

SEMESTER REPORT

WISE 25/26

STOXXEUROPE
FUND

esbcapital@esb-investmentclub.de

Our Mission

“Our mission is to go beyond the theoretical financial concepts of the classroom and create a community of students that share a strong passion for investment management and are dedicated to apply their knowledge in our virtual funds”

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Foreword

Dear Reader,

As we wrap up the Winter Semester 2025/2026, we look back on a period that was as demanding as it was rewarding for ESB Capital. The past months have been defined by a complex market landscape, testing our strategic foresight and adaptability. From the persistent AI-driven rally and the unprecedented boom in precious metals to the sharp downturn in the crypto markets and the SaaS sector's struggle with disruption fears, our teams had to navigate a truly turbulent environment.

What makes this report special is the extraordinary dedication shown by our Analysts and Fund Managers. This semester, we saw an impressive level of independent organization and proactivity. The quality of the portfolios on wikifolio and the depth of the research presented are a direct result of the hard work and ownership our members took over their respective funds.

I would like to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who was part of ESB Capital this semester. Your decision to take the initiative alongside your studies, to challenge yourselves, and to seize the opportunity for personal and professional growth is what makes this initiative possible.

Beyond the numbers, this initiative continues to be a bridge between academic theory and the high-stakes reality of the financial world. The relationships built and the leadership skills developed here are what truly define the ESB Capital experience.

To those looking to sharpen their financial acumen and join a driven, ambitious team: we invite you to become part of this journey. The challenges of the 2025/2026 markets have only strengthened our resolve to innovate and grow.

Best regards,

Tim Küst

Head of ESB Capital

The team



Normen Häfner
Analyst



Jule Renner
Analyst



Xenia Anschütz
Analyst



Robin Reckinger
Analyst



Noah Sproll
Analyst

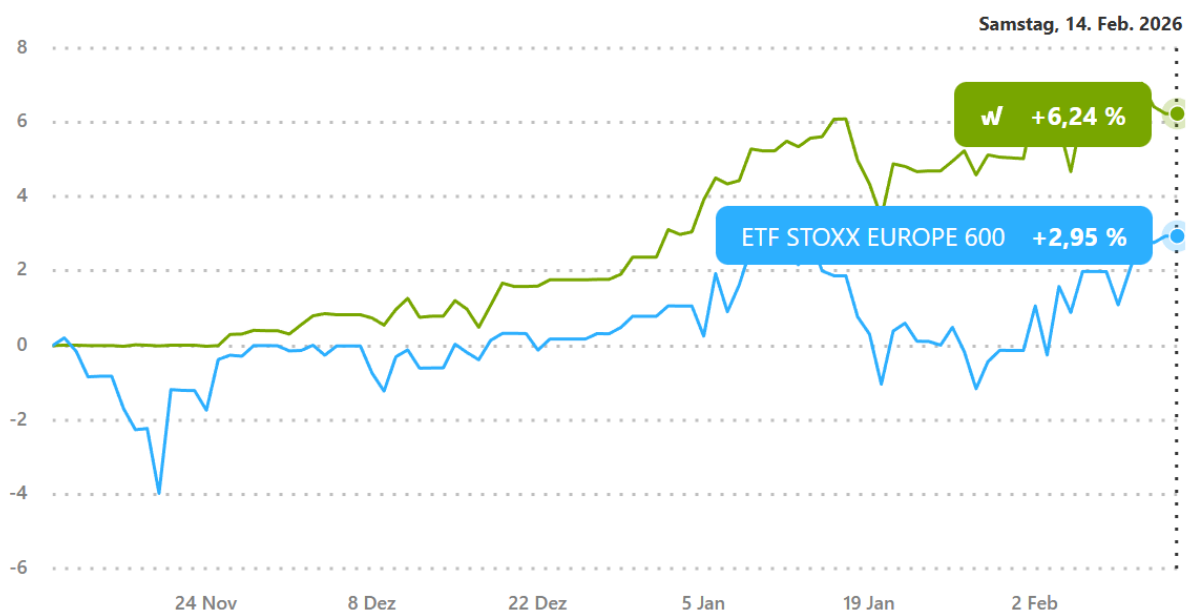


Marleen Schröder
Analyst & Fund Manager

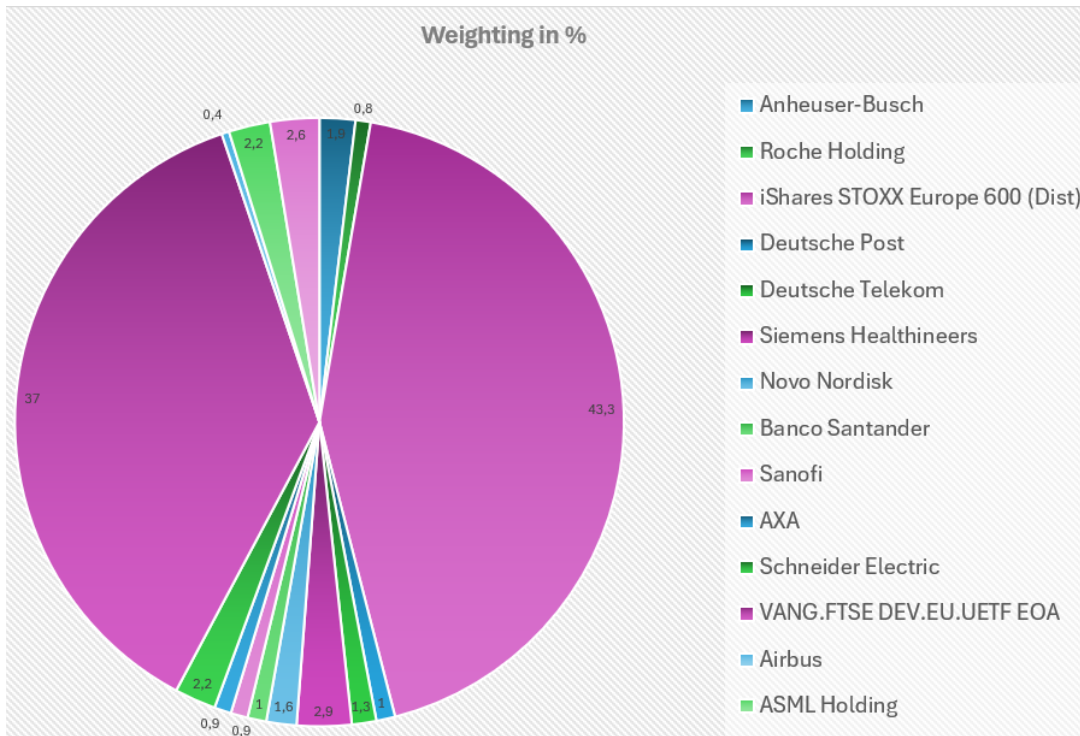
Performance & Holdings

Welcome to the Performance & Holdings section of our StoxxEurope 600 Performance portfolio report. Here we want to provide you with some keen insights into this semesters decisions and stocks, showing a detailed analysis into our performance and work. For this, we used multiple metrics to best showcase our performance, selected carefully to underline our decision-making and visualize it in a simple manner. Whether you are unfamiliar with the financial world or a seasoned expert, we strive to make it both informative and accessible, and explore it together.

