



**Interim consolidated financial statements
for 6 months ended 30 June 2015**

Prepared in accordance with International Accounting Standard
IAS 34 Interim Financial Reporting

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Consolidated statement of financial position at 30 June 2015

(In thousands of euro)

	Note	June 2015	Dec 2014
Assets			
Cash and balances with central banks	7	385,732	405,149
Due from banks	8	188,518	611,003
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	9	226,232	1,055
Derivative financial instruments	10	36,644	49,937
Available-for-sale financial assets	11	1,774,409	1,523,939
Loans and advances to customers	12	8,595,509	8,282,781
Held-to-maturity investments	14	520,270	533,456
Associates and joint ventures	15	17,084	17,757
Intangible assets	16	56,406	58,577
Goodwill	17	29,305	29,305
Property and equipment	18	106,370	111,412
Deferred income tax assets	19	55,528	49,822
Other assets	20	29,283	24,762
		<u>12,021,290</u>	<u>11,698,955</u>
Liabilities			
Due to central and other banks	21	655,821	743,916
Derivative financial instruments	10	62,653	62,059
Due to customers	22	8,195,126	7,859,303
Debt securities in issue	23	1,562,620	1,469,465
Current income tax liabilities	19	18,087	8,137
Provisions	24	30,372	27,709
Other liabilities	25	88,196	100,220
		<u>10,612,875</u>	<u>10,270,809</u>
Equity			
Equity (excluding net profit for the period)	26	1,325,333	1,282,387
Net profit for the period		83,082	145,759
		<u>1,408,415</u>	<u>1,428,146</u>
		<u>12,021,290</u>	<u>11,698,955</u>
Financial commitments and contingencies	27	<u>3,461,110</u>	<u>3,137,617</u>

The accompanying notes on pages 7 to 79 form an integral part of these financial statements.

These financial statements were authorised for issue on 12 August 2015.



Alexander Resch
Chairman of the Management Board



Elena Kohútiková
Member of the Management Board

Consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income
for 6 months ended 30 June 2015
(In thousands of euro)

	Note	June 2015	June 2014
Interest and similar income		242,313	261,510
Interest and similar expense		(38,711)	(50,088)
Net interest income	28	203,602	211,422
Fee and commission income		79,492	66,899
Fee and commission expense		(18,262)	(17,911)
Net fee and commission income	29	61,230	48,988
Net trading result	30	5,277	6,121
Other operating income	31	5,275	3,463
Operating income		275,384	269,994
Salaries and employee benefits	32	(55,281)	(54,321)
Other operating expenses	33	(51,936)	(49,638)
Special levy of selected financial institutions	33	(9,812)	(19,583)
Amortisation	16	(6,681)	(6,319)
Depreciation	18	(7,335)	(8,074)
Operating expenses		(131,045)	(137,935)
Operating profit before impairment		144,339	132,059
Impairment losses	34	(39,911)	(38,723)
Profit from operations		104,428	93,336
Share of profit of associates and joint ventures	15	3,875	3,476
Profit before tax		108,303	96,812
Income tax expense	35	(25,221)	(20,620)
NET PROFIT FOR 6 MONTHS		83,082	76,192
Other comprehensive income for 6 months, after tax:			
<i>Items that may be reclassified to profit or loss in the future:</i>			
Exchange difference on translating foreign operation		8	(1)
Available-for-sale financial assets		(13,391)	2,073
Cash flow hedges		50	491
Other comprehensive income for 6 months, net of tax	36, 37	(13,333)	2,563
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR 6 MONTHS		69,749	78,755

The Net profit and Total comprehensive income are fully attributable to owners of the parent.

The accompanying notes on pages 7 to 79 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Consolidated statement of changes in equity for 6 months ended 30 June 2015
(In thousands of euro)

	Share capital	Share premium	Treasury shares	Legal reserve fund	Retained earnings	Translation of foreign operation	Available-for-sale financial assets	Cash flow hedges	Total
At 1 January 2014	430,819	13,501	-	99,507	792,121	8	43,161	272	1,379,389
Total comprehensive income for 6 months, net of tax	-	-	-	-	76,192	(1)	2,073	491	78,755
Dividends to shareholders	-	-	-	-	(84,347)	-	-	-	(84,347)
Sale of Recovery, a.s.	-	-	-	(87)	87	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	7	(7)	-	-	-
Purchase of treasury shares	-	-	(307)	-	-	-	-	-	(307)
At 30 June 2014	<u>430,819</u>	<u>13,501</u>	<u>(307)</u>	<u>99,420</u>	<u>784,060</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>45,234</u>	<u>763</u>	<u>1,373,490</u>
At 1 January 2015	430,819	13,636	-	99,633	853,415	(9)	31,537	(885)	1,428,146
Total comprehensive income for 6 months, net of tax	-	-	-	-	83,082	8	(13,391)	50	69,749
Dividends to shareholders	-	-	-	-	(89,538)	-	-	-	(89,538)
Reversal of dividends distributed but not collected	-	-	-	-	147	-	-	-	147
Other	-	-	-	-	(16)	15	-	-	(1)
Purchase of treasury shares	-	-	(88)	-	-	-	-	-	(88)
At 30 June 2015	<u>430,819</u>	<u>13,636</u>	<u>(88)</u>	<u>99,633</u>	<u>847,090</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>18,146</u>	<u>(835)</u>	<u>1,408,415</u>

The accompanying notes on pages 7 to 79 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Consolidated statement of cash flows for 6 months ended 30 June 2015

(In thousands of euro)

	Note	June 2015	June 2014
Cash flows from operating activities			
Profit before tax		108,303	96,812
Adjustments for:			
Amortisation		6,681	6,319
Depreciation		7,335	8,074
Securities at fair value through profit or loss, debt securities in issue and FX differences		(7,119)	11,778
Items related to share of profit of associates and joint ventures		670	(2,092)
Interest income		(242,313)	(261,510)
Interest expense		38,711	50,088
Sale of property and equipment		(4)	(107)
Impairment losses and similar charges		54,150	48,570
Interest received		272,909	295,944
Interest paid		(46,023)	(48,055)
Tax paid		(20,977)	(11,650)
Due from banks		421,765	(24,921)
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss		(221,960)	(52,801)
Derivative financial instruments (assets)		13,343	3,114
Available-for-sale financial assets		(281,649)	(78,968)
Loans and advances to customers		(366,753)	(321,259)
Other assets		(1,458)	6,316
Due to central and other banks		(87,795)	(70,200)
Derivative financial instruments (liabilities)		594	(14,830)
Due to customers		334,137	34,583
Other liabilities		(14,853)	(10,584)
<i>Net cash used in operating activities</i>		<u>(32,306)</u>	<u>(335,379)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Repayments of held-to-maturity investments		-	445,222
Purchase of intangible assets and property and equipment		(8,139)	(3,613)
Disposal of property and equipment		1,516	690
<i>Net cash (used in)/from investing activities</i>		<u>(6,623)</u>	<u>442,299</u>
Cash flows from financing activities			
Proceeds from issue of debt securities		200,000	58,627
Repayments of debt securities		(89,870)	(44,862)
Purchase of treasury shares		(88)	(307)
Dividends paid		(89,538)	(84,347)
<i>Net cash from/(used in) financing activities</i>		<u>20,504</u>	<u>(70,889)</u>
Net change in cash and cash equivalents		(18,425)	36,031
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	6	429,187	276,274
Cash and cash equivalents at 30 June	6	<u>410,762</u>	<u>312,305</u>

The accompanying notes on pages 7 to 79 form an integral part of these financial statements.

1. General information

1.1 The Bank

Všeobecná úverová banka, a.s. ('the Bank' or 'VUB') provides retail and commercial banking services. The Bank is domiciled in the Slovak Republic with its registered office at Mlynské nivy 1, 829 90 Bratislava 25 and has the identification number (IČO) 313 20 155 and the tax identification number (DIČ) 2020411811.

At 30 June 2015, the Bank had a network of 236 points of sale (including Retail Branches, Corporate Branches and Mortgage centres) located throughout Slovakia (December 2014: 239). The Bank also has one branch in the Czech Republic.

At 30 June 2015, the members of the Management Board are: Alexander Resch (Chairman), Antonio Bergalio, Jozef Kausich, Elena Kohútiková, Peter Magala, Peter Novák and Martin Techman.

At 30 June 2015, the members of the Supervisory Board are: Ezio Salvai (Chairman), Ignacio Jaquotot (Vice Chairman), Ján Gallo, Massimo Malagoli, Paolo Sarcinelli, Christian Schaack and Andrej Straka.

1.2 The VUB Group

The consolidated financial statements comprise the Bank and its subsidiaries (together referred to as 'the VUB Group' or 'the Group') and the Group's interest in associates and joint ventures. All entities are incorporated in the Slovak Republic.

	Share June 2015	Share Dec 2014	Principal business activity
Subsidiaries			
Consumer Finance Holding, a.s. ('CFH')	100%	100%	Consumer finance business
VÚB Leasing, a. s. ('VÚB Leasing')	100%	100%	Finance and operating leasing
VÚB Factoring, a.s.	100%	100%	Factoring of receivables
Recovery, a.s.	-	-	Finance leasing
Associates			
VÚB Asset Management, správ. spol., a.s.	40.55%	40.55%	Asset management
Slovak Banking Credit Bureau, s.r.o.	33.33%	33.33%	Credit database administration
Joint ventures			
VÚB Generali DSS, a.s.	50%	50%	Pension fund administration

At 31 December 2013, the Bank sold its subsidiary Recovery, a.s. to VÚB Factoring, a.s. The control was transferred together with registering the change in the Central Securities Depository on 2 January 2014. Recovery, a.s. merged into VÚB Factoring, a.s. on 31 January 2014. Since this was an intra-group transaction, it had no impact on the Group's financial position or its cash flows.

The VUB Group's ultimate parent company is Intesa Sanpaolo S.p.A., which is a joint-stock company and is incorporated and domiciled in Italy. The consolidated financial statements of the company are available at the address of its registered office at Piazza San Carlo 156, 10121 Torino, Italy.

2. Summary of significant accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation

The interim consolidated financial statements of the VUB Group ('the financial statements') have been prepared in accordance with International Accounting Standard *IAS 34 Interim Financial Reporting*.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of available-for-sale financial assets, financial assets at fair value through profit or loss and all derivative financial instruments to fair value and in the case of the financial assets or financial liabilities designated as hedged items in qualifying fair value hedge relationships modified by the changes in fair value attributable to the risk being hedged.

The financial statements were prepared using the going concern assumption that the VUB Group will continue in operation for the foreseeable future.

The financial statements are presented in thousands of euro ('€'), unless indicated otherwise. Euro is the functional currency of the VUB Group.

Negative balances are presented in brackets.

2.2 Changes in accounting policies and presentation

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below.

The accounting policies adopted are consistent with those of the previous financial year.

2.3 Basis of consolidation

(a) Subsidiaries

Subsidiaries are entities controlled by the Bank. Control exists when the Bank has the power over the investee and has the 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 these returns. The financial statements of subsidiaries are included in the consolidated financial statements from the date at which effective control commences until the date at which control ceases.

The financial statements of the Bank and its subsidiaries are combined on a line-by-line basis by adding together like items of assets, liabilities, equity, income and expenses. Intra-group balances, transactions and resulting profits are eliminated in full.

The purchase method of accounting is used to account for the acquisition of subsidiaries by the VUB Group. The cost of an acquisition is measured as the fair value of the assets acquired, equity instruments issued and liabilities incurred or assumed at the date of exchange, plus costs directly attributable to the acquisition. Identifiable assets acquired and liabilities and contingent liabilities assumed in a business combination are measured initially at their fair values at the acquisition date, irrespective of the extent of any non-controlling interest.

The excess of the cost of the acquisition over the fair value of the VUB Group's share of the identifiable net assets acquired is recognised as goodwill.

(b) Associates

Associates are entities, in which the Group has significant influence, but not control, over the financial and operating policies. The financial statements include the Group's share of the total recognised gains and losses of associates on an equity accounted basis, from the date that significant influence commences until the date that significant influence ceases.

(c) Joint ventures

A joint venture is a joint arrangement whereby the parties that have joint control of the arrangement have rights to the net assets of the arrangement. The financial statements include the Group's share of the total recognised gains and losses of joint ventures on an equity accounted basis, from the date that joint control commences until the date that joint control ceases.

2. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

To determine the nature of interest in another entity an assessment of the control indicators described above is performed by the management of the VUB Group, applying certain level of judgement.

2.4 Segment reporting

The Group reports financial and descriptive information about its operating segments in these financial statements. An operating segment is a component of the Group that engages in business activities from which it may earn revenues and incur expenses (including revenues and expenses relating to transactions with other components of the Group), whose operating results are regularly reviewed by the Group's management to make decisions about resources to be allocated to the segment and to assess its performance, and for which separate financial information is available.

The Group operates in three operating segments – Retail Banking, Corporate Banking and Central Treasury. Each segment is exposed to different risks and differs in the nature of its services, business processes and types of customers for its products and services.

For all segments the Group reports a measure of segment assets and liabilities and income and expense items, a reconciliation of total reportable segment revenues, total profit or loss, total assets, liabilities and other amounts disclosed for reportable segments to corresponding amounts in the Group's financial statements.

Most of the transactions of the VUB Group are related to the Slovak market. Due to the market size, the VUB Group operates as a single geographical segment unit.

2.5 Foreign currency transactions

Monetary assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated to euro at the official European Central Bank ('ECB') or National Bank of Slovakia ('NBS') exchange rates prevailing at the end of the reporting period. Income and expenses denominated in foreign currencies are reported at the ECB or NBS exchange rates prevailing at the date of the transaction.

The difference between the contractual exchange rate of a transaction and the ECB or NBS exchange rate prevailing at the date of the transaction is included in 'Net trading result', as well as gains and losses arising from movements in exchange rates after the date of the transaction.

2.6 Foreign operations

The financial statements include foreign operations in the Czech Republic. The assets and liabilities of foreign operations are translated to euro at the foreign exchange rate prevailing at the end of the reporting period. The revenues and expenses of foreign operations are translated to euro at rates approximating the foreign exchange rates prevailing at the dates of the transactions. Foreign exchange differences arising on these translations are recognised directly in equity.

2.7 Cash and cash equivalents

For the purpose of the statement of cash flow, cash and cash equivalents comprise cash and balances with central banks, treasury bills and other eligible bills with contractual maturity of less than 90 days and due from banks balances with contractual maturity of less than 90 days.

2.8 Cash and balances with central banks

Cash and balances with central banks comprise cash in hand and balances with the NBS and other central banks, including compulsory minimum reserves. Cash and other valuables are carried at amortised cost in the statement of financial position.

2.9 Treasury bills and other eligible bills

Treasury bills and other eligible bills represent highly liquid securities that could be used for rediscounting in the NBS in the case of Slovak treasury bills or in a central bank of a foreign country in the case of foreign treasury bills without any time or other constraints.

2. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

2.10 Due from banks

Due from banks include receivables from current accounts in other than central banks, term deposits and loans provided to commercial banks.

Balances are presented at amortised cost including interest accruals less any impairment losses. An impairment loss is established if there is objective evidence that the VUB Group will not be able to collect all amounts due.

2.11 Securities

Securities held by the VUB Group are categorised into portfolios in accordance with the VUB Group's intent on the acquisition date and pursuant to the investment strategy. The VUB Group has developed security investment strategies and, reflecting the intent on acquisition, allocated securities into the following portfolios:

- (a) Fair value through profit or loss,
- (b) Available-for-sale,
- (c) Held-to-maturity.

The principal differences among the portfolios relate to the measurement and recognition of fair values in the financial statements. All securities held by the VUB Group are recognised using settlement date accounting and are initially measured at fair value plus, in the case of financial assets not at fair value through profit or loss, any directly attributable incremental costs of acquisition. Securities purchased, but not settled, are recorded in the off-balance sheet and changes in their fair values, for purchases into the fair value through profit or loss and the available-for-sale portfolios, are recognised in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income and in equity respectively.

(a) Securities at fair value through profit or loss

This portfolio comprises following subcategories:

- (i) Securities held for trading

These securities are financial assets acquired by the VUB Group for the purpose of generating profits from short-term fluctuations in prices.

- (ii) Securities designated at fair value through profit or loss on initial recognition

Securities classified in this category are those that have been designated by the management on initial recognition. This designation may be used only when at least one of the following conditions is met:

- the designation eliminates or significantly reduces a measurement or recognition inconsistency that would otherwise arise from measuring assets or liabilities or recognising the gains and losses on them on a different basis;
- the assets and financial liabilities are a part of a group of financial assets, financial liabilities or both which are managed and their performance is evaluated on a fair value basis, in accordance with a documented risk management or investment strategy;
- the financial instrument contains one or more embedded derivatives which significantly modify the cash flows that otherwise would be required by the contract.

Subsequent to their initial recognition these assets are accounted for and re-measured at fair value. The fair value of securities at fair value through profit or loss, for which an active market exists, and a market value can be estimated reliably, is measured at quoted market prices. In circumstances where the quoted market prices are not readily available, the fair value is estimated using the present value of future cash flows.

The VUB Group monitors changes in fair values on a daily basis and recognises unrealised gains and losses in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income in 'Net trading result'. Interest earned on securities at fair value through profit or loss is accrued on a daily basis and reported in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income in 'Interest and similar income'.

2. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

Day 1 profit or loss

When the transaction price is different to the fair value from other observable current market transactions in the same instrument or based on a valuation technique whose variables include only data from observable markets, the Group immediately recognises the difference between the transaction price and fair value (a 'Day 1 profit or loss') in 'Net trading result' if the 'Day 1 profit or loss' is not significant. In cases where 'Day 1 profit or loss' is significant, the difference is amortised over the period of the respective deals. In cases where fair value is determined using data which is not observable, the difference between the transaction price and model value is only recognised in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income when the inputs become observable, or when the instrument is derecognised.

(b) Available-for-sale securities

'Available-for-sale' securities are those financial assets that are not classified as 'at fair value through profit or loss' or 'held-to-maturity'. Subsequent to their initial recognition, these assets are accounted for and re-measured at fair value.

Unrealised gains and losses arising from changes in the fair value of 'available-for-sale' securities are recognised on a daily basis in the 'Available-for-sale financial assets' in equity.

Interest earned whilst holding 'available-for-sale' securities is accrued on a daily basis and reported in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income in 'Interest and similar income'.

The fair value of 'available-for-sale' securities, for which an active market exists, and a market value can be estimated reliably, is measured at quoted market prices. In circumstances where the quoted market prices are not readily available, the fair value is estimated using the present value of future cash flows.

Equity investments whose fair value cannot be reliably measured are held at cost less impairment. For 'available-for-sale' equity investments, the Group assesses at each reporting date whether there is objective evidence that an investment or a group of investments is impaired.

Examples of events representing objective evidence of impairment include significant financial difficulty of the issuer, issuer's default or delinquency in interest or principal payments, becoming probable that the issuer will enter into bankruptcy or other reorganisation procedures, the disappearance of an active market for the security due to the issuer's financial difficulties or other elements indicating an objective reduction in the issuer's ability to generate future cash flows sufficient to meet its contractual obligation.

In the case of debt instruments classified as 'available-for-sale', impairment is assessed based on the same criteria as financial assets carried at amortised cost. If, in a subsequent year, the fair value of a debt instrument increases and the increase can be objectively related to an event occurring after the impairment loss was recognised in 'Impairment losses' in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the impairment loss is reversed through the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.

