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## Full-Year Result 2023: Net sales growth and operational EBIT driven by strong performance in Learning

Rob Kolkman, President & CEO Alex Green, CFO



### FY 2023 Net sales growth and operational EBIT driven by strong performance in Learning

Net sales	Organic net sales growth	Operational EBIT excl. PPA	Operational EBIT margin excl. PPA	Free cash flow	Net debt / Adj. EBITDA
<b>1,393</b> m€	2%	<b>175</b> m€	12.6%	<b>105</b> m€	2.8
(2022: 1,298)	(2022: 1%)	(2022: 189)	(2022: 14.6%)	(2022: 112)	(2022: 3.2)

- Strong net sales growth of 17% in Learning, coming organically (6%) and from the Italian acquisition; slight net sales decline in Media Finland
- Operational EBIT improvement in Learning more than offset by the impact of lower advertising sales and cost inflation in Media Finland
- In free cash flow, positive one-off impact in 2022 of the Italian acquisition and lower earnings in Media Finland were
  mostly mitigated by strong organic growth and active working capital management in Learning
- Leverage improved to 2.8, meeting the long-term target level of below 3.0
- Efficiency program Solar in Learning on track to reach the long-term profitability target of 23% in 2026
- Board proposes a dividend of 0.37€ per share (2022: 0.37), corresponding to 58% of underlying free cash flow
- Outlook: In 2024, Sanoma expects that the Group's reported net sales will be 1.29–1.34bn€ (2023: 1.4). The Group's operational EBIT excluding PPA is expected to be between 160–180m€ (2023: 175).

## LEARNING FY 2023 Strong net sales growth...

- Net sales grew by 17% to 795m€ (2022: 681)
  - Organic growth of 6% driven by all major learning content markets
    - 18% growth in Spain following the successful implementation of the final phase of the LOMLOE curriculum renewal
    - 15% growth in Poland resulting from a minor curriculum renewal
    - In the Netherlands, continued good growth in learning content sales was more than offset by the discontinuation of low value distribution contracts
    - Successful implementation of price increases
  - The Italian business contributed 105m€ to net sales (2022: 31)

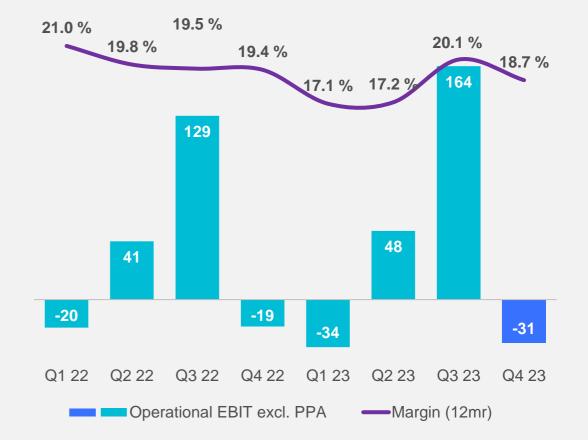


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### LEARNING FY 2023 ...led to solid earnings improvement

- Operational EBIT excl. PPA increased to 148m€ (2022: 132)
  - Successful implementation of the final phase of the LOMLOE curriculum renewal in Spain and minor curriculum renewal in Poland
  - Overall strong organic growth, partially driven by successful implementation of the price increases
  - The Italian business had a solid positive contribution on earnings

**Operational EBIT excl. PPA** m€



## **Efficiency program Solar in Learning on track**

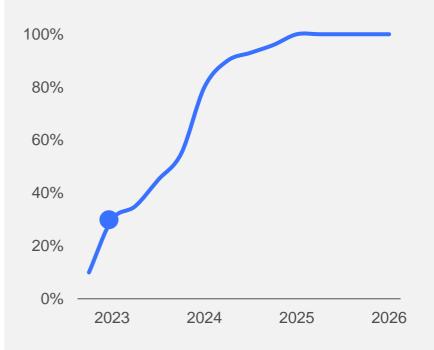
 Program Solar, launched in October 2023, aims to operational efficiencies amounting to approx. 55m€ annual operational EBIT from 2026 onwards

