



## Presentation of the SE'nSE FUND

### ▶ 1. What is it about?

A not for profit Fund created by Pierre Mottet and hosted by the Foundation for Future Generations, to provide seed financing to early stage, quality, environment-driven, sustainable projects. The intent is to bridge the gap between 3F stage (Family, Fools & Friends) and the setup of a more permanent financing structure, that could in time replace the investment by SE'nSE.

Every year up to 6 projects are selected for funding, by a professional SE'nSE jury.

The initial focus is on projects' significant positive impact on the environment. Job creation is a plus but is not a prerequisite.

### ▶ 2. Awards

Each year SE'nSE awards up to 50,000 € to up to 6 projects (subject to quality projects being received). Once a year a call for projects is launched around the beginning of Q2. Applications are due around the beginning of Q3. Loans are awarded around the beginning of Q4.

### ▶ 3. Contribution

Besides financial support, SE'nSE is able to provide feedback that improves the projects, thanks to the quality and reputation of the SE'nSE Jury. In addition its awards could open doors for the projects to obtain funding from other sources of financing.

The ambition of the fund per se is not to provide follow up or coaching. Yet, it will facilitate networking with related projects or organizations whenever possible.

### ▶ 4. Funding philosophy

The Fund's purpose is not to generate profits, but it intends to be sustainable over the long term. This implies that reimbursement of loans or proceeds from exits in due time is necessary to fund other future projects. As it has to be expected that some projects will default, it further implies that the fund will require taking a share in the expected financial value creation of projects, like any investment fund would (although SE'nSE would probably invest in riskier projects and/or with a lower expected return). As a further consequence, projects that will not generate the capability to, at a minimum, reimburse an investment by SE'nSE will not be considered.

Allocated money will remain in the hands of the awardees for as long as they need it.

However, to the extent that SE'nSE wants to maximize the number of projects benefiting from its help, it will incentivize awardees to accelerate repayment or return to the fund (see Typical Terms below).

SE'nSE has no interest to bother management and recognizes that start-ups are very sensitive to dilution of votes. Non-voting shares or preferably certificates (simpler administration) are welcome equity forms.

## ▶ 5. Typical Terms

Funding will be in loan or equity.

In consideration of the funding philosophy, the typical funding would be as follows:

- Subordinated convertible loan;
- Zero % interest for the first 18 months, 5 % for the next 18 months and 10 % interest for the following years (assuming current financial market conditions);
- Interests will be capitalized;
- If the loan is not reimbursed within 4 years from grant, SE'nSE will have the option at all times to forfeit the interests and convert the loan amount into common shares (or certificates) in a number equivalent to what would have been obtained if the money had been invested at the best rate since the time of the intervention of the fund. Tag along will apply;
- Change of control or dividend payment will trigger early repayment of the loan or conversion in equity at the preference of SE'nSE.

The Jury may attach additional conditions which are considered relevant to the financing of a selected project.

## ▶ 6. Eligibility

- The company's activities should be related to early stage sustainability projects with significant potential positive impact on the Environment;
- Projects are expected to be business start-ups;
  - o The candidate entrepreneur should have started his business recently or should be prepared to set it up in the relatively short term, for example within the coming 3 months;
  - o Not for profit projects can be considered for as long as they show potential recurring revenue streams that covers at least their cash needs, including repayment of the financing;
  - o Projects can be from existing companies but would not be eligible if the related company could finance it from its own funds;
- The company must be located in Belgium;
- The project must be described in English;
- Independent professionals ("liberal professions") or groups of independent professionals are not eligible for this Fund;
- The candidate entrepreneur plans to work full time and is (a member of the team) responsible for the daily management of the company;
- The candidate entrepreneur must never have been prosecuted for fraud;

- Investment by SE'nSE must make a difference in the success of the project. This means that the amount of financial support that the project is applying for, shouldn't be lower than 5% and shouldn't exceed 50% of the total budget of the project)

## ▶ 7. Selection Criteria

The key selection criteria will be:

- the level of positive impact the project might have on the environment (the “what”);
- the way its team plans to live the Sustainability values (the “how”);
- and why an investment by SE'nSE would make a difference.

As in most other funds, other important criteria will include:

- Quality of the team;
- Originality of the idea (and possibly patents);
- Differentiation with the competition (Unique Selling Proposition);
- Quality and sturdiness of the business plan and the underlying strategy;
- Job creation (not a must).

For the candidates who seek to increase the quality of their project, particularly in terms of business plan and underlying strategy, the Foundation has been compiling a list of private and public organisations that offer support in business development, providing services ranging from personal business coaching to hands-on tools and inspiring network opportunities. This document is available on request (please see contact details below).

## ▶ 8. Agenda Call for projects 2018

- Launch: 03/04/2018
- Closure: 03/07/2018, 24:00
- Shortlisted candidates defend projects in front of the Jury: 10/2018
- Announcement of the laureates: 10/2018

To apply, send the application form and annexes to [sense@fgf.be](mailto:sense@fgf.be) (before 03/07/2018, 24:00!).

## ▶ 9. Contact

For general information about the SE'nSE Fund and the 2018 call for projects:

**Foundation for Future Generations**

Jérôme Chaplier

+32 498 67 62 42

[j.chaplier@fgf.be](mailto:j.chaplier@fgf.be)