

## **CANDRIAM Announces Two New Partnerships with Leading Academic Institutions to Advance Sustainable Recovery**

- *Collaboration with UCLouvain to advance efforts towards a circular economy through the creation of a new PhD focused on key impact indicators in the circular economy field and the creation of a circular economy barometer*
- *Partnership with Vlerick Business School to create the Centre for Sustainable Finance. Inaugural research project will focus on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in measuring scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions.*
- *Transitioning to a more sustainable world will require further investment in world-class research and academic economic thinking*
- *New academic partnerships complement CANDRIAM's existing collaborations with some of the world's leading academic institutions including: the London School of Economics (LSE), Imperial College London, Kedge Business School and Libera Università Maria Ss. Assunta (LUMSA).*

**London, 3 December 2020** – CANDRIAM, a global sustainable and multi-asset focused investment manager, is pleased to announce two new partnerships with UCLouvain and Vlerick Business School. This reflects CANDRIAM's ongoing commitment to collaborate with the world's leading academic institutions to advance the investment industry's efforts towards a sustainable and inclusive climate recovery.

### **Partnering to advance academic efforts towards a circular economy**

CANDRIAM has partnered with UCLouvain to further develop the Chair in Regenerative Economics by expanding teaching and research on the circular economy. The world is currently only 8.6% circular, demonstrating the breadth of opportunities available for investors.<sup>1</sup> Resource depletion and inefficient waste management are among the key concerns due to their significant and costly effect on the economy, society and ecosystem.

The partnership, led by Louvain Management School Professor, Yves de Rongé, with Wim Van Hyfte, Global Head of ESG Investments and Research at CANDRIAM, will prioritise several projects including:

- Developing a PhD focused on key impact indicators within the circular economy;
- Developing a circular economy barometer, with the aim of measuring corporate progress;
- Developing an in-depth analysis of different sectors to identify circular practices of companies and measurements of circularity; and
- Developing circular economy reports and collaborating with the CANDRIAM environmental advisory board.

**Yves de Rongé, Professor responsible for the Regenerative Economics chair at UCLouvain commented:** “As we move towards a regenerative and circular economy, I am delighted to announce our new partnership with CANDRIAM. By identifying the best circularity practices developed by companies and expanding indicators and measures of circularity performance, we hope to raise awareness about the importance of a circular economy for companies, investors and policymakers.”

### **Collaborating on Big Data and sustainable finance**

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<sup>1</sup> Source: Circular Gap report 2020, Haas et al. (2015) and PACF (2019).

CANDRIAM has also joined forces with Vlerick Business School to create the Centre for Sustainable Finance. David Veredas, Professor of Financial Markets at Vlerick Business School, will direct the Centre in Brussels as part of a new three-year partnership. CANDRIAM will support and participate in the Centre's academic research to help the industry gain a deeper understanding of sustainable finance. The first academic research project will focus on the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in measuring Scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions from global economic business activities. The project will aim to map the linkages of scope 3 emissions, leading to a more accurate, consistent and transparent public reporting of corporate value chain emissions.

Scope 3 emissions include all indirect emissions, both upstream and downstream, that occur in the value chain of a company. Emissions along the value chain often contribute most significantly to a company's greenhouse gas footprint, so it is important that businesses proactively collect and measure their Scope 3 emissions. Assessing Scope 3 emissions can also help organisations identify potential energy risks and reveal opportunities to improve supply chain performance.

**David Veredas, Professor of Financial Markets at Vlerick Business School, commented:** *"This partnership is very exciting to us. Sustainability is going to define our society and economy during the next decades. Fundamental political decisions will be taken, like those that are required to implement the EU Green Deal. Yet, many questions remain open that can only be answered with rigorous academic research. That is what we will do with the support of CANDRIAM, a world leader in sustainable investments."*

**Commenting on the new partnerships, Wim Van Hyfte, Ph.D., Global Head of ESG Investments and Research, CANDRIAM, said:** *"As we strive to promote a net-zero carbon and more circular economy, it is vital that we support world-class research and foster new academic economic thinking to support our transition towards a more sustainable world. CANDRIAM is proud to announce two new partnerships with UCLouvain and Vlerick Business School and we look forward to collaborating with these prestigious institutions."*

