# Strategic European <a href="Smaller Companies Fund">Smaller Companies Fund</a>

An Introduction to the Fund



### **FUND OVERVIEW**

- Launched in May 2015 by Eric Sturdza Investments and advised by Bertrand Faure and his experienced team at Pascal Investment Advisers SA.
- Long only equity fund with a specific focus on Western European small & mid-caps.
- A high conviction, focussed portfolio of approximately 30 stocks. Portfolio construction is derived from a 360° private equity style analysis of listed equities.

# **INVESTMENT PHILOSOPHY**

- **Rigorous research:** Fundamental analysis coupled with an in-depth industry approach. Careful monitoring of each company's activity and performance, constant reassessment of financial, industrial and strategic positioning.
- Focus on potentially great businesses (often in family-controlled firms): Predictable streams of cash earnings, potentially high or rapidly-improving returns on invested capital, expanding barriers to competition, positive free cash flow and clean or rapidly-improving balance sheets.
- Long term investors: Hold core positions with a long term view, whilst adjusting weightings to reflect changes in the risk / reward profile of portfolio holdings.
- **Disciplined investing:** Wait patiently for the market to present opportunities to deploy capital in great businesses at appropriate discounts to their intrinsic value. Maintain flexibility to increase the portfolio's cash position in the absence of compelling investment opportunities; no use of financial leverage.

### **INVESTMENT PROCESS**

- Generation of proprietary ideas through a disciplined, bottom-up process that often entails studying companies for years. Extensive quantitative analysis as well as qualitative fieldwork conducted.
- A proprietary database of models, fully up to date and permanently enriched by new opportunities and followed regularly and systematically. Around 50 new models per year enter the database, which today contains approximately 800 models.
- Focus on detailed value chain analysis driven by a multi-year holding period for most core investments.

### PERFORMANCE SINCE FUND INCEPTION<sup>1</sup>



Past performance is not an indicator of future performance.

### PORTFOLIO MANAGER



Bertrand Faure has been Managing Director of Pascal Investment Advisers SA since its inception in 2002. Prior to this he worked for Och-Ziff Capital Management Group in

London between 1999 and 2001 as a hedge fund manager focusing on merger arbitrage and event-driven investments. Before joining Och-Ziff he worked in the investment banking division of Goldman Sachs International in London between 1997 and 1999 and was involved mostly in French related mergers and acquisitions and corporate finance projects. Bertrand is a graduate of the Ecole Polytechnique in Paris.

### **FUND FACTS & TERMS**

Morningstar Rating™	***
A Sub-Fund of	E.I. Sturdza Funds plc
Manager	E.I. Sturdza Strategic Management Limited
Adviser	Pascal Investment Advisers SA
Structure	UCITS V Compliant
Domicile	Ireland
Launch Date	05 May 2015
Benchmark	STOXX Europe 600 NR EUR
Fund AUM	EUR 61.86 million
Strategy AUM	EUR 103.81 million
Currency	CHF, EUR, USD
Minimum Investment	A/C: No minimum B: 3 million
Liquidity	Weekly
Notification <sup>2</sup>	One business day for Subs Five business days for Reds
Management Fee %	A: 1.50% B: 1.00% C: 2.20%
Performance Fee <sup>2</sup> %	15.00%
Placement Fee	0%
Registered for Sale	AT, CH, DE, ES, FR, IE, IT, UK
Administrator	SS&C Financial Services (Ireland) Limited
Depositary	The Bank of New York Mellon SA/NV Dublin Branch

### CONTACT

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## **CALENDAR YEAR PERFORMANCE %1**

	YTD 2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	Annualised Inception
A EUR	8.70	24.41	-24.86	22.80	13.55	6.52
B EUR	7.18	25.04	-24.48	23.17	13.55	6.50
STOXX Europe 600 NR EUR	-11.56	26.82	-10.77	10.58	1.73	1.23

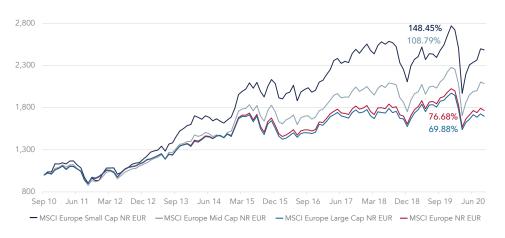
Since inception the Fund has delivered positive relative returns versus its benchmark index with lower volatility.

