

International Treasury Forum 2018

Liquidity Buffer Management

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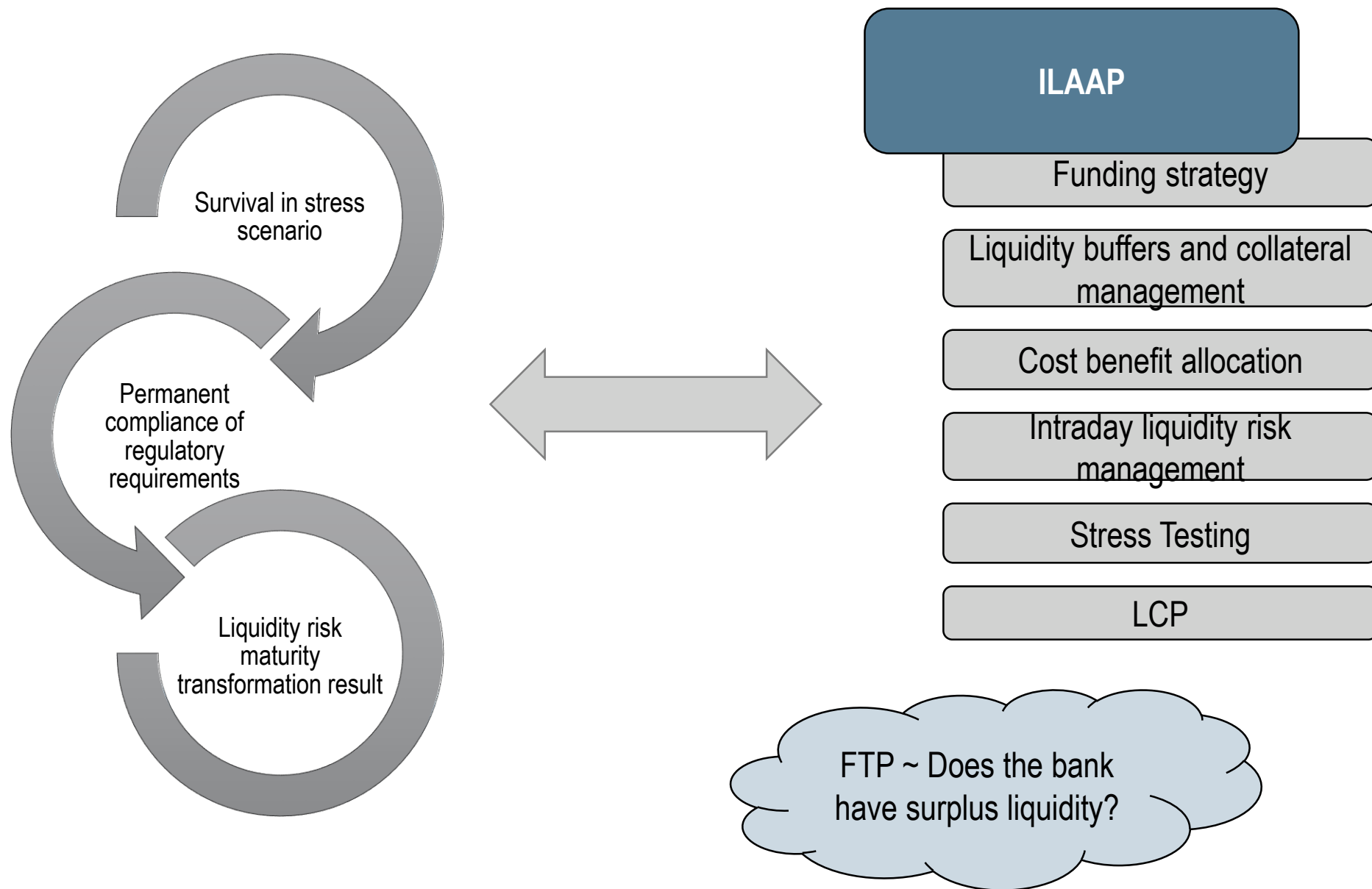
Why Liquidity Buffer Management is (still) relevant?



EBA guidelines on ICAAP and ILAAP, effective since 01.01.2017 and enforced via SREP ("Pillar 2")

