

# Domestic banking champions across Europe merge, blinking into the sunlight

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**Financial Institutions M&A:  
Sector trends H1 2021 | Outlook for H2 2021  
Banks**

**3 key drivers of bank M&A in  
H1 2021:**

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**European bank consolidation  
reaches stratospheric heights:**

COVID-19 precipitates inorganic growth, as traditional bricks & mortar models come under pressure

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**Bulking up to compete:**

Banks display voracious appetite for portfolios, branches, operating businesses and their competitors

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**Bracing for impact of COVID-19  
on the financial sector:**

Europe's banks seek to deleverage balance sheets in preparation for an avalanche of soured loans

# Domestic banking champions across Europe merge, blinking into the sunlight

As the COVID-19 hiatus of bank consolidation activity ends, European bank M&A consolidation activity reaches unprecedented levels.

## Overview

### CURRENT MARKET

Upward, significant

### WE ARE SEEING

- Re-launch of corporate restructurings, branch closures and headcount management exercises which had been paused amidst COVID-19 turmoil
- Re-evaluation of core vs. non-core businesses:
  - Selling out of non-core business lines (e.g., Crédit Agricole's exit from Brazil and US wealth management markets) and non-core geographies (e.g., HSBC's exit from USA and Saudi Arabia)
  - Bulking up through acquisition of portfolios (e.g., AIB's acquisition of €4.2 billion of performing corporate and commercial loans from Ulster Bank), branches (e.g., BPPB's acquisition of 26 branches from Intesa Sanpaolo), operating businesses (e.g., Raiffeisen's acquisition of ING's Czech retail banking business) and competitors (e.g., DNB's acquisition of Sbanken)
- Bracing for impact of COVID-19 on the financial sector:
  - Disposal of non-performing and unlikely-to-pay loan portfolios—particularly across Italy, Spain, Greece, Cyprus and Denmark in H1 2021
  - Acquisitions of debt servicing capability (e.g., Aleph Capital Partners' acquisition of Finans2)
  - Bulking up debt servicing capacity (e.g., Grupo BC's acquisition of Grupo Lexer)
- COVID-19 hiatus of bank consolidation activity ends—M&A reaches stratospheric heights:
  - Domestic champions emerge (e.g., CaixaBank's merger with Bankia to create Spain's biggest domestic bank)
  - Mega domestic combinations (e.g., Denmark's Sparekassen Vendsyssel's acquisition of Salling Bank and subsequent merger with Jutlander Bank)
  - Regional combinations (e.g., Banca Transilvania's acquisition of Idea Bank Romania and Abanca's acquisition of Bankoia)
  - Challenger bank combinations (e.g., Orange Bank's acquisition of Anytime)

### KEY DRIVERS

- Banks reconsider product and service delivery models:
  - Reconfiguring operating models following Brexit (e.g., Lloyds, Halifax, Santander and M&S Bank all closed UK branches in H1 2021)
  - Pivoting to digital service delivery, hastened by low physical branch utilisation during the COVID-19 pandemic
  - Achieving cost savings (e.g., Bol's closure of 88 branches in Ireland and 15 branches in Northern Ireland is expected to deliver annualised cost savings of €26 million)
  - Securing capital release through exit from non-viable geographies (e.g., UBI Banca's surrender of Brazilian banking licence)
- Balance sheet deleveraging driven by:
  - Needs of Europe's systemic banks to deliver strategic capital plans (e.g., UniCredit's sale of €220 million of unsecured retail NPLs to MBCredit Solutions)
  - Vibrant and eager buy-side recipients of financial assets, including financial sponsors (e.g., Bain Capital Credit's acquisition of €174 million of NPLs from NBG), industrial-scale debt servicers (e.g., Pimco's acquisition of €545 million of NPLs from Bank of Cyprus) and specialist credit managers (e.g., AMCO's acquisition of €70 million of NPLs and UTPs from Banca Carige)
- Wide universe of potential buyers of European banks, including non-financial services conglomerates (e.g., Ikea's acquisition of 49% of Ikano Bank), private equity (e.g., Dragon Capital's acquisition of 75% of UnexBank), insurers (e.g., UnipolSai's acquisition of 4% of Banca Popolare di Sondrio) and management teams (e.g., senior management's acquisition of a minority stake in A&G)
- Turning to consolidation amidst COVID-19 precipitated economic uncertainty:
  - Seeking scale and scope to survive in domestic markets
  - Bolstering embankments following arrival of BigTech (e.g., Ebay's SME loan offering and Google's digital banking JV with Commerzbank)
  - Combating increasingly fierce competition from new entrants—>10 successful neo-bank fundraisings, and >5 successful challenger bank fundraisings in H1 2021





