



## FNG-LABEL AUDITED BY NOVETHIC TAKES ROOT

### 25% growth in third year

**Berlin/Paris, 29 November 2017**—The FNG Label is on a dynamic expansion course: In 2017, the quality seal received a 25% increase in applications from qualifying mutual funds. The number of applications received from providers has also grown by a quarter. With seven funds coming from the Netherlands, Italy, the Nordic region and Great Britain, the certification is gaining increased recognition on a European Level. Additionally, fund categories are diversifying: a second preferred convertible bond fund, two emerging market funds, one Green Bond fund and a High Yield Bond fund have now been certified.

The FNG Label is the only SRI certification scheme with such an ambitious ranking model. The most advanced research, investment and engagement processes will be distinguished by the 3-stars FNG label. Of the 47 applications received, 9 have been awarded 3-stars (2 more than last year). In addition, 26 funds obtained 2-stars and 10 funds received 1-star, for a total of 45 certified funds (two applications did not prove successful).

Novethic acts as a strategic partner to the Sustainable Investment Forum for German-speaking markets (FNG), the organisation that initiated this high quality standard managed and operated by GNG. Novethic is in charge of the independent audit of fund applicants.

**Roland Kölsch, Managing Director GNG:** “We have succeeded in continuously strengthening the visibility of the FNG label in 2017. The first large-size local pension fund (assets under management: 10.4bn EUR) structures its investment guidelines according to the FNG Label. This implies that all awarded funds automatically qualify for the annual 200mil EUR fund inflows. Furthermore, the label was integrated into popular financial platforms in the German-speaking market. We will continue this market penetration in 2018.”

**Stefan Fritz, Head of Certification Development and label auditor at Novethic:** “We are pleased to see that the label process is perceived as a rewarding challenge and that the candidates use the findings to improve their processes. On a company level, more and more sustainability teams and committees have been established in order to

reinforce their activities within the whole company. We are encouraging the candidates, to further broaden their ESG research competencies and address ESG topics in company dialogues more explicitly. “

**Anne-Catherine Husson-Traore, CEO of Novethic and member of the EU High-Level Expert Group on sustainable finance:** “2017 has been a major leap forward for European Sustainable finance. Several initiatives have placed this topic high on investors’ agendas. In the years to come, they will have to demonstrate how they integrate ESG criteria in their investment strategies. The FNG label model is the perfect tool for them to legitimise the quality of their processes. For all these reasons, we are very confident that this certification will win strong acceptance in the years to come.”

The FNG Label aims to capture the latest market trends. Currently, there are discussions to integrate coal as an additional exclusion criterion in the label's minimum standards. Furthermore, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals might play a more important role in this methodology. Adjustments will be announced in spring 2018 on [www.fng-siegel.org](http://www.fng-siegel.org).

[Access the list of labeled funds](#)

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