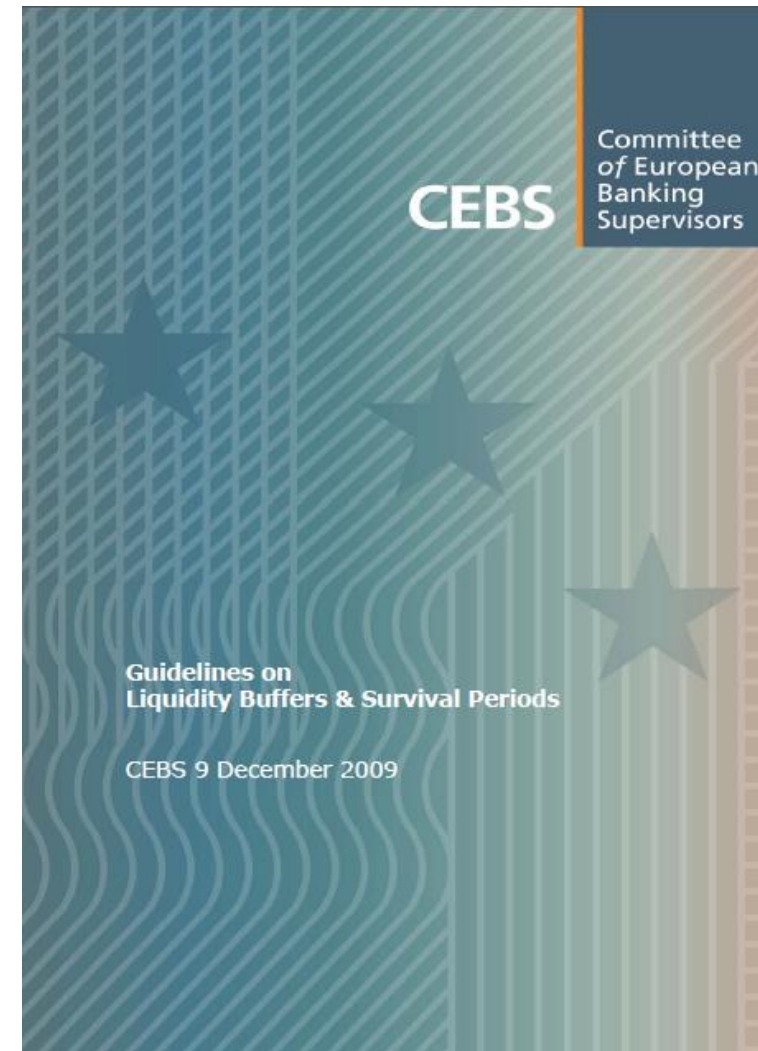
Source: <https://www.bankingsupervision.europa.eu/about/ssmexplained/html/srep.en.html>

Why Liquidity Buffer Management is (still) relevant?



What is the Liquidity Buffer?

- Short end of the counterbalancing capacity
- Kept for times of stress (idiosyncratic, market specific, combination)
- When an institution has an urgent need to raise liquidity within a short timeframe
- When normal funding sources are no longer available (in the required amount)
- Enables the institution to weather liquidity stress during its defined survival period without requiring adjustments to its business model



EBA Guidelines – old but (still) relevant under ILAAP

1

A liquidity buffer represents available liquidity, covering the **additional need for liquidity** that may arise over a defined short period of time under stress conditions

2

Institutions should apply **three types of stress scenarios**: idiosyncratic, market specific, and a combination of the two. The core of the idiosyncratic stress should assume **no rollover of unsecured wholesale funding and some outflows of retail deposits**. The market-wide stress should assume a **decline in the liquidity value of some assets and deterioration in funding-market conditions**.

3

A **survival period of at least one month** should be applied to determine the overall size of the liquidity buffer under the chosen stress scenarios. Within this period, a shorter time horizon of at least one week should also be considered to reflect the **need for a higher degree of confidence over the very short term**.

EBA Guidelines – old but (still) relevant under ILAAP

4

The liquidity buffer should be composed of cash and core assets that are **both central bank eligible and highly liquid in private markets**. For the longer end of the buffer, a broader set of liquid assets might be appropriate, subject to the bank demonstrating the ability to generate liquidity from them under stress within the specified period of time.