**I have not seen bank consolidation M&A activity like this since before the global financial crisis. Deals are much bigger, but also much more complex to safely execute.**

– Hyder Jumabhoy

**Hyder Jumabhoy**

Co-head EMEA Financial Institutions M&A  
FIG M&A  
Partner, London



**Ashley Ballard**

EMEA Corporate Group  
FIG M&A  
Partner, London



## Our M&A forecast

### TRENDS TO WATCH

- Regulatory intervention in M&A deals and restructurings which could result in closure of physical bank branches and potentially stifle use of cash (e.g., UK FCA's consideration of new rules that would allow it to block banks from closing high street branches)
- Inevitable onslaught of souring loans driving NPL, UTP and REO portfolio sales, particularly across Italy, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Cyprus and Ireland
- Increasing market appetite for European bank equity (e.g., Alpha Bank's successful €800 million equity capital raise in H1 2021)
- Rise in popularity of the partnership model amongst established banks and challenger banks (e.g., Atom Bank's Open Banking JV with Plaid)
- Resurgence of shareholder activism, with a particular focus on ESG agendas (e.g., Market Forces' pressure on Standard Chartered and Barclays to cut fossil fuel financing)



**Very strong growth in M&A activity as the COVID-19 hiatus of bank consolidation activity comes to an end—mega regional consolidations and creation of domestic champions to dominate headlines. NPL, UTP and REO trading markets to remain active. European banks to deploy profits generated from 2020/2021 trading volatility towards opportunistic M&A and digital transformation.**

# ESG Trends H1 2021



## Opportunity: Impact on bottom lines

- US\$2 billion a day flowed into **sustainable funds** in Q1 2021
- Total global assets in **ESG products** in 2020 > US\$1.6 trillion
- **European sustainable investment funds** posted net inflows of €120 billion in Q1 2021 (18% higher than Q3 2020)
- Enhancing reputation, brand, growing customer base, greater staff retention and loyalty



## Civil society

- **Banking for Impact consortium** proposes new ESG reporting standards for financial firms focused on “impact measurement and valuation”
- **Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change** (overseeing US\$11 trillion in assets) urges large banks to align senior bonuses with climate change goals
- **Wespath** and **Church Commissioners for England** lay out plans to reduce carbon intensity of their investment funds by 2025
- Focus on scrutiny and accountability from **growing number of NGOs**



## ESG Trends for Financial Services for H1 2021



## Bank initiatives

- **Barclays** has stated its aim to reduce power and energy portfolio emissions by 30% and 15% respectively by 2025
- **Deutsche** is expected to meet its target of facilitating € 200 billion of sustainable finance by 2023 instead of 2025
- **BNP Paribas** aims to reach €3 billion in financing linked to terrestrial biodiversity protection (e.g., green bonds) by 2025
- **Citigroup** creates team of bankers to tap into “critical megatrend” of companies tacking the move to clean energy. Citi aims to become carbon neutral by 2050
- **HSBC, Barclays, Lloyds and Natwest** launch a wave of climate-change products and restricted lending standards
- Fintechs join a “**Tech Zero**” taskforce to tackle climate change

