



Ernst & Young Assurance Services SRL
Bucharest Tower Center Building, 21st Floor
15-17 Ion Mihalache Blvd., District 1
011171 Bucharest, Romania

Tel: +40 21 402 4000
Fax: +40 21 310 7193
office@ro.ey.com
ey.com

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Shareholders of BRD – Groupe Societe Generale S.A.

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the consolidated and separate financial statements of BRD – Groupe Societe Generale S.A. (the Bank) with official head office in 1-7 Ion Mihalache Bld., 1 District, Bucharest, Romania, identified by sole fiscal registration number RO 361579, which comprise the consolidated and separate statement of financial position as at December 31, 2019, and the consolidated and separate income statement, the consolidated and separate statement of comprehensive income, the consolidated and separate statement of changes in equity and the consolidated and separate statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In our opinion, the accompanying consolidated and separate financial statements give a true and fair view of the consolidated and separate financial position of the Bank as at December 31, 2019, and of its consolidated and separate financial performance and its consolidated and separate cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the National Bank of Romania Order no 27/2010, approving the accounting regulations compliant with the International Financial Reporting Standards for credit institutions, with all subsequent modifications and clarifications.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs), Regulation (EU) No. 537/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 ("Regulation (EU) No. 537/2014") and Law 162/2017 („Law 162/2017”). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Bank in accordance with the International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including International Independence Standards) as issued by the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (IESBA Code) together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to the audit of the financial statements in Romania, including Regulation (EU) No. 537/2014 and Law 162/2017 and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the IESBA Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Key audit matters

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

For each matter below, our description of how our audit addressed the matter is provided in that context.

We have fulfilled the responsibilities described in the “Auditor’s responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements” section of our report, including in relation to these matters. Accordingly, our audit included the performance of procedures designed to respond to our assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated and separate financial statements. The results of our audit procedures, including the procedures performed to address the matters below, provide the basis for our audit opinion on the accompanying consolidated and separate financial statements.

Key audit matter

Impairment of loans and advances to customers

Management’s assessment of impairment indications and determination of Expected Credit Loss (ECL) for loans and advances to customers is a complex process and involves significant judgement. Such an assessment is inherently uncertain, involving forecasting of future macroeconomic conditions in a number of scenarios as well as assessment of Risk of Default, Loss Given Default and Exposure at Default by employing models based on series of historical data and quantitative techniques. Very important are the definition and likelihood of Pessimistic as well as Optimistic economic scenarios and their impact on ECL.

The potential effect of the above items is a high degree of estimation uncertainty, with a potential range of reasonable outcomes, significantly different than the existing estimated impairment allowance.

Notes 2e, 3e and 9 to the consolidated and separate financial statements present more information on the estimation of impairment allowance for loans and advances to customers.

Due to the significance of loans and advances to customers (representing 52.44% of total Group’s assets and 52.75% of total Bank’s assets) and the related estimation uncertainty, we consider this a key audit matter.

How our audit addressed the key audit matter

Our audit procedures included, among others, the assessment of the Bank’s methodology regarding the identification of impairment and determination of expected credit losses, including governance over key judgements. This included the determination of macroeconomic scenarios and their weight, staging criteria and the credit risk parameters models like Probability of Default, Loss Given Default and Exposure at Default.

We assessed the design and evaluated the operating effectiveness of internal controls over the monitoring of loans and over expected credit loss calculation, including the quality of underlying data and relevant systems.

We examined management’s review regarding the macroeconomic scenarios and assessed the reasonability of the scenarios and weights.

For the loss allowance of impaired loans assessed on an individual basis, our evaluation was focused on the loans with the most significant potential impact on the consolidated and separate financial statements and considered the key assumptions underlying the impairment identification and quantification such as estimated future cash flows, including the realizable value of collaterals and estimates of recovery on default. Our internal valuation experts were involved, as appropriate, in performing our audit procedures.

For expected credit losses for loans assessed collectively either in stage 1, 2 or stage 3 we tested the key risk parameters' models by involving our credit risk specialists, re-performed staging and re-calculated expected credit losses.

We further assessed the adequacy of the Bank's disclosures in the consolidated and separate financial statements regarding exposure to credit risk.

Key audit matter

Provisions for litigations and other risks

Determining the provisions is an estimation process involving a high level of judgement, therefore there is an inherent risk that the existing provisions at year-end may significantly differ from the actual outflow of economic resources in subsequent years. The Bank recognizes provisions for litigations and other risks; Notes 2e, 17, 22 and 38 to the consolidated and separate financial statements present more information on their estimation. Given the inherent uncertainties with respect to the final outcome of pending litigations related to tax matters respectively disputes with clients, management applies judgement in predicting the final outcome of such litigations and uses estimates in relation to determination of the provisions.

Provisions for litigation and other risks are significant to our audit because the assessment process is complex and judgmental.

How our audit addressed the key audit matter

Our audit procedures were focused on the judgments and estimates which could give rise to material misstatement or are potentially subject to management bias.