#### **Program streams touching our key operations across countries**

Organisational optimisation	<ul><li>Post-curriculum renewal optimisation in Spain and Poland</li><li>Optimising selected other operations</li></ul>
Publishing process	<ul> <li>Increasingly leveraging benefits of scale in content creation (sharing) and production (centres of excellence)</li> </ul>
improvement	
	<ul> <li>Reviewing publishing portfolios and plans</li> </ul>
Harmonisation of digital platforms	<ul> <li>Optimising product development and maintenance through outsourcing and nearshoring mainly to Poland and Spain</li> </ul>
Other optimisations	<ul> <li>Rightsizing support functions by optimising the overall organisational structure</li> </ul>

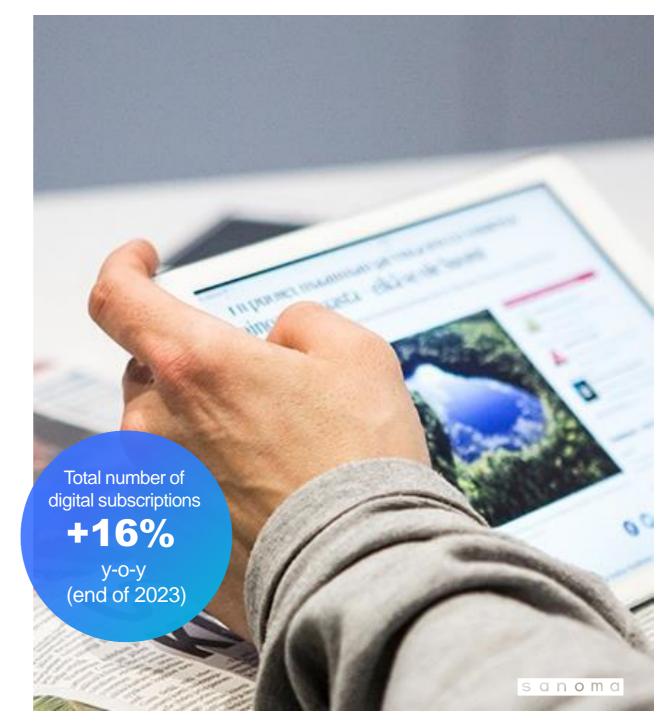
**Realisation of Solar initiatives** 

Run-rate of savings in 2026



### MEDIA FINLAND FY 2023 Advertising had an adverse impact on net sales...

- Net sales declined slightly to 598m€ (2022: 618)
  - Advertising sales declined by 7% mostly due to newsprint and TV
    - Digital advertising sales continued to grow
    - Share of print advertising decreased to 8% of Media Finland's net sales (2022: 9%)
  - Comparable subscription sales grew slightly
    - Successful implementation of price increases
    - Minor increase in the subscription base
  - Other sales stable
    - Solid performance of the events and festival business
    - Decline in external printing sales as a result of slightly lower volumes and lower paper prices



### MEDIA FINLAND FY 2023 ...resulting in lower earnings

- Operational EBIT excl. PPA decreased to 40m€ (2022: 66) according to expectations
  - Majority of the impact from lower advertising sales
  - Personnel costs increased due to salary inflation and normalised bonus provisions
  - Partially mitigated by lower paper, printing and distribution costs and active cost containment actions

## **Operational EBIT excl. PPA** m€



## The Board proposes a dividend of 0.37€ per share

- The Board proposes a dividend of 0.37€ (2022: 0.37) per share to be paid for 2023
  - Representing a total of approx. 60m€
  - Pay-out of 58% of underlying FCF<sup>1</sup>
- To be paid in three parts following the seasonality in Sanoma's free cash flow
  - 0.13€ on 26 April (record date 19 April)
  - 0.13€ in September (record date tbc early September)
  - 0.11€ in November (record date tbc late October)

#### **Dividend policy:**

Sanoma aims to pay an increasing dividend, equal to 40–60% of annual free cash flow

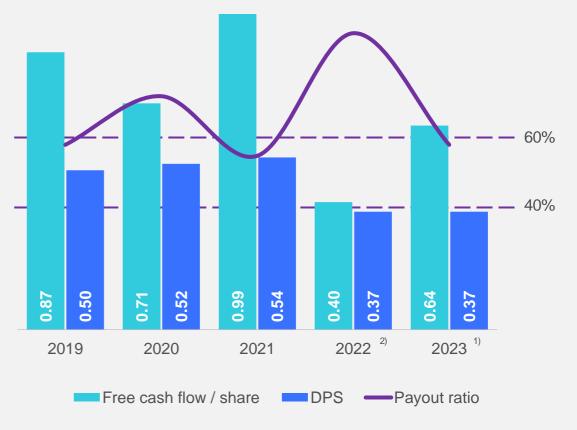
When proposing a dividend to the AGM, the Board of Directors will look at the general macro-economic environment, Sanoma's current and target capital structure, Sanoma's future business plans and investment needs as well as both previous year's cash flows and expected future cash flows affecting capital structure.