In the case of equity investments classified as 'available-for-sale', objective evidence would include a significant or prolonged decline in the fair value of the investment below its cost. Where there is evidence of impairment, the cumulative loss – measured as the difference between the acquisition cost and the current fair value, less any impairment loss on that investment previously recognised in profit or loss – is removed from equity and recognised in 'Impairment losses' in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income. Impairment losses on equity investments are not reversed through statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income; increases in their fair value after impairment are recognised directly in Other comprehensive income.

(c) Held-to-maturity investments

'Held-to-maturity' investments are financial assets with fixed or determinable payments and maturities that the VUB Group has the positive intent and ability to hold to maturity.

'Held-to-maturity' investments are carried at amortised cost less any impairment losses. Amortised cost is the amount at which the asset was initially measured minus principal repayments, plus or minus the cumulative amortisation using the effective interest method of any difference between that initial amount and the maturity amount. The amortisation is recognised in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income in 'Interest and similar income'.

2. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

The VUB Group assesses on a regular basis whether there is any objective evidence that a 'held-to-maturity' investment may be impaired. A financial asset is impaired if its carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

2.12 Repurchase and reverse repurchase agreements

Securities sold under sale and repurchase agreements ('repo transactions') remain as assets in the statement of financial position under the original caption and the liability from the received loan is included in 'Due to central and other banks' or 'Due to customers'.

Securities purchased under agreements to purchase and resell ('reverse repo transactions') are recorded only in the off-balance sheet and the loan provided is reported in the statement of financial position in 'Due from banks' or 'Loans and advances to customers', as appropriate.

The price differential between the purchase and sale price of securities is treated as interest income or expense and deferred over the life of the agreement.

2.13 Derivative financial instruments

In the normal course of business, the VUB Group is a party to contracts with derivative financial instruments, which represent a very low initial investment compared to the notional value of the contract. The derivative financial instruments used include foreign exchange forwards, interest rate/foreign exchange swaps and options, forward rate agreements and cross currency swaps. The VUB Group also uses financial instruments to hedge interest rate risk and currency exposures associated with its transactions in the financial markets. They are accounted for as trading derivatives if they do not fully comply with the definition of a hedging derivative as prescribed by IFRS. The VUB Group also acts as an intermediary provider of these instruments to certain customers.

Derivative financial instruments are initially recognised and subsequently re-measured in the statement of financial position at fair value. All derivatives are carried as assets when the fair value is positive and as liabilities when the fair value is negative. Changes in the fair value of derivatives are included in 'Net trading result'.

Fair values are obtained from quoted market prices, discounted cash flow models and option pricing models as appropriate. The fair values of derivative positions are computed using standard formulas and prevailing interest rates applicable for respective currencies available on the market at reporting dates.

In the normal course of business, the VUB Group enters into derivative financial instrument transactions to hedge its liquidity, foreign exchange and interest rate risks. The Group also enters into proprietary derivative financial transactions for the purpose of generating profits from short-term fluctuations in market prices. The VUB Group operates a system of market risk and counterparty limits, which are designed to restrict exposure to movements in market prices and counterparty concentrations. The VUB Group also monitors adherence to these limits on a daily basis.

Credit risk of financial derivatives

Credit exposure or the replacement cost of derivative financial instruments represents the VUB Group's credit exposure from contracts with a positive fair value, that is, it indicates the estimated maximum potential losses of the VUB Group in the event that counterparties fail to perform their obligations. It is usually a small proportion of the notional amounts of the contracts. The credit exposure of each contract is indicated by the credit equivalent calculated pursuant to the generally applicable methodology using the current exposure method and involves the market value of the contract (only if positive, otherwise a zero value is taken into account) and a portion of the nominal value, which indicates the potential change in market value over the term of the contract. The credit equivalent is established depending on the type of contract and its maturity. The VUB Group assesses the credit risk of all financial instruments on a daily basis.

With regard to IFRS 13 which contains a clarification in reference to non-performance risk in determining the fair value of the over-the-counter derivatives, the VUB Group uses the Bilateral Credit Value Adjustment model ('bCVA'). It takes fully into account the effects of changes in counterparty credit rating as well as the changes in own credit rating. The bCVA has two addends, calculated by considering the possibility that both counterparties go bankrupt, known as the Credit Value Adjustment ('CVA') and Debit Value Adjustment ('DVA'):

2. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

- (i) The CVA (negative) takes into account scenarios whereby the counterparty fails before the Group that has a positive exposure to the counterparty. In these scenarios the Group suffers a loss equal to the cost of replacing the derivative,
- (ii) The DVA (positive) takes into account scenarios whereby the Group fails before the counterparty and has a negative exposure to the counterparty. In these scenarios the Group achieves a gain equal to the cost of replacing the derivative.

The bCVA depends on the exposure, probability of default and the loss given default of the counterparties. The VUB Group is selective in its choice of counterparties and sets limits for transactions with customers. The Group takes its own and its counterparties' credit risk into consideration to the extent it believes the market participants would do so.

Embedded derivatives

The VUB Group assesses whether any embedded derivatives contained in the contract are required to be separated from the host contract and accounted for as derivatives under IAS 39. An embedded derivative is a component of a hybrid (combined) instrument that also includes a non-derivative host contract-with the effect that some of the cash flows of the combined instrument vary in a way similar to a stand-alone derivative.

The VUB Group accounts for embedded derivatives separately from the host contract if: the economic characteristics and risks of the embedded derivative are not closely related to the economic characteristics and risks of the host contract; a separate instrument with the same terms as the embedded derivative would meet the definition of a derivative; and the hybrid (combined) instrument is not measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.

Hedging derivatives

The Group makes use of derivative instruments to manage exposures to interest rate, foreign currency, inflation and credit risks, including exposures arising from expected transactions. In order to manage individual risks, the Group applies hedge accounting for transactions which meet the specified criteria.

At the inception of the hedge relationship, the Group 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.

Also at the inception of the hedge relationship, a formal assessment is undertaken to ensure the hedging instrument is expected to be highly effective in offsetting the designated risk in the hedged item. Hedges are formally assessed each month. A hedge is regarded as highly effective if the changes in fair value or cash flows attributable to the hedged risk during the period for which the hedge is designated are expected to offset in a range of 80% to 125%.

In situations where that hedged item is an expected transaction, the Group assesses whether the transaction is highly probable and presents an exposure to variations in cash flows that could ultimately affect the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.

Cash flow hedges

For designated and qualifying cash flow hedges, the effective portion of the gain or loss on the hedging instrument is initially recognised in other comprehensive income as 'Cash flow hedges'. The ineffective portion of the gain or loss on the hedging instrument is recognised immediately as gain or loss in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income in 'Net trading result'.

When the hedged cash flow affects profit or loss, the gain or loss on the hedging instrument is reclassified from other comprehensive income to profit or loss as a reclassification adjustment. When a hedging instrument expires, or is sold, terminated, exercised, or when a hedge no longer meets the criteria for hedge accounting, any cumulative gain or loss that has been recognised in other comprehensive income remains separately in equity and is reclassified from other comprehensive income to profit or loss as a reclassification adjustment when the hedged expected transaction is ultimately recognised. When an expected transaction is no longer expected to occur, the cumulative gain or loss that was reported in equity is immediately reclassified from other comprehensive income to profit or loss as a reclassification adjustment.

2. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

Fair value hedges

For designated and qualifying fair value hedges, the change in the fair value of a hedging derivative is recognised in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income in 'Net trading result'. Meanwhile, the change in the fair value of the hedged item attributable to the risk hedged is recorded as part of the carrying value of the hedged item and is also recognised in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income in 'Net trading result'.

If the hedging instrument expires or is sold, terminated or exercised, or where the hedge no longer meets the criteria for hedge accounting, the hedge relationship is terminated. For hedged items recorded at amortised cost, the difference between the carrying value of the hedged item on termination and the face value is amortised over the remaining term of the original hedge using the effective interest rate ('EIR'). If the hedged item is derecognised, the unamortised fair value adjustment is reclassified from other comprehensive income to profit or loss as a reclassification adjustment.

2.14 Offsetting financial instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are offset and the net amount reported in the statement of financial position, if, and only if, there is an intention to settle on a net basis, or to realize the asset and settle the liability simultaneously. This is not generally the case with master netting agreements, and the related assets and liabilities are presented gross in the statement of financial position.

2.15 Non-current assets held for sale

Non-current assets held for sale are assets where the carrying amount will be recovered principally through a sale transaction rather than through continuing use. They are represented by assets, which are available for immediate sale in their present condition and their sale is considered to be highly probable.

Assets classified as held for sale are measured at the lower of their carrying amount and fair value less cost to sell.

2.16 Loans and advances to customers and impairment losses

Loans and advances are financial assets with fixed or determinable payments and fixed maturities that are not quoted in an active market and are recorded at amortised cost less any impairment losses. All loans and advances to customers are recognised in the statement of financial position when cash is advanced to borrowers.

Loans and advances to customers are subject to periodic impairment testing. An impairment loss for a loan, or a group of similar loans, is established if their carrying amount is greater than their estimated recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the present value of expected future cash flows, including amounts recoverable from guarantees and collaterals, discounted based on the loan's original effective interest rate. The amount of the impairment loss is included in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.

Impairment and uncollectability is measured and recognised individually for loans that are individually significant. Impairment and uncollectability for a group of similar loans that are not individually identified as impaired or loans that are not individually significant are measured and recognised on a portfolio basis.

The VUB Group writes off loans and advances when it determines that the loans and advances are uncollectible. Loans and advances are written off against the reversal of the related impairment losses. Any recoveries of written off loans are credited to the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income on receipt.

2. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

2.17 Intangible assets

Intangible assets are recorded at historical cost less accumulated amortisation and impairment losses. Amortisation is calculated on a straight-line basis in order to write off the cost of each asset to its residual value over its estimated useful economic life as follows:

	Years
Software and Other intangible assets	7

Intangible assets acquired in a business combination are capitalised at fair values as at the date of acquisition and tested for impairment annually or whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. Acquired intangible assets are amortised in line with their future cash flows over the estimated useful economic lives as follows:

	Years
Software	3
Customer contracts and relationships including brand names	3 – 9

Amortisation methods, useful lives and residual values are reassessed at the reporting date.

2.18 Goodwill

Goodwill represents the excess of the cost of an acquisition over the fair value of the Group's share of the identifiable assets, liabilities and contingent liabilities of the acquired subsidiary at the date of acquisition.

Goodwill is measured at cost less impairment, if any. Goodwill is tested for impairment annually or more frequently if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may be impaired.

2.19 Property and equipment

Property and equipment are recorded at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Acquisition cost includes the purchase price plus other costs related to acquisition such as freight, duties or commissions. The costs of expansion, modernisation or improvements leading to increased productivity, capacity or efficiency are capitalised. Repairs and renovations are charged to the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income when the expenditure is incurred.

Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis in order to write off the cost of each asset to its residual value over its estimated useful economic life as follows:

	Years
Buildings	20, 30, 40
Equipment	4, 6, 10, 12
Other tangibles	4, 6, 12

Land, assets in progress and art collections are not depreciated. The depreciation of assets in progress begins when the related assets are put into use.

The VUB Group periodically tests its assets for impairment. Where the carrying amount of an asset is greater than its estimated recoverable amount, it is written down to this recoverable amount.

Depreciation methods, useful lives and residual values are reassessed at the reporting date.

2. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

2.20 Leasing

The determination of whether an arrangement is a finance lease is based on the substance of the arrangement and requires an assessment of whether:

- the fulfilment of the arrangement is dependent on the use of a specific asset or assets that could only be used by the lessee without major modifications being made;
- the lease transfers ownership of the asset at the end of the lease term;
- the VUB Group has the option to purchase the asset at a price sufficiently below fair value at exercise date;
- it is reasonably certain the option will be exercised;
- the lease term is for a major part of the asset's economic life even if title is not transferred;
- the present value of minimum lease payments substantially equals the asset's fair value at inception.

VUB Group as a lessee

Finance leases, which transfer to the VUB Group substantially all the risks and benefits incidental to ownership of the leased item, are capitalised at the inception of the lease at the fair value of the leased property or, if lower, at the present value of the minimum lease payments and included in 'Property and equipment' with the corresponding liability to the lessor included in 'Other liabilities'. Lease payments are apportioned between the finance charges and reduction of the lease liability so as to achieve a constant rate of interest on the remaining balance of the liability. Finance charges are charged directly against income in 'Interest and similar expense'.

Capitalised leased assets are depreciated over the shorter of the estimated useful life of the asset and the lease term, if there is no reasonable certainty that the VUB Group will obtain ownership by the end of the lease term.

Operating lease payments are not recognised in the statement of financial position. Any rentals payable are accounted for on a straight-line basis over the lease term and included in 'Other operating expenses'.

VUB Group as a lessor

Leases where the VUB Group transfers substantially all the risk and benefits of ownership of the asset are classified as finance leases. Leases are recognised upon acceptance of the asset by the customer at an amount equal to the net investment in the lease. The sum of future minimum lease payments and initial origination fees equate to the gross investment in the lease. The difference between the gross and net investment in the lease represents unearned finance income, which is recognised as revenue in 'Interest and similar income' over the lease term at a constant periodic rate of return on the net investment in the lease.

2.21 Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the VUB Group has a present obligation (legal or constructive) as a result of a past event, and 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.

2.22 Provisions for employee benefits

The Group's obligation in respect of retirement and jubilee employee benefits is the amount of future benefit that employees have earned in return for their service in the current and prior periods. That benefit is discounted to determine its present value. The discount rate is determined by reference to current rates of return on Slovak government bonds with the 15 years duration that represents the period which is closest to the average benefit duration. The calculation is performed using the projected unit credit method. All employees of the Group are covered by the retirement and jubilee employee benefits program.

2. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

The calculation for the respective program takes into account the following parameters:

	Jubilee benefits	Retirement benefits
Discount rate	2.05%	2.05%
Growth of wages in 2015	n/a	1.50%
Future growth of wages after 2015	n/a	1.00%
Fluctuation of employees (based on age)	6 – 21%	6 – 21%
Retirement age	Based on valid legislation	
Mortality	Based on mortality tables issued by the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic	

All gains or losses in relation to the employee benefits are recognised in 'Salaries and employee benefits'. Employee benefit reserves are disclosed in the statement of financial position in 'Other liabilities'.

2.23 Financial guarantees

Financial guarantees are contracts that require the VUB Group to make specified payments to reimburse the holder for a loss it incurs because a specified debtor fails to make a payment when it falls due, in accordance with the terms of a debt instrument consisting of letters of credit, guarantees and acceptances.

Financial guarantee liabilities are initially recognised at their fair value, and the initial fair value is amortised over the life of the financial guarantee in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income in 'Fee and commission income' on a straight line basis. The guarantee liability is subsequently carried at the higher of this amortised amount and the present value of any expected payment (when a payment under the guarantee has become probable). Financial guarantees are included within 'Other liabilities'. Any increase in the liability relating to financial guarantees is recorded in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income in 'Impairment losses'.

2.24 Legal reserve fund

In accordance with the law and statutes of the VUB Group companies, the VUB Group companies are obliged to contribute at least 10% of its annual net profit to the 'Legal reserve fund' until it reaches 20% of their share capital. Usage of the 'Legal reserve fund' is restricted by the law and the fund can be used for the coverage of the losses of VUB Group companies.

2.25 Equity reserves

The reserves recorded in equity that are disclosed in the statement of financial position include:

'Translation of foreign operation' reserve which is used to record exchange differences arising from the translation of the net investment in foreign operations.

'Available-for-sale financial assets' reserve which comprises changes in the fair value of available-for-sale investments.

'Cash flow hedges' reserve which comprises the portion of the gain or loss on a hedging instrument in a cash flow hedge that is determined to be an effective hedge.

2.26 Interest income

Interest income and expense is recognised in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income on an accrual basis using the effective interest rate method. Interest income and expense includes the amortisation of any discount or premium on financial instruments. Interest income also includes up-front and commitment fees, which are subject to the effective interest rate calculation and are amortised over the life of the loan.

2. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

2.27 Fee and commission income

Fee and commission income arises on financial services provided by the VUB Group including account maintenance, cash management services, brokerage services, investment advice and financial planning, investment banking services, project finance transactions and asset management services. Fee and commission income is recognised when the corresponding service is provided.

2.28 Net trading result

Net trading result includes gains and losses arising from purchases, disposals and changes in the fair value of financial assets and liabilities including securities and derivative instruments. It also includes the result of all foreign currency transactions.

2.29 Dividend income

Dividend income is recognised in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income on the date that the dividend is declared.

2.30 Current and deferred income tax

Income tax is calculated in accordance with the regulations of the Slovak Republic and other jurisdictions, in which the VUB Group operates.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognised, using the balance sheet method, for all temporary differences arising between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities and their tax bases. Expected tax rates, applicable for the periods when assets and liabilities are realised, are used to determine deferred tax.

The Group is also subject to various indirect operating taxes, which are included in 'Other operating expenses'.

2.31 Fiduciary assets

Assets held in a fiduciary capacity are not reported in the financial statements, as such are not the assets of the VUB Group.

2.32 Significant accounting judgements and estimates

Judgements

In the process of applying the VUB Group's accounting policies, management has made judgements, apart from those involving estimations, that significantly affect the amounts recognised in the financial statements. The most significant judgements relate to the classification of financial instruments.

Held-to-maturity investments

The VUB Group follows the guidance of IAS 39 on classifying non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments and fixed maturity as held-to-maturity. This classification requires significant judgement. In making this judgement, the VUB Group evaluates its intention and ability to hold such investments to maturity. If the VUB Group fails to hold these investments to maturity other than for a specific circumstance, for example selling a higher than insignificant amount close to maturity, it will be required to reclassify the entire class as available-for-sale. The investments would therefore be measured at fair value and not at amortised cost.

Financial assets held for trading

The VUB Group classifies a financial asset as 'held for trading' if it is acquired principally for the purpose of selling it in the near term, or if it is part of a portfolio of identified financial instruments that are managed together and for which there is evidence of recent actual pattern of short-term profit taking, or if it is a derivative.

2. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

Financial assets designated at fair value through profit or loss on initial recognition

The VUB Group uses the category 'at fair value through profit or loss on initial recognition' to recognize equity shares acquired as a part of the incentive plan based on which the amount due to employees benefiting from the plan recognized under share remuneration scheme in 'Other liabilities' (see also note 25) is proportional to the fair value of these shares.

Since both variations in the amount of the liability and in the fair value of the shares are recognized in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, classification of equity shares into the category 'at fair value through profit or loss on initial recognition' allows the neutralisation of the effect derived from the changes in the value of the debt on the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income and results into the elimination of the accounting mismatch.

Estimates

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make certain estimates and assumptions, which impact the carrying amounts of the VUB Group's assets and liabilities and the disclosure of contingent items at the end of reporting period and reported revenues and expenses for the period then ended.

Estimates are used for, but not limited to: fair values of financial instruments, impairment losses on loans and advances to customers, impairment losses for off-balance sheet risks, depreciable lives and residual values of tangible and intangible assets, impairment losses on tangible and intangible assets, liabilities from employee benefits and provisions for legal claims.

Fair value of financial instruments

Where the fair values of financial assets and financial liabilities recorded on the statement of financial position cannot be derived from active markets, they are determined using a variety of valuation techniques which include the use of mathematical models. The input to these models is taken from observable markets where possible, but where this is not feasible, a degree of judgement is required in establishing fair values. The judgements include considerations of liquidity and model inputs such as correlation and volatility for longer dated financial instruments.

