



Notification template for Articles 133 and 134(5) of the Capital Requirements Directives (CRD) – Systemic risk buffer (SyRB)

Template for notifying the European Central Bank (ECB) and European Systemic Risk Board (ESRB) of the setting or resetting of one or more systemic risk buffer rates pursuant to Article 133(9) CRD and to request that the ESRB issue a recommendation to other Member States to reciprocate the measure under Article 134(5) CRD

Please send/upload this template to

- <u>macropru.notifications@ecb.europa.eu</u> when notifying the ECB (under Article 5 of the Single Supervisory Mechanism (SSM) Regulation¹);
- DARWIN/ASTRA when notifying the ESRB.

The ESRB will forward the notification to the European Commission, the European Banking Authority (EBA) and the competent and designated authorities of the Member States concerned without delay. This notification will be made public by the ESRB once the relevant authorities have adopted and published the notified macroprudential measure².

E-mailing/uploading this template to the above addresses constitutes official notification; no further official letter is required. To facilitate the work of the notified authorities, please send the notification template in a format that allows the information to be read electronically.

1. Notifying national authority and scope of the notification				
1.1 Name of the notifying authority	National Committee for Macroprudential Oversight (NCMO)			
1.2 Country of the notifying authority	Romania			
1.3 Type of measure (also for reviews of existing measures)	Change the level of an existing SyRB			
2. Description of the measure				
	Please indicate whether the SyRB applies to:			
2.1 Institutions covered by the	oxtimes All institutions authorised in the Member State			
intended SyRB	☐ One or more subsets of credit institutions in the sector (please provide the names and identifiers (Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) code) of institutions covered)			

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Date of template version: 26-11-2021

¹ Council Regulation (EU) No 1024/2013 of 15 October 2013 conferring specific tasks on the European Central Bank concerning policies relating to the prudential supervision of credit institutions (OJ L 287, 29.10.2013, p. 63).

² On request by the notifying authority, it may be agreed with the Head of the ESRB Secretariat that this notification, or a part thereof, should not be published for reasons of confidentiality or financial stability.

	Name of institution	LEI co	de	Consolidation level		
	☐ A subsidiary whose parent is established in another Member State. (Please provide the names and identifiers (LEI code) of subsidiaries)					
	Name of subsidiary	Name of the	e parent	LEI code of the subsidiary		
	If the SyRB applies to a sub	set of institutio	ns, please	describe the criteria for		
	selection of the relevant inst		, p			
2.2 Exposures covered by the SyRB						
	All exposures.					
(Article 133(5) CRD)						
	Where the systemic risk buf exposures identified (see po			-		
	identify the subset(s) of sectoral e	exposures a	ensions that were used to as laid down in the EBA posures in the application		
	Dimensions/subdimens	sions		Elements		
2.3 Subsets of sectoral exposures	Type of debtor or counterparty s	sector				
2.3 dubsets of sectoral exposures	1.a Economic activity					
	2. Type of exposure					
	2.a Risk profile					
	3. Type of collateral					
	3.a Geographical area					
	- Not applicable					
2.4 Exposures located in other Member States and in third	The SyRB is applicable to all exposures, including external exposures. Still, the amount of Romanian banking system's exposures to other Member States and to third countries is reduced, therefore no material cross-border effects are expected.					
countries						
2.5 Buffer rate	Specify the intended SyRB rate. If different buffer requirements apply to different exposures or subsets of exposures, please specify for each exposure indicated under 2.2.					
(Article 133(9)(e) CRD)						
	l					

Please indicate any changes to the list in 2.1 of institutions concerned and in the buffer rates given in point 2.5 as compared to the last notification, and provide an explanation, if applicable.

