

**SUERF / OeNB / BWG Conference March 2015**

***ALM with ultra-low interest rates***

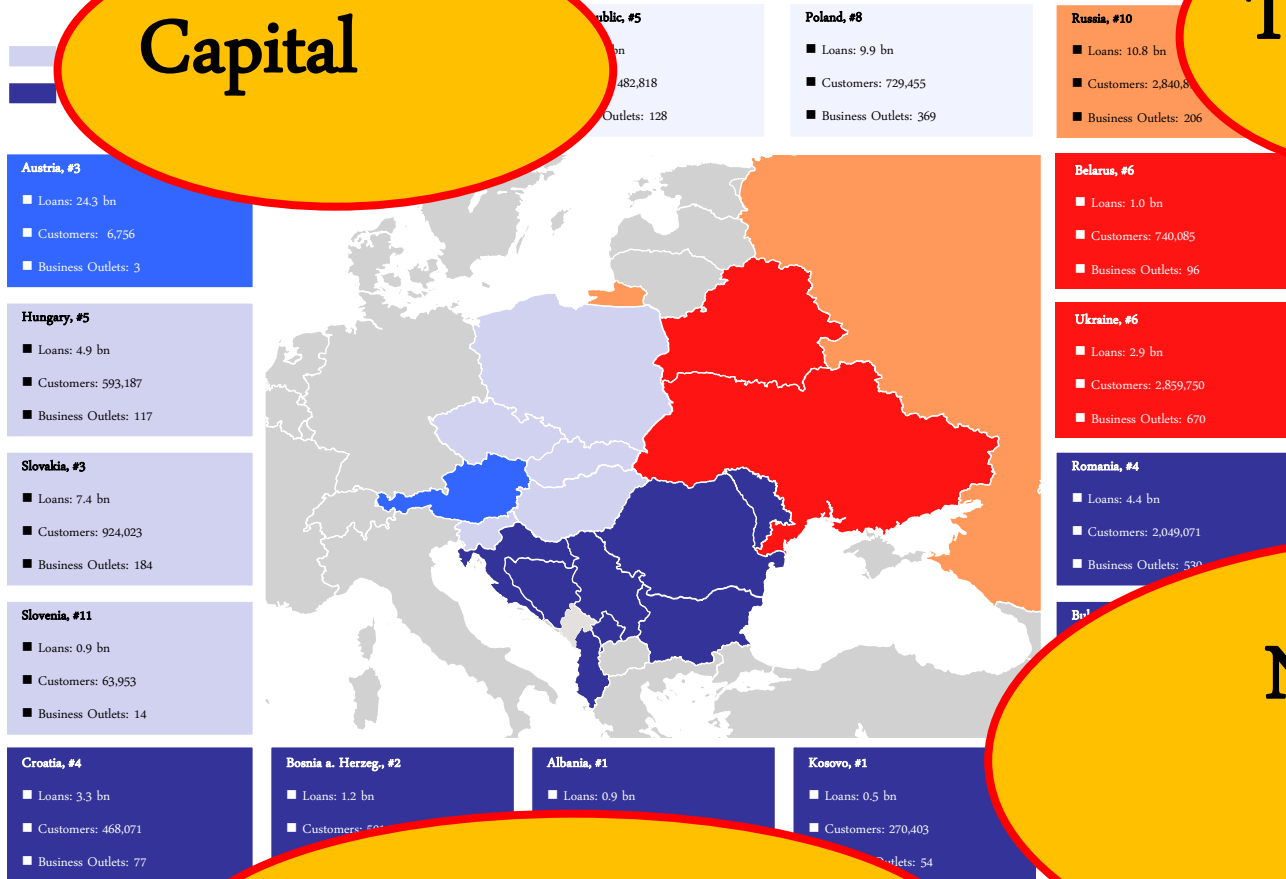
*The perspective of an Austrian  
internationally diversified universal bank*

