Raiffeisen Bank Group

International Financial Reporting Standards Consolidated Financial Statements and Independent Auditor's Report

31 December 2014

GENERAL INFORMATION

Directors and Management as of 31 December 2014 and 31 December 2013

Board of Directors (Supervisory Board)

Helmut Breit	Chairman
Heinz Hodl	Member
Razvan Munteanu	Member
Harald Kreuzmair	Member
Andreas Engels	Member

Audit Committee

Heinz Hödl	Chairman
Johannes Kellner	Member
Susana Benoit	Member

Management Board

Christian Canacaris	Chief Executive Officer
Alexander Zsolnai	Vice-chairman of the Management Board
John McNaughton	Member
Raphaela Bischof-Rothauer	Member

Registered office

Kavaja Street, Building 71, Apt. 4
Tirana, Albania
Telephone: +355 4 2381 381
Facsimile +355 4 2275 599

Auditor

PricewaterhouseCoopers Audit sh.p.k
Str. Ibrahim Rugova
Sky Tower, 9/1 floor
Tirana, Albania
Telephone +355 42 242254/280423
Facsimile +355 42 241639

pwc

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Shareholder's and Board of Directors of Raiffeisen Bank sh.a.

We have audited the accompanying consolidated financial statements of Raiffeisen Bank sh.a. and its subsidiaries (the "Group"), which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as at 31 December 2014 and the consolidated statements of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, changes in equity and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Consolidated Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these consolidated financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements 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 entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the consolidated financial statements.

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

Opinion

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Group as at 31 December 2014, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards.

PricewaterhouseCoopers Audit sh.p.k.
PricewaterhouseCoopers Audit sh.p.k.

PricewaterhouseCoopers Audit sh.p.k.
pwc

Statutory auditor

Enida Cara

14 April 2015
Tirana, Albania

(amounts in LEK'000)

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Assets	**Note**	**31 December 2014**	**31 December 2013**
Cash and cash equivalents	**7**	40,638,657	35,394,831
Restricted balances	**8**	22,850,572	24,527,024
Investments held for trading	**9.1**	28,517,255	43,867,966
Held-to-maturity investment securities	**9.2**	59,579,093	65,885,928
Other securities designated at fair value	**9.3**	6,841,526	-
Loans and advances to customers, net	**10**	112,216,171	116,345,848
Current income tax prepayment		118,504	181,178
Deferred income tax asset	**11**	44,629	73,902
Goodwill	**12**	92,783	92,783
Intangible assets	**13**	1,518,912	1,442,261
Premises and equipment	**14**	1,652,506	1,881,596
Other assets	**15**	2,375,913	2,103,238
Total assets		**276,446,521**	**291,796,555**
Liabilities			
Due to financial institutions	**16**	3,555,166	4,610,794
Due to customers	**17**	233,719,383	246,445,957
Other liabilities	**18**	2,118,160	3,235,863
Subordinated debt	**19**	7,149,792	7,154,318
Total liabilities		**246,542,501**	**261,446,932**
Equity			
Share capital	**20**	14,178,593	14,178,593
Retained earnings		12,788,710	13,233,130
Other reserves	**21**	2,835,352	2,835,352
Net assets attributable to the Bank owners		**29,802,655**	**30,247,075**
Non-controlling interest	**22**	**101,365**	**102,548**
Total equity		**29,904,020**	**30,349,623**
Total liabilities and equity		**276,446,521**	**291,796,555**

These consolidated financial statements have been approved by the Supervisory Board of the Bank on 13 March 2015 and signed on its behalf by:

Christian Canacaris
Chief Executive Officer

Alexander Zsolnai
Vice Chairman of Management Board

The consolidated statement of financial position is to be read in conjunction with the notes to and forming part of the consolidated financial statements set out on pages 10 to 72.

(amounts in LEK'000)

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	Notes	Year ended 31 December 2014	Year ended 31 December 2013
Interest income	23	12,669,923	15,953,426
Interest expense	24	(1,472,518)	(5,055,314)
Net interest income		**11,197,405**	**10,898,112**
Provision for impairment of loans to customers	10,18	(4,099,839)	(4,082,740)
Net interest income after provision for loan impairment		**7,097,566**	**6,815,372**
Fee and commission income	25	2,415,136	2,106,805
Fee and commission expense	26	(375,012)	(621,856)
Net fee and commission income		**2,040,124**	**1,484,949**
Net income from investments	9.3	4,496	32,340
Net trading income	27	2,546,883	2,887,730
Other operating income	28	762,674	238,768
		3,314,053	**3,158,838**
Deposit insurance premium	29	(745,867)	(855,698)
Personnel expenses	30	(2,423,966)	(2,427,117)
Depreciation and amortisation	13,14	(666,359)	(576,959)
General and administrative expenses	31	(2,208,240)	(2,109,655)
Other operating expense	28	(456,560)	(386,349)
		(6,500,992)	**(6,355,778)**
Profit before income tax		**5,950,751**	**5,103,381**
Income tax	32	(912,189)	(456,659)
Profit for the year		**5,038,562**	**4,646,722**
Other comprehensive income: *Items that may be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:*			
Available-for-sale investments:			
- Gains less losses arising during the year		**-**	**(37,785)**
Gains less losses reclassified to profit or loss upon disposal or impairment		-	-
Other comprehensive income for the year		**-**	**(37,785)**
Total comprehensive income for the YEAR		**5,038,562**	**4,608,937**

(amounts in LEK'000)

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (CONTINUED)

	Year ended 31 December 2014	Year ended 31 December 2013
Profit is attributable to:		
- Owners of the Bank	5,023,857	4,630,834
- Non-controlling interest	14,705	15,888
Profit for the year	**5,038,562**	**4,646,722**
Total comprehensive income is attributable to:		
- Owners of the Bank	5,023,857	4,593,178
- Non-controlling interest	14,705	15,759
Total comprehensive income for the year	**5,038,562**	**4,608,937**
Earnings per share for profit attributable to the owners of the Bank, basic and diluted (expressed in LEK per share)	**718**	**662**

The consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income is to be read in conjunction with the notes to and forming part of the consolidated financial statements set out on pages 10 to 72.

(amounts in LEK'000)

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

	Attributable to the owners of the Bank						
	Share capital	**General reserves**	**Revaluation reserve for AFS**	**Retained earnings**	**Total**	**Non-controlling interest**	**Total equity**
Balance as at 31 December 2012	**14,178,593**	**2,822,814**	**37,785**	**13,927,529**	**30,966,721**	**101,418**	**31,068,139**
Transfer of retained earnings to general reserve	-	12,538	-	(12,538)	-	-	-
Dividend payment	-	-	-	(5,312,695)	(5,312,695)	(14,758)	**(5,327,453)**
Profit for the year	-	-	-	4,630,834	4,630,834	15,888	**4,646,722**
Other comprehensive income	-	-	(37,785)	-	(37,785)	-	**(37,785)**
Total comprehensice income for the year	**-**	**-**	**(37,785)**	**4,630,834**	**4,593,049**	**15,888**	**4,608,937**
Balance as at 31 December 2013	**14,178,593**	**2,835,352**	**-**	**13,233,130**	**30,247,075**	**102,548**	**30,349,623**
Dividend payment	-	-	-	(5,468,277)	(5,468,277)	(15,888)	**(5,484,165)**
Profit for the year	-	-	-	5,023,857	5,023,857	14,705	**5,038,562**
Other comprehensive income							
Total comprehensive income for the year	**-**	**-**	**-**	**5,023,857**	**5,023,857**	**14,705**	**5,038,562**
Balance as at 31 December 2014	**14,178,593**	**2,835,352**	**-**	**12,788,710**	**29,802,655**	**101,365**	**29,904,020**

The consolidated statement of changes in equity is to be read in conjunction with the notes to and forming part of the consolidated financial statements set out on pages 10 to 72.

