## The evolution of ETFs to highly engineered solutions

### August 2016





## Swiss precision. German craftsmanship. Global focus.

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#### **Global index provider owned by Deutsche Börse**

- » STOXX is part of Deutsche Börse Group, one of the world's leading exchange organizations
- » Deutsche Börse Group covers the whole trading process value chain with a wide spectrum of services
- » STOXX runs a leading global index offering differentiating by innovation, quality and liquidity
- » Headquartered in Zurich. Offices in Frankfurt, London, New York, Sydney and Tokyo

#### Global and innovative index universe

- » Index offering covers 65 countries globally; wide product range used by more than 500 clients in 36 countries
- » STOXX owned brands STOXX, iSTOXX and STOXX Customized, marketed brands include DAX indices

#### Core values: innovation, objectivity and transparency

- » STOXX has been at the forefront of innovation since creating the market's first Eurozone blue-chip index in 1998 and has won many innovation awards
- » All STOXX and DAX indices are fully rules-based, with rules disclosed in methodology guides

## STOXX

## **Global presence**

Zurich and Frankfurt are headquarters for STOXX and Deutsche Börse



## STOXX

1) Headquarter STOXX (2) Headquarter Deutsche Börse (3) Joint office location STOXX and Deutsche Börse (4) Only STOXX office in this location (5) Only Deutsche Börse office in this location



# **ETFs As A Product**

- Philosophically attractive 'The Cleisthenes' of investing
- Transparency and price discovery
- Naturally robust
- Applications to wide client segments
  - Institutional
  - Intermediary
  - Retail
- Acceptance by active managers

## **2** THE MOVE TO PASSIVE

## Proportion of passive assets expected to double by 2020 CAGR of 15.2% expected between 2012 and 2020

Primarily driven by the low yield, underperforming active managers and evolution of rules-based passive strategies



## **Global & Australian ETP Market Overview**



**STOXX** 1) Source: Morningstar, SSGA, as of 31 March 2016 2) Source: ASX Monthly Funds Report as of July 31, 2016

## Addressing portfolio issues

### Example of actual pension fund allocation changes<sup>1)</sup>



» Further increases to Smart Beta Equity are planned at that pension fund

1) Approximate percentages, for legal reasons, asset owner name cannot be disclosed. STOXX Minimum Variance Unconstrained was the major part of the Smart Beta allocation

## **Replacing traditional active strategies**

### Smart Beta's adoption by GPIF, the world's largest pension fund



# Do investors lose money by choosing the wrong underlying index?

Example: Dev. Europe / Index performance [10/2004-04/2016]<sup>1)</sup>





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2) Assets under Management (AUM) are based on ETFs listed on pan European equities. Cut-off date: 03/2016.3) AUM also includes heuristic low volatility investments

Single Factor

## Factor returns vary over time

In most of the eleven years observed, factor premia have found to have been positive

#### **Crisis resilience**

- » 2007 Pre and during the GFC
- » 2008 During the GFC
- » 2009 -2012 The recovery phase
- » What's next?





## The evolution of index concepts



Index design focuses on three areas

- Increase in returns (per unit of risk taken)
- Increase in efficiency or exploitation of factors

» Replicability of index concepts

## **STOXX's definition of Smart Beta**

'Smart Beta indices are rules-based index strategies that deviate from a standard index approach in filtering, ranking/selecting or weighting with the aim of generating a specific, desired benefit to investors'

## There are a range of motivations to use Smart Beta





#### **Examples**

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1 Correctly benchmark and remunerate active managers by using appropriate reference index

2 Passively implement active strategies with the goal of generating alpha

- Provide specific exposure to factors such as yield, value, quality, size or multi factor strategies
- 4 Manage different types of risks such as downside risk and tail risk

Customized solutions for investor portfolios

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## EVEN SOME BENCHMARKS ARE SMARTER THAN OTHERS....

# The EURO STOXX 50<sup>®</sup> is the most well-known & used equity index for Europe

Overview



EURO STOXX 50<sup>®</sup>
» 50 top companies from the Eurozone
» 12 countries

STOXX Europe 50<sup>®</sup>
» 50 top companies from the European Union
» 12 + 6 countries

STOXX Europe 600®

» Largest 600 companies from Europe

» 12 + 6 countries

## STOXX

# Methodology is unique and not only selecting the largest 50 stocks to ensure..

Universe	Sub-universes	Pre-selection	Selection	Weighting
» EURO STOXX (covers 90% of Eurozone free- float)	» 19 supersectors in the EURO STOXX universe	» For each of the 19 EURO STOXX regional Supersector indices, stocks are ranked in terms of free-float market cap. Largest stocks are selected jointly accounting for 60% <sup>1)</sup> of super free-float.	» Select 50 largest stocks as measured by free- float from all stocks thus selected	» Weight by free- float subject to 10% cap



