

# Notes to the group financial statements of Erste Group

## A. GENERAL INFORMATION

Erste Group Bank AG is Austria's oldest savings bank and listed on the Vienna Stock Exchange. It is also quoted on the Prague Stock Exchange and on the Bucharest Stock Exchange. The registered office of Erste Group Bank AG is located at Am Belvedere 1, 1100 Vienna, Austria.

The group of Erste Group Bank AG (hereinafter referred to as 'Erste Group') offers a complete range of banking and other financial services, such as savings accounts, asset management (including investment funds), consumer credit and mortgage lending, investment banking, securities and derivatives trading, portfolio management, project finance, foreign trade financing, corporate finance, capital market and money market services, foreign exchange trading, leasing and factoring.

These consolidated financial statements have been prepared and authorised for issue by the management board as at the signing date of this report. Both, the supervisory board (28 March 2019) and the annual general meeting (15 May 2019) may amend the individual financial statements of Erste Group Bank AG, which in turn may have an impact on these consolidated financial statements.

Erste Group is subject to the regulatory requirements of Austrian and European supervisory bodies (National Bank, Financial Market Authority, Single Supervisory Mechanism). These regulations include those pertaining to minimum capital adequacy requirements, categorisation of exposures and off-balance sheet commitments, credit risk connected with clients of the Group, market risk (including interest rate and foreign exchange risk), and operational risk.

In addition to the banking entities, some Group companies are subject to regulatory requirements, specifically in relation to asset management.

## B. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

### a) Basis of preparation

The consolidated financial statements of Erste Group for the financial year ending on 31 December 2018 and the related comparative information were prepared in compliance with applicable International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as adopted by the European Union on the basis of IAS Regulation (EC) No. 1606/2002. The requirements of Section 59a of the Austrian Banking Act and Section 245a of the Austrian Commercial Code are fulfilled.

In accordance with the applicable measurement models prescribed or permitted under IFRS, the consolidated financial statements have been prepared on a cost (or amortised cost) basis, except for financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income, financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value through profit or loss and financial instruments subject to hedge accounting.

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

Except for regulatory restrictions on capital distributions stemming from the EU-wide capital requirements regulations applicable to all credit institutions based in the EU, Erste Group does not have any other significant restrictions on its ability to access or use the assets and settle the liabilities of the Group. Also, the owners of non-controlling interests in Group subsidiaries do not have rights that can restrict the Group's ability to access or use the assets and settle the liabilities of the Group.

Except as otherwise indicated, all amounts are stated in millions of euro. The tables in this report may contain rounding differences. The abbreviations used in the consolidated financial statements of Erste Group are explained in the appendix 'Abbreviations' at the end of this report.

The consolidated financial statements have not been accepted by the supervisory board and the financial statements of Erste Group Bank AG have not been approved by the supervisory board yet.

### b) Basis of consolidation

#### Subsidiaries

All entities directly or indirectly controlled by Erste Group Bank AG are consolidated in the Group financial statements on the basis of their annual accounts as of 31 December 2018, and for the year then ended.

Subsidiaries are consolidated from the date when control is obtained until the date when control is lost. Control is achieved when Erste Group is exposed to, or has rights to, variable returns from its involvement with the investee and has the ability to affect those returns

through its power to direct the relevant activities of the investee. Relevant activities are those which most significantly affect the variable returns of an entity.

The results of subsidiaries acquired or disposed of during the year are included in the consolidated statement of income and consolidated statement of comprehensive income from the date of acquisition or up to the date of disposal. The financial statements of the bank's subsidiaries are prepared for the same reporting year as that of Erste Group Bank AG and using consistent accounting policies. All intra-Group balances, transactions, income and expenses as well as unrealised gains and losses and dividends are eliminated.

Non-controlling interests represent those portions of total comprehensive income and net assets that are not attributable directly or indirectly to the owners of Erste Group Bank AG. Non-controlling interests are presented separately in the consolidated statement of income, in the consolidated statement of comprehensive income and within equity on the consolidated balance sheet. Acquisitions of non-controlling interests as well as disposals of non-controlling interests that do not lead to a change of control are accounted for as equity transactions, whereby the difference between the consideration transferred and the share in the carrying amount of the net assets acquired is recognised as equity.

#### Investments in associates and joint ventures

Investments in associates and joint ventures are accounted for using the equity method. Under the equity method, an interest in an associate or joint venture is recognised on the consolidated balance sheet at cost plus post-acquisition changes in the Group's share of the net assets of the entity. The Group's share of the associate's or joint venture's result is recognised in the consolidated statement of income and comprehensive income. Entities accounted for using the equity method are recognised on the basis of annual financial statements as of 31 December 2018 and for the year then ended.

Associates are entities over which Erste Group exercises significant influence ('associates'). Significant influence is the power to participate in the financial and operating policy decisions of the investee but is not control or joint control of those policies. As a general rule, significant influence is presumed to mean an ownership interest of between 20% and 50%.

Joint ventures are joint arrangements over which Erste Group exercises control jointly with one or more other venturers, with the venturers having rights to the net assets of the arrangement, rather than to the assets and liabilities relating to the arrangement. Joint control exists only when decisions about the relevant activities require the unanimous consent of the parties sharing control. Erste Group is not involved in joint arrangements which take form of joint operations.

#### Scope of consolidation

As at 31 December 2018, Erste Group Bank AG, as parent entity of Erste Group, includes in its IFRS scope of consolidation a total of 399 subsidiaries (31 December 2017: 421). This includes a total of 47 local savings banks which, alongside Erste Group Bank AG and Erste Bank der oesterreichischen Sparkassen AG, are members of the Haftungsverbund (cross-guarantee system) of the Austrian savings bank sector (please refer to 'd) Significant accounting judgements, assumptions and estimates' for further details).

In 2014, following the implementation of the new agreements of the cross-guarantee system (please refer to chapter 'd) Significant accounting judgements, assumptions and estimates') and the related financial support of the members, an 'ex-ante fund' was established. The fund is managed by a civil law company named IPS GesbR. The assets of the fund – the members of the cross-guarantee system are required to pay into the fund over a period of ten years - are bound and can be used solely for the purpose to cover loss events of members of the cross-guarantee system. The company IPS GesbR was included in the scope of consolidation in year 2014.

For further details regarding the scope of consolidation please refer to Note 65 Details of the companies wholly or partly owned by Erste Group as of 31 December 2018.

**Additions in 2018.** The additions had no material impact on the financial position and performance of the Group.

**Disposals in 2018.** The disposals had no material impact on the financial position and performance of the Group.

### c) Accounting and measurement methods

#### IFRS 9 Financial Instruments

As of 1 January 2018, Erste Group has adopted IFRS 9 'Financial Instruments' as issued by the IASB in July 2014 and endorsed by the EU in 2016. This resulted in changes in accounting policies for classification and measurement of financial assets and financial liabilities, as well as for impairment of financial assets. IFRS 9 also significantly amends IFRS 7 'Financial Instruments: Disclosures' due to which disclosures of information on financial instruments have been adapted to the new requirements.

As permitted by the transitional provisions of IFRS 9, Erste Group elected not to restate comparative amounts for the previous financial year 2017. As a result, the comparative period columns in the 2018 financial statements reflect the structure used in 2017 financial statements. Also, the comparative period disclosures in the notes are based on the original classification and measurement requirements of

IAS 39 (as superseded by IFRS 9) and IFRS 7 (before the consequential amendments resulting from IFRS 9). Due to this fact, accounting policies relevant for financial instruments in accordance with IAS 39 are also disclosed. As allowed by IFRS 9, Erste Group has elected to continue applying hedge accounting requirements of IAS 39.

The financial impact of IFRS 9 adoption is detailed below.

#### i. Classification and measurement of financial instruments

The table below presents changes between measurement categories and carrying amounts of financial assets and financial liabilities under IAS 39 and IFRS 9 as at 1 January 2018. To illustrate the transition impact, the effects are disclosed in respect of original balance sheet positions reflecting IAS 39 requirements.

in EUR million	Com- ments	Original classification under IAS 39		New classification under IFRS 9	Original carrying amount, IAS 39	New carrying amount, IFRS 9
		Portfolio	Measurement method			
Financial assets						
Cash and cash balances		Loans and receivables	AC	Amortised cost	21,796	21,795
Derivatives	a	Held-for-trading	FVPL	Held-for-trading (FVPL)	3,307	3,307
Other trading assets		Held-for-trading	FVPL	Held-for-trading (FVPL)	3,016	3,016
Derivatives - hedge accounting	b	Hedge accounting	FV	Hedge accounting	128	128
				Held-for-trading (FVPL)	756	756
Loans and receivables to credit institutions	c,d	Loans and receivables	AC	Amortised cost	9,108	9,127
				Designated at FVPL	17	17
Loans and receivables to customers	e	Loans and receivables	AC	Amortised cost	135,562	135,439
				Mandatorily at FVPL	459	480
		Loans and receivables	Finance Lease	Finance Lease	3,512	3,513
Financial assets - available for sale (Debt securities)	f	AFS	FVOCI	Amortised cost	4,119	3,875
				Mandatorily at FVPL	2,004	2,004
				FVOCI	9,418	9,418
Financial assets - available for sale (Equity instruments)	f	AFS	FVOCI	FVPL	264	264
				FVOCI	255	255
				Amortised cost	19,090	19,087
Financial assets - held to maturity		Held-to-maturity	AC	Mandatorily at FVPL	27	28
				Designated at FVPL	17	17
				FVOCI	667	684
				Amortised cost	3	3
Financial assets - at fair value through profit or loss		FV option	FVPL	Mandatorily at FVPL	138	138
				Designated at FVPL	387	387
				FVOCI	14	14
Total financial assets					214,065	213,755
Financial liabilities						
Derivatives	g	Held-for-trading	FVPL	Held-for-trading (FVPL)	2,663	2,663
Other trading liabilities		Held-for-trading	FVPL	Held-for-trading (FVPL)	489	489
Derivatives - hedge accounting	b	Hedge accounting	FV	Hedge accounting	302	302
				Held-for-trading (FVPL)	58	58
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	h,i	Amortised cost	AC	Amortised cost	180,060	180,060
				Designated at FVPL	12,589	13,031
Financial liabilities - at fair value through profit or loss (Debt securities issued)		FV option	FVPL	Designated at FVPL	1,753	1,753
Financial liabilities - at fair value through profit or loss (Deposits from customers)		FV option	FVPL	Designated at FVPL	49	49
Total financial liabilities					197,963	198,405

(a) The column 'Original carrying amount under IAS 39' excludes embedded derivatives with a carrying amount of EUR 26 million that were part of 'Derivatives – held for trading' as at 31 December 2017 under IAS 39 and included in the financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss as of 1 January 2018 under IFRS 9.

(b) The line 'Held-for-trading (FVPL)' relates to derivatives that were de-designated as hedging instruments as of 1 January 2018 and became part of 'Derivatives – held for trading'.

(c) The amount in the line 'Amortised cost' includes debt securities with a carrying amount of EUR 83 million under IAS 39 and of EUR 84 million under IFRS 9.

(d) The entire amount in the line 'Designated at FVPL' relates to debt securities.

(e) The amount in the line 'Amortised cost' includes debt securities with a carrying amount of EUR 46 million under IAS 39 and of EUR 44 million under IFRS 9.

(f) The original carrying amount under IAS 39 is adjusted by EUR 645 million in respect of debt securities and equity securities compared to the 2017 financial statements due to a reclassification between debt and equity instruments related to investments in funds and certain

hybrid instruments. More details can be found in the comment (f) to table ‘ii. Reconciliation of carrying amounts of financial assets based on measurement categories’.

(g) The original carrying amount under IAS 39 excludes embedded derivatives with a carrying amount of EUR 270 million that were part of ‘Derivatives – held for trading’ as at 31 December 2017 under IAS 39 and included in the financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss as of 1 January 2018 under IFRS 9.

(h) The original carrying amount under IAS 39 in the line ‘Amortised cost’ that captures financial liabilities that continue to be measured at amortised cost contains:

- \_ deposits from customers with a carrying amount of EUR 150,788 million;
- \_ deposits from banks with a carrying amount of EUR 16,374 million. This amount includes EUR 24 million related to portfolio fair value hedges (presented in the separate line item ‘Changes in fair value of portfolio hedged items’ under IAS 39) transferred against the carrying amount of the financial liabilities when the portfolio fair value hedges were de-designated and single fair value hedges were newly designated as of 1 January 2018;
- \_ debt securities issued with a carrying amount of EUR 12,333 million. This amount includes EUR 133 million related to portfolio fair value hedges (presented in the separate line item ‘Changes in fair value of portfolio hedged items’ under IAS 39) transferred against the carrying amount of the financial liabilities when portfolio fair value hedges were de-designated and single fair value hedges were newly designated as of 1 January 2018; and
- \_ Other financial liabilities with a carrying amount of EUR 565 million.

(i) The original carrying amount under IAS 39 in the line ‘Designated at FVPL’ that captures financial liabilities that were designated at FVPL as of 1 January 2018 under IFRS 9 consists of following items:

- \_ debt securities issued with a carrying amount of EUR 11,143 million;
- \_ deposits from customers with a carrying amount of EUR 133 million;
- \_ other financial liabilities that relate to fund units issued by funds consolidated by Erste Group with a carrying amount of EUR 534 million;
- \_ embedded derivatives liabilities with a carrying amount of EUR 270 million that were separated under IAS 39 and included in the financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss as of 1 January 2018 under IFRS 9;
- \_ embedded derivatives assets with a carrying amount of EUR 26 million (decreasing the carrying amount of liabilities) that were separated under IAS 39 and included in the financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss as of 1 January 2018 under IFRS 9;
- \_ the amount of EUR 509 million related to portfolio fair value hedges (presented in the separate line item ‘Changes in fair value of portfolio hedged items’ under IAS 39) included in the financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss as of 1 January 2018 under IFRS 9; and
- \_ other liabilities with a carrying amount of EUR 27 million that due to their economic relation to the underlying bonds were transferred to debt securities issued designated at fair value through profit or loss.

## ii. Reconciliation of carrying amounts of financial assets based on measurement categories

in EUR million	Com- ments	IAS 39 carrying amount 31 Dec 17	Reclassi- fications	Remeas- urement	IFRS 9 carrying amount 1 Jan 18	Retained earnings effects	OCI effects
<b>Amortised cost</b>	<b>a</b>	<b>186,743</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>186,743</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Additions:							
from IAS 39 FVOCI (AFS) – debt securities	b	0	4,119	-244	3,875	-2	-242
from IAS 39 FVPL (FVO) – debt securities		0	3	0	3	0	0
from IAS 39 AC (L&R, HTM) (impairment remeasurement)		0	0	-107	-107	-107	0
Subtractions:							
to IFRS 9 FVOCI (IAS 39: HTM) – debt securities	c	0	-666	0	-666	0	0
to IFRS 9 Designated at FVPL (IAS 39: L&R) – debt securities		0	-17	0	-17	0	0
to IFRS 9 Designated at FVPL (IAS 39: HTM) – debt securities		0	-17	0	-17	0	0
to IFRS 9 Mandatorily at FVPL (IAS 39: L&R) – loans and advances to customers	d	0	-459	0	-459	0	0
to IFRS 9 Mandatorily at FVPL (IAS 39: HTM) – debt securities		0	-27	0	-27	0	0
<b>Total change</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>2,936</b>	<b>-351</b>	<b>2,585</b>	<b>-109</b>	<b>-242</b>
<b>Total - amortised cost</b>	<b>e</b>	<b>186,743</b>	<b>2,936</b>	<b>-351</b>	<b>189,328</b>	<b>-109</b>	<b>-242</b>

in EUR million	Com- ments	IAS 39 carrying amount 31 Dec 17	Reclassi- fications	Remeas- urement	IFRS 9 carrying amount 1 Jan 18	Retained earnings effects	OCI effects
<b>Fair value through other comprehensive income</b>		<b>16,060</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16,060</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Fair value through other comprehensive income – debt securities</b>	<b>f</b>	<b>15,541</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15,541</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Additions:							
from IAS 39 AC (HTM)	c	0	666	17	684	0	17
from IAS 39 FVPL (FVO)		0	14	0	14	1	-1
from IAS 39 AFS (impairment remeasurement)		0	0	0	0	-11	11
Subtractions:							
to IFRS 9 AC (IAS 39: AFS)	b	0	-4,119	0	-4,119	0	0
to IFRS 9 Mandatorily at FVPL (IAS 39: AFS)	g	0	-2,004	0	-2,004	0	0
<b>Subtotal change – debt securities at FVOCI</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>-5,443</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>-5,426</b>	<b>-10</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Subtotal – debt securities at FVOCI</b>		<b>15,541</b>	<b>-5,443</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>10,116</b>	<b>-10</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Fair value through other comprehensive income – equity instruments</b>	<b>f</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Subtractions:							
to IFRS 9 FVPL (IAS 39: AFS)	h	0	-264	0	-264	0	0
<b>Subtotal change – equity instruments at FVOCI</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>-264</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-264</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Subtotal – equity instruments at FVOCI</b>		<b>519</b>	<b>-264</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total change</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>-5,707</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>-5,690</b>	<b>-10</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Total – fair value through other comprehensive income</b>		<b>16,060</b>	<b>-5,707</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>10,370</b>	<b>-10</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Fair value through profit or loss</b>	<b>i</b>	<b>6,866</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,866</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Additions:							
from IAS 39 AC (L&R) (IFRS 9: Designated at FVPL) – debt securities		0	17	0	17	0	0
from IAS 39 AC (L&R) (IFRS 9: Mandatorily at FVPL) – loans and advances to customers	d	0	459	21	480	21	0
from IAS 39 AC (HTM) (IFRS 9: Designated at FVPL) – debt securities		0	17	1	17	1	0
from IAS 39 AC (HTM) (IFRS 9: Mandatorily at FVPL) – debt securities		0	27	1	28	1	0
from IAS 39 FVOCI (AFS) (IFRS 9: Mandatorily at FVPL) – debt securities	g	0	2,004	0	2,004	99	-99
from IAS 39 FVOCI (AFS) – equity instruments	h	0	264	0	264	63	-63
from hedge accounting derivatives		0	756	0	756	0	0
Subtractions:							
to IFRS 9 AC (IAS 39: FVO) – debt securities		0	-3	0	-3	0	0
to IFRS 9 FVOCI (IAS 39: FVO) – debt securities		0	-14	0	-14	0	0
<b>Total change</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>3,528</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>3,550</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>-162</b>
<b>Total – fair value through profit or loss</b>	<b>j</b>	<b>6,866</b>	<b>3,528</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>10,416</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>-162</b>
<b>Total – financial assets</b>	<b>k</b>	<b>209,669</b>	<b>756</b>	<b>-311</b>	<b>210,114</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>-377</b>

Note: „Remeasurement“ includes effects of both revaluation and impairment changes.