Impairment losses on loans and advances

The VUB Group reviews its loans and advances at each reporting date to assess whether a specific allowance for impairment should be recorded in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income. In particular, judgement by management is required in the estimation of the amount and timing of future cash flows when determining the level of allowance required. Such estimates are based on assumptions about a number of factors and actual results may differ, resulting in future changes to the specific allowance.

In addition to specific allowances against individually significant loans and advances, the VUB Group also makes a collective impairment allowance against exposures which, although not specifically identified as requiring a specific allowance, have a greater risk of default than when originally granted. This takes into consideration factors such as any deterioration in country risk, industry and technological obsolescence, as well as identified structural weaknesses or deterioration in cash flows.

Impairment losses are sensitive to input parameters such as the rating of the client, the probability of default and loss given default of the client. Change of any of these parameters results in a different amount of impairment losses.

Future events and their effects cannot be perceived with certainty. Accordingly, the accounting estimates made require the exercise of judgement and those used in the preparation of the financial statements will change as new events occur, as more experience is acquired, as additional information is obtained and as the VUB Group's operating environment changes. Actual results may differ from those estimates.

3. Financial risk management

Introduction and overview

The Group has exposure to the following risks from its use of financial instruments:

- (a) Credit risk,
- (b) Market risk,
- (c) Liquidity risk,
- (d) Operational risk.

This note presents information about the Group's exposure to each of the above risks, the Group's objectives, policies and processes for measuring and managing risk.

Risk management framework

The Management Board is the statutory body governing the executive management of the Bank, and has absolute authority over all matters concerning risk. The Management Board has primary responsibility for the creation and dissolution of risk related governance bodies. The primary governance bodies overseeing risk issues are:

- Asset/Liability Committee ('ALCO'),
- Credit Risk Committee ('CRC'),
- Operational Risk Committee ('ORC').

The Management Board delegates its risk authority to these governance bodies in the form of statutes, which identify members of the governance bodies, competencies and responsibilities of the members. The competency of each governance body is established in relevant Charters.

The Group's risk management policies are established to identify and analyze the risks faced by the Group, to set appropriate risk limits and controls and to monitor risks and adherence to limits. Risk management policies and systems are reviewed regularly to reflect changes in market conditions, products and services offered. The Group, through its training and management standards and procedures, aims to develop a disciplined and constructive control environment, in which all employees understand their roles and obligations. The Group's Internal Audit Department is responsible for monitoring compliance with the Group's risk management policies and procedures, and for reviewing the adequacy of the risk management framework in relation to the risks faced by the Group. Internal Audit undertakes both regular and ad-hoc reviews of risk management controls and procedures.

(a) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk of a financial loss to the Group if a customer or counterparty to a financial instrument fails to meet its contractual obligations, and arises principally from the Group's loans and advances to customers and banks as well as investment securities. For risk management reporting purposes, the Group considers and consolidates all elements of credit risk exposure (such as individual obligor default risk, country and sector risk). For risk management purposes, the credit risk arising on trading securities is managed independently, but reported as a component of market risk exposure.

Credit Risk Charter establishes the guidelines for measurement, control and management of credit risk by defining the legal framework, main responsibilities, policies and methodologies that support the credit risk management process of VUB Group.

More specifically, the Credit Risk Charter defines both the general and specific (retail, corporate) credit risk requirements for applied methodologies and procedures, and includes, as separate sections, the policies governing the key aspects of the Group's credit risk management process:

- Authorized Approval Authority,
- Collateral Management Policy,
- Provisioning Policy,
- Credit Concentration Limits,
- Default Definition,
- Risk Management Client Segmentation Policy,
- Corporate Credit Policy, Retail Credit Policy,
- Retail and Corporate Remedial Management and Collections.

3. Financial risk management (continued)

Management of credit risk

The Risk Management Division is established within the Bank as a Control Unit and managed by the Chief Risk Officer, who is a member of the Bank's Management Board. The Risk Management Division is organisationally structured to provide support to the Business Units, as well as to provide reporting of credit, market and operational risks to the Supervisory Board and Management Board. The Risk Management Division is responsible for overseeing the Group's credit risk including:

- The development of credit risk strategies, policies, processes and procedures covering rules for credit assessment, collateral requirements, risk grading and reporting;
- Setting limits for the concentration of exposure to counterparties, related parties, countries and total assets and monitoring compliance with those limits;
- Establishment of the authorisation structure for the approval and renewal of credit facilities. Authorisation limits are set in the Credit Risk Charter;
- Credit risk assessment according to defined policy;
- Monitoring of quality portfolio performance and its compliance with set limits (regulatory, internal). Regular reports are provided to Management Board and CRC on the credit quality of Group's portfolios and appropriate corrective measures are taken;
- Development, maintenance and validation of scoring and rating models – both application and behavioural;
- Development, maintenance and back-testing of impairment losses model.

Impairment losses

The Group establishes an allowance for impairment losses, which represents its estimate of incurred losses in its loan portfolio.

If there is evidence of impairment for any individually significant client of the Group, such as a breach of contract, problems with repayments or collateral, the Group transfers such a client to the Recovery Department or is managed on the Watchlist, for pursuing collection activities. Such clients are considered to be individually impaired. For collective impairment, the Group uses historical evidence of impairment on a portfolio basis, mainly based on the payment discipline of clients.

Impairment losses are calculated individually for individually significant clients for which evidence of impairment exists and collectively for individually significant clients without evidence of impairment and for individually insignificant client groups of homogeneous assets. For the purpose of provisioning for loans collectively assessed for impairment the VUB Group follows the Intesa Sanpaolo Group methodology as well as the methodology based on the Markov chains theory developed internally by VUB Bank. This methodology is used for those segments for which IRB approach is not used and sufficient data for the calculation exist.

Rules for identification of significant clients and methodology for calculation are set in the Credit Risk Charter or stated in the Provisioning Policy procedure.

3. Financial risk management (continued)

The split of the credit portfolio to individually and portfolio assessed is shown below:

€ '000	June 2015			December 2014		
	Amortised cost	Impairment losses	Carrying amount	Amortised cost	Impairment losses	Carrying amount
Portfolio assessed						
Banks	188,524	(6)	188,518	611,009	(6)	611,003
Customers						
Sovereigns	136,075	(311)	135,764	147,192	(350)	146,842
Corporate	3,231,378	(39,376)	3,192,002	3,165,054	(38,004)	3,127,050
Retail	5,341,410	(225,214)	5,116,196	5,093,739	(221,261)	4,872,478
	<u>8,708,863</u>	<u>(264,901)</u>	<u>8,443,962</u>	<u>8,405,985</u>	<u>(259,615)</u>	<u>8,146,370</u>
Securities						
FVTPL	226,232	-	226,232	1,055	-	1,055
AFS	1,774,409	-	1,774,409	1,523,939	-	1,523,939
HTM	520,270	-	520,270	533,456	-	533,456
	<u>2,520,911</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,520,911</u>	<u>2,058,450</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,058,450</u>
Individually assessed						
Customers						
Corporate	229,737	(97,859)	131,878	216,231	(94,864)	121,367
Retail	32,571	(12,902)	19,669	23,402	(8,358)	15,044
	<u>262,308</u>	<u>(110,761)</u>	<u>151,547</u>	<u>239,633</u>	<u>(103,222)</u>	<u>136,411</u>
Securities						
AFS	574	(574)	-	574	(574)	-
	<u>574</u>	<u>(574)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>574</u>	<u>(574)</u>	<u>-</u>

3. Financial risk management (continued)

The VUB Group uses the definitions of non-performing loans derived from the Harmonisation project. The Harmonisation project is driven by Intesa Sanpaolo in order to unify the definitions and categories of non-performing loans across the foreign subsidiaries of the Intesa Sanpaolo Group. In March 2015 the next phase of the project was realized based on which three classification categories of non-performing loans were introduced (past due, unlikely to pay, doubtful) instead of previously used four categories (past due, restructured, substandard, doubtful). This change was fully reflected in the disclosures as of 30 June 2015 as well as in comparative balances as of 31 December 2014. The definition of non-performing loans is based on delinquency (days past due - DPD) and judgemental criteria for categories doubtful and unlikely to pay. In case of past due category, DPD and materiality threshold of client are taken into account.

The description of classification categories of loans based on the definition of Banca d'Italia is as follows:

Classification category	Description
Doubtful	Exposures to borrowers being in a state of insolvency (although not yet legally) or in a de facto equivalent status, regardless of any loss forecasts made by the Group.
Unlikely to pay	Exposures to borrowers assessed as improbable to thoroughly meet their credit obligations without recourse to actions such as the enforcement of guarantees/collateral.
Past due	Exposures other than those classified as doubtful or unlikely to pay that, as at reporting date, are past due for over 90 days and exceed the materiality threshold of higher than 5% of outstanding total credit exposures to client.
Performing	All exposures that are not classified as doubtful, unlikely to pay and past due.

Capital requirement calculation

The Bank generally uses the standardised approach for the calculation of the capital requirement. However, for the calculation of credit and counterparty risk capital requirements, the Bank, having received authorisation from the Supervisory Authority NBS, uses the Advanced IRB approach for portfolio of residential mortgages from July 2012 and for the Corporate segment and for Retail Small Business from June 2014. Foundation IRB approach is used for corporate exposures where LGD is not available. The Bank is also proceeding with the development of the rating models for other segments, to which the standard methods are currently applied, and also with the extension of the scope of subsidiaries in accordance with the gradual rollout plan for the advanced approaches presented to the Supervisory Authority.

3. Financial risk management (continued)

The following table describes the Group's credit portfolio in terms of classification categories:

€ '000	Category	June 2015			December 2014		
		Amortised cost	Impairment losses	Carrying amount	Amortised cost	Impairment losses	Carrying amount
Banks	Performing	188,524	(6)	188,518	611,009	(6)	611,003
		<u>188,524</u>	<u>(6)</u>	<u>188,518</u>	<u>611,009</u>	<u>(6)</u>	<u>611,003</u>
Sovereigns	Performing	136,032	(311)	135,721	147,155	(350)	146,805
	Past due	-	-	-	1	-	1
	Unlikely to pay	32	-	32	-	-	-
	Doubtful	11	-	11	36	-	36
		<u>136,075</u>	<u>(311)</u>	<u>135,764</u>	<u>147,192</u>	<u>(350)</u>	<u>146,842</u>
Corporate	Performing	3,230,204	(35,224)	3,194,980	3,167,873	(34,984)	3,132,889
	Past due	1,034	(353)	681	572	(242)	330
	Unlikely to pay	116,748	(23,779)	92,969	76,442	(10,635)	65,807
	Doubtful	113,129	(77,879)	35,250	136,398	(87,007)	49,391
		<u>3,461,115</u>	<u>(137,235)</u>	<u>3,323,880</u>	<u>3,381,285</u>	<u>(132,868)</u>	<u>3,248,417</u>
Retail	Performing	5,058,151	(56,604)	5,001,547	4,808,776	(58,287)	4,750,489
	Past due	35,378	(15,562)	19,816	28,022	(14,658)	13,364
	Unlikely to pay	34,618	(15,745)	18,873	45,325	(20,010)	25,315
	Doubtful	245,834	(150,205)	95,629	235,018	(136,664)	98,354
		<u>5,373,981</u>	<u>(238,116)</u>	<u>5,135,865</u>	<u>5,117,141</u>	<u>(229,619)</u>	<u>4,887,522</u>
Securities	Performing	2,520,911	-	2,520,911	2,058,450	-	2,058,450
	Doubtful	574	(574)	-	574	(574)	-
		<u>2,521,485</u>	<u>(574)</u>	<u>2,520,911</u>	<u>2,059,024</u>	<u>(574)</u>	<u>2,058,450</u>

3. Financial risk management (continued)

The table below shows the maximum amount of credit risk of derivative financial instruments, issued guarantees, commitments and undrawn credit facilities. To express the maximum amount of credit risk, the fair value of derivative financial assets is increased by the value of the potential credit exposure ('add on') calculated as the nominal value of the derivative financial instrument multiplied by the respective coefficient depending on the type of the instrument. The credit risk of the remaining financial assets not reported in the table below approximates their carrying amounts.

€ '000	June 2015	Dec 2014
Financial assets		
Derivative financial instruments	61,430	67,097
Financial commitments and contingencies		
Issued guarantees	825,273	739,626
Commitments and undrawn credit facilities	2,635,837	2,397,991
	<u>3,461,110</u>	<u>3,137,617</u>

The payment discipline of each client is monitored regularly. If a client is past due with some payments, appropriate action is taken. The following table shows the Group's credit portfolio in terms of delinquency of payments.

€ '000	June 2015			December 2014		
	Amortised cost	Impairment losses	Carrying amount	Amortised cost	Impairment losses	Carrying amount
Banks						
No delinquency	188,524	(6)	188,518	611,009	(6)	611,003
	<u>188,524</u>	<u>(6)</u>	<u>188,518</u>	<u>611,009</u>	<u>(6)</u>	<u>611,003</u>
Sovereigns						
No delinquency	135,325	(310)	135,015	146,818	(349)	146,469
1 – 30 days	715	(1)	714	338	(1)	337
Over 181 days	35	-	35	36	-	36
	<u>136,075</u>	<u>(311)</u>	<u>135,764</u>	<u>147,192</u>	<u>(350)</u>	<u>146,842</u>
Corporate						
No delinquency	3,292,276	(62,476)	3,229,800	3,196,008	(51,519)	3,144,489
1 – 30 days	50,789	(2,287)	48,502	60,054	(6,137)	53,917
31 – 60 days	14,157	(954)	13,203	16,812	(1,262)	15,550
61 – 90 days	5,012	(814)	4,198	5,378	(1,436)	3,942
91 – 180 days	12,039	(4,701)	7,338	3,388	(903)	2,485
Over 181 days	86,842	(66,003)	20,839	99,645	(71,611)	28,034
	<u>3,461,115</u>	<u>(137,235)</u>	<u>3,323,880</u>	<u>3,381,285</u>	<u>(132,868)</u>	<u>3,248,417</u>

3. Financial risk management (continued)

€ '000	June 2015			December 2014		
	Amortised cost	Impairment losses	Carrying amount	Amortised cost	Impairment losses	Carrying amount
Retail						
No delinquency	4,832,997	(40,004)	4,792,993	4,582,644	(36,022)	4,546,622
1 – 30 days	195,787	(14,837)	180,950	182,284	(13,944)	168,340
31 – 60 days	49,906	(6,179)	43,727	53,518	(7,935)	45,583
61 – 90 days	29,180	(4,847)	24,333	34,837	(6,629)	28,208
91 – 180 days	39,492	(19,667)	19,825	44,055	(21,567)	22,488
Over 181 days	226,619	(152,582)	74,037	219,803	(143,522)	76,281
	<u>5,373,981</u>	<u>(238,116)</u>	<u>5,135,865</u>	<u>5,117,141</u>	<u>(229,619)</u>	<u>4,887,522</u>
Securities						
No delinquency	2,521,485	(574)	2,520,911	2,059,024	(574)	2,058,450
	<u>2,521,485</u>	<u>(574)</u>	<u>2,520,911</u>	<u>2,059,024</u>	<u>(574)</u>	<u>2,058,450</u>

Loans with renegotiated terms and the forbearance policy

Loans with renegotiated terms are loans that have been restructured due to deterioration in the borrower's financial position, where the Group has made concessions by agreeing to terms and conditions that are more favourable for the borrower than the Group has provided initially. The revised terms usually include extending maturity, changing timing of interest payments and amendments to the terms of loan covenants. The VUB Group implements forbearance policy in order to maximise collection opportunities and minimise the risk of default. Under the Group's forbearance policy, an exposure is identified as forborne if both of these two conditions are satisfied:

- The Group must determine the financial difficulties that the debtor is facing or is about to face;
- The exposure must be subject to renegotiation or refinancing, granted in relation to the borrower's current financial difficulties or financial difficulties that would have occurred in the absence of the renegotiation or refinancing measures.

Both retail and corporate customers are subject to the forbearance policy:

30 June 2015 € '000	Performing forborne			Non-performing forborne		
	Amortised cost	Impairment losses	Carrying amount	Amortised cost	Impairment losses	Carrying amount
Corporate	43,857	(1,635)	42,222	140,501	(51,058)	89,443
Retail	83,581	(2,211)	81,370	13,493	(4,580)	8,913
	<u>127,438</u>	<u>(3,846)</u>	<u>123,592</u>	<u>153,994</u>	<u>(55,638)</u>	<u>98,356</u>
31 December 2014 € '000	Performing forborne			Non-performing forborne		
	Amortised cost	Impairment losses	Carrying amount	Amortised cost	Impairment losses	Carrying amount
Corporate	30,901	(925)	29,976	144,939	(53,765)	91,174
Retail	85,394	(2,445)	82,949	12,338	(3,785)	8,553
	<u>116,295</u>	<u>(3,370)</u>	<u>112,925</u>	<u>157,277</u>	<u>(57,550)</u>	<u>99,727</u>

3. Financial risk management (continued)

Write-off Policy

The Group writes off a loan or security balance when it determines that the loans or securities are uncollectible. As the standard, the Group considers the credit balances to be uncollectible based on the past due days (1,080 days past due). Credit balances may be written off only if the collateral has already been realized. Receivables are being collected by external collection agencies until they qualify for write-off.

The credit balance can be written off earlier than defined in the conditions described above if there is evidence that the receivable cannot be collected. The write-off of such receivables is subject to the approval of the Credit Risk Officer.

Collateral Policy

The Group's collateral policy is an integral and indispensable part of the credit risk management and credit risk mitigation for VUB Group. Collateral is used primarily to provide the Group with the means for repayment of an exposure in the event of the default of the borrower. The policy represents the part of the Credit Risk Charter. The principal objective of the policy document is to clearly set up rules for a common and standard set of collateral types used by the Group in its lending activities. The rules, as the minimum, describe and state:

- Conditions for legal enforceability;
- Conditions for the process of valuation and the maximum values accepted by the Group at the origination for the certain types of collaterals; and
- Conditions for the process of revaluation.

However, collateral management has a wider meaning than the simple taking of collateral in order to secure the repayment of the Group's exposures. This includes the following:

- The establishment and maintenance of collateral policy comprising types of collateral taken by the Group, the legal documentation used by the Group to secure its right to this collateral in the event of a default and the valuation of this collateral at origination. These aspects of collateral management are addressed in the internal policy document;
- The relevant and proper perfection and registration of collateral to secure the Group's right to collateral in the event of default by the borrower;
- The regular monitoring and re-valuation of collateral held by the Group during the life of the exposure;
- The analysis, monitoring and review of realization rates achieved by Recovery Department activities in order to assess the effectiveness of the collateral policy as a risk mitigant.

The VUB Group's decisions on the enforcement of collateral is individual and depends on factors such as the actual amount of the receivable, the current condition and value of the collateral, the length of the collateral realization period or collection related costs. The relevant competent body of the Group decides which collateral instrument will be used in the specific case.

The VUB Group mainly uses the following means of enforcement of collateral:

- Voluntary auction,
- Foreclosure procedure,
- Realization of the collateral for the receivable in a bankruptcy procedure,
- Sale of receivables including collateral.

The Group holds collateral and other credit enhancements against certain of its credit exposures. The collateral against loans and advances to customers is held in the form of mortgage interests over property, other registered securities over assets, and guarantees. Estimates of fair value are based on the value of collateral assessed at the time of borrowing and generally the Group updates the fair value on a regular basis.