*Paul A. Kocher / RBI  
11/03/2015*

# Geographic Footprint

**Capital**

**Taxes**

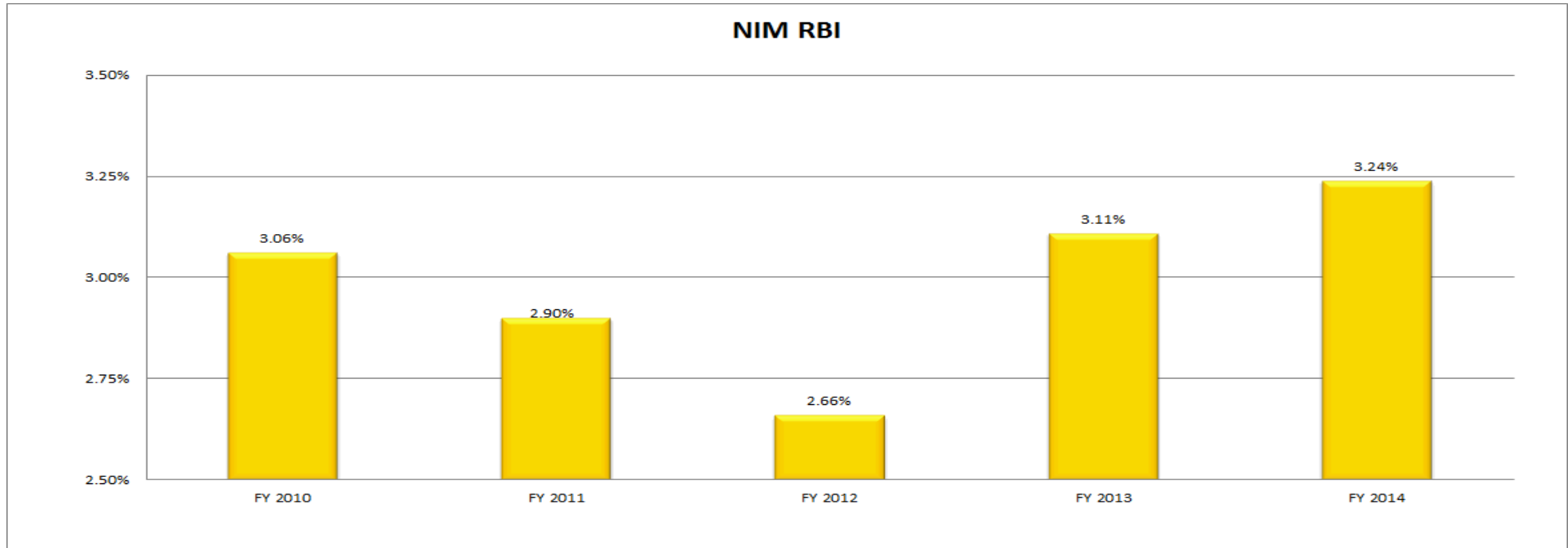


- Leading regional player with CEE presence of over 25 years
- Covering 16 markets (incl. Austria), of which nine are EU members and Serbia has candidate status
- Top 5 market position in 10 countries

**Net Interest Income**

**Risk Costs**

Note: Position based on loans  
Additionally, RBI operates lease



- Ongoing pressure from declining interest rates
- 2011 RBI increased liquidity buffers to prepare for greek turbulences
- In 2012 active measures were taken to bring back NIM

Asset Base

- $NIM = NII / Assets$
- Standard for Assets: Interest bearing Assets

Derivatives

- Interest part of Cross Currency Swaps (e.g. pay CHF, get EUR) in NII
- Valuation in Trading line
- Both parts may be booked in Trading line  
⇒ Distortion of NIM

## Competition

- Loan Margins ↓ (Weak growth & hunt for quality)
- Trend for more business in local currency
  - ⇒ Local Funding compresses margins on liability side with contamination of existing portfolio

## Level of Rates

- With lower rates potential for liability margin ↓
- Interest on current accounts is low and quasi fixed
  - ⇒ contribution with lower rates disappears
  - ⇒ The same holds true for Core Equity

## B/S Structure

- Products
- Currencies
- Tenors

## Liquidity Profile

- Trend for higher liquidity buffers puts pressure on NII
- Smart Assets just mitigate the pressure