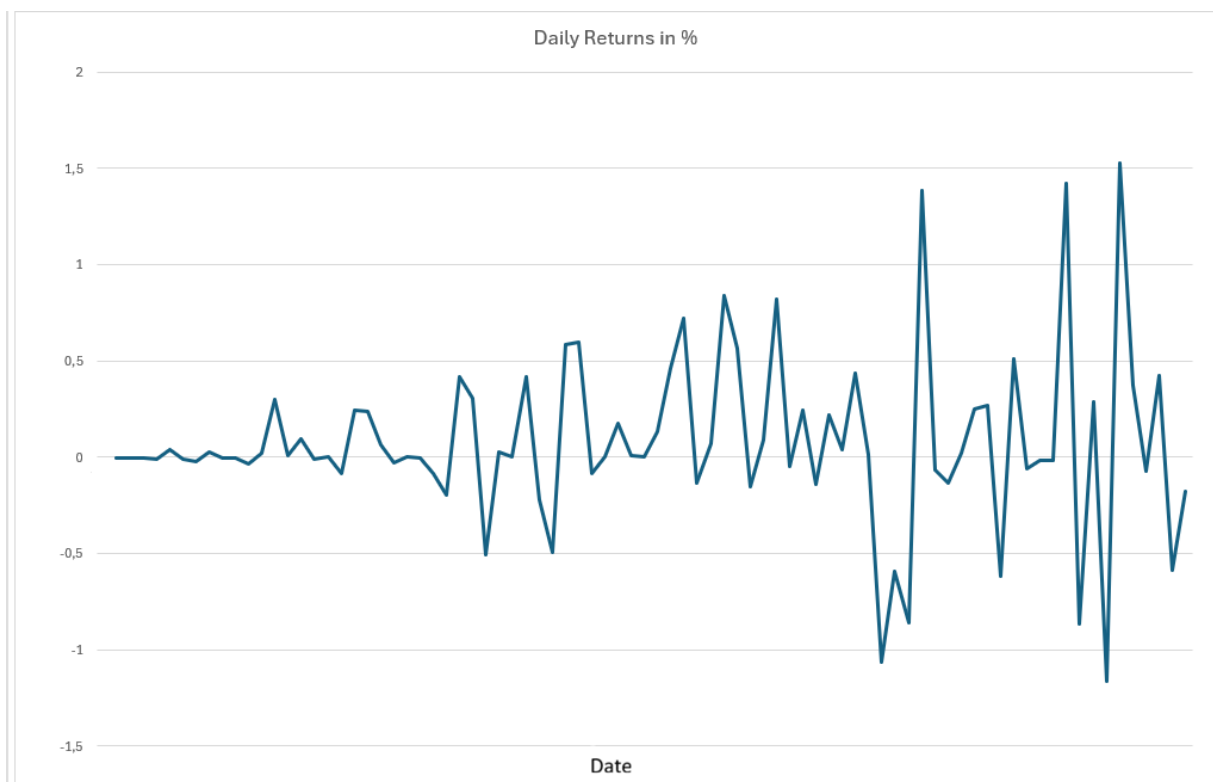
Without further ado, let's dive into it.



Let's start by comparing our funds performance with our benchmark – the STOXX Europe 600. We can clearly see the ups and downs that the European companies experienced these last few months. While the StoxxEurope index showcases a relatively small growth return of 2.95%, our fund achieved a higher positive return of 6.24% since November. It's important to note that our investment strategy prioritized short-term and risk-adjusted returns, over aggressive growth. This approach often results in more moderate growth, but protects strongly against phases of downturn, as we clearly see in the relatively small dips in our portfolio.



Next we see our holdings. Immediately obvious is the heavy weighting our ETFs, but our new stars are quickly visible too. At this moment, Siemens Healthineers, Schneider Electric, and ASML Holding are our strongest weighted stocks, with great profitability too. You can find out more about these later in our highlights.



Moving on, we find the daily returns of our portfolio. On the Y-Axis there are our daily portfolio returns represented in percent, while we find the dates on the X-Axis.

Immediately obvious: they hover around the 1% point. This goes back to our well devised portfolio, as the small daily fluctuations show. The bigger fluctuations towards the end of the semester reflect the hard times the market went through at that time and the acquisition of bigger stocks.

To really understand how each stock influenced our portfolio, let's move on to our highlights, where each stock analyzed this semester is listed by our analysts.

Stock Picks

Siemens Healthineers AG – Dezember 2025 (-8.8%)

Company Profile

Siemens Healthineers AG is a globally operating medical technology company providing healthcare equipment, solutions and services with a focus on diagnostic imaging, diagnostics and therapeutic technologies. Founded in 2017 as an independent listed entity and headquartered in Erlangen, Germany, the company employs approximately 71,000 people worldwide and is active in over 70 countries. With a market capitalization of €49.65 billion, Siemens Healthineers is regarded as a leading global medical technology company, reflecting its strong positioning in diagnostic imaging and therapeutic solutions.

The company operates through four core business divisions. Imaging, the central segment, offers systems and services for magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), computed tomography (CT) and molecular imaging. Diagnostics provides in-vitro diagnostic solutions for laboratories and hospitals. The Varian division focuses on radiation therapy and oncology solutions, while Advanced Therapies delivers image-guided systems enabling minimally invasive treatments in areas such as cardiology and neurology. Overall, Siemens Healthineers is characterized by a technology-driven and service-oriented business model with strong positions in core medical imaging markets.

Industry Trends

The medical technology industry is shaped by increasing demand for advanced diagnostic and therapeutic solutions, alongside structural pressures on public healthcare systems. Budget constraints in many countries and geopolitical tensions, including trade conflicts and tariffs, represent ongoing challenges. At the same time, competition intensifies pricing pressure in certain segments.

