Erste Group 2017 results: Net profit of EUR 1.31bn (ROTE 11.5%) prompts increased dividend proposal of EUR 1.20 per share



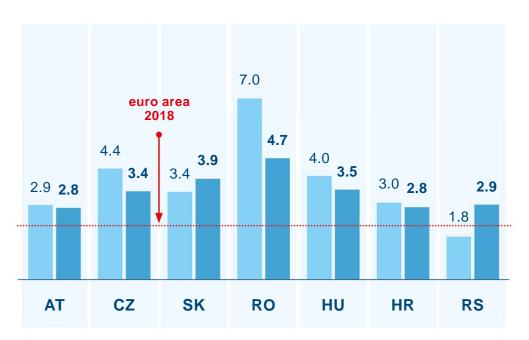
# **Business environment Strong macroeconomic development in Erste Group's markets**



2018



### **Unemployment rate (EOP, in %)**







- → In 2018, all CEE countries seen above average GDP growth for euro area
- → Domestic demand expected to remain the main driver of economic growth, also in 2018
- → Investment in automation needed to cope with labour shortages

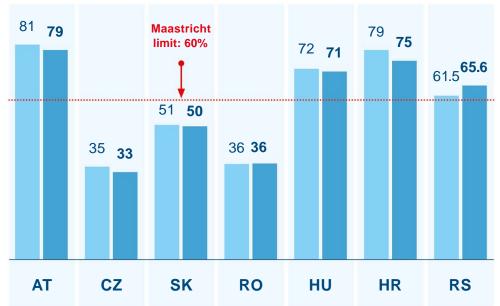
**Source:** Erste Group Research



**General government balance** (in % of GDP)

Public debt (in % of GDP)







- → Budget deficits within Maastricht limit in all markets, with the exception of Romania
- → Public debt in major CEE markets below 60% Maastricht limit; Austria, Hungary and Croatia are exceptions, but show a positive trend

**Source:** Erste Group Research



# Business environment: CZ further increases key policy rate to 75bps in Feb 2018

3M Interbank (%) 10YR gov (%)Source: Bloomberg



- → ECB cut discount rate to zero in March 16
- → Maintains expansionary monetary policy stance

### **Czech Republic**



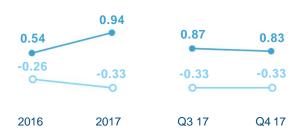
→ National bank decided to lift its benchmark rate from historic low of 0.05% to 0.75% in hikes between August 2017 and February 2018

### Romania



→ Central bank increases policy rate from historic low of 1.75% to 2.25% in hikes in January and February 2018