## Capitalisation

- Increased need for AT 1 and Tier 2
- High yielding instruments

## NPL's

- Low Yields normally consequence of low growth
- Risk Costs rise
- Income base shrinks

## Interest Risk Position

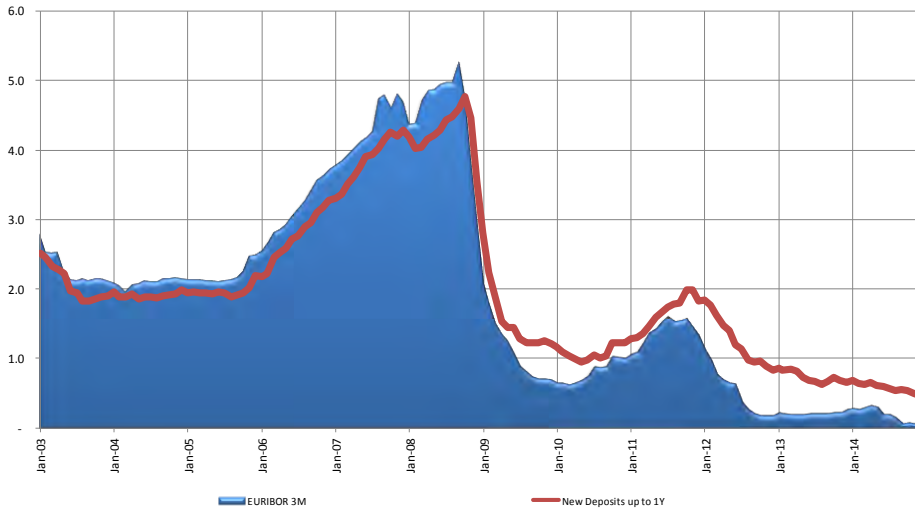
- Low and flat curve does not invite to take IR Risk

## Funds Transfer Pricing

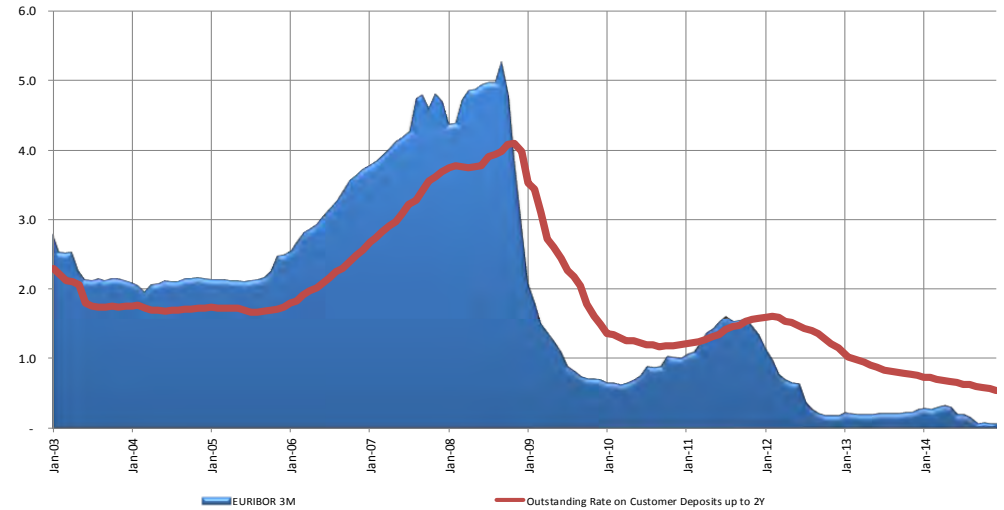
- Deficiencies result in missteering
- Missteering results in wrong pricing of products
- Wrong pricing results c.p. in less income