These new academic partnerships complement CANDRIAM's existing collaborations with leading academic institutions including:

- **The London School of Economics (LSE)**, to [develop the Sustainability, Investment, Inclusion and Impact \(SI3\) initiative](#), focused on developing research, improve communication and promote the exchange of ideas on climate action that delivers positive social impact.
- **Imperial College London**, where CANDRIAM sponsors The Climate Investment Challenge run by the Centre for Climate Finance and Investment at Imperial College Business School.
- **LUMSA (Italy)** where [CANDRIAM launched a Master's in Management of Sustainable development Goals with Lumsa Università](#) in Rome; and
- **Kedge Business School (France)**, to [create a research chair dedicated to sustainable finance](#).
- **UCLouvain (Belgium)**, to create [a research chair dedicated to expanding teaching and research on the circular economy](#).

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#### **About the Louvain Management School, UCL**

Founded in 1425, University of Louvain (UCLouvain) is one of Europe's oldest universities, with 33 000 students on 7 sites: Louvain-la-Neuve, Brussels (Woluwe and Saint-Gilles), Mons, Tournai, Charleroi and Namur. In the 2019 THE Ranking, UCLouvain was ranked 152th, making it Belgium's leading French-speaking university. University of Louvain educates almost every other French-speaking Belgian, and attracts every year 6,000 international students from around the globe (a number of UCLouvain's programs are taught in English). UCLouvain is also the first French-speaking University in Europe to offer MOOCs (30 in French and English) on the on-line platform edX. UCLouvain trains students in all disciplines, from beginner's level through doctorate and on to adult continuing education. With 1

Nobel Prize, 21 Francqui Prizes (“the Belgian Nobel”), 42 ERC Grants and numerous international awards, teaching at UCLouvain is based on solid research and innovation, with a lot of applications for society (78 spin-offs from whom 68 active and 346 enterprises in the scientific park and 3 incubators of the university). University of Louvain is also one of the 22 European universities to have received the ECTS label, an EU recognition of the quality of its management of international exchanges.

More information: <https://uclouvain.be/en/index.html>

### **About Vlerick Business School**

Vlerick Business School is a triple-accredited, international business school at the heart of Europe – ranked number one in the Benelux for executive education and 15 in Europe. Each year we welcome 740 MBA and Masters students from 50 countries onto our world-class programmes in Brussels, Ghent, Leuven and Beijing. More than 8,500 executives from across the globe join our executive education and customised programmes. Our 23,000 alumni are active in businesses in more than 100 countries. Apart from our close ties to KU Leuven and Ghent University – and our strategic alliances with Peking University and University of Stellenbosch Business School – we’re constantly building our network of corporate partners across the world.

### **About CANDRIAM**

CANDRIAM is a European multi-specialist asset manager with a 20-year track record. CANDRIAM manages around EUR 128 billion of assets under management<sup>2</sup> with a team of more than 600 professionals, of which 300 in Brussels. It operates management offices in Luxembourg, Brussels, Paris, and London, and has client representatives in more than 20 countries throughout continental Europe, the United Kingdom, the United States and the Middle East. CANDRIAM offers investment solutions in several key areas: bonds, equities, absolute performance strategies, and asset allocation. CANDRIAM is also a pioneer and leader in sustainable investments with, since 1996, a broad and innovative range covering all its asset classes.

CANDRIAM is a New York Life Company. New York Life Investments<sup>3</sup> ranks among the world's largest asset managers<sup>4</sup>.

For more information see: [www.candriam.com](http://www.candriam.com)

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<sup>2</sup> As of 30 June 2020. Assets under management (AUM) includes assets which do not fall within the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission's definition of 'regulatory AUM' in Form ADV, Part 1A

<sup>3</sup> New York Life Investments is a service mark used by New York Life Investment Management Holdings LLC and its subsidiary New York Life Investment Management LLC. New York Life Investment Management LLC is a wholly-owned indirect subsidiary of New York Life Insurance Company

<sup>4</sup> Source: New York Life Investments ranked 35th among the world's largest money managers within Pensions & Investments, June 2020. Rankings are based on total worldwide institutional assets under management for the year-end 2019. New York Life Investments assets include assets of affiliated investment advisors

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