- We performed a detailed understanding of the Bank's process of identifying and determining the litigation and other risks provisions and the related documentation flow and assessed the design of the related controls;
- We examined Board of Directors and Executives Committees meetings minutes to obtain an understanding of all significant legal and other risks matters;
- We conducted discussions with management and more specifically with the Bank's legal department to understand the status of each litigation and Bank's assessment regarding the potential loss;
- We assessed the assumptions used by the Bank to estimate the amount of provisions.
- We examined the fact pattern for the current disputes and have assessed the adequacy of the provisions based on the Bank's assumptions;

- Our tax experts were involved, where the case, for tax related topics, to assist us in the analysis and corroboration of the information and assumptions used in determining the provisions and contingent liabilities by considering the relevant legal requirements;
- We obtained written confirmations from the external legal counsels and compared their opinions with management's assumptions and assessment regarding the impact in the financial statements;
- We also evaluated the adequacy of the Bank's disclosures in the consolidated and separate financial statements regarding provisions for risks and litigations.

Key audit matter

Information Technology (IT) systems relevant for financial reporting

A significant part of the Bank's operations and financial reporting process is reliant on IT systems involving automated processes and related general and application controls over the capture, storage and processing of data. An important component of this internal control system involves the existence of and adherence to appropriate user access and change management processes and controls. These controls are particularly important because they ensure that the access and changes to IT systems and data are made by authorized persons in an appropriate manner.

The IT environment of the Bank is complex with a significant number of interconnected systems and databases. Given the level of automation of the processes relevant for financial reporting and given the complexity of the IT environment of the Bank, a high proportion of the overall audit procedures was concentrated in this area. We therefore consider that this area represents a key audit matter.

How our audit addressed the key audit matter

We focused our audit procedures on those IT systems and related controls that are significant for the financial reporting process. As the audit procedures over the IT systems require specific expertise, we involved our IT specialists to assist us in performing the audit procedures.

Our audit included, among others, the following procedures:

- Understanding and assessing the overall IT control environment and the controls in place, including the ones over access to systems and data, as well as IT system changes. We tailored our audit approach based on the importance of the system for the financial reporting;
- We tested the operating effectiveness of controls over granting access rights to determine if only appropriate users had the ability to create, modify or delete user accounts for the relevant applications;
- We tested the operating effectiveness of controls around the development and changes of applications to determine whether these are appropriately authorized, tested and implemented;
- We assessed and tested the design and operating effectiveness of the application and IT-dependent controls in the processes relevant to our audit.

Other information

The other information comprises the Annual Board of Directors' Report which includes the Non Financial declaration, but does not include the consolidated and separate financial statements and our auditors' report thereon. Management is responsible for the other information.

Our audit opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the consolidated and separate financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the consolidated and separate financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the consolidated and separate financial statements in accordance with the National Bank of Romania Order no 27/2010, approving the accounting regulations compliant with the International Financial Reporting Standards for credit institutions, with all subsequent modifications and clarifications, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the consolidated and separate financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the consolidated and separate financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Bank'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 Bank or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated and separate financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' 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 ISAs 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 consolidated and separate financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated and 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 Bank'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 Bank's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditors' report to the related disclosures in the consolidated and 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 auditors' report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Bank to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the consolidated and separate financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the consolidated and separate financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the Group to express an opinion on the consolidated financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

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, related safeguards.

From the matters communicated with those charged with governance, we determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the financial statements of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

Reporting on Information Other than the Financial Statements and Our Auditors' Report Thereon

In addition to our reporting responsibilities according to ISAs described in section "Other information", with respect to the Annual Board of Directors' Report, we have read the Annual Board of Directors' Report and report that:

- a) in the Annual Board of Directors' Report we have not identified information which is not consistent, in all material respects, with the information presented in the accompanying consolidated and separate financial statements as at December 31, 2019;
- b) the Annual Board of Directors' Report identified above includes, in all material respects, the required information according to the provisions of the National Bank of Romania Order no 27/2010, approving the accounting regulations compliant with the International Financial Reporting Standards for credit institutions, with all subsequent modifications and clarifications, Annex 1 points 11-14 and 37-38 respectively (Annex 1 republished 10th of February 2020 points 12-17 and 32-34 respectively);
- c) based on our knowledge and understanding concerning the entity and its environment gained during our audit of the consolidated and separate financial statements as at December 31, 2019, we have not identified information included in the Administrators' Report that contains a material misstatement of fact.

Other requirements on content of auditor's report in compliance with Regulation (EU) No. 537/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council

Appointment and Approval of Auditor

We were appointed as auditors of the Bank by the General Meeting of Shareholders on 18th April 2019 to audit the consolidated and separate financial statements for the financial year end December 31, 2019. Total uninterrupted engagement period, including previous renewals (extension of the period for which we were originally appointed) and reappointments for the statutory auditor, has lasted for 5 years, covering the financial periods end December 31, 2015 till December 31, 2019.

Consistency with Additional Report to the Audit Committee

Our audit opinion on the financial statements expressed herein is consistent with the additional report to the Audit Committee of the Bank, which we issued on the same date as the issue date of this report.

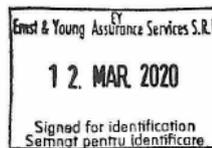
Provision of Non-audit Services

No prohibited non-audit services referred to in Article 5(1) of Regulation (EU) No. 537/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council were provided by us to the Bank and we remain independent from the Bank in conducting the audit.

In addition to statutory audit services and services disclosed in the annual report and in the financial statements, no other services which were provided by us to the Bank, and its controlled undertakings.

On behalf of,

Ernst & Young Assurance Services SRL
15-17, Ion Mihalache Blvd., floor 21, Bucharest, Romania
Registered in the electronic Public Register under No. FA77



Name of the Auditor/ Partner: Gelu Gherghescu
Registered in the electronic Public Register under No. AF1449

Bucharest, Romania
12 March 2020