» Regular review: Annually in September» Rebalancing: Quarterly





# Smart Beta can be categorised into thematic and systematic approaches

Categorisation



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## **Methodology matters**

### Considerations

- » Very high dividends may indicate lack of profitable reinvestment ideas/opportunities
- » High dividends are likely to persist where there is a track record of high dividends and where the underlying business is strong
- » Dividend strategies have sometimes been reproached to be value strategies in disguise

### Implications for dividend ETF investors

- » Avoid companies with excessive payout ratios
- » ETFs should only be investing in profitable, quality companies with a strong track record of dividends
- » Investors should look at portfolio factor exposure. Arguably, excess returns of a high dividend portfolio should be driven more by growth and quality than by value

# An extension to low volatility & high dividend – the correlation dimension

#### Description

- » Stocks highly correlated together will be excluded from the base universe
- » Aim is to diversify the risk, lower the drawdown and the overall volatility
- » Low correlation screening, on top of the low volatility one, will reduce the risk and allow stronger exposure to the target stocks

#### The approach

- » For each stock from the base universe, a correlation number will be calculated as;
  - » The average correlation of the stocks with all other constituents of the base universe
  - » Calculated on daily log returns in the currency of the final index
  - » Over 12 months.
- » Once the number is calculated, strategy picks up stocks whose average correlation is the lowest towards other security of the base universe
  - » Even if those are from the industry or the same country.

## Similarity of both strategies

Different factors – same structure



## STOXX Global Select & Diversification Select 100 EUR Indices

## Based on the STOXX Global 1800

#### Performance

The two new indices outperform their parent index

- » Both risk & returns factors are improved
- » Sharpe ratio is more than doubled and so does the dividend yield

Key figures <sup>1)</sup>	STOXX Global Select 100	STOXX Global Diversification Select 100	STOXX Global 1800
Performance	10.6%	11.8%	6.8%
Volatility	12.2%	10.6%	15.5%
Maximum drawdown	44.6%	29.4%	53.7%
Sharpe ratio	0.8	1.0	0.4
Gross Dividend Yield	5.5%	4.6%	2.3%

## **Historical values**



STOXX Global Select 100 EUR (GR)

STOXX Global Diversification Select 100 EUR (GR)

STOXX Global 1800 (EUR GR)



1) Source: STOXX backtested data as from Jun. 21, 2004 to Jun. 30, 2016. Annualized figures since inception. Sharpe ratio calculated by using the EONIA rate. Gross Dividend yield calculated as annualized performance since inception of the GR version minus the price version one

## EXAMPLE 2: MINIMUM VARIANCE ETFS, THE LOW VOL CONFUSION

## Minimum Variance is based on Nobel Prize winning Modern Portfolio Theory

Low volatility anomaly is an a well documented source of excess returns

### Founder Harry Markowitz

- » Founded in 1952, Markowitz's theory attempts to minimise risk and maximize return for a portfolio
- » Markowitz's Efficient Frontier aims to offer the highest expected return for a given level of risk
- » Minimum Variance indices aim to create an efficient portfolio with minimal volatility (risk)
- » Investor interest in Minimum Variance has gained momentum during and after the 2008 financial crisis
- » The minimum variance portfolio is the only one on the efficient frontier that does not rely on the estimation of asset returns
  - » Asset returns are difficult to estimate with any reliability



# STOXX Global 1800 Minimum Variance Constrained shows stable allocation to traditional low volatility industries

Industry exposure

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1) Source: STOXX data from 1999 to 2012. Industry classification according to DJ rules until mid 2004 and according to ICB rules since then

# Minimum Variance outperformed the market in past and recent market shocks



#### European debt crisis (Jul 2011- Dec 2011)<sup>2</sup>



### Market sell-off 2015 (Aug 2015 – Oct 2015)<sup>3</sup>



#### Brexit referendum 2016 (23 June – 7 July)<sup>4</sup>



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Source: STOXX, daily data from July 31, 2011 to Dec.30, 2011 Source: STOXX, daily data from Aug. 3, 2015 to Oct.30, 2015 Source: STOXX, daily data from Jun. 23, 2016 to Jul.7, 2016

## **4** CONSIDERATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

## **Considerations for Investors**



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## Conclusions

- Market Cap and Smart Beta ETFs are here to stay
- Expect continued product expansion across asset classes
- Expect fee compression
- Don't be blind to the opportunity set, but do ask questions as the ETF has to be fit for purpose

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