



## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

**To the shareholder of Erste Bank Hungary Zrt.**

### **Report on the audit of the separate financial statements**

#### **Opinion**

We have audited the separate financial statements of Erste Bank Hungary Zrt. (the "Company") included in the digital file 549300XWJHRKLHU2PS28-2023-12-31-en.zip (SHA 256 HASH algorithm value: 6A96085F434012A8A2ED6AEB0DB135005AB310AB315F6933205DD76918896A0E) for the financial year ended on 31 December 2023 which comprise the separate statement of financial position as at 31 December 2023 (in which total assets equal to total liabilities and equity are MHUF 4,799,649), the separate income statement and separate statement of comprehensive income (in which the total comprehensive income for the year is MHUF 118,881 profit), the separate statement of changes in equity, the separate statement of cash flows for the financial year then ended and the notes to the separate financial statements comprising material accounting policy information and other explanatory information.

In our opinion, the separate financial statements give a true and fair view of the separate financial position of the Company as at 31 December 2023, and of its separate financial performance and its separate cash flows for the financial year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS") as adopted by the European Union ("EU") and they have been prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the supplementary requirements of Act C of 2000 on Accounting ("Accounting Act") relevant for the annual financial statements prepared in accordance with IFRS as adopted by the EU.

Our opinion is consistent with our additional report to the audit committee dated 5 April 2024.

#### **Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with Hungarian National Standards on Auditing ("HNSA") and with applicable laws and regulations in force in Hungary. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the "Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the separate financial statements" section of our report.

We are independent of the Company in accordance with the applicable laws of Hungary, with the Hungarian Chamber of Auditors' Rules on ethics and professional conduct of auditors and on disciplinary process and, for matters not regulated in the Rules, with the International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including International Independence Standards) issued by the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (IESBA Code) and we also comply with further ethical requirements set out in these.

The non-audit services that we have provided to the Company in the period from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023 are disclosed in note 46 to the separate financial statements.

To the best of our knowledge and belief, we declare that non-audit services that we have provided to the Company, its parent and its controlled entities within the EU are in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations in Hungary and that we have not provided non-audit services that are prohibited under Article 5 of Regulation of the European Parliament and Committee No 537/2014 and Subsection (1) and (2) of Section 67/A of Act LXXV of 2007 on the Chamber of Hungarian Auditors, the Activities of Auditors, and on the Public Oversight of Auditors.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.



## Our audit approach

### Overview

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#### *Overall materiality*

Overall materiality applied was MHUF 3,782

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#### *Key Audit Matter*

Credit loss allowance for loans and advances

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As part of designing our audit, we determined materiality and assessed the risks of material misstatement in the separate financial statements. In particular, we considered where management made subjective judgements; for example, in respect of significant accounting estimates that involved making assumptions and considering future events that are inherently uncertain. As in all of our audits, we also addressed the risk of management override of internal controls, including among other matters, consideration of whether there was evidence of bias that represented a risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

We tailored the scope of our audit in order to perform sufficient work to enable us to provide an opinion on the separate financial statements as a whole, taking into account the structure of the Company, the accounting processes and controls, and the industry in which the Company operates.

### Materiality

The scope of our audit was influenced by our application of materiality. An audit is designed to obtain reasonable assurance whether the separate financial statements are free from material misstatement. Misstatements may arise due to fraud or error. They are considered material if individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the separate financial statements.

Based on our professional judgement, we determined certain quantitative thresholds for materiality, including the overall materiality for the separate financial statements as a whole as set out in the table below. These, together with qualitative considerations, helped us to determine the scope of our audit and the nature, timing and extent of our audit procedures and to evaluate the effect of misstatements, if any, both individually and in aggregate on the separate financial statements as a whole.

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#### *Materiality*

MHUF 3,782

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#### *Determination*

5% of the average separate profit before tax of the last 3 years

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#### *Rationale for the materiality benchmark applied*

We chose separate profit before tax as the benchmark because, in our view, it is the benchmark against which the performance of the Company is most commonly measured by users, and is a generally accepted benchmark. We chose 5%, which is consistent with quantitative materiality thresholds used for profit-oriented companies in this sector.

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### Key audit matters

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgement, were of most significance in our audit of the separate financial statements of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the separate financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters.



*Key audit matter*

*How our audit addressed the key audit matter*

***Credit loss allowance for loans and advances***

The net balance of loans and advances to customers at amortised cost was million HUF 1,806,914 as at 31 December 2023, representing 38% of total assets. Credit loss allowance recognised in the separate statement of financial position amounted to million HUF 63,849.