(a) The amount includes IAS 39 balance sheet line items with following carrying amounts in EUR million:

- \_ cash and cash balances: 21,796;
- \_ loans and receivables to credit institutions: 9,126;
- \_ loans and receivables to customers: 136,021 (excluding finance lease receivables); and
- \_ financial assets – held to maturity: 19,800.

(b) Debt securities that were classified as available for sale and measured at FVOCI under IAS 39 and that are part of the portfolios connected to asset and liability management activities were reclassified to the amortised cost measurement category under IFRS 9 due to the business model of holding the assets to collect contractual cash flows.

(c) Debt securities previously classified as held to maturity and measured at amortised cost under IAS 39 were reclassified to the FVOCI measurement category under IFRS 9 due to the application of the business model whose objective is achieved by both holding the assets to collect the contractual cash flows and selling the assets.

(d) The reclassification relates largely to loans to customers that do not have contractual cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest (SPPI) and thus have to be measured at FVPL. The most significant cases are loans having interest mismatch features that do not pass the quantitative testing required by IFRS 9 (see description in the part ‘SPPI assessment’ of chapter ‘Significant accounting judgements, assumptions and estimates’) and loans having a leverage element in the contractual interest rate.

(e) The IFRS 9 carrying amount as at 1 January 2018 includes IFRS 9 balance sheet line items with following carrying amounts in EUR million:

- \_ cash and cash balances 21,795;
- \_ financial assets at amortised cost:
  - \_ debt securities: 23,094;
  - \_ loans and advance to banks: 9,043;
  - \_ loans and advances to customers: 134,454; and
  - \_ trade and other receivables: 942.

- (f) The carrying amount of debt securities at FVOCI (AFS) under IAS 39 compared to the amount presented in the 2017 financial statements, is increased by:
- Investments in funds with a carrying amount of EUR 599 million that until 2017 were treated as equity instruments in the financial statements. Emphasis was put on their economic substance of being equity security-like. From 2018, Erste Group has started to classify them as debt instruments. Preference is put on the puttable feature due to which they meet the definition of a liability in accordance with IAS 32. Thus, they are debt instruments both from the issuer and the investor perspective. In the transition disclosures they are treated as debt instruments also in respect of the IAS 39 carrying amount.
  - Certain investments in hybrid instruments with a carrying amount of EUR 46 million that were classified as equity instruments under IAS 39. Their classification as debt vs equity instruments was analysed upon the transition to IFRS 9 with a conclusion that they are debt instruments. In the transition disclosures they are treated as debt instruments also in respect of the IAS 39 carrying amount.
- As a result, the reclassification between the debt and equity instruments also impacted the carrying amount of equity instruments at FVOCI (AFS) under IAS 39 which, compared to the amount presented in the 2017 financial statements, is decreased by the above amounts in the transition disclosures.
- (g) The cases of reclassifications of debt securities from the available for sale category measured at FVOCI under IAS 39 to the mandatorily at FVPL category under IFRS 9 were:
- financial assets held by investment funds consolidated by Erste Group with a carrying amount of EUR 1,007 million reclassified due to being managed and evaluated on a fair value basis;
  - investments in funds that are not consolidated by Erste Group with a carrying amount of EUR 599 million reclassified due to the assets having contractual cash flows that are not SPPI;
  - debt securities with a carrying amount of EUR 235 million reclassified due to the assets having contractual cash flows that are not SPPI; and
  - investments in securitisations with a carrying amount of EUR 162 million reclassified due to expectations that their value will be primarily realised through sales.
- (h) The reclassification from the available for sale category under IAS 39 to the fair value through profit or loss category under IFRS 9 relates to those investments in equity instruments that are not held for trading and that were not designated as measured at FVOCI upon the transition to IFRS 9.
- (i) The amount includes IAS 39 balance sheet line items with following carrying amounts in EUR million:
- derivatives – held for trading: 3,307.
- This amount excludes embedded derivatives with a carrying amount of EUR 26 million that were separated under IAS 39 and that were included in the financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss as of 1 January 2018 under IFRS 9;
- other trading assets: 3,016; and
  - financial assets - at fair value through profit or loss: 543.
- (j) The IFRS 9 carrying amount as at 1 January 2018 includes IFRS 9 balance sheet line items with following carrying amounts in EUR million:
- derivatives – held for trading: 4,064;
  - other trading assets: 3,016;
  - non-trading financial assets at FVPL:
  - equity instruments: 264;
  - debt securities mandatorily at FVPL: 2,170;
  - debt securities designated at FVPL: 422; and
  - loans and advances to customers mandatorily at FVPL: 480.
- (k) The total in the reclassification column amounts to EUR 756 million and equals the carrying amount of hedge accounting derivatives which were dedesignated as of 1 January 2018 and became derivatives – held for trading. As hedge accounting derivatives did not constitute an official IAS 39 measurement category their subtractions are not captured in the table and they only appear as additions under the fair value through profit or loss category.

### iii. Reconciliation of carrying amounts of financial liabilities based on measurement categories

in EUR million	Comments	IAS 39 carrying amount 31 Dec 17	Reclassi- fications	Remeas- urement	IFRS 9 carrying amount 1 Jan 18	Retained earnings effects	OCI effects
<b>Amortised cost</b>	<b>a</b>	<b>192,649</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>192,649</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Subtractions:							
to IFRS 9 FVO (IAS 39: AC)	b	0	-12,589	0	-12,589	0	0
<b>Total change</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>-12,589</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-12,589</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total – amortised cost</b>	<b>c</b>	<b>192,649</b>	<b>-12,589</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>180,060</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>



in EUR million	Com- ments	IAS 39 carrying amount 31 Dec 17	Reclassi- fications	Remeas- urement	IFRS 9 carrying amount 1 Jan 18	Retained earnings effects	OCI effects
<b>Fair value through profit or loss</b>	<b>d</b>	<b>4,953</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,953</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Additions:							
from IAS 39 AC	b	0	12,589	442	13,031	161	-603
from IAS 39 FVO to IFRS 9 FVO (Reclassification of FV change due to credit risk)		0	0	0	0	145	-145
from hedge accounting derivatives		0	58	0	58	0	0
<b>Total change</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>12,647</b>	<b>442</b>	<b>13,089</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>-748</b>
<b>Total – fair value through profit or loss</b>	<b>e</b>	<b>4,953</b>	<b>12,647</b>	<b>442</b>	<b>18,042</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>-748</b>
<b>Total – financial liabilities</b>	<b>f</b>	<b>197,602</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>442</b>	<b>198,102</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>-748</b>

(a) The amount includes IAS 39 balance sheet line items with following carrying amounts in EUR million (including amounts transferred from other line items which are explained below):

- \_ deposits from banks: 16,374;  
This amount also includes EUR 24 million related to portfolio fair value hedges (presented in the separate line item 'Changes in fair value of portfolio hedged items' under IAS 39). This amount was transferred against the carrying amount of financial liabilities when portfolio fair value hedges were de-designated and single fair value hedges were newly designated as of 1 January 2018;
- \_ deposits from customers: 150,921;
- \_ debt securities issued: 24,255, compared to the amount presented in the 2017 financial statements, this amount also includes:
  - \_ effect of embedded derivatives assets with a carrying amount of EUR 26 million (decreasing the carrying amount of liabilities) and embedded derivative liabilities with a carrying amount of EUR 270 million that were separated under IAS 39 and presented as held for trading. They were included in the financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss as of 1 January 2018 under IFRS 9;
  - \_ the amount of EUR 642 million related to portfolio fair value hedges (presented in the separate line item 'Changes in fair value of portfolio hedged items' under IAS 39); As of 1 January 2018 under IFRS 9, the amount was included in the financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss (EUR 509 million) and in the financial liabilities measured at amortised cost designated as hedged items in single fair value hedges (EUR 133 million);
  - \_ an amount reported in other liabilities under IAS 39 with a carrying amount of EUR 27 million that, due to the economic relation of these liabilities to the underlying bonds, was transferred to debt securities issued; and
- \_ other financial liabilities 1,099.

(b) The amounts related to financial liabilities measured at amortised cost under IAS 39 and designated at fair value through profit or loss as of 1 January 2018 under IFRS 9 consist of:

- \_ debt securities issued with a reclassification amount of EUR 11,922 million and a remeasurement amount of EUR 437 million;
  - \_ deposits from customers with a reclassification amount of EUR 133 million and a remeasurement amount of EUR 4 million; and
  - \_ other financial liabilities (fund units issued by funds consolidated by Erste Group) with a reclassification amount of EUR 534 million.
- The effect of the fair value changes resulting from credit risk of the financial liabilities that is recognised in OCI amounts to a loss of EUR 748 million, thereof EUR 603 million are attributable to newly designated financial liabilities.

(c) The IFRS 9 carrying amount as at 1 January 2018 includes IFRS 9 balance sheet line items with following carrying amounts in EUR million:

- \_ deposits from banks: 16,374;
- \_ deposits from customers: 150,788;
- \_ debt securities issued: 12,333; and
- \_ other financial liabilities: 565.

(d) The amount includes IAS 39 balance sheet line items with following carrying amounts in EUR million:

- \_ derivatives – held for trading: 2,663.  
This amount excludes embedded derivatives with a carrying amount of EUR 270 million that became part of financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss as of 1 January 2018 under IFRS 9;
- \_ other trading liabilities: 489;
- \_ financial liabilities - at fair value through profit or loss:
  - \_ deposits from customers: 49; and
  - \_ debt securities issued: 1,753.

(e) The IFRS 9 carrying amount as at 1 January 2018 includes IFRS 9 balance sheet line items with following carrying amounts in EUR million:

- \_ derivatives: 2,721;
- \_ other trading liabilities: 489;
- \_ financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss:
  - \_ deposits from customers: 186;

- \_ debt securities issued: 14,113; and
- \_ other financial liabilities: 534.

(f) The total in the reclassification column amounts to EUR 58 million and equals the carrying amount of hedge accounting derivatives which were dedesignated as of 1 January 2018 and became derivatives – held for trading. As hedge accounting derivatives did not constitute an official IAS 39 measurement category their subtractions are not captured in the table and they only appear as additions under the fair value through profit or loss category.

#### iv. Reconciliation of impairment allowances

The following table reconciles the amounts of loss allowances as at 31 December 2017 based on the IAS 39 incurred loss impairment model with the amounts as at 1 January 2018 subject to the IFRS 9 expected credit loss impairment model:

in EUR million	IAS 39/IAS 37 31 Dec 17	Reclassifications	Remeasurement	IFRS 9 1 Jan 18
Debt instruments at AC	-3,833	40	-215	-4,008
Debt instruments at FVOCI	0	-8	-5	-13
Finance lease	-154	0	-18	-172
Off balance-sheet exposures (loan commitments and guarantees given)	-323	0	16	-307
<b>Total</b>	<b>-4,310</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>-223</b>	<b>-4,500</b>

The column ‘Reclassifications’ relates to changes in impairment allowances due to differences in the scope of requirements between IFRS 9 and IAS 39. As a result, the decrease in impairment due to reclassifications amounting to EUR 32 million:

- \_ relates mainly to reversals of IAS 39-based loan loss provisions recognised under IAS 39 in respect of debt instruments (mainly loans) at amortised cost that were classified as mandatorily at FVPL under IFRS 9;
- \_ is also affected by increase in loss allowances newly recognised on 1 January 2018 of EUR 8 million in respect of former AFS debt securities classified at FVOCI under IFRS 9. However this change did not impact the group equity upon transition to IFRS 9.

The column ‘Remeasurement’ relates to changes in impairment allowances that were (under IAS 39 for financial assets and under IAS 37 for off-balance sheet credit risk bearing exposures) and continue to stay (under IFRS 9) in the impairment calculation scope. In this respect:

- \_ the line ‘Debt instruments at AC’ captures differences in loss allowances for debt instruments measured at amortised cost under IFRS 9 that were previously classified as loans and receivables (other than trade and other receivables) and held-to-maturity in accordance with IAS 39;
- \_ the line ‘Debt instruments at FVOCI’ reconciles the loss allowances for debt instruments measured at FVOCI under IFRS 9 that were classified as held-to-maturity.

Further, the increase in impairments amounting to EUR 223 million attributable to remeasurement includes an amount of EUR 116 million that did not impact the group equity upon transition to IFRS 9. This equity neutral amount consists of:

- \_ an increase of EUR 303 million representing additional impairment allowances against credit-impaired loans (‘Stage 3’) in respect of which contractual interest receivables accruing after default were recorded outside the balance sheet up to 31 December 2017 but were re-integrated in the on-balance gross carrying amounts of the related assets as of 1 January 2018;
- \_ a decrease of EUR 187 million related to impairments of loans that were retrospectively identified as originated credit-impaired upon transition to IFRS 9. These impairments were included in the gross carrying amounts of the related assets as of 1 January 2018 (irrespective of whether cured or still defaulted).

As a result, the impairment remeasurements had a negative impact on the group equity amounting to EUR 106 million.

Overall, the re-classifications and impairment remeasurements effects decreased the group equity by EUR 66 million. This amount combines a decrease in equity from remeasurements of EUR 106 million and an increase in equity of EUR 40 million from reclassifications of debt instruments at AC.

#### v. Deferred tax effects upon transition to IFRS 9

The following table presents the changes in the carrying amounts of Erste Group’s deferred tax assets and liabilities due to the initial application of IFRS 9:

in EUR million	IAS 39 Closing balance 31 Dec 17	IFRS 9 Opening balance 1 Jan 18	Retained earnings effects	OCI effects
Deferred tax assets	258	299	-277	318
Deferred tax liabilities	-61	-38	225	-202

These changes result primarily from the impact of IFRS 9 initial application adjustments over the underlying temporary differences between the accounting and tax values of the financial assets and liabilities. To a much lesser extent, they also result from fiscal profit forecasts updates due to the influence of IFRS 9 over the amount or timing of reversal of the reassessed temporary differences as of the transition date.



#### vi. De-designation from and designations to fair value option upon transition to IFRS 9

Financial assets with a carrying amount of EUR 155 million were de-designated from being measured at FVPL upon transition to IFRS 9. Reasons for the de-designation are described below.

in EUR million	IAS 39 carrying amount
<b>Required de-designations:</b>	<b>138</b>
SPPI failed	138
<b>Voluntary de-designations</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Total de-designations of financial assets</b>	<b>155</b>

On the other hand, financial assets with carrying amount of EUR 35 million were newly designated as measured at FVPL upon transition to IFRS 9. The reason for the designations was a significant reduction of accounting mismatches due to the interest risk of these assets being economically hedged by interest derivatives.