# Austria: Money Market and Deposit Rates

New Deposits Customer Rate & EURIBOR 3M



Outstanding Deposits Customer Rate & EURIBOR 3M



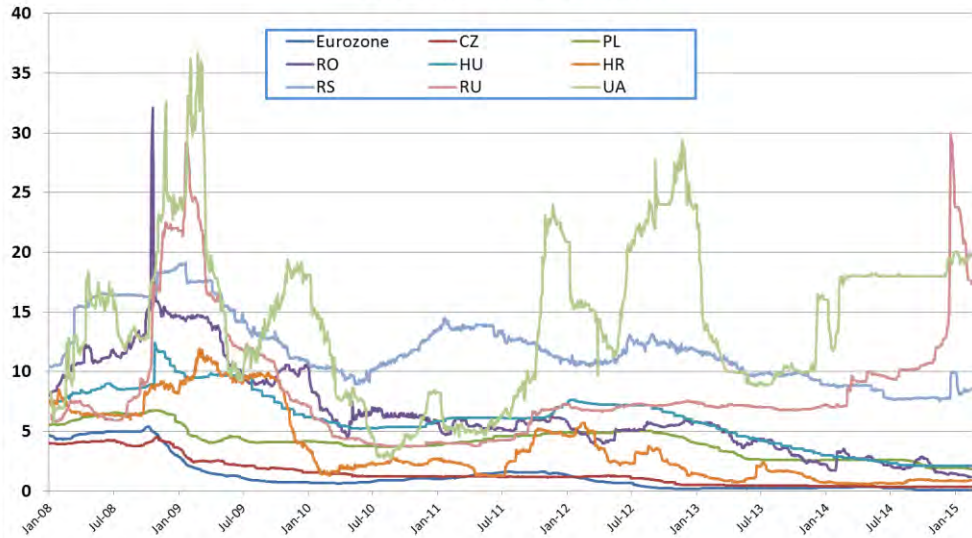
- Elasticity < 1
- Room to manoeuvre with external rates limited
- Low Loan/Deposit Ratio comes with a price
- Stickiness might relieve the pain
- Pressure worsens with negative rates !

