EEMI BAUHAUS
BRAINSTORMING ON RISK MANAGEMENT IN CREDIT INSTITUTIONS

February 22, 2021
Chris Rossi, Sebastien Gillet and Louis De Meester of Avantage Reply
AGENDA

1. Intro to Reply and Sustainability – 5 minutes
2. Presentation – 10 minutes
3. Discussion
THE REPLY GROUP AND SUSTAINABILITY
MARKET SERVICES

- Reply supports major organizations operating in Telco and Media, Banking, Insurance and Financial companies, Industry and Services, Energy and Utilities and Public Administration market segments.
- The breakdown of the Group’s sales in its various vertical sectors is as follows (2019)

Long-termism comes to mind: average YoY Growth of over 10% for the last 15 years
AVANTAGE REPLY’S VALUE PROPOSITION – FINANCE, RISK & DATA

FROM DESIGN TO IMPLEMENTATION AND CHANGE MANAGEMENT

We are a specialised management consultancy fully integrated across 14 European offices, working with leading financial institutions and for the regulators themselves. In addition, we leverage the technology capability of Reply not only to advise on change but to also implement it.

Regulatory
• Change management (implementation of a new regulation)
• Remediation (addressing recommendations from the supervisor)
• Interim support regulatory reporting, stress tests
• Optimisation (regulatory capital, liquidity, etc.)

Strategic, Business and IT Change, M&A
• Strategic & business change (e.g., customer journey, credit ‘re-invention’)
• IT change (e.g., risk and finance systems)
• Data management & reporting

Major Financial Services Offices

Main Offices for Sustainable Finance (Nov. 2020)
OUR AREAS OF EXPERTISE IN SUSTAINABILITY...

... SOME OF OUR CURRENT INITIATIVES

**Integrating ESG data in the credit process**
- Collecting data on energy performance of buildings used as collateral to improve the performance of the mortgage loan portfolio
- Set-up the processes to collect, validate, and update the relevant data through to all departments of the bank

**Harmonized ESG reporting framework**
- Align the internal data model with the EU taxonomy for sustainable activities and other reporting standards (GRI, ...)
- Alignment of internal and external reporting setting of links with the non-financial reporting process

**ESG data collection tool for SME**
- Generate savings by automating the manual collection process by:
  - Using publicity available data to complete an ESG Rating framework
  - Using Artificial Intelligence technologies to improve on manual processes

**Managing financial risks arising from climate change**
- Elaborate analytical framework to identify, assess and mitigate climate risks (physical/transition)
- Highlight transmission channels from environmental factors to ‘traditional’ risks (credit, market, etc) and conduct scenario analyses / stress tests to assess impacts on bank solvency and liquidity (to feed Risk appetite, ICAAP and ILAAP processes)
- Prepare self-assessments for the ECB guide on climate risks and draft remediation plans to meet supervisory expectations
- Identify relevant climate risk drivers and integrate them in the credit granting process
- Discuss meaningful information and key metrics on climate-related and environment risks
CASE STUDY: EEM DATA TO INTEGRATE INTO THE CREDIT PROCESS

Energy Performance and the underlying data points is the basis of the Energy Efficient Mortgage Initiative. New data points will need to be collected by Mortgage Lenders, considering national laws and tax incentives being proposed to stimulate the Sustainable Economy.

New Data Categories

- **Energy Performance of the Real Estate**
  1. Energy Rating
  2. Rating Methodology
  3. Rating Date
  4. Rating Technician

- **Real Estate Characteristics**
  5. Construction year

- **Energy Efficiency Financing Support Schemes**
  6. EE financing scheme
  7. Subsidised loan
  8. Government tax incentive
  9. Tax rebate scheme
  10. EE technology investment amount

**EEM Initiative Data**

- **Additional Data?**
  11. Sustainability method (solar, wind, etc)
  12. Sustainability capacity (average daily KW)
  13. Building material
  14. Electric charging port
  15. Utility savings (average 1 year)

➢ To participate in the EEM Initiative, the Bank will need to consider at least 10 new data points that are to be collected.