# STATISTICS - ANNUALISED SINCE INCEPTION<sup>1,4</sup>

	A EUR	Index	Peer Group
Return	6.52	1.23	4.89
Standard Deviation	17.69	21.85	18.00
Alpha	6.27	-	3.94
Beta*	0.46	1.00	0.73
Sharpe Ratio	0.57	0.11	0.41
Information Ratio	0.41	-	0.47

<sup>\*</sup> Not annualised

### DIVERGENCE IN THE RETURNS' PROFILE OF THE EUROPEAN MARKETS1

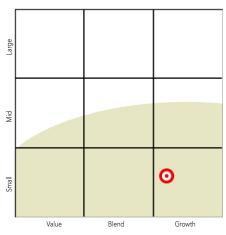


The above highlights the strong performance of the MSCI Small and Mid Cap NR Indices, outperforming both the MSCI Europe Large Cap and NR Index on a relative basis over a 10 year time frame.

	Max Drawdown %	Max Drawdown # of Periods (M)	Up Capture Ratio	Down Capture
MSCI Europe Small Cap NR EUR	-28.86	3	116.04	98.82
MSCI Europe Mid Cap NR EUR	-25.17	3	107.43	98.86
MSCI Europe Large Cap NR EUR	-21.91	3	98.18	100.17
MSCI Europe NR EUR	-22.59	3	100.00	100.00

It further shows that European Small and Mid Caps have outperformed large caps when European markets rally (up capture ratio of 116.04% and 107.43%).

# **PORTFOLIO STYLE: HOLDINGS-BASED STYLE BOX1,5**

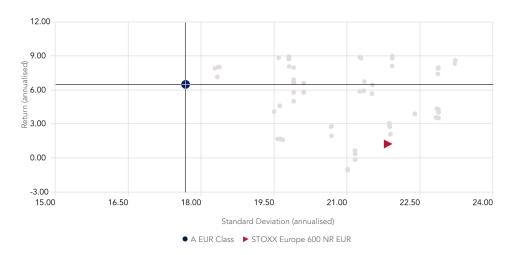


Strategic European Smaller Companies Fund Centroid

_ L	Lower risk				Higher risk		
Po	Potentially lower rewards			Potentially	higher re	wards	
1		2	3	4	5	6	7

**RISK & REWARD PROFILE** 

### RISK / REWARD ANALYSIS SINCE INCEPTION<sup>1,3</sup>



The Fund's returns are notably less volatile compared to both the benchmark and the majority of its peers.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Source: Morningstar Direct. Data as at 30/09/2020.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> For more information, please refer to the latest Prospectus.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Analysis based on Peer Group percentiles 5-95%.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Peer Group = EAA Fund Europe ex-UK Small/Mid

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> The Strategic European Smaller Companies Fund appeared as a small growth strategy on the Morningstar Style Box<sup>™</sup> at 31 August 2020.



### **RATINGS & AWARDS\***







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### WARNING

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### **MORNINGSTAR DISCLAIMER**

The Strategic European Smaller Companies Fund received a 3-star Overall Morningstar Rating and a 3-star 5-year Morningstar Rating (A EUR and B EUR Classes). Morningstar Ratings $^{\text{TM}}$  as of 30/09/2020.

The Strategic European Smaller Companies Fund received a 3 Globe Morningstar Sustainability Award. The Morningstar® Sustainability Rating™ is intended to measure how well the issuing companies of the securities within a fund's portfolio holdings are managing their financially material environmental, social and governance, or ESG, risks relative to the fund's Morningstar Global Category peers. Historical Sustainability Score as of 31/07/2020. Sustainability Rating as of 31/08/2020. Sustainalytics provides company-level analysis used in the calculation of Morningstar's Historical Sustainability Score.

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