Liquidity Costs (FTP) for austrian sample

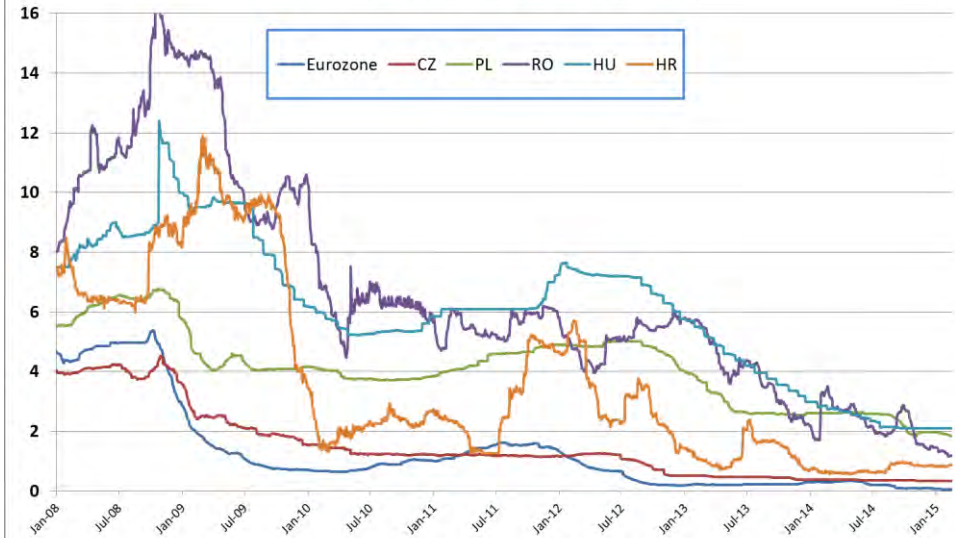


# Rates in RBI Network

Rates in RBI's Network



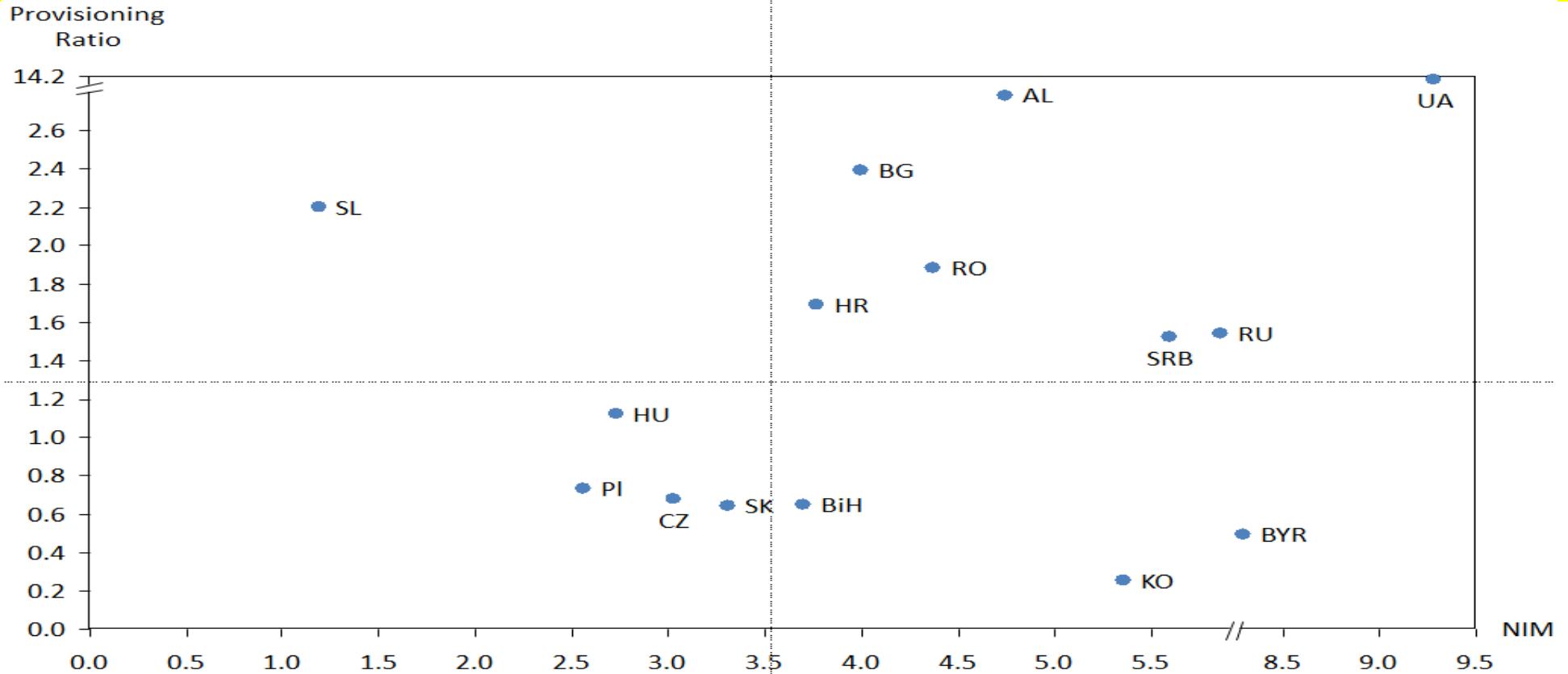
Selected Rates in RBI's Network



- RBI still has many markets, where primary funds can be raised below reference rates and some fixed liabilities deliver sufficient returns
- In addition sticky portfolios benefit from liquidity costs, which are an add-on to the reference rates
- Volatility in shaky markets are of course a challenge for clients and banks