➢ Additional data will allow the Bank to estimate the economic availability of the customer and a revised fair value of the real-estate over time.
CASE STUDY: AUTOMATED COLLECTING TOOL FOR SME ESG DATA

Individuals and SMEs represent the most numerous borrowers (volumetric perspective)

Current sources of data

- Financial, accounting, and banking data of the borrower
- Surveys, communications, and questionnaires
- Referential data
- Data provided by the borrower

Current data gathering is:
- Time and money consuming
- Process to maintain accuracy and timeliness is heavy
- Available public data is not easily structured, retrieved, and/or compared
- The data collection is for multiple needs and customers inside the bank

Our proposal

- Use of Artificial Intelligence technologies to improve on manual processes
- Use of publicly available data to create or complete an ESG Rating framework

Our goal

- Propose a cost and time-saving process
- Maintain a high quality process by limiting operational risk
- Streamlining of credit contracting to facilitate customer and audit experience
- Offer a customized and sustainable process through machine learning
- Publicly available data makes the collection process more robust / less falsifiable.

Sectoral breakdown of MFI loans vis-à-vis other euro area residents: December 2020 (EUR billions)

Source: ECB.
CASE STUDY: PHYSICAL RISK - FLOOD RISK
CREDIT RISK DRIVERS ARISING FROM ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

Risk identification

› Context: expected increase in severity and frequency of extreme weather and, as a result, of associated floods:
  • Risk of physical damages – that may not be fully insured – and business interruption in geographies where the topography is not favourable
  • Loss of luster of such regions and the associated impact on valuation

Risk qualification

› Exposure to physical risk due to the impact on valuation (ex-ante) and the resulting damages (ex-post)
› Key driver is the geographical location, in particular whether credit exposures are located within an identified vulnerable area
› Coverage of insurance is also a key factor
› Risk related to collateral valuation (LGD) and repair costs (PD)

Risk quantification

› Portfolio sensitivity to be assessed through scenario analysis, as illustrated for credit risk:
  • Widespread flood, for which insurance companies don’t cover all the damages (households to self-finance the repairs)
  • The event leads to many sellers / few buyers on the local real estate market, which prompts a structural drop in house prices
  • Business interruption leads to corporate default
› Inclusion in credit risk models e.g. through top-down adjustment (haircut as a function of the underlying topography)

Risk mitigation

› In general more opportunities to adapt to flood risks rather than to mitigate them
› In particular, securing appropriate insurance coverage and promoting operational resilience/contingency planning (incentives via pricing or credit conditions)
› Flood risks can be to some extent diversified away due to the typically local nature of those phenomenon

Identified flood zones in Brussels area

Legend

- Low hazard
- Medium hazard
- High hazard

Source: Identified flood zones in Brussels area
Our most recent white paper starts with a classification of environmental risks (physical, transition), and how they propagate to the standard financial risks (credit, market, ...).

Possible tools are discussed aimed at supporting the low-carbon transition and aligning finance with sustainable growth. Some are variations of traditional monetary policy tools that can be used to enhance green investments, while others could be classified as unconventional tools.

A recognition is made between the type of tooling: macroprudential tools, ESG scoring, stress testing, climate VaR, ...
TODAY’S PRESENTATION
SOME OF THE HOT TOPICS WE COULD DISCUSS ...

...there are too many to choose from
A sample of how Credit Institutions are getting squeezed from all sides

**Market**
- Sustainable Lending, for example, is in high demand, seen as helping reputation and has benefits from a marketing perspective.
- Finding new Bsns opportunities: firms with better ESG scores experience a lower cost of capital and cost of debt than companies with poor ESG scores. [www.msci.com](http://www.msci.com) (2020)

**Supervisory**
- The ECB and PRA (UK) have been very active over the last two years.
- Climate Risk Self-Assessments and Stress-Testing are just some of the items on their radar for 2021-2022.

**Regulatory**
- The ESAs are actively addressing mandates from the CRD, IFD, and more, to update regulatory requirements.
- The EBA LOM Guidelines and updated SREP for ESG Risk feed into the European regulatory framework for Credit Lending specifically.
- What will be in the next CRD and CRR…?

The ECB “Guide on climate-related and environmental risks”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4 Core topics</th>
<th>13 Main expectations</th>
<th>44 Detailed expectations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Business Environment (2)</td>
<td>3. Management Body (3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Business Strategy (2)</td>
<td>4. Risk Appetite (3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43. Policies and Procedures; Climate-Related Risks (7)</td>
<td>5. Organizational Structure (6)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6. Reporting (4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All of this somehow needs to be considered in the Credit Lifecycle.
Typically, Risk Management’s role is downstream, after business decisions have been made and data has been collected.
OBSERVING AND MEASURING CLIMATE RISKS – WHERE TO BEGIN?