(amounts in LEK'000)

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

Cash flows from operating activities		**Year ended 31 December 2014**	**Year ended 31 December 2013**
Profit for the year before taxation		**5,950,751**	**5,103,381**
Non-cash items in the statement of comprehensive income			
Depreciation and amortization	**13,14**	666,358	576,959
(Profit)/Loss from sale of fixed assets	**28**	(420,872)	(53,181)
Net impairment loss on financial assets		4,099,839	4,082,740
Net Interest income		(11,997,596)	(11,289,080)
Net income from revaluation of trading securities		(111,449)	(42,167)
Net income from revaluation of other securties designated at fair value through profit or loss		(3,561)	5,445
Changes in provision for other debtors		173,381	(1,095)
Changes in provision for litigation		5,972	214
Revaluation effect of cash and cash equivalents		221,389	62,176
Operating cash flows before changes in working capital		**(1,415,788)**	**(1,554,608)**
Decrease in restricted balances		1,676,452	3,716,134
Decreasein loans and advances to customers		303,571	3,664,598
Net decrease/(Increase) in trading securities		15,474,564	(2,540,110)
Net increase in other securities designated at fair value through profit or loss		(6,782,862)	(37,785)
Increase in other assets		(399,737)	(313,758)
(Decrease)/Increase in due to financial institutions		(1,453,157)	2,866,892
Decrease in due to customers		(10,959,407)	(35,934,167)
(Decrease)/Increase in other liabilities		(1,055,820)	1,684,372
Operating cash flows after changes in working capital		**(4,612,184)**	**(28,448,432)**
Interest received		13,506,752	16,810,171
Interest paid		(3,342,801)	(7,039,906)
Corporate income tax paid		(819,781)	(522,273)
Net cash generated from/(used in) operating activities		**4,731,986**	**(19,200,440)**
Cash flows from investing activities			
Proceeds from sale of investment securities available for sale		-	32,340
Purchases of premises and equipment	**14**	(352,108)	(363,316)
Purchases of intangible assets	**13**	(277,277)	(329,560)
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets		536,339	58,240
Proceeds from matured financial assets held-to-maturity		46,707,962	70,762,975
Purchase of financial assets held-to-maturity		(40,397,522)	(55,338,868)
Net cash generated from investing activities		**6,217,394**	**14,821,811**
Cash flows from financing activities			
Dividends paid		(5,484,165)	(5,327,453)
Increase in Subordinated debt		-	7,010,000
Net cash(used in)/from financing activities		**(5,484,165)**	**1,682,547**
Increase/(Decrease) in cash and cash equivalents during the year		**5,465,215**	**(2,696,082)**
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	**7**	35,394,831	**38,153,089**
Revaluation effect of cash and cash equivalents		(221,389)	(62,176)
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	**7**	**40,638,657**	**35,394,831**

The consolidated statement of cash flows is to be read in conjunction with the notes to and forming part of the consolidated financial statements set out on pages 10 to 72.

1. INTRODUCTION

These consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards for the year ended 31 December 2014 for Raiffiesen Bank sh.a. (the "Bank") and its subsidiaries (the "Group").

Raiffeisen Bank Sh.a. (the "Bank") is a banking institution operating in accordance with the provisions of Law 9901, dated 14 April 2008 "On Entrepreneurs and Commercial Companies", and Law 9662, dated 18 December 2006 "On Banks in the Republic of Albania", as well as other relevant laws. The Bank is incorporated and domiciled in Albania and operates in Albania. Raiffeisen Bank Sh.a. is a 100% owned subsidiary of Raiffeisen Bank International AG, Austria, which is the ultimate controlling party.

Principal activity. The Group's principal business activity is retail banking operations within the Republic of Albania. The Bank operates through a banking network of 90 service points, as of 31 December 2014, (31 December 2013: 102 service points) throughout Albania, which are managed through 8 Districts and has no overseas operations.

The consolidated financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2014 were authorized for issue by the Board of Directors on 13 March 2015. Approval of the financial statements by the Shareholders will take place in the Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders.

2. BASIS OF PREPARATION

(a) Statement of compliance

These consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS") under the historical cost convention, as modified by the initial recognition of financial instruments based on fair value, and by the revaluation of available-for-sale financial assets, and financial instruments categorised at fair value through profit or loss. The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below.

Presentation currency. These consolidated financial statements are presented in Albanian Lek ("LEK"), unless otherwise stated. Except as indicated, financial information presented in Lek has been rounded to the nearest thousand.

3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accounting policies set out below have been consistently applied to all the periods presented, unless otherwise stated.

(a) Consolidated financial statements

Subsidiaries are those investees, including structured entities, that the Group controls because the Group (i) has power to direct relevant activities of the investees that significantly affect their returns, (ii) has exposure, or rights, to variable returns from its involvement with the investees, and (iii) has the ability to use its power over the investees to affect the amount of investor's returns. The existence and effect of substantive rights, including substantive potential voting rights, are considered when assessing whether the Group has power over another entity. For a right to be substantive, the holder must have practical ability to exercise that right when decisions about the direction of the relevant activities of the investee need to be made. The Group may have power over an investee even when it holds less than majority of voting power in an investee. In such a case, the Group assesses the size of its voting rights relative to the size and dispersion of holdings of the other vote holders to determine if it has de-facto power over the investee. Protective rights of other investors, such as those that relate to fundamental changes of investee's activities or apply only in exceptional circumstances, do not prevent the Group from controlling an investee. Subsidiaries are consolidated from the date on which control is transferred to the Group, and are deconsolidated from the date on which control ceases.

3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(a) Consolidated financial statements (continued)

The acquisition method of accounting is used to account for the acquisition of subsidiaries. Identifiable assets acquired and liabilities and contingent liabilities assumed in a business combination are measured at their fair values at the acquisition date, irrespective of the extent of any non-controlling interest. The Group measures non-controlling interest that represents present ownership interest and entitles the holder to a proportionate share of net assets in the event of liquidation on a transaction by transaction basis, either at: (a) fair value, or (b) the non-controlling interest's proportionate share of net assets of the acquiree. Non-controlling interests that are not present ownership interests are measured at fair value.

Goodwill is measured by deducting the net assets of the acquiree from the aggregate of the consideration transferred for the acquiree, the amount of non-controlling interest in the acquiree and fair value of an interest in the acquiree held immediately before the acquisition date. Any negative amount ("negative goodwill") is recognised in profit or loss, after management reassesses whether it identified all the assets acquired and all liabilities and contingent liabilities assumed, and reviews appropriateness of their measurement.

The consideration transferred for the acquiree is measured at the fair value of the assets given up, equity instruments issued and liabilities incurred or assumed, including fair value of assets or liabilities from contingent consideration arrangements, but excludes acquisition related costs such as advisory, legal, valuation and similar professional services. Transaction costs incurred for issuing equity instruments are deducted from equity; transaction costs incurred for issuing debt are deducted from its carrying amount and all other transaction costs associated with the acquisition are expensed. Intercompany transactions, balances and unrealised gains on transactions between group companies are eliminated; unrealised losses are also eliminated unless the cost cannot be recovered. The Bank and all of its subsidiaries use uniform accounting policies consistent with the Group's policies.

Based on the nature of the activity, the Groups' subsidiaries have several specific accounting policies which are detailed in note 3(n) for Raiffeisen Leasing sh.a. and in notes 3 (t) and 3 (u), for Raiffeisen INVEST.

Purchases and sales of non-controlling interests. The Group applies the economic entity model to account for transactions with owners of non-controlling interest. Any difference between the purchase consideration and the carrying amount of non-controlling interest acquired is recorded as a capital transaction directly in equity. The Group recognises the difference between sales consideration and carrying amount of non-controlling interest sold as a capital transaction in the statement of changes in equity.

Associates. Associates are entities over which the Group has significant influence (directly or indirectly), but not control, generally accompanying a shareholding of between 20 and 50 percent of the voting rights. Investments in associates are accounted for using the equity method of accounting, and are initially recognised at cost. The carrying amount of associates includes goodwill identified on acquisition less accumulated impairment losses, if any. Dividends received from associates reduce the carrying value of the investment in associates. Other post-acquisition changes in Group's share of net assets of an associate are recognised as follows: (i) the Group's share of profits or losses of associates is recorded in the consolidated profit or loss for the year as share of result of associates, (ii) the Group's share of other comprehensive income is recognised in other comprehensive income and presented separately, (iii) all other changes in the Group's share of the carrying value of net assets of associates are recognised in profit or loss within the share of result of associates. However, when the Group's share of losses in an associate equals or exceeds its interest in the associate, including any other unsecured receivables, the Group does not recognise further losses, unless it has incurred obligations or made payments on behalf of the associate.