## Investors

- **L&G** divests from Industrial “unsatisfactory responses”
- **Several major banks** face pressure re fossil fuel financing
- ESG metrics and criteria are being set by **investors who expect higher standards** – commonly used e.g., the GRI Sustainability Reporting Standards for Responsible Investment

## Highlights of White & Case’s recent ESG experience

Advising **Brookfield** on the sale of its solar energy business in Malaysia

Advising a consortium of **Korean investors** on the acquisition of equity interest in a US wind portfolio

Advising **FEFA** in Mexico on MXN 10 billion bond issuance and their inaugural social bond

Advising **Siemens Financial Services** in its acquisition of a Brazil-based solar developer



## Regulators

- **ECB** sets up climate change centre reporting directly to the president Christine Lagarde
- **UK FCA** has outlined plans to extend climate reporting requirements to most UK listed companies and domestic asset managers and the **UK BoE** published details of stress tests, expected to affect its supervisory approach
- Swiss regulator **FINMA** requires banks to disclose climate related financial risks and their impact
- **European policymakers** expected to regulate sustainability credentials of asset managers



## Climate action

Industrial and Commercial bank of China for related to e.g. carbon disclosures

external and internal shareholder pricing

are now increasingly being used

**reporting to address key**

criteria used by investors include Reporting Standards, the Principles

## ESG: White & Case at the forefront



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- Global Head of White & Case Competition and Antitrust Group
- Expertise in representing corporate clients and individuals across a variety of industries in **antitrust** regulatory investigations, grand jury investigations and **civil investigations**

Advising **Morgan Stanley Energy Partners** on its strategic partnership with SolMicroGrid

Advising on the procurement and financing of the **world's largest solar site project** in Abu Dhabi

Advising **FSN Capital** on the Financing of Acquisition of Obton Group

Advising Joint Bookrunners on **Aeroporti di Roma's** €300 million green bond issuance

## Banks—Publicly reported deals & situations

### Banks relaunch restructurings post-COVID-19

**COVID-19 slowed down the pace of German bank M&A but acted as a catalyst for branch closures, especially at large groups such as Deutsche Bank and Commerzbank.** *S&P Global (April 2021)*

**UK FCA is considering new rules that would allow it to block banks from closing high street branches, to help ensure consumers and businesses can still use cash.** *Financial Times (August 2021)*

**More than 4,000 bank and building society branches have closed in the UK over the past 6 years, at a rate of about 50 a month.** *S&P Global (April 2021)*

**Major US banks have shifted assets to Germany since Britain voted to leave the EU nearly 5 years ago, though the UK remains the biggest destination for US funds.** *S&P Global (May 2021)*

**More than £900 billion of UK bank assets have been moved or are being moved to the EU due to Brexit.** *S&P Global (April 2021)*

#### Branch closures:

(UK)  
Closure of 29 UK branches  
(June 2021)

(UK)  
Closure of 15 UK branches  
(June 2021)

(Germany)  
Relocation of 100 London employees to overseas branches  
(May 2021)

(Netherlands)  
Closure of 69 Dutch branches and migration to local service points  
(March 2021)

(UK)  
Closure of 111 UK branches  
(March 2021)

(UK)  
Closure of all of its current accounts and 29 in-store UK branches  
(March 2021)

(Ireland and Northern Ireland)  
Closure of 88 Irish branches and 15 Northern Irish branches  
(February 2021)

#### Corporate reorganisations:

(Russia)  
Merger (March 2021)

#### Geographic exit:

Surrender of Brazilian banking licence (April 2021)

### Disposals of non-core operating businesses

#### Deal highlight:

**White & Case advised Alpha Bank on the disposal, by way of competitive auction process, of 80% of Cepal Hellas to Davidson Kempner, a key component of Alpha Bank's balance sheet recalibration exercise.**

(Netherlands)  
Disposal of Maas Capital  
(June 2021)

