



## **Independent practitioner's limited assurance report on Erste Bank Hungary Zrt.'s consolidated sustainability statement**

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

### **Limited assurance conclusion**

We have conducted a limited assurance engagement on the consolidated sustainability statement of Erste Bank Hungary Zrt. (the "Company"), included in the Company's consolidated management report, as at 31 December 2024 and for the year then ended.

Based on the procedures we have performed and the evidence we have obtained, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the consolidated sustainability statement is not prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with Section 134/I-K. of Act C of 2000 on Accounting ("Accounting Act") implementing Article 29(a) of EU Directive 2013/34/EU, including:

- compliance with the European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS), including that the process carried out by the Company to identify the information reported in the consolidated sustainability statement (the "Process") is in accordance with the description set out in note "Impact, risk and opportunity Management" including the double materiality assessment process; and
- compliance of the disclosures in subsection "EU Taxonomy Disclosures" within the environmental information section of the consolidated sustainability statement with Article 8 of EU Regulation 2020/852 (the "Taxonomy Regulation").

### **Basis for conclusion**

We conducted our limited assurance engagement in accordance with Hungarian National Standard on Assurance Engagements (ISAE) 3000 (Revised), *Assurance engagements other than audits or reviews of historical financial information* ("ISAE 3000 (Revised)"), and, in respect of the greenhouse gas statement, Hungarian National Standard on Assurance Engagements 3410, *Assurance engagements on greenhouse gas statements* ("ISAE 3410"), as issued by the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board and adopted by the Hungarian Chamber of Auditors.

We believe that the evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our conclusion. Our responsibilities under this standard are further described in the Practitioner's responsibilities section of our report.

### **Our independence and quality management**

We have complied 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), which is founded on fundamental principles of integrity, objectivity, professional competence and due care, confidentiality and professional behaviour and we also comply with further ethical requirements set out in these.

Our Firm applies International Standard on Quality Management (ISQM) 1 (Quality management for firms that perform audits or reviews of financial statements, or other assurance or related services engagements), which requires the firm to design, implement and operate a system of quality management including documented policies and procedures regarding compliance with ethical requirements, professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements.



### **Emphasis of matter**

We draw attention to Section “General information” of the consolidated sustainability statement which explains that the ESEF taxonomy for sustainability reporting has not yet been adopted and therefore the Company was unable to mark the disclosures included in the consolidated sustainability statement prepared in the electronic reporting format (XHTML) specified in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/815 according to the relevant ESEF taxonomy, including the disclosures required by Article 8 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852, as required by Section 134/J. of the Accounting Act. Section 134/L. of the Accounting Act requires us to provide a limited assurance conclusion on the compliance with the above requirement, however, for the above reason we cannot draw any conclusions in this regard.

Our conclusion is not modified in respect of this matter.

### **Responsibilities for the consolidated sustainability statement**

Management of the Company is responsible for designing and implementing a process to identify the information reported in the consolidated sustainability statement in accordance with the ESRS and for disclosing this Process in note „Impact, risk and opportunity Management” of the consolidated sustainability statement. This responsibility includes:

- understanding the context in which the Group’s activities and business relationships take place and developing an understanding of its affected stakeholders;
- the identification of the actual and potential impacts (both negative and positive) related to sustainability matters, as well as risks and opportunities that affect, or could reasonably be expected to affect, the Group’s financial position, financial performance, cash flows, access to finance or cost of capital over the short-, medium-, or long-term;
- the assessment of the materiality of the identified impacts, risks and opportunities related to sustainability matters by selecting and applying appropriate thresholds; and
- making assumptions that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Management of the Company is further responsible for the preparation of the consolidated sustainability statement in accordance with Section 134/I-K. of the Accounting Act implementing Article 29(a) of EU Directive 2013/34/EU, including:

- compliance with the ESRS;
- preparing the disclosures in subsection “EU Taxonomy Disclosures” within the environmental information section of the consolidated sustainability statement, in compliance with Article 8 of EU Regulation 2020/852 (the “Taxonomy Regulation”);
- designing, implementing and maintaining such internal control that management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the consolidated sustainability statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; and
- the selection and application of appropriate sustainability reporting methods and making assumptions and estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Group’s sustainability reporting process.