Conversely, significant growth opportunities arise from the broader adoption of artificial intelligence in diagnostic imaging and early disease detection, as well as from efforts to improve access to healthcare in regions with insufficient medical infrastructure. At the same time, healthcare systems face increasing cost pressures, while geopolitical tensions and trade restrictions continue to affect global supply chains. Overall, the industry combines structurally positive long-term demand drivers with rising regulatory, financial, and operational challenges.

Investment Rationale

The share price of Siemens Healthineers experienced pressure in 2025 following the announced 30% deconsolidation from Siemens AG, which introduced temporary volatility despite unchanged operating fundamentals. From a valuation perspective, the company trades at a moderate P/E ratio of 24.04, with the share price positioned closer to the 52-week low. Profitability remains solid, highlighted by a record net income of €2,144 million in December 2025, while total debt has been reduced steadily over the past four years.

The net debt/EBITDA ratio of 2.72 reflects a manageable leverage profile and the service-based business model provides earnings resilience. In addition, analyst sentiment is supportive, with 77% of analysts rating the stock as “Buy” or better in December 2025. Considering the attractive entry level, solid financial position and favorable long-term industry positioning, the decision was made to invest in Siemens Healthineers. -Normen Häfner

Schneider Electric – December 2025 (+9.8%)

Company profile

Schneider Electric SE, founded in 1836 in Rueil-Malmaison, France, is a global leader in energy management and industrial automation. A third of its revenue comes from the United States, with Asian countries like China and the European sector soon following. As such, Schneider Electric operates in over 100 countries with approximately 170,000 employees, focusing on industrial, infrastructure, and residential markets. The company is known for their focus on sustainability, AI-powered systems, and smart grid solutions. While it does not operate with energy itself, Schneider Electric works on optimizing customers' energy usage in real time.

Industry Trends

The industrial manufacturing sector experienced continued transformation and growth in the past year. Shaped by geopolitical, and therefore also supply chain, uncertainties, increased automation and AI acquisition, and the demand for more sustainable and "green" processes, the industry is constantly challenged and evolving. Schneider Electric managed to stay atop its challenges. Regarding the supply chain volatility, the company acted pro-actively, investing in its production overseas in the US and further expanding in digitalization. Additionally, it adopted much more sustainable practices, effectively reducing its CO2 emissions by 42%. Moving accordingly and acting on the AI "boom", the company also not only adopted AI into their own processes, but furthermore invested in data centers. This way, Schneider Electric gained an advantage on their competition and managed to not be as dependent on the cyclical demands of the industry.

Investment Rationale

We decided to include Schneider Electric into our portfolio. In 2025 alone, its revenue grew by 4.3% from 9.3 (Q1) to 9.7 (Q3) billion, while it continued to expand in new markets, such as in Asia. The latter is partly due to a development and research partnership with NVIDIA, which was officially announced in June last year. The collaboration serves the purpose to meet the growing demand for sustainable and AI-friendly infrastructure, keeping the future in mind. This partnership we believe holds big potential for possible future projects and was one of the reasons we wanted to invest in the stock. In a whole, it is well illustrated that Schneider Electric is a fast-moving and pro-active company, which places itself and acts strategically to its environment, challenges, and opportunities. *-Marleen Schröder*

ASML Holding N.V. –November 2025 (+29.7%)

Company Overview

ASML Holding N.V. is the world's leading supplier of advanced lithography systems for the semiconductor industry. The company employs around 24,000 people and operates globally across all major chip-producing regions. ASML develops and sells EUV (Extreme Ultraviolet) and DUV (Deep Ultraviolet) lithography machines, which are essential for manufacturing cutting-edge microchips used in nearly all modern electronic devices.

With its technological leadership and near-monopolistic position in EUV lithography ASML is a critical enabler of global semiconductor production. ASML's customer base includes all major semiconductor manufacturers, such as TSMC, Samsung, and Intel, making it one of the most strategically important companies in the global technology supply chain.

ASML benefits from strong geographic diversification. China, South Korea, Taiwan, and Japan are among its largest markets. The company continues to expand its service and field-options business, while also investing heavily in next-generation lithography technologies to maintain its global leadership.

Industry Overview

The semiconductor industry is undergoing rapid transformation driven by the global demand for high-performance chips used in artificial intelligence, cloud computing, etc. Lithography technology is at the core of this development as shrinking chip structures require increasingly precise manufacturing processes.

At the same time, the industry faces significant challenges. Geopolitical tensions between the U.S. and China have led to export restrictions on advanced lithography systems, directly affecting ASML's sales outlook in China. While demand for chips remains structurally high, cyclical fluctuations and long investment cycles create volatility. Supply chain complexity, long lead times, and regulatory uncertainty further shape the competitive landscape.

Despite these challenges, long-term industry fundamentals remain strong. Governments worldwide are investing heavily in semiconductor independence. Which support domestic chip production and indirectly benefit ASML through increased equipment demand.

Investment Rationale

ASML was added to our portfolio as a highly attractive investment due to its technological monopoly, exceptional profitability, and critical role in the global semiconductor market. The company's EUV systems are unmatched worldwide, giving ASML a unique competitive advantage and strong pricing power. Its customer base includes all leading chip manufacturers, ensuring stable long-term demand.

Financially, ASML demonstrates outstanding performance, with high margins, strong free cash flow, and a robust balance sheet. Strategic initiatives such as the expansion of training facilities in the U.S. or investments in AI-related technologies reinforce ASML's long-term growth trajectory.

Short-term risks include export restrictions, geopolitical tensions, and cyclical downturns in semiconductor demand. However, ASML's dominant market position, unmatched technological expertise, and essential role in global chip production provide compelling long-term potential. Overall, ASML represents a high-quality, innovation-driven, and strategically indispensable investment opportunity. -*Jule Renner*

Anheuser-Busch InBev –January 2026 (+22.9%)

Company Profile

Acting in the beverage industry, Anheuser Busch InBev is a well known and global player. Founded in Leuven, Belgium, in 2008, the company was formed through the merge of the companies InBev (belgian) and Anheuser Busch (american). Under its top brands are beers such as Budweiser, Corona, or Becks, while they produce over 500 beverage brands in total, in over 150 countries. While largely performing in america (74.4%), the company also extends into asian and european markets. Anheuser Busch InBevs strategy consists of running many local brands and producing themselves or through daughter companies, saving costs. Furthermore, it drives many partnerships with big players such as FIFA and UEFA, and brands like Netflix, Coca Cola, and Pepsi. 88% of its products are beer, while the remaining percent consist of soft drinks.