Unrealised gains on transactions between the Group and its associates are eliminated to the extent of the Group's interest in the associates; unrealised losses are also eliminated unless the transaction provides evidence of an impairment of the asset transferred.

(amounts in LEK'000, unless otherwise stated)

3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(a) Consolidated financial statements (continued)

Disposals of subsidiaries, associates or joint ventures. When the Group ceases to have control or significant influence, any retained interest in the entity is remeasured to its fair value, with the change in carrying amount recognised in profit or loss. The fair value is the initial carrying amount for the purposes of subsequently accounting for the retained interest as an associate, joint venture or financial asset. In addition, any amounts previously recognised in other comprehensive income in respect of that entity, are accounted for as if the Group had directly disposed of the related assets or liabilities. This may mean that amounts previously recognised in other comprehensive income are recycled to profit or loss. If the ownership interest in an associate is reduced but significant influence is retained, only a proportionate share of the amounts previously recognised in other comprehensive income are reclassified to profit or loss, where appropriate.

(b) Foreign currency transactions

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated to the functional currency at exchange rates at the dates of the transactions. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the reporting date are retranslated to the functional currency at the exchange rate at that date.

The foreign currency gain or loss on monetary items is the difference between amortised cost in the functional currency at the beginning of the period, adjusted for effective interest and payments during the period, and the amortised cost in foreign currency translated at the exchange rate at the end of the period. Non-monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies that are measured at fair value are retranslated to the functional currency at the exchange rate at the date that the fair value was determined. Foreign currency differences arising on retranslation are recognised in profit or loss.

The applicable official Group rates (LEK to the foreign currency unit) for the principal currencies as at 31 December 2014 and 31 December 2013, according to Bank of Albania were as below:

	31 December 2014		**31 December 2013**	
	Period end	*Average*	*Year end*	*Average*
United States dollar (USD)	115.23	105.75	101.86	105.53
European Union currency unit (EUR)	140.14	139.93	140.20	140.23

(c) Interest

Interest income and expense are recognised as profit or loss in the consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income using the effective interest method. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts the estimated future cash payments and receipts through the expected life of the financial asset or liability (or, where appropriate, a shorter period) to the carrying amount of the financial asset or liability. When calculating the effective interest rate, the Group estimates future cash flows considering all contractual terms of the financial instrument but not future credit losses.

The calculation of the effective interest rate includes all fees and points paid or received that are an integral part of the effective interest rate. Transaction costs include incremental costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition or issue of a financial asset or liability.

Interest income and expense presented as profit or loss in the consolidated statement of comprehensive income include:

- interest on financial assets and liabilities at amortised cost calculated on an effective interest basis
- interest on available-for-sale investment securities calculated on an effective interest basis

Interest income and expense on all trading assets and liabilities are considered to be incidental to the Group's trading operations and are presented together with all other changes in the fair value of trading assets and liabilities in net trading income.

3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(d) Fees and commission

Fees and commission income and expenses that are integral to the effective interest rate on a financial asset or liability are included in the measurement of the effective interest rate.

Other fees and commission income, including account servicing fees, sales commission, placement fees, are recognised as the related services are performed. Other fees and commission expense relates mainly to transaction and service fees, which are expensed as the services are received.

(e) Net trading income

Net trading income comprises gains less losses related to trading assets and liabilities, and includes all realised and unrealised fair value changes, interest and foreign exchange differences.

(f) Operating lease payments and other operating expenses

Payments made under operating leases are recognised in profit or loss on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease. Lease incentives received are recognised as an integral part of the total lease expense, over the term of the lease. The operating expenses are recognised when incurred.

(g) Employee benefits

- *Defined contribution plans*

Obligations for contributions to defined contribution pension plans are recognised as an expense in profit or loss when they are due. The Group makes compulsory social security contributions that provide pension benefits for employees upon retirement. The local authorities are responsible for providing the legally set minimum threshold for pensions in Albania under a defined contribution pension plan.

- *Paid annual leave*

The Group recognises as a liability the undiscounted amount of the estimated costs related to annual leave expected to be paid in exchange for the employee's service for the period completed.

- *Short-term benefits*

Short-term employee benefit obligations are measured on an undiscounted basis and are expensed as the related service is provided.

A provision is recognised for the amount expected to be paid under short-term cash bonus or profit-sharing plans if the Group has a present legal or constructive obligation to pay this amount as a result of past service provided by the employee and the obligation can be estimated reliably.

- *Termination benefits*

For termination benefits, the Company specified that amounts payable are recognised when, and only when, the Company is demonstrably committed to either:

- terminated the employment of an employee or group of employees before the normal retirement date, or
- provide termination benefits as a result of an offer made in order to encourage voluntary redundancy.

The Company is demonstrably committed to a termination when, and when, it has a detailed formal plan for the termination and is without realistic possibly of withdrawal.

(h) Income tax expense

Income tax expense comprises current and deferred tax. Income tax expense is recognised in the consolidated statement of comprehensive income except to the extent that it relates to items recognised directly in equity, in which case it is recognised in equity. Current tax is the expected tax payable on the taxable income for the year, using tax rates enacted or substantively enacted at the reporting date, and any adjustment to tax payable in respect of previous years.

3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(h) Income tax expense (continued)

Deferred income tax is provided using the balance sheet liability method for tax loss carry forwards and temporary differences arising between the tax bases of assets and liabilities and their carrying amounts for financial reporting purposes. In accordance with the initial recognition exemption, deferred taxes are not recorded for temporary differences on initial recognition of an asset or a liability in a transaction other than a business combination if the transaction, when initially recorded, affects neither accounting nor taxable profit. Deferred tax liabilities are not recorded for temporary differences on initial recognition of goodwill, and subsequently for goodwill which is not deductible for tax purposes.Deferred tax balances are measured at tax rates enacted or substantively enacted at the end of the reporting period, which are expected to apply to the period when the temporary differences will reverse or the tax loss carry forwards will be utilised. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are netted only within the individual companies of the Group. Deferred tax assets for deductible temporary differences and tax loss carry forwards are recorded only to the extent that it is probable that future taxable profit will be available against which the deductions can be utilised. Deferred income tax is not recognised on post acquisition retained earnings and other post acquisition movements in reserves of subsidiaries where the Group controls the subsidiary's dividend policy, and it is probable that the difference will not reverse through dividends or otherwise in the foreseeable future.

(i) Financial instruments - key measurement terms

Depending on their classification financial instruments are carried at fair value or amortised cost as described below.

Fair value 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. The best evidence of fair value is price in an active market. An active market is one in which transactions for the asset or liability take place with sufficient frequency and volume to provide pricing information on an ongoing basis. Fair value of financial instruments traded in an active market is measured as the product of the quoted price for the individual asset or liability and the quantity held by the entity. This is the case even if a market's normal daily trading volume is not sufficient to absorb the quantity held and placing orders to sell the position in a single transaction might affect the quoted price.

A portfolio of financial derivatives or other financial assets and liabilities that are not traded in an active market is measured at the fair value of a group of financial assets and financial liabilities on the basis of the price that would be received to sell a net long position (ie an asset) for a particular risk exposure or paid to transfer a net short position (ie a liability) for a particular risk exposure in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. This is applicable for assets carried at fair value on a recurring basis if the Group: (a) manages the group of financial assets and financial liabilities on the basis of the entity's net exposure to a particular market risk (or risks) or to the credit risk of a particular counterparty in accordance with the entity's documented risk management or investment strategy; (b) it provides information on that basis about the group of assets and liabilities to the entity's key management personnel; and (c) the market risks, including duration of the entity's exposure to a particular market risk (or risks) arising from the financial assets and financial liabilities is substantially the same. Valuation techniques such as discounted cash flow models or models based on recent arm's length transactions or consideration of financial data of the investees, are used to measure fair value of certain financial instruments for which external market pricing information is not available. Fair value measurements are analysed by level in the fair value hierarchy as follows: (i) level one are measurements at quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities, (ii) level two measurements are valuations techniques with all material inputs observable for the asset or liability, either directly (that is, as prices) or indirectly (that is, derived from prices), and (iii) level three measurements are valuations not based on solely observable market data (that is, the measurement requires significant unobservable inputs). Refer to Note 37.