The Group mitigates the credit risk of derivatives, reverse sale and repurchase agreements by entering into master netting agreements and holding collateral in the form of cash and marketable securities. Derivative transactions are either transacted on an exchange or entered into under International Swaps and Derivatives Association ('ISDA') master netting agreements. In general, under ISDA master netting agreements in certain circumstances, e.g. when a credit event such as a default occurs, all outstanding transactions under the agreement are terminated, the termination value is assessed and only a single net amount is due or payable in settlement of all transactions.

3. Financial risk management (continued)

The Group monitors concentrations of credit risk by geographic location. An analysis of concentrations of credit risk at the reporting date is shown below.

€ '000	June 2015			December 2014		
	Amortised cost	Impairment losses	Carrying amount	Amortised cost	Impairment losses	Carrying amount
Europe						
Banks	182,010	(4)	182,006	602,381	(3)	602,378
Sovereigns	136,075	(311)	135,764	147,192	(350)	146,842
Corporate	3,460,865	(137,231)	3,323,634	3,381,285	(132,868)	3,248,417
Retail	5,371,987	(238,069)	5,133,918	5,115,310	(229,572)	4,885,738
Securities	2,521,485	(574)	2,520,911	2,059,024	(574)	2,058,450
	<u>11,672,422</u>	<u>(376,189)</u>	<u>11,296,233</u>	<u>11,305,192</u>	<u>(363,367)</u>	<u>10,941,825</u>
America						
Banks	6,191	(2)	6,189	8,275	(3)	8,272
Retail	176	(6)	170	169	(3)	166
	<u>6,367</u>	<u>(8)</u>	<u>6,359</u>	<u>8,444</u>	<u>(6)</u>	<u>8,438</u>
Asia						
Banks	276	-	276	320	-	320
Corporate	250	(4)	246	-	-	-
Retail	1,213	(23)	1,190	1,166	(25)	1,141
	<u>1,739</u>	<u>(27)</u>	<u>1,712</u>	<u>1,486</u>	<u>(25)</u>	<u>1,461</u>
Rest of the World						
Banks	47	-	47	33	-	33
Retail	605	(18)	587	496	(19)	477
	<u>652</u>	<u>(18)</u>	<u>634</u>	<u>529</u>	<u>(19)</u>	<u>510</u>

3. Financial risk management (continued)

An analysis of exposures by industry sector is shown in the table below.

30 June 2015 € '000	Banks	Sovereigns	Corporate	Retail	Securities
Agriculture	-	-	115,544	27,867	-
Construction	-	-	140,683	18,757	-
Consumers	-	-	15,418	4,903,348	-
Energy and water supply	-	243	459,971	2,297	-
Financial services	188,518	-	138,209	280	206,330
Government	-	127,519	-	-	2,314,581
Manufacturing	-	-	675,394	29,299	-
Professional services	-	-	140,485	12,365	-
Real estate	-	-	446,131	35,204	-
Retail & Wholesale	-	-	648,078	62,495	-
Services	-	-	176,459	15,209	-
Transportation	-	7,992	313,586	12,400	-
Other	-	10	53,922	16,344	-
	188,518	135,764	3,323,880	5,135,865	2,520,911
31 December 2014 € '000	Banks	Sovereigns	Corporate	Retail	Securities
Agriculture	-	-	81,541	22,081	-
Construction	-	-	129,313	14,791	-
Consumers	-	-	13,562	4,676,665	-
Energy and water supply	-	-	528,536	1,776	-
Financial services	611,003	-	113,269	285	210,699
Government	-	137,746	-	-	1,847,751
Manufacturing	-	-	622,975	26,626	-
Professional services	-	-	130,010	12,586	-
Real estate	-	-	466,436	28,304	-
Retail & Wholesale	-	-	611,413	63,010	-
Services	-	-	188,603	14,282	-
Transportation	-	9,096	307,921	12,146	-
Other	-	-	54,838	14,970	-
	611,003	146,842	3,248,417	4,887,522	2,058,450

3. Financial risk management (continued)

The table below shows the credit quality by class of assets for all financial assets exposed to credit risk, based on the Group's internal credit rating system. The amounts presented are gross of impairment allowances. Past due but not impaired financial assets are more than one day overdue.

30 June 2015 € '000	Neither past due nor impaired			Impaired (non-performing)			Past due but not impaired		
	Amortised cost	Impairment losses	Carrying amount	Amortised cost	Impairment losses	Carrying amount	Amortised cost	Impairment losses	Carrying amount
Banks	188,524	(6)	188,518	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sovereigns									
Municipalities	135,060	(308)	134,752	43	-	43	715	(1)	714
Municipalities – Leasing	257	(2)	255	-	-	-	-	-	-
	135,317	(310)	135,007	43	-	43	715	(1)	714
Corporate									
Large Corporates	1,089,614	(4,881)	1,084,733	21,096	(10,768)	10,328	9	-	9
Specialized Lending	725,124	(14,402)	710,722	103,512	(24,924)	78,588	876	(38)	838
SME	919,710	(11,987)	907,723	74,291	(45,792)	28,499	15,062	(690)	14,372
Other Fin. Institutions	110,073	(403)	109,670	7	(2)	5	-	-	-
Public Sector Entities	4,535	(44)	4,491	8	-	8	1	-	1
Leasing	208,246	(1,791)	206,455	28,513	(17,581)	10,932	26,440	(616)	25,824
Factoring	114,372	(351)	114,021	3,484	(2,944)	540	16,142	(21)	16,121
	3,171,674	(33,859)	3,137,815	230,911	(102,011)	128,900	58,530	(1,365)	57,165
Retail									
Small Business	194,725	(3,390)	191,335	15,637	(12,224)	3,413	5,966	(536)	5,430
Small Business – Leasing	5,870	(42)	5,828	2,699	(788)	1,911	863	(58)	805
Consumer Loans	1,106,266	(19,312)	1,086,954	167,037	(109,261)	57,776	130,681	(12,372)	118,309
Mortgages	3,234,496	(7,350)	3,227,146	77,765	(22,060)	55,705	75,813	(4,656)	71,157
Credit Cards	161,257	(3,873)	157,384	38,787	(27,061)	11,726	16,678	(2,592)	14,086
Overdrafts	72,499	(922)	71,577	13,498	(9,818)	3,680	17,220	(1,168)	16,052
Leasing	3,580	(21)	3,559	397	(300)	97	313	(14)	299
Flat Owners Associations	22,818	(298)	22,520	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	9,106	-	9,106	10	-	10	-	-	-
	4,810,617	(35,208)	4,775,409	315,830	(181,512)	134,318	247,534	(21,396)	226,138
Securities									
FVTPL	226,232	-	226,232	-	-	-	-	-	-
AFS	1,774,409	-	1,774,409	574	(574)	-	-	-	-
HTM	520,270	-	520,270	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2,520,911	-	2,520,911	574	(574)	-	-	-	-

3. Financial risk management (continued)

31 December 2014 € '000	Neither past due nor impaired			Impaired (non-performing)			Past due but not impaired		
	Amortised cost	Impairment losses	Carrying amount	Amortised cost	Impairment losses	Carrying amount	Amortised cost	Impairment losses	Carrying amount
Banks	611,009	(6)	611,003	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sovereigns									
Municipalities	146,603	(348)	146,255	37	-	37	338	(1)	337
Municipalities – Leasing	214	(1)	213	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>146,817</u>	<u>(349)</u>	<u>146,468</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>338</u>	<u>(1)</u>	<u>337</u>
Corporate									
Large Corporates	1,108,045	(5,589)	1,102,456	22,863	(11,720)	11,143	-	-	-
Specialized Lending	753,016	(13,334)	739,682	82,716	(20,594)	62,122	7,027	(210)	6,817
SME	786,128	(11,660)	774,468	75,780	(46,241)	29,539	16,521	(935)	15,586
Other Fin. Institutions	82,975	(115)	82,860	7	(2)	5	4	-	4
Public Sector Entities	1,555	(15)	1,540	97	(18)	79	2	-	2
Leasing	206,643	(1,707)	204,936	28,557	(16,392)	12,165	20,205	(662)	19,543
Factoring	164,584	(732)	163,852	3,392	(2,917)	475	21,168	(25)	21,143
	<u>3,102,946</u>	<u>(33,152)</u>	<u>3,069,794</u>	<u>213,412</u>	<u>(97,884)</u>	<u>115,528</u>	<u>64,927</u>	<u>(1,832)</u>	<u>63,095</u>
Retail									
Small Business	173,802	(3,078)	170,724	14,203	(10,950)	3,253	5,325	(498)	4,827
Small Business – Leasing	5,744	(42)	5,702	2,759	(792)	1,967	1,235	(77)	1,158
Consumer Loans	1,061,300	(17,226)	1,044,074	155,730	(100,024)	55,706	123,021	(15,711)	107,310
Mortgages	3,047,566	(7,542)	3,040,024	80,509	(21,297)	59,212	79,710	(4,945)	74,765
Credit Cards	162,034	(3,316)	158,718	41,112	(28,152)	12,960	17,444	(3,204)	14,240
Overdrafts	80,382	(1,002)	79,380	13,679	(9,879)	3,800	18,136	(1,308)	16,828
Leasing	2,872	(16)	2,856	330	(237)	93	385	(19)	366
Flat Owners Associations	23,195	(303)	22,892	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	6,625	-	6,625	43	(1)	42	-	-	-
	<u>4,563,520</u>	<u>(32,525)</u>	<u>4,530,995</u>	<u>308,365</u>	<u>(171,332)</u>	<u>137,033</u>	<u>245,256</u>	<u>(25,762)</u>	<u>219,494</u>
Securities									
FVTPL	1,055	-	1,055	-	-	-	-	-	-
AFS	1,523,939	-	1,523,939	574	(574)	-	-	-	-
HTM	533,456	-	533,456	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>2,058,450</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,058,450</u>	<u>574</u>	<u>(574)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

3. Financial risk management (continued)

An analysis of past due but not impaired credit exposures in terms of the delinquency is presented in the table below:

€ '000	June 2015			December 2014		
	Amortised cost	Impairment losses	Carrying amount	Amortised cost	Impairment losses	Carrying amount
Sovereigns						
1 – 30 days	715	(1)	714	338	(1)	337
	<u>715</u>	<u>(1)</u>	<u>714</u>	<u>338</u>	<u>(1)</u>	<u>337</u>
Corporate						
1 – 30 days	47,122	(880)	46,242	49,196	(1,083)	48,113
31 – 60 days	10,524	(354)	10,170	13,816	(482)	13,334
61 – 90 days	879	(127)	752	1,892	(263)	1,629
91 – 180 days	-	-	-	18	-	18
Over 181 days	5	(4)	1	5	(4)	1
	<u>58,530</u>	<u>(1,365)</u>	<u>57,165</u>	<u>64,927</u>	<u>(1,832)</u>	<u>63,095</u>
Retail						
1 – 30 days	180,417	(11,612)	168,805	167,973	(11,893)	156,080
31 – 60 days	40,217	(4,417)	35,800	42,806	(6,219)	36,587
61 – 90 days	20,817	(2,873)	17,944	24,691	(4,676)	20,015
91 – 180 days	5,860	(2,366)	3,494	9,496	(2,802)	6,694
Over 181 days	223	(128)	95	290	(172)	118
	<u>247,534</u>	<u>(21,396)</u>	<u>226,138</u>	<u>245,256</u>	<u>(25,762)</u>	<u>219,494</u>

3. Financial risk management (continued)

The overview of the internal rating scales applicable for corporate and retail exposures is shown below.

Large Corporates, SME	Retail Small Business and Flat Owners Associations	Risk Profile	Description
I1 - I4	I3 - I4	Very Low	Good quality of assets, strong market penetration, steady activity, proven distinctive managerial skills, broad debt coverage capacity.
I5 - I6	I5 - I6	Low	Satisfactory quality and chargeability of assets, market penetration and managerial quality on the average; well set solvency, capital structure and debt composition; above average debt coverage capacity.
M1 - M2	M1 - M2	Lower - Intermediate	Acceptable quality and chargeability of available assets, even if with a not negligible degree of risk; well-balanced solvency, capital structure and debt composition with slight liquidity surplus and weaker debt coverage capacity.
M3 - M4	M3 - M4	Intermediate	Acceptable quality and chargeability of available assets even if with a significant degree of risk; vulnerable margin at times, capital structure and debt composition that show worsening signals; low level of liquidity and short debt coverage margin.
R1 - R3	R1 - R3	Upper - Intermediate	Still acceptable asset quality even if with possible liquidity stress; high level of gearing; managerial weakness, little market penetration and positioning; margins and competitiveness under pressure.
R4 - R5	R4 - R5	High	In addition to riskiness features for R1-R3 rating, there are evident difficulties as well as problematic debt management.
D	D	Default	A default is considered to have occurred with regard to a particular obligor when either or both of the two following events have taken place: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the obligor is past due more than 90 days on any material credit obligation to the Group or the parent undertaking; - the VUB Group considers that the obligor is unlikely to pay its credit obligations to the banking group in full, without recourse by the Group to actions such as realizing security (if held).

Specialized Lending comprises of rating segments Special Purpose Vehicles ('SPV') and Real Estate Development ('RED'); Project Finance portfolio ('PF'), which previously represented a separate rating segment of Specialized Lending, was merged into SPV in June 2015. For Specialized Lending the Slotting approach is used by the Group. Clients are assigned into five slotting categories based on the qualitative valuation and information about the default. Risk weights and expected loss used for the capital requirement calculation is also defined for each category. Categories are predefined by the Regulation (EU) no. 575/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council ('CRR regulation') and internally, the categories used are as follows:

Specialized Lending – SPV and RED

- 1 – Strong
- 2 – Good
- 3 – Satisfactory
- 4 – Weak
- 5 – Default

3. Financial risk management (continued)

For mortgages and unsecured retail, the retail segment incorporates many individually insignificant exposures with various characteristics, therefore the description of ratings correlates with the risk profiles.

Retail Mortgages	Unsecured retail	Risk Profile
L1 - L4	U1	Very Low
N1	U2 - U3	Low
N2 - N3	U4 - U5	Lower - Intermediate
W1	U6 - U7	Intermediate
W2	U8 - U10	Upper - Intermediate
W3	U11 - U12	High
D	D	Default

The following table shows the quality of Group's credit portfolio in terms of internal ratings used for IRB purposes:

30 June 2015 € '000	Internal rating	Amortised cost	Impairment losses	Carrying amount
Banks	Unrated	188,524	(6)	188,518
Sovereigns				
Municipalities, Municipalities – Leasing	Unrated	136,075	(311)	135,764
		136,075	(311)	135,764
Corporate				
Large Corporates, SME	I1 - I6	757,759	(623)	757,136
	M1 - M4	819,049	(5,204)	813,845
	R1 - R5	382,833	(14,659)	368,174
	D (default)	70,997	(50,963)	20,034
	Unrated	89,144	(2,669)	86,475
Specialized Lending - SPV, RED	Strong	120,331	(368)	119,963
	Good	258,468	(1,475)	256,993
	Satisfactory	325,222	(18,199)	307,023
	Weak	122,115	(19,152)	102,963
	D (default)	3,376	(170)	3,206
Other Financial Institutions, Public Sector Entities	Unrated - PPU approach *	114,624	(449)	114,175
Leasing, Factoring	Unrated	397,197	(23,304)	373,893
		<u>3,461,115</u>	<u>(137,235)</u>	<u>3,323,880</u>

* Permanent Partial Use ('PPU') approach is applied to exposures for which the Foundation IRB approach is not expected to be used in respect of the capital requirement calculation in the future.

3. Financial risk management (continued)
30 June 2015
€ '000
Retail

	Internal rating	Amortised cost	Impairment losses	Carrying amount
Small Business, Flat Owners Associations	I3 - I6	24,368	(45)	24,323
	M1 - M4	109,900	(1,065)	108,835
	R1 - R5	59,795	(2,672)	57,123
	D (default)	14,258	(12,244)	2,014
	Unrated	30,825	(422)	30,403
Mortgages	L1 - L4	2,529,466	(463)	2,529,003
	N1 - N3	532,427	(1,050)	531,377
	W1 - W3	263,974	(9,841)	254,133
	D (default)	62,207	(22,712)	39,495
Unsecured Retail	U1	253,953	(170)	253,783
	U2 - U3	159,337	(309)	159,028
	U4 - U5	172,604	(753)	171,851
	U6 - U7	111,594	(1,172)	110,422
	U8 - U10	108,595	(3,240)	105,355
	U11 - U12	70,815	(9,594)	61,221
	D (default)	123,999	(84,659)	39,340
	Unrated	723,026	(86,482)	636,544
Small Business – Leasing, Leasing	Unrated	13,722	(1,223)	12,499
Other	Unrated	9,116	-	9,116
		<u>5,373,981</u>	<u>(238,116)</u>	<u>5,135,865</u>
Securities	Unrated	<u>2,521,485</u>	<u>(574)</u>	<u>2,520,911</u>

3. Financial risk management (continued)

31 December 2014 € '000	Internal rating	Amortised cost	Impairment losses	Carrying amount
Banks	Unrated	611,009	(6)	611,003
Sovereigns				
Municipalities, Municipalities – Leasing	Unrated	147,192	(350)	146,842
		<u>147,192</u>	<u>(350)</u>	<u>146,842</u>
Corporate				
Large Corporates, SME	I1 - I6	837,751	(990)	836,761
	M1 - M4	681,386	(5,459)	675,927
	R1 - R5	333,695	(14,266)	319,429
	D (default)	75,098	(52,925)	22,173
	Unrated	81,407	(2,505)	78,902
Specialized Lending - SPV, RED	Strong	104,043	(211)	103,832
	Good	312,348	(2,145)	310,203
	Satisfactory	352,135	(22,342)	329,793
	Weak	70,769	(9,266)	61,503
	D (default)	3,464	(174)	3,290
Other Financial Institutions, Public Sector Entities	Unrated - PPU approach	84,640	(150)	84,490
Leasing, Factoring	Unrated	444,549	(22,435)	422,114
		<u>3,381,285</u>	<u>(132,868)</u>	<u>3,248,417</u>
Retail				
Small Business, Flat Owners Associations	I3 - I6	23,136	(41)	23,095
	M1 - M4	96,520	(960)	95,560
	R1 - R5	54,744	(2,622)	52,122
	D (default)	12,893	(10,841)	2,052
	Unrated	29,231	(366)	28,865
Mortgages	L1 - L4	2,367,367	(420)	2,366,947
	N1 - N3	509,463	(1,008)	508,455
	W1 - W3	268,547	(10,601)	257,946
	D (default)	62,408	(21,755)	40,653
Unsecured Retail	U1	239,255	(180)	239,075
	U2 - U3	155,677	(332)	155,345
	U4 - U5	167,547	(801)	166,746
	U6 - U7	111,725	(1,276)	110,449
	U8 - U10	108,947	(3,512)	105,435
	U11 - U12	70,865	(10,118)	60,747
	D (default)	64,422	(46,610)	17,812
	Unrated	754,400	(116,993)	637,407
Small Business – Leasing, Leasing	Unrated	13,326	(1,182)	12,144
Other	Unrated	6,668	(1)	6,667
		<u>5,117,141</u>	<u>(229,619)</u>	<u>4,887,522</u>
Securities	Unrated	2,059,024	(574)	2,058,450

3. Financial risk management (continued)

(b) Market risk

Market risk is the risk that changes in market prices, such as interest rate, equity prices or foreign exchange rate will affect the Group's income or the value of its holdings of financial instruments. The objective of market risk management is to manage and control market risk exposures within acceptable parameters, while optimizing the return on risk.