No financial liabilities were de-designated from being measured at FVPL upon transition to IFRS 9. However, designations of existing financial liabilities as measured at FVPL upon transition to IFRS 9 were used extensively. The reason for the designations was a significant reduction of accounting mismatches due to interest risk of these liabilities being economically hedged by derivatives. The carrying amount of financial liabilities designated at FVPL under IAS 39 and IFRS 9 including reclassifications from financial liabilities (or assets) not designated at FVPL and changes in the carrying amount (column 'remeasurements') are captured in the following table.

in EUR million	IAS 39 carrying amount 31 Dec 17	Reclassification	Remeasurement	IFRS 9 carrying amount 1 Jan 18
<b>Financial liabilities designated at FVPL - debt securities issued</b>	<b>1,753</b>	<b>11,922</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>14,112</b>
from IAS 39 Financial liabilities – held for trading /Derivatives		270		270
from IAS 39 Financial assets – held for trading /Derivatives		-26		-26
from IAS 39 Financial liabilities at AC – debt securities issued		11,143	437	11,580
from IAS 39 Changes in fair value in portfolio hedged items		509		509
from IAS 39 Other liabilities		27		27
<b>Financial liabilities designated at FVPL - deposits from customers</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>186</b>
from IAS 39 Financial liabilities at AC– deposits from customers		133	4	186
<b>Financial liabilities designated at FVPL - other financial liabilities</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>534</b>		<b>534</b>
from IAS 39 Financial liabilities at AC – other financial liabilities		534		534
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,801</b>	<b>12,589</b>	<b>442</b>	<b>14,832</b>

For explanation of the amounts disclosed in the column 'Reclassification' see also comment (i) to table 'i. Classification and measurement of financial instruments' above.

#### vii. Financial assets reclassified to AC or FVOCI

As at 31 December 2018, the fair value of the financial assets that were classified as available for sale under IAS 39 and reclassified to amortised cost upon transition to IFRS 9 amounts to EUR 3,684 million. The combined unrealised fair value net loss that would have been recorded in the other comprehensive income of the year 2018 if these assets had not been reclassified amounts to EUR 146 million.

As at 31 December 2018, the fair value of the financial assets that were measured at FVPL under IAS 39 and reclassified to FVOCI upon transition to IFRS 9 amounts to EUR 3.4 million. The combined unrealised fair value net gain that would have been recorded in the income statement of the year 2018 if these assets had not been reclassified amounts to EUR 0.1 million. The interest income recognised in the year 2018 in respect of these assets amounts to EUR 0.7 million.

As at 31 December 2018, there are no financial assets that were measured at FVPL under IAS 39 and were reclassified at AC upon transition to IFRS 9.

#### IFRS 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers

As of 1 January 2018, Erste Group has adopted IFRS 15 'Revenue from Contracts with Customers'. IFRS 15 specifies how and when an entity recognises revenue from contracts with customers. It also requires such entities to provide users of financial statements with more informative and more relevant disclosures. The standard provides a single, principles based five-step model to be applied to all contracts with customers, except for those revenue streams for which other standards like IFRS 9 provide more specific regulations. As a consequence, the standard is not focused on recognition of revenues from financial instruments. For Erste Group the scope of application is therefore substantially restricted to revenue streams presented under fee and commission income. The adoption of the five step model did not impact the timing or amount of fee and commission income and the related assets and liabilities recognised by Erste Group. Accordingly, the impact of the first time application of this standard is limited to new disclosures.

## Financial instruments

A financial instrument is any contract giving rise to a financial asset of one party and a financial liability or equity instrument of another party. In accordance with IFRS 9 (as well as IAS 39), all financial assets and liabilities – which also include derivative financial instruments – have to be recognised on the balance sheet and measured in accordance with their assigned categories.

### Measurement methods for financial instruments

Measurement of financial assets and financial liabilities is subject to two primary measurement methods.

#### i. Amortised cost and effective interest rate

Amortised cost is the amount at which the financial asset or financial liability is measured at initial recognition minus the principal repayments, plus or minus the cumulative amortisation using the effective interest method of any difference between that initial amount and the maturity amount. For financial assets the amount is adjusted for any loss allowance.

The effective interest rate ('EIR') is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments or receipts through the expected life of the financial asset or financial liability to the gross carrying amount of the financial asset (i.e. its amortised cost before adjusting for any loss allowance) or to the amortised cost of the financial liability. The estimated cash flows consider all the contractual terms of the financial instrument but disregard the expected credit losses. The calculation includes transaction costs, origination fees that are an integral part of the EIR and all other premiums and discounts to the par amount.

For purchased or originated credit-impaired financial assets ('POCI', see part 'Impairment of financial instruments under IFRS 9'), credit-adjusted EIR is used. It is the rate that exactly discounts the estimated future cash flows which consider expected credit losses to the amortised cost of a financial asset.

The EIR is used for recognition of interest income and interest expense. Interest income is calculated in the following way:

- \_ EIR applied to the gross carrying amount for financial assets that are not credit-impaired (Stage 1 and Stage 2, see part 'Impairment of financial instruments');
- \_ EIR applied to the amortised cost for financial assets that are credit-impaired (Stage 3, see 'Impairment of financial instruments'); and
- \_ credit-adjusted EIR applied to the amortised cost for POCI financial assets.

Under IAS 39, the EIR is applied to the gross carrying amount of the financial assets and, for financial assets that are individually impaired, to the amortised cost.

Interest expense is calculated by applying the effective interest rate to the amortised cost of a financial liability.

#### ii. Fair value

Fair value is the price that would be received if an asset were sold or paid if a liability were transferred in an orderly transaction between market participants on the measurement date. The definition also applies to fair value measurements of non-financial assets and liabilities. Details on valuation techniques applied for fair value measurement and on the fair value hierarchy are disclosed in Note 56 Fair value of financial instruments.

## Initial recognition and measurement

#### i. Initial recognition

Financial instruments are initially recognised when Erste Group becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Regular way (spot) purchases and sales of financial assets are recognised at the settlement date, which is the date that an asset is delivered.

#### ii. Initial measurement

Financial instruments are measured initially at their fair value including transaction costs (except for financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss, for which transaction costs are recognised directly in profit or loss). In most cases, the fair value at initial recognition equals the transaction price, i.e. the price transferred to originate or acquire a financial asset or the price received to issue or incur a financial liability.

## Classification and subsequent measurement of financial assets under IFRS 9

In accordance with IFRS 9, the classification and subsequent measurement of financial assets depend on the following two criteria:

- (i) The business model for managing the financial assets – the assessment is focused on whether the financial asset is part of a portfolio in which the assets are held in order to collect contractual cash flows, to both collect the contractual cash flows and sell the assets or they are held in other business models.
  - (ii) The cash flow characteristics of the financial assets – the assessment is focused on whether the contractual terms of the financial asset give rise on specified dates to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest ('SPPI') on the principal amount outstanding.
- Application of these criteria leads to classification of financial assets into three measurement categories.

### **i. Financial assets at amortised cost**

Financial assets are measured at amortised cost if they are held in a business model whose objective is to collect contractual cash flows, and their contractual cash flows are SPPI.

On the balance sheet, these assets are carried at amortised cost, i.e. the gross carrying amount net of the credit loss allowance. They are presented under the line 'Financial assets at amortised cost', 'Trade and other receivables' and 'Cash and cash balances'. Cash balances include only claims (deposits) against central banks and credit institutions that are repayable on demand. Repayable on demand means that they may be withdrawn at any time or with a term of notice of only one business day or 24 hours. Mandatory minimum reserves are also shown under this item.

Interest income on these assets is calculated by effective interest method and is included under the line 'Interest income' under 'Net interest income' in the statement of income. Impairment gains or losses are included in the line 'Impairment result from financial instruments'. Gains and losses from derecognition (such as sales) of the assets are reported under the line item 'Gains/losses from derecognition of financial assets measured at amortised cost'.

At Erste Group, financial assets at amortised cost constitute the largest measurement category, which includes the vast majority of loan business to customers (except for certain loans measured at fair value through profit or loss), interbank lending business (including reverse repo transactions), deposits with central banks, amounts in the course of settlement, trade and other receivables. Investments in debt securities measured at amortised cost may be acquired with different business objectives (such as fulfilling internal/external liquidity risk requirements and efficient placement of the structural liquidity surplus, strategic positions decided by the board of directors, initiation and fostering of client relationships, substitution of loan business or other yield enhancement activities). Their common attribute is that significant and frequent sales of such securities are not expected. For a description of what sales are considered as compliant with the held to collect contractual cash flows business model, see the 'Business model assessment' part in chapter 'd) Significant accounting judgements, assumptions and estimates'.

### **ii. Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income**

Debt instrument financial assets are measured at fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI) if their contractual cash flows are SPPI-compliant and they are held within a business model whose objective is achieved by both to collect contractual cash flows and sell the assets. On the balance sheet, they are included as 'Debt securities' under the line 'Financial asset at fair value through other comprehensive income'.

Interest income on these assets is calculated using the effective interest method and is included in the line 'Interest income' under 'Net interest income' in the statement of income. Impairment gains and losses are recognised in profit or loss in the line 'Impairment result from financial instruments' with opposite entry in OCI rather than against the asset value. As a result, the measurement impact recognised in profit or loss is the same as for financial assets measured at amortised cost.

The difference between the fair value at which the assets are carried in the balance sheet and the amortised cost component is recognised as accumulated OCI in equity specifically under 'Fair value reserve' in the statement of changes in equity. The change for the period is reported as OCI in the statement of comprehensive income in the line 'Fair value reserve of debt instruments'. When the financial asset is derecognised, the amount previously accumulated in OCI is reclassified to profit or loss and reported under the line 'Other gains/losses from derecognition of financial instruments not measured at fair value through profit or loss'.

Erste Group classifies investments in debt securities as measured at FVOCI. They are part of 'held to collect and sell' business models. Similarly to debt instruments, assets measured at amortised cost, they relate to various business objectives such as fulfilling internal/external liquidity risk requirements and efficient placement of the structural liquidity surplus, strategic positions decided by the board of directors, initiation and fostering of client relationships, substitution of loan business or other yield-enhancement activities. The common attribute for investments in debt instruments at FVOCI is that an active yield optimisation via sales is integral to achieving the objectives. The sales are carried out in order to optimise the liquidity position or to realise the fair value gains or losses. As a result, the business objectives are achieved through both collecting contractual cash flows and sales of the securities.

For certain investments in equity instruments that are not held for trading, Erste Group makes use of the option to measure them at FVOCI. This election is applied to strategic, significant banking business relationship investments (except for insurance business). The fair value gains or losses for the period are reported as OCI in the line 'Fair value reserve of equity instruments' of the statement of comprehensive income. The cumulative gains or losses are included under 'Fair value reserve' in the statement of changes in equity. The amount recognised in OCI is never reclassified to profit or loss. However, upon derecognition of the investments in equity instruments at FVOCI the amount accumulated in OCI is transferred to retained earnings. Dividends received on these investments are reported under the line 'Dividend income' of the statement of income. On the balance sheet, financial assets measured at fair value through OCI are included as 'Equity instruments' under the line 'Financial asset at fair value through other comprehensive income'.

### iii. Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss

There are various reasons for assigning the fair value through profit or loss (FVPL) measurement category to financial assets:

Financial assets whose contractual cash flows are not considered as SPPI are automatically measured at FVPL. In the business of Erste Group, this concerns certain loans to customers and debt securities. The main reason for the loans failing the SPPI assessment is that they have interest mismatch features that do not pass the quantitative testing required by IFRS 9 (see description in the part 'SPPI assessment' of chapter 'd) Significant accounting judgements, assumptions and estimates').

Other source of FVPL measurement relates to financial assets that are part of residual business models, i.e. they are neither held to collect contractual cash flows nor held to either collect contractual cash flows or sell the assets. These financial assets are generally expected to be sold before their maturity or they are managed and their performance is evaluated on a fair value basis. In the business of Erste Group, such business models are typical of assets that are held for trading (i.e. financial assets held by the trading function of the bank), of assets whose value is expected to be primarily realised through sales, such as investments in securitisations or of failed loan syndications when the loan is offered for sale on the market. Further subject to FVPL measurement are financial assets held by funds consolidated by Erste Group since they are managed and their performance is evaluated on a fair value basis.

Erste Group also makes use of the option to designate some financial assets as measured at FVPL at initial recognition. Such a classification is used if it eliminates or significantly reduces an accounting mismatch between the financial asset, which in the absence of such a classification would be measured at amortised cost or at FVOCI, and the related derivative measured at FVPL.

On the balance sheet, debt instrument financial assets measured at FVPL are presented as 'Financial assets held for trading', sub-items 'Other financial assets held for trading' and 'Non-trading financial assets at fair value through profit or loss' (sub-items 'Debt securities', 'Loans and advances to banks' and 'Loans and advances to customers'). Non-trading financial assets consist of two sub-categories disclosed in Note 20 which are 'mandatorily at fair value through profit or loss' and 'designated at fair value through profit or loss'. Financial assets are mandatorily measured at fair value through profit or loss either because their contractual cash flows are not SPPI or they are held as part of residual business models that are other than held for trading.

Investments in equity instruments that are held for trading (i.e. financial assets held by the trading function of the bank) are measured at FVPL. They are included in the balance sheet under the line 'Financial assets held for trading', sub-item 'Other financial assets held for trading'. Investments in equity instruments that are not held for trading are also measured at FVPL (unless they are designated at FVOCI). They are presented in the balance sheet under 'Non-trading financial assets at fair value through profit or loss', sub-item 'Equity instruments', sub-category 'mandatorily at fair value through profit or loss' in Note 20.

In the statement of income, the profit or loss effects of financial assets measured at FVPL are split into interest income or dividend income and fair value gains and losses. The interest income on debt instruments is presented in the line 'Other similar income' under 'Net interest income' and is calculated by applying the EIR to the amortised cost component of the financial assets. The dividend income on equity instruments is presented in the line 'Dividend income'. The fair value gains or losses are calculated net of the interest or dividend income, and they also include transaction costs and origination fees. They are reported in the line 'Net trading result' for financial assets held for trading and in the line 'Gains/losses from financial instruments measured at fair value through profit or loss' in case of non-trading financial assets at FVPL. For investments in funds, which are not consolidated by Erste Group, the interest or dividend component is not separated from the fair value gains or losses.

### Classification and subsequent measurement of financial liabilities under IFRS 9

Financial liabilities are classified as measured at amortised cost unless they are measured at fair value through profit or loss.

#### i. Financial liabilities at amortised cost

For presentation on the balance sheet, the line item 'Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost' is used. The liabilities are further broken down into 'Deposits from banks', 'Deposits from customers', 'Debt securities issued' and 'Other financial liabilities'.

Interest expenses incurred are reported in the line item 'Interest expenses' under 'Net interest income' in the statement of income. Gains and losses from derecognition (mainly repurchase) are reported under the line item 'Other gains/losses from derecognition of financial instruments not measured at fair value through profit or loss'.

#### ii. Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss

Financial liabilities at FVPL consist of financial liabilities held for trading and financial liabilities designated at FVPL.

Non-derivative financial liabilities held for trading are those which are incurred principally for the purpose of repurchasing them in the near term. In the business of Erste Group non-derivative held for trading liabilities are largely comprise short sales. These arise from obligations to return securities, which are purchased under agreements to resell or are borrowed through securities lending transactions and subsequently sold to third parties. On the balance sheet such liabilities are presented under the line 'Financial liabilities held for trading', sub-item 'Other financial liabilities'. The gains or losses on financial liabilities held for trading are reported in the line 'Net trading result' in the statement of income.

Erste Group makes use of the option to designate some financial liabilities as measured at FVPL at initial recognition (referred to as fair value option) if:

- \_ such classification eliminates or significantly reduces an accounting mismatch between the financial liability otherwise measured at amortised cost and the related derivative measured at FVPL; or
- \_ the entire hybrid contract is designated at FVPL due to the existence of a non-closely related embedded derivative.

Financial liabilities designated at FVPL are reported on the balance sheet under the line item 'Financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss' and are further broken down into 'Deposits from customers', 'Debt securities issued' and 'Other financial liabilities'. Other financial liabilities relate to fund units issued by funds consolidated by Erste Group. Interest incurred is reported in the statement of income under in line item 'Other similar expenses' under 'Net interest income'. Gains and losses resulting from changes in fair value are recognised net of the interest expense under the line item 'Gains/losses from financial instruments measured at fair value through profit or loss'.

The amount of the fair value change resulting from the credit risk of the financial liability for the period is presented as OCI in the statement of comprehensive income in the line 'Own credit risk reserve'. The cumulative amount is recognised as accumulated OCI, specifically under 'Own credit risk reserve' in the statement of changes in equity. The amount recognised in OCI is never reclassified to profit or loss. However, upon derecognition (mainly repurchases) of the financial liabilities designated at FVPL the amount accumulated in OCI is transferred to retained earnings.

The cumulative amount recognised in OCI is calculated as the difference between the present value of the liability determined by using the original credit spread and the fair value of the liability. When calculating the present value of the liability by using the original credit spread the rate used for discounting is the sum of the observed interest rate (swap yield curve) and the original credit spread. The original credit spread is determined at initial recognition of the liability and it equals the difference between the total yield of the liability and the observed interest rate (swap yield curve) at that time. For the purpose of calculation of the present value of the liability, the original credit spread remains fixed over the whole life of the liability. The amount of fair value change attributable to changes in credit risk of the liability for the period which is recognised in OCI is the difference between the cumulative amount of the credit risk at the end of the period and at the beginning of the period.

#### Classification, subsequent measurement and balance sheet line items of financial instruments under IAS 39

As regards the comparative period information on financial instruments in accordance with IAS 39, Erste Group uses the following categories of financial instruments:

- \_ financial assets or financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss;
- \_ available-for-sale financial assets;
- \_ held-to-maturity investments;
- \_ loans and receivables; and
- \_ financial liabilities measured at amortised cost.