Assess your Risks

Capture these Risks

Advanced Modeling?

What are YOUR Transition and Physical Risks?
- How are you exposed to changes of new technologies or investment or carbon taxes?
- Do you have particular exposure in certain sectors: notably utilities, transport, material, industrials?
- Will adverse weather and rising sea levels affect physical assets and productivity?

Drill down of Asset Classes of Risk and Get the Right Data
- Balance sheet, asset and income stream mix and carbon footprint of each counterparty
- Company instruments - equities / bonds / credit ratings - both listed and unlisted
- Physical information around company’s assets – location, value, utility
- Sovereign credit rating information and physical exposure to infrastructure depletion
- Exposure of property / infrastructure / mortgage loans to climate change

Introduce Climate Change Quantitative Models
- Provide a checklist of strategies, data and scoring techniques specific to your institution
- Calculate the financial impact at a instrument level of multiple climate scenarios
- Optimize the transition path for each counterparty’s transition to low carbon footprint
- Consider climate stressed PDs and LGDs for improved and distressed asset classes

Information derived from these exercises should feed back into Business Strategy, Pricing, Stress Testing, …, and eventually into Capital Impact analysis.
We observe a range of market practices in relation to approaches to climate change measurement.

Practices range from nascent to integrated analysis based on a number of underlying analytical approaches.

The ECB and PRA have been active with a number of institutions, laying out clear expectations that firms would need to demonstrate progress on this front.

Some firms are undertaking more qualitative assessments in the short term, with analytical approaches considered for implementation in 2021 / 2022.

### Progressive Complexity of the Approach

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nascent</th>
<th>Mature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Do nothing/ wait and watch</strong></td>
<td><strong>Scenario based approaches</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limited initial analysis</td>
<td>We observed a few firms following a scenario based approach to their assessments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• A few firms deem climate change risk assessments not to be a priority in 2020</td>
<td>• We observed a few firms following a scenario based approach to their assessments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• These firms are adopting a “wait and watch” strategy and aim to consider the issue in 2021</td>
<td>• Typically, a scenario with a narrative is defined and its impact is assessed. The scenarios typically used are:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• A limited number of firms have assessed that financial risk from climate change is not material based on a high-level analysis of their activities</td>
<td>• the Bank of England biennial scenarios;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• One bank assessed climate change as primarily impacting credit risk. Given that this bank had limited credit risk exposure, they view climate change as currently not material</td>
<td>• a scenario created by the client based on its own vulnerabilities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• In some cases the scenarios are 1-off shocks, while other firms apply a number of consecutive shocks to simulate the evolution through time.</td>
<td>• Firms are undertaking sector and country assessments for physical and transition risks to inform their scenario analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Firms are undertaking sector and country assessments for physical and transition risks to inform their scenario analysis</td>
<td>• Evaluating the outcomes from these approaches help decide their next steps and analytical investments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Fewer still are considering integrated analysis of physical and transition risks through a number of underlying approaches, integrated with their broader risk management framework</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• These approaches are at new and are being actively developed by some larger firms and research institutes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Industry Practices at the Moment: Modeling and Stress Testing

- **Limited initial analysis**
  - Scenario based approaches
  - VAR-like approaches
  - Integrated Analysis

- **Do nothing/ wait and watch**
- **A limited initial analysis**
- **Scenario based approaches**
- **VAR-like approaches**
- **Integrated Analysis**

- A few firms deem climate change risk assessments not to be a priority in 2020.
- These firms are adopting a “wait and watch” strategy and aim to consider the issue in 2021.
- We observed a few firms following a scenario based approach to their assessments.
- Typically, a scenario with a narrative is defined and its impact is assessed. The scenarios typically used are:
  - the Bank of England biennial scenarios;
  - a scenario created by the client based on its own vulnerabilities.
- Firms are undertaking sector and country assessments for physical and transition risks to inform their scenario analysis.
- Evaluating the outcomes from these approaches help decide their next steps and analytical investments.
- Fewer still are considering integrated analysis of physical and transition risks through a number of underlying approaches, integrated with their broader risk management framework.
- These approaches are at new and are being actively developed by some larger firms and research institutes.
CASE STUDY: INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT MODEL
Measuring and pricing Transition Risk of Corporate Counterparties with Imperial College of London and the Bank of England

1. GHG Scenario
✓ Projections needed of changes in temperature & green house gasses. e.g. using Representative Concentration Pathways (RCP) developed by the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
✓ Policy expectation scenarios (new policy and carbon tax) are to be added.