Exposures	New S	yRB rate	Previous SyRB rate		
	All institutions (SyRB rate)	Set of institutions (range of SyRB rates)	All institutions (SyRB rate)	Set of institutions (range of SyRB rates)	
(a) All exposures located in the Member State that is setting the buffer	0% - 2%	% - %	0% - 2%		
(b) The following sectoral exposure that is setting the buffer:	res located in the	Member State			
(i) All retail exposures to natural persons that are secured by residential property	%	% - %			
(ii) All exposures to legal persons that are secured by mortgages on commercial immovable property	%	% - %			
(iii) All exposures to legal persons excluding those specified in point (ii)	%	% - %			
(iv) All exposures to natural persons excluding those specified in point (i)	%	% - %			
(c) All exposures located in other Member States	0% - 2%	% - %	0% - 2%		
(e) Exposures located in third countries	0% - 2%	% - %	0% - 2%		
(f) Subsets of any of the sectoral	exposures identit	fied in point (b):			
(i) Please specify the subset [Dimension/subdimensions]	%	% - %			

The level of the buffer rate was already set by the *NCMO Recommendation No. 9/2017 on the systemic risk buffer in Romania*. The measure was notified on January 31, 2018 and was implemented starting with June 30, 2018.

The vulnerabilities identified across the national financial system when the SRB was implemented are still considered relevant:

- (i) the possibility of a renewed increase in non-performing loan ratios, following the rise in interest rates and the slowdown in the balance sheet clean-up process;
- (ii) the tensions surrounding macroeconomic equilibria.

The level of the systemic risk buffer is set at 0 percent, 1 percent or 2 percent, according to the 12 months average of the non-performing loans ratio and the coverage ratio with provisions reported by each individual credit institution, in accordance with the methodology established in the implementation process of the SyRB:

Non-performing loans ratio	Coverage ratio with provisions	Buffer rate (% of CET1 capital applied to total RWA)
< 5%	> 55%	0%

> 5%	> 55%	1%
< 5%	< 55%	1%
> 5%	< 55%	2%

This approach was implemented in order to support the credit risk management process and to increase the resilience of the banking sector against unanticipated shocks, amid structural unfavourable circumstances

The most recent revaluation was performed based on the 12 months average calculated for the asset quality assessment indicators (non-performing loans rate and coverage ratio) for the period July 2022 - June 2023, which is the basis of the SyRB capital requirement applicable between January 1 and June 30, 2024. In the table below is presented the level of the Systemic Risk Buffer, applicable at the highest level of consolidation, to the credit institutions Romanian legal entities:

		Set of institutions			
Exposures	Name of institution	LEI code	New SyRB rate	Previous SyRB rate	
All exposures	Alpha Bank S.A.	529900TKT32Z5LP7XF90	1%	1%	
All exposures	Banca Comercială Română S.A.	549300ORLU6LN5YD8X90	0%	0%	
All exposures	Techventures Bank S.A.	529900HO7D9PZWCL4924	0%	2%	
All exposures	Banca Română de Credite şi Investiţii S.A.	315700BEHT3NJAG8RX82	0%	0%	
All exposures	BRD - Groupe Société Générale S.A.	5493008QRHH0XCLJ4238	0%	0%	
All exposures	Banca Transilvania S.A.	549300RG3H390KEL8896	0%	0%	
All exposures	Credit Europe Bank S.A.	549300Y0HU846VCZER04	0%	0%	
All exposures	CEC Bank S.A.	2138008AVF4W7FMW8W87	1%	2%	
All exposures	Banca Cooperatista Creditcoop	3157006K4C7PJT790450	0%	0%	
All Exim Banca exposures Românească S.A.		635400F6HLXKXNJJX605	0%	0%	
All exposures	First Bank S.A.	549300UH7FDPRNBABQ46	0%	0%	
All exposures	Garanti Bank S.A.	549300UZRCTIM0HREY46	0%	0%	
All exposures	Banca Comercială Intesa SanPaolo S.A.	549300CGLRBLXD8PLZ18	0%	0%	
All exposures	Libra Internet Bank S.A.	315700WKDD4ZSRL7HW38	0%	0%	