3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(i) Financial instruments - key measurement terms (continued)

Transaction costs are incremental costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition, issue or disposal of a financial instrument. An incremental cost is one that would not have been incurred if the transaction had not taken place. Transaction costs include fees and commissions paid to agents (including employees acting as selling agents), advisors, brokers and dealers, levies by regulatory agencies and securities exchanges, and transfer taxes and duties. Transaction costs do not include debt premiums or discounts, financing costs or internal administrative or holding costs.

Amortised cost is the amount at which the financial instrument was recognised at initial recognition less any principal repayments, plus accrued interest, and for financial assets less any write-down for incurred impairment losses. Accrued interest includes amortisation of transaction costs deferred at initial recognition and of any premium or discount to maturity amount using the effective interest method. Accrued interest income and accrued interest expense, including both accrued coupon and amortised discount or premium (including fees deferred at origination, if any), are not presented separately and are included in the carrying values of related items in the statement of financial position.

The effective interest method is a method of allocating interest income or interest expense over the relevant period, so as to achieve a constant periodic rate of interest (effective interest rate) on the carrying amount.

The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments or receipts (excluding future credit losses) through the expected life of the financial instrument or a shorter period, if appropriate, to the net carrying amount of the financial instrument. The effective interest rate discounts cash flows of variable interest instruments to the next interest repricing date, except for the premium or discount which reflects the credit spread over the floating rate specified in the instrument, or other variables that are not reset to market rates. Such premiums or discounts are amortised over the whole expected life of the instrument. The present value calculation includes all fees paid or received between parties to the contract that are an integral part of the effective interest rate.

Initial recognition of financial instruments. Trading securities, derivatives and other financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss are initially recorded at fair value. All other financial instruments are initially recorded at fair value plus transaction costs. Fair value at initial recognition is best evidenced by the transaction price. A gain or loss on initial recognition is only recorded if there is a difference between fair value and transaction price which can be evidenced by other observable current market transactions in the same instrument or by a valuation technique whose inputs include only data from observable markets.

All purchases and sales of financial assets that require delivery within the time frame established by regulation or market convention ("regular way" purchases and sales) are recorded at trade date, which is the date on which the Group commits to deliver a financial asset. All other purchases are recognised when the entity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

The Group uses discounted cash flow valuation techniques to determine the fair value of loans to related parties that are not traded in an active market. Differences may arise between the fair value at initial recognition, which is considered to be the transaction price, and the amount determined at initial recognition using a valuation technique with level 3 inputs. Any such differences are initially recognised within other assets or other liabilities and are subsequently amortised on a straight line basis over the term of the loans to related parties. The differences are immediately recognised in profit or loss if the valuation uses only level 1 or level 2 inputs.

Derecognition of financial assets. The Group derecognises financial assets when (a) the assets are redeemed or the rights to cash flows from the assets otherwise expired or (b) the Group has transferred the rights to the cash flows from the financial assets or entered into a qualifying pass-through arrangement while (i) also transferring substantially all risks and rewards of ownership of the assets or (ii) neither transferring nor retaining substantially all risks and rewards of ownership, but not retaining control. Control is retained if the counterparty does not have the practical ability to sell the asset in its entirety to an unrelated third party without needing to impose restrictions on the sale.

3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(j) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include notes and coins on hand, unrestricted balances held with the Central Bank and highly liquid financial assets with original maturities of less than three months, which are subject to insignificant risk of changes in their fair value, and are used by the Group in the management of its short-term commitments.

Cash and cash equivalents are carried at amortised cost in the consolidated statement of financial position.

(k) Trading assets and liabilities

Trading assets and liabilities are those assets and liabilities that the Group acquires or incurs principally for the purpose of selling or repurchasing in the near term, or holds as part of the portfolio that is managed together for the short-term profit or position taking.

Trading assets and liabilities are initially recognised and subsequently measured at fair value in the consolidated statement of financial position with transaction costs taken directly to profit or loss. All changes in fair value are recognised as part of the trading income in profit or loss. Trading assets and liabilities are not reclassified subsequent to their initial recognition.

(l) Derivative financial instruments

Derivative financial instruments, including foreign exchange contracts, interest rate futures, forward rate agreements, currency and interest rate swaps, and currency and interest rate options are carried at their fair value. All derivative instruments are carried as assets when fair value is positive, and as liabilities when fair value is negative. Changes in the fair value of derivative instruments are included in profit or loss for the year (gains less losses on derivatives). The Group does not apply hedge accounting. Certain derivative instruments embedded in other financial instruments are treated as separate derivative instruments when their risks and characteristics are not closely related to those of the host contract.

(m) Loans and advances to customers

Loans and advances to customers are recorded when the Group advances money to purchase or originate an unquoted non-derivative receivable from a customer due on fixed or determinable dates, and has no intention of trading the receivable. Loans and advances to customers are carried at amortised cost.

(n) Impairment of financial assets carried at amortised cost

Impairment losses are recognised in profit or loss for the year when incurred as a result of one or more events ("loss events") that occurred after the initial recognition of the financial asset and which have an impact on the amount or timing of the estimated future cash flows of the financial asset or group of financial assets that can be reliably estimated. If the Group determines that no objective evidence exists that impairment was incurred for an individually assessed financial asset, whether significant or not, it includes the asset in a group of financial assets with similar credit risk characteristics, and collectively assesses them for impairment.
The primary factors that the Group considers in determining whether a financial asset is impaired are its overdue status and realisability of related collateral, if any. The following other principal criteria are also used to determine whether there is objective evidence that an impairment loss has occurred:

- any instalment is overdue and the late payment cannot be attributed to a delay caused by the settlement systems;
- the borrower experiences a significant financial difficulty as evidenced by the borrower's financial information that the Group obtains;
- the borrower considers bankruptcy or a financial reorganisation;
- there is an adverse change in the payment status of the borrower as a result of changes in the national or local economic conditions that impact the borrower; or
- the value of collateral significantly decreases as a result of deteriorating market conditions.

3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(m) Impairment of financial assets carried at amortised cost (continued)

For the purposes of a collective evaluation of impairment, financial assets are grouped on the basis of similar credit risk characteristics. Those characteristics are relevant to the estimation of future cash flows for groups of such assets by being indicative of the debtors' ability to pay all amounts due according to the contractual terms of the assets being evaluated.

Future cash flows in a group of financial assets that are collectively evaluated for impairment, are estimated on the basis of the contractual cash flows of the assets and the experience of management in respect of the extent to which amounts will become overdue as a result of past loss events and the success of recovery of overdue amounts. Past experience is adjusted on the basis of current observable data to reflect the effects of current conditions that did not affect past periods, and to remove the effects of past conditions that do not exist currently.

If the terms of an impaired financial asset held at amortised cost are renegotiated or otherwise modified because of financial difficulties of the borrower or issuer, impairment is measured using the original effective interest rate before the modification of terms. The renegotiated asset is then derecognized and a new asset is recognized at its fair value only if the risks and rewards of the asset substantially changed. This is normally evidenced by a substantial difference between the present values of the original cash flows and the new expected cash flows.

Impairment losses are always recognised through an allowance account to write down the asset's carrying amount to the present value of expected cash flows (which exclude future credit losses that have not been incurred) discounted at the original effective interest rate of the asset. The calculation of the present value of the estimated future cash flows of a collateralised financial asset reflects the cash flows that may result from foreclosure less costs for obtaining and selling the collateral, whether or not foreclosure is probable.

If, in a subsequent period, the amount of the impairment loss decreases and the decrease can be related objectively to an event occurring after the impairment was recognised (such as an improvement in the debtor's credit rating), the previously recognised impairment loss is reversed by adjusting the allowance account through profit or loss for the year.

Uncollectible assets are written off against the related impairment loss provision after all the necessary procedures to recover the asset have been completed and the amount of the loss has been determined. Subsequent recoveries of amounts previously written off are credited to impairment loss account in profit or loss for the year.

(o) Finance lease receivables

Where the Group is a lessor in a lease which transfers substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership to the lessee, the assets leased out are presented as a finance lease receivable and carried at the present value of the future lease payments. Finance lease receivables are initially recognised at commencement (when the lease term begins) using a discount rate determined at inception (the earlier of the date of the lease agreement and the date of commitment by the parties to the principal provisions of the lease). The difference between the gross receivable and the present value represents unearned finance income.