2. Integrated Assessment Model
✓ A constraint model is built by limiting total green house gas emissions based on climate path
✓ The constraints are modelled using an Integrated Assessment Model (i.e. projecting the economy and climate variables)
✓ This helps to simulate various sectors and/or regions, energy usage, energy prices, carbon taxing, and technology mix
✓ Data needs and uses are a high focus

3. Risk factor modelling
✓ Translate the IAM outputs into risk factors.
✓ Usually done by first modelling key companies / sectors (revenues, debt levels etc.). These are then translated into:
  • changes in equity prices
  • changes in credit spreads
  • changes in default probabilities

4. Aggregation & Scoring
✓ Aggregate the changes in risk factors with the positions to obtain projected impacts
✓ Derive brown/green fractional scoring
✓ Capital Impact (new IRB?)
✓ Stress Testing scenarios for the MLT

Via Avantage Reply collaboration with Quant Foundry, London
## ADDITIONAL RELEVANT CASE STUDIES

A summary of case studies with respect to climate change, modelling and Stress Testing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ST Methodology Review</th>
<th>ST Implementation</th>
<th>Risk Identification</th>
<th>Risk Data</th>
<th>Project set-up</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The UK subsidiary of a G-SIB requested an independent review of its stress-testing methodology for financial risks from climate change.</td>
<td>The UK subsidiary of a G-SIB with both retail and corporate activities requested support to review the existing methodology and improve any identified gaps.</td>
<td>A UK bank requested support to ensure all the climate change impacts are identified across its business.</td>
<td>A large European bank requested that Avantage Reply help define the processes and IT flows to ensure that relevant climate data is captured and made available for: • risk management; and • business decisions.</td>
<td>A bank under direct ECB supervision requested help to set-up a bank-wide programme to prepare the bank to meet the upcoming ECB Guide on climate-related and environmental risks.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Situation

- **Our Approach**
  - An in-depth review of the existing methodology was performed.
  - Additional research was performed to provide:
    - Possible alternative approaches;
    - Possible alternative data sources.
  - The existing methodology was complemented by:
    - Enhancing the scope of exposures to which it applies;
    - Developing new methodology for other type of exposures.
  - Avantage Reply reviewed the client’s financial statement, Pillar 3 and ICAAP.
  - A structured workshop was then held with Risk and the Business.
  - The workshop identified areas were the risk is estimated to be material based on expert judgement.
  - Avantage Reply provided a team that:
    - Identified if the data is already captured or if a new source is needed;
    - For new data, a process is defined to capture it; and
    - Created business requirements for data to be made available in the relevant systems.

### Outcome

- **ST Methodology Review**
  - A report was provided to the client detailing our observations and providing concrete suggestions for improvements.
  - The scope of the existing stress testing methodology was increased from 1 type of exposure to include 3 types of exposures.
  - The outcome of the workshop enabled the client to identify all areas where they have a possible material risk exposure to climate change.
  - For all areas identified as possibly material models will be developed to quantify the risk exposure

- **ST Implementation**
  - The project is ongoing.
  - The first phase, i.e. identifying which data is already available within the bank vs new data required has been completed.
  - The current focus is on defining how new data will be captured.

- **Risk Data**
  - A governance structure has been defined that leverages on existing committees and responsibilities.
  - The proposed governance will ensure an exhaustive and consistent approach is adopted to address the expectations of the ECB guide.

- **Risk Identification**
  - The UK bank requested support to ensure all the climate change impacts are identified across its business.
RECAP AND CONCLUSIONS: SOME TAKEAWAYS

01 Risk Taxonomies
- Should climate change be a discrete risk in the taxonomy or a meta-risk that cuts across?
- How to define it so that we can process and analyse it further?

02 Business Model Analysis
- A risk-based approach is fine but business model analysis should be considered, including vulnerability and sustainability analysis.
- How to reflect climate change in the budgeting and planning assumptions (outside of stress testing)?

03 Metrics and Reporting
- Have we introduced climate change related metrics in reporting?
- Defining appropriate metrics and thresholds (e.g. GHG emissions of counterparties).

