

Dr. Markus Freiburg

Founder and Managing Director Financing Agency for Social Entrepreneurship (FASE)



Together with Ashoka - the world's leading organization supporting social entrepreneurs, Markus has built the Financing Agency for Social Entrepreneurship (FASE) in Germany. Its mission is to assist social enterprises with outstanding concepts in raising hybrid growth capital. FASE helps leading social enterprises to identify appropriate financing instruments and suitable investors so that they can grow their business and increase their social impact. Through its support, FASE enables social enterprises to finance significant growth steps across the often rigid boundaries between donors, investors and the public sector. FASE offers investors access to a pipeline of leading, investment-ready social enterprises (based on repayable financing instruments). So far, FASE has built an open pipeline of investment-ready social enterprises and already closed twenty transactions between EUR 100k and 500k and channelled approx. EUR 10 million impact investments into the social finance ecosystem. FASE has built a broad network of potential impact investors and established the first social business angel club in Germany and beyond.

Markus is recognized as a thought leader for social finance in Germany and beyond. Markus has an active presence in public discourses (e.g. member of Expert Group on Social Entrepreneurship (GECES) of EU Commission, member of German National Advisory Board of G7 Social Impact Investing Taskforce, member of the EVPA expert group on hybrid finance) and wrote a wealth of articles, reports and case studies on best practices in social finance.

Prior to this, Markus worked for more than 7 years as top-management consultant for McKinsey & Company in Düsseldorf. Among others things, Markus has gained experience as pro-bono consultant for social entrepreneurs for more than 4 years. For Markus, the special appeal of creating the financing agency is the opportunity to combine his strategic and financial expertise with his passion for social entrepreneurship.

Markus studied Business Administration and Economics at the University of Witten/Herdecke (Diplom-Ökonom) as well as European Studies at the University of Cambridge (M.Phil.). Markus received his Ph.D. from the WHU - Otto Beisheim School of Management (Dr. rer. pol.). His research project analyzed the investment decisions of institutional investors for private equity funds.