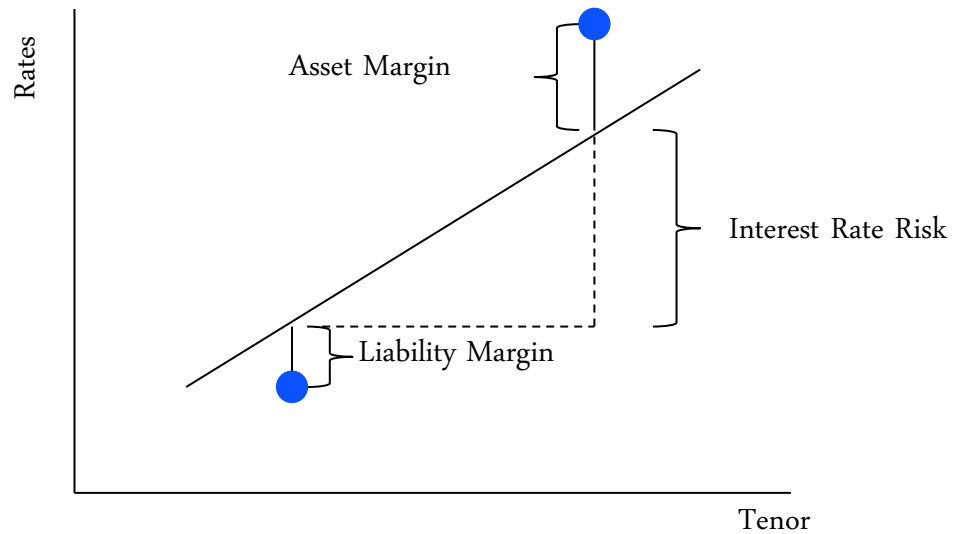


# NIM & Risk



- Data Q1-Q3/14
- UA provisioning 2014 on an exceptional high level
- Correlation clear, but not very high
- Potential for shifts into countries with favorable NIM/Provisionig Ratio limited

Basics  
(Banking of the 90ies)



After 2008

- Liquidity Cost were not a big issue until 09/08
- Afterwards costs of Funding increased and became more volatile
- Pass Through by Treasury now vital
- Margins of busines lines depend now on competition & Pricing from Treasury

# Senior Spreads for european banks



- Existing Portfolio contaminated
- Pass through to loan business decisive
- Prepayment behaviour of clients can deteriorate NIM
- C.P. spreads might decrease with lower rates => investors look for more yields
- Bail-in will keep spreads high

## Rules

### *Article 86*

#### **Liquidity risk**

1. Competent authorities shall ensure that institutions have robust strategies, policies, processes and systems for the identification, measurement, management and monitoring of liquidity risk over an appropriate set of time horizons, including intra- day, so as to ensure that institutions maintain adequate levels of liquidity buffers. Those strategies, policies, processes and systems shall be tailored to business lines, currencies, branches and legal entities and **shall include adequate allocation mechanisms of liquidity costs, benefits and risks.**

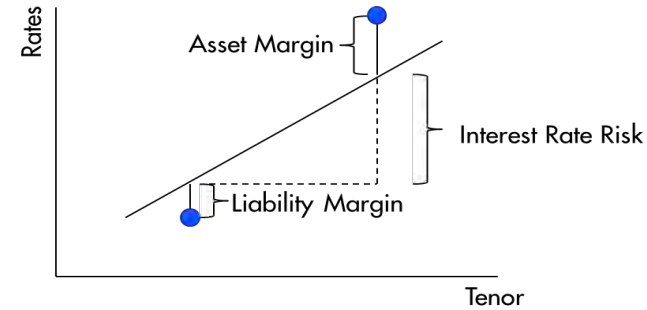
## Potential Breach of Rules

- No alignment of pricing and risk assumptions
- Pricing of optionality (assets & liabilities)
- Costs for Liquidity Buffers
- Wrong stickiness
- Incentives in the FTP
- Wrong discounts for smart assets
- Collateral costs & Off-B/S items not passed over
- ...