<sup>1)</sup> Board's proposal to the AGM

**Dividend per share** 

€





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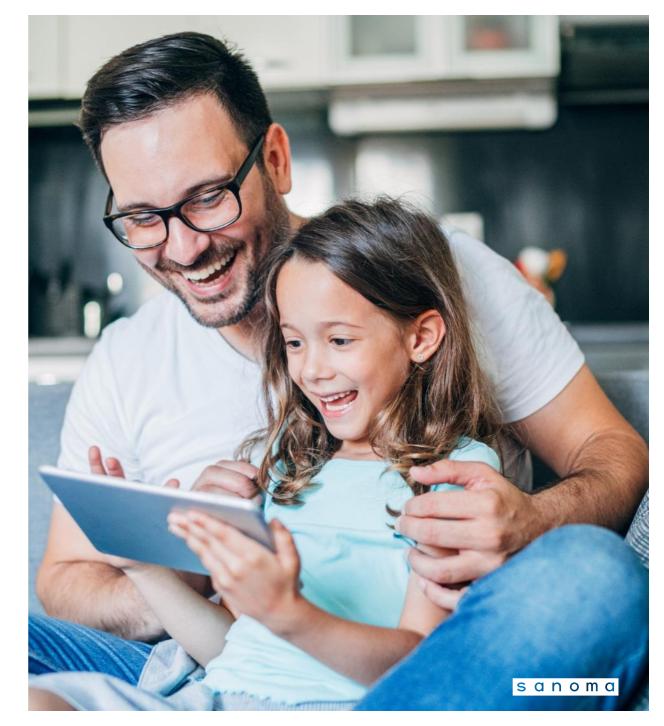
## **Key factors influencing 2024 performance**

Learning	Expected 2024 financial impact y-o-y	Long-term targets for SBUs unchanged
<ul> <li>Comparable net sales impacted by <ul> <li>Lower cycle in Spain mitigated by growth in other learning content businesses</li> <li>Discontinuation of low value distribution contracts</li> </ul> </li> <li>Successful implementation of price increases and first benefits of Program Solar mitigating the inflation impact</li> <li>Divestment of German exam preparation business Stark</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Lower reported net sales</li> <li>Relatively stable margin</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Organic growth 2–5%</li> <li>Operational EBIT margin excl. PPA &gt;23% from 2026 onwards</li> </ul>
Media Finland		
<ul> <li>Comparable net sales relatively stable in-line with expected economic environment in Finland</li> <li>Subscription sales to grow modestly driven by digital</li> <li>Slightly lower B2B advertising sales and smaller portfolio in live events</li> <li>Continuous efficiency improvement mitigating the inflation impact</li> <li>Divestment of Netwheels</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Slightly lower reported net sales</li> <li>Modest earnings and margin improvement</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Organic growth +/-2%</li> <li>Operational EBIT margin excl. PPA 12-14%</li> </ul>



## **Outlook for 2024**

- In 2024, Sanoma expects that the Group's reported net sales will be 1.29–1.34bn€ (2023: 1.4)
- The Group's operational EBIT excluding PPA is expected to be 160–180m€ (2023: 175)
- Regarding the operating environment Sanoma expects that:
  - The advertising market in Finland will decline slightly
  - The development in the economies of the Group's operating countries is expected to be relatively stable



## Three strategic focus areas to deliver increasing profitability and prepare for future growth

Mid-term focus areas

**1. Increasing profitability of Learning and Media Finland** 

#### 2. Growing organically and through smaller in-market acquisitions

#### 3. Deleveraging the balance sheet

Our purpose Through learning and media, we have a positive impact on the lives of millions of people every day

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# 2030 growth ambition and long-term financial targets unchanged