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1 January – 30 June 2024	3.4 Timing for application	1 January –	30 June 2024					

3.5 Phasing in Without phase-in The level of the systemic risk buffer is set at 0 percent, 1 percent or 2 percent, based on the 12 months average of the non-performing loans ratio and the coverage ratio with provisions reported by each individual credit institution, in accordance with the methodology set by the NBR Order No. 8/2018 on the systemic risk buffer, as follows: 1. The level of the capital buffer for systemic risk to be maintained by credit institutions, Romanian legal persons, is established according to the average values for the indicators regarding the rate of non-performing loans and the degree of coverage with provisions (as specified in the NCMO Recommendation No. R/9/2017 on the systemic risk buffer in Romania; details are included in the section 2.2 - Buffer rate). 2. The indicators mentioned in point 1 are determined according to the following calculation formulas: 2.1. Non-performing loans rate = value of non-performing loans and advances / total value of loans and advances 2.2. Coverage ratio with provisions = the value of the accumulated depreciation, of the cumulative change of the fair value due to the credit risk and of the provisions for non-performing exposures, related to loans and advances / value of non-performing loans and advances 3. The systemic risk buffer is determined as follows: 3.1. In order to maintain the capital buffer for the period January 1 - June 30 3.6 Review/deactivation of the of each calendar year (N), the credit institutions that are the object of supervision measure on a consolidated basis exercised by the National Bank of Romania according to the provisions of art. 297 of the NBR Regulation no. 5/2013, with the subsequent modifications and completions, determine the average of the nonperforming loans rates and the average of coverage ratio with provisions based on the data reported in the consolidated financial reports, prepared for prudential purpose, for the reference dates 30.09. (N-2), 31.12. (N-2), 31.03. (N-1) and 30.06. (N-1), in the Form 18.00, provided in Annex III to the Implementing Regulation (EU) no. 680/2014 of the Commission of April 16, 2014 establishing technical implementing standards regarding the reporting for the purposes of supervision of institutions in accordance with Regulation (EU) no. 575/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, as subsequently amended and supplemented, as follows: a) value of non-performing loans and advances - form 18.00, rows 070 + 191 + 221, column 060. For the reference dates afferent to the year 2017, the credit institutions will use the values in the form 18.00, rows 070 + 250, column 060; b) total value of loans and advances - form 18.00, rows 070 + 191 + 221, column 010. For the reference dates afferent to the year 2017, the credit institutions will use the values in the form 18.00, rows 070 + 250, column c) the value of the accumulated impairment, the cumulative change of the fair value due to the credit risk and the provisions for non-performing

exposures, related to loans and advances - form 18.00, rows 070 + 191 + 221, column 150. For the reference dates afferent to the year 2017, the

credit institutions will use the values reported in the form 18.00, rows 070 + 250, column 150.