The line items as presented on the balance sheet do not necessarily correspond with the IAS 39 categories of financial instruments. The correspondence between the balance sheet line items and the categories of financial instruments is described in the table at item (ix).

#### i. Cash and cash balances in the comparative period

Cash balances include only claims (deposits) against central banks and credit institutions that are repayable on demand. Repayable on demand means that they may be withdrawn at any time or with a term of notice of only one business day or 24 hours. Mandatory minimum reserves are also shown under this item.

#### ii. Derivative financial instruments in the comparative period

Please refer to the part 'Derivative financial instruments' below.

#### iii. Financial assets and financial liabilities – held for trading in the comparative period

Financial assets and financial liabilities – held for trading comprise derivatives and other trading assets and liabilities. The treatment of derivatives – held for trading is discussed in the part Derivative financial instruments below.

Other trading assets and liabilities are non-derivative instruments. They include debt securities as well as equity instruments acquired or issued principally for the purpose of selling or repurchasing in the near term. In the balance sheet, they are presented as 'Other trading assets' or 'Other trading liabilities' under the heading 'Financial assets/financial liabilities – held for trading'.

Changes in fair value (clean price for debt instruments) resulting from other trading assets and liabilities are reported in the statement of income under the line item 'Net trading result'. Interest income and expenses are reported in the statement of income under the line item 'Net interest income'. Dividend income is shown under the line item 'Dividend income'.

If securities purchased under an agreement to resell or borrowed through securities lending transactions are subsequently sold to third parties, the obligation to return the securities is recorded as a short sale within 'Other trading liabilities'.

#### **iv. Financial assets or financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss in the comparative period**

Financial assets or financial liabilities classified in this category under IAS 39 are those that were designated by management on initial recognition (fair value option).

In 2017 Erste Group used the fair value option in the case of financial assets managed on a fair value basis. In accordance with a documented investment strategy, the performance of the portfolio is evaluated and regularly reported to the management board. The portfolio contains mostly funds and bonds.

Financial assets designated at fair value through profit or loss are recorded on the balance sheet at fair value and presented under the line item 'Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss', with changes in fair value recognised in the statement of income under the line item 'Gains/losses from financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value through profit or loss'. Interest earned on debt instruments is reported under the line item 'Net interest income'. Dividend income on equity instruments is shown under the line item 'Dividend income'.

Furthermore, Erste Group uses the fair value option in the case of some hybrid financial liabilities. This is relevant when:

- \_ such classification eliminates or significantly reduces an accounting mismatch between the financial liability otherwise measured at amortised cost and the related derivative measured at fair value; or
- \_ the entire hybrid contract is designated at fair value through profit or loss due to the existence of an embedded derivative.

Financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss are reported on the balance sheet under the line item 'Financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss' further broken down into 'Deposits from customers' and 'Debt securities issued'. Changes in fair value are recognised in the statement of income under the line item 'Gains/losses from financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value through profit or loss'. Interest incurred is reported under the line item 'Net interest income'.

#### **v. Financial assets available for sale in the comparative period**

Available-for-sale financial assets include debt and equity securities as well as other interests in entities with lower than significant influence. Equity investments classified as available for sale are those that are neither classified as held for trading nor designated at fair value through profit or loss. Debt securities in this category are those that are intended to be held for an indefinite period of time and that may be sold in response to needs for liquidity or in response to changes in market conditions.

Available-for-sale financial assets are measured at fair value. On the balance sheet, available-for-sale financial assets are disclosed under the line item 'Financial assets available for sale'.

Unrealised gains and losses are recognised in OCI and reported in the 'Available for sale reserve' until the financial asset is disposed of or impaired. If available-for-sale assets are disposed of or impaired, the cumulative gain or loss previously recognised in OCI is reclassified to profit or loss and reported in the line item 'Gains/losses on financial assets and liabilities not measured at fair value through profit or loss, net' in the case of sale or in the line item 'Net impairment loss on financial assets' in the case of impairment.

Interest income on available-for-sale financial assets is reported under the line item 'Net interest income'. Dividend income is reported under the line item 'Dividend income'.

In 2017, as part of the IFRS 9 implementation, valuation models were developed for investments in unquoted equities that were previously measured at cost less impairment. Erste Group considers that these models deliver reliable, fair value measurement. As a result, these investments were remeasured to fair value throughout 2017. The remeasurement effects are disclosed in Note 21 Financial assets available for sale.

#### **vi. Financial assets held to maturity in the comparative period**

Under IAS 39, non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments and fixed maturities are classified as held-to-maturity and reported on the balance sheet as 'Financial assets held to maturity' if Erste Group has the intention and ability to hold them until maturity. After initial recognition, held-to-maturity financial assets are measured at amortised cost. Amortised cost is calculated by taking into account any discount, premium and/or transaction costs that are an integral part of the effective interest rate.

Interest earned on financial assets held to maturity is reported in the statement of income under the line item 'Net interest income'. Losses arising from impairment of such financial assets are presented as 'Net impairment loss on financial assets'. Realised gains or losses from selling are recognised in the statement of income under the line item 'Gains/losses on financial assets and liabilities not measured at fair value through profit or loss, net'.

#### **vii. Loans and receivables in the comparative period**

The balance sheet line item 'Loans and receivables to credit institutions' includes financial instruments that are allocated to the IAS 39 financial instrument category loans and receivables with a contractual maturity of more than 24 hours. The balance sheet line item 'Loans and receivables to customers' includes financial instruments that are allocated to the financial instrument category loans and receivables



regardless of their contractual maturity. Furthermore, finance lease receivables that are accounted for using IAS 17 are presented under these balance sheet line items.

Under IAS 39, loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets (including debt securities) with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market, other than:

- \_ those that Erste Group intends to sell immediately or in the near term and those that Erste Group upon initial recognition designates as at fair value through profit or loss;
- \_ those that Erste Group, upon initial recognition, designates as available for sale; or
- \_ those for which Erste Group may not recover substantially all of its initial investment, other than because of credit deterioration.

After initial recognition, loans and receivables are measured at amortised cost. Finance lease receivables are subsequently measured as specified in the chapter 'Leasing'. Interest income earned is included under the line item 'Net interest income' in the statement of income. Impairment losses arising from loans and receivables are recognised in the statement of income under the line item 'Net impairment loss on financial assets'.

#### viii. Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost in the comparative period

Financial liabilities are measured at amortised cost unless they are measured at fair value through profit or loss.

For presentation on the balance sheet, the line item 'Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost' is used. The liabilities are further broken down by 'Deposits from banks', 'Deposits from customers', 'Debt securities issued' and 'Other financial liabilities'.

Interest expenses incurred are reported in the line item 'Net interest income' in the statement of income. Gains and losses from derecognition (mainly repurchase) of financial liabilities at amortised cost are reported under the line item 'Gains/losses from financial assets and liabilities not measured at fair value through profit or loss, net'.

#### ix. Relationships between balance sheet items, measurement methods and categories of financial instruments in the comparative period

Balance sheet position	Measurement principle			Financial instrument category
	Fair value	Amortised cost	Other	
Assets				
Cash and cash balances		x	Nominal value	n/a / Loans and receivables
Financial assets - held for trading				
Derivatives	x			Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss
Other trading assets	x			Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss
Financial assets - at fair value through profit or loss	x			Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss
Financial assets - available for sale	x			Available for sale financial assets
Financial assets - held to maturity		x		Held to maturity investments
Loans and receivables to credit institutions		x		Loans and receivables
thereof Finance lease			IAS 17	n/a
Loans and receivables to customers		x		Loans and receivables
thereof Finance lease			IAS 17	n/a
Derivatives - hedge accounting	x			n/a
Liabilities and equity				
Financial liabilities - held for trading				
Derivatives	x			Financial liabilities - at fair value through profit or loss
Other trading liabilities	x			Financial liabilities - at fair value through profit or loss
Financial liabilities - at fair value through profit or loss	x			Financial liabilities - at fair value through profit or loss
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost		x		Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost
Derivatives - hedge accounting	x			n/a

Furthermore, two additional classes of financial instruments that are not presented in the table above are part of IFRS 7 disclosures. These are financial guarantees and irrevocable credit commitments.

#### Impairment of financial instruments under IFRS 9

Erste Group recognises loss allowances for impairment on its debt instrument financial assets, other than those measured at FVPL, its lease receivables, and its off-balance credit risk exposures arising from financial guarantees and certain loan commitments. The impairment is based on expected credit losses whose measurement reflects:

- \_ an unbiased and probability-weighted amount that is determined by evaluating a range of possible outcomes;
- \_ the time value of money; and
- \_ reasonable and supportable information that is available without undue cost or effort at the reporting date about past events, current conditions and forecasts of future economic conditions.

The amount of the impairment loss is recognised as a loss allowance. For the purpose of the measurement of the amount of expected credit loss and recognition of interest income, Erste Group distinguishes between three stages of impairment.

Stage 1 relates to financial instruments for which no significant increase in credit risk has been recorded since their initial recognition. The impairment is measured in the amount of the 12-month expected credit loss. Interest income is recognised by effective interest rate applied to the gross carrying amount of the financial asset.

Financial instruments in Stage 2 are subject to significant increase in credit risk since their initial recognition. The impairment is measured in the amount of the lifetime expected credit loss. Interest income is recognised by effective interest rate applied to the gross carrying amount of the financial asset (as for Stage 1).

Financial assets in Stage 3 are credit-impaired. In respect of applying the 'credit-impaired' concept of IFRS 9, Erste Group generally adopted the approach of aligning it with the regulatory concept of 'default' for lending exposures. The impairment for such financial assets is measured in the amount of lifetime expected credit loss. Interest income is recognised by EIR applied to the amortised cost (i.e. the net carrying amount) of the financial asset. From a balance sheet perspective, interest is accrued based on the financial assets' gross carrying amount. The difference between the interest accrued on the assets and the interest income recognised is reflected through the allowance account (without impacting the impairment loss).

More detailed information about identification of significant increases in credit risk including collective assessment, estimation techniques used to measure 12-month and lifetime expected credit losses and definition of default is provided in Note 54 Risk management, part Credit risk.

For financial assets measured at amortised cost, the net carrying amount of the financial asset presented on the balance sheet is the difference between the gross carrying amount and the cumulative loss allowance. However, for financial assets measured at FVOCI, the loss allowance is recognised in accumulated OCI, specifically under 'Fair value reserve' in the statement of changes in equity. Loss allowances for loan commitments and financial guarantees are presented under the balance sheet line item 'Provisions'.

For financial assets that are credit-impaired at initial recognition (POCI financial assets) lifetime expected credit losses are initially reflected in the credit-adjusted effective interest rate. As a result, no loss allowance is recognised at inception. Subsequently, only adverse changes in lifetime expected credit losses after the initial recognition are recognised as loss allowance, whilst favourable changes are recognised as impairment gains increasing the gross carrying amount of the POCI financial assets. No impairment stages are distinguished for the POCI financial assets.

In the statement of income, impairment losses and their reversals (gains) on all kinds of financial instruments are presented in the line item 'Impairment result from financial instruments'.

#### Impairment of financial assets and credit risk losses of contingent liabilities under IAS 39

Under IAS 39 Erste Group assessed at each balance sheet date whether there was any objective evidence that a financial asset or group of financial assets was impaired. A financial asset or group of financial assets was deemed to be impaired if, and only if, there was objective evidence of impairment as a result of one or more events that have occurred after the initial recognition of the asset (an incurred 'loss event') and that loss event (or events) had an impact on the estimated future cash flows of the financial asset or the group of financial assets that could be reliably estimated. Erste Group uses the CRR definition of default as a primary indicator of loss events.

In order to maximise collection opportunities and minimise the number of defaults, Erste Group renegotiates loans to customers in financial difficulties (referred to as forbearance cases). Both retail and corporate loans can be subject to forbearance. Under the Erste Group's forbearance policy, loan forbearance can be granted if the debtor is currently in default or if there is a high risk of default, there is evidence that the debtor made all efforts to pay according to the original contractual terms and it is expected that the debtor is able to meet the revised terms. Revised terms could be extended maturity, instalment reduction, changing the timing of the interest payments, interest reduction or forgiveness, revolving exposure change to instalments.

Loans subject to forbearance are generally not derecognised and are considered for impairment based on renegotiated conditions. However, in certain cases (like for FX loan conversions) when the renegotiation is qualitatively assessed as a substantial extinguishment of the rights to collect the cash flows due to material changes in the timing and amount of the cash flows, the loan is derecognised and the renegotiated loan is recognised as a new loan initially measured at fair value.

For assessment at portfolio level, Erste Group used the incurred but not reported losses concept under IAS 39. This concept identified the time period between the moment of the loss event causing future problems and actual detection of the problems by the bank at the moment of default.

Credit risk losses resulting from contingent liabilities were recognised if it was probable that an outflow of resources to settle a credit risk bearing contingent liability would occur and that this outflow would result in a loss.

## Write-offs

Erste Group writes off a financial asset or a part of it when it has no reasonable expectations of recovering the respective cash flows. When performing the write-off, the gross carrying amount of the asset is reduced simultaneously with the related loss allowance balance.

Erste Group has specified criteria for writing off the unrecoverable balances in its loan business. Write-off can result from forbearance measures whereby the bank contractually waives part of the existing balance in order to help the customers overcome financial difficulties and thus improve the prospects of recovering the remaining loan balance (normally this relates to going concern scenarios for corporate customers). In gone concern scenarios with corporate customers, write-offs of the unrecoverable exposure parts are triggered by enforcement activities such as filing or termination of legal proceedings (bankruptcy, liquidation, court case). Other write-off triggers may result from decisions about no enforcement due to worthlessness of the claim/collateral or generally from assessment that the receivable is economically lost. For retail customers, the non-recoverability and the timing and amounts of write-off crystallise during the collection process when it becomes evident that the amount due cannot be collected, e.g. due to ongoing bankruptcy proceedings. Residual uncollectable balances are written off after the collection process.

## Derecognition of financial instruments including treatment of contractual modifications

### i. Derecognition of financial assets

A financial asset (or, where applicable, part of a financial asset or part of a group of similar financial assets) is derecognised when:

- \_ the contractual rights to receive cash flows from the asset have expired; or
- \_ Erste Group has transferred its rights to receive cash flows from the asset or has assumed an obligation to pay the received cash flows in full without material delay to a third party under a 'pass-through' arrangement;
- \_ and either:
  - \_ it has transferred substantially all risks and rewards connected with ownership of the asset, or
  - \_ has neither transferred nor retained substantially all risks and rewards connected with ownership of the asset but has transferred control of the asset.

The difference between the carrying amount of the derecognised asset and the consideration received is presented in the statement of income in the line 'Gains/losses from derecognition of financial assets measured at amortised cost' or, for financial assets at FVOCI, in the line 'Other gains/losses from derecognition of financial instruments not measured at fair value through profit or loss'. For financial assets measured at FVPL the derecognition gains or losses are recognised together with the measurement result in the lines 'Net trading result' or 'Gains/losses from financial instruments measured at fair value through profit or loss'.

In the comparative period, line items 'Gains/losses on financial assets and liabilities not measured at fair value through profit or loss, net', 'Result from financial assets and liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss' and 'Net trading result' are used depending on the measurement category of the derecognised financial assets.

### ii. Derecognition criteria with respect to contractual modifications of financial assets

In the normal course of running its lending business and in agreement with the respective debtors, Erste Group may renegotiate or otherwise modify some terms or conditions of the underlying contracts. This can involve either market-driven commercial renegotiations or contractual changes aimed at alleviating or preventing borrower's financial difficulty. For the purpose of capturing the economic substance and financial effect of such contractual modifications, Erste Group has developed a set of criteria to assess whether or not the modified terms are substantially different from the original terms. While having been partly applied in the IAS 39 environment (see description of forbearance and related derecognitions above in the part 'Impairment of financial assets and credit risk losses of contingent liabilities under IAS 39'), these criteria have been further adapted to concepts brought by IFRS 9, e.g. modification of contractual cash flows.

Substantial modifications lead to derecognition of the original financial asset and initial recognition of the modified financial asset as a new financial instrument. They include following events:

- \_ change of the contractual counterparty (unless this is a formal change such as changes in legal name);
- \_ change in the currency of the contract (unless the change results from exercising an embedded option in the original contract with pre-agreed conditions of the change, or if the new currency is pegged to the original currency);
- \_ introduction of a non-SPPI contractual feature (unless it is intended to improve recoveries from debtors by granting concessions supporting them to recover from financial difficulties); and
- \_ removal of a non-SPPI contractual feature.

Some derecognition criteria distinguish whether contractual modifications are applied to debtors facing financial difficulties. Application of certain modifications to debtors in financial difficulties is not considered as substantial since they are aimed at improving the prospects of the bank to recover the claims by tailoring the repayment schedules to specific financial conditions of those debtors. On the other hand, such contractual modifications applied to performing debtors may be considered as substantial enough to warrant the derecognition, as further detailed below.