#### Slovakia



As part of euro zone, ECB rates are applicable in SK

### Hungary



 National bank cut the benchmark interest rate to record low of 0.9% in May 2016

#### Croatia

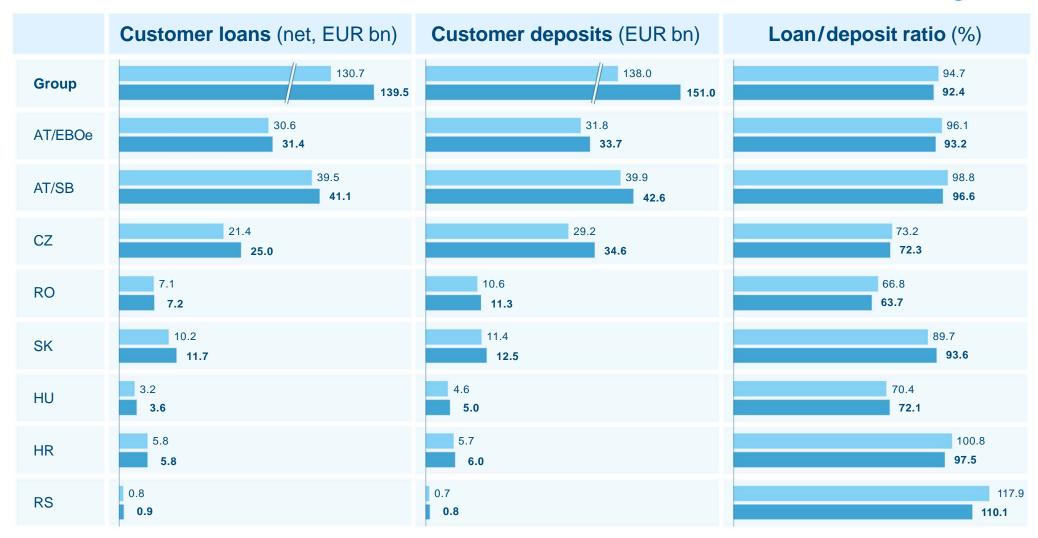


→ Central bank maintains discount rate at 3.0% since 2015



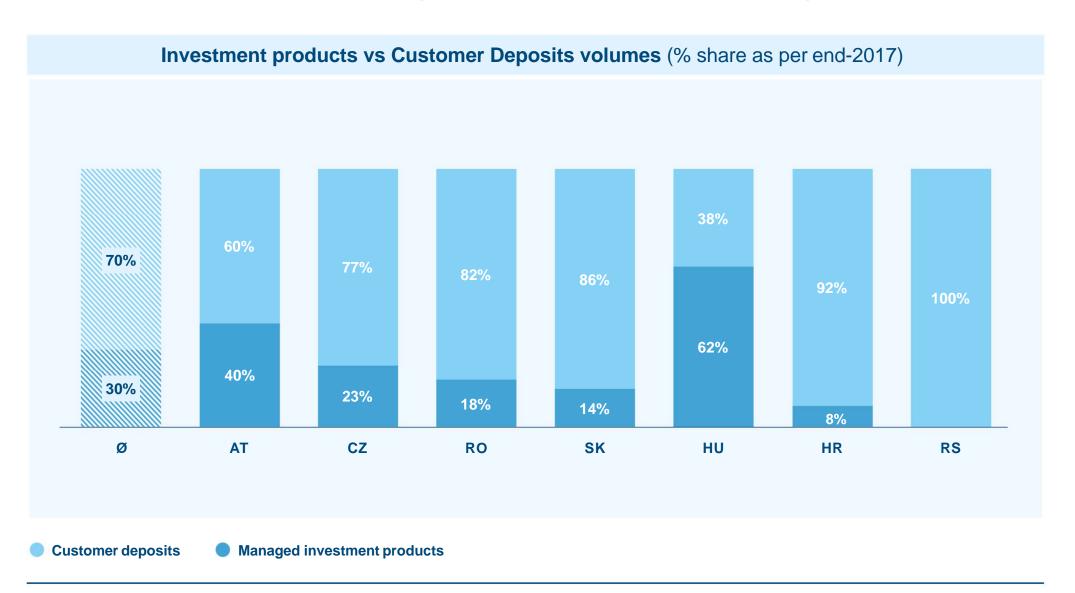
Strong growth in loans of 6.8% and exceptional inflow of customer deposits, up 9.4% • 31.12.16

**31.12.17** 





## Net inflow of EUR 6 bn in retail deposits, EUR 2.4 bn in investment products in 2017





# **Business performance** Strong retail loan growth of 10.4% yoy

### 2017 Retail Highlights

**NEWLY-GRANTED MORTGAGES** 

**EUR 7.5 bn** 分



to nearly 100,000 households across CEE

**OVERALL MORTGAGE VOLUME** 

**EUR 41.2 bn €** 



Up 7.8%, on strong growth in CZ, SK and AT

**CONSUMER LENDING** 

**EUR 7.4 bn** 👺



OVERALL UNSECURED CONSUMER LENDING

**EUR 13.7 bn** 



Up 6.1% yoy, reflecting high domestic demand



# **Business performance Branches with new look and feel, tight link to digital channels**





- → In Vienna, up to 50 advisors at flagship stores; extended hours at service branches
- → Ceska to keep modernizing around 50 branches per year
- → BCR to invest EUR 50 mn in next two years



# Advisory competence sets us apart from the competition

- → Proactive, data-driven and personalised advisory
- → More time and space to advise clients: data analytics re. client needs, paperless processes, self-service units



#### Branches serve a purpose

→ Digital is key, but 5 of 6 Erste clients (also) visit branches



# **Business performance George: the first pan-European digital banking platform**







# George: one platform across all our markets

- → Preparing to expand to all 16 million Erste customers in seven markets
- → PSD2 to play to George's strength as a continuously evolving open banking platform

