

Dr. Markus Freiburg

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



Together with co-founders Ellinor Schweyer and Ashoka - the world's leading organization supporting social entrepreneurs -, Markus has built the Financing Agency for Social Entrepreneurship (FASE). 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 impact. Through its support, the agency enables social enterprises to finance significant growth steps across the often rigid boundaries between donors, investors and the public sector. To investors, FASE offers a pipeline of leading, investment-ready social enterprises (based on repayable financing instruments). To date, around forty transactions were successfully closed and approximately EUR 20 million in impact investments channelled into the social finance ecosystem. FASE also built a broad network of potential impact investors and established the first social business angel club in Germany and beyond.

Meanwhile, Markus is recognized as a thought leader for social finance. He has an active presence in public discourses (e.g. as member of the Expert Group on Social Entrepreneurship (GECES) of the EU Commission, of the German National Advisory Board of G7 Social Impact Investing Taskforce, and 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 Duesseldorf, Germany. Among other skills, Markus has gained valuable experience as pro-bono consultant for social entrepreneurs over more than 4 years. For him, 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.). In his research project, he analyzed the investment decisions of institutional investors for private equity funds.