**Risk due to mispricing and missteering**

# Potential Battle of Tenors



Assets

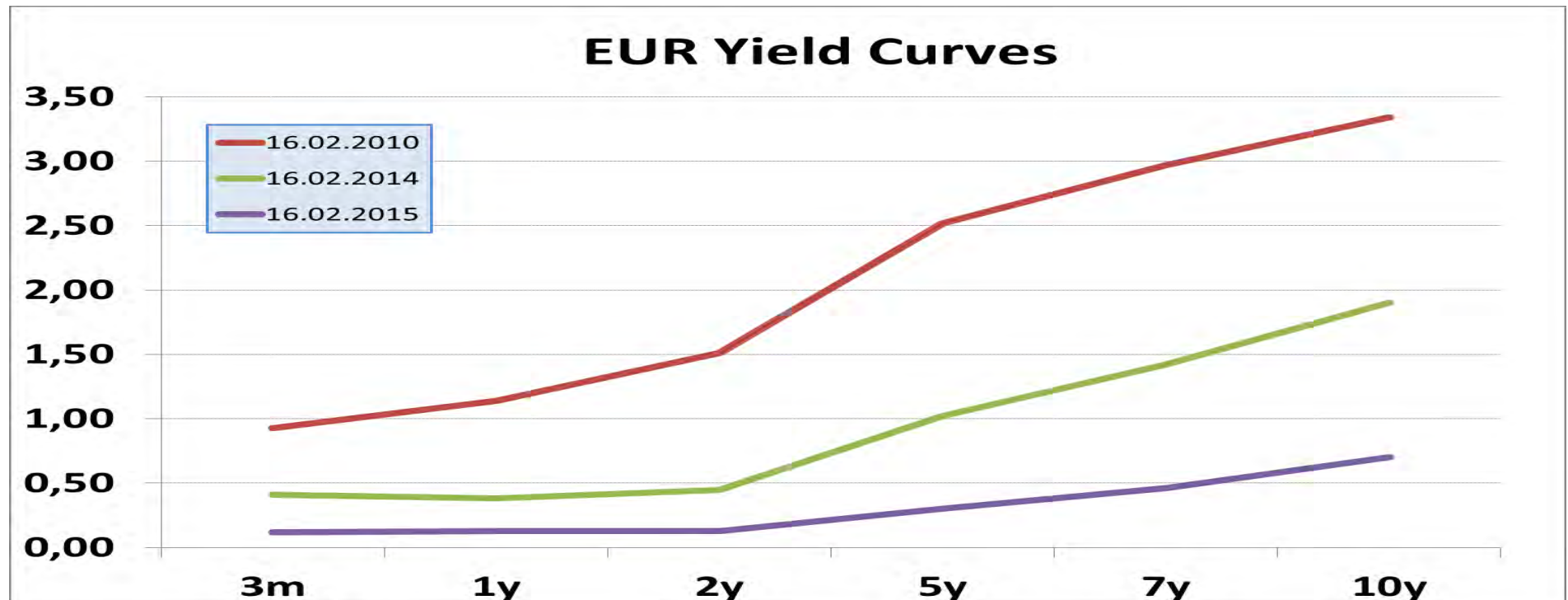
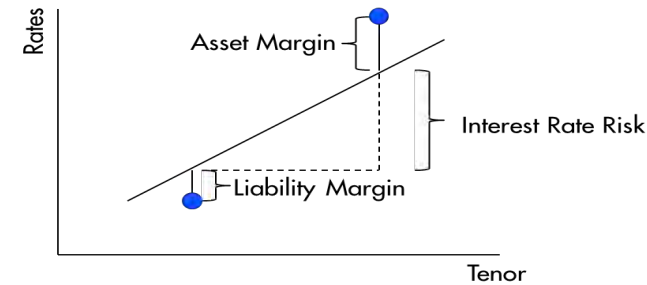
- Tenors become shorter in order to reduce risk or because clients do not see longer term opportunities
- Tendency to fix rates

Liabilities

- Tenors become longer because clients want to harvest longer yields with longer maturities
- Tendency to floating rates

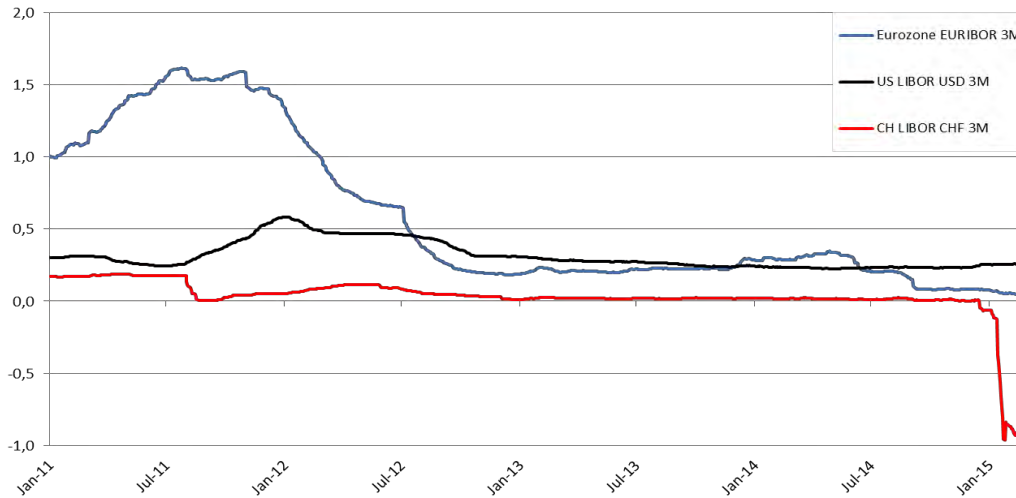
# Flat Curve and structural contribution