04 Scenario Analysis
- Developing appropriate scenarios and industry/country assessment frameworks that are integrated with the ERM Framework.
- Are the scenarios well understood and capture the interactions between physical and transition risks?

05 Internal Audit
- Are internal audit teams looking at Climate Change initiatives within their audit plans?
- Is there sufficient robustness of Climate Change management approaches to withstand IA scrutiny?

06 Implementation Plans
- How to develop plans to implement climate change related initiatives across our ERM Framework?
- Going beyond the ICAAP how can climate change be incorporated into the bank’s strategy?
- Are these plans funded and executable?
- Can they withstand internal and supervisory scrutiny?
THANK YOU!

CONTACTS

Christopher Rossi  
Manager  
Avantage Reply  
Rome  
+39 348 115 0986  
c.rossi@reply.it

Sebastien Gillet  
Senior Consultant  
Avantage Reply  
Brussels  
+32 476 973 428  
s.gillet@reply.com

Louis De Meester  
Senior Manager  
Avantage Reply  
Brussels  
+32 497 351 128  
l.demeester@reply.com

Special thanks to

Hadrien van der Vaeren  
Senior Manager  
Avantage Reply  
London  
+44 (0)7860 182064  
h.vandervaeren@reply.com

Chris Cormack  
Managing Director  
The Quant Foundry  
London  
+44 7949 631 281  
chris.cormack@quantfoundry.com

Today’s presentation

Additional Reply Contacts

Giorgio Pavia  
Partner (IT)  
g.pavia@reply.it

Matteo Oldani  
Manager (IT)  
ma.oldani@reply.com

Gwenaël Gavray  
Partner (Lux)  
g.gavray@reply.com

Nicolas Pavlovitch  
Partner (BE)  
n.pavlovitch@reply.com

Matteo Oldani  
Manager (Lux)  
ma.oldani@reply.com

Vishwas Khanna  
Partner (UK)  
v.khanna@reply.com

Oksana Sisterhenn  
Manager (Lux)  
o.sisterhenn@reply.com
BACKUP
FIVE KEYS DIFFERENTIATORS

KEY TO THE QUALITY OF THE FIRM SERVICES

- **Integrated pan-European footprint**
  - Leading business and regulatory capabilities, leveraging our experience with best-in-class solutions in other countries

- **Embedded in the industry and regulatory ecosys:**
  - Advanced regulatory and supervisory capabilities, leveraging knowledge gained when working for the European Central Bank, the Single Resolution Board, etc.

- **Technology enabled**
  - Demonstrated capability to implement change in IT systems, leveraging 8,000 technologists and partnerships with key vendors

- **Experienced delivery teams**
  - Staffing model drawing on business, technology and regulatory professionals organised in ‘SWAT’ teams.

- **Price policy**
  - Operational efficiency resulting in competitive price policy
At the very least, Credit Institutions should look at…

1. Financial Considerations
2. Strategic Considerations
3. Operational Considerations
4. Risk Assessments

Enterprise Risk Management Framework Example

- Define Overall Corporate Philosophy and Objectives
- Identify Risks
- Quantify Risk
- Define Risk Management Policies and Procedures
- Identify Strategies to Manage Risks
- Internal Funding Mechanism
- Monitor Risks and Hedges
- Review and Measure Performance

Some are leaning on an ERM approach, utilizing competent resources throughout the firm to allow the interpretation and mitigation of ESG / Climate Risks with a complete picture.

ICP 16 sets out an international standard that calls for insurance supervisors to require an ‘insurer’s ERM framework to provide for the identification of all reasonably foreseeable and relevant material risks and risk interdependencies for risk and capital management.’ In this context, it is encouraging that all surveyed jurisdictions regard climate risks as being “reasonably foreseeable, relevant and material.”