- 3.2. To maintain the capital buffer for the period 1 July to 31 December of each calendar year (N), in order to determine the average of the non-performing loans rates and the average of coverage ratio with provisions, the credit institutions mentioned in sub-item. 3.1 will use the data included in the consolidated financial statements, prepared for prudential purposes, for the reference data 31.03. (N-1), 30.06. (N-1), 30.09. (N-1) and 31.12. (N-1), in form 18.00, provided in Annex III to the *Implementing Regulation (EU) no. 680/2014*, with subsequent modifications and completions, using the same specifications mentioned in subitem. 3.1 lit. a) -c).
- 3.3. In order to maintain the capital buffer for the period January 1 June 30 of each calendar year (N), the credit institutions that are subject to supervision only on an individual basis exercised by the National Bank of Romania determine the average of the non-performing loan rates and the average of coverage ratio with provisions based on the data reported in the monthly financial reports, reported at individual level for prudential purposes, for the reference dates representing the end of each calendar month from July (N-2) to June (N-1), in the form 18.00, provided by the *Methodological norms regarding the preparation of FINREP financial statements at the individual level, in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards, applicable to credit institutions for prudential supervision purposes, approved by the <i>NBR Order no. 9/2017* or, as the case may be, through the NBR Order no. 6/2014, as subsequently amended and supplemented, as follows:
 - a) value of non-performing loans and advances form 18.00, provided by the annex to the NBR Order no. 9/2017, rows 070 + 191 + 221, column 060. For the reference dates afferent to the year 2017, the credit institutions will use the values in the form 18.00, provided by the annex to the NBR Order no. 6/2014, with the subsequent modifications and completions, rows 070 + 250, column 060;
 - b) total value of loans and advances form 18.00, provided by the annex to the NBR Order no. 9/2017, rows 070 + 191 + 221, column 010. For the reference dates afferent to the year 2017, the credit institutions will use the values in the form 18.00, provided by the annex to the NBR Order no. 6/2014, with the subsequent modifications and completions, rows 070 + 250, column 010:
 - c) the value of the accumulated impairment, the cumulative change of the fair value due to the credit risk and the provisions for non-performing exposures, related to loans and advances form 18.00, provided by the annex to the NBR Order no. 9/2017, rows 070 + 191 + 221, column 150. For the reference dates afferent to the year 2017, the credit institutions will use the values in the form 18.00, provided by the annex to the NBR Order no. 6/2014, with subsequent amendments and additions, rows 070 + 250, column 150.
- 3.4. To maintain the capital buffer for the period 1 July to 31 December of each calendar year (N), the credit institutions that are subject to supervision only on an individual basis exercised by the National Bank of Romania determine the average of the non-performing loans rates and the average of coverage ratio with provisions based on the data reported in the monthly financial statements, reported at individual level for prudential purposes, for the reference dates representing the end of each calendar month from January (N-1) to December (N-1), in the form 18.00, provided by the Methodological norms regarding the

drafting of FINREP financial statements at individual level, in compliance with the International Financial Reporting Standards, applicable to credit institutions for prudential supervision purposes, approved by the NBR Order no. 9/2017, using the same specifications mentioned in sub-item. 3.3 lit. a) -c).

Thus, the NBR Order No. 8/2018 on the systemic risk buffer clearly states in Article 2 that the credit institutions compute the level of the Systemic Risk Buffer in accordance with the methodology provided.

The level and the scope of the SyRB is reviewed periodically, i.e. at least every second year according the provisions of Article 133(10)(b) of the CRD.

4. Reasons for the notified SyRB

4.1 Description of the macroprudential or systemic risk in your Member State

(Article 133(9)(a) of the CRD)

The introduction of a systemic risk buffer is a macroprudential policy option, based on the following considerations: (i) the need to address the issue of non-performing loans from a macroprudential perspective, taking into account the possibility of a renewed increase in non-performing loan ratios, following the rise in interest rates and the slowdown in the balance sheet clean-up process, (ii) the tensions surrounding domestic macroeconomic equilibria, including through the shaping of a legislative framework with potentially adverse effects on the management of risks in the banking sector and lingering uncertainties about the regional and international context.

These risks are widespread in the whole banking sector, therefore the SyRB is applicable to all the credit institutions, Romanian legal entities.

4.2 Reasons why the dimension of the macroprudential or systemic risks threatens the stability of the financial system in your Member State

(Article 133(9)(b) CRD)

The rationale behind implementing the systemic risk buffer is circumscribed to the following two perspectives: (i) ensuring an adequate management of credit risk from a macroprudential perspective, amid the possible return of non-performing loans onto an upward path, in the context of unfavourable circumstances related to credit institutions' potential future efforts to clean up their balance sheets and (ii) preserving financial stability, assuming that the tensions surrounding domestic macroeconomic equilibria and regional and global uncertainties will persist.

The European initiatives concerning NPL resolution highlight the importance of tackling this issue from a macroprudential perspective, due to the significant negative effects on banking sector activity and, therefore, on the real economy. Moreover, the tightening on macroeconomic equilibria can lead to significant negative second-round effects on the financial sector, in case of unanticipated external or internal shocks.