(Russia)  
Disposal of Vostochny Capital  
(May 2021)

(USA)  
Disposal of West Coast domestic mass market and retail business banking businesses (May 2021)

(Saudi Arabia)  
Disposal of Saudi Arabian asset management, retail brokerage and retail margin lending businesses (May 2021)

(Spain)  
Disposal of Aurica Capital Development (May 2021)

(Egypt)  
Disposal of Bank Audi Egypt  
(May 2021)

(Spain)  
Disposal of 99.81% of Bankoia  
(April 2021)

(Brazil)  
Disposal of Brazilian wealth management business  
(April 2021)

(Spain)  
Disposal of minority stake in A&G  
(April 2021)

(UK)  
Disposal of Adam & Co's private client investment management business (April 2021)

(Egypt)  
Disposal of 76% of Arab Investment Bank (April 2021)

(Russia)  
Disposal of Oney Bank  
(April 2021)

(Russia)  
Disposal of 40% of Potok Digital  
(April 2021)



**Disposals of non-core operating businesses**

(UAE) Disposal of controlling stake in Dubai Bank (April 2021)	(Czech Republic) Disposal of Czech retail business (March 2021)	(Switzerland) Disposal of United Mizrahi Bank Switzerland (January 2021)
(Spain) Disposal of Spanish branch business (April 2021)	(Greece) Disposal of 80% of Cepal Hellas to Davidson Kempner (February 2021)	(Tanzania) Disposal of 34.9% of NMB Bank (January 2021)
(UK) Disposal of Axis Bank UK (April 2021)	(Finland) Disposal of Holvi (February 2021)	(Romania) Disposal of Crédit Agricole Bank Romania (January 2021)
(Greece) Disposal of merchant acquiring business (March 2021)	(Egypt) Disposal of Bank Audi (Egypt) (January 2021)	(Russia) Disposal of Eurasian Bank (Russia) (January 2021)
(US) Disposal of Indosuez Wealth Management (March 2021)	(Egypt) Disposal of Blom Bank Egypt (January 2021)	

**Financial asset management – bank disposals, collaborations and outsourcings**

**Bank of Italy says Italian lenders could face loan losses of about €9 billion in 2021 and 2022 as the impact of COVID-19 on the financial sector becomes clearer.** *Financial News (May 2021)*

**CEE banks are not expected to sell NPLs related to COVID-19 in the near term amid pricing and logistical challenges.** *S&P Global (February 2021)*

**NPL/UTP disposals:**

(Denmark) Disposal of £161.6 million of NPLs to Lowell Group (June 2021)	(Italy) Acquisition of €33 million of unsecured retail NPLs (March 2021)	(Cyprus) Disposal of €545 million of NPLs to Pimco (January 2021)
(Italy) Disposal of €220 million of unsecured retail NPLs to MBCredit Solutions (June 2021)	(Sweden) Disposal of SEK 650 million of Swedish defaulted credit card loans to Intrum (March 2021)	(Italy) Disposal of €129 million of NPLs to Sorec and Phinance Partners (January 2021)
(Greece) Disposal of €174 million of NPLs to Bain Capital Credit (May 2021)	(Portugal) Disposal of €216.3 million of NPLs to Davidson Kempner (March 2021)	(Italy) Disposal of €87 million of NPLs to Euro Service (January 2021)
(Denmark) Disposal of £30.07 million of Danish defaulted credit card loans to Lowell Group (April 2021)	(Turkey) Disposal of US\$100 million of NPLs to Emir Varlik Yonetim, Istanbul Varlik Yonetim, Gelecek Varlik Yonetim, Hedef Varlik Yonetim and Arsan Varlik Yonetim (March 2021)	(Spain) Disposal of €600 million of NPLs to Lone Star (January 2021)
(Italy) Disposal of €248 million of secured UTPs to Intrum and Deva Capital (April 2021)	(Italy) Disposal of €5.2 million of NPLs to Balbec Capital (February 2021)	(Spain) Disposal of €700 million of NPLs and REOs to KKR and Fortress (January 2021)
(Italy) Disposal of €70 million of NPLs and UTPs to AMCO (April 2021)	(Ireland) Disposal of €400 million of real estate NPLs to Apollo (February 2021)	<b>Acquiring debt servicing capability/capacity:</b> (Spain) Acquisition of Grupo Lexer (April 2021)