- We are aiming for the Group's net sales to be over 2bn€ by 2030, with at least 75% coming from the learning business
  - Over the cycle, organic growth in-line with long-term targets in Learning and Media Finland
  - In Learning, focus on in-market acquisitions in the short-term, while we continue to be open to all value creating M&A opportunities if they arise
- Long-term targets for the SBUs unchanged
- Long-term financial targets for the Group unchanged
  - Net debt / Adj. EBITDA <3.0
  - Equity ratio 35-45%





## Financials

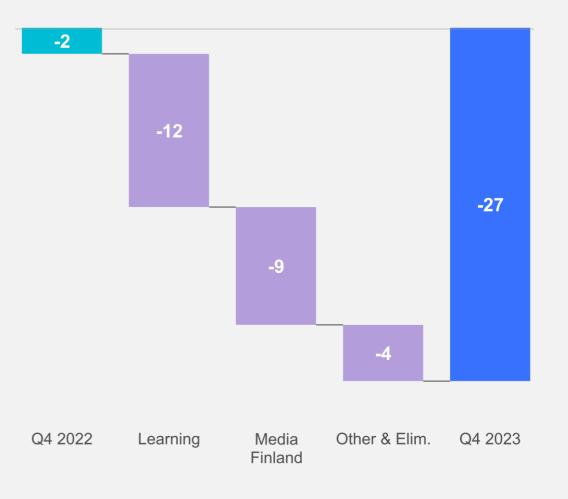


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### Q4 2023 Increased seasonality due to larger Learning business

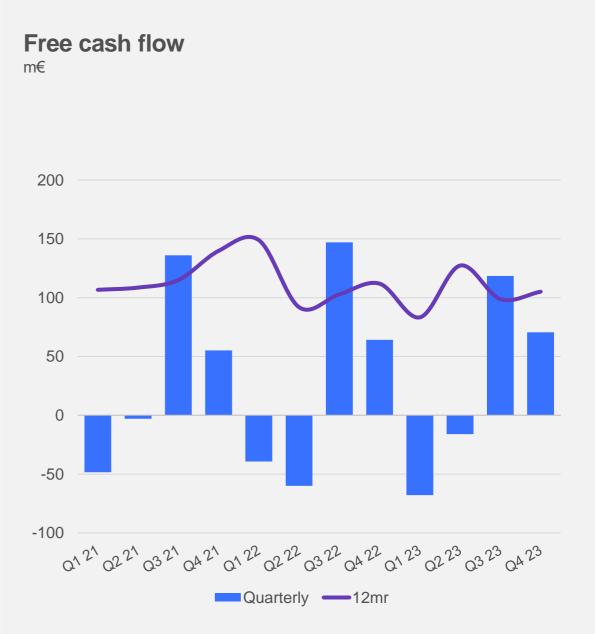
Learning	<ul> <li>Normalised phasing between Q3 and Q4 compared to delayed deliveries in Spain and the Netherlands in 2022</li> <li>Different sales mix in Poland with larger share of higher margin sales</li> </ul>
Media Finland	<ul> <li>Lower advertising and external printing sales</li> <li>Higher personnel costs due to salary inflation and normalised bonus provisions</li> <li>Higher TV program costs driven by Elisa deal and higher amortisation of TV broadcasting rights before year-end</li> <li>Lower paper, printing and distribution costs, other active cost containment actions</li> </ul>
Other & elim.	<ul> <li>Higher personnel costs due to normalised bonus provisions</li> <li>Different phasing of costs vs. PY</li> </ul>

#### Operational EBIT excl. PPA Q4 2023 vs. Q4 2022 m€



# Solid improvement in the underlying free cash flow

- Free cash flow in 2023 was 105m€ (2022: 112)
  - + Active working capital management in Learning
  - + Lower taxes
  - + Lower capital expenditure
  - Higher financing costs
  - Lower earnings in Media Finland
  - Impact of the Italian and German businesses due to the timing of the closing in August 2022
- For FY 2024, free cash flow expected to be similar to 2023
  - Lower content creation investments with no major curriculum renewals
  - + Maintaining the improved working capital management
  - Further increase in financing costs due to refinancing of 200m€ bond maturing in March
  - Solar IACs partially mitigated by the first benefits of the program