This income is recognised over the term of the lease using the net investment method (before tax), which reflects a constant periodic rate of return. Incremental costs directly attributable to negotiating and arranging the lease are included in the initial measurement of the finance lease receivable and reduce the amount of income recognised over the lease term. Finance income from leases is recorded within other operating income in profit or loss for the year. Impairment losses are recognised in profit or loss for the year when incurred as a result of one or more events ("loss events") that occurred after the initial recognition of finance lease receivables.

The Group uses the same principal criteria to determine whether there is objective evidence that an impairment loss has occurred, as for loans carried at amortised cost. Impairment losses are recognised through an allowance account to write down the receivables' net carrying amount to the present value of expected cash flows (which exclude future credit losses that have not been incurred), discounted at the interest rates implicit in the finance leases. The estimated future cash flows reflect the cash flows that may result from obtaining and selling the assets subject to the lease.

3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(p) Investment securities

Investment securities are initially measured at fair value plus incremental direct transaction costs and subsequently accounted for depending on their classification as either held-to-maturity, fair value through profit or loss, or available-for-sale.

i Held-to-maturity

Held-to-maturity investments are assets with fixed or determinable payments and fixed maturity that the Group has the positive intent and ability to hold to maturity, and which are not designated at fair value through profit or loss or available-for-sale. Held-to-maturity investments are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Any sale or reclassification of a significant amount of held-to-maturity investments not close to their maturity would result in the reclassification of all held-to-maturity investments as available-for-sale, and prevent the Group from classifying investment securities as held-to-maturity for the current and the following two financial years.

ii Fair value through profit or loss

The Group carries some investment securities at fair value, with fair value changes recognised immediately in profit or loss as described in accounting policy 3 (i).

iii Available-for-sale

Available-for-sale investments are non-derivative investments that are not designated as another category of financial assets. Unquoted equity securities whose fair value cannot be reliably measured are carried at cost. All other available-for-sale investments are carried at fair value. Interest income is recognised in profit or loss using the effective interest method. Foreign exchange gains or losses on available-for-sale debt security investments are recognised in profit or loss. Other fair value changes are recognised directly in equity until the investment is sold or impaired and the balance in equity is recognised in profit or loss.

iv Other securities at fair value through profit or loss.

Other securities at fair value through profit or loss are financial assets designated irrevocably, at initial recognition, into this category. Management designates securities into this category only if (a) such classification eliminates or significantly reduces an accounting mismatch that would otherwise arise from measuring assets or liabilities or recognising the gains and losses on them on different bases; or (b) a group of financial assets, financial liabilities or both is managed and its performance is evaluated on a fair value basis, in accordance with a documented risk management or investment strategy. Recognition and measurement of this category of financial assets is consistent with the above policy for trading assets.

(q) Goodwill

Goodwill is carried at cost less accumulated impairment losses, if any. The Group tests goodwill for impairment at least annually and whenever there are indications that goodwill may be impaired. Goodwill is allocated to the cash-generating units, or groups of cash-generating units, that are expected to benefit from the synergies of the business combination. Such units or group of units represent the lowest level at which the Group monitors goodwill, and are not larger than an operating segment. Gains or losses on disposal of an operation within a cash generating unit to which goodwill has been allocated include the carrying amount of goodwill associated with the disposed operation, generally measured on the basis of the relative values of the disposed operation and the portion of the cash-generating unit which is retained.

3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(r) Premises and equipment

i Recognition and measurement

Items of premises and equipment are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Cost includes expenditures that are directly attributable to the acquisition of the asset. The cost of self-constructed assets includes the cost of materials and direct labour, any other costs directly attributable to bringing the asset to a working condition for its intended use, and the costs of dismantling and removing the items and restoring the site on which they are located. When parts of an item of property or equipment have different useful lives, they are accounted for as separate items (major components) of premises and equipment.

ii Subsequent costs

The cost of replacing part of an item of property or equipment is recognised in the carrying amount of the item if it is probable that the future economic benefits embodied within the part will flow to the Group and its cost can be measured reliably. The costs of the day-to-day servicing of premises and equipment are recognised in profit or loss as incurred.

iii Depreciation

Depreciation is recognised in profit or loss on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of each part of an item of premises and equipment. Leased assets are depreciated over the shorter of the lease term and their useful lives. Land and work in progress are not depreciated. The estimated useful lives for the current and comparative periods are as follows:

	2014 (in years)	**2013 (in years)**
• Premises	20	20
• Computers and IT equipment	4	4
• Vehicles	5	5
• Leasehold improvements	1to 10	1to 10
• Other (Office furniture)	5	5

Useful lives and residual values are reassessed each reporting date.

(s) Intangible assets

Intangible assets acquired by the Group are stated at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses. Subsequent expenditure on intangible assets are capitalised only when it increases the future economic benefits embodied in the specific asset to which it relates. All other expenditure is expensed as incurred.

Amortisation is recognised in profit or loss on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful life of the intangible asset, from the date that it is available for use.

The estimate useful life of intangible assets is eight years. Expenditure on research activities, undertaken with the prospect of gaining new scientific or technical knowledge and understanding, is recognised in the consolidated statement of comprehensive income as an expense as incurred.

(t) Repossessed property

In certain circumstances, property is repossessed following the foreclosure on loans that are in default. Repossessed properties are measured at the lower of auction value and fair value less costs to sell, recognised in the consolidated statement of financial position under 'Other assets'. Management intention on repossessed properties is to sale as soon as practicable, with the proceeds used to reduce the outstanding indebtedness.

3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(u) Voluntary pension fund and Investment Funds

Raiffeisen INVEST acts as a Management Company for the following Defined Contribution Funds:

- The Defined Contribution Fund "Raiffeisen Voluntary Pension Fund" which was approved by the Albanian Financial Supervisory Authority on October 18, 2010;
- "Raiffeisen Prestige" which was approved by the Albanian Financial Supervisory Authority on 13 December 2011;
- "Raiffeisen Invest Euro Investment Fund" which was approved by the Albanian Financial Supervisory Authority on 26 September 2013.

New law No. 10197 dated on 10 December 2009 "On voluntary pension funds" and law No. 10198 dated on 10 December 2009 "On collective investment undertakings" requirements, include responsibility of the Management Company to prepare separate financial statements for the Company and the Funds.

On 30 November 2011, based on decision of the General Assembly of the Sole Shareholder, the Management Company's object of activity was extended to include:

- manage voluntary pension funds through collecting and investing funds based on the law no. 10197, dated 10 December 2009 "On Voluntary Pension Funds", as well as in accordance with the principle of risk-spreading (diversification), for the purpose of providing retirement benefits for the persons that participate in the pension fund. The Company may provide also pensions delivery,
- to establish and/or manage the Collective Investment Undertakings based on the law no. 10198, dated 10 December 2009 "On collective investment undertakings",
- other activities as defined in the law no. 10198, dated December 10, 2009 "On collective Investment undertakings".

As at 31 December 2014, the net assets value of Raiffeisen voluntary pension fund amount to LEK 235,460 thousand (2013:LEK 175,561 thousand), Raiffeisen Prestige amount LEK 52,828,052 thousand (2013: LEK 42,732,849 thousand) and Raiffeisen Invest Euro amount LEK 11,213,295 thousand (2013: LEK7,773,949).

(v) Defined contribution plans (Voluntary Pension Fund and Investment Funds)

Under a defined contribution plan, the amount of a participant's future benefits is determined by the contributions paid, and the investment earnings of the fund. Obligations are recognised in profit or loss when they are due and are disclosed as interest credited to the pension fund within investment income and income from transactions.

The Funds operate according to law No. 10197, dated 10 December 2009 "On the Voluntary Pension Fund" and law No. 10198, dated 10 December 2009 "On collective investment undertakings". Also, the investment strategy of these Funds' assets is based on the internal policy of investment of the Management Company and the regulation "For the permitted assets, the limitations and maximum limit of the investment of the pension fund" approved by the Albanian Financial Supervisory Authority.

As at 31 December 2014 and 2013 the investment portfolio of the Funds includes government bonds and treasury bills, short term deposits in the second tier Banks operating in Albania and other cash and cash equivalents. First Investment Bank Albania sh.a. acts as the custodian bank of all the Funds.