Industry Trends

In the past years, the beer industry suffered slightly because of decreasing demand. Experts state this is caused due to the declining interest in alcohol in the younger generations (in comparison to the generations before), while on the other hand it resulted in an increasing demand of alternative beverages. In addition to that, the industry is shaped by fluctuating demand due to the price sensitivity and financial uncertainties of its consumers. Anheuser Busch InBev is not left unaffected by these trends, but manages them smoothly. As such, the company kept expanding. For example, it introduced one of its popular beer brands, Budweiser, to the german market. Furthermore, the rising demand for beer (and Anheuser Busch InBevs brands) in latin america keeps the industry interesting.

Investment Rationale

Anheuser Busch InBev acts as the biggest player in the beer and beverage industry with a very partner and merger aligned strategy at hand. In the past year, the company decided to move away from a pure merging to a more innovative and growth-driven mindset. After its aquisition of SAB Miller in 2016 and the created debt because of it, the company decided to put its focus on reducing debt, expanding into niche markets, digitalization, and sustainable practices. Regardless of the decreasing demand, Anheuser Busch InBev managed to increase its profit over the year through rising its prices. Looking at the first quarter of 2025, we note a rise in the EBITDA to 4.9 billionen (+7.9%), while in total the company operates with great gross- (51.38%) and operating margins (24.57%). As such, we believe Anheuser Busch InBev to be a strong player and investment decision. *-Marleen Schröder*

Novo Nordisk –December 2025 (-5.3%)

Company Overview

Novo Nordisk is a global pharmaceutical leader headquartered in Bagsværd, Denmark, specializing in the treatment of diabetes, obesity, and rare diseases. Founded in 1923, the company exports to over 170 countries and holds a dominant position in the global diabetes market with a share of over 31%. It is a pioneer in insulin and GLP-1 based therapies.

Industry Trends

The pharmaceutical market for metabolic diseases is experiencing explosive growth, fueled by worsening global demographics. The target population is expanding rapidly, with the number of people living with obesity estimated to exceed 900 million worldwide. This has turned obesity and diabetes care into one of the most lucrative sectors in healthcare, creating a fierce competitive landscape-effectively a "duopoly" between Novo Nordisk and its main US rival, Eli Lilly. Despite the high demand, the industry faces significant headwinds in the form of pricing pressure, particularly in the United States where political measures are aiming to lower drug costs. Additionally, patent expirations in key markets like China are opening the door for cheaper generic alternatives, forcing innovation cycles to accelerate.

Investment Rationale

Following the recent share price correction, we rate the stock as a Buy. The stock has dropped approximately 47% year-to-date, which we view as an overreaction ("Buy the dip") given the company's fundamental strength. Financials remain robust: in the first nine months of 2025, revenue increased by 12% to 229.92 billion DKK, and Operating Profit reached 95.92 billion DKK. The valuation has normalized significantly; Novo Nordisk now trades at a P/E ratio of ~14.2, compared to its main competitor Eli Lilly, which trades at a P/E of 52.8. With catalysts like the oral "Wegovy pill" and the new CagriSema therapy on the horizon, we expect Novo to defend its market leadership and return to growth. *-Robin Reckinger*

Deutsche Telekom AG –November 2025 (16.3%)

Company Overview

Deutsche Telekom AG, headquartered in Bonn, is Europe's largest telecommunications provider. Founded in 1995 and led by CEO Timotheus Höttges, the group employs over 245,000 people worldwide. The company offers fixed network, mobile, internet, and IPTV services, with a strategic focus on network infrastructure expansion, 5G, and cloud services. A key revenue driver is its US subsidiary, T-Mobile US.

Industry Trends

The telecommunications industry is characterized by the capital-intensive rollout of next-generation networks, specifically 5G mobile standards. While these technologies are essential for future digitalization, monetizing these huge infrastructure investments remains a key challenge for the sector. As a result, the industry is traditionally burdened by high debt levels, making it sensitive to interest rate changes. Geopolitical risks are also rising; specifically for players with heavy US exposure, the regulatory environment-including potential tariffs and trade barriers under new political administrations-poses a significant uncertainty factor.

Investment Rationale

We decided to buy Deutsche Telekom stock. The company demonstrates strong financial health, with 2024 revenues reaching €115.8 billion and a robust Net Profit of €11.2 billion. In Q3 alone, adjusted EBITDA AL grew by 2.9% to €11.1 billion. We view the valuation as highly attractive; with a P/E ratio of roughly 10.6, Telekom trades at a significant discount to its peer group average of 15-18. Furthermore, management signaled strong confidence by raising the dividend to a record €1.00 per share. Combined with the stable growth from T-Mobile US and a solid Free Cash Flow of €16.1 billion (YTM), the stock offers a compelling mix of value and growth. -Robin Reckinger

DHL GROUP –November 2025 (+9,2%)

Company Profile

DHL Group, headquartered in Bonn, Germany, stands as the preeminent logistics powerhouse in the world. Originally privatized in 1995 from the Deutsche Bundespost, the company has evolved into a global leader operating across more than 220 countries and territories with approximately 583.000 (Q3 2025) employees. Under the leadership of CEO Tobias Meyer, it maintains a dominant presence in five core segments: Express, Global Forwarding, Supply Chain, eCommerce, and Post & Parcel Germany. The group's "Strategy 2030" is firmly centered on accelerating sustainable growth through decarbonization, digitalization, and a strategic focus on high-growth sectors such as Life Sciences and E-commerce.

Industry Trends

The logistics industry is shaped by a long-term transition toward green logistics and digital integration, with DHL operating the largest electric delivery fleet in Germany to lead this change. Recent years have shown a stabilization of e-commerce volumes following post-pandemic volatility, alongside a growing need for resilience against geopolitical uncertainties that disrupt global trade. Furthermore, technological innovation and automation are becoming essential tools for the industry to manage rising personnel costs and volatile freight rates.

Investment Rationale

DHL Group displays robust financial stability and a strong competitive position in a stabilizing global market. In the third quarter of 2025, the group reported a revenue of approximately €20.128 billion and an EBIT of €1.477 billion, with a notable 7.6% EBIT increase in Q3 2025 that surpassed analyst expectations. The company maintains an attractive dividend yield of 4.3% and a Price-to-Earnings (KGV) ratio of 14.35, which is highly competitive within the sector. Additionally, the group demonstrated exceptional cash generation with a Free Cash Flow of €1.2 billion in Q3 2025, supported by continued share buybacks that underpin shareholder value. While challenges such as declining volumes in the Express segment and regulatory pressure on service quality persist, the group's market leadership and strategic focus on high-growth sectors like Life Sciences and E-commerce provide a solid foundation for long-term value creation. -

Noah Sproll

Banco Santander S.A. –December 2025 (+2.7%)

Company Overview

Banco Santander S.A. is one of the largest and most internationally diversified banking groups in the world. Santander offers a broad range of financial services, including retail and commercial banking, corporate and investment banking, wealth management, and insurance.