Management of market risk

The Group separates its exposures to market risk between trading ('trading book') and non-trading portfolios ('banking book'). Trading portfolios are held by the Trading sub-department and include positions arising from market-making and proprietary position taking. All foreign exchange risk within the Group is transferred each day to the Trading sub-department and forms part of the trading portfolio for risk management purposes. The non-trading portfolios are managed by the Balance Sheet Management Department, and include all positions which are not intended for trading.

Overall authority for market risk is vested in ALCO. The Enterprise Risk Management Department is responsible for the development of detailed risk management policies (subject to review and approval by ALCO) and for their implementation and day-to-day risk monitoring and reporting.

Exposure to market risk – trading portfolios

The principal tool used to measure and control market risk exposures within the Group's trading portfolio is Value at Risk (VaR). Derivation of VaR is a stress VaR (sVaR), which represents maximal VaR of selected one year period generating the highest value of VaR during the last 5 years. The VaR of a trading portfolio is the estimated loss that will arise on the portfolio over a specified period of time (holding period) from an adverse market movement with a specified probability (confidence level). The VaR model used by the Group is based upon a 99% confidence level and assumes a one-day holding period. The VaR and sVaR models used are based on historical simulation. Taking into account market data from the previous year and in case of sVaR one year scenario from 5 years history and observed relationships between different markets and prices, the models generate a wide range of plausible future scenarios for market price movements. The VaR model was approved by the NBS as a basis for the calculation of the capital charge for market risk of the trading book.

The Group uses VaR limits for total market risk in the trading book, foreign exchange risk and interest rate risk. The overall structure of VaR and sVaR limits is subject to review and approval by ALCO and Intesa Sanpaolo. VaR is measured on a daily basis. Daily reports of utilisation of VaR and sVaR limits are submitted to the trading unit, the head of the Risk Management division and the head of the Finance and Capital Markets department. Regular summaries are submitted to Intesa Sanpaolo and ALCO.

A summary of the VaR and sVaR position of the Bank's trading portfolios:

€ '000	June 2015				December 2014			
	Balance	Avg	Max	Min	Balance	Avg	Max	Min
Foreign currency risk	9	38	118	9	16	82	148	6
Interest rate risk	52	103	248	10	10	88	300	10
Overall	49	108	264	16	19	135	313	12
sVaR	57	184	849	55	111	310	937	27

Although VaR is a popular and widely used risk management tool, there are known limitations, among which following are the most important ones:

- VaR does not measure the worst case loss, since 99% confidence interval means that in 1% of cases the loss is expected to be greater than the VaR amount,
- VaR calculated using 1 day holding period assumes hedge or disposal of a position within 1 day, which might not be realistic in the case of longer illiquid situation on the market,
- For calculating of VaR of a portfolio, the return, the volatility but also the correlation between various assets needs to be recognized what might represent a difficult task when taking into account the growing number and diversity of positions in given portfolio.

3. Financial risk management (continued)

These limitations are recognized, by supplementing VaR limits with other position limit structures. In addition, the Group uses a wide range of stress tests, to model the financial impact of a variety of exceptional market scenarios on the Group's position. Furthermore, integrating the sVaR measure into the VaR concept adds to mitigation of the limitation of using historical series and possibly omitting scenarios of an extraordinary nature.

Exposure to interest rate risk

The main risk to which non-trading portfolios are exposed is the risk of loss from fluctuations in the future cash flows or fair values of financial instruments due to a change in market interest rates. Interest rate risk is managed principally through monitoring interest rate gaps. Financial instruments are mapped to re-pricing gaps either by the maturity, i.e. fixed rate instruments, or by the next re-pricing date, i.e. floating rate instruments. Assets and liabilities that do not have a contractual maturity date or are not interest-bearing are mapped according to internal models based on behavioural assumptions.

The Risk Management division is responsible for monthly monitoring of these gaps. The management of interest rate risk is measured by shift sensitivity analysis (change in present value). In line with the Intesa Sanpaolo Group methodology, the shift sensitivity analysis is defined as a parallel and uniform shift of + 100 basis points of the rate curve (previously + 1 basis point) and +/- 200 basis points of the rate curve. Further adjustments of the shift sensitivity calculation such as incorporation of models for sight loans (e.g. overdrafts and credit cards), sight deposits and prepayment rates for mortgages and consumer loans were made as well due to alignment. These standard scenarios are applied on monthly basis.

Until the first half of 2015 the sensitivity of the interest margin was also measured on the basis of a parallel and instantaneous shock in the interest rate curve of ± 100 basis points, in a period of 12 months and for all following periods. The Group is currently changing the methodology for interest margin sensitivity measurement. The new methodology should be implemented within following months.

Overall banking book interest rate risk positions are managed by Balance Sheet Management Department, which uses different balance and off balance sheet instruments to manage the overall positions arising from the Group's banking book activities.

Interest rate risk comprises of the risk that the value of a financial instrument will fluctuate due to changes in market interest rates and the risk that the maturities of interest bearing assets differ from the maturities of the interest bearing liabilities used to fund those assets. The length of time for which the rate of interest is fixed on a financial instrument therefore indicates the extent to which it is exposed to the interest rate risk.

Models applied for the interest rate risk calculation

Each financial and non-financial instrument is mapped to the gap based on contractual or behavioural re-pricing date.

Contractual

This category includes instruments where the Group knows exactly when the maturity or next re-pricing takes place. This treatment is applied mainly to: securities bought and issued loans and term deposits.

Behavioural

These are items for which it is not exactly known when the maturity or next re-pricing will take place (e.g. current accounts). There are also some items where maturity or re-pricing period is known but it can be assumed that they will behave differently (e.g. prepayments can occur for mortgages and consumer loans). In this case, it is necessary to make certain assumptions to reflect the most probable behaviour of these items. The assumptions are based on a detailed analysis of the Group's historical data and statistical models.

Fixed assets, such as tangible and intangible assets and fixed liabilities like equity and also cash are treated as overnight items.

3. Financial risk management (continued)

At 31 December 2014, interest margin sensitivity on profit or loss in a one year time frame in the event of a 100 basis points rise in interest rates, was € 11,052 thousand. Due to the development of a new methodology for interest margin sensitivity measurement, figure at 30 June 2015 is not available.

At 30 June 2015, interest rate risk generated by the Group banking book, measured through shift sensitivity analysis to 100 basis points, registered € - 37,211 thousand (31 December 2014: € - 41,008 thousand).

€ '000	June 2015	Dec 2014
EUR	(39,425)	(42,044)
Other	2,214	1,036
	<u>(37,211)</u>	<u>(41,008)</u>

At 30 June 2015, the sensitivity of the AFS reserve in equity related to the non-hedged part of the portfolio to 100 basis points rise in interest rates was € - 5,513 thousand (31 December 2014: € - 6,735 thousand). At 30 June 2015, the sensitivity of CF hedges reserve in equity to 100 basis points rise in interest rates was € 3,752 thousand (31 December 2014: € 4,368 thousand).

The average interest rates for financial assets and liabilities were as follows:

	June 2015 %	Dec 2014 %
Assets		
Cash and balances with central banks	0.03	0.20
Due from banks	0.43	0.68
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	3.89	2.04
Available-for-sale financial assets	1.91	2.24
Loans and advances to customers	4.92	5.39
Held-to-maturity investments	4.33	4.33
Liabilities		
Due to central and other banks	1.01	1.10
Due to customers	0.50	0.63
Debt securities in issue	2.04	2.43

3. Financial risk management (continued)

Currency denominations of assets and liabilities

Foreign exchange rate risk comprises the risk that the value of financial assets and liabilities will fluctuate due to changes in market foreign exchange rates. It is the policy of the Group to manage its exposure to fluctuations in exchange rates through the regular monitoring and reporting of open positions and the application of a matrix of exposure and position limits.

(c) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is defined as the risk that the Group is not able to meet its payment obligations when they fall due (funding liquidity risk). Normally, the Group is able to cover cash outflows with cash inflows, highly liquid assets and its ability to obtain credit. With regard to the highly liquid assets in particular, there may be strains in the market that make them difficult (or even impossible) to sell or be used as collateral in exchange for funds. From this perspective, the Group's liquidity risk is closely tied to the market liquidity conditions (market liquidity risk).

The Guidelines for Liquidity Risk Management adopted by the VUB Group outline the set of principles, methods, regulations and control processes required to prevent the occurrence of a liquidity crisis and call for the Group to develop prudential approaches to liquidity management, making it possible to maintain the overall risk profile at extremely low levels.

The basic principles underpinning the Liquidity Policy of the VUB Group are:

- The existence of an operating structure that works within set limits and of a control structure that is independent from the operating structure;
- A prudential approach to the estimate of the cash inflow and outflow projections for all the balance sheet and off-balance sheet items, especially those without a contractual maturity;
- An assessment of the impact of various scenarios, including stress testing scenarios, on the cash inflows and outflows over time;
- The maintenance of an adequate level of unencumbered highly liquid assets, capable of enabling ordinary operations, also on an intraday basis, and overcoming the initial stages of a shock involving the Group's liquidity or system liquidity.

The VUB Group directly manages its own liquidity and coordinates its management at VUB Group level, ensures the adoption of adequate control techniques and procedures, and provides complete and accurate information to ALCO and the Statutory Bodies.

The departments of the Bank that are responsible for ensuring the correct application of the Guidelines are the Treasury Department responsible for short term liquidity management, the Balance Sheet Management Department responsible for medium and long term liquidity management and the Enterprise Risk Management Department responsible for monitoring indicators and verifying the observation of limits.

These Guidelines are broken down into three macro areas: 'Short term Liquidity Policy', 'Structural Liquidity Policy' and 'Contingency Liquidity Plan'.

The Short term Liquidity Policy includes the set of parameters, limits and observation thresholds that enable measurement, both under normal market conditions and under conditions of stress, of liquidity risk exposure over the short term, setting the maximum amount of risk to be assumed and ensuring the utmost prudence in its management.

The Structural Liquidity Policy of the VUB Group incorporates the set of measures and limits designed to control and manage the risks deriving from the mismatch of the medium to long-term maturities of the assets and liabilities, essential for the strategic planning of liquidity management. This involves the adoption of internal limits for the transformation of maturity dates aimed at preventing the medium to long-term operations from giving rise to excessive imbalances to be financed in the short term.

Together with the Short term and Structural Liquidity Policy, the Guidelines provide for the management methods of a potential liquidity crisis, defined as a situation of difficulty or inability of the Group to meet its cash commitments falling due, without implementing procedures and/or employing instruments that, due to their intensity or manner of use, do not qualify as ordinary administration.

3. Financial risk management (continued)

The Contingency Liquidity Plan sets the objectives of safeguarding the Group's capital and, at the same time, guarantees the continuity of operations under conditions of extreme liquidity emergency. It also ensures the identification of the pre-warning signals and their ongoing monitoring, the definition of procedures to be implemented in situations of liquidity stress, the immediate lines of action, and intervention measures for the resolution of emergencies. The pre-warning indices, aimed at identifying signs of a potential liquidity strain, both systemic and specific, are continuously recorded and reported to the departments responsible for the management and monitoring of liquidity.

The liquidity position of the Bank and the subsidiaries is regularly presented by Enterprise Risk Management Department and discussed during the ALCO meetings.

The table below shows an analysis of assets and liabilities according to when they are expected to be recovered or settled.

30 June 2015 € '000	Less than 12 months	Over 12 months	Total
Assets			
Cash and balances with central banks	385,732	-	385,732
Due from banks	178,916	9,602	188,518
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	51,168	175,064	226,232
Derivative financial instruments	10,895	25,749	36,644
Available-for-sale financial assets	560,576	1,213,833	1,774,409
Loans and advances to customers	2,263,968	6,331,541	8,595,509
Held-to-maturity investments	4,018	516,252	520,270
Associates and joint ventures	-	17,084	17,084
Intangible assets	-	56,406	56,406
Goodwill	-	29,305	29,305
Property and equipment	-	106,370	106,370
Deferred income tax assets	-	55,528	55,528
Other assets	29,283	-	29,283
	<u>3,484,556</u>	<u>8,536,734</u>	<u>12,021,290</u>
Liabilities			
Due to central and other banks	(291,780)	(364,041)	(655,821)
Derivative financial instruments	(9,472)	(53,181)	(62,653)
Due to customers	(7,991,283)	(203,843)	(8,195,126)
Debt securities in issue	(314,759)	(1,247,861)	(1,562,620)
Current income tax liabilities	(18,087)	-	(18,087)
Provisions	(5,400)	(24,972)	(30,372)
Other liabilities	(85,000)	(3,196)	(88,196)
	<u>(8,715,781)</u>	<u>(1,897,094)</u>	<u>(10,612,875)</u>
	<u>(5,231,225)</u>	<u>6,639,640</u>	<u>1,408,415</u>

3. Financial risk management (continued)

31 December 2014 € '000	Less than 12 months	Over 12 months	Total
Assets			
Cash and balances with central banks	405,149	-	405,149
Due from banks	601,541	9,462	611,003
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	400	655	1,055
Derivative financial instruments	19,998	29,939	49,937
Available-for-sale financial assets	163,564	1,360,375	1,523,939
Loans and advances to customers	2,235,574	6,047,207	8,282,781
Held-to-maturity investments	16,359	517,097	533,456
Associates and joint ventures	-	17,757	17,757
Intangible assets	-	58,577	58,577
Goodwill	-	29,305	29,305
Property and equipment	-	111,412	111,412
Deferred income tax assets	-	49,822	49,822
Other assets	24,762	-	24,762
	<u>3,467,347</u>	<u>8,231,608</u>	<u>11,698,955</u>
Liabilities			
Due to central and other banks	(430,991)	(312,925)	(743,916)
Derivative financial instruments	(9,481)	(52,578)	(62,059)
Due to customers	(7,446,637)	(412,666)	(7,859,303)
Debt securities in issue	(282,549)	(1,186,916)	(1,469,465)
Current income tax liabilities	(8,137)	-	(8,137)
Provisions	-	(27,709)	(27,709)
Other liabilities	(97,024)	(3,196)	(100,220)
	<u>(8,274,819)</u>	<u>(1,995,990)</u>	<u>(10,270,809)</u>
	<u>(4,807,472)</u>	<u>6,235,618</u>	<u>1,428,146</u>

3. Financial risk management (continued)

(d) Operational risk

Operational risk management strategies and processes

The VUB Group, in coordination with Intesa Sanpaolo, has defined the overall operational risk management framework by setting up a VUB Group policy and organisational process for measuring, managing and controlling operational risk.

The control of operational risk was attributed to the Group Operational Risk Committee, which identifies risk management policies. The Supervisory and Management Board of the Bank ensures the functionality, efficiency and effectiveness of the risk management and controls system.

The Group Operational Risk Committee (composing of the heads of the areas of the governance centre and of the business areas more involved in operational risk management), has the task of periodically reviewing the Group's overall operational risk profile, authorising any corrective actions, coordinating and monitoring the effectiveness of the main mitigation activities and approving the operational risk transfer strategies.

Organisational structure of the associated risk management function

For some time, the Group has had a centralised function within the Risk Management Division for the management of the Group's operational risks. This function is responsible, in coordination with the parent company, for the definition, implementation and monitoring of the methodological and organisational framework, as well as for the measurement of the risk profile, the verification of mitigation effectiveness and reporting to senior Management. In compliance with current requirements, the individual organisational units participate in the process and each of them is responsible for the identification, assessment, management and mitigation of its operational risks. Specific offices and departments have been identified within these organisational units to be responsible for Operational Risk Management. These functions are responsible for the collection and structured census of information relating to operational events, scenario analyses and evaluation of the level of risk associated with the business environment. The Risk Management Division carries out second level monitoring of these activities.

Scope of application and characteristics of the risk measurement and reporting system

Upon the request of the parent company, VUB Bank as part of the VUB Group request has received in February 2010, from the relevant Supervisory authorities, approval for usage and thus adopted the Advanced Measurement Approach ('AMA'), for Operational Risk management and measurement. In June 2013, the Bank as part of the VUB Group request has received approval for usage and thus adopted the AMA for subsidiaries Consumer Finance Holding and VUB Leasing. The part of this decision has been an approval of the insurance effect inclusion, as well as approval of a new allocation mechanism, which led to fulfilment of a regulatory condition for the approval of diversification usage.

As such, the VUB Group uses a combination of the AMA for the Bank, Consumer Finance Holding and VUB Leasing, and the Standardized Approach ('TSA') for VUB Factoring.

For the use of the AMA, the VUB Group has set up, in addition to the corporate governance mechanisms required by the Supervisory regulations, an effective system for the management of operational risk certified by the process of annual self-assessment carried out by the Bank and VUB Group Companies that fall within the scope of AMA and TSA. This process is verified by the Internal Audit Department and submitted to the relevant Bank's Committee for the annual certification of compliance with the requirements established by the regulation.

Under the AMA approach, the capital requirement is calculated by internal model, which combines all elements stipulated in Supervisory regulation, allowing to measure the exposure in a more risk sensitive way. Monitoring of operational risks is performed by an integrated reporting system, which provides management with the information necessary for the management and/or mitigation of the operational risk.

Policies for hedging and mitigating risk

The VUB Group, in coordination with its parent company, has set up a traditional operational risk transfer policy (insurance) aimed at mitigating the impact of any unexpected losses. The AMA calculation does include the benefit from this transfer of operational risk through insurance policies, which contributes to reducing the risk capital calculated through the internal models.

4. Estimated fair value of financial assets and liabilities

The fair value of financial instruments is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Fair value is a market measurement criterion that is not entity-specific. An entity has to measure the fair value of an asset or liability by adopting the assumptions that would be used by market operators to determine the price of an asset or liability, presuming that the market operators act with a view to satisfying their own economic interest in the best way possible.

The VUB Group uses the following fair value hierarchy that categorises into three levels the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value:

- Level 1: inputs represented by quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities accessible by the Group as at the measurement date;
- Level 2: inputs other than quoted prices included in Level 1 that are directly or indirectly observable for the assets or liabilities to be measured; and
- Level 3: inputs unobservable for the asset or liability.

The highest priority is attributed to effective market quotes (Level 1) for the valuation of assets and liabilities or for similar assets and liabilities measured using valuation techniques based on market-observable parameters other than financial instruments quotes (Level 2) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3). Following this hierarchy, where available, fair value estimates made by the Group are based on quoted market prices. However, no readily available market prices exist for a significant portion of the Group's financial instruments. In circumstances where the quoted market prices are not readily available, the fair value is estimated using discounted cash flow models or other pricing models as appropriate.

Under Level 2, the principal valuation technique used by the Group for the debt instruments involves the method of discounting forecast cash flows. The calculation takes into account the time value of money (risk-free rate of interest) and the credit risk expressed in the form of the credit spreads which are applied to the bonds' yield and represent the risk premium the investor claims against the risk free investment. In the case of derivative financial instruments the Group uses the standard fair value calculation models based on the principal net present value using the yield curve to discount all future cash flows from derivatives for all relevant currencies. The principal input parameters used by the models comprise interest rate curves, volatility curves, spot and forward prices and the correlation between underlying assets. Changes in underlying assumptions, including discount rates and estimated future cash flows, significantly affect the estimates. The VUB Group also considers its own and counterparty's credit risk.

The valuation technique defined for a financial instrument is adopted over time and is modified only following significant changes in market conditions or the subjective conditions related to the issuer of the financial instrument. The Group monitors the occurrence of these changes and accordingly reassesses the classification into the fair value levels hierarchy. For determining the timing of the transfers between the levels, the Group uses the end of the reporting period as a day when the transfer is deemed to have occurred.