4.3 Indicators used for activation of the measure

The level of the systemic risk buffer is set according to the 12 months average of the non-performing loans ratio and the coverage ratio with provisions reported by each individual credit institution. The details are shown in the section 3.6.

4.4 Effectiveness and proportionality of the measure (Article 133(9)(c) CRD)

The implementation of a systemic risk buffer applicable to all exposures aims at supporting the credit risk management process and at increasing the resilience of the banking sector against unanticipated shocks, amid structural unfavourable circumstances. The proportionality of the measure is argued through the calibration methodology which is based on historical information used as forward guidance to assess potential vulnerabilities given by of a renewed increase in non-performing loan ratios.

	Moreover, it provides incentives for the banking sector to further support the balance sheet clean-up process, with significant positive effects on financial stability.
4.5 Reason why the systemic risk buffer is not duplicating the functioning of the O-SII buffer provided for in Article 131 CRD	The two buffers aim to mitigate different risks.
(Article 133(9)(f) CRD)	
5. Sufficiency, consistency ar	nd non-overlap of the policy response
5.1 Sufficiency of the policy response	The effects of using the SyRB macroprudential instrument became apparent in terms of curbing the NPL ratio and increasing the coverage ratio. Specifically, around five years after its implementation, the non-performing loan ratio in the banking sector shed more than 50 percent (June 2023 versus June 2018). This positive trend illustrates both credit institutions' sustained efforts in the balance sheet clean-up process and the effectiveness of this macroprudential instrument, alongside the NBR's involvement as a supervisory authority in this process. The coverage ratio went up significantly during this period, from 62.1 percent at the end of 2018 Q2 to 69 percent at March 2022. Recent developments generated by the SyRB application have placed Romania among the best performing EU Member States in terms of NPL coverage by provisions. At March 2023, Romania ranked topmost in the EU by the level of this indicator. Also, the outbreak of the COVID – 19 pandemic showed the importance of the builded capital reserves in order to support credit activity during stress conditions.
5.2 Consistency of application of the policy response	The SyRB was implemented to pursue the ultimate and intermediate objective of macro-prudential policy, i.e. strengthening the resilience of financial infrastructures. Its design was set in accordance with Article 133 of the CRD, and since its implementation, in 2018 no change in methodology occurred. Moreover, the fact that credit institutions compute the level of the Systemic Risk Buffer in accordance with the methodology provided ensures the consistency and the predictability of the measure.
5.3 Non-overlap of the policy response	Other macroprudential instruments could not address the identified risks, due to the following arguments: - the countercyclical capital buffer (CCyB) – the buffer is designed to counter pro-cyclicality in the financial system, by dampening excessive credit growth during the upswing of the financial cycle and providing capital reserves in case of a downturn. - Pillar II capital requirements – this instrument is institution – specific, while the identified vulnerabilities are system-wide and concern the linkages between the financial sector and the real economy, therefore they should not be subject to Pillar II requirements which tackle risks from a microprudential perspective. - the other systemically important institutions buffer (O-SII) – this instrument covers the risks related to the size of individual institutions.

