

The United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment (UN-PRI) offer a platform for sustainable investors (asset owners, investment managers, and professional service partners). Members commit to six investment principles, including considering ecological, social and governance issues in their investment decisions; actively spreading and improving the quality of sustainable investments; annual reporting to UN-PRI (who grades the organization). Typical members are banks and insurance companies; few foundations or other grantmaking organizations have joined so far (in Germany, Dreilinden is the first).

For Dreilinden, the advantage lies in manifold networking opportunities, be they thematic (e.g., introducing gender criteria in social reporting) or regional (e.g., sustainability aspect when investing in developing countries).

UN-PRI's internet portal offers chances for quick contact among members. In practice, this means a new and easy way to organize larger numbers of fellow investors as supporters for a critical dialogue with individual companies (the typical case of "engagement"). UN-PRI also organizes online learning on a broad range of topics.

Currently, the network is expanding fast, finally also in German speaking countries. A Germany-wide meeting convened twice in 2011, offering opportunities for internal discussion among institutional investors, and adding momentum to their engagement initiatives.