### **Inherent limitations in preparing the consolidated sustainability statement**

In reporting forward-looking information in accordance with ESRS, management of the Company is required to prepare the forward-looking information on the basis of disclosed assumptions about events that may occur in the future and possible future actions by the Group. Actual outcomes are likely to be different since anticipated events frequently do not occur as expected.

As discussed in note “E1-6 – Gross Scopes 1, 2, 3 and Total GHG emissions” to the consolidated sustainability statement, greenhouse gas quantification is subject to inherent uncertainty because of



incomplete scientific knowledge used to determine emissions factors and the values needed to combine emissions of different gases.

### **Practitioner's responsibilities**

Our responsibility is to plan and perform the assurance engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the consolidated sustainability statement is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a limited assurance report that includes our conclusion. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence decisions of users taken on the basis of the consolidated sustainability statement as a whole.

As part of a limited assurance engagement in accordance with ISAE 3000 (Revised) and ISAE 3410 we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the engagement.

Our responsibilities in respect of the consolidated sustainability statement, in relation to the Process, include:

- Obtaining an understanding of the Process, but not for the purpose of providing a conclusion on the effectiveness of the Process, including the outcome of the Process;
- Considering whether the information identified addresses the applicable disclosure requirements of the ESRS; and
- Designing and performing procedures to evaluate whether the Process is consistent with the Company's description of its Process set out in note „Impact, risk and opportunity Management”.

Our other responsibilities in respect of the consolidated sustainability statement include:

- Identifying where material misstatements are likely to arise, whether due to fraud or error; and
- Designing and performing procedures responsive to where material misstatements are likely to arise in the consolidated sustainability statement. 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.

### **Summary of the work performed**

A limited assurance engagement involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about the consolidated sustainability statement. The procedures in a limited assurance engagement vary in nature and timing from, and are less in extent than for, a reasonable assurance engagement. Consequently, the level of assurance obtained in a limited assurance engagement is substantially lower than the assurance that would have been obtained had a reasonable assurance engagement been performed.

The nature, timing and extent of procedures selected depend on professional judgement, including the identification of disclosures where material misstatements are likely to arise in the consolidated sustainability statement, whether due to fraud or error.

In conducting our limited assurance engagement, with respect to the Process, we:

- Obtained an understanding of the Process by:
  - performing inquiries to understand the sources of the information used by management (e.g., stakeholder engagement, business plans and strategy documents); and
  - reviewing the Company's internal documentation of its Process; and
- Evaluated whether the evidence obtained from our procedures with respect to the Process implemented by the Company was consistent with the description of the Process set out in note „Impact, risk and opportunity Management”.



In conducting our limited assurance engagement, with respect to the consolidated sustainability statement, we:

- Obtained an understanding of the Group's reporting processes relevant to the preparation of its consolidated sustainability statement by:
  - Obtaining an understanding of the Group's control environment, processes and information system relevant to the preparation of the consolidated sustainability statement, but not for the purpose of providing a conclusion on the effectiveness of the Group's internal control.
- Evaluated whether the information identified by the Process is included in the consolidated sustainability statement;
- Evaluated whether the structure and the presentation of the consolidated sustainability statement is in accordance with the ESRS;
- Performed inquiries of relevant personnel and analytical procedures on selected information in the consolidated sustainability statement;
- Performed substantive assurance procedures on selected information in the consolidated sustainability statement;
- Where applicable, compared disclosures in the consolidated sustainability statement with the corresponding disclosures in the financial statements and management report;
- Evaluated the methods, assumptions and data for developing estimates and forward-looking information;
- Obtained an understanding of the Company's process to identify taxonomy-eligible and taxonomy-aligned economic activities and the corresponding disclosures in the consolidated sustainability statement.

### **Other Matters**

The comparative information included in the Company's consolidated sustainability statement, as of 31 December 2023 and for the financial year then ended, was not included in the scope of our limited assurance engagement.

Our conclusion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Budapest, 4 April 2025

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### *Translation note:*

*This English version of our report is a translation from the original version prepared in Hungarian on the consolidated sustainability statement prepared in Hungarian. All possible care has been taken to ensure that the translation is an accurate representation of the original. However, in all matters of interpretation of information, views or opinions, the original language version of our report takes precedence over this English translation.*