The bank generated €113.4 billion in interest income and €18.9 billion in operating income in 2024, resulting in a net profit of €12.5 billion. Santander holds leading market positions in Spain, Brazil, the United Kingdom, Mexico, and the United States, making it one of the most geographically diversified banks globally. Its business model benefits from scale, strong brand recognition, and a balanced mix of mature and high-growth markets. The bank has consistently strengthened its capital position, expanded digital banking capabilities, and executed significant share buyback programs to enhance shareholder value.

Industry Trends

The global banking sector is undergoing structural change driven by digitalization, regulatory reforms, and shifting macroeconomic conditions. Rising interest rates have supported bank profitability in recent years, but volatility in inflation, economic growth, and monetary policy continues to shape the operating environment.

Banks face increasing competition from FinTechs, digital-only banks, and large technology companies, which are reshaping customer expectations and accelerating the adoption of mobile and automated financial services. At the same time, traditional banks must navigate complex regulatory frameworks, capital requirements, and geopolitical risks.

In emerging markets particularly Latin America banking penetration is rising, creating opportunities for growth in retail lending, payments, and digital financial services. Meanwhile, European banks continue to focus on efficiency, consolidation, and digital transformation to remain competitive. Santander's strong presence in both developed and emerging markets positions it well to benefit from these long-term trends.

Investment Rationale

Banco Santander was added to our portfolio due to its global scale, diversified business model, and strong profitability. The bank combines stable earnings from mature European markets with high-growth potential in Latin America. Its broad geographic footprint reduces regional risk and provides resilience across economic cycles.

Risks include macroeconomic uncertainty, exposure to emerging-market volatility, regulatory challenges, and competition from digital financial platforms. However, Santander's scale, diversified revenue streams, and strong capital position provide a solid foundation for long-term value creation. Overall, Banco Santander represents a resilient, globally diversified, and attractively valued investment opportunity. *-Jule Renner*

AXA SA –November 2025 (-3,2%)

Company profile

Founded in 1852, AXA is a french insurance company with its headquarter in Paris, France. The company is listed in the StoxxEurope600 since 1998 and under it operate many daughter companys, such as AXA DE or AXA Canada. AXAs main segments are property and casualty- (52%), life- (31.7%), and health (16.2%) insurance. Its business mainly thrives in europe (69.2%), but it is expanding in other markets as well, such as America and Asia. In total, AXA is one of the biggest insurance companys worldwide, with a strong market brand and customer loyalty.

Industry Trends

In the past year, the insurance industry was shaped by digital and technological transformations, an increase in climate and risk uncertainties, and the growing variable of artificial intelligence. For one, cyber security was put into focus. With the development of AI and AI tools, new safety measures are demanded and as such insurances. Here AXA saw an opportunity to expand their segments. Additionally, with these new technologies and digital transformations, the insurance industry works to better its customer engagement and satisfaction through digital tools and platforms.

On the other hand, the rising climate related risks of the past years is mirrored in the equally rising prices of the insurance sector. The growing number of storms, fire and environmental disasters result in a higher demand for insurances, but also costs for the industry. While many companys increased their prices as a result, AXA did no such thing, ensuing higher customer satisfaction and loyalty.

Investment Rationale

AXA took many steps in the last year to grow and expand its company. It bought the italian rival company “rima“ to further develop its european market and otherwise invested in other segments to expand its operations (see above). In the first three quarters of 2025, AXA raised its revenue by 7% to 89,4 billionen, while its profit experienced a slight decrease to 3,9 billionen (-2.5%) in comparison to 2024. Furthermore, AXAs high customer satisfaction and loyalty, due to the stable prices, remains high, giving them an edge to their competition. All these factors lead us to the decision to invest in AXA. We believe the company has potential. -*Marleen Schröder*

Sanofi –November 2025 (-9%)

Company Profile

Sanofi is a global pharmaceutical and healthcare company headquartered in Paris, France. The company operates across key areas such as specialty care, vaccines, and general medicines, with a strong international footprint and a broad portfolio of marketed products. In recent years, Sanofi has sharpened its strategy toward higher growth and higher margin therapeutic areas, supported by continued investment in research and development and selective partnerships.

Industry Trends

The pharmaceutical industry is being shaped by an ageing population, rising chronic disease prevalence, and increasing demand for innovative therapies, especially in immunology, oncology, and rare diseases. At the same time, pricing pressure, stricter reimbursement environments, and regulatory scrutiny remain structural challenges across major markets. Innovation cycles are accelerating through biologics, next generation modalities, and data driven drug development, while competition is intensifying as more assets reach the market and blockbuster drugs face patent cliffs.

Investment Rational

Sanofi was selected as a strategic investment due to its strong positioning in specialty care and vaccines, combined with an increasingly focused pipeline that targets areas with attractive long-term demand. The company benefits from scale, global distribution, and resilient cash generation, which supports both reinvestment into R&D and shareholder returns through dividends. We also view the ongoing portfolio shift toward innovative medicines as a credible path to improved growth and profitability over time. While typical sector risks such as clinical trial outcomes, regulatory decisions, and patent expiries remain, Sanofi's diversified business mix and strategic focus make it an attractive long-term holding.

(I did my internship at Alira Health a Pharma Company within the Transaction Advisory Team and therefore used my knowledge I gained about the Pharma industry as a guidance to make a valuation of the company.) -*Xenia Anschutz*

Roche Holding AG –November 2025 (+29.4%)

Company Overview

Roche Holding AG, is the world's largest pharmaceutical company and a global leader in diagnostics. The company employs around 103 000 people and operates in more than 100 countries. Roche's business is divided into two major segments: Pharmaceuticals and Diagnostics with a strong focus on oncology, immunology, neurology, virology, and ophthalmology.

Roche is known for its globally established medicines such as Herceptin, Avastin, and Actemra, supported by a strong patent portfolio and continuous investment in research and development. In 2025, Roche generated €65.6 billion in revenue and €13.7 billion in net income. The company benefits from a diversified global revenue base with the United States accounting for nearly half of total sales.

Industry Overview

The global pharmaceutical and diagnostics industries are undergoing significant transformation. Demand for advanced diagnostics is rising particularly in Asia and Africa, driven by population growth, improved healthcare access, and the shift toward personalized medicine. At the same time the pharmaceutical sector faces increasing pressure from patent expirations, pricing reforms, and regulatory changes especially in China, where Roche's diagnostics division experienced slower growth due to price cuts.

