

# EUROPEAN SMALL CAPS FROM A CAPITAL MARKETS PERSPECTIVE

**Zach Hascoe — Capital Markets**

01/27/2014

Sitting at the capital markets desk at WisdomTree gives our team a unique perspective on the exchange-traded funds (ETF) industry. Oftentimes we are able to spot emerging trends among particular products and segments of the market due to our interactions with all the [market participants](#) in the ETF industry: our clients (end users of our ETFs), the market-making/trading community ([liquidity](#) providers) and our portfolio managers. Interacting with these three key groups enables us to understand their perspective while still watching and observing the markets. Over time, we see themes that begin to develop, and as we have seen in the ETF market in the past, once a strong theme takes hold, assets and volumes can increase very quickly. European small caps are a perfect example of one such theme. ETFs can exist in hibernation for years without being noticed by investors. This is usually due to timing and market sentiment. Once the perfect market environment strikes, a fund can go from being barely noticed by investors (i.e., having low volumes and/or low assets) to growing at an incredible pace. A great example is the [WisdomTree Europe SmallCap Dividend Fund \(DFE\)](#). DFE launched in June 2006 with our first suite of WisdomTree ETFs. For seven years, DFE was hardly noticed by investors—but in the middle of 2013, that changed. **Here are some interesting statistics<sup>1</sup> on DFE: Period: 06/30/06 – 06/30/13 Average Assets under Management (AUM):** Approximately \$42,000,000 **Average Daily Volume:** 12,000 shares per day **AUM as of June 30, 2013:** \$57,668,528 Over the course of a few weeks in the summer of 2013, the trading community began to notice more and more buyer interest in DFE. Volumes slowly began to tick up. Small trades were crossing our screens, then bigger trades. Trading volume in DFE was picking up, and an investment trend for European small caps was emerging. The European recovery seemed to be gaining momentum. The market environment was changing, and DFE had the right exposure for investors to take advantage of this emerging trend. DFE's AUM as of January 21, 2014, is at \$892,000,000. Below are two charts that show the increase in shares outstanding in DFE. It is important to note that the market capitalization of an ETF is calculated by taking the market price of the ETF and multiplying it by shares outstanding. **Shares Outstanding in DFE between June 16, 2006, and January 21, 2014**



Source: Bloomberg.

Source: Bloomberg.

**DFE**      **between**      **July**      **1,**      **2013,**      **and**      **January**      **21,**      **2014**      **Shares Outstanding in**



Source: Bloomberg.

Between July 1, 2013 and January 21, 2014, DFE took in over half a billion dollars in net new inflows. It is important to note that AUM in an ETF can rise and fall based on two factors: inflows/outflows for the fund, and market movement in the underlying securities. **How did this happen?** In our opinion, the best way to participate in the European recovery is through the [small-capitalization](#) segment of the equity market. Here is a recent [blog post](#) written by our Director of Research that outlines the European recovery. In addition, DFE remains the only broad European small-cap ETF in the U.S. market today<sup>2</sup>, and we believe that weighting small caps by [fundamental](#) factors is one of the best ways to achieve small-cap exposure. The ETF industry is full of examples like this one, and DFE is another example of how an innovative and passive strategy can provide the right access for investors. <sup>1</sup>Source: Bloomberg. <sup>2</sup>Source: [ETF Database](#)

#### Important Risks Related to this Article

There are risks associated with investing, including possible loss of principal. Foreign investing involves special risks, such as risk of loss from currency fluctuation or political or economic uncertainty. Funds focusing their investments on certain sectors and/or smaller companies increase their vulnerability to any single economic or regulatory development. This may result in greater share price volatility. Please read the Fund's prospectus for specific details regarding the Fund's risk profile. Investments focused in Europe are increasing the impact of events and developments associated with the region, which can adversely affect performance. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

For standardized performance and the most recent month-end performance click [here](#) NOTE, this material is intended for electronic use only. Individuals who intend to print and physically deliver to an investor must print the monthly performance report to accompany this blog.

For more investing insights, check out our [Economic & Market Outlook](#)

View the online version of this article [here](#).

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**U.S. investors only: Click [here](#) to obtain a WisdomTree ETF prospectus which contains investment objectives, risks, charges, expenses, and other information; read and consider carefully before investing.**

There are risks involved with investing, including possible loss of principal. Foreign investing involves currency, political and economic risk. Funds focusing on a single country, sector and/or funds that emphasize investments in smaller companies may experience greater price volatility. Investments in emerging markets, currency, fixed income and alternative investments include additional risks. Please see prospectus for discussion of risks.

Past performance is not indicative of future results. This material contains the opinions of the author, which are subject to change, and should not to be considered or interpreted as a recommendation to participate in any particular trading strategy, or deemed to be an offer or sale of any investment product and it should not be relied on as such. There is no guarantee that any strategies discussed will work under all market conditions. This material represents an assessment of the market environment at a specific time and is not intended to be a forecast of future events or a guarantee of future results. This material should not be relied upon as research or investment advice regarding any security in particular. The user of this information assumes the entire risk of any use made of the information provided herein. Neither WisdomTree nor its affiliates, nor Foreside Fund Services, LLC, or its affiliates provide tax or legal advice. Investors seeking tax or legal advice should consult their tax or legal advisor. Unless expressly stated otherwise the opinions, interpretations or findings expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of WisdomTree or any of its affiliates.

The MSCI information may only be used for your internal use, may not be reproduced or re-disseminated in any form and may not be used as a basis for or component of any financial instruments or products or indexes. None of the MSCI information is intended to constitute investment advice or a recommendation to make (or refrain from making) any kind of investment decision and may not be relied on as such. Historical data and analysis should not be taken as an indication or guarantee of any future performance analysis, forecast or prediction. The MSCI information is provided on an "as is" basis and the user of this information assumes the entire risk of any use made of this information. MSCI, each of its affiliates and each entity involved in compiling, computing or creating any MSCI information (collectively, the "MSCI Parties") expressly disclaims all warranties. With respect to this information, in no event shall any MSCI Party have any liability for any direct, indirect, special, incidental, punitive, consequential (including loss profits) or any other damages ([www.msci.com](http://www.msci.com))

Jonathan Steinberg, Jeremy Schwartz, Rick Harper, Christopher Gannatti, Bradley Krom, Tripp Zimmerman, Michael Barrer, Anita Rausch, Kevin Flanagan, Brendan Loftus, Joseph Tenaglia, Jeff Weniger, Matt Wagner, Alejandro Saltiel, Ryan Krystopowicz, Jianing Wu, and Brian Manby are registered representatives of Foreside Fund Services, LLC.

WisdomTree Funds are distributed by Foreside Fund Services, LLC, in the U.S. only.

You cannot invest directly in an index.

## DEFINITIONS

**Market participant** : Anyone interacting with the ETFs in some capacity. It can be end investors, market makers, hedgers, authorized participants.

**Liquidity** : The degree to which an asset or security can be bought or sold in the market without affecting the asset's price. Liquidity is characterized by a high level of trading activity. Assets that can be easily bought or sold are known as liquid asset.

**Small caps** : new or relatively young companies that typically have a market capitalization between \$200 million to \$2 billion.

**Fundamentals** : Attributes related to a company's actual operations and production as opposed to changes in share price.