Net value of assets
The net value of assets is equal with the total of the net assets minus the Fund's obligations.

The value of pension fund unit

The value of the unit is equal to the net value of assets divided with the number of units at the reporting date. Based in each Fund's policy, the opening value of one unit has been equal to Lek 1,000.

Interest income

Interest income includes incomes from bonds' coupons and interest from deposits. Interest income is presented based on accrual basis.

3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(v) Defined contribution plans (Voluntary Pension Fund and Investment Funds)

The fee to the Management Company

Each Fund should pay to the Management Company a fee which differs for each Fund. Raiffeisen Invest Prestige Fund pays a fee of 1.25% (annually) of net assets value (2013: 1%) to the Management Company. Raiffeisen Invest Euro Fund pays a fee of 1.5% of net assets value (2013: 1.5%). Raiffeisen Voluntary Pension Fund pays a fee of 1.5 % on net assets value (2013: 1.5%).

Realized gain / losses and unrealized gain / losses

Realized gain / losses are recognised based on the sale of the securities with a difference between the offered price with the value of principal and matured interest of securities bought with premium or discount. These differences are recognised in profit or loss when occurred. Unrealized gain/losses are recognised as the difference between the cost and the fair value. When the securities are sold the unrealized gain/loss is transferred in the profit and loss for the period.

Based on IFRS 10 requirements, exposure to variable returns should be well above the exposure from market level asset management fees in order to consider consolidation of the funds managed by the entity, which is not the case for the Group which is entitled to 1.5% of the Funds's net assets value. Further, the Group does not own any investment units either in the pension fund or in the investment funds. The Fund's assets are "ring fenced" from the Administration company (subsidiary of the Group). According to the Albanian legislation on pension funds and investment funds, the legal title on the assets of the Fund remains with the contributors. As a consequence, the Group did not consolidate any of the Funds administered by one of its subsidiaries in 2014 consolidated financial statements.

(w) Deposits and other financial liabilities

Deposits and other financial liabilities are the Group's main sources of debt funding. The Group classifies capital instruments as financial liabilities or equity instruments in accordance with the substance of the contractual terms of the instrument. Deposits and other financial liabilities are initially measured at fair value plus transaction costs, and subsequently measured at their amortised cost using the effective interest method.

(x) Sale and repurchase agreements and lending of securities

Sale and repurchase agreements ("repo agreements"), which effectively provide a lender's return to the counterparty, are treated as secured financing transactions. Securities sold under such sale and repurchase agreements are not derecognised. The securities are not reclassified in the statement of financial position unless the transferee has the right by contract or custom to sell or repledge the securities, in which case they are reclassified as repurchase receivables. The corresponding liability is presented within amounts due to other banks or other borrowed funds.

Securities purchased under agreements to resell ("reverse repo agreements"), which effectively provide a lender's return to the Group, are recorded as due from other banks or loans and advances to customers, as appropriate. The difference between the sale and repurchase price, adjusted by interest and dividend income collected by the counterparty, is treated as interest income and accrued over the life of repo agreements using the effective interest method.

Securities lent to counterparties for a fixed fee are retained in the consolidated financial statements in their original category in the statement of financial position unless the counterparty has the right by contract or custom to sell or repledge the securities, in which case they are reclassified and presented separately. Securities borrowed for a fixed fee are not recorded in the consolidated financial statements, unless these are sold to third parties, in which case the purchase and sale are recorded in profit or loss for the year within gains less losses arising from trading securities. The obligation to return the securities is recorded at fair value in other borrowed funds

3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(aa) Credit related commitments.

The Group issues financial guarantees and commitments to provide loans. Financial guarantees represent irrevocable assurances to make payments in the event that a customer cannot meet its obligations to third parties, and carry the same credit risk as loans. Financial guarantees and commitments to provide a loan are initially recognised at their fair value, which is normally evidenced by the amount of fees received. This amount is amortised on a straight line basis over the life of the commitment, except for commitments to originate loans if it is probable that the Group will enter into a specific lending arrangement and does not expect to sell the resulting loan shortly after origination; such loan commitment fees are deferred and included in the carrying value of the loan on initial recognition. At the end of each reporting period, the commitments are measured at the higher of (i) the remaining unamortised balance of the amount at initial recognition and (ii) the best estimate of expenditure required to settle the commitment at the end of each reporting period.

(bb) Offsetting

Financial assets and liabilities are offset and the net amount reported in the consolidated statement of financial position only when there is a legally enforceable right to offset the recognised amounts, and there is an intention to either settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously. Such a right of set off (a) must not be contingent on a future event and (b) must be legally enforceable in all of the following circumstances: (i) in the normal course of business, (ii) the event of default and (iii) the event of insolvency or bankruptcy.

(cc) Presentation of statement of financial position in order of liquidity.

The Group does not have a clearly identifiable operating cycle and therefore does not present current and non-current assets and liabilities in the statement of financial position. Instead, analysis of assets and liabilities by their expected maturities is presented in Note 33.

(dd) Comparability

All amounts are reported or disclosed with comparative information.

4. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND JUDGEMENTS

The Group makes estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts recognised in the consolidated financial statements, and the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on management's experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Management also makes certain judgements, apart from those involving estimations, in the process of applying the accounting policies. Judgements that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the consolidated financial statements and estimates that can cause a significant adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities within the next financial year include:

i. Impairment losses on loans and advances

The Group regularly reviews its loan portfolios to assess impairment. In determining whether an impairment loss should be recorded in profit or loss for the year, the Group makes judgements as to whether there is any observable data indicating that there is a measurable decrease in the estimated future cash flows from a portfolio of loans before the decrease can be identified with an individual loan in that portfolio. This evidence may include observable data indicating that there has been an adverse change in the payment status of borrowers in a group, or national or local economic conditions that correlate with defaults on assets in the group. Management uses estimates based on historical loss experience for assets with credit risk characteristics and objective evidence of impairment similar to those in the portfolio when scheduling its future cash flows. The methodology and assumptions used for estimating both the amount and timing of future cash flows are reviewed regularly to reduce any differences between loss estimates and actual loss experience. Impairment losses for individually significant loans are based on estimates of discounted future cash flows of the individual loans, taking into account repayments and realisation of any assets held as collateral against the loans. A 10% increase or decrease in the actual loss experience compared to the estimated future discounted cash flows from individually significant loans, which could arise from differences in amounts and timing of the cash flows, would result in an increase in loan impairment losses of LEK 759,596 thousand (2013: LEK 404,334thousand) or a decrease in loan impairment losses of LEK 707,890 thousand (2013: LEK 676,032thousand), respectively.

5. ADOPTION OF NEW OR REVISED STANDARDS AND INTERPRETATIONS

The following new standards and interpretations became effective for the Group from 1 January 2014:

"Offsetting Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities" - Amendments to IAS 32 (issued in December 2011 and effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2014). The amendment added application guidance to IAS 32 to address inconsistencies identified in applying some of the offsetting criteria. This includes clarifying the meaning of 'currently has a legally enforceable right of set-off' and that some gross settlement systems may be considered equivalent to net settlement. The standard clarified that a qualifying right of set off (a) must not be contingent on a future event and (b) must be legally enforceable in all of the following circumstances: (i) in the normal course of business, (ii) the event of default and (iii) the event of insolvency or bankruptcy. The amended standard did not have a material impact on the Group.

"Amendments to IFRS 10, IFRS 12 and IAS 27 - Investment entities" (issued on 31 October 2012 and effective for annual periods beginning 1 January 2014). The amendment introduced a definition of an investment entity as an entity that (i) obtains funds from investors for the purpose of providing them with investment management services, (ii) commits to its investors that its business purpose is to invest funds solely for capital appreciation or investment income and (iii) measures and evaluates its investments on a fair value basis. An investment entity is required to account for its subsidiaries at fair value through profit or loss, and to consolidate only those subsidiaries that provide services that are related to the entity's investment activities. IFRS 12 was amended to introduce new disclosures, including any significant judgements made in determining whether an entity is an investment entity and information about financial or other support to an unconsolidated subsidiary, whether intended or already provided to the subsidiary. The amended standard did not have a material impact on the Group.

