

## PRESS RELEASE

# European Invesdor Group and Dutch Oneplanetcrowd join forces and form leading pan-European crowdfunding platform

**Amsterdam, Berlin, Vienna, Helsinki - November 23, 2022 - Invesdor Group - a leading funding platform in Europe - and Oneplanetcrowd - the Netherlands' first sustainable crowdfunding platform - announce to merge. This will create one of the largest crowdfunding platforms in Europe. With over 170,000 investors, the new combined company has financed more than 438 million euros in over 800 projects. The merger\* gives Oneplanetcrowd access to the investors of the Invesdor Group - already active in Finland, Germany and Austria - while Invesdor can leverage the expertise and network Oneplanetcrowd has built as the most sustainable funding platform in the Benelux. The merger partners share the ambition to bring together impact entrepreneurs and investors from across the European Union. Moreover, joining forces paves the way for European expansion with the goal of becoming market leader in Europe.**

The demand for direct financing of innovative growth companies and renewable energy projects has grown very strongly in recent years as banks are steadily withdrawing. Closing the further expanding funding gap for innovation and the sustainable energy transition in Europe is becoming more relevant than ever. Globally, the financing gap is 4 to 6 trillion US dollar per year<sup>1</sup> to transform to a low-carbon economy. With the introduction of a pan-European licence (ECSP) and the permission to digitise securities using blockchain technology, the EU has put crowdfunding at the top of its political agenda to establish a Capital Markets Union (CMU) creating a truly single market for capital across the EU. Invesdor and Oneplanetcrowd are pioneers in this fast growing market and are now joining forces to form a strong European funding platform.

### **Pan-European funding of impact companies and improved security tradability**

As a combined group, Invesdor and Oneplanetcrowd enable growth companies, sustainable energy projects and impact entrepreneurs to directly raise funding from private and professional investors from all over Europe at low transaction costs. Over the coming months, investors from all EU member states will be able to buy, sell or trade their bonds and shares with other investors, making crowdfunding more liquid. Moreover, promising companies with international expansion plans can raise financing not only in their own home countries, but also in other European countries.

### **Merger paves the way for expansion in promising growth market**

Christopher Grätz, co-founder and CEO of Invesdor, will remain CEO of the Group, while Maarten de Jong, co-founder and managing director of Oneplanetcrowd, will join the management team and will be in charge of all operations in the Benelux. Coenraad de Vries and Laura Rooseboom of Start Green Capital - initiators and co-founders of Oneplanetcrowd - will remain actively involved, including the implementation of the sustainability policy and internationalization. In addition, De Vries will take a seat on the Supervisory Board.

*"This merger paves the way to accelerate European innovation and the energy transition in the EU. Focussing on growth companies and sustainable energy projects, we are the first platform in the EU to offer this broad range of sustainable financing propositions, connecting investors, project developers and companies in different EU member states. Furthermore, we will enhance the tradability of our investment products by using state-of-the-art technology. The merger puts us in the forefront of*

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<sup>1</sup> [Emissions Gap Report 2022](#)

*crowdfunding - and we do not rule out acquisitions of parties in other countries in due course,"* said Christopher Grätz.

Involving citizens in financing the energy transition is an aspiration of many EU member states - increasingly even a requirement - making crowdfunding crucial for its success, Maarten de Jong added. Under his leadership, Oneplanetcrowd was the third funding platform in Europe to acquire the Crowdfunding Service Provider license (ECSP), which will be brought to the Invesdor Group. *"This ECSP license gives us a big head start in this promising growth market, which represents a market value of over 2.47 billion euro<sup>2</sup> in our core markets alone. It allows us to position ourselves as one major established player, meeting strict European quality criteria. With these European laws and regulations, the market has become more mature and transparent,"* stated De Jong.

\*The merger will proceed subject to approval by the regulators.

**- End of press release -**

### **About Invesdor**

The Invesdor Group is one of the largest pan-European investment and financing platforms with over 328 million euro of brokered financing volume. Invesdor is active in Germany, Finland and Austria. The Invesdor platform offers tailor-made financing solutions for companies in all stages of their lifecycle. Investors can invest in companies across Europe and choose from a wide range of investment options, from fixed-interest bonds to equity investments. Invesdor has a strong focus on innovative and sustainable companies that play a decisive role in the social and economic transformation of Europe.

### **About Oneplanetcrowd**

Oneplanetcrowd is an initiative of Start Green Capital. The platform was founded in 2012 and since then, the funding platform allows SME entrepreneurs, scale-ups and sustainable energy projects to raise funding directly from private investors, while forward-looking investors can invest directly in innovative companies and make a social impact. In this way they make 'double returns', both financial and sustainable. With over 43,000 investors and nearly 300 fundings, Oneplanetcrowd passed the 100 million euro capital threshold for social and sustainable companies and projects in September 2022. Among these 300 companies are leading players, such as VanMoof, Fairphone and Seepje, as well solar park Bomhofsplass, Europe's largest floating solar park.

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<sup>2</sup> [The 2nd Global Alternative Finance Market Benchmarking Report \(2021\)](#)