

## Press release

### **Raiffeisen becomes the first retail bank in Switzerland to launch a responsible gold ETF**

- **Raiffeisen launches an exchange-traded fund that invests in responsibly sourced gold.**
- **The fund invests in gold that is produced in a way that is socially and environmentally compatible, as well as traceable through a transparent supply chain.**
- **This new fund enables investors to participate in the performance of the gold price while taking social and environmental factors into account.**

*St. Gallen, 2 November 2021.* Raiffeisen has become the first retail bank in Switzerland to launch an exchange-traded fund (ETF) for gold that takes social and environmental factors into account and permits tracing of the gold's origin. The gold comes from industrial mining companies that meet appropriate standards and also from small mining companies in less developed countries, where available. This helps small-scale producers to strengthen their environmental and social practices and thus to gain access to the global gold market. In its support for small mining companies, Raiffeisen is working with the Swiss Better Gold Initiative – a private-public partnership between the Swiss Better Gold Association and the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO). The LBMA-certified Swiss refinery Argor-Heraeus is also involved as a key production partner.

Traceability of the gold's origins is made possible thanks to the refinery's consistently segregated production. Investors can access information on origins and the supply chain based on the serial numbers of the gold bars, which are published in the fund's annual report. Since the fund physically deposits its gold investments, investors can exchange their fund units for gold at the equivalent value as required. Delivery is made in responsibly sourced & traceable 1 kilogram bars.

### **Another step towards a sustainable product range**

With its launch of the responsible gold ETF, Raiffeisen is taking another step towards its strategic aim of strengthening the sustainability of its products and services. Already since April 2021, Raiffeisen has been pursuing a new approach for its gold procurement, which promotes precise tracing of the gold's origin and cultivates environmental and social compatibility among the companies in the supply chain. The first trading day of the "Raiffeisen ETF – Solid Gold Responsibly Sourced & Traceable" on the SIX Swiss Exchange will be 5 November 2021.

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**Raiffeisen: the third largest banking group in Switzerland**

The Raiffeisen Group is the leading Swiss retail bank. The third-largest bank in the Swiss banking sector has around 1.95 million cooperative members and 3.6 million clients. The Raiffeisen Group is present at 823 locations throughout Switzerland. The 219 legally autonomous Raiffeisen cooperative banks are amalgamated into the Raiffeisen Switzerland Cooperative, which is the strategic leader of the entire Raiffeisen Group. Through Group companies, partnerships and participations, Raiffeisen offers private individuals and corporate clients a full range of products and services. As of 30.06.2021, the Raiffeisen Group had CHF 236 billion in assets under management and around CHF 203 billion in loans to clients. The market share is 17.5 % in the mortgage business. Total assets amount to CHF 281 billion.

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