From this perspective, the following criteria lead to derecognition unless they are considered as forbearance measures, they are applied to customers in default or they trigger default:

- \_ repayment schedule changed in a way that the weighted remaining maturity of the assets is modified by more than 100% and not less than two years compared to the original asset;
- \_ change in timing/amount of contractual cash flows resulting in the present value of the modified cash flows (discounted at pre-modification effective interest rate) being different by more than 10% of the gross carrying amount of the asset immediately before the modification (cumulative assessment considering all modifications occurring over the last twelve months); or
- \_ commercial renegotiations initiated by a debtor seeking better terms as an alternative to re-financing while a prepayment/early termination option and a sufficiently competitive refinancing market exist. Furthermore, the costs that the debtor would incur in case of prepayment/early termination would have to be assessed as sufficiently low for not deterring it. This derecognition trigger rarely applies to loan assets in Stage 2 and never in Stage 3.

If contractual modifications that qualify as forbearance measures are applied to customers in default or trigger default are so significant that they are qualitatively assessed as an extinguishment of original contractual rights, they result in derecognition. Examples of such modifications are:

- \_ a new agreement with materially different terms signed up as part of distressed restructuring following a standstill agreement suspending the rights of the original assets;
- \_ consolidation of multiple original loans into one with substantially different terms; or
- \_ transformation of a revolving loan into non-revolving.

Contractual modifications leading to derecognition of the related original assets result in the initial recognition of new financial assets. If the debtor is in default or the significant modification leads to the default, then the new asset will be treated as POCI. The difference between the carrying amount of the derecognised asset and initial fair value of the new POCI asset is presented in the statement of income in the line 'Impairment result from financial instruments'.

If the debtor is not in default or the significant modification does not lead to default, the new asset recognised after derecognition of the original asset will be in Stage 1. For loans measured at amortised cost, the unamortised balance of the origination fees/transaction costs considered in the effective interest rate is presented in the line 'Net interest income' at the derecognition date. The release of the credit loss allowance attached to the original asset at the date of that significant modification as well as the credit loss allowance recognised for the new asset are presented in the line 'Impairment result from financial instruments'. The remaining difference is presented in the line 'Gains/losses from derecognition of financial assets measured at amortised cost'.

For financial assets measured at FVPL, irrespective of whether they are in default, the derecognition gains and losses are included in the same line items of the statement of income as their measurement result, i.e. in 'Gains/losses from financial instruments measured at fair value through profit or loss'.

For debt instrument assets not measured at FVPL that are subject to contractual modifications that do not result in derecognition, the gross carrying amount of the asset is adjusted against recognising a modification gain or loss in profit or loss. The modification gain or loss equals the difference between the gross carrying amount before the modification and the present value of the cash flows based on the modified terms discounted with the original effective interest rate. In the statement of income, the modification gain or loss is presented in the line 'Interest income' under 'Net interest income' if the modification relates to financial assets in Stage 1. For financial assets in Stage 2 and 3 and POCI financial assets, the modification gain or loss is presented in the line 'Impairment result from financial instruments'. However, to the extent that the contractual modification involves the bank giving up its rights of collecting cash flows in respect of an outstanding amount of the asset, such as waiving (part of) principal or accrued interest amount, it is treated as a write-off.

### iii. Derecognition of financial liabilities

A financial liability is derecognised when the obligation under the liability is discharged, cancelled or expires. This normally occurs when the liability is repaid or repurchased. In the statement of income, the difference between the carrying amount of the derecognised financial liability and the consideration paid is presented in the line 'Other gains/losses from financial instruments not measured at fair value through profit or loss' (in the comparative period, 'Gains/losses on financial assets and liabilities not measured at fair value through profit or loss, net'), 'Gains/losses from financial instruments measured at fair value through profit or loss' and 'Net trading result' depending on the measurement category of the derecognised financial liability.

### Derivative financial instruments

Derivative financial instruments are used by Erste Group to manage exposures to interest rates, foreign currencies and other market price risks. Derivatives used by Erste Group include mainly interest rate swaps, futures, forward rate agreements, interest rate options, currency swaps and currency options as well as credit default swaps.

For presentation purposes, derivatives are split into

- \_ Derivatives – held for trading; and
- \_ Derivatives – hedge accounting

Derivative financial instruments are carried at fair value (dirty price) on the balance sheet. Derivatives are carried as assets if their fair value is positive and as liabilities if their fair value is negative.

Derivatives – held for trading are those that are not designated as hedging instruments for hedge accounting. They are presented in the line item ‘Derivatives’ under the heading ‘Financial assets/Financial liabilities held for trading’. All kinds of non-hedging derivatives without regard to their internal classification, i.e. both derivatives held in the trading book and banking book, are presented in this line item.

Derivatives – hedge accounting are those that are designated as hedging instruments in hedge accounting relationships fulfilling the conditions of IAS 39 (please refer to the Hedge Accounting part). On the balance sheet, they are presented in the line item ‘Hedge accounting derivatives’ on the asset or liability side.

Changes in the fair value (clean price) of derivatives – held for trading are reported in the statement of income in the line item ‘Net trading result’. Interest income/expense related both to held for trading and hedging derivatives is presented in the statement of income in the line item ‘Other similar income’ or ‘Other similar expenses’ under ‘Net interest income’. Interest income/expense recognition is based on EIR-like accruals based on the derivative notional amount and includes amortisation of the inception value of the derivative (e.g. up-front fees, if any).

Changes in the fair value (clean price) of derivatives designated as hedging instruments in fair value hedges are recognised in the statement of income in the line item ‘Net trading result’.

The effective part of changes in the fair value (clean price) of derivatives in cash flow hedges is reported as other comprehensive income in the line item ‘Cash flow hedge reserve’ of the statement of comprehensive income. The accumulated other comprehensive income is presented under ‘Cash flow hedge reserve’ in the statement of changes in equity. The ineffective part of changes in the fair value (clean price) of derivatives in cash flow hedges is reported in the statement of income under the line item ‘Net trading result’.

Interest income/expense related to derivatives in both fair value and cash flow hedges is reported in the statement of income in the line item ‘Other similar income’ or ‘Other similar expenses’ under ‘Net interest income’. Interest income/expense recognition is based on EIR-like accruals in respect of the notional amount including up-front fees, if any.

#### Embedded derivatives

Erste Group issues certain financial liabilities which contain structured features. Structured features mean that a derivative is embedded in non-derivative host instruments. Embedded derivatives are separated from the host instruments if

- the economic characteristics of the derivatives are not closely related to the economic characteristics and risks of the host debt instruments;
- the embedded derivative meets the definition of a derivative; and
- the hybrid instrument is not a financial asset or liability held for trading or designated at fair value through profit or loss.

Embedded derivatives that are separated are accounted for as stand-alone derivatives and presented on the balance sheet under the line item ‘Derivatives’ in financial assets held for trading and financial liabilities held for trading.

At Erste Group, derivatives that are not closely related and are separated are predominantly embedded in issued host debt instruments recognised as liabilities. The most typical cases are issues of bonds and deposits such as CMS bonds without appropriate cap, contractual features linking payments to non-interest variables such as FX rates, equity and commodity prices and indices, or third-party credit risk. From 2018, instead of separating the embedded derivatives, Erste Group largely uses the possibility to designate the entire financial liability as measured at FVPL.

#### Repurchase and reverse repurchase agreements

Transactions involving sales of securities under an agreement to repurchase them at a specified future date are also known as ‘repos’ or ‘sale and repurchase agreements’. Securities sold in such transactions are not derecognised from the balance sheet, as Erste Group retains substantially all risks and rewards of ownership, because the securities are repurchased at a fixed price when the repo transaction ends. Furthermore, Erste Group is the beneficiary of all coupons and other income payments received on the transferred assets over the period of the repo transactions. These payments are remitted to Erste Group or are reflected in the repurchase price.

The cash received upon sale of securities is recognised on the balance sheet with a corresponding obligation to return under the line item ‘Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost’, sub-items ‘Deposits from banks’ or ‘Deposits from customers’ reflecting the transaction’s economic substance as a loan to Erste Group. The difference between the sale and repurchase prices is treated as interest expense and recorded in the statement of income in the line item ‘Interest expenses’ under ‘Net interest income’ and is accrued over the life of the agreement. Financial assets transferred out by Erste Group under repurchase agreements remain on the Group’s balance sheet and are presented separately under the original balance sheet items in the ‘thereof pledged as collateral’ lines. The measurement category of the transferred financial assets does not change.

Conversely, securities purchased under agreements to resell at a specified future date are not recognised on the balance sheet. Such transactions are also known as 'reverse repos'. The consideration paid is recorded on the balance sheet under the line item 'Financial assets at amortised cost', sub-items 'Loans and advances to banks' and 'Loans and advances to customers' reflecting the transaction's economic substance as a loan by Erste Group. For the comparative period the balance sheet lines 'Loans and receivables to credit institutions' or 'Loans and receivables to customers' are used in this place. The difference between the purchase and resale prices is treated as interest income and is accrued over the life of the agreement and recorded in the statement of income in the line item 'Interest income' under 'Net interest income'.

### Securities lending and borrowing

In securities lending transactions, the lender transfers ownership of securities to the borrower on the condition that the borrower will retransfer, at the end of the agreed loan term, ownership of instruments of the same type, quality and quantity and will pay a fee determined by the duration of the lending. The transfer of the securities to counterparties via securities lending does not result in derecognition. Substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership are retained by Erste Group as a lender because the securities are received at the end of the securities lending transaction. Furthermore, Erste Group is the beneficiary of all the coupons and other income payments received on the transferred assets over the period of the securities lending. Securities lent are presented separately under the original balance sheet items in the 'thereof pledged as collateral' lines. Fee income from securities lending transactions is presented in the statement of income in the line 'Fee and commission income' under 'Net fee and commission income'.

Securities borrowed are not recognised on the balance sheet unless they are then sold to third parties. The obligation to return the securities is recorded on the balance sheet as a short sale within 'Financial liabilities held for trading', sub-item 'Other financial liabilities'. Fee expense incurred on securities borrowing transactions is presented in the statement of income in the line 'Fee and commission expenses' under 'Net fee and commission income'.

### Hedge accounting

Erste Group makes use of derivative instruments to hedge exposures to interest rate risk and foreign currency risk. In order for the derivatives and the exposures to qualify for hedge accounting, at inception of a hedge relationship, the bank formally documents the relationship between the hedged item and the hedging instrument, including the nature of the risk, the objective and strategy for undertaking the hedge and the method that will be used to assess the effectiveness of the hedging relationship. A hedge is considered to be highly effective if the changes in fair value or cash flows attributable to the hedged risk offset the fair value changes of the hedging instrument in a range of 80% to 125%. This is assessed both prospectively, i.e. whether the results are expected to be in the range, and retrospectively, i.e. whether the actual results are in the range. Hedge effectiveness is assessed at inception and throughout the term of each hedging relationship. Exact conditions for particular types of hedges and for testing the hedge effectiveness by Erste Group are specified internally in the hedge accounting guidance. As permitted by the transitional provisions of IFRS 9, Erste Group has elected to continue to apply the hedge accounting requirements of IAS 39.

#### i. Fair value hedges

For qualifying and designated fair value hedges, the change in the fair value (clean price) of a hedging instrument is recognised in the statement of income under the line item 'Net trading result'. Interest income and expenses on hedging derivatives are reported in the line item 'Other similar income' or 'Other similar expenses' under 'Net interest income'. The change in the fair value of the hedged item attributable to the hedged risk is also recognised in the statement of income under the line item 'Net trading result' and adjusts the carrying amount of the hedged item.

If the hedging instrument expires, is sold, is terminated or is exercised, or when the hedge no longer meets the criteria for hedge accounting, the hedge relationship is terminated. In this case, the fair value adjustment of the hedged item is amortised to the statement of income in the line item 'Interest income' if the hedged item was a financial asset or, expenses' if the hedged item was a financial liability, 'Interest under 'Net interest income' until maturity of the financial instrument.

#### ii. Cash flow hedges

For designated and qualifying cash flow hedges, the effective portion of the gain or loss on the hedging instrument is recognised as OCI in the line 'Cash flow hedge reserve' of the statement of comprehensive income. The accumulated other comprehensive income is presented under 'Cash flow hedge reserve' in the statement of changes in equity. The ineffective portion of the gain or loss on the hedging instrument is recognised in the statement of income under the line item 'Net trading result'. For determination of the effective and ineffective portions, the derivative is considered at its clean price, i.e. excluding the interest component. When the hedged cash flow affects the statement of income, the gain or loss on the hedging instrument is reclassified from other comprehensive income on the corresponding income or expense line item in the statement of income (mainly 'Other similar income' or 'Other similar expenses' under 'Net interest income'). As far as accounting for hedged items in cash flow hedges is concerned, there is no change compared to the situation when no hedging is applied.

When a hedging instrument expires, is sold, is terminated, is exercised, or when a hedge no longer meets the criteria for hedge accounting, the hedge relationship is terminated. In this case, the cumulative gain or loss on the hedging instrument that has been recognised in other comprehensive income remains in 'Cash flow hedge reserve' until the transaction occurs.



## Offsetting financial instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are offset and the net amount is reported on the balance sheet if, and only if, there is a currently enforceable legal right to offset the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously. Erste Group undertakes interest rate derivative transactions via London Clearing House and credit derivative transactions via ICE Clear Europe Ltd by fulfilling all offsetting requirements according to IAS 32. Offsetting is carried out between asset and liability derivative positions, while the net position is further offset with variation margin amounts. The amounts offset are disclosed in Note 17 Derivatives held for trading and Note 29 Hedge accounting derivatives as well as in Note 53 Offsetting of financial instruments.

## Financial guarantees

In the ordinary course of business, Erste Group provides financial guarantees, consisting of various types of letters of credit and guarantees. A financial guarantee is a contract that requires the guarantor to make specified payments to reimburse the holder for a loss it incurs in case a specified debtor fails to make a payment when due in accordance with the original or modified terms of a debt instrument.

If Erste Group is in the position of being a guarantee holder, the financial guarantee is not recorded on the balance sheet but is taken into consideration as collateral when determining the impairment of the guaranteed asset.

Erste Group as a guarantor recognises financial guarantees as soon as it becomes a contracting party. Financial guarantees are initially measured at fair value. Generally, the initial measurement is the premium received for a guarantee. This amount is subsequently amortised to fee income. If no premium is received at contract inception (i.e. the initial transaction price is zero), this is the price that would be paid to transfer the liability in an orderly transaction between market participants. As a result, the fair value of such a financial guarantee and thus the initial measurement is nil. Subsequent to initial recognition, provisions are recognised based on the expected credit loss impairment model if the amount is higher than the unamortised balance of the initial premium. They are presented on the balance sheet under the line 'Provisions'. In the comparative period, the financial guarantee contracts were reviewed for the possibility that provision recognition under IAS 37 was required. The premium received is recognised in the statement of income under the line item 'Fee and commission income' under 'Net fee and commission income' on a straight-line basis over the life of the guarantee.

## Leasing

A lease is an agreement whereby the lessor conveys to the lessee the right to use an asset for an agreed period of time in return for a payment or series of payments. A finance lease at Erste Group is a lease that transfers substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of an asset. All other lease agreements at Erste Group are classified as operating leases. This mainly includes the leasing of commercial real estate, automobiles and small trucks.

### i. Erste Group as a lessor

In the case of a finance lease, the lessor reports a receivable from the lessee under the line item 'Finance lease receivables'. The receivable is equal to the present value of the contractually agreed payments taking into account any residual value. Interest income on the receivable is reported in the statement of income in the line item 'Other similar income' under 'Net interest income'.

In the case of operating leases, the leased asset is reported by the lessor in 'Property and equipment' or in 'Investment properties' and is depreciated in accordance with the principles applicable to the assets involved. Lease income is recognised on a straight-line basis over the lease term in the statement of income under the line item 'Rental income from investment properties & other operating leases'.

The vast majority of lease agreements in which Erste Group operates as a lessor are finance leases.

### ii. Erste Group as a lessee

As a lessee, Erste Group has not entered into any leases meeting the conditions of finance leases. Operating lease payments are recognised as an expense in the statement of income on the line item 'Other administrative expenses' on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

## Foreign currency translation

The consolidated financial statements are presented in euro, which is the functional currency of Erste Group Bank AG. The functional currency is the currency of the primary business environment in which an entity operates. Each entity in the Group determines its own functional currency, and items included in the financial statements of each entity are measured using that functional currency.

For foreign currency translation, exchange rates quoted by the central banks in each country are used. For Group entities with the euro as functional currency, these are the European Central Bank reference rates.

### i. Transactions and balances in foreign currency

Transactions in foreign currencies are initially recorded at the functional currency exchange rate effective as of the date of the transaction. Subsequently, monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the functional currency exchange rate as of the balance sheet date. All resulting exchange differences that arise are recognised in the statement of income under the line item 'Net trading result'. Non-monetary items that are measured in terms of historical cost in a foreign currency are translated using the exchange

rates as of the dates of the initial transactions. Non-monetary items that are measured at fair value (such as equity investments) in a foreign currency are translated using the exchange rates at the date when the fair value was measured, thus the exchange differences are part of the fair value gains or losses.