Free cash flow = Cash flow from operations less capital expenditure

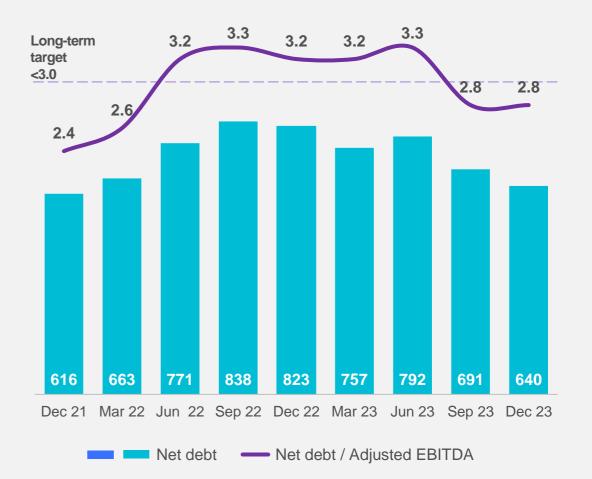


## Leverage remains below the long-term target level

- Net debt amounted to 640m€ and decreased both vs. PY and end of Q3 in-line with the annual seasonality of Learning
  - Net debt / Adj. EBITDA at 2.8 (2022: 3.2)
  - Equity ratio improved to 42.5% (2022: 35.8%)
- Net financial items increased to -31m€ (2022: -13) in 2023 due to the increase in interest rates
  - Average interest rate of external loans 3.6% (2022: 1.5%)
  - In Q4, the net financial items amounted to -7m€ (2022: -6)
- 150m€ hybrid bond booked as equity, and excluded from net debt and net financial items

### Net debt

m€



## Refinancing in place for 200m€ bond maturing in March 2024

- 200m€ bond maturing in March 2024 will be paid back with
  - New 100m€ term loan that was signed in October and will be drawn down in March
  - Maturity of the term loan is 12 months + 10 months extension option at Sanoma's discretion
  - Existing funding facilities
- In addition, maturity of the 300m€ Revolving Credit Facility was extended to November 2026

Maturity profile of external debt

m€, 31 December 2023



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# Financial reporting in 2024

Annual Report 2023

AGM 2024

17 April

week 10

Interim Report Q1 2024 Half-Year Report 2024 Interim Report Q3 2024 8 May 24 July 31 October



## Sanoma in 2023





**NON-PRINT SALES** 

**OPERATIONAL EBIT MARGIN** 12.6%



### Learning

Net sales	<b>795m€</b>
Non-print	<b>48%</b>
Margin	18.7%

#### Net sales, m€ **Netherlands** Spain Poland Italy Belgium Finland Other 100 200 0

## **Media Finland**

Net sales	<b>598m€</b>
Non-print	<b>54%</b>
Margin	6.7%



## **Group key figures Q4 2023**

m€	Q4 2023	Q4 2022
Net sales	253.4	259.5
Operational EBITDA	27.8	45.3
margin	11.0%	17.4%
Operational EBIT excl. PPA	-27.0	-2.3
margin	-10.7%	-0.9%
EBIT	-51.4	-20.8
Result for the period	-44.6	-21.1
Free cash flow	70.5	64.2
Equity ratio	42.5%	35.8%
Net debt	639.7	823.4
Net debt / Adj. EBITDA	2.8	3.2
Operational EPS, €	-0.22	-0.07
EPS, €	-0.29	-0.13

	Q4 2023	Q4 2022
Average number of employees (FTE)	5,119	5,018
Number of employees at the end of the period (FTE)	5,017	5,079

## **Group key figures FY 2023**

m€	FY 2023	FY 2022
Net sales	1,392.9	1,298.3
Operational EBITDA	358.3	355.4
margin	25.7%	27.4%
Operational EBIT excl. PPA	175.4	189.3
margin	12.6%	14.6%
EBIT	51.7	112.0
Result for the period	4.1	77.0
Free cash flow	105.1	111.7
Equity ratio	42.5%	35.8%
Net debt	639.7	823.4
Net debt / Adj. EBITDA	2.8	3.2
Operational EPS, €	0.39	0.65
EPS, €	-0.03	0.47

	FY 2023	FY 2022
Average number of employees (FTE)	5,119	5,018
Number of employees at the end of the period (FTE)	5,017	5,079