6. Cross-border and cross-sector impact of the measure

6.1 Assessment of cross-border effects and the likely impact on the Internal Market (Article 133(9)(d) of the CRD and Recommendation ESRB/2015/2³)	Considering the reduced amount of Romanian banking system's exposures to other Member States and to third countries, no material cross-border effects are expected. The SyRB applicable to Romanian credit institutions is not expected to have a negative impact on the internal market. The SyRB will foster financial stability within the Romanian banking sector. With respect to the impact on the internal market, 92.6% of total exposures in the balance sheet of the Romanian banks as of Q2 2023 are of a domestic nature. Moreover, 99.7% of exposures to household and non-financial companies come from domestic debtors. The Romanian banking sector has a relatively modest importance on the foreign markets in terms of both assets and cross-border loans. Direct cross-border loans and through branches sum up approximately 7% of the total loans in the balance sheet of the Romanian banking sector, most of them being loans granted to other financial institutions (only 0.19% of total loans are cross border loans granted to household and non-financial companies). Moreover, these figures becomes insignificant when compared to the European banking sector (according the latest available figures – Consolidated Banking Data - the share of the Romanian banking sector in the total assets of the Euro Zone banking sector was only 0.15% as of Q1 2023). Under these circumstances, our assessment is that the above-mentioned measure has little potential to generate significant cross-border effects via the risk adjustment spillover channel. Concerning the regulatory arbitrage channel, the structure of the banking groups indicates a marginal contribution of the foreign entities to the own funds of the groups or to their capital ratios. As of June 2023 the contribution of foreign			
6.2 Assessment of leakages and regulatory arbitrage within the notifying Member State	entities to the domestic group capital ratio was 2.42% per total banking groups. No leakages and regulatory arbitrage are expected within Romania, as the SyRB is applicable at the highest level of consolidation.			
6.3 Request for reciprocation by other Member States (Article 134(5) CRD and Recommendation ESRB/2015/2)	Taking into account that the implementation of the Systemic Risk Buffer in Romania aims at mitigating the identified vulnerabilities arising from the balance sheets of the credit institutions, which are Romanian legal entities, as well as the reduced linkages described in section 5.1, reciprocation of the SyRB by other Member States is not required.			
6.4 Justification for the request for reciprocation by other Member States (Article 134(5) CRD and Recommendation ESRB/2015/2)	Not applicable			
7. Combination of the SyRB with other buffers				

³ Recommendation of the European Systemic Risk Board of 15 December 2015 on the assessment of cross-border effects of and voluntary reciprocity for macroprudential policy measures (ESRB/2015/3) (OJ C 97, 12.3.2016, p. 9).

	Is the sum of the systemic		_		
	buffer rates to which the same institution is subject above 5%? No				
	Please provide a list of the institutions subject to a G-SII or an O-SII buffer, indicating the G-SII or O-SII buffer and the sum of the G-SII/O-SII and SyRB buffers (a combined buffer rate of over 5% requires authorisation by the Commission).				
7.1 Combination with G-SII and/or O-SII buffers	Name of institution	G-SII/O-SII buffer rate	O-SII consolidation level	Sum of G-SII/O- SII and SyRB rates	
	Banca Transilvania S.A.	O-SII 2%	Consolidated	2%	
(Article 131(15) CRD)	UniCredit Bank S.A.	O-SII 1,5%	Consolidated	1.5%	
	Banca Comercială Română S.A.	O-SII 1,5%	Consolidated	1,5%	
	BRD – Groupe Societe Generale S.A.	O-SII 1,5%	Consolidated	1,5%	
	Raiffeisen Bank S.A.	O-SII 1%	Consolidated	1%	
	CEC Bank S.A.	O-SII 1%	Consolidated	2%	
	OTP Bank Romania S.A.	O-SII 0,5%	Consolidated	1,5%	
	Alpha Bank România S.A.	O-SII 0,5%	Consolidated	1,5%	
	Exim Banca Românească S.A.	O-SII 0,5%	Consolidated	0,5%	
7.2 Combination with other systemic risk buffers (Article 133(11) and (12) CRD)	Not applicable				
8. Miscellaneous					
	Contact person(s) (name, phone number and e-mail address) and mailbox for further inquiries.				
	Mr. Florian Neagu				
8.1 Contact person(s)/mailbox at notifying authority	Deputy Director, Financial Stability Department, National Bank of Romania and NCMO Secretariat				
	Phone: +40311 32 1102				
	Email: florian.neagu@bnro.ro; secretariat.cnsmro@bnro.ro				
8.2 Any other relevant information					
8.3 Date of the notification	20/10/2023				