

# Press release

Utrecht, the Netherlands, 6 July 2023

## **New Research Centre explores solutions for sustainability challenges in the financial sector**

**ASR Nederland N.V. (a.s.r.) and the Faculty of Economics and Business (FEB) of the University of Amsterdam (UvA) are jointly opening an independent research centre: the Research Centre for Sustainable Investments & Insurance (RCSII). Over the next six years, UvA scientists will conduct research into various sustainability issues within the financial sector. With this collaboration, a.s.r. is investing in the further development of knowledge in the field of ESG issues. This fits the ambition to ultimately contribute to a sustainable and liveable world.**

The RCSII is a collaborative initiative of a.s.r. and the FEB of the UvA. The centre aims to answer questions related to sustainable investment and insurance. Among other things, the research focuses on quantifying climate risks for investors and insurers and on possibilities for detecting 'green washing'. RCSII thereby aims to contribute to finding innovative solutions to sustainability issues relevant to insurers, financial institutions, regulators and society.

Patrick Klijnsmit, director of a.s.r. asset management: 'a.s.r. is among the best performing companies worldwide in the area of sustainability<sup>1</sup>. At the same time, there are still a lot of ESG issues we are working on; for example, ESG data is often still too unstructured and the amount of ESG data available is increasing rapidly. Alternative and innovative solutions are needed to process and analyse this data. The collaboration with the UvA aims to contribute to solving these kinds of sustainability issues, enriching the knowledge and opportunities of companies operating in the industry.'

Cees Diks, Professor of Data Analysis and Economic Statistics, Director of the RCSII: 'The Faculty of Economics and Business Administration is an international leader in terms of research in the field of sustainable investment, (behavioural) economics and AI. The social challenges with regard to sustainability, including the energy transition and the transition to a circular economy, and the corresponding urgency, are such that we want to strengthen this research even further. The collaboration with a.s.r. gives us the opportunity to have additional researchers work on these important social themes, while making full use of a.s.r.'s domain knowledge. The results of the research will contribute to finding solutions to these social issues.'

The RCSII is an independent scientific centre. The researchers are appointed to the faculty and determine the content of the research. The research is done according to the Code of Scientific Integrity, which means it is conducted independently and impartially by the FEB researchers at the centre. The findings are made publicly available.

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### **About the Faculty of Economics and Business**

The Faculty of Economics and Business (FEB) is part of the University of Amsterdam. It is known for the high quality of its research-based education and research, which contributes significantly to addressing societal problems. The FEB offers education and research around diverse disciplines, such as economics, data science, business administration, business analytics, accountancy, control, econometrics, finance and entrepreneurship. This is organized in two Schools: the Amsterdam Business School (ABS) and the Amsterdam School of Economics (ASE). In addition to full-time bachelor's and master's programs, the FEB offers postgraduate programs for professionals in business and at institutions who want to

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<sup>1</sup> Source: [S&P Dow Jones Indices](#).

broaden or deepen their field of work. At the FEB, more than 7,000 students study and approximately 500 employees work.

**About a.s.r.**

ASR Nederland N.V. (a.s.r.) is one of the top three insurance companies in the Netherlands. a.s.r. offers insurance, pension and mortgages to consumers, self-employed people and companies. In addition, a.s.r. is active as an asset manager for third parties. a.s.r. is listed on Euronext Amsterdam and is included in the AEX Index. For more information, please visit: [www.asrnl.com](http://www.asrnl.com).

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