Management disclosed related assumptions, balances and estimates in section C and D of the Notes to the separate financial statements on accounting policy, as well as in notes 11., 15., 32. and 33.

Credit loss allowance recognised on expected credit losses is determined on the basis of subjective criteria and management is required to apply significant judgement when calculating individual and collective expected credit loss allowances especially when considering the current uncertain economic environment.

The first step in the expected credit loss calculation is to identify whether there was significant increase in credit risk. The selected indicators will determine whether a 12-month or a lifetime expected credit loss is calculated.

In the calculation of individual expected credit loss, the most significant uncertainty is involved in the estimation of expected future cash flows, and in probability weighting of cash-flow scenarios, where cash flows include recoveries both from collections of contractual cash flows and from collaterals.

The Company applies impairment models to calculate collective credit loss allowances. These models quantify the probability of default, exposure at default and the loss given default as the primary parameters in the estimation of the recoverable amount, taking into account forward looking information – in line with the requirements of *IFRS 9 Financial instruments*.

The modelling methodologies are developed

We gained an understanding of the lending process from disbursement to monitoring and to the calculation of impairment, identified the main control points, and tested their operational effectiveness, including management's approval. Thereby the focus was on adaptations of methods and processes introduced to capture the increased uncertainties of the present and future environment in expected credit losses.

We performed credit review for individually significant loans on a sample basis. We checked the stage classification of the loans based on credit application and monitoring documents as well as customer-related financial and non-financial information.

For a sample of individually impaired loans, we checked whether assumptions, estimations and scenario weightings applied in calculations of the recoverable amount are reasonable and whether the calculations are correct.

For collective loss allowances we assessed whether the methodology applied by the Group was compliant with *IFRS 9 Financial Instruments* with the support of our internal modelling experts. We read the validation documents, recalculated, on a sample basis, selected model parameters and the expected credit loss allowances.

We checked input data for the expected credit loss allowance calculation (both historical and measurement data), indicators used to determine whether there was significant increase in credit risk and analysed the development of credit losses.

To address increased estimation uncertainty, we evaluated the adequacy of credit risk parameters and models taking into consideration possible distortions of currently observed data due to state payment support programs. We also critically assessed the plausibility of expectations and estimates, that have been introduced due to aforementioned distortions.

We read section C, D. and points 11., 15., 32. and 33. of



using historical experience, which - in uncertain economic conditions that currently vary across customer segments and industry sectors - can result in limitations in their reliability to appropriately estimate expected credit loss.

A further limitation is caused by the fact, that, to reduce the economic consequences of the previous COVID-19 pandemic and the uncertain economic and geopolitical environment the Hungarian government maintained various loan support programs, including interest rate stop. These programs complicate a timely reflection of a potential deterioration of the loan portfolio and resulted in artificially low observed default rates.

To address these limitations, management applied quantitative and qualitative adjustments to expected credit loss that include the following:

- Additional criteria to assess significant increase in credit risk related to cyclical and energy intensive industries and clients operating in the energy industry.
- Reassessing macroeconomic assumptions and weighted scenarios
- Additional expert judgement based adjustment of the estimation method of credit risk parameters.

We paid considerable attention to this area during our audit due to the significance of the amounts involved and because of the subjective nature of the judgments and assumptions that management is required to make, particularly due the high level of uncertainty that can be experienced in the current economic environment.

the notes to the separate financial statements to assess whether disclosures are in line with *IFRS 9 Financial Instruments* and *IFRS 7 Financial instruments: Disclosures* standards.

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### **Other information: the separate business report**

Other information comprises the separate business report of the Company for the financial year ended on 31 December 2023. Management is responsible for the preparation of the separate business report in accordance with the provisions of the Accounting Act and other relevant regulations. Our opinion on the separate financial statements does not cover the separate business report.

In connection with our audit of the separate financial statements, our responsibility is to read the separate business report and, in doing so, consider whether the separate business report is materially inconsistent with the separate financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If based on our work performed we conclude that the separate business report is materially misstated, we are required to report this fact, and based on the



Accounting Act, also the nature of the misstatement.

Based on the Accounting Act, it is also our responsibility to consider whether the separate business report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Accounting Act and other relevant regulations, if any, and to express an opinion on this and on whether the separate business report is consistent with the separate financial statements.