## Learning: Quarterly key figures

m€	FY 23	FY 22	Q4 23	Q3 23	Q2 23	Q1 23	Q4 22	Q3 22	Q2 22	Q1 22
Net sales	795.2	681.0	100.4	430.4	188.0	76.3	101.6	360.3	149.8	69.3
Operational EBITDA	237.6	212.8	-5.5	186.4	69.5	-12.9	4.8	150.7	58.6	-1.3
Operational EBIT excl. PPA	148.4	131.8	-30.6	164.3	48.3	-33.5	-18.9	129.4	41.0	-19.7
margin	18.7%	19.4%	-30.5%	38.2%	25.7%	-43.9%	-18.6%	35.9%	27.4%	-28.4%
IACs	-43.4	-32.2	-12.2	-23.2	-5.9	-2.0	-6.3	-22.3	-2.6	-1.0
PPAs	-34.5	-32.5	-8.2	-8.7	-9.3	-8.3	-8.8	-8.7	-7.9	-7.0
EBIT	70.6	67.2	-51.1	132.4	33.1	-43.8	-34.0	98.4	30.5	-27.7
Capital expenditure	33.8	40.4	10.2	6.0	9.5	8.1	12.5	7.7	11.2	8.9
Average number of employees (FTE)	2,849	2,717	2,849	2,863	2,855	2,834	2,717	2,674	2,605	2,591

## Media Finland: Quarterly key figures

m€	FY 23	FY 22	Q4 23	Q3 23	Q2 23	Q1 23	Q4 22	Q3 22	Q2 22	Q1 22
Net sales	597.8	618.1	153.1	149.9	153.4	141.5	158.0	154.8	163.7	141.6
Operational EBITDA	132.4	150.2	38.6	35.9	31.3	26.6	41.7	39.2	38.8	30.7
Operational EBIT excl. PPA	39.8	65.8	9.2	16.8	8.7	5.1	18.1	20.6	17.2	9.9
margin	6.7%	10.6%	6.0%	11.2%	5.7%	3.6%	11.4%	13.3%	10.5%	7.0%
IACs	-41.3	-4.6	-2.3	-0.5	-36.5	-1.9	-2.5	-0.7	-0.8	-0.6
PPAs	-6.8	-6.9	-1.8	-1.6	-1.7	-1.7	-1.7	-1.7	-1.8	-1.8
EBIT	-8.4	54.3	5.1	14.6	-29.5	1.5	13.9	18.2	14.6	7.5
Capital expenditure	8.6	8.9	1.9	1.3	2.7	2.7	2.3	2.6	3.0	1.1
Average number of employees (FTE)	2,144	2,160	2,144	2,148	2,132	2,093	2,160	2,178	2,158	2,099

## Finnish advertising market development 1/2

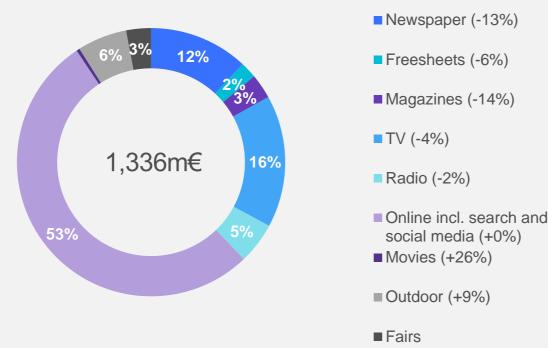
#### **Finnish measured media advertising markets**

	FY 23	Q4 23	Q3 23	Q2 23	Q1 23	FY 22	Q4 22	Q3 22	Q2 22	Q1 22
Newspapers	-13%	-13%	-14%	-11%	-7%	-7%	-13%	-7%	-12%	0%
Magazines	-15%	-14%	-17%	-22%	-6%	-11%	-20%	-5%	-5%	-14%
TV	-4%	-6%	-5%	-4%	-1%	-3%	-5%	-4%	-1%	-2%
Radio	-2%	-4%	0%	-8%	5%	4%	-7%	-3%	12%	16%
Online (excl. search and social media)	-2%	-1%	-2%	-4%	0%	5%	-1%	6%	4%	12%
Total market	-4%	-5%	-6%	-6%	1%	0%	-7%	0%	2%	7%