5. ADOPTION OF NEW OR REVISED STANDARDS AND INTERPRETATIONS (CONTINUED)

IFRIC 21 – "Levies" (issued on 20 May 2013 and effective for annual periods beginning 1 January 2014). The interpretation clarifies the accounting for an obligation to pay a levy that is not income tax. The obligating event that gives rise to a liability is the event identified by the legislation that triggers the obligation to pay the levy. The fact that an entity is economically compelled to continue operating in a future period, or prepares its financial statements under the going concern assumption, does not create an obligation. The same recognition principles apply in interim and annual financial statements. The application of the interpretation to liabilities arising from emissions trading schemes is optional. The interpretation did not have a material impact on the Group.

Amendments to IAS 36 – "Recoverable amount disclosures for non-financial assets" (issued in May 2013 and effective for annual periods beginning 1 January 2014; earlier application is permitted if IFRS 13 is applied for the same accounting and comparative period). The amendments remove the requirement to disclose the recoverable amount when a CGU contains goodwill or indefinite lived intangible assets but there has been no impairment. The amended standard did not have a material impact on the Group.

Amendments to IAS 39 – "Novation of Derivatives and Continuation of Hedge Accounting" (issued in June 2013 and effective for annual periods beginning 1 January 2014).The amendments will allow hedge accounting to continue in a situation where a derivative, which has been designated as a hedging instrument, is novated (i.e parties have agreed to replace their original counterparty with a new one) to effect clearing with a central counterparty as a result of laws or regulation, if specific conditions are met. The amended standard did not have a material impact on the Group.

6. NEW ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS

Certain new standards and interpretations have been issued that are mandatory for the annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015 or later, and which the Group has not early adopted.

IFRS 9 "Financial Instruments: Classification and Measurement" (amended in July 2014 and effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2018). Key features of the new standard are:

- Financial assets are required to be classified into three measurement categories: those to be measured subsequently at amortised cost, those to be measured subsequently at fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI) and those to be measured subsequently at fair value through profit or loss (FVPL).

- Classification for debt instruments is driven by the entity's business model for managing the financial assets and whether the contractual cash flows represent solely payments of principal and interest (SPPI). If a debt instrument is held to collect, it may be carried at amortised cost if it also meets the SPPI requirement. Debt instruments that meet the SPPI requirement that are held in a portfolio where an entity both holds to collect assets' cash flows and sells assets may be classified as FVOCI. Financial assets that do not contain cash flows that are SPPI must be measured at FVPL (for example, derivatives). Embedded derivatives are no longer separated from financial assets but will be included in assessing the SPPI condition.

- Investments in equity instruments are always measured at fair value. However, management can make an irrevocable election to present changes in fair value in other comprehensive income, provided the instrument is not held for trading. If the equity instrument is held for trading, changes in fair value are presented in profit or loss.•

- Most of the requirements in IAS 39 for classification and measurement of financial liabilities were carried forward unchanged to IFRS 9. The key change is that an entity will be required to present the effects of changes in own credit risk of financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss in other comprehensive income.

6. NEW ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS (CONTINUED)

- IFRS 9 introduces a new model for the recognition of impairment losses – the expected credit losses (ECL) model. There is a 'three stage' approach which is based on the change in credit quality of financial assets since initial recognition. In practice, the new rules mean that entities will have to record an immediate loss equal to the 12-month ECL on initial recognition of financial assets that are not credit impaired (or lifetime ECL for trade receivables). Where there has been a significant increase in credit risk, impairment is measured using lifetime ECL rather than 12-month ECL. The model includes operational simplifications for lease and trade receivables.

- Hedge accounting requirements were amended to align accounting more closely with risk management. The standard provides entities with an accounting policy choice between applying the hedge accounting requirements of IFRS 9 and continuing to apply IAS 39 to all hedges because the standard currently does not address accounting for macro hedging.

The Group is currently assessing the impact of the new standard on its financial statements.

Amendments to IAS 19 – "Defined benefit plans: Employee contributions" (issued in November 2013 and effective for annual periods beginning 1 July 2014). The amendment allows entities to recognise employee contributions as a reduction in the service cost in the period in which the related employee service is rendered, instead of attributing the contributions to the periods of service, if the amount of the employee contributions is independent of the number of years of service. The amendment is not expected to have any material impact on the Group's financial statements.

Annual Improvements to IFRSs 2012 (issued in December 2013 and effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 July 2014, unless otherwise stated below). The improvements consist of changes to seven standards.

IFRS 2 was amended to clarify the definition of a 'vesting condition' and to define separately 'performance condition' and 'service condition'; The amendment is effective for share-based payment transactions for which the grant date is on or after 1 July 2014.

IFRS 3 was amended to clarify that (1) an obligation to pay contingent consideration which meets the definition of a financial instrument is classified as a financial liability or as equity, on the basis of the definitions in IAS 32, and (2) all non-equity contingent consideration, both financial and non-financial, is measured at fair value at each reporting date, with changes in fair value recognised in profit and loss. Amendments to IFRS 3 are effective for business combinations where the acquisition date is on or after 1 July 2014.

IFRS 8 was amended to require (1) disclosure of the judgements made by management in aggregating operating segments, including a description of the segments which have been aggregated and the economic indicators which have been assessed in determining that the aggregated segments share similar economic characteristics, and (2) a reconciliation of segment assets to the entity's assets when segment assets are reported.

The basis for conclusions on IFRS 13 was amended to clarify that deletion of certain paragraphs in IAS 39 upon publishing of IFRS 13 was not made with an intention to remove the ability to measure short-term receivables and payables at invoice amount where the impact of discounting is immaterial.

IAS 16 and IAS 38 were amended to clarify how the gross carrying amount and the accumulated depreciation are treated where an entity uses the revaluation model.

IAS 24 was amended to include, as a related party, an entity that provides key management personnel services to the reporting entity or to the parent of the reporting entity ('the management entity'), and to require to disclose the amounts charged to the reporting entity by the management entity for services provided.

The Group is currently assessing the impact of the amendments on its financial statements.

6. NEW ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS (CONTINUED)

Annual Improvements to IFRSs 2013 (issued in December 2013 and effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 July 2014). The improvements consist of changes to four standards.

The basis for conclusions on IFRS 1 is amended to clarify that, where a new version of a standard is not yet mandatory but is available for early adoption; a first-time adopter can use either the old or the new version, provided the same standard is applied in all periods presented.

IFRS 3 was amended to clarify that it does not apply to the accounting for the formation of any joint arrangement under IFRS 11. The amendment also clarifies that the scope exemption only applies in the financial statements of the joint arrangement itself.

The amendment of IFRS 13 clarifies that the portfolio exception in IFRS 13, which allows an entity to measure the fair value of a group of financial assets and financial liabilities on a net basis, applies to all contracts (including contracts to buy or sell non-financial items) that are within the scope of IAS 39 or IFRS 9.

IAS 40 was amended to clarify that IAS 40 and IFRS 3 are not mutually exclusive. The guidance in IAS 40 assists preparers to distinguish between investment property and owner-occupied property. Preparers also need to refer to the guidance in IFRS 3 to determine whether the acquisition of an investment property is a business combination.

The Group is currently assessing the impact of the amendments on its financial statements.

IFRS 14, Regulatory deferral accounts (issued in January 2014 and effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2016). IFRS 14 permits first-time adopters to continue to recognise amounts related to rate regulation in accordance with their previous GAAP requirements when they adopt IFRS. However, to enhance comparability with entities that already apply IFRS and do not recognise such amounts, the standard requires that the effect of rate regulation must be presented separately from other items. An entity that already presents IFRS financial statements is not eligible to apply the standard.

Accounting for Acquisitions of Interests in Joint Operations - Amendments to IFRS 11 (issued on 6 May 2014 and effective for the periods beginning on or after 1 January 2016). This amendment adds new guidance on how to account for the acquisition of an interest in a joint operation that constitutes a business. The Group is currently assessing the impact of the amendments on its financial statements.

Clarification of Acceptable Methods of Depreciation and Amortisation - Amendments to IAS 16 and IAS 38 (issued on 12 May 2014 and effective for the periods beginning on or after 1 January 2016). In this amendment, the IASB has clarified that the use of revenue-based methods to calculate the depreciation of an asset is not appropriate because revenue generated by an activity that includes the use of an asset generally reflects factors other than the consumption of the economic benefits embodied in the asset. The Group is currently assessing the impact of the amendments on its financial statements.