## **ii. Translation of the statements of Group companies**

Assets and liabilities of foreign operations (foreign subsidiaries and branches) are translated into Erste Group's presentation currency, the euro, at the rate of exchange as of the balance sheet date (closing rate). Their consolidated statement of income and consolidated statement of comprehensive income are translated at the average exchange rate of the respective reporting period calculated on the basis of daily rates. Goodwill, intangible assets recognised on acquisition of foreign subsidiaries (i.e. customer relationships and brand) and fair value adjustments to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities on the acquisition are treated as assets and liabilities of the foreign subsidiaries and are translated at the closing rate. Exchange differences arising on translation are recognised in OCI in the line 'Currency reserve' of the statement of comprehensive income. The accumulated OCI is presented in equity, specifically under 'Currency reserve' in the statement of changes in equity. On disposal of a foreign subsidiary, the cumulative amount of translation differences recognised in other comprehensive income is recognised in the statement of income under the line item 'Other operating result'.

## **Business combinations and goodwill**

### **i. Business combinations**

Business combinations are accounted for using the acquisition method. Goodwill represents the future economic benefits resulting from the business combination arising from assets that are not individually identified and separately recognised. Goodwill is measured as the excess of the sum of the consideration transferred, the amount of any non-controlling interests, and the fair value of the previously held equity interest over the net of the acquisition-date amounts of the identifiable assets acquired as well as the liabilities assumed. At the acquisition date, the identifiable assets acquired and the liabilities assumed are generally recognised at their fair values.

If, after reassessment of all components described above, the calculation results in a negative amount, it is recognised as a bargain purchase gain and reported in the statement of income under the line item 'Other operating result' in the year of acquisition.

Non-controlling interests that are present ownership interests in the acquiree are measured at the proportionate share of the acquiree's identifiable net assets. Other types of non-controlling interests are measured at fair value or, when applicable, on the basis specified in another IFRS. Acquisition costs incurred are expensed and included under the statement of income line item 'Other operating result'.

### **ii. Goodwill and goodwill impairment testing**

Goodwill arising on acquisition of a business is carried at cost as established as of the date of acquisition of the business less accumulated subsequent impairment losses, if any. Goodwill is tested for impairment annually in November, or whenever there is an indication of possible impairment during the year, with any impairment determined recognised in profit or loss. The impairment test is carried out for each cash-generating unit (CGU) to which goodwill has been allocated. A CGU is the smallest identifiable group of assets that generates cash inflows that are largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets.

Goodwill is tested for impairment by comparing the recoverable amount of each CGU to which goodwill has been allocated with its carrying amount. The carrying amount of a CGU is based on the amount of net asset value allocated to the CGU taking into account any goodwill and intangible assets recognised at the time of business combination if they are allocated to the CGU.

The recoverable amount is the higher of a CGU's fair value less costs of disposal and its value in use. When available, the fair value less costs of disposal is determined based on recent transactions, market quotations or appraisals. The value in use is determined using a discounted cash flow model (DCF model), which incorporates the specifics of the banking business and its regulatory environment. In determining value in use, the present value of future earnings distributable to shareholders is calculated.

The estimation of future earnings distributable to shareholders is based on financial plans for the CGUs as agreed by the management while taking into account the fulfilment of the respective regulatory capital requirements. The planning period is five years. Any forecasted earnings beyond the planning period are derived on the basis of the last year of the planning period and a long-term growth rate. The present value of such perpetual earnings growing at a stable rate (referred to as terminal value) takes into consideration macroeconomic parameters and economically sustainable cash flows for each CGU. Values for the long-term growth rates are disclosed in Note 37 Intangible assets in the subsection 'Development of goodwill'.

The cash flows are determined by subtracting the annual capital requirement generated by a change in the amount of risk-weighted assets from the net profit. The capital requirement was defined through the target tier 1 ratio in light of the expected future minimum regulatory capital requirements.

The value in use is determined by discounting the cash flows at a rate that takes into account present market rates and the specific risks of the CGU. The discount rates have been determined based on the capital asset pricing model (CAPM). According to the CAPM, the discount rate comprises a risk-free interest rate together with a market risk premium that itself is multiplied by a factor that represents the systematic market risk (beta factor). Furthermore, a country-risk premium component is considered in calculation of the discount rate.

The values used to establish the discount rates are determined using external sources of information. Discount rates applied to determine the value in use are disclosed in Note 37 Intangible assets in the subsection ‘Development of goodwill’.

When the recoverable amount of a CGU is less than its carrying amount, the difference is recognised as an impairment loss in the statement of income under the line item ‘Other operating result’. The impairment loss is allocated first to write down the CGU’s goodwill. Any remaining impairment loss reduces the carrying amount of the CGU’s other assets, though not to an amount lower than their fair value less costs of disposal. No impairment loss is recognised if the recoverable amount of the CGU is higher than or equal to its carrying amount. Impairment losses relating to goodwill cannot be reversed in future periods.

The goodwill included in the acquisition cost of investments in associates and joint ventures is not tested separately by performing the recurring impairment assessments applicable to goodwill. Instead, the entire carrying amount of the investment is tested for impairment as a single asset by comparing its recoverable amount (higher of fair value in use and fair value less costs of disposal) with its carrying amount (after application of the equity method) whenever relevant objective evidence of impairment is identified. Such evidence includes information about significant changes with an adverse effect that have taken place in the technological, market, economic or legal environments in which associates and joint ventures operate, indicating that the cost of the investment may not be recovered.

### Property and equipment

Property and equipment is measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment. Borrowing costs for qualifying assets are capitalised into the costs of property and equipment. Depreciation is calculated using the straight-line method to write down the cost of property and equipment to their residual values over their estimated useful lives. Depreciation is recognised in the statement of income on the line item ‘Depreciation and amortisation’ and impairment under the line item ‘Other operating result’.

in years	Useful lives
Buildings	30-50
Re-buildings on own and foreign real estates	15-50
Office furniture and equipment	4-10
Passenger cars	4-8
Computer hardware	4-6

Land is not depreciated.

Property and equipment is derecognised on disposal or when no future economic benefits are expected from its use. Any gain or loss arising on disposal of the asset (calculated as the difference between the net disposal proceeds and the carrying amount of the asset) is recognised in the statement of income under the line item ‘Other operating result’.

### Investment properties

Investment property is property (land and buildings or part of a building or both) held for the purpose of earning rental income or for capital appreciation. In the case of partial own use, the property is investment property only if the owner-occupied portion is insignificant. Investments in land and buildings under construction when the future use is expected to be the same as for investment property are treated as investment property.

Investment property is measured initially at cost, including transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition, investment property is measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment. Investment property is presented on the balance sheet in the line item ‘Investment properties’.

Rental income is recognised in the statement of income in the line item ‘Rental income from investment properties and other operating leases’. Depreciation is presented in the statement of income in the line item ‘Depreciation and amortisation’ using the straight-line method over an estimated useful life. The useful lives of investment properties are in the range of 15-100 years. Any impairment losses, as well as their reversals, are recognised under the line item ‘Other operating result’.

### Intangible assets

In addition to goodwill, Erste Group’s intangible assets include computer software and customer relationships, the brand and other intangible assets. An intangible asset is recognised only when its cost can be measured reliably and it is probable that the expected future economic benefits that are attributable to it will flow to the bank.

Costs of internally generated software are capitalised if Erste Group can demonstrate the technical feasibility and intention of completing the software, the ability to use it, how it will generate probable economic benefits, the availability of resources and the ability to measure the expenditures reliably. Intangible assets acquired separately are measured on initial recognition at cost. Following initial recognition, intangible assets are carried at cost less any accumulated amortisation and any accumulated impairment losses.

The cost of intangible assets acquired in a business combination is their fair value as of the date of acquisition. In the case of Erste Group, these are brands and customer relationships, and they are capitalised on acquisition if they can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Intangible assets with finite lives are amortised over their useful economic lives using the straight-line method. The amortisation period and method are reviewed at least at each financial year-end and adjusted if necessary. The amortisation expense on intangible assets with finite lives is recognised in the statement of income under the line item 'Depreciation and amortisation'.

in years	Useful lives
Computer software	4-8
Customer relationships	10-20

Brands are not amortised as they are assumed to have an indefinite useful life. An intangible asset has an indefinite useful life if there are no legal, contractual, regulatory or other factors limiting that useful life. Brands are tested for impairment annually within the cash-generating unit to which they belong, and impairment is recognised if appropriate. Furthermore, each period, brands are reviewed as to whether current circumstances continue to support the conclusion as to indefinite life. In the event of impairment, impairment losses are recognised in the statement of income under the line item 'Other operating result'.

#### Impairment of non-financial assets (property and equipment, investment properties, intangible assets)

The bank assesses at each reporting date whether there is an indication that a non-financial asset may be impaired. Testing for impairment is done at individual asset level if the asset generates cash inflows that are largely independent of those from other assets. The typical case is investment property. Otherwise, the impairment test is carried out at the level of the cash-generating unit (CGU) to which the asset belongs. A CGU is the smallest identifiable group of assets that generates cash inflows that are largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets. For specific rules related to impairment of goodwill and impairment allocation rules for CGUs, please see the chapter 'Business combinations and goodwill', part (ii) Goodwill and goodwill impairment testing.

If any indication of impairment exists or when annual impairment testing for an asset is required, the bank estimates the asset's recoverable amount. An asset's recoverable amount is the higher of the asset's or the CGU's fair value less costs of disposal and its value in use. If the carrying amount of an asset or CGU exceeds its recoverable amount, the asset is considered impaired and is written down to its recoverable amount. In measuring value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset.

At each reporting date, an assessment is made as to whether there is any indication that previously recognised impairment losses may no longer exist or may have decreased. If such an indication exists, the bank estimates the asset's or the CGU's recoverable amount. The previously recognised impairment loss is reversed only if there has been a change in the assumptions used to determine the asset's recoverable amount since the last impairment loss was recognised. The reversal is limited so that the carrying amount of the asset does not exceed its recoverable amount or does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined, net of depreciation, had no impairment loss been recognised for the asset in prior years.

Impairments and their reversals are recognised in the statement of income under the line item 'Other operating result'.

#### Non-current assets and disposal groups held for sale

Non-current assets are classified as held for sale if they can be sold in their present condition and the sale is highly probable within 12 months of classification as held for sale. If assets are to be sold as part of a group that may also contain liabilities (e.g. a subsidiary), they are referred to as disposal group held for sale.

Assets classified as held for sale and assets belonging to disposal groups held for sale are reported under the balance sheet line item 'Assets held for sale'. Liabilities belonging to the disposal groups held for sale are presented on the balance sheet under the line item 'Liabilities associated with assets held for sale'.

Non-current assets and disposal groups that are classified as held for sale are measured at the lower of carrying amount and fair value less costs to sell. Should the impairment loss in a disposal group exceed the carrying amount of the assets that are within the scope of IFRS 5 measurement requirements, there is no specific guidance on how to treat such a difference. Erste Group recognises this difference as a provision under the balance sheet line item 'Provisions'.

#### Defined employee benefit plans

Defined employee benefit plans operated by Erste Group are for pensions, severance and jubilee benefits. From IAS 19 categorisation perspective, pension and severance benefits qualify as post-employment defined benefits plans whereas jubilee benefits are other long-term employee benefits.

In Austria, the defined benefit pension plans relate only to retired employees. The pension obligations for current employees were transferred to external pension funds in previous years. Remaining with Erste Group is a defined-benefit obligation for entitlements of former

employees who were already retired as of 31 December 1998 before the pension reform took effect and for those former employees who retired only in 1999 but remained entitled to a direct pension from Erste Group under individual agreements. Also included are entitlements to resulting survivor pensions.

In the case of defined benefit plans, the commitments for active employees are primarily dependent on future salary increases, as well as on the expected entitlement date. Due to the nature of the commitment to the defined benefit pensioners the future, regularly expected pension adjustments according to the collective agreement and the state ASVG pension are estimated and taken into consideration as deduction from the total pension. The inflation rate is not indicated separately, but implicitly represented in the assumption for the future collective agreement development.

Employees of Austrian entities who started their employment before 1 January 2003, are entitled to receive a severance payment if their employment is terminated by the employer or if they retire. The amount to be paid depends on the number of years of service and the employee's salary at termination of the employment. For employees who started their employment after 31 December 2002, a contribution-based system is provided. The contributions to external employee pension funds are recognised as expenses.

Defined-benefit plans include jubilee benefits. Jubilee provisions are special one-off payments stipulated in the collective agreement which are dependent on remuneration and duration of service. Eligibility is conditioned on a certain minimum duration of the employment.

In addition, there are defined employee benefit plans for foreign subsidiaries and branches, mainly in Romania, Croatia, Serbia and Slovakia.

Obligations ensuing from defined employee benefit plans are determined using the projected unit credit method. Future obligations are determined based on actuarial expert opinions. The calculation takes into account not only those salaries, pensions and vested rights to future pension payments known as of the balance sheet date but also anticipated future rates of increase in salaries and pensions.

The liability recognised under a defined-benefit plan represents the present value of the defined benefit obligation less the fair value of the plan assets available for the direct settlement of obligations. For all plans, the present value of the obligation exceeds the fair value of the plan assets. The resulting defined benefit liability is reported on the balance sheet under the line item 'Provisions'. At Erste Group, the plan assets consist of qualifying insurance policies purchased to back severance and jubilee benefit provisions. Plan assets for pension provision are held by a long-term employee benefit fund.

Remeasurements consist of actuarial gains and losses on the defined benefit obligations and the return on plan assets. Remeasurements of pension and severance defined-benefit plans are recognised in other comprehensive income. Remeasurements of jubilee defined-benefit plans are recognised in the statement of income under the line item 'Personnel expenses'.

#### Erste Group board members bonus program

Every year Erste Group grants to its board members a bonus program. It relates to the services rendered by the board members in this year (i.e. 'service year'). The actual payments are conditional on Erste Group performance in the service year and the following five years. In this respect, they are split into a first tranche and five deferred tranches. Fifty percent of the bonuses are paid out in cash and meet the definition other long-term employee benefits in IAS 19. The remaining fifty percent depend on changes in the average share price of Erste Group Bank, AG and thus meet the conditions of cash-settled share-based payment in IFRS 2.

For both parts of the program, the full bonus is recognised as an expense against a liability in the estimated amount in the service year. The liability from the cash-settled share-based payment part is recognised in the balance sheet under 'Other liabilities'. The liability from the employee benefit part is recognised in the balance sheet under 'Provisions'. The expenses including any subsequent adjustments to the liability reflecting the decisions about the actual amount of the bonuses, fulfilment of performance conditions and share price changes are presented in the statement of income under 'Personnel expenses'.

Further details about the bonus program and relevant disclosures about can be found in Note 50 Related-party transaction and principal shareholders, section 'Performance-linked remuneration'.

#### Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Group has a present obligation as a result of a past event, it is probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. On the balance sheet, provisions are reported under the line item 'Provisions'. They include credit risk loss provisions for contingent liabilities (particularly financial guarantees and loan commitments) as well as provisions for litigation and restructuring. Expenses or income related to provisions are reported in the statement of income under the line item 'Other operating result'.

## Levies

Erste Group recognises a liability or a provision for the levy when the activity that triggers payment, as identified by the relevant legislation, occurs.

## Income taxes

### i. Current tax

Current tax assets and liabilities for the current and prior years are measured at the amount expected to be recovered from or paid to the taxation authorities. The tax rates and tax laws used to compute the amounts are those enacted by the balance sheet date.

### ii. Deferred tax

Deferred tax is recognised for temporary differences between the tax bases of assets and liabilities and their carrying amounts as of the balance sheet date. Deferred tax liabilities are recognised for all taxable temporary differences. Deferred tax assets are recognised for all deductible temporary differences and unused tax losses to the extent that it is probable that taxable profit will be available against which the deductible temporary differences and carry forward of unused tax losses can be utilised. Deferred taxes are not recognised on temporary differences arising from the initial recognition of goodwill.

The carrying amount of deferred tax assets is reviewed at each balance sheet date and reduced to the extent that it is no longer probable that sufficient taxable profit will be available to allow all or part of the deferred tax asset to be utilised. Unrecognised deferred tax assets are reassessed at each balance sheet date and are recognised to the extent that it has become probable that future taxable profit will allow the deferred tax asset to be recovered.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are measured at the tax rates that are expected to apply in the year when the temporary difference is reversed or the liability is settled, based on tax rates (and tax laws) that have been enacted or substantively enacted as at balance sheet date and are expected to apply when the temporary differences are reversed. For subsidiaries, the local tax environments apply.

Deferred tax relating to items recognised in other comprehensive income is recognised in other comprehensive income and not in the statement of income.

Deferred tax assets and deferred tax liabilities are offset if a legally enforceable right to offset exists and the deferred taxes relate to the same taxation authority.

## Treasury shares and contracts on treasury shares

Equity instruments of Erste Group that it or any of its subsidiaries acquire (referred to as treasury shares) are deducted from equity. Consideration paid or received on the purchase, sale, issue or cancellation of Erste Group's own equity instruments, including transaction costs, is recognised directly in equity. No gain or loss is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income on the purchase, sale, issue or cancellation of its own equity instruments.