- More difficult to enter into a receiver position
  - Rebound more likely
  - Flatter curve offers less reward for taking the risk



# What's about negative rates

3m rates (EUR, USD, CHF)






Impact of negative rates on P&L depends very much on structure of Assets & Liabilities

Impact on Funding  
(ceteris paribus)

- No Impact, when CHF Funding with fixed rates
- No impact, when FX position is closed via CCIRS
- Impact likely, when CHF Funding is done by deposits or on a floating rate base or (floor 0) => **Toxic**

Impact on Assets  
(ceteris paribus)

- No Impact, when CHF Loans with fixed rates  
=> **Toxic**, if fixed loans are swapped with IRS
- Positive Impact possible, when CHF Loans are floored (reference rate or loan rate)

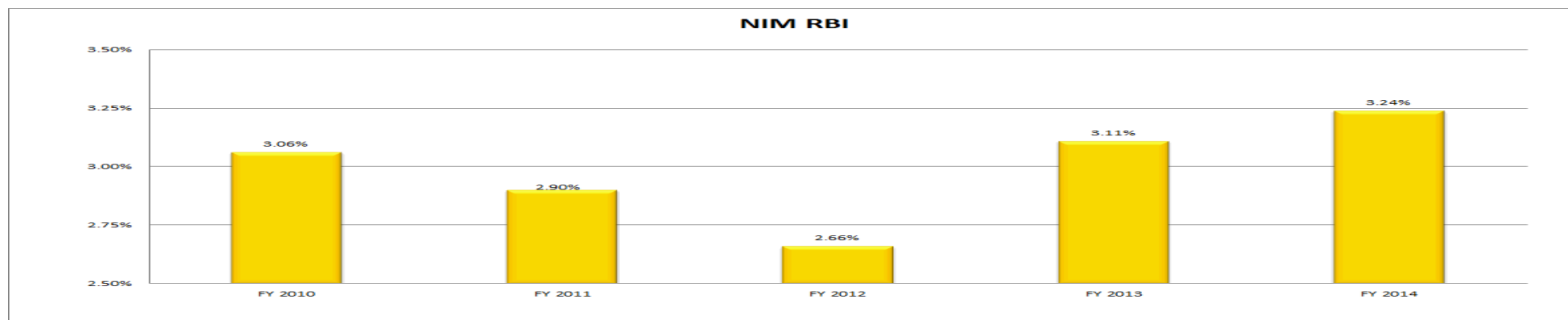
- NIM   
=> negative rates increase pressure
- FTP Deficiencies
- Lower spreads trigger early repayments
- IR Risk   
<= building up toxic receiver positions
- Liquidity Costs Risk   
Maturity Transformation by funding longer tenors with shorter liabilities
- Client driven distortion in Tenor Structure on product level  
=> can be mitigated by change in product mix



# What can a group like RBI do ?

## Flexibility

- Change in Currency Structure
- Change in the product structure (liabilities)  
=> e.g. less Term & more Current Accounts
- Change in Country Allocation
- Change in Client Structure  
=> more Retail & less Corporate



## Franchise Value

- Repricing of Deposits less risky regarding outflows
- Pricing below peer group
- Higher Stickiness provides longer term liquidity



# Pressure from (Total) Capital need

- Increased Need Structure for Tier 2 and AT1
- Costs for these instruments contribute to NIM decreases