**Financial asset management—bank disposals, collaborations and outsourcings**

(Norway)  
Acquisition of Finans2  
(April 2021)

(UK)  
Acquisition of Arrow Global Group  
(April 2021)

(Greece)  
Acquisition of 80% of Cepal Hellas  
(February 2021)

(Spain)  
Acquisition of Multigestión Iberia  
(January 2021)

**Performing portfolio trades—sellers:**

(Italy)  
Disposal of €250 million of unsecured consumer loans to KRUK  
(June 2021)

(Ireland)  
Disposal of €4 billion of performing commercial loans to AIB  
(February 2021)

(UAE)  
Disposal of 1,000 mortgages to Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank  
(February 2021)

(Ireland)  
Disposal of €4.2 billion of corporate and commercial loans to AIB  
(June 2021)

**Acquisitions—financial sponsors:**

(Greece)  
Acquisition of €174 million of NPLs from National Bank of Greece  
(May 2021)

(Spain)  
Acquisition of €630 million of NPLs and REOs  
(March 2021)

(Turkey)  
Acquisition of US\$100 million of NPLs from Isbank  
(March 2021)

(Portugal)  
Acquisition of €216.3 million of NPLs from Novo Banco  
(March 2021)

(UK)  
Acquisition of Bradford & Bingley and NRAM portfolios from UK Asset Resolution  
(March 2021)

(Ireland)  
Acquisition of €400 million of real estate NPLs from AIB  
(February 2021)

(Italy)  
Acquisition of €5.2 million of NPLs from BCC Centropadana  
(February 2021)

(Italy)  
Acquisition of €129 million of NPLs from Illimity  
(January 2021)

(Spain)  
Acquisition of €600 million of NPLs from Banco Sabadell  
(January 2021)

(Spain)  
Acquisition of €700 million of NPLs and REOs from BBVA  
(January 2021)

(Spain)  
Acquisition of €4 billion of NPLs from D.E. Shaw  
(January 2021)

**Acquisitions—industrial-scale debt servicing:**

(Denmark)  
Acquisition of £161.6 million of NPLs from Bank Norwegian  
(June 2021)

(Italy)  
Acquisition of €220 million of unsecured retail NPLs from UniCredit  
(June 2021)

(Italy)  
Acquisition of €8.4 million of NPLs via Blinks digital NPL trading platform  
(April 2021)

(Italy)  
Acquisition of €248 million of secured UTPs from BPER Banca  
(April 2021)

(Denmark)  
Acquisition of £30.07 million of Danish defaulted credit card loans from Bank Norwegian  
(April 2021)

(Sweden)  
Acquisition of SEK 650 million Swedish defaulted credit card loans from Bank Norwegian  
(March 2021)

(Cyprus)  
Acquisition of €545 million of NPLs from Bank of Cyprus  
(January 2021)

(Italy)  
Acquisition of €87 million of NPLs from Enel Energia  
(January 2021)

**Acquisitions—credit managers:**

(Italy)  
Acquisition of €70 million of NPLs and UTPs from Banca Carige  
(April 2021)

**Securitisation:**

(Ireland)  
Securitisation of €344 million of NPLs  
(June 2021)

**Performing portfolio trades—purchasers:**

(Ireland)  
Acquisition of €4.2 billion of performing corporate and commercial loans from Ulster Bank  
(June 2021)

(Italy)  
Acquisition of €250 million of unsecured consumer loans from UniCredit  
(June 2021)