IFRS 15, Revenue from Contracts with Customers (issued on 28 May 2014 and effective for the periods beginning on or after 1 January 2017). The new standard introduces the core principle that revenue must be recognised when the goods or services are transferred to the customer, at the transaction price. Any bundled goods or services that are distinct must be separately recognised, and any discounts or rebates on the contract price must generally be allocated to the separate elements. When the consideration varies for any reason, minimum amounts must be recognised if they are not at significant risk of reversal. Costs incurred to secure contracts with customers have to be capitalised and amortised over the period when the benefits of the contract are consumed. The Group is currently assessing the impact of the new standard on its financial statements.

6. NEW ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS (CONTINUED)

Equity Method in Separate Financial Statements - Amendments to IAS 27 (issued on 12 August 2014 and effective for annual periods beginning 1 January 2016). The amendments will allow entities to use the equity method to account for investments in subsidiaries, joint ventures and associates in their separate financial statements. The Group is currently assessing the impact of the amendments on its separate financial statements.

Sale or Contribution of Assets between an Investor and its Associate or Joint Venture - Amendments to IFRS 10 and IAS 28 (issued on 11 September 2014 and effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2016). These amendments address an inconsistency between the requirements in IFRS 10 and those in IAS 28 in dealing with the sale or contribution of assets between an investor and its associate or joint venture. The main consequence of the amendments is that a full gain or loss is recognised when a transaction involves a business. A partial gain or loss is recognised when a transaction involves assets that do not constitute a business, even if these assets are held by a subsidiary. The Group is currently assessing the impact of the amendments on its financial statements.

Annual Improvements to IFRSs 2014 (issued on 25 September 2014 and effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2016). The amendments impact 4 standards. IFRS 5 was amended to clarify that change in the manner of disposal (reclassification from "held for sale" to "held for distribution" or vice versa) does not constitute a change to a plan of sale or distribution, and does not have to be accounted for as such. The amendment to IFRS 7 adds guidance to help management determine whether the terms of an arrangement to service a financial asset which has been transferred constitute continuing involvement, for the purposes of disclosures required by IFRS 7. The amendment also clarifies that the offsetting disclosures of IFRS 7 are not specifically required for all interim periods, unless required by IAS 34. The amendment to IAS 19 clarifies that for post-employment benefit obligations, the decisions regarding discount rate, existence of deep market in high-quality corporate bonds, or which government bonds to use as a basis, should be based on the currency that the liabilities are denominated in, and not the country where they arise. IAS 34 will require a cross reference from the interim financial statements to the location of "information disclosed elsewhere in the interim financial report". The Group is currently assessing the impact of the amendments on its financial statements.
Unless otherwise described above, the new standards and interpretations are not expected to affect significantly the Group's consolidated financial statements.

Disclosure Initiative Amendments to IAS 1 (issued in December 2014 and effective for annual periods on or after 1 January 2016). The Standard was amended to clarify the concept of materiality and explains that an entity need not provide a specific disclosure required by an IFRS if the information resulting from that disclosure is not material, even if the IFRS contains a list of specific requirements or describes them as minimum requirements. The Standard also provides new guidance on subtotals in financial statements, in particular, such subtotals (a) should be comprised of line items made up of amounts recognised and measured in accordance with IFRS; (b) be presented and labelled in a manner that makes the line items that constitute the subtotal clear and understandable; (c) be consistent from period to period; and (d) not be displayed with more prominence than the subtotals and totals required by IFRS standards. The Group is currently assessing the impact of the amendments on its financial statements.

Investment Entities: Applying the Consolidation Exception Amendment to IFRS 10, IFRS 12 and IAS 28 (issued in December 2014 and effective for annual periods on or after 1 January 2016). The Standard was amended to clarify that an investment entity should measure at fair value through profit or loss all of its subsidiaries that are themselves investment entities. In addition, the exemption from preparing consolidated financial statements if the entity's ultimate or any intermediate parent produces consolidated financial statements available for public use was amended to clarify that the exemption applies regardless whether the subsidiaries are consolidated or are measured at fair value through profit or loss in accordance with IFRS 10 in such ultimate or any intermediate parent's financial statements. The Group is currently assessing the impact of the amendments on its financial statements.

(amounts in LEK'000, unless otherwise stated)

7. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	31 December 2014	31 December 2013
Cash on hand	3,323,499	2,455,397
Central Bank		
Current accounts	373,399	1,401
Deposit accounts	7,000,000	-
Accrued interest in deposit account	96	-
Banks		
Current accounts with resident banks	6,438	39,434
Current accounts with non-resident banks	915,868	260,942
Deposits with resident banks of less than three months	2,853,975	-
Deposits with non-resident banks of less than three months	26,165,382	32,637,657
Total	**40,638,657**	**35,394,831**

Current accounts with the Bank of Albania bear no interest. The annual interest rates on term deposits with the Bank of Albania as at 31 December 2014 is 0.5%. The annual interest rates on term deposits with resident banks as at 31 December 2014 varies from 1.50% to 2.25%.The annual interest rates on term deposits with non-resident banks as at 31 December 2014 vary from 0.05% to 0.8% (31 December 2013 : 0.05% to 0.75%).

The credit quality of cash at banks may be summarised based on Standard and Poor's ratings as follows at 31 December:

	2014	2013
Neither past due nor impaired		
A-1	5,976,492	24,042,778
A-1+	2,621,881	3,233,166
A-2	9,994,290	5,779
A-3	26,278	-
Unrated	22,019,716	8,113,108
Carrying amount	**40,638,657**	**35,394,831**

The majority of the unrated balance as at 31 December 2014 comprise the deposit accout held at the Central Bank for an amount of LEK 7,000,000 thousand.

8. RESTRICTED BALANCES

	31 December 2014	31 December 2013
Central Bank		
Obligatory reserves	22,146,997	24,019,125
Banks		
Guarantee accounts	703,575	507,899
Total	**22,850,572**	**24,527,024**

Obligatory reserves with Central Bank are not for everyday use by the Bank and represent a minimum reserve deposit, required by the Central Bank of Albania. Such reserves are calculated as 10% of the average amount of deposits for the month owed to banks and customers, and are both in LEK and in foreign currency (USD and EUR).

(amounts in LEK'000, unless otherwise stated)

8. RESTRICTED BALANCES (CONTINUED)

The credit quality of cash at banks and restricted balances may be summarised based on Standard and Poor's ratings as follows at 31 December:

	2014	2013
	Neither past due nor impaired	
A-1	63,953	471,075
A-2	612,996	10,186
B	26,627	26,638
Unrated	22,146,997	24,019,125
Carrying amount	**22,850,572**	**24,527,024**

Included in unrated balances is the Obligatory reserve held at the Central Bank.

9. INVESTMENT IN SECURITIES

9.1 Investments held for trading

Investments held for trading comprise treasury bills and bonds of Albanian Government as follows:

	31 December 2014	31 December 2013
Government Bonds	28,481,561	43,517,130
Treasury bills	35,694	350,836
Total	**28,517,255**	**43,867,966**

Treasury bills as at 31 December 2014 relate to zero-coupon treasury bills of the Government of Albania, with yields ranging from 3.21% to 3.9% per annum (31 December 2013: from 3.63% to 6.64%).

Government bonds as at 31 December 2014 represent 2-year, 3-year, 5-year and 7-year bonds denominated in LEK issued by the Government of Albania with coupon rates ranging from 4.04% to 10.85% per annum (31 December 2013: from 4.69% to 11.00%).

9.2 Held-to-maturity investment securities

The held-to-maturity investment securities comprise treasury bills and bonds of Albanian Government as follows:

	31 December 2014	31 December 2013
Treasury Bills (9.2.1)	17,566,041	16,013,434
Government Bonds (9.2.2)	33,270,569	47,641,842
Government bonds non-resident (note 9.2.3)	5,802,783	-
Corporate Bonds (9.2.4)	2,939,700	2,230,652
Total	**59,579,093**	**65,885,928**

As at 31 December 2014, no treasury bills were pledged as security for the repurchase agreements portfolio (2013: none)