



**A**

Fund Manager(s)  
**David Dudding**  
Since: 09 2002

# Threadneedle European Smaller Companies Fund

## Investment Objective and Policy

The aim of the Fund is to grow the amount you invested.

The Fund invests at least two-thirds of its assets in shares of smaller companies in Continental Europe or companies that have significant operations there. As it invests in smaller companies, the Fund will mainly choose shares from companies that are smaller in size than the top 225 companies in the FTSE World Europe (ex UK) Index.

The Fund permanently invests a minimum of 75% of its assets in European Economic Area (excluding Liechtenstein) equities, and is therefore PEA (Plan d'Epargne en Actions) eligible in France.

## Fund Facts

Index HSBC European Smaller Cos. ex UK

Peer Group<sup>1</sup> Morningstar - Offshore and International Funds - Europe Small Cap and Europe Ex UK Small & Mid Cap Combined

Fund Size €1,206.7m  
Launch Date November 1997  
Historic Yield 0.30% p.a.

Pay Dates 7 May  
XD Dates 8 March

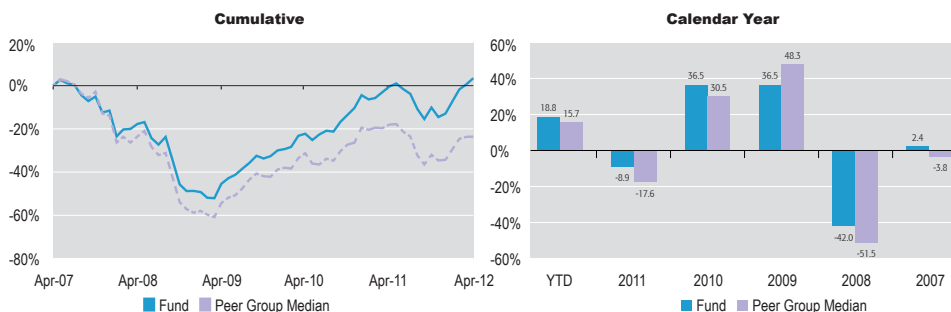
Type of Share Accumulation

## Share Class & General

	Retail	Inst
Initial Charge	5.00%	0.00%
Annual	1.50%	1.00%
Min. Investment	€2,500	€750,000

All information expressed in Euro

## 5 Year Performance



## Fund Performance - Cumulative

	1M%	3M%	YTD%	1Y%	3Y%	5Y%	10Y%
Fund (Net)	2.8	11.4	18.8	3.9	89.7	3.5	199.1
Index (Gross)	-2.3	2.1	10.8	-17.6	45.2	-28.8	76.5
Peer Group Median (Net) <sup>1</sup>	0.5	7.1	15.7	-7.6	64.2	-23.6	71.1
Ranking <sup>1</sup>	5/64	6/64	13/64	2/61	5/58	1/42	1/29
Quartile Ranking <sup>1</sup>	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

## Performance 12 Months Ending

30th Apr 08	30th Apr 09	30th Apr 10	30th Apr 11	30th Apr 12
-17.7%	-33.7%	42.6%	28.0%	3.9%

Note: All performance figures relate to the Net Acc Class 1 (Retail) EUR share class.

## Top 10 Holdings

Company	%	Total % in top 10: 21.5
TAG Immobilien AG	2.7	Total Number of Stocks in Portfolio: 70
GRENKELEASING AG	2.6	
BELIMO Holding AG	2.1	
DSV A/S	2.1	
NORMA Group AG	2.1	
Vacon Oyj	2.0	
DiaSorin S.p.A.	2.0	
Lenzing AG	2.0	
Rubis SCA	2.0	
Kerry Group PLC	2.0	

Past performance is not a guide to the future.

Index returns assume reinvestment of dividends and capital gains and unlike fund returns do not reflect fees or expenses. The index is unmanaged and cannot be invested in directly.