(Ireland)  
Acquisition of €4 billion of performing commercial loans from Ulster Bank  
(June 2021)

(UAE)  
Acquisition of 1,000 mortgages from Abu Dhabi Finance  
(February 2021)



**A new capital rule for banks in the UAE will add pressure on smaller banks and may drive further consolidation. The new rules, which come fully into force by 2023-end, will require local banks to have a minimum of approximately £393.8 million of paid-up capital. *S&P Global (June 2021)***

**Danish bank M&A wave to continue after ‘eye-opening’ deal activity in 2020— Sparekassen Vendsyssel & Salling, Sydbank & Alm. Brand, Vestjysk Bank & Den Jyske Sparekasse and Spar Nord Bank & P/F BankNordik. *S&P Global (April 2021)***

**Consolidation in Portugal’s banking sector is inevitable in the face of record-low interest rates. M&A is a “natural” step for banks. *Financial News (March 2021)***

**Italy is shaping up to be the busiest market for bank mergers in Europe in 2021 amid a wave of domestic consolidation across Europe that has been accelerated by COVID-19. *S&P Global (March 2021)***

**Credit Suisse forecast that there will be more M&A transactions in Spain’s banking sector in 2021. *S&P Global (January 2021)***

**European bank M&A poised to enter “bull market”. Bank shares are cheap, interest rates are low, regulators are keen and COVID-19 has increased the need for digitalization and restructuring. *S&P Global (March 2021)***

**The average size of deals between European banks hit a 12-year high in 2020, as the industry seeks greater scale to compete with bigger US rivals. *Financial Times (January 2021)***

**The ECB will not penalize credible integration plans in the banking sector by setting higher Pillar 2 capital requirements. The ECB has addressed 3 key areas— post-merger capital requirements, prudential treatment of badwill and transitional arrangements for the use of internal models in calculating capital requirements. *S&P Global (January 2021)***

**“Challengers”:**

	(Romania)	(Spain)
(Czech Republic)	Acquisition of Idea Bank Romania <i>(June 2021)</i>	Acquisition of 99.81% of Bankoia <i>(April 2021)</i>
Acquisition of Air Bank Group <i>(May 2021)</i>		
	(Slovenia)	
(Sweden)	Acquisition of Nova KBM <i>(June 2021)</i>	(Germany)
Acquisition of Lendify <i>(April 2021)</i>		Acquisition of VR-Bank Alzenau <i>(April 2021)</i>
	(Italy)	
(Turkey)	Acquisition 95% of Creval <i>(May 2021)</i>	(Egypt)
Acquisition of Bank Pozitif <i>(February 2021)</i>		Acquisition of 51% of Arab Investment Bank <i>(April 2021)</i>
	(Italy)	
(France)	Acquisition of Aigis Banca <i>(May 2021)</i>	(Russia)
Acquisition of Anytime <i>(January 2021)</i>		Acquisition of Orient Express Bank <i>(April 2021)</i>
<b>Regional/domestic consolidation:</b>	(Kenya)	
	Acquisition of Uwezo Microfinance Bank <i>(May 2021)</i>	(Serbia)
(Denmark)		Merger <i>(April 2021)</i>
Merger <i>(June 2021)</i>	(Egypt)	
	Acquisition of Bank Audi Egypt <i>(May 2021)</i>	
(Sweden)	(Uganda)	(Saudi Arabia)
Acquisition of Sbanken <i>(June 2021)</i>	Acquisition of 90% of Orient Bank <i>(May 2021)</i>	Merger <i>(April 2021)</i>

