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## The Rise of Thematic Funds: Worthy of the Hype or a Risky Distraction?

Thematic funds have been one of the big winners to emerge from the global pandemic, with many posting eye-catching returns over the period. The global market for these funds, which attempt to harness secular growth themes ranging from artificial intelligence to cannabis, has expanded rapidly in size and breadth.

Since publishing the first installment of the 'Global Thematic Funds Landscape'-research in early 2020, the supply of these niche and often gimmicky funds from asset managers has increased, as has the demand for clarity and guidance from investors. In this talk Kenneth will highlight the key trends in the European thematic funds landscape and share best practices for choosing from this ever-expanding universe.

### Kenneth Lamont

Kenneth Lamont is a senior fund analyst for Morningstar. Specializing in index strategies Kenneth covers the European passive funds and has published widely on the topics of sustainable and thematic investments. Recent publications include The Global Thematic Fund Landscape 2022. Kenneth holds an MSc in investment, banking and finance from the University of Glasgow and an Executive MBA at the Judge Business School at the University of Cambridge. In addition, he holds the Chartered Alternative Investment Analyst® designation.

Kontakt: Christian Mesenholl
Tel.: +41 43 210 28 27
E-Mail: christian.mesenholl@morningstar.com
Webseite: www.morningstar.ch