The value of investments and any income from them can fall as well as rise. Source performance: Copyright © 2012 Morningstar UK Limited, assumes income is reinvested for a non-UK taxpayer in fund currency, bid to bid (which means performance does not include the effect of any initial charge). Source other: Threadneedle. All performance and information is quoted in retail share class.

<sup>1</sup> The Peer Group Median (Net), Ranking and Quartile Ranking are referenced to the Peer Group. Morningstar changed its definition of the GIFS Offshore Universe as at February 2011. This resulted in this fund being removed from it. For the purposes of comparison, Threadneedle continues to use this Universe with its fund included.

## Contact Details

Tel: +31 20 301 2101  
benelux@threadneedle.com

## Sector Weightings

%	Fund	Index	Deviation from Index	
Industrials	37.0	28.1		8.9%
Health Care	14.0	8.2		5.8%
Consumer Goods	13.1	11.9		1.2%
Basic Materials	9.3	4.9		4.4%
Consumer Services	9.2	10.9		-1.8%
Financials	5.1	20.6		-15.5%
Technology	4.7	5.9		-1.2%
Oil & Gas	3.0	6.3		-3.3%
Utilities	2.0	2.0		0.0%
Telecommunications	0.0	1.1		-1.1%
Unclassified	0.4	0.0		0.4%
Cash	2.3	-		2.3%

## Country Weightings

%	Fund	Index	Deviation from Index	
Germany	20.3	14.9		5.4%
France	19.5	12.4		7.1%
Switzerland	11.2	11.8		-0.6%
Sweden	8.9	9.8		-0.9%
Denmark	6.8	3.9		2.9%
Ireland	5.9	2.1		3.8%
Austria	5.0	3.0		1.9%
Belgium	5.0	4.5		0.4%
Netherlands	4.0	4.4		-0.4%
Finland	3.9	6.2		-2.3%
Other	7.3	26.9		-19.6%
Cash	2.3	-		2.3%

## Risk Analysis

Absolute Volatility	12.39%
Relative Volatility	2.64
Tracking Error	9.34%
Sharpe Ratio	1.84

## Additional Information

The Tracking Error is likely to be higher than expected due to a mismatch in the timing of the fund and the index.  
Please note this fund may not be registered or authorised in all jurisdictions. For detailed information please consult [threadneedle.com](http://threadneedle.com)

## Relative Performance Summary

Information Ratio	1.15
Jensen Alpha	15.38%
Beta	0.60
R <sup>2</sup>	0.78

Note: Against Index over 3 years

## Fund Codes

### Retail (Net) Acc EUR

Sedol	277138
ISIN	GB0002771383
Bloomberg	TDNESG1:LN Equity
Reuters	987665X.DX
WKN	987665
Valoren	1315622

For further details on fund codes for other classes, please contact Threadneedle.



Citywire's exclusive methodology ranks fund managers according to their individual track record, rather than simply the performance of the fund they currently run. They look at how much risk managers have taken to produce their returns. A manager who takes lots of risk to produce good returns would be in danger of failing to deliver those results in the future. Because Citywire's European Fund Manager ratings vary by European territory, we quote the highest score awarded for any one or more country within the region. Ratings as per last month.

Standard & Poor's Fund Services is an independent company that awards ratings based on a wide variety of factors including performance, fund management style, overall investment process, corporate profile and stability of investment team. Fund Management Ratings range from 'A' to 'AAA'.

Please refer to further Risk Warnings and Glossary at the rear of this document.

## Risk Warnings

**Market Risk:** The value of investments can fall as well as rise and investors might not get back the sum originally invested, especially if investments are not held for the long term.

**Currency Risk:** Where investments are made in assets that are denominated in foreign currency, changes in exchange rates may affect the value of the investments.

**Liquidity Risk:** The fund invests in assets that are not always readily saleable without suffering a discount to fair value. The portfolio may have to lower the selling price, sell other investments or forego another, more appealing investment opportunity.

**Volatility Risk:** The fund may exhibit significant price volatility.

## Summarised Glossary

In addition to the above specific risk warnings applicable to the fund, the second page of the factsheet includes a number of statistical measures that should also assist investors and/or their advisors in selecting funds that meets both their investment objectives and appetite for risk.