## Fiduciary assets

The Group provides trust and other fiduciary services that result in the holding or investing of assets on behalf of its clients. Assets held in a fiduciary capacity are not reported in the financial statements, as they are not the assets of Erste Group.

## Dividends on own equity instruments

Dividends on own equity instruments are recognised as a liability and deducted from equity when their payment is confirmed by the Annual General Meeting.

## Items of the statement of income

The description and recognition criteria of the line items reported in the statement of income are as follows:

### i. Net interest income

Net interest income is broken down into line items of interest income, other similar income, interest expenses and other similar expenses. The distinguishing factor is whether the EIR method is mandatorily applied for recognition of interest income or expense in accordance with IFRS 9.

'Interest income' relates to interest revenue from financial assets measured at amortised cost and at fair value through other comprehensive income. It is calculated using the EIR method as discussed in chapter 'Financial instruments', 'Measurement methods for financial instruments', part 'i. Amortised cost and effective interest rate'.

'Other similar income' captures interest-like sources of income resulting from non-derivative financial assets measured at fair value through profit or loss, held-for-trading derivatives, hedge accounting derivatives, finance lease receivables and negative interest on financial liabilities.



‘Interest expenses’ relates to interest expense from financial liabilities measured at amortised cost calculated using effective interest rate as discussed in chapter ‘Financial instruments’, ‘Measurement methods for financial instruments’, part (i) Amortised cost and effective interest rate.

‘Other similar expenses’ capture interest-like sources of expense resulting from non-derivative financial liabilities measured at fair value through profit or loss, held-for-trading derivatives, hedge accounting derivatives, negative interest on financial assets, provisions recognised under IFRS 9 and IAS 37 (unwinding of the time value of the money effect due to passage of time) and net defined liability (net interest cost on severance payment, pension and jubilee obligations) under IAS 19.

As regards types of financial instruments, interest income and other similar income include interest income on loans and advances to banks and customers, on cash balances, and on debt securities in all measurement categories of financial assets. Interest expenses and other similar expenses include interest paid on deposits from customers, deposits from banks, debt securities issued and other financial liabilities in all measurement categories of financial liabilities. Net interest income also includes interest on derivative financial instruments.

Interest income also includes modification gains and losses recognised on financial assets in Stage 1. Further, the unamortised balance of the origination fees/transaction costs upon derecognition of assets in Stage 1 and 2 considered in the effective interest rate is presented as interest income at the derecognition date.

In the comparative period, other similar income and expenses are not distinguished from the interest income and interest expenses.

## **ii. Net fee and commission income**

Erste Group earns fee and commission income from a diverse range of services that it provides to its customers. The determination of the timing and amount of income recognition follows the five step model of IFRS 15.

Fee and commission income is measured based on the consideration specified in the contract with a customer. Erste Group recognises revenue when it transfers control over a service to a customer.

Fees earned for the provision of services over a period of time are accrued over that period. These fees include commitment fees, guarantee fees and other fees from lending business, commission income from asset management, custody and other management and advisory fees as well as fees from insurance brokerage, building society brokerage and foreign exchange transactions. Payment services partly include fees for services satisfied over a period of time like periodic card fees.

Fee income earned from providing transaction services, such as arranging the acquisition of shares or other securities or the purchase or sale of businesses, is recognised upon completion of the underlying transaction. Payment services partly include transaction based fees like withdrawal fees.

A contract with a customer that results in a recognised financial instrument in the Group’s financial statement may be partially in the scope of IFRS 9 and partially in the scope of IFRS 15. If this is the case, then Erste Group first applies IFRS 9 to separate and measure the part of the contract that is in the scope of IFRS 9 and then applies IFRS 15 to the residual. Fees and commission income that are integral to the effective interest rate of a financial instrument are in the scope of IFRS 9 and are included in the effective interest rate.

## **iii. Dividend income**

Dividend income is recognised when the right to receive the payment is established. This line item includes dividends from all shares and other equity investments, i.e. from those that are held for trading, non-trading equity instruments at FVPL and at FVOCI.

## **iv. Net trading result**

Results arising from trading activities include all gains and losses from changes in the fair value (clean price) of financial assets and financial liabilities classified as held for trading, including all derivatives not designated as hedging instruments. The net trading result also includes any ineffective portions recorded in fair value and cash flow hedge transactions as well as foreign exchange gains and losses on all monetary assets and liabilities.

## **v. Gains/losses from financial instruments measured at fair value through profit or loss**

Changes in fair value (clean price) of non-trading financial assets at fair value through profit or loss, including gains and losses on their derecognition, are presented under this line item. This concerns both non-trading financial assets designated and those mandatorily measured at FVPL. Gains and losses (clean price) of financial liabilities designated at FVPL, including gains and losses on their derecognition, are also presented under this line item. However, the fair value changes resulting from credit risk of the liability are recognised in OCI. In the comparative period this line item includes only changes in fair value (clean price, including the effect of credit risk of the liability) of financial assets and liabilities designated at FVPL.

**vi. Net result from equity method investments**

The line item contains result from associates and joint ventures recorded by applying the equity method (measured as the investor's share of profit or loss in the associates and joint ventures). However, impairment losses, reversal of impairment losses and realised gains and losses on investments in associates or joint ventures accounted for using the equity method are reported under the line item 'Other operating result'.

**vii. Rental income from investment properties and other operating leases**

Rental income from investment properties and other operating leases is recognised on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

**viii. Personnel expenses**

Personnel expenses include wages and salaries, bonuses, statutory and voluntary social security contributions, staff-related taxes and levies. They also include service costs for severance payments, pension and jubilee obligations and remeasurements of jubilee obligations. Furthermore, restructuring provisions expenses may be part of personnel expenses.

**ix. Other administrative expenses**

Other administrative expenses include primarily information technology expenses, expenses for office space, office operating expenses, advertising and marketing, and expenditures for legal and other consultants. Furthermore, the line item contains deposit insurance contributions expenses. Restructuring provisions expenses may also be presented in other administrative expenses.

**x. Depreciation and amortisation**

This line item comprises depreciation of property and equipment, depreciation of investment property and amortisation of intangible assets.

**xi. Gains/losses from derecognition of financial assets measured at amortised cost**

This line item includes selling and other derecognition gains or losses on financial assets measured at amortised cost. However, if such gains/losses relate to derecognition of financial assets in Stage 3, they are included in the line item 'Impairment result from financial instruments'.

**xii. Other gains/losses from derecognition of financial instruments not measured at fair value through profit or loss**

This line item includes selling and other derecognition gains or losses on financial assets at FVOCI, financial liabilities measured at amortised cost and other financial instruments not measured at FVPL, such as finance lease receivables or financial guarantees. However, if such gains/losses relate to financial assets in Stage 3 they are included in the line item 'Impairment result from financial instruments'.

**xiii. Impairment result from financial instruments**

Net impairment losses on financial instruments comprise impairment losses and reversals of impairment on all kinds of financial instruments, to which the IFRS 9 expected credit loss impairment model applies. The impairment result also includes recoveries on written-off financial assets. Modification gains and losses recognised on financial assets in Stage 2 and Stage 3 and POCI assets are also presented as the impairment result. Moreover, gains/losses from derecognition of financial assets in Stage 3 and POCI assets are included as part of the impairment result.

**xiv. Other operating result**

Other operating result reflects all other income and expenses not directly attributable to Erste Group's ordinary activities. Furthermore, levies on banking activities are considered as part of the other operating result.

Other operating result includes impairment losses or any reversal of impairment losses as well as results on the sale of property and equipment and intangible assets. Also included here are any impairment losses on goodwill.

In addition, other operating result encompasses the following: expenses for other taxes; income from the release of and expenses for allocations to provisions; impairment losses (and their reversal if any) as well as selling gains and losses on equity investments accounted for using the equity method; and gains or losses from derecognition of subsidiaries. In the comparative period, other operating result also included income from the release of and expenses for allocations to provisions for credit risk.

There are two additional line items in the statement of income that are relevant only for the comparative period:

**xv. Gains/losses on financial assets and liabilities not measured at fair value through profit or loss, net in the comparative period**

This line item includes selling and other derecognition gains or losses on available-for-sale and held-to-maturity financial assets, loans and receivables and financial liabilities measured at amortised cost. However, if such gains/losses relate to individually impaired financial assets they are included as part of the net impairment loss.

#### **xvi. Net impairment loss on financial assets in the comparative period**

Net impairment losses on financial assets comprise impairment losses and reversals of impairment on loans and receivables, held-to-maturity and available-for-sale financial assets. Net impairment losses relate to allowances recognised both at individual and portfolio (incurred but not reported) level. Direct write-offs are considered as part of impairment losses. This line item also includes recoveries on written-off loans removed from the balance sheet.

#### **d) Significant accounting judgements, assumptions and estimates**

The consolidated financial statements contain amounts that have been determined on the basis of judgements and by the use of estimates and assumptions. The estimates and assumptions used are based on historical experience and other factors, such as planning as well as expectations and forecasts of future events that are currently deemed to be reasonable. As a consequence of the uncertainty associated with these assumptions and estimates, actual results could in future periods lead to adjustments in the carrying amounts of the related assets or liabilities. The most significant uses of judgements, assumptions and estimates are as follows:

##### **SPPI assessment**

The assessment of whether the contractual cash flows of financial assets give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest (SPPI) is subject to the application of significant judgements which rely on the guidance in IFRS 9. These judgements are crucial in the IFRS 9 classification and measurement process as they determine whether the asset must be measured at FVPL or, depending on the business model assessment, at amortised cost or at FVOCI. When taking into consideration specific features of loans in the business of Erste Group, significant areas of judgement are prepayment fees, project financing loans and benchmark test for loans with interest mismatches features.

The assessment whether the prepayment fees applied to loans can be considered as a reasonable compensation for early terminations or prepayments is based on comparing the level of the fees with the economic costs incurred by the bank upon the early termination. For these purposes, Erste Group uses a quantitative test where the costs relate to the lost interest margin and the lost interest differential due to a potential decrease in the interest rates upon early termination or prepayment. The adequacy of the fees can also be defended on a qualitative basis such as common market practice regarding level prepayment fees and their acceptance by authorities.

For project financing loans Erste Group assesses whether they represent basic loan agreements rather than investments in the financed projects. In this respect, credit rating, level of collateralisation, existing sponsor guarantees and the extent of equity funding of the financed projects are considered.

The most critical area of SPPI judgements in the business of Erste Group comprises loans with interest mismatch features. Interest mismatches relate to floating rate financial assets (loans and some debt securities, also referred to as 'deals') where: - the reference rate's (such as Euribor) tenor is different to the rate reset frequency (such as 3-year rate reset every year or interest rate 'basket' consisting of short and long-term interest rates reset every 3 month, also referred to as 'tenor mismatch'), - the interest rate is fixed prior to the start of the interest period (such as 3-month Euribor fixed 2 months before the interest period starts), or - time lags arise from average rates over previous periods or - combinations of these features. For this purpose, Erste Group has developed what is called a 'benchmark test' to assess whether the interest mismatch feature could result in contractual (undiscounted) cash flows that are significantly different from benchmark deal. Apart from the interest mismatch features, the terms of this benchmark deal correspond to the asset in the test (i.e. if the floating rate reset frequency is 3 months then the floating rate would be the 3-month Euribor and/or no time lag exists in the floating rate fixation).

For assets with interest mismatches resulting only from prior and average rates (i.e. no mismatches resulting from a tenor different from the reset frequency), SPPI compliance is considered to be met based on a qualitative assessment if the time lag between the fixation of the rate and the start of the interest period does not exceed one month.

The quantitative benchmark test is performed at the deal's initial recognition and uses 250 forward-looking simulations of future market interest rates over the life of the deal. Ratios between the simulated cash flows from the actual deal and the benchmark deal are calculated for each quarter (the 'periodic cash flow ratio'), and cumulatively over the life of the deal (the 'cumulative cash flow ratio'). The 5% of outcomes with the highest deviations are considered as extreme and are disregarded. The significance threshold for the periodic cash flow ratio is set to 10%. If simulated cash flows of the tested deal in a specific quarter are less than 1% of the total cash flows over the life of the deal ('de minimis threshold'), they are disregarded. For the cumulative cash flow ratio, the quantitative significance threshold is set to 5%. If any of the two significance thresholds is breached, the benchmark test is not passed, and the financial asset must be measured at fair value through profit or loss.

Generally, the quantitative benchmark test results are more sensitive to the level of the periodic quantitative significance threshold compared to the cumulative one. Decreasing the periodic cash flow ratio threshold to 5% could lead to a significant increase in the volume of loans measured at fair value through profit or loss. Erste Group does not consider that lowering the threshold would properly capture those interest mismatch features that should lead to FVPL measurement since, based on a quantitative study performed for this purpose, it could lead to fair value measurement even for loans that are generally deemed as basic lending agreements.

Upon transition to IFRS 9 for loans and debt securities assets with an overall carrying amount of around EUR 19 billion, the benchmark test was performed with respect to the interest conditions at their initial recognition. The carrying amount of loans with interest mismatch features which failed in the test and must be measured at FVPL is below EUR 150 million. For new business, no significant volumes with interest mismatch features failing the benchmark test are expected due to mitigating activities taken during the IFRS 9 implementation project aimed at the reduction of the volume of loans that are at risk of being measured at FVPL.

#### Business model assessment

For each SPPI-compliant financial asset at initial recognition, Erste Group must assess whether it is part of a business model where the assets are held in order to collect contractual cash flows, to both collect the contractual cash flows and sell the assets, or they are held in other business models. As a consequence, the critical aspect in distinguishing the business models is frequency and significance of sales of assets in the respective business model. Since asset allocation to business models is based on the initial assessment, it may happen that in subsequent periods cash flows are realised differently than originally expected, and a different measurement method may seem to be appropriate. In accordance with IFRS 9, such subsequent changes do not generally lead to reclassifications or prior period error corrections in respect of existing financial assets. The new information on how cash flows are realised may, however, indicate that the business model, and thus the measurement method changes for newly acquired or newly originated financial assets.

At Erste Group, sales due to increases in credit risk, sales close to assets' maturity, infrequent sales triggered by a non-recurring event (such as changes in regulatory or tax environment, major internal reorganisation or a business combination, severe liquidity crisis, etc.) are considered as not contradicting the held to collect contractual cash flows business model. Other kinds of sales carried out in the 'held to collect' business model are assessed retrospectively, and if they exceed certain quantitative thresholds, or whenever it is considered necessary with regard to new expectations, Erste Group performs a prospective test. If the outcome was that the carrying amount of assets expected to be sold over the expected life of the current business model portfolio, for reasons other than the cases above, exceeds 10% of the carrying amount of the portfolio, any new acquisitions or originations of assets would be classified in a different business model.

#### Impairment of financial instruments

The expected credit loss impairment model is inherently based on judgement since it requires assessment of significant increases in credit risk and measurement of expected credit losses without providing detailed guidance. In respect of significant increases in credit risk, Erste Group has determined specific assessment rules consisting of qualitative information and quantitative thresholds. Another area of complexity relates to establishing groups of similar assets when credit risk deterioration has to be assessed on a collective basis before specific information is available at individual instrument level. Measurement of expected credit losses involves complex models relying on historical statistics of probabilities of default and loss rates in case of defaults, their extrapolations in case of insufficient observations, individual estimates of credit-adjusted cash flows and probabilities of various scenarios including forward-looking information. In addition, the life of the instruments has to be modelled in respect of behavioural life of revolving credit facilities.

Under the IAS 39 incurred loss impairment model used for the comparative period, Erste Group reviewed its financial assets not measured at fair value through profit or loss at each balance sheet date to assess whether an impairment loss should be recorded in the statement of income. In particular, this involved determining whether there is objective evidence of impairment as a result of a loss event occurring after initial recognition and estimating the amount and timing of future cash flows when determining an impairment loss.

Detailed disclosures about identification of significant increases in credit risk including collective assessment, estimation techniques used to measure 12-month and lifetime expected credit losses and definition of default is provided in Note 54 Risk management, part Credit risk. The development of loan loss provisions is described in Note 22 Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income, Note 27 Financial assets at amortised cost, and Note 28 Finance lease receivables. The development of loan loss provisions in the comparative period is included in Note 25 Loans and receivables to credit institutions and Note 26 Loans and receivables to customers.

#### Control

IFRS 10 'Consolidated Financial Statements' defines the investor's control over an investee in terms of the investor having all of the following:

- \_ power to direct the relevant activities of the investee, i.e. activities that significantly affect the investee's returns;
- \_ exposure, or rights, to variable returns from its involvement with the investee; and
- \_ the ability to use its power over the investee to affect the amount of the investor's returns.

Hence, assessing the existence of control under this definition may require considerable accounting judgements, assumptions and estimates, notably in non-standard situations such as:

- \_ power stemming both from voting rights and from contractual arrangements (or mostly from the latter);
- \_ exposure stemming both from on-balance investments and from off-balance commitments or guarantees (or mostly from the latter); or
- \_ variable returns stemming both from readily identifiable income streams (e.g. dividends, interest, fees) and from cost savings, economies of scale and/or operational synergies (or mostly from the latter).

