2. The analysis of the most widespread societal solutions highlights efforts aimed at fostering general well-being in the field of mental health, developing an inclusive mindset, promoting healthy habits and reconnecting people. This suggests an interest of impact investors in intervening in those areas not directly overlapping with welfare state services and contributing to the provision of comprehensive

While social-oriented companies seem interested in adopting a rigorous approach to measuring their social outcomes, data availability,

#### DENSITY OF SOCIAL ENTERPRISES IN THREE HILLS TARGET GEOGRAPHIES



- United Kingdom: 130,000
- Italy: 102,000
- France: 96,500
- Rest of Europe: 96,000
- USA: 1,300,000



THREE HILLS

# SPOTLIGHT NTMY LAB

#### EDUCATION IS THE SINGLE MOST POWERFUL TOOL TO EMPOWER FUTURE GENERATIONS TO DRIVE POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT, OVERCOME INEQUALITY AND IMPROVE SOCIAL MOBILITY.

#### NTMY'S GOAL IS TO PROMOTE EDUCATION TO GUARANTEE SAME OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL AND ENHANCE THEIR POSSIBILITIES FOR CHANGE.

NTMY foundation is the non-profit charitable organisation managed by Three Hills. Its mission is to improve access to education, remove barriers to learning, guarantee equal opportunities for all and enhance possibilities for change – in a nutshell TO CUT THE GAP. We believe in education as a force for good, and our goal is to bring young people together, regardless of their background, contributing to personal development and improving life chances.

THsupports NTMY through a dedicated social programme operated in partnership with the Firm's close advisors thanks to voluntary contributions. We always match any donations received. By being part of the Three Hills umbrella, NTMY benefits from dedicate resources and a solid growth platform to achieve a meaningful impact. Additionally, in 2023, we welcomed an external member of NTMY Team specifically dedicated to the development of our activities in Italy.

For Three Hills, quality education not only represents an investment theme, but we also firmly believe that it is a powerful tool to generate meaningful social impact and give back to our community. Our platform is well placed to deliver education outcomes in multiple locations, addressing a wide range of stakeholders and backgrounds.

### NTMY PROJECTS

Over the last 5 years, NTMY developed its global footprint through both independent initiatives and partnerships with peer organisations. Positive educational outcomes were achieved through the following initiatives:

- NTMY Lab (Italy): NTMY Lab aims to support schools in decentralised areas by offering a range of extracurricular activities, workshops and homework support. The project was created to support complementary educational activities by organising workshops in schools in decentralised areas.
- Access Aspiration (UK): NTMY's support is helping to provide young Londoners with new skills and network to improve their access into work at a point in their life when they are making crucial decisions about their future. Since 2020, over 3,000 students were enrolled in the programme and 93% of them reported an increase in their awareness of career options
- Tuendalee (Kenya): The objective of Tuendelee is to build partnerships in education by linking in-need students with potential donors, universities with talented students and employers with qualified students, NTMY contributions has funded full school fees for 7 talented students
- Stitching Cooperatiekring Amsterdam (Netherlands): SCA supports local charity initiatives that bridge the socio-economic gap for children. NTMY's support of SCA is concentrated on two key projects: i) homework support for kids and ii) coaching and educational support for young girls from disadvantaged backgrounds. To date, the initiative involved over 1,000 families





Professionals involved in NTMY activities

NTMY Lab is a project launched in 2020, tailored for students in primary and middle school, where differences in sociocultural backgrounds blend with other dynamics typical of preadolescence, such as bullying or racism with ethnic or sexual undertones, which can lead to early school dropout. This translates into a greater risk of social exclusion, unhealthy behaviours, unemployment and potential involvement in criminal activities.

Workshops include both academic and extracurricular activities and are usually open 3 days a week. All activities are funded by NTMY and coordinated by professional educators, under the supervision of the school principal.

In 2020, the project took shape at the Comprehensive Institute of Fenegrò. In the same year, NTMY Lab was activated in Umbria, with an English language workshop, aimed at consolidating learning in primary schools.

In 2022, the Foundation launched a two new schools in Umbria and boosted workshops in Fenegrò, increasing the laboratory activities and afternoon frequency.

On the back of the successes achieved, in 2023, 4 new locations were opened in Milan in collaboration with Fondazione Milan.



# From 1 to 9

Locations included in NTMY Lab programmes since 2020



Kids aged between 7 and 14 reached by NTMY Lab in 2023



Jver 2.500 Hours of extracurricular activities

delivered in 2023



#### - ART AND CRAFT

To unleash creativity and explore artistic side, children can learn to paint, draw, and create even simple artifacts

#### - THEATRE AND CINEMA

To enhance musical abilities, learn to play an instrument, sing, and compose music

#### - SCIENCE LABORATORIES

To broaden scientific curiosity and explore the world, children can learn to conduct experiments and build models

#### - SPORT LABORATORIES

To explore and strengthen their athletic side. NTMY in Milan collaborates with the Fondazione Milan, which is entrusted with teaching football, basketball, volleyball, and others

#### 30 WEEKS PER YEAR AND 1-2 MEETINGS PER WEEK

# THREE HILLS

Three Hills is an established asset management platform providing bespoke capital solutions in Europe and North America through dedicated investment strategies. We want to thank our management teams, partners and investors in the funds we manage, without whom none of this would be possible.

If you are interested in getting in touch with us, please send an email to: INVESTORS@THREEHILLS.COM

LONDON

MILAN

LUXEMBOURG

**NEW YORK United States** 

#### PLEASE CONSIDER THE ENVIRONMENT BEFORE PRINTING THIS REPORT

It is not an invitation to buy or sett any of the securities referred to in the accument and is not a personal recommendation or advice on investments, taxation or on any other matter. It is not intended for distribution to retail clients or to any personal recommendation or advice on country where such distribution or use would be contrary to local law or regulation. All facts, figures, and other information presented in this document are believed to be accurate and reliable at the time of publication, with back-up data available on request. If this document contains "forward-looking" information, including estimates, projections and subjective judgment and analysis, no representation is made as to their accuracy or that these projections will be realised. Past performance does not predict future results. Three Hills do not control and are not responsible for the content of third-party websites. Potential investors should note

This document has been prepared by THCP Advisory Limited which is an appointed representative of Privium Fund Management (UK) Limited ("Privium"). Privium is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (the "FCA") in the United Kingdom. As such, this document has been reviewed and approved by Privium. This communication is provided for your internal use only and is directed at professional investors and eligible counterparties as defined by the FCA only. Copyright © 2023 THCP Advisory Limited. All rights reserved.