THERE ARE MANY RISK FACTORS TO CONSIDER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor Type</th>
<th>Macro Categories</th>
<th>Sample Indicators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ESG</td>
<td>Energy</td>
<td>• Energy usage and type</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Water</td>
<td>• Waste water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Emissions</td>
<td>• GHG Emissions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Waste</td>
<td>• Biodiversity and land use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Natural resources</td>
<td>• Environmental impact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Environmental opportunities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Human capital</td>
<td>• Human capital development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Product liability</td>
<td>• Safety standards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stakeholder opposition</td>
<td>• CSR Data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Social opportunities</td>
<td>• Charity contributions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Corporate Governance</td>
<td>• Ownership structure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Corporate Behavior</td>
<td>• “Tone from the top”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other ESG Factors</td>
<td>Green investment</td>
<td>• Green Bonds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Carbon impact</td>
<td>• Sustainable linked loan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Performance and</td>
<td>Revenue mix</td>
<td>• Capital / Operational expenditures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate Risk</td>
<td>Carbon dependency</td>
<td>• Transition Funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Carbon intensity</td>
<td>• Physical Hazards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Carbon Reduction Strategy</td>
<td>• Carbon emission by productivity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Debt Covenant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IMPACT OF ESG FACTOR AND TYPE OF METRIC EVALUATION

Financial condition of borrowers
- Overall exposure and credit worthiness
- Market projects for business segment (e.g. NACE/BICS) of the Counterparty
- Financial fundamentals rating
- Benchmarking comparison against external ESG ratings

Environmentally sustainable lending
- Destination of Loan Use
- Geographic Location
- Maturity time horizon
- Loan Origination
- ESG Scoring and sustainable economy contribution
- ESG Materiality Matrix

Value of Assets
- Collateral Fair Value Projections
- Geolocation of Collateral
- Certification (e.g. Energy efficiency of buildings)
- Heavy machinery and infrastructure use

More Risk Factors means more challenges and complexities, but also more opportunities…
Green bonds represent **market-based solutions** to channel funds to environmentally beneficial projects, as well as to raise awareness of environmental risks. The borrower **commits to use the proceeds** of the bonds **exclusively to (re)finance climate and environmental projects.**

### Key features of a green bond

1. **Bank balance sheet**
   - Green assets
   - Green bond

2. **Borrowers**:
   - Green bonds can be issued in the form of different instruments (unsecured, covered bond, securitisation)

3. **Issuance process** similar to regular bonds* (amendment to EMTN programme referencing the GB framework)

4. **Proceeds used to finance or refinance** green investment projects or assets (build-up phase then maintenance that may require to periodically replenish for amortising loans)

5. **Specific disclosure**
   - **Allocation report**: breakdown of the green pool
   - **Impact report**: avoided GHG emissions
   - **External review** by a mandated third party agent to ensure eligibility / provide assurance

### Industry standard

**Industry standard** developed by ICMA in 2017-18, articulated around 4 components

1. **Use of Proceeds**
   - Definition and description of the eligible project categories

2. **Project evaluation and selection**
   - Description of the internal selection process (governance, parties involved, etc)

3. **Management of Proceeds**
   - Control framework to ensure compliance with self-imposed eligible project categories

4. **Reporting**
   - Description of the reporting intention (frequency, topics, etc)

---

Ongoing initiative at European level to develop a statutory green bond standard, more stringent than the current industry standard (GBP) with an alignment to the EU taxonomy and mandatory third party verification. Expected proposal in 2021 Q2

---

*Green bonds can be issued in the form of different instruments (unsecured, covered bond, securitisation)*
Green bonds
Development of the market from a niche to a mainstream asset class

Market developments

- First issuance in 2007 by EIB, with momentum picking up in 2015-2016 following the Paris Agreement
- Since, the market has grown exponentially and now includes public development banks, sovereign, banks and companies
- Largest European banks launched green bond programmes around 2015; over the last couple of years an increasing number of medium-sized banks have entered the market as well

Benelux Banks active on the green bond market

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bank</th>
<th>Deals 2015</th>
<th>Deals 2016</th>
<th>Deals 2018</th>
<th>Deals 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ING</td>
<td>8 deals</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABN-AMRO</td>
<td>4 deals</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rabobank</td>
<td>3 deals</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>de Volksbank</td>
<td>2 deals</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KBC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2 deals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| No active issuers but legal regime for "renewable energy covered bonds" since 2018

Incentives to issuing green bonds

Pros

- Tap into an active market with increasing demand from ESG-friendly investors
- Diversify funding mix
- Flexible format as can be used for different instruments (unsecured, subordinated, covered, etc) incl. for MREL purposes
- Reputational benefits
- Signal management commitment to tackle climate change ("walk the talk")