In estimating the fair value of the Group's financial instruments, the following methods and assumptions were used:

(a) Cash and balances with central banks

The carrying values of cash and cash equivalents are generally deemed to approximate their fair value.

(b) Due from banks

The fair value of due from banks balances with longer maturities and material amounts is estimated using discounted cash flow analyses, based upon the risk free interest rate curve. By shorter maturities and not significant balances, the estimated fair value of amounts due from banks approximates their carrying amounts. Impairment losses are taken into consideration when calculating fair values.

(c) Loans and advances to customers

The fair value of loans and advances to customers is estimated using discounted cash flow analyses, based upon the risk free interest rate curve. Impairment losses and liquidity premiums are taken into consideration when calculating fair values.

4. Estimated fair value of financial assets and liabilities (continued)

(d) Held-to-maturity investments

The fair value of securities carried in the 'Held-to-maturity investments' portfolio is based on quoted market prices. Where no market prices are available, the fair value is calculated by discounting future cash flows using risk free interest rate curve adjusted to reflect credit risk.

(e) Due to banks and customers

The estimated fair value of due to banks approximates their carrying amounts. The fair value of due to customers with short term maturity (under one year, including current accounts) is estimated by discounting their future expected cash flows using the risk free interest rate curve. The fair value of deposits with maturity over one year is discounted using the risk free interest rate curve adjusted by credit spreads reflecting the credit quality of the Group as the borrower.

(f) Debt securities in issue

The fair value of debt securities issued by the Group is based on quoted market prices. Where no market prices are available, the fair value was calculated by discounting future cash flows using the risk free interest rate curve adjusted by credit spreads reflecting the credit quality of VUB as the issuer.

4. Estimated fair value of financial assets and liabilities (continued)

30 June 2015 € '000	Note	Carrying amount			Fair value			Total fair value
		At amortised cost	At fair value	Total carrying amount	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	
Financial assets								
Cash and balances with central banks	7	385,732	-	385,732	-	385,732	-	385,732
Due from banks	8	188,518	-	188,518	-	188,518	-	188,518
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	9	-	226,232	226,232	203,710	22,522	-	226,232
Derivative financial instruments	10	-	36,644	36,644	-	36,644	-	36,644
Available-for-sale financial assets	11	-	1,774,409	1,774,409	714,978	1,059,431	-	1,774,409
Loans and advances to customers	12	8,595,509	-	8,595,509	-	-	10,239,846	10,239,846
Held-to-maturity investments	14	520,270	-	520,270	-	602,562	-	602,562
		<u>9,690,029</u>	<u>2,037,285</u>	<u>11,727,314</u>	<u>918,688</u>	<u>2,295,409</u>	<u>10,239,846</u>	<u>13,453,943</u>
Financial liabilities								
Due to central and other banks	21	(655,821)	-	(655,821)	-	(655,821)	-	(655,821)
Derivative financial instruments	10	-	(62,653)	(62,653)	-	(62,653)	-	(62,653)
Due to customers	22	(8,195,126)	-	(8,195,126)	-	(8,113,448)	-	(8,113,448)
Debt securities in issue	23	(1,562,620)	-	(1,562,620)	-	(1,636,479)	-	(1,636,479)
		<u>(10,413,567)</u>	<u>(62,653)</u>	<u>(10,476,220)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(10,468,401)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(10,468,401)</u>

4. Estimated fair value of financial assets and liabilities (continued)

31 December 2014 € '000	Note	Carrying amount			Fair value			Total fair value
		At amortised cost	At fair value	Total carrying amount	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	
Financial assets								
Cash and balances with central banks	7	405,149	-	405,149	-	405,149	-	405,149
Due from banks	8	611,003	-	611,003	-	611,888	-	611,888
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	9	-	1,055	1,055	625	430	-	1,055
Derivative financial instruments	10	-	49,937	49,937	-	49,937	-	49,937
Available-for-sale financial assets	11	-	1,523,939	1,523,939	480,098	1,043,841	-	1,523,939
Loans and advances to customers	12	8,282,781	-	8,282,781	-	-	9,886,486	9,886,486
Held-to-maturity investments	14	533,456	-	533,456	-	622,803	-	622,803
		<u>9,832,389</u>	<u>1,574,931</u>	<u>11,407,320</u>	<u>480,723</u>	<u>2,734,048</u>	<u>9,886,486</u>	<u>13,101,257</u>
Financial liabilities								
Due to central and other banks	21	(743,916)	-	(743,916)	-	(743,916)	-	(743,916)
Derivative financial instruments	10	-	(62,059)	(62,059)	-	(62,059)	-	(62,059)
Due to customers	22	(7,859,303)	-	(7,859,303)	-	(7,839,394)	-	(7,839,394)
Debt securities in issue	23	(1,469,465)	-	(1,469,465)	-	(1,540,516)	-	(1,540,516)
		<u>(10,072,684)</u>	<u>(62,059)</u>	<u>(10,134,743)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(10,185,885)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(10,185,885)</u>

There were no transfers of financial instruments among the levels during the period ended 30 June 2015 (31 December 2014: no transfers).

5. Segment reporting

Segment information is presented in respect of the Group's operating segments, based on the management and internal reporting structure.

Operating segments pay and receive interest to and from the Central Treasury on an arm's length basis in order to reflect the costs of funding.

The Group comprises the following main operating segments:

- Retail Banking,
- Corporate Banking,
- Central Treasury.

Retail Banking includes loans, deposits and other transactions and balances with households, sole traders and small business segment.

Corporate Banking comprises Small and Medium Enterprises ('SME') and the Corporate Customer Desk ('CCD'). SME includes loans, deposits and other transactions and balances with small and medium enterprises (company revenue in the range of € 1 million to € 50 million; if revenue information is not available, bank account turnover is used). The CCD includes loans, deposits and other transactions and balances with large corporate customers (company revenue over € 50 million).

Central Treasury undertakes the Group's funding, issues of debt securities as well as trading book operations. The Group also has a central Governance Centre that manages the Group's premises, equity investments and own equity funds as well as Risk Management that operates the workout loan portfolio.

In order to unify the disclosure of information on operating segments with the Intesa Sanpaolo methodology, the project of New Segmentation was launched in the Bank in the first quarter of 2015. The most significant change was related to the extension of Central Treasury segment by banking book transactions (previously they were reported within 'Other'). Comparative data for the prior period were restated accordingly to reflect this change.

5. Segment reporting (continued)
30 June 2015
€ '000

	Retail Banking	Corporate Banking	Central Treasury	Other	Total
External revenue					
Interest and similar income	163,651	44,641	29,950	4,071	242,313
Interest and similar expense	(19,376)	(3,007)	(15,472)	(856)	(38,711)
Inter-segment revenue	(17,144)	(6,210)	24,011	(657)	-
Net interest income	127,131	35,424	38,489	2,558	203,602
Net fee and commission income	33,106	28,651	1,653	(2,180)	61,230
Net trading result	1,624	2,641	1,050	(38)	5,277
Other operating income	2,407	2,617	(16)	267	5,275
Total segment operating income	164,268	69,333	41,176	607	275,384
Operating expenses					(131,045)
Operating profit before impairment					144,339
Impairment losses					(39,911)
Share of profit of associates and joint ventures					3,875
Income tax expense					(25,221)
Net profit for 6 months					83,082
Segment assets	5,139,384	3,395,815	3,035,410	450,681	12,021,290
Segment liabilities and equity	5,475,022	2,550,793	2,657,559	1,337,916	12,021,290

5. Segment reporting (continued)

30 June 2014 € '000	Retail Banking	Corporate Banking	Central Treasury	Other	Total
External revenue					
Interest and similar income	170,135	45,733	40,155	5,487	261,510
Interest and similar expense	(21,544)	(4,105)	(23,438)	(1,001)	(50,088)
Inter-segment revenue	(11,427)	(8,402)	9,461	10,368	-
Net interest income	137,164	33,226	26,178	14,854	211,422
Net fee and commission income	22,345	27,401	1,198	(1,956)	48,988
Net trading result	1,288	1,779	462	2,592	6,121
Other operating income	4,861	2,356	(11)	(3,743)	3,463
Total segment operating income	165,658	64,762	27,827	11,747	269,994
Operating expenses					(137,935)
Operating profit before impairment					132,059
Impairment losses					(38,723)
Share of profit of associates and joint ventures					3,476
Income tax expense					(20,620)
Net profit for 6 months					<u>76,192</u>
Segment assets	4,706,478	3,262,525	3,340,249	216,362	11,525,614
Segment liabilities and equity	5,026,648	2,247,272	2,930,501	1,321,193	11,525,614

6. Cash and cash equivalents

€ '000	Note	June 2015	Dec 2014
Cash and balances with central banks	7	385,732	405,149
Current accounts in other banks	8	22,444	19,769
Term deposits with other banks	8	2,586	4,269
		<u>410,762</u>	<u>429,187</u>

7. Cash and balances with central banks

€ '000	June 2015	Dec 2014
Balances with central banks:		
Compulsory minimum reserves	164,282	190,294
Current accounts	2	-
Term deposits	120,132	119,892
	<u>284,416</u>	<u>310,186</u>
Cash in hand	101,316	94,963
	<u>385,732</u>	<u>405,149</u>

The compulsory minimum reserve is maintained as an interest bearing deposit under the regulations of the NBS and the Czech National Bank. The amount of the compulsory minimum reserve depends on the level of customer deposits accepted by the VUB Group and the amount of issued bonds, both with a maturity of up to 2 years. The rate for the calculation of the compulsory minimum reserve is 1% for the reserves held at the NBS and 2% for the reserves held at the Czech National Bank. The required balance is calculated as the total of individual items multiplied by the valid rate.

The daily balance of the compulsory minimum reserve can vary significantly based on the amount of incoming and outgoing payments. The VUB Group's ability to withdraw the compulsory minimum reserve is restricted by local legislation.

8. Due from banks

€ '000	Note	June 2015	Dec 2014
Current accounts	6	22,444	19,769
Term deposits			
with contractual maturity less than 90 days	6	2,586	4,269
with contractual maturity over 90 days		120,074	20,066
Loans and advances			
with contractual maturity over 90 days		14,450	516,885
Cash collateral		28,970	50,020
Impairment losses	13	(6)	(6)
		<u>188,518</u>	<u>611,003</u>

At 30 June 2015 the balance of 'Term deposits' includes two deposits with Intesa Sanpaolo S.p.A. in the nominal amount of € 20,000 thousand and € 100,000 thousand and two other deposits with CIB Bank and Bank Pekao (31 December 2014: one deposit with Intesa Sanpaolo S.p.A. in the nominal amount of € 20,000 thousand and one deposit with CIB Bank in the nominal amount of € 4,269 thousand).

8. Due from banks (continued)

At 31 December 2014 the balance of 'Loans and advances' comprised of two reverse repo trades concluded with Intesa Sanpaolo S.p.A. in the total nominal amount of € 499,719 thousand. The repo trades were secured by state bonds and cash collateral. At 30 June 2015 there was no reverse repo trade concluded.

9. Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss

€ '000	June 2015	Dec 2014
Financial assets held for trading		
State bonds		
with contractual maturity over 90 days	225,119	50
Bank bonds		
with contractual maturity over 90 days	749	380
	<u>225,868</u>	<u>430</u>
Financial assets designated at fair value through profit or loss on initial recognition		
Equity shares	364	625
	<u>226,232</u>	<u>1,055</u>

Equity shares in the fair value through profit or loss portfolio ('FVTPL') are represented by shares of Intesa Sanpaolo S.p.A and they form the part of the incentive plan introduced by the parent company.

At 30 June 2015 and 31 December 2014, no financial assets at fair value through profit or loss were pledged by the VUB Group to secure transactions with counterparties.

10. Derivative financial instruments

€ '000	June 2015 Assets	Dec 2014 Assets	June 2015 Liabilities	Dec 2014 Liabilities
Trading derivatives	19,861	29,576	18,816	18,160
Cash flow hedges of interest rate risk	-	-	1,071	1,134
Fair value hedges of interest rate and inflation risk	16,783	20,361	42,766	42,765
	<u>36,644</u>	<u>49,937</u>	<u>62,653</u>	<u>62,059</u>

Trading derivatives also include hedging instruments that are non-qualifying according to IAS 39, which are held for risk management purposes rather than for trading. These instruments currently consist of one cross-currency interest rate swap. At 30 June 2015, the negative fair value of this derivative was € 1,110 thousand (31 December 2014: € 1,627 thousand).

10. Derivative financial instruments (continued)

€ '000	June 2015 Assets	Dec 2014 Assets	June 2015 Liabilities	Dec 2014 Liabilities
Trading derivatives – Fair values				
Interest rate instruments				
Swaps	5,973	6,826	4,171	5,504
Options	1,792	1,674	1,813	1,711
	<u>7,765</u>	<u>8,500</u>	<u>5,984</u>	<u>7,215</u>
Foreign currency instruments				
Forwards and swaps	8,760	16,625	8,262	4,790
Cross currency swaps	-	-	1,110	1,627
Options	844	1,407	976	1,508
	<u>9,604</u>	<u>18,032</u>	<u>10,348</u>	<u>7,925</u>
Equity and commodity instruments				
Equity options	2,320	3,044	2,341	3,020
Commodity swaps	172	-	143	-
	<u>2,492</u>	<u>3,044</u>	<u>2,484</u>	<u>3,020</u>
	<u>19,861</u>	<u>29,576</u>	<u>18,816</u>	<u>18,160</u>
€ '000				
Trading derivatives – Notional values				
Interest rate instruments				
Swaps	435,482	418,784	435,482	418,784
Options	174,571	169,598	174,571	169,598
	<u>610,053</u>	<u>588,382</u>	<u>610,053</u>	<u>588,382</u>
Foreign currency instruments				
Forwards and swaps	838,209	426,957	836,794	414,849
Cross currency swaps	29,354	28,844	30,450	30,449
Options	80,981	68,644	80,981	68,606
	<u>948,544</u>	<u>524,445</u>	<u>948,225</u>	<u>513,904</u>
Equity and commodity instruments				
Equity options	23,398	23,398	23,402	23,402
Commodity swaps	7,926	-	7,858	-
	<u>31,324</u>	<u>23,398</u>	<u>31,260</u>	<u>23,402</u>
	<u>1,589,921</u>	<u>1,136,225</u>	<u>1,589,538</u>	<u>1,125,688</u>

10. Derivative financial instruments (continued)

Cash flow hedges of interest rate risk

At 30 June 2015 the VUB Group uses two interest rate swaps to hedge the interest rate risk arising from the issuance of two variable rate mortgage bonds. The cash flows on the floating legs of these interest rate swaps substantially match the cash flow profiles of the variable rate mortgage bonds.

Fair value hedges of interest rate and inflation risk

The VUB Group uses thirteen interest rate swaps and one cross currency swap to hedge the interest rate risk of fourteen fixed rate bonds from the AFS portfolio. The changes in fair value of these interest rate and cross currency swaps substantially offset the changes in fair value of AFS portfolio bonds, both in relation to changes of interest rates.

The VUB Group also uses three asset swaps to hedge the inflation risk and the interest rate risk of one inflation bond held in the AFS portfolio (the bond and swaps were purchased together as a package transaction). The changes in fair value of these asset swaps substantially offset the changes in fair value of AFS portfolio bond, both in relation to changes of interest rates and inflation reference index.

Furthermore, the VUB Group uses seventeen interest rate swaps to hedge the interest rate risk arising from the issuance of twelve fixed rate mortgage bonds. The changes in fair value of these interest rate swaps substantially offset the changes in fair value of the mortgage bonds, both in relation to changes of interest rates.

11. Available-for-sale financial assets

€ '000	Note	Share June 2015	Share Dec 2014	June 2015	Dec 2014
State bonds				1,569,192	1,314,245
Bank bonds				205,169	209,646
Equity shares at cost					
RVS, a.s.		8.38%	8.38%	574	574
S.W.I.F.T.		0.01%	0.01%	48	48
Impairment losses to equity shares at cost	13			(574)	(574)
				<u>1,774,409</u>	<u>1,523,939</u>

At 30 June 2015, bonds in the total nominal amount of € 830,261 thousand from available-for-sale portfolio were pledged by the VUB Group to secure collateralized transactions (31 December 2014: € 830,261 thousand). These bonds were pledged in favour of the NBS within the pool of assets used as collateral for received funds needed for the liquidity management purposes. The whole pool of assets can be used for any ECB operation in the future.

12. Loans and advances to customers
30 June 2015
€ '000
Sovereigns

Municipalities

Municipalities – Leasing

Corporate

Large Corporates

Specialized Lending

Small and Medium Enterprises ('SME')

Other Financial Institutions

Public Sector Entities

Leasing

Factoring

Retail

Small Business

Small Business – Leasing

Consumer Loans

Mortgages

Credit Cards

Overdrafts

Leasing

Flat Owners Associations

Other

	Amortised cost	Impairment losses (note 13)	Carrying amount
	135,818	(309)	135,509
	257	(2)	255
	<u>136,075</u>	<u>(311)</u>	<u>135,764</u>
	1,110,719	(15,649)	1,095,070
	829,512	(39,364)	790,148
	1,009,063	(58,469)	950,594
	110,080	(405)	109,675
	4,544	(44)	4,500
	263,199	(19,988)	243,211
	133,998	(3,316)	130,682
	<u>3,461,115</u>	<u>(137,235)</u>	<u>3,323,880</u>
	216,328	(16,150)	200,178
	9,432	(888)	8,544
	1,403,984	(140,945)	1,263,039
	3,388,074	(34,066)	3,354,008
	216,722	(33,526)	183,196
	103,217	(11,908)	91,309
	4,290	(335)	3,955
	22,818	(298)	22,520
	9,116	-	9,116
	<u>5,373,981</u>	<u>(238,116)</u>	<u>5,135,865</u>
	<u>8,971,171</u>	<u>(375,662)</u>	<u>8,595,509</u>

12. Loans and advances to customers (continued)

31 December 2014 € '000	Amortised cost	Impairment losses (note 13)	Carrying amount
Sovereigns			
Municipalities	146,978	(349)	146,629
Municipalities – Leasing	214	(1)	213
	<u>147,192</u>	<u>(350)</u>	<u>146,842</u>
Corporate			
Large Corporates	1,130,908	(17,309)	1,113,599
Specialized Lending	842,759	(34,138)	808,621
Small and Medium Enterprises ('SME')	878,429	(58,836)	819,593
Other Financial Institutions	82,986	(117)	82,869
Public Sector Entities	1,654	(33)	1,621
Leasing	255,405	(18,761)	236,644
Factoring	189,144	(3,674)	185,470
	<u>3,381,285</u>	<u>(132,868)</u>	<u>3,248,417</u>
Retail			
Small Business	193,329	(14,527)	178,802
Small Business – Leasing	9,739	(910)	8,829
Consumer Loans	1,340,051	(132,961)	1,207,090
Mortgages	3,207,785	(33,784)	3,174,001
Credit Cards	220,590	(34,672)	185,918
Overdrafts	112,197	(12,189)	100,008
Leasing	3,587	(272)	3,315
Flat Owners Associations	23,195	(303)	22,892
Other	6,668	(1)	6,667
	<u>5,117,141</u>	<u>(229,619)</u>	<u>4,887,522</u>
	<u>8,645,618</u>	<u>(362,837)</u>	<u>8,282,781</u>

Maturities of gross finance lease receivables are as follows:

€ '000	June 2015	Dec 2014
Up to 1 year	96,994	96,332
1 to 5 years	165,548	157,254
Over 5 years	41,461	43,548
	<u>304,003</u>	<u>297,134</u>
Unearned future finance income on finance leases	(26,825)	(28,189)
Impairment losses	(21,213)	(19,944)
	<u>255,965</u>	<u>249,001</u>

12. Loans and advances to customers (continued)

Maturities of net finance lease receivables are as follows:

€ '000	June 2015	Dec 2014
Up to 1 year	88,200	87,204
1 to 5 years	150,691	141,605
Over 5 years	38,287	40,136
	277,178	268,945
Impairment losses	(21,213)	(19,944)
	255,965	249,001

13. Impairment losses on assets

€ '000	Note	1 Jan 2015	Creation (note 34)	Reversal (note 34)	Assets written-off/sold (note 34)	FX diff	Other *	30 June 2015
Due from banks	8	6	1	(1)	-	-	-	6
Available-for-sale financial assets	11	574	-	-	-	-	-	574
Loans and advances to customers	12	362,837	125,880	(81,927)	(25,951)	245	(5,422)	375,662
Property and equipment	18	10,754	24	(200)	-	-	-	10,578
Other assets	20	7,640	668	(1,356)	(2,375)	1	-	4,578
		381,811	126,573	(83,484)	(28,326)	246	(5,422)	391,398

* 'Other' represents the interest portion (unwinding of interest).

