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Helaba invests in yabeo Impact venture capital fund

Helaba Landesbank Hessen-Thüringen made an investment in yabeo Impact AG, a Munich-based impact venture capital fund, in January. The yabeo Impact AG fund, which was launched in 2021, gives investors the opportunity to invest in early-stage start-ups that specifically focus on the issues of climate change, sustainability and social impact by using innovative technologies and new business models. Yabeo is primarily guided by ten of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN when selecting investments.

"As a company, we consider socially responsible practices as our fundamental duty," explains Thomas Groß, Helaba's CEO. "By investing in yabeo Impact AG, we are supplementing Helaba's sustainability activities by systematically establishing an external network of innovative companies with a commitment to impact".

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Thomas Groß
CEO

Yabeo Impact AG's priority in terms of potential investment opportunities is on for-profit technology companies in the environmental (e.g., ClimateTech, CleanTech, sustainable finance and AgriTech) and social (e.g., education and inclusion) sectors. Currently, its portfolio of companies includes, for example, Wegatech (a provider of sustainable energy technology), TAPP Water (a supplier of advanced tap water filters) and Agrando (a trading platform for the agricultural sector). "It is our firm belief that the next generation of start-ups that will change the world will be companies with a focus on sustainability. Institutional investors such as Helaba have been quick to identify this trend. We are delighted that a strong partner who is genuinely convinced of impact investing has joined us," explains Christian Dietsche, CEO of yabeo Impact AG.

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Christian Dietsche
CEO yabeo Impact AG

In line with previous measures launched under Helaba's sustainability programme HelabaSustained, this investment means the bank will not only continue to develop its own sustainability activities but will also be able to specifically monitor innovative solutions with impact potential. This will lead to possibilities for strategic cooperation with the portfolio companies throughout the Helaba Group.

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