Cons

- Absence of direct economic benefits as the pricing is similar to a regular bond (same underlying risks)
- Costs associated with the underlying reporting processes and the external review (TPV)
- Reputational damages in case of not being able to associate enough green assets (could lead to liability risks although in principle not a legal requirement)
- Lack of eligible green projects and assets

Incentives to issuing green bonds
## ESG RISKS MANAGEMENT AND SUPERVISION

Examples of ESG factors included in the most commonly used frameworks – adaptation from the EBA (Oct. 2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>International Frameworks(^1)</th>
<th>European Framework(^2)</th>
<th>Industry Framework(^3)</th>
<th>Common Areas(^4)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **ENVIRONMENTAL** | • Air pollutants  
• Waste management  
• Use of Ecosystem  
• Innovation in environment | • Land degradation, desertification, soil sealing  
• Ecosystems protection | • Waste management  
• Research and development in low-carbon and other environmental technologies | • Energy use and efficiency  
• Water use and consumption  
• Biodiversity  
• GHG emissions  
• Deprived landscape revitalisation |
| **SOCIAL** | • Workplace and Customer health and safety  
• Training and education | • Insufficient whistleblower protection | • Access to credit and financial inclusion  
• Personal data security | • Labour and workforce considerations  
• Human rights  
• Inequality  
• Gender rights  
• Minority rights |
| **GOVERNANCE** | • Codes of conduct and business principles  
• Accountability  
• Transparency and disclosure  
• Board diversity and structure  
• Bribery and corruption | • Trafficking in human beings  
• Exposure to controversial weapons (land mines and cluster bombs) | • Stakeholder engagement  
• Shareholder rights | • Rights and responsibilities of directors  
• Remuneration |

1) United Nations’ Principles for Responsible Investment (UNPRI), the United Nations’ Environment Program (UNEP) Finance Initiative (FI)’s Principles for Responsible Banking, the Global Reporting Initiative’s from the Global Sustainability Standards Board (GRI-GSSB), the Equator Principles; the Natural Capital Protocol + Supplement (Finance)  
2) Regulation EU 2020/852 on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment, and amending Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Draft RTS ESG Disclosures Consultation Paper  
3) EBA Market Practices Survey on Sustainable Finance and  
4) EBA staff
EBA LOAN ORIGINATION MONITORING

The guidelines point out the need for banks to consider ESG risks in the entire credit life-cycle, including strategic, organizational, data, qualitative and quantitative analysis.

Banks will have to take into account many new regulatory requirements and significant changes in the market for ESG and Climate Risk (e.g. ECB expectations, EBA Action Plan, …)

**Highlights on ESG and Climate Risks**

**Governance**
- “Tone from the top”: corporate culture from top mgmt
- Review the RAF: Physical and Transition Risks
- Integrate ICAAP and ILAAP processes
- New training and specific roles

**Procedures**
- Identify fraudulent or suspicious activity
- Due diligence and ensure quality
- New Transition Risks analysis techniques
- Determine limits the debtor's cash flows
- New risk factors into the risk assessment

**Pricing**
- Impact of risk factors for products by sector or at debtor level
- Establish mechanisms for determining spreads
- Consider risk-adjusted performance metrics

**Monitoring**
- Carry out a periodic review of the risk profile of the debtor, macro-economic conditions, and trends in certain sectors

**Reading Between the Lines**

- **New Data and Sources**
  - Check for "Green Washing" and ensure quality and 
  - Update processes to collect new data on debtors
  - Use new reliable external sources on ESG and Climate Risk

- **Apply methodologies, models and techniques**
  - Integrate considerations for Transition Risk and uncertainties in the social-political context:
    - New laws and regulations (penalize or benefit existing debtors)
    - Pricing of MLT and cash flow estimates of debtors should be refined
  - Consider Physical Risks in assessing the values of assets
  - Utilize advanced tools and data analytics for new pricing

- **Introduce Change and Progressive Enhancements**
  - Integrate ESG and Climate Risk into Enterprise Risk Mgmt
  - Develop internal competencies: train resources to recognize ESG and Climate risks, interpret sustainable balance sheets, and identify new opportunities

---

"In these guidelines, the EBA is introducing prominently environmentally sustainable lending dimensions, and is setting requirements for institutions to consider ESG factors, environmentally sustainable lending and associated risks in their credit policies and procedures. This is a significant step considering the importance of the topic for the EU…"

– EBA, Guidelines on Loan Origination Monitoring (EBA/GL/2020/06), May 2020