14. Held-to-maturity investments

€ '000	June 2015	Dec 2014
State bonds	520,270	533,456
	520,270	533,456

At 30 June 2015, state bonds in the total nominal amount of € 33,075 thousand (31 December 2014: € 39,023 thousand) were pledged by the Group to secure collateralized transactions. All of these state bonds pledged represented the substitute cover to mortgage bonds issued and were pledged in accordance with the requirements of the Act No. 530/1990 Collection on Bonds.

15. Associates and joint ventures

€ '000	Share %	Cost	Revaluation	Carrying amount
At 30 June 2015				
Slovak Banking Credit Bureau, s.r.o.	33.33	3	49	52
VÚB Asset Management, správ. spol., a.s.	40.55	2,821	6,082	8,903
VÚB Generali DSS, a.s.	50.00	16,597	(8,468)	8,129
		<u>19,421</u>	<u>(2,337)</u>	<u>17,084</u>
At 31 December 2014				
Slovak Banking Credit Bureau, s.r.o.	33.33	3	50	53
VÚB Asset Management, správ. spol., a.s.	40.55	2,821	5,798	8,619
VÚB Generali DSS, a.s.	50.00	16,597	(7,512)	9,085
		<u>19,421</u>	<u>(1,664)</u>	<u>17,757</u>

Slovak Banking Credit Bureau, s.r.o. ('SBCB') and VÚB Asset Management, správ. spol., a.s. ('VÚB AM') are associates of the VUB Group for which equity method of consolidation is used.

VÚB Generali DSS, a.s. is a joint arrangement in which the Group has a joint control and a 50% ownership interest. The company was founded in 2004 by VUB Bank and Generali Poistovňa, a. s. and it is structured as a separate vehicle in which the Group has a residual share on net assets. Accordingly, the Group has classified its interest in VÚB Generali DSS, a.s. as a joint venture which is also equity-accounted.

16. Intangible assets

€ '000	Software	Other intangible assets	Assets in progress	Total
Cost				
At 1 January 2015	206,779	54,744	11,595	273,118
Additions	-	98	4,420	4,518
Disposals	-	-	(8)	(8)
Transfers	4,948	134	(5,082)	-
FX differences	6	1	-	7
At 30 June 2015	<u>211,733</u>	<u>54,977</u>	<u>10,925</u>	<u>277,635</u>
Accumulated amortisation				
At 1 January 2015	(161,189)	(53,352)	-	(214,541)
Amortisation for the period	(6,473)	(208)	-	(6,681)
FX differences	(6)	(1)	-	(7)
At 30 June 2015	<u>(167,668)</u>	<u>(53,561)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(221,229)</u>
Carrying amount				
At 1 January 2015	<u>45,590</u>	<u>1,392</u>	<u>11,595</u>	<u>58,577</u>
At 30 June 2015	<u>44,065</u>	<u>1,416</u>	<u>10,925</u>	<u>56,406</u>

17. Goodwill

€ '000	June 2015	Dec 2014
VÚB Leasing, a. s.	10,434	10,434
Consumer Finance Holding, a.s.	18,871	18,871
	<u>29,305</u>	<u>29,305</u>

Goodwill related to VÚB Leasing includes both goodwill related to the majority (70%) shareholding in the amount of € 7,304 thousand (Sk 219 million from 2007) and goodwill arising from the purchase of the remaining 30% shareholding in the amount of € 3,130 thousand (Sk 96 million from 2010). Goodwill related to Consumer Finance Holding, a.s. ('CFH') arose in 2005 on the acquisition of CFH, the VUB Group's sales finance subsidiary.

Goodwill is tested for impairment annually or more frequently, if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value may be impaired. Management considers VÚB Leasing and CFH to be separate cash generating units for the purposes of impairment testing.

The basis on which the recoverable amount of VÚB Leasing and CFH has been determined is the value in use calculation, using cash flow projections based on the most recent financial budgets approved by senior management covering a 5-year period. The discount rates applied to cash flow projections beyond the five year period are adjusted by the projected growth rate. Both discount rates and growth rates are determined on the Intesa Sanpaolo Group level specifically for the Slovak market.

The following rates are used by the Group for both VUB Leasing and CFH:

	June 2015	Dec 2014
Discount rate	9.95%	9.95%
Projected growth rate	4.91%	4.91%

The calculation of value in use for both VÚB Leasing and CFH considers the following key assumptions:

- interest margins,
- discount rates,
- market share during the budget period,
- projected growth rates used to extrapolate cash flows beyond the budget period,
- current local Gross Domestic Product (GDP),
- local inflation rates.

Interest margins

Key assumptions used in the cash flow projections are the development of margins and volumes by product line.

Discount rates

Discount rates are determined based on the Capital Asset Pricing Model ('CAPM'). The impairment calculation is most sensitive to market interest rates, expected cash-flows and growth rates.

18. Property and equipment

€ '000	Note	Buildings and land	Equipment	Other tangibles	Assets in progress	Total
Cost						
At 1 January 2015		200,655	71,283	46,467	4,077	322,482
Additions		-	-	49	2,715	2,764
Disposals		(59)	(5,454)	(1,043)	(102)	(6,658)
Transfers		129	2,131	2,467	(4,727)	-
FX differences		2	2	2	-	6
At 30 June 2015		200,727	67,962	47,942	1,963	318,594
Accumulated depreciation						
At 1 January 2015		(102,051)	(62,693)	(35,572)	-	(200,316)
Depreciation for the period		(2,972)	(2,665)	(1,698)	-	(7,335)
Disposals		12	5,277	722	-	6,011
FX differences		(2)	(3)	(1)	-	(6)
At 30 June 2015		(105,013)	(60,084)	(36,549)	-	(201,646)
Impairment losses						
At 1 January 2015	13	(10,543)	-	(211)	-	(10,754)
Net release		-	-	176	-	176
At 30 June 2015		(10,543)	-	(35)	-	(10,578)
Carrying amount						
At 1 January 2015		88,061	8,590	10,684	4,077	111,412
At 30 June 2015		85,171	7,878	11,358	1,963	106,370

19. Current and deferred income taxes

€ '000	June 2015	Dec 2014
Deferred income tax assets	55,528	49,822
€ '000	June 2015	Dec 2014
Current income tax liabilities	18,087	8,137

Deferred income taxes are calculated on all temporary differences using a tax rate of 22% (31 December 2014: 22%) as follows:

€ '000	June 2015	Profit/ (loss) (note 35)	Equity	Dec 2014
Due from banks	1	-	-	1
Derivative financial instruments designated as cash flow hedges	236	-	(14)	250
Available-for-sale financial assets	(4,968)	-	3,777	(8,745)
Loans and advances to customers	60,933	1,690	-	59,243
Property and equipment	(5,566)	(98)	-	(5,468)
Provisions	80	(49)	-	129
Other liabilities	4,327	276	-	4,051
Other	485	124	-	361
Deferred income tax assets	55,528	1,943	3,763	49,822

20. Other assets

€ '000	Note	June 2015	Dec 2014
Operating receivables and advances		18,599	12,034
Inventories (incl. repossessed leased assets)		6,611	11,081
Prepayments and accrued income		5,953	6,715
Other tax receivables		2,104	2,179
Settlement of operations with financial instruments		7	7
Receivables from trading with securities		2	2
Other		585	384
Impairment losses	13	33,861 (4,578)	32,402 (7,640)
		29,283	24,762

21. Due to central and other banks

€ '000	June 2015	Dec 2014
Due to central banks		
Current accounts	2,898	5,572
	<u>2,898</u>	<u>5,572</u>
Due to other banks		
Current accounts	27,706	13,415
Term deposits	118,261	204,924
Loans received	503,356	515,184
Cash collateral received	3,600	4,821
	<u>652,923</u>	<u>738,344</u>
	<u>655,821</u>	<u>743,916</u>

22. Due to customers

€ '000	June 2015	Dec 2014
Current accounts	4,559,633	4,190,056
Term deposits	2,951,015	3,077,205
Savings accounts	205,588	207,045
Government and municipal deposits	343,814	306,172
Promissory notes	100	200
Other deposits	134,976	78,625
	<u>8,195,126</u>	<u>7,859,303</u>

23. Debt securities in issue

€ '000	June 2015	Dec 2014
Bonds	58	58
Mortgage bonds	1,069,165	999,543
Mortgage bonds subject to cash flow hedges	125,991	126,071
Mortgage bonds subject to fair value hedges	357,536	324,037
	<u>1,552,692</u>	<u>1,449,651</u>
Revaluation of fair value hedged mortgage bonds	9,041	18,593
Amortisation of revaluation related to terminated fair value hedges	829	1,163
	<u>1,562,620</u>	<u>1,469,465</u>

The repayment of mortgage bonds is funded by the mortgage loans provided to customers of the Group (see also note 12).

23. Debt securities in issue (continued)

Name	Interest rate (%)	CCY	Number of mortgage bonds issued at 30 June 2015	Nominal value in CCY per piece	Issue date	Maturity date	June 2015 € '000	Dec 2014 € '000
Mortgage bonds VÚB, a.s. XVII.	0.10	EUR	1,678	33,194	28.11.2005	28.11.2015	55,704	55,709
Mortgage bonds VÚB, a.s. XX.	4.30	EUR	50	331,939	9.3.2006	9.3.2021	16,819	17,176
Mortgage bonds VÚB, a.s. XXX.	5.00	EUR	1,000	33,194	5.9.2007	5.9.2032	34,241	33,401
Mortgage bonds VÚB, a.s. XXXI.	4.90	EUR	600	33,194	29.11.2007	29.11.2037	20,175	19,680
Mortgage bonds VÚB, a.s. 32.	1.89	CZK	800	1,000,000	17.12.2007	17.12.2017	30,286	29,944
Mortgage bonds VÚB, a.s. 35.	4.40	EUR	630	33,194	19.3.2008	19.3.2016	21,113	21,528
Mortgage bonds VÚB, a.s. 36.	4.75	EUR	560	33,194	31.3.2008	31.3.2020	18,576	18,993
Mortgage bonds VÚB, a.s. 39.	0.71	EUR	-	1,000,000	26.6.2008	26.6.2015	-	60,006
Mortgage bonds VÚB, a.s. 40.	0.73	EUR	70	1,000,000	28.8.2008	28.8.2015	70,048	70,053
Mortgage bonds VÚB, a.s. 43.	5.10	EUR	500	33,194	26.9.2008	26.9.2025	16,248	15,776
Mortgage bonds VÚB, a.s. 46.	4.61	EUR	49	1,000,000	19.5.2009	19.5.2016	49,264	50,393
Mortgage bonds VÚB, a.s. 53.	0.74	EUR	100	1,000,000	8.4.2010	8.4.2017	100,170	100,187
Mortgage bonds VÚB, a.s. 55.	2.85	EUR	14,000	1,000	1.10.2010	1.10.2015	14,299	14,100
Mortgage bonds VÚB, a.s. 57.	1.40	EUR	100	1,000,000	30.9.2010	30.9.2018	100,354	100,377
Mortgage bonds VÚB, a.s. 58.	1.85	EUR	80	1,000,000	10.12.2010	10.12.2019	80,086	80,092
Mortgage bonds VÚB, a.s. 59.	3.00	EUR	-	1,000	1.3.2011	1.3.2015	-	25,625
Mortgage bonds VÚB, a.s. 61.	1.08	EUR	-	10,000	7.6.2011	7.6.2015	-	4,671
Mortgage bonds VÚB, a.s. 62.	2.13	EUR	100	1,000,000	28.7.2011	28.7.2018	100,903	100,977
Mortgage bonds VÚB, a.s. 63.	3.75	EUR	35,000	1,000	16.9.2011	16.3.2016	36,039	35,383
Mortgage bonds VÚB, a.s. 64.	3.25	CZK	7,000	100,000	26.9.2011	26.9.2016	26,298	25,421
Mortgage bonds VÚB, a.s. 67.	5.35	EUR	300	50,000	29.11.2011	29.11.2030	15,473	15,071
Mortgage bonds VÚB, a.s. 68.	4.00	EUR	35,000	1,000	16.1.2012	16.7.2015	35,642	36,342
Mortgage bonds VÚB, a.s. 69.	4.50	EUR	990	20,000	6.2.2012	6.2.2016	20,183	20,404
Mortgage bonds VÚB, a.s. 70.	3.75	EUR	400	100,000	7.3.2012	7.3.2017	40,444	41,185

(Table continues on the next page)

23. Debt securities in issue (continued)

Name	Interest rate (%)	CCY	Number of mortgage bonds issued at 30 June 2015	Nominal value in CCY per piece	Issue date	Maturity date	June 2015 € '000	Dec 2014 € '000
Mortgage bonds VÚB, a.s. 71.	3.90	EUR	750	20,000	2.5.2012	2.5.2017	15,239	15,276
Mortgage bonds VÚB, a.s. 72.	4.70	EUR	250	100,000	21.6.2012	21.6.2027	24,834	25,413
Mortgage bonds VÚB, a.s. 73.	4.20	EUR	500	100,000	11.7.2012	11.7.2022	51,737	50,666
Mortgage bonds VÚB, a.s. 74.	3.35	EUR	700	100,000	16.1.2013	15.12.2023	70,678	71,827
Mortgage bonds VÚB, a.s. 75.	2.00	EUR	300	100,000	5.4.2013	5.4.2019	30,181	30,486
Mortgage bonds VÚB, a.s. 76.	2.40	EUR	309	10,000	22.4.2013	22.4.2018	3,105	3,143
Mortgage bonds VÚB, a.s. 77.	1.80	CZK	5,000	100,000	20.6.2013	20.6.2018	18,305	18,141
Mortgage bonds VÚB, a.s. 78.	2.16	EUR	905	10,000	3.3.2014	3.3.2020	9,147	9,248
Mortgage bonds VÚB, a.s. 79.	2.00	EUR	10,000	1,000	24.3.2014	24.9.2020	10,054	10,154
Mortgage bonds VÚB, a.s. 80.	1.85	EUR	31	1,000,000	27.3.2014	27.3.2021	31,623	31,951
Mortgage bonds VÚB, a.s. 81.	2.55	EUR	38	1,000,000	27.3.2014	27.3.2024	39,399	39,949
Mortgage bonds VÚB, a.s. 82.	1.65	EUR	1,701	1,000	16.6.2014	16.12.2020	1,702	1,716
Mortgage bonds VÚB, a.s. 83.	0.90	EUR	500	100,000	28.7.2014	28.7.2019	50,150	49,893
Mortgage bonds VÚB, a.s. 84.	0.60	EUR	500	100,000	29.9.2014	30.9.2019	50,029	49,856
Mortgage bonds VÚB, a.s. 85.	2.25	EUR	500	100,000	14.11.2014	14.11.2029	50,024	49,438
Mortgage bonds VÚB, a.s. 86.	0.30	EUR	1,000	100,000	27.4.2015	27.4.2020	97,757	-
Mortgage bonds VÚB, a.s. 87.	1.25	EUR	1,000	100,000	9.6.2015	9.6.2025	96,363	-
							1,552,692	1,449,651

24. Provisions

€ '000	June 2015	Dec 2014
Litigation	24,555	27,118
Resolution fund	5,400	-
Restructuring provision	408	588
Other provisions	9	3
	<u>30,372</u>	<u>27,709</u>

Starting from 1 January 2015 the new Bank Recovery and Resolution Directive 2014/59/EU ('BRRD') is effective for all EU member states. The Directive was implemented to Slovak legislation by Act No. 371/2014 on Resolution. The Directive sets an obligation for the banks of the member states participating to the Banking Union to pay an annual contribution depending on the size and the risk profile of the bank to the National Resolution Fund in 2015 and to the Single Resolution Fund from 2016 up to the 2023. Since the exact amount of the contribution for 2015 shall be communicated by the resolution authority by 30 November 2015, the VUB Bank estimated and recognized the expected amount of 2015 contribution as provision in its consolidated half-year financial statements. The related expense was recognized in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income in 'Other operating expenses'.

The movements in provisions were as follows:

€ '000	Note	1 Jan 2015	Creation	Reversal	Use	30 June 2015
Litigation	27, 33	27,118	1,044	(2,499)	(1,108)	24,555
Resolution fund	33	-	5,400	-	-	5,400
Restructuring provision	32	588	-	-	(180)	408
Other provisions	33	3	6	-	-	9
		<u>27,709</u>	<u>6,450</u>	<u>(2,499)</u>	<u>(1,288)</u>	<u>30,372</u>

25. Other liabilities

€ '000	June 2015	Dec 2014
Various creditors	30,975	41,799
Financial guarantees and commitments	19,415	16,552
Settlement with employees	17,097	20,362
Accruals and deferred income	7,183	7,500
Factoring	5,689	5,048
Severance and Jubilee benefits	3,250	3,250
Settlement with shareholders	1,584	1,187
VAT payable and other tax payables	1,326	3,074
Investment certificates	479	254
Share remuneration scheme	364	625
Settlement with securities	162	2
Other	672	567
	<u>88,196</u>	<u>100,220</u>

25. Other liabilities (continued)

The movements in Financial guarantees and commitments, Severance and Jubilee benefits and Retention program were as follows:

€ '000	Note	1 Jan 2015	Creation/ (Reversal)	FX diff	30 June 2015
Financial guarantees and commitments	34	16,552	2,829	34	19,415
Severance and Jubilee benefits		3,250	-	-	3,250
		<u>19,802</u>	<u>2,829</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>22,665</u>

26. Equity

€ '000	June 2015	Dec 2014
Share capital - authorised, issued and fully paid:		
89 ordinary shares of € 3,319,391.89 each, not traded	295,426	295,426
4,078,108 ordinary shares of € 33.2 each, publicly traded	135,393	135,393
	<u>430,819</u>	<u>430,819</u>
Share premium	13,636	13,636
Treasury shares	(88)	-
Reserves	116,958	130,276
Retained earnings (excluding net profit for the period)	764,008	707,656
	<u>1,325,333</u>	<u>1,282,387</u>
	June 2015	June 2014
Net profit for 6 months attributable to shareholders	83,082	76,192

The principal rights attached to shares are to take part in and vote at the general meeting of shareholders and to receive dividends.