In the case of Erste Group, such accounting judgements, assumptions and estimates have been primarily relevant for the assessment of the following cases:

## **i. The savings bank members of the Austrian cross-guarantee system (Haftungsverbund)**

Erste Group Bank AG is a member of the Haftungsverbund (cross-guarantee system) of the Austrian savings bank sector. As of the balance sheet date, all of Austria's savings banks, in addition to Erste Group Bank AG and Erste Bank der oesterreichischen Sparkassen AG, formed part of this cross-guarantee system. The provisions of the agreement governing the Haftungsverbund are implemented by the steering company Haftungsverbund GmbH. Erste Group Bank AG always holds directly and indirectly at least 51% of the voting rights of the steering company through Erste Bank der oesterreichischen Sparkassen AG and through savings banks in which the Group holds the majority of voting rights.

For all savings banks in which Erste Group holds less than 50% of the voting rights, an assessment of whether control is achieved through the provisions of the Haftungsverbund agreement has been performed.

Based on the contractual agreement, Haftungsverbund GmbH as the steering company is vested with the following substantive rights related to the savings banks:

- \_ participation in the appointment of board members;
- \_ approval of budgets including capital decisions;
- \_ provision of binding guidelines in the areas of risk and liquidity management as well as internal audit; and
- \_ determination of thresholds for capital requirement including the payment of dividends.

Furthermore, taking into account the magnitude of Erste Group's involvement with the member banks – whether in the form of synergies, investments, commitments, guarantees, or access to common resources – the Group has significant exposure to each of the member banks' variable returns. As Haftungsverbund GmbH is able to affect the variable returns through its power, it has been assessed that Haftungsverbund GmbH has control over the savings banks.

As Erste Group Bank AG controls the steering company, it exercises control over the members of the cross-guarantee system.

## **ii. Investment funds under own management**

The Group has assessed whether the investment funds it manages through its asset management subsidiaries are controlled and hence shall be consolidated. This assessment has been made on the basis that power over such investment funds is generally conferred based on the contractual arrangements appointing an Erste Group subsidiary as fund manager without any substantive removal rights by fund's investors. Furthermore, Erste Group made the conclusive judgement that its exposure to such own-managed funds' variable returns is basically considered as significant if, additionally to the exposure through management fees, the Group is also exposed in the form of at least 20% investment in the fund. Furthermore, in its capacity as fund manager, Erste Group is also able to affect the returns of the funds through its power. Following this assessment, investment funds under own management in which the Group – directly or through its subsidiaries – has significant unit holdings are deemed to be controlled and included in the scope of consolidation.

## **iii. Pension funds under own management**

The Group has assessed whether the contractual arrangements appointing an Erste Group subsidiary as pension fund manager (with no substantive removal rights by the fund's participants) are generally expected to confer power over such funds, followed by an assessment of the Group's exposure/rights to the pension fund's variable returns. The relevant legal requirements regulating the activities of such pension funds in their respective jurisdictions were also considered, notably in assessing the significance of the rights to variable returns from management fees, as well as of the exposure to losses from any guarantees that the fund manager may be legally bound to. As a result of this review, the Czech pension fund 'Transformovaný fond penzijního připojištění se státním příspěvkem Česká spořitelna – penzijní společnost, a.s.' (the 'Transformed pension fund') is not consolidated. There are no further cases of application in Erste Group.

## **Significant influence**

IAS 28 'Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures' defines significant influence as the power to participate in the financial and operating policy decisions of the investee without having control or joint control of those policies. Furthermore, IAS 28 indicates that if an entity holds, directly or indirectly 20% or more of the voting power of the investee, it is presumed that the entity has significant influence unless it can be clearly demonstrated that this is not the case.

In the case of Erste Group, all equity method investments are direct or indirect investments in associates and joint ventures over which the Group exercises significant influence or joint control stemming from voting power greater than 20% up to 50%.

## **Interests in structured entities**

IFRS 12 'Interests in Other Entities' defines structured entities as entities that have been designed so that voting or similar rights are not the dominant factor in deciding who controls the entity, such as when any voting rights relate to the administrative tasks only, and the relevant activities are directed by means of contractual arrangements. IFRS 12 defines the interests as contractual and non-contractual involvements exposing an entity to the variability of returns from the performance of the other entity.

Hence, assessing which entities are structured entities, and which involvements in such entities are interests, may require considerable accounting judgements and assumptions.

In the case of Erste Group, such accounting judgements, assumptions and estimates have been primarily relevant for assessing involvements with securitisation vehicles and investment funds. In respect to securitisation vehicles, Erste Group assessed that on-balance or off-balance exposures to entities involved in securitisation activities meet the definition of interests in structured entities.

For investment funds, Erste Group reached the conclusion that direct Group exposure would typically indicate an interest in these structured entities, irrespective of whether such exposure comes from on-balance financial assets, off-balance commitments given or management fees varying in relation to the assets under management (for own-managed funds in general). In alignment with the accounting judgement described under the paragraph 'Investment funds under own management' above, own-managed funds where the Group cumulatively holds less than 20% of the related fund units in issue are not consolidated due to lack of control and thus are subject to specific disclosures for unconsolidated structured entities. All on-balance or off-balance exposures to investment funds – mostly in the form of units held in such funds – were considered as being interests in structured entities.

For the ensuing IFRS 12-driven disclosures applicable to structured entities, please refer to Note 34 Unconsolidated structured entities.

#### Fair value of financial instruments

Where the fair values of financial assets and financial liabilities recorded on the balance sheet cannot be derived from active markets, they are determined using a variety of valuation techniques that include the use of mathematical models. The inputs to these models are derived from observable market data where possible, but where observable market data is not available judgement is required to establish fair values. Using of unobservable inputs is particularly relevant for models used for valuations of loans and unquoted equity investments. Disclosures on valuation models, the fair value hierarchy and fair values of financial instruments can be found in Note 56 Fair value of financial instruments. Based on an analysis carried out by Erste Group it was decided that for the valuation of OTC derivatives no Funding Value Adjustment (FVA) would be considered.

#### Impairment of non-financial assets

Erste Group reviews its non-financial assets at each balance sheet date to assess whether there is an indication of impairment loss that should be recorded in the statement of income. Furthermore, cash-generating units to which goodwill is allocated are tested for impairment on a yearly basis. Judgement and estimates are required to determine the value in use and fair value less costs of disposal by estimating the timing and amount of future expected cash flows and the discount rates. Assumptions and estimates used in the calculation of impairment of non-financial asset are described in the parts 'Business combinations and goodwill' and 'Impairment of non-financial assets (property and equipment, investment property, intangible assets)' in the Accounting Policies. Inputs used for goodwill impairment testing and their sensitivities can be found in Note 37 Intangible assets in the section 'Development of goodwill'.

#### Deferred tax assets

Deferred tax assets are recognised in respect of tax losses and deductible temporary differences to the extent that it is probable that taxable profit will be available against which the losses can be utilised. Judgement is required to determine the amount of deferred tax assets that can be recognised, based upon the likely timing and level of future taxable profits, together with future tax planning strategies. For this purpose a planning period of 5 years is used. Disclosures concerning deferred taxes are in Note 38 Tax assets and liabilities.

#### Defined benefit obligation plans

The cost of the defined benefit pension plan is determined using an actuarial valuation. The actuarial valuation involves making assumptions about discount rates, expected rates of return on assets, future salary increases, mortality rates and future pension increases. Assumptions, estimates and sensitivities used for the defined benefit obligation calculations, as well as related amounts are disclosed in Note 44 Provisions: Long-term employee provisions.

#### Provisions

Recognition of provisions requires judgement with respect to whether Erste Group has a present obligation as a result of a past event and whether it is probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation. Furthermore, estimates are necessary with respect to the amount and timing of future cash flows when determining the amount of provisions. Provisions are disclosed in Note 44 Provisions, and further details on provisions for contingent credit liabilities in Note 54 Risk Management, part credit risk. Legal proceedings that do not meet the criteria for recognition of provisions are described in Note 60 Contingent liabilities.

### e) Application of amended and new IFRS/IAS

The accounting policies adopted are consistent with those used in the previous financial year except for standards and interpretations that became effective for financial years beginning after 1 January 2018. As regards new standards and interpretations and their amendments, only those that are relevant for the business of Erste Group are listed below.

#### Effective standards and interpretations

The following standards, their amendments and interpretation have become mandatory for our financial year 2018, endorsed by the EU:

- \_ IFRS 9: Financial Instruments
- \_ IFRS 15: Revenue from Contracts with Customers including Amendments to IFRS 15: Effective date of IFRS 15



- \_ Clarifications to IFRS 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers
- \_ Amendments to IFRS 2: Classification and Measurement of Share-based Payment Transactions
- \_ Amendments to IAS 40: Transfers of Investment Property
- \_ Annual Improvements to IFRSs 2014-2016 Cycle (amendments to IAS 28 and IFRS 1)
- \_ IFRIC 22: Foreign Currency Transactions and Advance Consideration

The effects of application of IFRS 9 and IFRS 15 are described in chapter 'c) Accounting and measurement methods' above. Otherwise application of the above mentioned amendments and interpretation did not have a significant impact on Erste Group's financial statements.

#### Standards and interpretations not yet effective

The standards, amendments and interpretations shown below were issued by the IASB but are not yet effective.

Following standards, amendments and interpretations are already endorsed by the EU:

- \_ IFRS 16: Leases
- \_ Amendments to IFRS 9: Prepayment features with negative compensation
- \_ Amendments to IAS 28: Long-term Interests in Associates and Joint Ventures
- \_ IFRIC 23: Uncertainty over Income Tax Treatments

Following standards, amendments and interpretations have not yet been endorsed by the EU until 22 February 2019:

- \_ Amendments to IFRS 3: Definition of a Business
- \_ Amendments to IAS 1 and IAS 8: Definition of Material
- \_ Amendments to IAS 19: Plan Amendment, Curtailment or Settlement
- \_ Annual Improvements to IFRSs 2015-2017 Cycle (amendments to IFRS 3, IFRS 11, IAS 12 and IAS 23)

**IFRS 16: Leases.** In January 2016, the IASB issued IFRS 16 which is effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019. IFRS 16 replaces existing guidance for accounting for leases in IAS 17 Leases, IFRIC 4 Determining whether an Arrangement contains a lease, SIC-15 Operating leases – Incentives and SIC-27 Evaluation the Substance of Transactions Involving the Legal Form of a lease.

IFRS 16 introduces a single, on-balance sheet lease accounting model for lessees. A lessee recognises a right-of-use asset representing its right to use the underlying asset and a lease liability representing its obligation to make lease payments. There are recognition exemptions for short-term leases (less than 12 months) and leases of low-value items.

At inception date of a contract, the contract is assessed for whether it contains a lease, i.e. whether the contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of the time in exchange for a consideration. A right-of-use asset and a lease liability are recognised at the lease commencement date. It is initially measured at cost and subsequently depreciated from the commencement date to the earlier of the end of its useful life or the end of the lease term. Erste Group will use the straight-line method of depreciation.

The lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the lease payments that are not paid at the commencement date, discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease or, if the rate cannot be readily determined, the lessee's incremental borrowing rate. Lease payments comprise fixed lease payments, variable lease payments that depend on an index or a rate, amounts expected to be payable under a residual value guarantee, the exercise price under a purchase option and lease payments in an optional renewal period if the lessee is reasonably certain to exercise the options and penalties for early termination if the lease term reflects the lessee exercising the termination option.

Subsequently the carrying amount of the lease liability is increased by interest using the applicable discount rate, reduced by lease payments made and remeasured to reflect any reassessment or lease modification. For leases of movables by Erste Group entities the incremental borrowing rate will consist of a base rate, which is the Euribor, adjusted by a surcharge based on the entity's rating, the amount of funds borrowed, the term of the lease and the collateral provided. The determination of the incremental borrowing rate for property leases shall generally be based on a rate that is readily observable. Such a rate might be the property yield reflecting the annual return expected on the property. Further, an adjustment to the property yield is necessary to reflect specific features of an entity or the lease agreement (such as creditworthiness and lease term).

Lessor accounting remains similar to the current IAS 17 standard, i.e. the lessor continues to classify leases as finance or operating leases. Compared to IAS 17 the notes will be much more comprehensive under IFRS 16.

Erste Group will transit to IFRS 16 using the modified retrospective approach according to IFRS 16.C5 (b) whereby comparative information will not be restated. For leases previously classified as operating leases, the applicable discount rate will be the lessee's incremental borrowing rate determined at the date of initial application. The right-of-use asset will be recognised at an amount equal to the lease liability (IFRS 16.C8 (b)(ii)). As a result, Erste Group does not expect any impact on the equity at initial application. All contracts which were previously identified as leases applying IAS 17 and IFRIC 4 will be taken over into IFRS 16. Erste Group will not apply IFRS 16 to any leases on intangible assets. Erste Group will use the exemption for short term leases and leases of low value whereby the right-of-use-

asset is not recognised. The analysis and planning of proper IT solutions for requirements of IFRS 16 have continued throughout 2017 and 2018. At the same time the contract analysis has been in focus. The role out of proper IT structure was realised during 2018.

Based on currently available information, Erste Group estimates at the transition date to IFRS 16 that the right of use assets and lease liabilities will increase the balance sheet by an amount of approximately EUR 500 million. The vast majority (more than 95%) of the lease contracts refer to real estate. The decrease of the CET 1 ratio is immaterial.

**Amendments to IFRS 3: Definition of a Business.** Amendments to IFRS 3 were issued in October 2018 and are effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2020. The amendments clarify the three elements, i.e. inputs, process and outputs in the definition of a business. To be considered a business, an acquired set of activities and assets must include, at a minimum, an input and a substantive process that together significantly contribute to the ability to create outputs. Also, the amendments include an optional concentration test to permit a simplified assessment of whether an acquired set of activities and assets is an asset acquisition rather than a business combination. The test is met if substantially all of the fair value of the gross assets is concentrated in a single identifiable asset or a group of similar identifiable assets. Application of these amendments is not expected to have a significant impact on Erste Group's financial statements.

**Amendments to IFRS 9: Prepayment features with negative compensation.** Amendments to IFRS 9 were issued in October 2017 and are effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019. The amendments clarify that the contractual terms of a debt instrument are payments of principal and interest even if the reasonable compensation for an early termination of the instrument is negative, i.e. it has to be paid by the creditor. Further, the amendments explain that the requirements for accounting for modification gains or losses also apply to cases when financial liabilities are modified or exchanged and this does not lead to their derecognition. Application of these amendments is not expected to have a significant impact on Erste Group's financial statements.

**Amendments to IAS 1 and IAS 8: Definition Material.** Amendments to IAS 1 and IAS 8 were issued in October 2018 and are effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2020. The amendments clarify that information is material if omitting, misstating or obscuring it could reasonably be expected to influence the decisions that primary users of general purpose financial statements make on the basis of those financial statements, which provide financial information about a specific reporting entity. Application of these amendments is not expected to have a significant impact on Erste Group's financial statements.

**Amendments to IAS 19: Plan Amendment, Curtailment or Settlement.** Amendments to IAS 19 were issued in February 2018 and are effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019. The amendments require that if a plan amendment, curtailment or settlement occurs, it is mandatory that the current service cost and the net interest for the period after the remeasurement are determined using the assumptions used for the remeasurement. In addition, the amendments clarify the effect of a plan amendment, curtailment or settlement on the requirements regarding the asset ceiling. Application of these amendments is not expected to have a significant impact on Erste Group's financial statements.

**Amendments to IAS 28: Long-term Interests in Associates and Joint Ventures.** Amendments to IAS 39 were issued in October 2017 and are effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019. The amendments clarify that a company applies IFRS 9 Financial Instruments including its impairment requirements to long-term interests in an associate or joint venture that form part of the net investment in the associate or joint venture, but to which the equity method is not applied. Application of these amendments is not expected to have a significant impact on Erste Group's financial statements.

**Annual Improvements to IFRSs 2015-2017 Cycle.** In December 2017, the IASB issued a set of amendments to various standards. The amendments to IFRS 3, IFRS 11, IAS 12 and IAS 23 are effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019. Application of these amendments is not expected to have a significant impact on Erste Group's financial statements.

**IFRIC 23: Uncertainty over Income Tax Treatments.** IFRIC 23 was issued in June 2017 and is effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019. The interpretation is to be applied to the determination of taxable profit (tax loss), tax bases, unused tax losses, unused tax credits and tax rates, when there is uncertainty over income tax treatments under IAS 12. An entity is required to use judgement to determine whether each tax treatment should be considered independently or whether some tax treatments should be considered together. If the entity concludes that it is not probable that a particular tax treatment is accepted by a taxation authority, the entity has to use the most likely amount or the expected value of the tax treatment. Otherwise the treatment used in the tax filings is applied. An entity has to reassess its judgements and estimates if facts and circumstances change. Application of the interpretation is not expected to have a significant impact on Erste Group's financial statements.