#### **Entry point for new cooperations**

- → API- based architecture allows cooperation with third parties
- → Co-developed with customers, highly personalizable
- → Protecting client data and privacy remains central focus

# 1 in 4 Erste clients are active digital users

- → Around 20% of consumer loans were launched digitally in Austria, Czechia and Slovakia
- → More than 30% of new deposits opened fully digitally



## **Business performance** Corporate net loans reach EUR 47.5 bn

### **2017 Corporate Highlights**

**NET LOAN GROWTH** 

**EUR 2.4 bn** 



net new loans in 2017

**TOP PERFORMING SUBSIDIARIES\*** 

+27.5% +19.7% +17.5%

Hungary

**Czech Republic** 

Slovakia

#### **BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY**

Batavia: blockchain-based trade financing platform - promises to reduce transactions from 7 days to 1 hour



**TOP GROWTH SECTORS\*** 

+24%

**Automotive** 

+12%

Cyclical

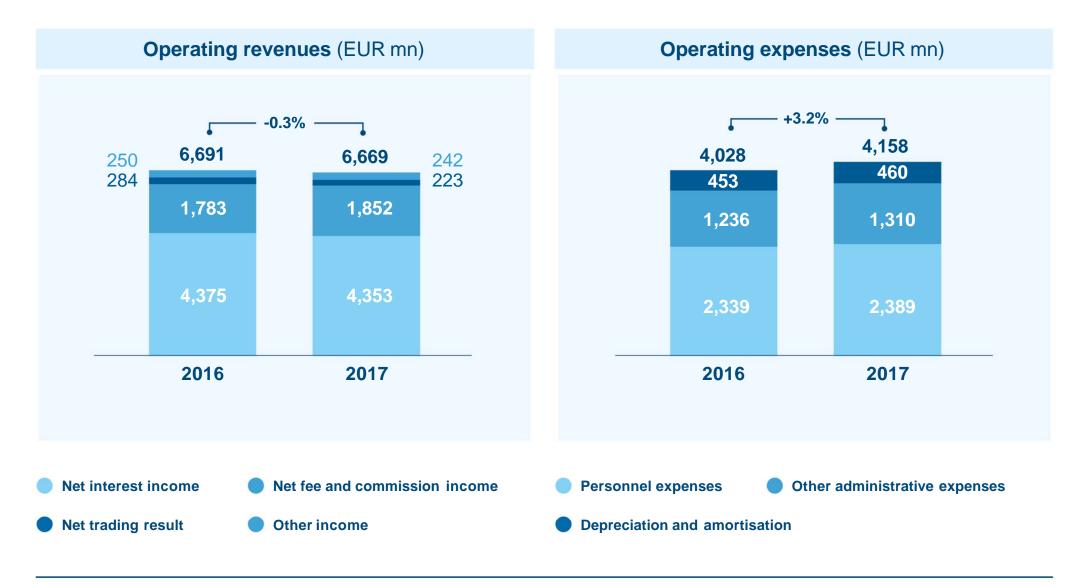
+9%

Construction

\*(YOY VOLUME)



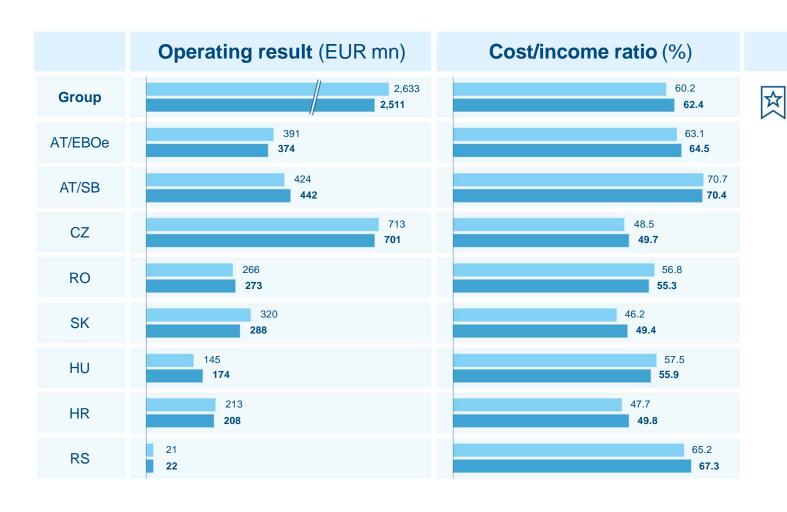
## Pressure on revenues eases, increase in costs driven by regulatory requirements and IT