The structure of shareholders is as follows:

	June 2015	Dec 2014
Intesa Sanpaolo Holding International S.A.	97.02%	97.02%
Domestic shareholders	2.21%	2.21%
Foreign shareholders	0.77%	0.77%
	<u>100.00%</u>	<u>100.00%</u>

The primary objectives of the Group's capital management are to ensure that the Group complies with externally imposed capital requirements and that the Group maintains strong credit ratings and healthy capital ratios in order to support its business and to maximise shareholders' value.

The Group manages its capital structure and makes adjustments to it in the light of changes in economic conditions and the risk characteristics of its activities. In order to maintain or adjust the capital structure, the Group may adjust the amount of dividend payments to shareholders, return capital to shareholders or issue capital securities. No changes have yet been made in the objectives, policies and processes from the previous years, however, it is under the constant scrutiny of the Board.

26. Equity (continued)

The VUB Group's regulatory capital position at 30 June 2015 and 31 December 2014 was determined based on the rules for capital adequacy calculation set by the CRR regulation:

€ '000	June 2015	Dec 2014
Tier 1 capital		
Share capital	430,819	430,819
Share premium	13,636	13,636
Retained earnings without net profit for the period	764,008	707,656
Other reserves	99,633	99,633
Treasury shares	(88)	-
Revaluation of available-for-sale financial assets	17,195	(1,566)
Fair value gains and losses arising from the Group's own credit risk related to derivative liabilities	(535)	(567)
Less goodwill and intangible assets	(85,711)	(87,882)
Less IRB shortfall of credit risk adjustments to expected losses	(1,373)	-
	<u>1,237,584</u>	<u>1,161,729</u>
Tier 2 capital		
IRB excess of provisions over expected losses eligible	8,434	2,189
	<u>1,246,018</u>	<u>1,163,918</u>
Total regulatory capital		
	<u>1,246,018</u>	<u>1,163,918</u>
	<u>1,246,018</u>	<u>1,163,918</u>
Total regulatory capital		
	<u>1,246,018</u>	<u>1,163,918</u>
	<u>1,246,018</u>	<u>1,163,918</u>
Total Risk Weighted Assets		
	<u>7,544,971</u>	<u>7,247,426</u>
	<u>7,544,971</u>	<u>7,247,426</u>
Tier 1 capital ratio	16.40%	16.03%
Total capital ratio	16.51%	16.06%

Regulatory capital consists of Tier 1 capital, which comprises share capital, share premium, retained earnings without profit for the current year, foreign currency translation and reserves. Certain adjustments are made to IFRS-based results and reserves, as prescribed by the CRR regulation. The other component of regulatory capital is Tier 2 capital, which includes subordinated long term debt, preference shares and IRB excess of provisions over expected losses.

The VUB Group must maintain a capital adequacy ratio of at least 8% according to the Act on Banks. The capital adequacy ratio is the ratio between the Group's capital and the risk-weighted assets. Risk weighted assets include risk weighted assets from positions recorded in the trading book and risk weighted assets from positions recorded in the banking book. The VUB Group complied with the Act on Banks' requirement as at 30 June 2015 and 31 December 2014.

During 2014, the Comprehensive Assessment of the European Central Bank consisting of Asset Quality Review (AQR) and stress testing was conducted. According to the stress tests results, the VUB Group is meeting the capital requirements, including the ones of the adverse scenario. From November 2014, the Bank also fell under the supervision of the European Central Bank.

27. Financial commitments and contingencies

€ '000	June 2015	Dec 2014
Issued guarantees	825,273	739,626
Commitments and undrawn credit facilities	<u>2,635,837</u>	<u>2,397,991</u>
	<u>3,461,110</u>	<u>3,137,617</u>

(a) Issued guarantees

Commitments from guarantees represent irrevocable assurances that the VUB Group will make payments in the event that a borrower cannot meet its obligations to third parties. These assurances carry the same credit risk as loans and therefore the VUB Group books liabilities against these instruments on a similar basis as is applicable to loans.

(b) Commitments and undrawn credit facilities

The primary purpose of commitments to extend credit is to ensure that funds are available to the customer as required. Commitments to extend credit issued by the VUB Group represent undrawn portions of commitments and approved overdraft loans.

(c) Lease obligations

The VUB Group enters into operating lease agreements for branch facilities and cars. The total value of future payments arising from non-cancellable operating leasing contracts at 30 June 2015 and 31 December 2014 was as follows:

€ '000	June 2015	Dec 2014
Up to 1 year	217	211
1 to 5 years	50	93
Over 5 years	-	-
	<u>267</u>	<u>304</u>

(d) Operating lease – the Group as a lessor

The VUB Group has entered into a number of non-cancellable operating lease contracts with its customers. Future minimum rentals receivable under such contracts as at 30 June 2015 and 31 December 2014 are as follows:

€ '000	June 2015	Dec 2014
Up to 1 year	3,127	3,712
1 to 5 years	2,975	4,484
Over 5 years	-	-
	<u>6,102</u>	<u>8,196</u>

(e) Legal proceedings

In the normal course of business, the VUB Group is subject to a variety of legal actions. The VUB Group conducted a review of legal proceedings outstanding against it as of 30 June 2015. Pursuant to this review, management has recorded total provisions of € 24,555 thousand (31 December 2014: € 27,118 thousand) in respect of such legal proceedings (see also note 24). The VUB Group will continue to defend its position in respect of each of these legal proceedings. In addition to the legal proceedings covered by provisions, there are contingent liabilities arising from legal proceedings in the total amount of € 6,960 thousand, as at 30 June 2015 (31 December 2014: € 7,122 thousand). This amount represents existing legal proceedings against the VUB Group that will most probably not result in any payments due by the VUB Group.

28. Net interest income

€ '000	June 2015	June 2014
Interest and similar income		
Due from banks	1,705	3,195
Loans and advances to customers	212,611	222,050
Bonds, treasury bills and other securities:		
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	970	2,794
Available-for-sale financial assets	15,630	19,732
Held-to-maturity investments	11,397	13,739
	<u>242,313</u>	<u>261,510</u>
Interest and similar expense		
Due to banks	(2,857)	(4,061)
Due to customers	(20,660)	(27,250)
Debt securities in issue	(15,194)	(18,777)
	<u>(38,711)</u>	<u>(50,088)</u>
	<u>203,602</u>	<u>211,422</u>

29. Net fee and commission income

€ '000	June 2015	June 2014
Fee and commission income		
Received from banks	4,157	3,912
Received from customers:		
Current accounts	26,978	24,359
Loans and guarantees	17,918	15,082
Transactions and payments	10,448	11,518
Insurance mediation	6,447	4,894
Securities	5,487	2,998
Overdrafts	2,207	2,177
Securities - Custody fee	857	567
Term deposits	278	355
Other	4,715	1,037
	<u>79,492</u>	<u>66,899</u>
Fee and commission expense		
Paid to banks	(7,265)	(7,654)
Paid to mediators:		
Credit cards	(4,168)	(4,282)
Securities	(277)	(248)
Services	(5,930)	(5,018)
Other	(622)	(709)
	<u>(18,262)</u>	<u>(17,911)</u>
	<u>61,230</u>	<u>48,988</u>

30. Net trading result

€ '000	June 2015	June 2014
Foreign currency derivatives and transactions	1,110	1,983
Customer FX margins	2,590	2,241
Cross currency swaps *	1,127	(21)
Equity derivatives	(45)	1
Other derivatives	47	-
Interest rate derivatives *	(2,785)	1,975
Dividends from equity shares held in FVTPL portfolio	7	16
Securities:		
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss		
Held for trading	(1,089)	(898)
Designated at fair value through profit or loss on initial recognition	190	192
Available-for-sale financial assets *	(5,427)	10,700
Debt securities in issue *	9,552	(10,068)
	<u>5,277</u>	<u>6,121</u>

* Includes the revaluation of financial instruments that are part of the hedging relationship, i.e. fair value hedges of interest rate and inflation risk (see also note 10).

31. Other operating income

€ '000	June 2015	June 2014
Income from leasing	2,018	1,925
Rent	407	415
Services	134	177
Sales of consumer goods	64	44
Financial revenues	34	111
Net profit from sale of fixed assets	4	107
Other	2,614	684
	<u>5,275</u>	<u>3,463</u>

32. Salaries and employee benefits

€ '000	Note	June 2015	June 2014
Remuneration		(39,513)	(39,319)
Social security costs		(15,052)	(14,705)
Social fund		(896)	(757)
Retention program		-	433
Restructuring provision	24	180	27
		<u>(55,281)</u>	<u>(54,321)</u>

32. Salaries and employee benefits (continued)

At 30 June 2015, the total number of employees of the VUB Group was 4,034 (31 December 2014: 3,985). The average number of employees of the Group during the period ended 30 June 2015 was 4,021 (30 June 2014: 3,954).

The VUB Group does not have any pension arrangements separate from the pension system established by law, which requires mandatory contributions of a certain percentage of gross salaries to the State owned social insurance and privately owned pension funds. These contributions are recognised in the period when salaries are earned by employees. No further liabilities are arising to the VUB Group from the payment of pensions to employees in the future.

33. Other operating expenses and Special levy of selected financial institutions

€ '000	Note	June 2015	June 2014
IT systems maintenance		(11,226)	(10,292)
Property related expenses		(9,906)	(9,380)
Post and telecom		(6,231)	(6,297)
Provisions for Resolution fund	24	(5,400)	-
Advertising and marketing		(5,315)	(5,618)
Stationery		(2,510)	(2,073)
Equipment related expenses		(2,476)	(2,281)
Security		(1,802)	(1,732)
Litigations paid		(1,316)	(225)
Insurance		(1,085)	(1,076)
Professional services		(884)	(559)
Third parties' services		(770)	(767)
Contribution to the Deposit Protection Fund *		(700)	(4,587)
Travelling		(466)	(473)
Training		(401)	(442)
VAT and other taxes		(374)	(483)
Transport		(344)	(379)
Audit **		(320)	(331)
Other damages		(291)	(336)
Other provisions	24	(6)	-
Provisions for litigation	24	2,467	(297)
Other operating expenses		(2,580)	(2,010)
		(51,936)	(49,638)

* The quarterly contribution to the Deposit Protection Fund for 2015 was set to 0.0075% p.q. from the protected deposit base. The contribution for the first two quarters of 2014 was calculated as 0.05% p.q. from the base and for the third and fourth quarter of 2014 it was decreased to 0.01% p.q. from the protected deposit base.

** As at 30 June 2015 the audit expense consists of fees for the statutory audit in the amount of € 160 thousand (30 June 2014: € 158 thousand) and for the group reporting in the amount of € 160 thousand (30 June 2014: € 158 thousand). Expenses related to other audit (primarily security audit) were nil as at 30 June 2015 (30 June 2014: € 15 thousand).

At 30 June 2015 and 30 June 2014, the special levy recognized by the Bank was as follows:

€ '000	June 2015	June 2014
Special levy of selected financial institutions	(9,812)	(19,583)

33. Other operating expenses and Special levy of selected financial institutions (continued)

Commencing 1 January 2012, banks operating in the Slovak Republic are subject to a special levy of selected financial institutions, originally set to 0.4% p.a. of selected liabilities with the extension of the basis for calculation by deposits subject to a protection based on the special regulation from 1 September 2012. The levy is recognized in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income on an accrual basis and is payable at the beginning of each quarter.

As at 25 July 2014, the total amount of the levy paid by the financial institutions subject to levy exceeded the threshold of € 500,000 thousand and therefore, based on the amendment to the Act on the Special levy of selected financial institutions, the Bank was not obliged to pay the levy for the last quarter of 2014 and effective from 2015, the levy rate has been decreased to 0.2% p.a.

34. Impairment losses

€ '000	Note	June 2015	June 2014
Creation of impairment losses	13	(126,573)	(108,336)
Reversal of impairment losses	13	83,484	65,693
Net creation of impairment losses		(43,089)	(42,643)
Creation of liabilities – financial guarantees and commitments		(9,250)	(7,268)
Reversal of liabilities – financial guarantees and commitments		6,421	5,744
Net creation of liabilities – financial guarantees and commitments	25	(2,829)	(1,524)
Nominal value of assets written-off/sold		(33,799)	(33,102)
Release of impairment losses to assets written-off/sold	13	28,326	28,536
		(5,473)	(4,566)
Proceeds from assets written-off		5,122	4,886
Proceeds from assets sold		6,358	5,124
		11,480	10,010
		(39,911)	(38,723)

35. Income tax expense

€ '000	Note	June 2015	June 2014
Current income tax		(27,164)	(21,349)
Deferred income tax	19	1,943	729
		(25,221)	(20,620)

36. Other comprehensive income

€ '000	June 2015	June 2014
Exchange differences on translating foreign operation	8	(1)
Available-for-sale financial assets:		
Revaluation (losses)/gains arising during the period	(16,582)	4,996
Reclassification adjustment for profit on sale of AFS bonds included in the profit or loss	(586)	(2,355)
	<u>(17,168)</u>	<u>2,641</u>
Cash flow hedges:		
Revaluation gains arising during the period	64	629
	<u>(17,096)</u>	<u>3,269</u>
Income tax relating to components of other comprehensive income *	3,763	(706)
	<u>(13,333)</u>	<u>2,563</u>

* Income tax relates only to the components of other comprehensive income that might be reclassified subsequently to the profit or loss.

37. Income tax effects relating to other comprehensive income

€ '000	June 2015			June 2014		
	Before tax amount	Tax benefit/ (expense)	Net of tax amount	Before tax amount	Tax expense	Net of tax amount
Exchange differences on translating foreign operations	8	-	8	(1)	-	(1)
Available-for-sale financial assets	(17,168)	3,777	(13,391)	2,641	(568)	2,073
Net movement on cash flow hedges	64	(14)	50	629	(138)	491
	<u>(17,096)</u>	<u>3,763</u>	<u>(13,333)</u>	<u>3,269</u>	<u>(706)</u>	<u>2,563</u>

38. Related parties

Related parties are those counterparties that represent:

- (a) Enterprises that directly, or indirectly, through one or more intermediaries, control, or are controlled by, have a significant influence or are under the common control of, the reporting enterprise;
- (b) Associates – enterprises in which the parent company has significant influence and which are neither a subsidiary nor a joint venture;
- (c) Individuals owning, directly or indirectly, an interest in the voting power of the Group that gives them significant influence over the Group, and anyone expected to influence, or be influenced by, that person in their dealings with the Group;
- (d) Key management personnel, that is, those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Group, including directors and officers of the Group and close members of the families of such individuals; and
- (e) Enterprises in which a substantial interest in the voting power is owned, directly or indirectly, by any person described in (c) or (d) or over which such a person is able to exercise significant influence. This includes enterprises owned by directors or major shareholders of the Group and enterprises that have a member of key management in common with the Group.

In considering each possible related party relationship, attention is directed to the substance of the relationship, and not merely the legal form. The stated transactions have been made under arms-length commercial and banking conditions.

38. Related parties (continued)

At 30 June 2015, the outstanding balances with related parties comprised:

€ '000	KMP *	Joint ventures	Associates	Intesa Sanpaolo	Intesa Sanpaolo group companies	Total
Assets						
Due from banks	-	-	-	121,058	3,473	124,531
Derivative financial instruments	-	-	-	1,889	3,749	5,638
Loans and advances to customers	348	-	-	-	-	348
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	-	-	-	364	-	364
Other assets	-	2,286	2,003	-	-	4,289
	<u>348</u>	<u>2,286</u>	<u>2,003</u>	<u>123,311</u>	<u>7,222</u>	<u>135,170</u>
Liabilities						
Due to central and other banks	-	-	-	347,498	38,570	386,068
Derivative financial instruments	-	-	-	54	3,653	3,707
Due to customers	2,795	-	2,922	-	113	5,830
Debt securities in issue						
Mortgage bonds	-	656	-	-	500,826	501,482
Other liabilities	364	-	35	-	634	1,033
	<u>3,159</u>	<u>656</u>	<u>2,957</u>	<u>347,552</u>	<u>543,796</u>	<u>898,120</u>
Issued guarantees	-	-	-	-	17,685	17,685
Received guarantees	-	-	-	135,800	54,581	190,381
Derivative transactions (notional amount – receivable)	-	-	-	73,317	228,296	301,613
Derivative transactions (notional amount – payable)	-	-	-	71,580	171,558	243,138

38. Related parties (continued)

€ '000	KMP *	Joint ventures	Associates	Intesa Sanpaolo	Intesa Sanpaolo group companies	Total
Income and expense items						
Interest and similar income	5	-	24	1,397	24	1,450
Interest and similar expense	(10)	(3)	(1)	(1,322)	(4,880)	(6,216)
Fee and commission income	1	-	5,454	-	1	5,456
Fee and commission expense	-	-	(11)	(1)	(3,556)	(3,568)
Net trading result	-	-	-	2,172	(1,375)	797
Other operating income	-	57	192	256	51	556
Other operating expenses	-	-	-	-	(599)	(599)
	<u>(4)</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>5,658</u>	<u>2,502</u>	<u>(10,334)</u>	<u>(2,124)</u>

* Key management personnel

38. Related parties (continued)

At 31 December 2014, the outstanding balances with related parties comprised:

€ '000	KMP	Joint ventures	Associates	Intesa Sanpaolo	Intesa Sanpaolo group companies	Total
Assets						
Due from banks	-	-	-	549,238	5,857	555,095
Derivative financial instruments	-	-	-	-	4,324	4,324
Loans and advances to customers	448	-	-	-	-	448
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	-	-	-	625	-	625
Other assets	-	5	794	-	-	799
	<u>448</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>794</u>	<u>549,863</u>	<u>10,181</u>	<u>561,291</u>
Liabilities						
Due to central and other banks	-	-	-	317,167	38,635	355,802
Derivative financial instruments	-	-	-	114	4,843	4,957
Due to customers	3,056	-	1,319	-	110	4,485
Debt securities in issue						
Mortgage bonds	-	647	-	-	562,086	562,733
Other liabilities	625	-	10	-	491	1,126
	<u>3,681</u>	<u>647</u>	<u>1,329</u>	<u>317,281</u>	<u>606,165</u>	<u>929,103</u>
Issued guarantees	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>26,760</u>	<u>26,760</u>
Received guarantees	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>135,000</u>	<u>67,096</u>	<u>202,096</u>
Derivative transactions (notional amount – receivable)	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>67,642</u>	<u>67,642</u>
Derivative transactions (notional amount – payable)	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>35,107</u>	<u>151,053</u>	<u>186,160</u>

38. Related parties (continued)

For the period ended 30 June 2014, the outstanding balances with related parties comprised:

€ '000	KMP	Joint ventures	Associates	Intesa Sanpaolo	Intesa Sanpaolo group companies	Total
Income and expense items						
Interest and similar income	10	-	-	2,039	820	2,869
Interest and similar expense	(24)	(7)	(2)	(2,038)	(7,315)	(9,386)
Fee and commission income	1	-	2,892	-	60	2,953
Fee and commission expense	-	-	(11)	(1)	(3,705)	(3,717)
Net trading result	-	-	-	247	(3,274)	(3,027)
Other operating income	-	56	57	137	16	266
Other operating expenses	-	-	-	(30)	(310)	(340)
	<u>(13)</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>2,936</u>	<u>354</u>	<u>(13,708)</u>	<u>(10,382)</u>

39. Events after the end of the reporting period

From 30 June 2015, up to the date when these financial statements were authorized for issue, there were no further events identified that would require adjustments to or disclosure in these financial statements.