<b>Mergers and consolidation M&amp;A</b>	<p>(Belarus) Acquisition of Idea Bank Belarus (April 2021)</p>	<p>(Russia) Acquisition of Koltso Urala Commercial Bank (March 2021)</p>	<p>(Egypt) Acquisition of Blom Bank Egypt (January 2021)</p>
	<p>(Spain) Merger (April 2021)</p>	<p>(Poland) Merger (March 2021)</p>	<p>(Switzerland) Acquisition of United Mizrahi Bank Switzerland (January 2021)</p>
	<p>(Denmark) Acquisition of 28.3% of Vestjysk Bank (March 2021)</p>	<p>(Saudi Arabia) Merger (March 2021)</p>	<p>(Romania) Acquisition of Crédit Agricole Bank Romania (January 2021)</p>
	<p>(South Africa) Acquisition of 51% of Grobank (March 2021)</p>	<p>(Ireland) Acquisition of Depfa Bank (February 2021)</p>	<p>(France) Acquisition of Oney Bank (January 2021)</p>
	<p>(Saudi Arabia) Acquisition of 4.36% of Société Arabe Internationale de Banque (March 2021)</p>	<p>(Egypt) Acquisition of Bank Audi (Egypt) (January 2021)</p>	<p>(Russia) Acquisition of Eurasian Bank (Russia) (January 2021)</p>
	<p>(Spain) Merger (March 2021)</p>		<p>(Poland) Acquisition of Idea Bank's assets and liabilities (January 2021)</p>
<b>Diversification through partnerships</b>	<p>(Italy) Disposal of 40% stake in BNL Finance to Poste Italiane (January 2021)</p>		
<b>Opportunistic M&amp;A – COVID-19 creates opportunities</b>	<p>(Luxembourg) Acquisition of Banque Internationale à Luxembourg client portfolio (June 2021)</p>	<p>(Spain) Acquisition of Novo Banco's Spanish business (April 2021)</p>	<p>(Czech Republic) Acquisition of ING's Czech retail banking business (March 2021)</p>
	<p>(Russia) Acquisition of Vostochny Capital (May 2021)</p>	<p>(Poland) Acquisition of 38.33% of Krajowy Integrator Płatności (Tpay) (April 2021)</p>	<p>(Czech Republic) Acquisition of Akcenta CZ (February 2021)</p>
	<p>(Saudi Arabia) Acquisition of HSBC Saudi Arabia's asset management, retail brokerage and retail margin lending businesses (May 2021)</p>	<p>(Italy) Acquisition of 5.38% of Creval (March 2021)</p>	<p>(Italy) Acquisition of 26 branches from Intesa Sanpaolo (January 2021)</p>
	<p>(Netherlands) Acquisition of 1.31% of Euronext (April 2021)</p>	<p>(US) Acquisition of Indosuez Wealth Management (March 2021)</p>	

Please refer to the Fintech Report in this series.

**Fintech investment**

**Wide buyer universe**

**Deal highlight:**

**White & Case advised The Co-operative Bank on the sale by Blue Mountain of its minority stake to J.C. Flowers and Bain Capital Credit.**

**Deal highlight:**

**White & Case advised Alpha Bank, one of Greece's four largest lenders, on its successful €800 million combined share offering through a public offering in Greece and an international placement with institutional investors.**

**Conglomerates:**

(UAE)

Acquisition of controlling stake in Dubai Bank (April 2021)

(Tanzania)

Acquisition of 34.9% of NMB Bank (January 2021)

**Private equity:**

(UK)

Acquisition of minority stake in The Co-Operative Bank (April 2021)

(Czech Republic)

Acquisition of 28.36% of Moneta Money Bank (March 2021)

(Ukraine)

Acquisition of 75.01% of UnexBank (March 2021)

**Insurers:**

(Italy)

Acquisition of 4% of Banca Popolare di Sondrio (May 2021)

**SWFs:**

(Egypt)

Acquisition of 25% of Arab Investment Bank (April 2021)

**MBOs:**

(Spain)

Acquisition of minority stake by senior management (April 2021)

**Ultra-high-net-worth/family offices/private investment groups:**

(Russia)

Acquisition of 99.56% of Bank SIAB (April 2021)

(South Africa)

Acquisition of Standard-Credit Bank (February 2021)

(Sweden)