Source: Kantar TNS, Media Advertising Trends, December 2023

## Finnish advertising market development 2/2

## Share of media advertising groups and development in 2023 (change % vs 2022)



Source: Kantar TNS, Media Advertising Trends, December 2023

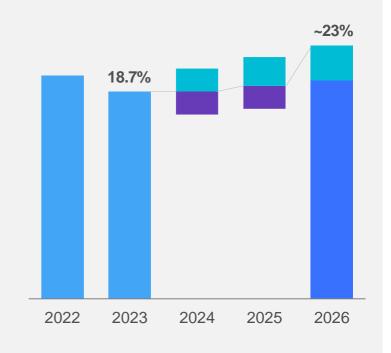


## Learning's profitability to reach its long-term target of 23% in 2026 through program Solar

- Program "Solar" aims to streamline Learning operations and processes
  - Brings full benefits from the increased scale of the Learning business
- Operational efficiencies amounting to approx. 55m€ annual operational EBIT, from 2026 onwards, are coming from:
  - Organisational optimisation\* post curriculum renewals in Poland and Spain
  - Process improvements in all publishing operations
  - Continuing harmonisation of digital learning platforms
  - Overhead and other optimisations\* across the SBU
- Costs related to Solar totalling ~45m€, booked as IACs in Learning
  - 22m€ of IACs booked in 2023
  - Rest of the costs expected in 2024
- The margin improvement from Solar is expected to come with net sales in 2026 back to the 2023 peak levels due to
  - Lower demand for learning content in 2024–2025 after recent curriculum renewals
  - Continuing rationalisation of lower margin contracts and businesses
- In addition to improving margins, our focus in 2024–2026 will be on improving our K12 offering, small in-market acquisitions and deleveraging the balance sheet

Full margin potential will be visible in 2026

Operational EBIT margin excl. PPA, %

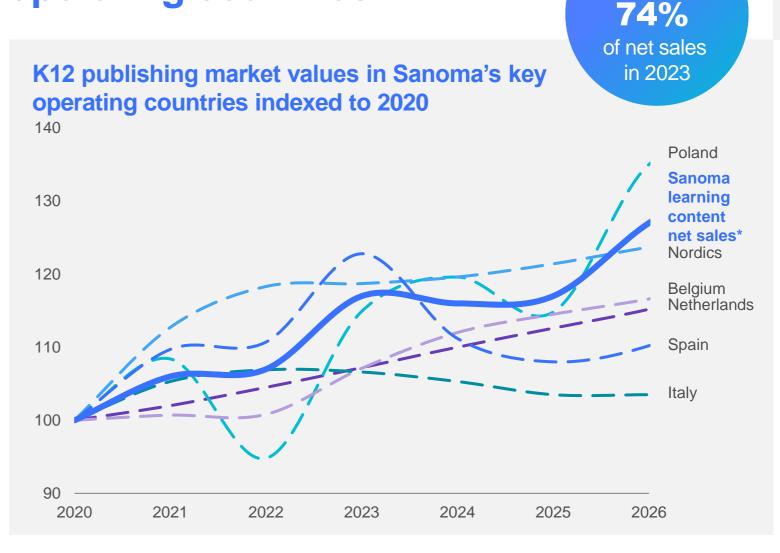


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# Learning content sales vary driven by curriculum renewals in our major operating countries

- Expected development of learning content sales in 2024–2026 is a function of changes in
  - Number of students
  - Expenditure 🖊
  - Market share
- Mix within learning content sales is changing

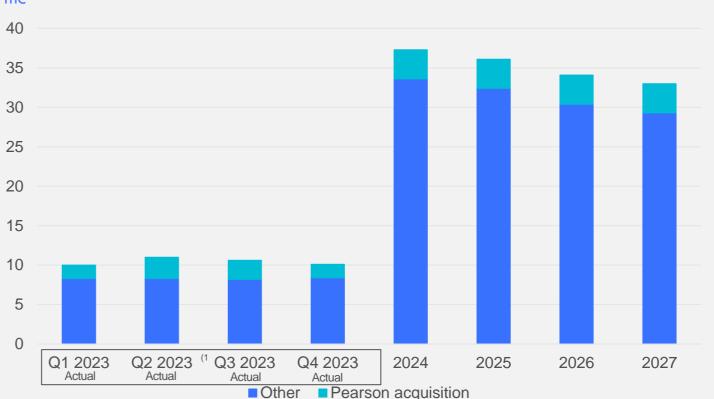


Learning

content

# Estimated amortisations of acquired intangible assets (PPA) of the Group

- Acquired subsidiaries are consolidated using the acquisition method, whereby the cost is allocated to the acquired assets and liabilities assumed at their fair value on the date of acquisition
- With regard to the acquisition of new assets, the Group assesses the expected useful life of the intangible right and determines the useful life on the basis of the best knowledge available on the assessment date
- Amortisation is calculated using the straight-line method
- More information about the accounting policies related to intangible assets can be found in <u>the</u> <u>Financial Statements 2022</u>
- The annual PPA amortisation related to the Pearson acquisition (closed on 31 August 2022) is approx. 4m€, and an additional approx. 10m€ of inventory step-up amortisations is booked in the first 24 months after the closing



