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Gesellschaft für Qualitätssicherung
Nachhaltiger Geldanlagen mbH



audited by Novethic

Quality standard for sustainable investments in German speaking Europe

New FNG Label audited by Novethic awarded to 35 mutual funds

Berlin/Paris, 16 December 2015 - On 8 December 2015, the first ever FNG Label awards took place in Berlin, with Forum Nachhaltige Geldanlagen (FNG) and the recently founded Gesellschaft für Qualitätssicherung Nachhaltiger Geldanlagen (GNG) awarding the FNG Label to a total of 35 mutual funds. This new quality standard is the result of a development process which has involved both financial experts and representatives from civil society. Novethic, a French research centre, is the label auditor and strategic partner and has provided FNG with operational support for its certification concept. With this international partnership, the FNG Label project comprises a European perspective from its beginning.

The FNG Label methodology is divided into two parts. The minimum requirements guarantee the application of the exclusion criteria nuclear power and armaments and the four areas of the UN Global Compact, i.e. human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption, as well as a high level of transparency. Beyond that, a grading model has been developed in order to promote the development and quality of the sustainable investment market.

Volker Weber, Chair of the Board of Directors at FNG explains. "The grading model has helped to create competition between funds to come up with particularly well-developed and comprehensive sustainability strategies." In concrete terms, funds can go beyond the minimum requirements and earn additional points in the areas of product standards, institutional credibility and selection and dialogue strategies, for which they may be awarded up to three stars.

"The auditing process has revealed that many funds meet requirements above the minimum threshold and that some funds are implementing sustainability strategies of a very high standard", stresses Dominique Blanc, Head of Research at Novethic. "At the same time, the methodology offers all funds incentives to make further improvements, for instance in the field of sustainable investment reporting or dialogue activities."

Of the 35 funds that meet the minimum requirements, thereby complying with the quality standard for sustainable investments in the German-speaking countries, three funds received the highest award of three stars, 14 funds achieved two stars, 15 funds one star, and three funds received no stars.

The award procedure is being monitored not only by the Label auditor Novethic, but also by an independent [committee](#) of experts from a variety of disciplines. The FNG Label will be awarded annually.

On www.fng-siegel.org you will find further comprehensive information on the FNG Label, including a list of the funds that have been awarded the Label, details of the methodology and the players involved.

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Information on the stakeholders involved

Novethic, a Research Centre based in Paris, provides information and publishes studies on Europe's responsible investment market. It aims to raise awareness among financial professionals and encourage the diffusion of responsible investment practices. Furthermore, Novethic disposes of strong experience in labelling sustainable mutual funds. In 2009, it launched an SRI Label for sustainable mutual funds, followed by a Green Label in 2013 for environmental mutual funds. [Novethic](#) is member of The Caisse des Dépôts group.

Forum Nachhaltige Geldanlagen (FNG), the industry association for sustainable investment in Germany, Austria, Liechtenstein and Switzerland, represents more than 180 members which are working to promote sustainability in the financial sector. These include banks, investment companies, rating agencies, financial advisers and academic institutions. FNG promotes dialogue and the exchange of information between the worlds of business, academia and politics and has been working to improve the legal and political framework for sustainable investments since 2001. FNG awards the Transparency logo for sustainable mutual funds, publishes the FNG Sustainability Profiles and has developed the FNG Label for sustainable mutual funds. FNG is also a founding member of the European umbrella organisation [Eurosif](#).

The role of **Gesellschaft für Qualitätssicherung Nachhaltiger Geldanlagen** (GNG mbH) is to make an active contribution toward assuring the quality of sustainable investments in the German-speaking countries through the certification of financial products and the development of standards, methods and services. GNG mbH is a wholly-owned subsidiary of FNG e.V. and provides an appropriate range of services to support the goals of the industry association for sustainable investment in Germany, Austria, Liechtenstein and Switzerland. The auditing process is also being monitored by an independent advisory committee of experts from a variety of disciplines. Further information on the FNG Label can be found at www.fng-siegel.org.