Competition is intensifying as biotech firms and technology companies enter the healthcare market, leveraging AI-driven drug discovery and digital health solutions. Geopolitical tensions between the U.S. and China add further uncertainty to supply chains and regulatory environments. Despite these challenges, long-term industry fundamentals remain strong, supported by aging populations, rising chronic disease prevalence, and sustained investment in innovation.

Investment Rationale

Roche was added to our portfolio because of its market leadership, innovation strength, and solid financial foundation. The company combines a globally diversified business model with a robust late-stage pipeline and strong cash generation. In 2024, Roche reported stable revenues, a healthy balance sheet, and a reliable dividend yield of 3.5%, reflecting long-term shareholder commitment.

Particularly compelling are Roche's high R&D investments, its strategic expansion into obesity and metabolic diseases, and its strong positioning in oncology and diagnostics, two of the fastest-growing segments in global healthcare.

While short-term challenges include pricing pressure, patent expirations, and competitive threats, Roche's global presence, innovation capabilities, and strategic focus on future-oriented therapeutic areas provide convincing long-term growth prospects. Overall, Roche represents a high-quality, resilient, and forward-looking investment opportunity. *-Jule Renner*

Airbus –November 2025 (-7.1%)

Company Profile

Airbus is a European aerospace and defense company headquartered in Toulouse, France, and one of the world's leading manufacturers of commercial aircraft. Its core business is Commercial Aircraft, complemented by Airbus Defence and Space and Airbus Helicopters, which provide additional diversification and strategic relevance. Airbus serves airlines, leasing companies, and governments globally and benefits from a highly complex industrial ecosystem with strong barriers to entry.

Industry Trends

The aerospace industry is driven by long term passenger growth, fleet replacement needs, and the transition toward more fuel-efficient aircraft as airlines focus on cost and sustainability targets. At the same time, the sector faces persistent supply chain constraints, production bottlenecks, and labor shortages that can delay deliveries and impact cash flow timing. Geopolitical tensions and increasing defense budgets support demand in military aviation and space, while regulatory pressure and innovation are accelerating efforts around sustainable aviation fuels and next generation propulsion technologies.

Investment Rational

Airbus was selected as a strategic investment because it combines a dominant market position in commercial aviation with strong multiyear visibility through its large order backlog. We see attractive upside as production rates normalize and operating leverage improves, supporting earnings growth and stronger free cash flow over time. In addition, its diversified exposure to defence, space, and services provides stability and optionality beyond the passenger cycle. Key risks remain delivery delays, supply chain disruptions, and cyclicalities, but overall Airbus offers a compelling long-term risk return profile due to structural demand and high entry barriers. -*Xenia Anschütz*

Henkel –January 2026

Company Profile

Henkel is a German consumer goods and industrial company headquartered in Düsseldorf, with two core segments: Adhesive Technologies and Consumer Brands. The company owns well known household and personal care brands and is also a global leader in adhesives, sealants, and functional coatings used across industries such as automotive, electronics, and packaging. Henkel operates worldwide with a strong presence in Europe and a meaningful international footprint across North America and emerging markets.

Industry Trends

Both consumer goods and industrial chemicals are shaped by cost inflation, shifting consumer behavior, and increasing price sensitivity, which raise the importance of strong brands and efficient supply chains. In adhesives and specialty materials, demand is supported by structural trends such as lightweighting in automotive, electrification, and advanced packaging, while competition remains intense and customers are increasingly focused on sustainability credentials. Across both segments, companies face regulatory pressure, higher requirements for product transparency, and the need to invest in innovation and lower carbon production processes.

Investment Rational

Henkel is attractive due to its combination of a resilient consumer portfolio and a higher margin, technology driven adhesives business with strong market positions and long term demand drivers. The company's ongoing efficiency efforts and portfolio simplification support profitability and a clearer strategic focus, while its scale and brand strength provide defensive characteristics. However, we did not invest because the acquisition created a key uncertainty and we expected the stock to decline afterwards, which would have offered a more attractive entry point. Instead, the share price increased despite the deal, and with that potential post acquisition pullback no longer available, the risk reward profile did not justify buying at the higher level. -*Xenia Anschutz*

Ryanair Holdings Plc –November 2025

Company Profile

Ryanair is an European budget airline with its headquarters in Dublin, Ireland. Founded in 1985 by Michael O'Leary, it is listed on the stock market since 1998 and currently employs roughly 26,000 people. While mostly operating in Europe, Ryanair also performs in North Africa, effectively flying in 30 countries with over 200 destinations in total. The company's strategy consists of cheap flight tickets for short distance flights, while offering many extra services for a price, such as seat and hotel reservations, and additional luggage. This makes up a big part of the company's revenue. Ryanair's cheap prices also stem from its low maintenance and training costs, since they only employ the airplane model Boeing 737, making any repairs and the schooling of their staff much easier and cost efficient.

Industry Trends

The global and European flight industry is shaped by taxes, political regulations, oil prices, and economic trends. Especially in Europe, regulations about CO2 emissions are in constant discussion, the talk about an air traffic tax very present and effective. While some companies were able to strike deals with individual countries to not implement this tax, success is sparsely seen. As such the prices for the industry rise. Additionally, the industry faces high volatility in oil prices, and while some companies implement price deals for years to come to struggle this, prices eventually rise and so do the associated risks. Economic trends also play a big factor here, since the flight industry is largely considered a luxury industry. In the past year, the industry did recover slowly and steadily, increasing its ticket sales by multiple percent. Still, if the economy takes a downwards turn again, perhaps shaken by political uncertainties, this could change.

Investment Rationale:

Ryanair is a very strategic and innovative company. It is constantly moving and evolving, acting flexible in their business operations, and searching for new ways to improve and stay at the top of its branch. In 2025 alone, the company had over 206 million passengers, with a revenue of 14 billion (+ 4.17% prior to 2024). Long-term we believe the airline has good potential. However, at this time and with a short-term outlook --because of the industry trends and cuts of destinations through political regulations-- we do not think the stock will perform well or increase. The EV/EBITDA sunk by 8.85% to 6.67, while net income decreased to 1.612 billion (-18.9%). In the future we may consider this stock again. -Marleen Schröder

Air Liquide – Dezember 2025

Company Profile

Air Liquide SA is a globally operating company specializing in gases, technologies and services for industrial and healthcare applications. Founded in 1902 and headquartered in Paris, France, the company employs 66,657 people worldwide and operates in a broad range of international markets. Air Liquide's activities are organized into four core business divisions: Large Industries, Industrial Merchant, Healthcare and Electronics. With a market capitalization of €91.5 billion, Air Liquide is regarded as one of the leading global providers in the industrial gas market.