## Estimated amortisations of acquired intangible assets (PPA) 2023−2027 m€

<sup>(1</sup> The Pearson acquisition related PPA amortisations in Q2 and Q3 2023 are higher due to the inventory step-up amortisations

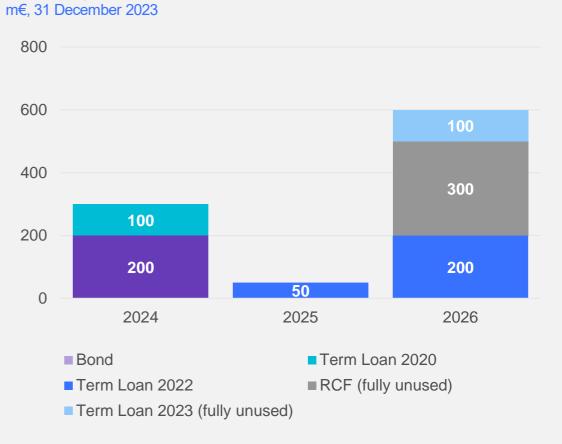
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## We have a well-balanced debt portfolio

#### External debt structure <sup>1)</sup> m€, 31 December 2023



### Maturity profile 2024–2026



## 150m€ hybrid bond was issued in March

- The bond seen as the best way to strengthen the balance sheet and to increase financial flexibility that supports the execution of the strategic plan at all times
- With the learning business being an increasing part of Sanoma, its annual cyclicality relating to the school year cycle requires different levels of capital during H1 and H2
- The hybrid bond is treated as equity in the consolidated financial statements and is not included in net debt or leverage
- Fixed coupon interest of 8.0% p.a.
- Reset date 16 March 2026



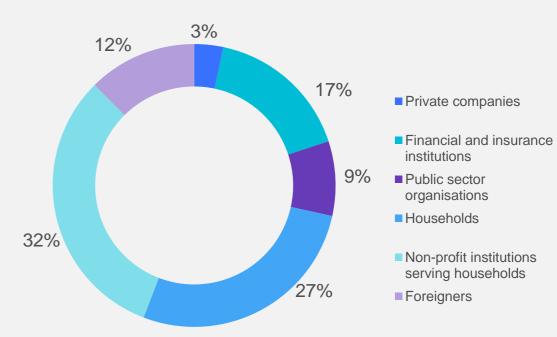
## Largest shareholders

30 December 2023

#### Largest shareholders

	Shareholders	Number of shares	% of shares
1.	Jane and Aatos Erkko Foundation	39,820,286	24.35
2.	Holding Manutas Oy	21,585,000	13.2
3.	Langenskiöld Robin	12,273,371	7.5
4.	Seppälä Rafaela	7,654,746	4.68
5.	Varma Mutual Pension Insurance Company	5,538,352	3.39
6.	Helsingin Sanomat Foundation	4,701,570	2.87
7.	Ilmarinen Mutual Pension Insurance Company	4,007,300	2.45
8.	Noyer Alex	3,213,277	1.96
9.	Elo Mutual Pension Insurance Company	2,188,000	1.34
10.	Bernardin-Aubouin Lorna	1,852,470	1.13
	10 largest shareholders, total	102,834,372	62.87
	Foreign holding	15,105,793	9.24
	Other shareholders	45,625,498	27.89
	Total number of shares	163,565,663	100.00
	Total number of shareholders	24,756	

#### Holding by sector



## **Analyst coverage**

Carnegie Investment Bank Danske Markets Equities Inderes Kepler Cheuvreux Nordea OP Corporate Bank SEB

Pia Rosqvist-Heinsalmi
Sami Sarkamies
Petri Gostowski
Kristoffer Carleskär
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