## Operating turnaround is under way, especially in AT, HU and RO





### **Performance summary**

Group operating result still down, but growing positive momentum across geographies

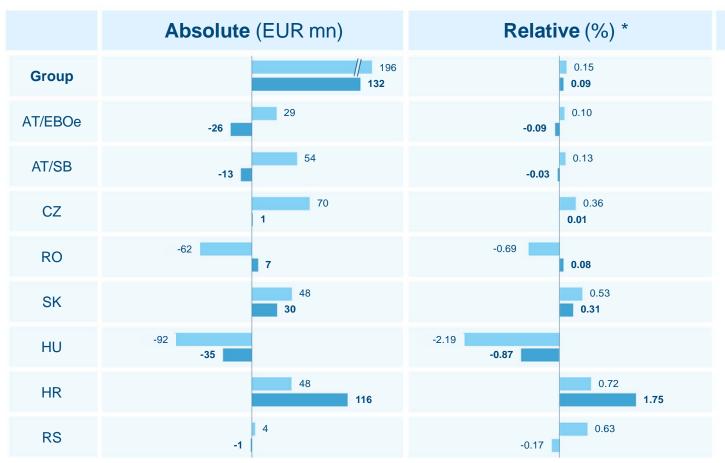
#### **Operating turnaround in:**

- → Austrian savings banks driven by rising net interest and fee income
- Romania due to better cost performance
- → Hungary on the back of successful Citi integration



# Business performance Risk costs hit another all-time low





## **Performance summary**



Excellent credit risk environment across the board, with increases only due to single corporate cases

<sup>\*</sup> Relative risk costs are defined as annualised risk costs over average gross customer loans



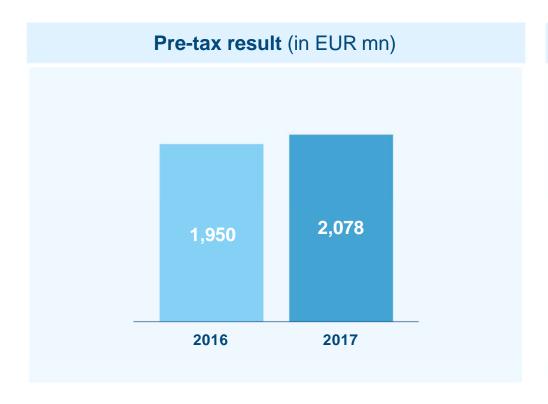
# Business performance Asset clean-up is over; NPL ratio drops to 4.0%







# **Business performance Further increase in pre-tax result**







→ Other result improvement and lower risk costs lead to further improvement of pre-tax result



→ Tax rate at 19.7% in 2017



# **Business performance Proposed dividend raised to EUR 1.20 per share**







→ Highest net profit in corporate history



→ Payout ratio is equal to 34.0%



# **Business performance Excellent capital generation across the years**





## Outlook 2018

#### Macro outlook 2018

- → Real GDP growth of approx. 3-5% expected in 2018 in CEE and Austria
- → Real GDP growth to be driven by solid domestic demand, as real wage growth and declining unemployment support economic activity in CEE
- → Solid public finances across CEE

#### **Business outlook 2018**

- → Dividend proposal: EUR 1.20 per share
- → ROTE for 2018 targeted at 10%+ (based on average tangible equity in 2018)
- → Assumptions for 2018: slightly growing revenues (assuming 5%+ net loan growth and interest rate hikes in CZ and RO); slightly falling expenses due to lower project-related costs; increase in risk costs, but remaining at historically low levels

### Risk factors for guidance

- → Impact from other than expected interest rate development
- → Political or regulatory measures against banks
- → Geopolitical risks and global economic risks