**SHARPE RATIO:** This measure is a risk-adjusted return statistic. It measures the fund's return over and above cash (excess return over a risk free asset) divided by the absolute volatility of the fund. It shows the trade-off between risk and return. The greater the result, the better the return the fund has delivered given the risks within the fund.

**ABSOLUTE VOLATILITY:** One of the main ways in which the risk of an investment is measured is calculating the degree to which its value fluctuates around an average. The standard method for calculating this volatility is standard deviation. Absolute volatility is the standard deviation of the fund's last three years' performance which is then expressed as a percentage. All the other risk measures below are also based on the last 3 year's fund performance.

**AVERAGE LIFE:** This is the weight adjusted average life of the bonds held in the portfolio i.e. on average how many years to go before their expected redemption.

**BETA:** This is a measure of the volatility of the fund relative to its benchmark. A figure greater than 1 indicates that the fund will tend to outperform in a rising market and under perform in a falling one. I.e. is more volatile than the market. The reverse applies to a Beta of less than 1.

**INFORMATION RATIO:** This statistic is commonly used to measure a fund manager's skill against the benchmark. The out/underperformance of the fund relative to its peer group is divided by the tracking error. Therefore, anything positive is above average and anything negative is below average. The larger the number the better.

**JENSEN ALPHA:** A risk-adjusted performance measure that represents the average return on the fund over and above that predicted by the CAPM (Capital Asset Pricing Model), given the fund's beta and the average market return as represented by the benchmark. If the value is positive then the fund has outperformed the market and if it is negative then the opposite is true.

**MODIFIED DURATION:** Is a measure of risk for fixed interest securities as it predicts the sensitivity of the value of the fund's portfolio to a change in interest rates. The higher the value the greater the volatility of the fund's performance resulting from changes to interest rates. If the modified duration of a fund is 5 years then the average price movement of the fund resulting from a +/- 1% change in interest rates is 5%.

**R<sup>2</sup>:** This is a measure of how close the portfolio of a fund is correlated (or can be explained by) the performance of the benchmark. A result of 1 means a perfect correlation whilst 0 means there is effectively no relationship between the two performances. The degree of reliance that can be placed on the result is not linear, however. Generally, a correlation is only significant for values of 0.75 and above. Finally, it is worth noting that the higher the R<sup>2</sup> the greater the reliance that can be placed on the beta result.

**RELATIVE VOLATILITY:** Shows how much more or less volatile the fund has been relative to its benchmark which for all risk measures will be an index. For example if the fund's absolute volatility is 9% and the benchmark's is 10% then the relative volatility is 0.90.

**TRACKING ERROR:** Indicates how closely the fund tracks the benchmark. It is the standard deviation of the monthly returns of the fund divided by the monthly returns of its benchmark. The lower the number the closer the fund follows its benchmark.

Please refer to the Databook or [threadneedle.com](http://threadneedle.com) for a full Glossary of Terms.

Subscriptions to a fund may only be made on the basis of the current Prospectus. Investors should note the "Risk factors" section of the Prospectus in terms of risks applicable to investing in this or any other fund.

Issued in the rest of the world by Threadneedle Portfolio Services Limited, 60 St Mary Axe, London EC3A 8JQ, Registered No. 285988. Authorised and regulated in the UK by the Financial Services Authority. Threadneedle is a brand name, and both the Threadneedle name and logo are trademarks or registered trademarks of the Threadneedle group of companies. [threadneedle.com](http://threadneedle.com)

Issued in Hong Kong by Threadneedle Portfolio Services Hong Kong Limited 天利投資管理香港有限公司 (TPSHKL). TPHSKL can only deal with professional investors. Registered in Hong Kong under the Companies Ordinance (Chapter 32). Registered No. 1173058, 3004, Two Exchange Square, 8 Connaught Place, Central Hong Kong. Authorised and regulated in Hong Kong by the Securities and Future Commission. Register No. AQA779