

**Etica SGR creates the first Italian SRI Funds with the Ethibel Label.  
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On 18 February 2002, the Italian investment management company Etica SGR launched the first Italian SRI funds, whose ethical quality is certified by the Ethibel Label for SRI Funds. There are two balanced SRI funds and one fund invests exclusively in government bonds screened by Ethibel. "We want to fill a gap in the Italian SRI market, introducing high standards in the evaluation of companies, but also in the responsibility of the fund management", says Luca Mattiazzi, Etica's director.

Etica SGR was created two years ago in order to satisfy a growing demand for financial products that invest in a socially responsible way. Its major shareholder is Banca Etica, the first and only Italian financial institution established in a social context and geared to the development of the social and non-profit economy. Like Banca Etica, Etica's provision will be focused only on SRI products. The company is planning to launch socially responsible closed-end and private pension funds in the years to come.

*On 27 February Etica sgr presents its 'Fondi Valori Responsabili' during a press conference in Milan. For more information, go to [www.eticasgr.it](http://www.eticasgr.it).*