Acquisition of 49% of Ikano Bank (February 2021)

**E-commerce:**

(Russia)

Acquisition of Oney Bank (April 2021)

**Asset managers:**

(Bahrain)

Acquisition of 13.56% of Khaleeji Commercial Bank (June 2021)

**Market appetite:**

(Greece)

Successful €800 million equity capital raise (July 2021)

(Iceland)

Nasdaq Iceland IPO (June 2021)

(UK)

Accelerated bookbuild disposal of 5% of NatWest (May 2021)

**Redoubled disruptive efforts from challengers and new entrants**

**Finance app downloads spiked by 15% during COVID-19, with mobile fintech applications outperforming banks by a factor of up to 10.8x. Finextra (April 2021)**

**Neo-banks (fundraisings):**

Successful €13 million Venture funding round, led by Serena Capital (June 2021)

Successful US\$80 million Venture funding round, led by Tencent, EBRD and Breyer Capital (April 2021)

Successful €10 million funding round, led by Velocity Capital Fintech Ventures and Frumtak Ventures (March 2021)

Successful US\$5 million pre-Seed funding round, led by Sequoia Capital (May 2021)

Successful US\$18 million Series B funding round (April 2021)

Successful US\$25 million Series A funding round, led by Valar Ventures (March 2021)



**Redoubled disruptive efforts from challengers and new entrants**

Successful US\$20 million funding round, led by OurCrowd *(March 2021)*

Successful US\$5 million Seed funding round, led by Barclays *(March 2021)*

Successful US\$28 million Series A funding round, led by Eric Zinterhofer, Rakesh Loonkar and Harry Handelsman *(February 2021)*

Successful €7.5 million Series B funding round, led by finleap, HV Capital, RTP Global, Presight Capital, S7V, VR Ventures and ABN Amro Ventures *(February 2021)*

Successful US\$110 million Series B funding round, led by JG Summit Holdings, Apis Growth Fund II and African Rainbow Capital *(February 2021)*

Successful US\$30 million Series A funding round, led by M2 Asset Management and Coeli *(February 2021)*

**Neo-banks (new entrants):**

Application for US bank charter *(March 2021)*

Securing UK banking licence *(February 2021)*

Securing UK banking licence *(February 2021)*

Application for UK banking licence *(January 2021)*

**“Challenger” banks (fundraisings):**

Successful €613.65 million Series C funding round, led by Sequoia Capital Operations *(May 2021)*

Successful £50 million equity investment from Goldman Sachs Growth Equity *(April 2021)*

Successful £270 million Series D funding round, led by Fidelity Management & Research *(March 2021)*

Successful £40 million funding round, led by BBVA and Toscafund Asset Management *(April 2021)*

Successful £75 million funding round, led by Nikesh Arora and AME Cloud Ventures *(February 2021)*

**“Challenger” banks (partnerships):**

Consumer lending JV with Younited *(June 2021)*

Open banking JV with Plaid *(February 2021)*

**Here cometh BigTech**

Loan financing to SMEs who sell through eBay UK *(April 2021)*

Digital banking JV with Commerzbank *(March 2021)*

**Activism returns post-COVID-19**

**Market update:**

**Sherborne Investors has sold its entire stake in Barclays, ending a three-year battle to shrink its investment bank.**

Pressure on Standard Chartered to cut fossil fuel financing *(April 2021)*

Pressure on Barclays to cut fossil fuel financing *(April 2021)*

Pressure on Moneta Money Bank to avoid merger with Air Bank *(April 2021)*

Pressure on three executive appointments to Aareal Bank’s supervisory board *(April 2021)*

Opposition to Crédit Agricole’s takeover bid of Credito Valtellinese *(April 2021)*

Opposition to re-appointment of Andrew Gottschling as Chairman of Credit Suisse’s risk committee *(April 2021)*

Opposition to Pier Carlo Padoan’s appointment as Chairman of UniCredit *(March 2021)*

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