The Large Industries division focuses on the supply of industrial gases and technological solutions for energy-intensive sectors such as chemicals, metals and energy. Industrial Merchant serves small and medium-sized enterprises with gases, equipment and related services. The Healthcare division provides medical gases, devices and services for hospitals, care facilities and home care, while the Electronics division supplies highly specialized gases and technologies for the semiconductor and electronics industries. Overall, Air Liquide pursues a long-term oriented business model built on scale, technological expertise and stable demand across industrial and medical end markets.

Industry Trends

The industrial gas industry is increasingly shaped by stricter environmental regulations, rising production costs and high capital intensity. Energy-intensive processes face growing regulatory pressure, while political instability in certain regions and intense competition add further challenges to the operating environment.

At the same time, selected growth opportunities are emerging, particularly in hydrogen-related applications and specialized gases for the semiconductor and electronics industries. Strategic partnerships and targeted investments support long-term innovation and capacity expansion. Overall, while demand in industrial and healthcare applications remains structurally stable, rising regulatory and cost pressures limit short- to medium-term flexibility.

Investment Rationale

However, the stock's defensive profile, high valuation and capital-intensive structure suggest limited short-term performance potential, while the long-term outlook remains solid. With a P/E ratio of 29.47 and an EV/EBITDA multiple of 13.93, the current valuation appears demanding relative to the company's near-term growth prospects. While characteristic of a capital-intensive industry, the current ratio of 0.84 and quick ratio of 0.61 signal a thin liquidity buffer. This stretched balance sheet structure reduces the margin of safety for short-term obligations and limits the company's financial agility in a volatile environment. Although Air Liquide demonstrates stable profitability and a solid long-term positioning, the risk–return profile at the current price level did not justify initiating a position, leading to the decision not to invest at this stage. -Normen Häfner

L'Oréal – November 2025

Company Profile

L'Oréal SA is a globally operating beauty and cosmetics company engaged in the development, manufacture and sale of skincare, haircare, makeup, fragrances and related beauty products. Founded in 1909 and headquartered in Clichy, France, the company employs approximately 94,397 people worldwide and is active in over 150 countries, serving consumers across mass market, professional and luxury segments. With a market capitalization of €210 billion, L'Oréal is widely regarded as the leading company in the industry.

The company operates through several core business areas, including skincare and sun protection, makeup, haircare and hair coloring, fragrances and other beauty-related activities. Its operations span a wide range of distribution channels, from retail and e-commerce to professional salons and selective luxury outlets. Overall, L'Oréal is characterized by a strong emphasis on research and innovation, a highly diversified brand portfolio and a broad global footprint across the beauty industry.

Industry Trends

Strong competition and fast-paced consumer preferences are hallmarks of the global beauty and cosmetics industry. Over time, sustainability, ethical sourcing and the demand for vegan products have become increasingly important factors influencing purchasing decisions. In parallel, the integration of technology, such as robotics and artificial intelligence, into beauty products and services reshapes the industry, while social media facilitates significant market exposure to those brands. Furthermore, markets in Asia, Africa and Latin America offer growth opportunities due to increasing consumer demand.

Investment Rationale

In the end, we decided against an investment in L'Oréal, as the stock's valuation appeared demanding at the time of our assessment. The EPS of 11.46 and a P/E ratio of 31.68 suggested a valuation that was difficult to justify based on the company's near-term earnings trajectory. Additionally, Analyst sentiment was predominantly cautious, with 70% of analysts maintaining a "Hold" or "Sell" rating, reflecting limited upside potential at current levels. With the share price at €361.50, positioned roughly in the middle of its 52-week high/low range, we did not identify a sufficiently compelling entry point at that time and therefore chose not to proceed. However, with a solid ROE of 20.13 and a market capitalization of €209 billion, L'Oréal remains a fundamentally strong company worth monitoring. -Normen Häfner

Siemens Energy AG –December 2025

Company Overview

Siemens Energy AG is a leading global energy technology company headquartered in Munich. Led by CEO Christian Bruch, the company employs around 90,000 people across 90 countries. Its business model consists of the segments Gas Services, Grid Technologies, Siemens Gamesa (wind energy), and Transformation of Industry. As a result, Siemens Energy covers almost the entire energy value chain.

Industry Trends

The energy sector is currently undergoing a fundamental transformation, primarily driven by the global push for decarbonization and the urgent need for grid expansion. Governments and utilities worldwide are spending more and more, leading to a global investment boom in renewable energy and infrastructure modernization. This is creating a "super-cycle" for grid technologies, as evidenced by the massive demand for transformers and transmission solutions. However, the industry environment remains complex: companies face intense global competition, particularly from Asian manufacturers, and must navigate volatile political landscapes involving changing subsidy schemes and potential trade conflicts. Supply chain constraints and the technical challenges of integrating renewables also remain persistent hurdles for the entire sector.

Investment Rationale

We decided not to include Siemens Energy in the portfolio ("Not Buy"). While the company's operational progress is visible, highlighted by a massive record order backlog of €138 billion and fiscal year 2025 revenue of €39.6 billion, the current valuation leaves little room for error. The stock grew already by 132% year-to-date, driving the P/E ratio to 72.77 and the EV/EBITDA multiple to 26.10. Although the company posted a net profit of €1.7 billion, signaling a successful turnaround, significant risks remain within the wind division, Siemens Gamesa. Given the high valuation and lingering execution risks in the wind sector, we believe the short-term upside is limited compared to the downside risk. *-Robin Reckinger*

WARTSILÄ OYL ABP –January 2026

Company Profile

Wärtsilä Oyj Abp, founded in 1834 and based in Helsinki, Finland, is a global leader in innovative technologies and lifecycle solutions for the marine and energy markets. Led by CEO Hakan Agnevall, the company employs roughly 18,340 people across more than 70 countries and is dedicated to shaping the transition toward a 100% renewable energy future. Its operations are divided into Marine, focusing on decarbonization for over 50,000 ships; Energy, providing flexible gas power plants; and Energy Storage, which utilizes the GEMS digital platform for grid stabilization.