Because the Company's transferable securities are admitted to trading on a regulated market of a Member State of the European Economic Area, our opinion on the separate business report shall cover the information prepared under Paragraphs e) of Subsection (2) of Section 95/B, and state whether the information referred to in Paragraphs a)-d), g) and h) of Subsection (2) of Section 95/B of the Accounting Act has been provided.

As the Company is a public interest entity and the conditions in Paragraph a) and b) of Subsection (1) of Section 95/C of the Accounting Act are met at the balance sheet date, the Company shall publish a non-financial statement required by 95/C in its separate business report. In this respect, we shall state whether the separate business report includes the non-financial statement required by Section 95/C.

In the course of fulfilling our obligation, in respect of forming our opinion on the separate business report we have considered the requirements set out in the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/815 of 17 December 2018 on Supplementing Directive 2004/109/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to regulatory technical standards on the specification of a single electronic reporting format ("ESEF Regulation") as the regulation prescribing further requirements for the separate business report.

In our opinion, regarding the financial year ended on 31 December 2023, the separate business report, also including the information prepared under Paragraphs e) of Subsection (2) of Section 95/B, of the Company is consistent, in all material respects, with the separate financial statements for the financial year ended on 31 December 2023, and the separate business report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Accounting Act and the other relevant regulation referred to above.

We are not aware of any other material inconsistency or material misstatement in the separate business report and therefore we have nothing to report in this respect.

We state that the information referred to in Paragraphs a)-d), g) and h) of Subsection (2) of Section 95/B of the Accounting Act has been provided. The separate business report includes the non-financial statement required by Section 95/C.

### **Responsibilities of management and those charged with governance for the separate financial statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation of the separate financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with IFRS as adopted by the EU and to prepare the separate financial statements in accordance with the supplementary requirements of the Accounting Act relevant for the annual financial statements prepared in accordance with IFRS as adopted by the EU, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of separate financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the separate financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting process.



## **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the separate financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the separate financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with HNSAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these separate financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with HNSAs, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the separate financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the separate financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the separate financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the separate financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that gives a true and fair view.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, actions taken to eliminate threats or safeguards applied.

From the matters communicated with those charged with governance, we determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the separate financial statements of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. We describe these matters in our auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, we determine that a matter should not be communicated in our report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.



## **Report on other legal and regulatory requirements Appointment**

We were first appointed as auditors of the Company on 25 April 2017. Our appointment has been renewed annually by shareholder's resolutions representing a total period of uninterrupted engagement appointment of 7 years.

The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report is Balázs Árpád.

## **Report on the compliance of the presentation of the separate financial statements with the requirements of the regulation on the European single electronic format**

We have undertaken a reasonable assurance engagement on the compliance of the presentation of the separate financial statements of the Company included in the digital file 549300XWJHRKLU2PS28-2023-12-31-en.zip ("separate financial statements in ESEF format") with the requirements set out in the ESEF Regulation.

## **Responsibilities of the management and those charged with governance for the separate financial statements in ESEF format**

The management is responsible for the presentation of the separate financial statements in ESEF format that comply with the ESEF Regulation. This responsibility includes:

- the preparation of the separate financial statements in the applicable XHTML format;
- the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the application of the ESEF Regulation.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting process including compliance with the ESEF Regulation.

## **Our responsibility and summary of the work performed**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the presentation of the separate financial statements in ESEF format complies, in all material respect, with the requirements of the ESEF Regulation based on the evidence we have obtained. We conducted our reasonable assurance engagement in accordance with Hungarian National Standard on Assurance Engagements 3000 (Revised), Assurance Engagements Other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information (ISAE 3000).

A reasonable assurance engagement in accordance with ISAE 3000 involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about compliance with the ESEF Regulation. The nature, timing and extent of procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material departures from the requirements set out in the ESEF Regulation whether due to fraud or error. Our reasonable assurance engagement included obtaining an understanding of the Company's internal controls relevant to the application of the requirements of the ESEF Regulation, and verifying whether the XHTML format was applied properly.

We believe that the evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.



## **Opinion**

In our opinion, the presentation of the separate financial statements in ESEF format of the Company's for the financial year ended 31 December 2023 included in the digital file 549300XWJHRKLHU2PS28-2023-12-31-en.zip complies, in all material respects, with the requirements of the ESEF Regulation.

Budapest, 5 April 2024

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