Industry Trends

The maritime and energy sectors are undergoing a massive decarbonization shift, characterized by the move toward "Future-Fuels" like ammonia and hydrogen. Wärtsilä achieved a significant milestone by introducing the world's first large-scale, 100% **hydrogen-ready engine, which** eliminates "stranded asset" risks for energy providers. Over the coming decades, the industry is expected to see a surge in the adoption of onboard carbon capture (CCS) systems, which can currently achieve over 70% capture rates, serving as a critical bridge toward zero-emission shipping. Additionally, the global grid balancing market is set to expand rapidly as renewables are projected to supply nearly 90% of the world's electricity by 2050, necessitating massive investments in flexible power generation and battery storage solutions.

Investment Rationale

The decision not to invest in Wärtsilä at this time was based on its high market valuation despite its undeniable position as a technological pioneer with strong operational momentum. The company has successfully transitioned from a phase of high transformation costs to reaching a break-even point in its green technologies, evidenced by a "V-Shape" recovery in profitability and a Return on Equity (ROE) of 23.85%. However, the stock currently trades at an elevated Price-to-Earnings (KGV) ratio of 29.97, which we believe already prices in much of the future growth from the "Green Industrial" transition. While the company pays a reliable dividend of €0.44 and benefits from strong regulatory tailwinds, the high valuation compared to its average analyst price target of €25.71 suggests a limited upside. The company's unique technology portfolio and high-margin service business provide a substantial competitive moat, and its strong financial health signals confidence in its long-term growth trajectory. *-Noah Sproll*

SIXT AG –January 2026

Company Profile

Sixt SE, established in 1912 and based in Pullach, Germany, is a premier global provider of integrated mobility solutions. Led by Co-CEOs Alexander and Konstantin Sixt, the company operates in over 110 countries and utilizes its SIXT-App to offer a comprehensive range of services including rental, carsharing, ride-hailing, and subscription models. Sixt's core strategy centers on maintaining a premium fleet-heavily featuring high-end German brands like BMW, Audi, and Mercedes, which ensures superior pricing power and high customer satisfaction. The company is distinguished by its family-led management, which prioritizes a long-term strategic focus and consistent service excellence to foster deep customer loyalty. A pivotal pillar of its current growth is the aggressive expansion into the United States, where it has established itself as a premium alternative to traditional competitors and continues to scale its presence at major international airports.

Industry Trends

The mobility sector is moving away from traditional car ownership toward flexible "Mobility-as-a-Service" models. This trend is expected to accelerate as consumers prioritize access over ownership and seek integrated platforms that offer a variety of travel modes in a single application. Furthermore, the industry is seeing a shift toward fully digital, contactless rental experiences through mobile keys and AI-driven pricing to maximize fleet utilization. In the long term, the development of autonomous driving technology and the continued electrification of fleets will redefine the cost structures and urban logistics of the global mobility market.

Investment Rationale

The decision not to invest in Sixt at this stage was influenced by the cyclical risks of the industry, despite the company's expected revenues of €4.25 billion in 2025 and a healthy Return on Equity of nearly 12%. The company's technological advantage, centered around the SIXT ONE app, creates a significant competitive moat by fostering high customer loyalty and operational efficiency. At a Price-to-Earnings (KGV) ratio of 11.33, the stock is currently trading near its yearly low, suggesting a notable undervaluation relative to its aggressive expansion in the profitable U.S. market. While the business model is capital-intensive and sensitive to macroeconomic factors like rising interest rates and used-car price volatility, the company's family-led management ensures a resilient long-term strategy. Sixt's ability to establish a premium global brand while maintaining superior service levels provides a strong basis for future market share gains and sustainable profitability. *-Noah Sproll*

Learnings/Reflection

At the beginning of the semester, I started with almost no prior knowledge of investing within a professional environment. It was a step into completely new territory based on interest in the topic and willingness to learn. However, over the past few months, I was able to significantly deepen my knowledge by gathering valuable experiences alongside my fellow students. The collaboration with the team was key to my development. Looking back, this was a truly enriching journey that not only expanded my skillset but was also a lot of fun to be a part of. *-Robin Reckinger*

In this last semester at ESBC, I realized we are the only fund with women, and I really hope more women will get involved in this important topic in the future. I've enjoyed it a lot for the second semester in a row, especially because I discovered many interesting companies I hadn't had on my radar before and we regularly discussed current economic developments and stock market trends. What I value most is the great team spirit and the strong, insightful exchange within my fund. I'm looking forward to next semester. *-Xenia Anschutz*

I developed a solid understanding for European markets through analyzing companies listed in the EuroStoxx index and their structures across Europe. Preparing these analyses and discussing them within our team of analysts strengthened my proficiency in financial analysis methods and valuation models. Working in a diverse team further improved my ability to approach investment decisions from multiple perspectives. In addition, by monitoring macroeconomic developments, I gained a deeper understanding of how market sentiment and economic indicators influence equity valuation, including how overly cautious positioning in certain market phases can limit performance and requires continuous reassessment. *-Normen Häfner*

During this semester, I learned a lot of new things and was able to deepen the foundations I built last semester. While I focused on the basics last semester, I got a much stronger understanding of how different financial metrics connect, such as margins, debt levels, and overall performance indicators. I also developed a deeper understanding of different industries, particularly the pharmaceutical sector which expanded my perspective and helped me connect theory with real-world practice. Additionally, I improved my presentation skills and became more confident in applying tools like SWOT analyses to make better and more confident decisions.

Overall, I would describe this semester at ESB Capital as very successful. I learned many new things, strengthened my analytical abilities, and expanded my knowledge. *-Jule Renner*

This semester I was able to deepen my understanding of the European equity landscape and the importance of a disciplined investment process. By analyzing diverse regulatory and

macroeconomic environments, I learned to balance quantitative metrics like P/E ratios and FCF yields with qualitative factors such as management quality. Navigating high interest rates and geopolitical volatility highlighted the value of resilient business models. Overall, this experience sharpened my ability to evaluate complex supply chains and digital transformation strategies with a more critical and informed perspective. *-Noah Sproll*

Another semester for me as part of the ESB Capital passed and again I learned something new. For in this semester, my analysts and I opened up a new and unprecedented fund. Exploring the European market and its strong players was an entire new experience, being careful of various countries and their economies, as the different currencies which came into play. With the geopolitical situation and tax wars at hand, it definitely made for an interesting time. Furthermore, I grew in my role as a manager, juggling different interests in the fund and the club, while bettering my soft skills. Thank you! *-Marleen Schröder*

Contact

If you are interested in learning more about the ESB Capital Student Fund, you can find out more on our website <https://www.esb-investmentclub.de/esb-capital>.

Additionally, feel free to contact us via esbcapital@esb-investmentclub.de.