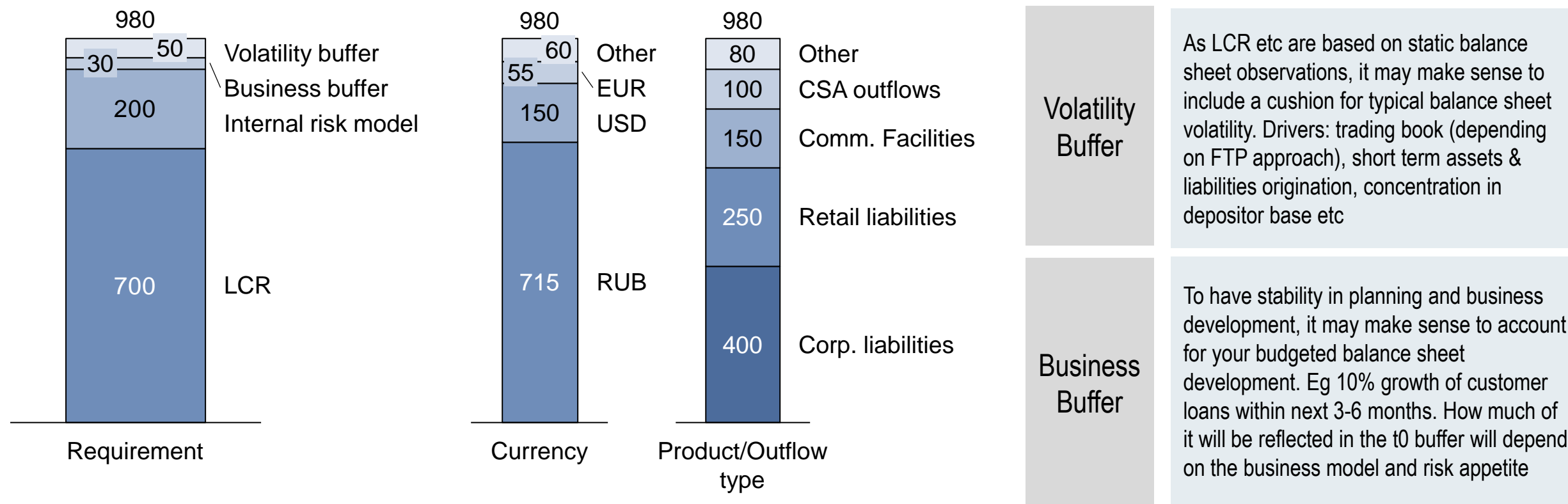
5

Credit institutions need to manage their stocks of liquid assets to ensure, to the maximum extent possible, that they will be available in times of stress. They should **avoid holding large concentrations** of particular assets, and there should be **no legal, regulatory, or operational impediments to using these assets**.

6

The location and size of liquidity buffers within a banking group should **adequately reflect the structure and activities** of the group in order to minimize the effects of possible legal, regulatory or operational impediments to using the assets in the buffer.

How much do you really need and what for?

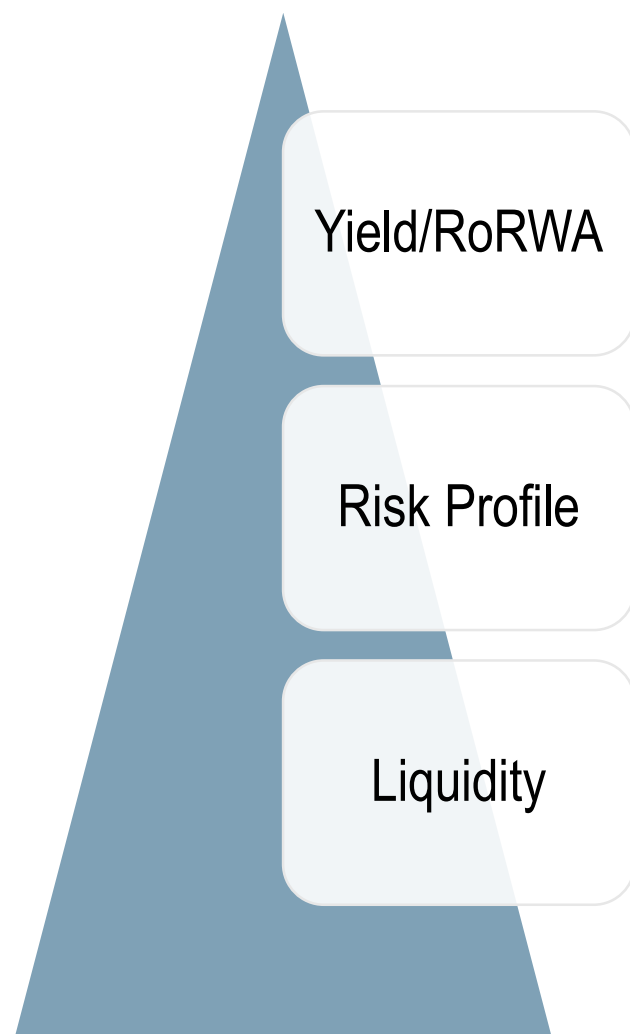


For SIFIs, typically the liquidity buffer size is determined by required liquidity to cover stress induced outflows. Therefore the focus of this presentation is laid on this aspect.
 Illustrative numbers for stylized 1 month survival period

What is the right size and how to achieve it?

- The marginal benefits of holding liquidity buffer (resp. the defined hurdle rate) should exceed its marginal cost
- Given defined and approved risk appetite, the following items are typical candidates for review of liquidity buffer drivers
 - Review the deposit structure in the light of the overall business model and seek optimization potential ie operational stability and relationship accounts
 - Review if the loan facilities both committed and uncommitted are properly priced from an internal and external perspective
 - Review short term revolving facilities as no inflows are modeled
 - Review derivatives business and its impact on (modeled) CSA outflows
- Implement consistent internal pricing for all liquidity costs and benefits to enforce a self regulating mechanism

Liquidity Buffer Allocation



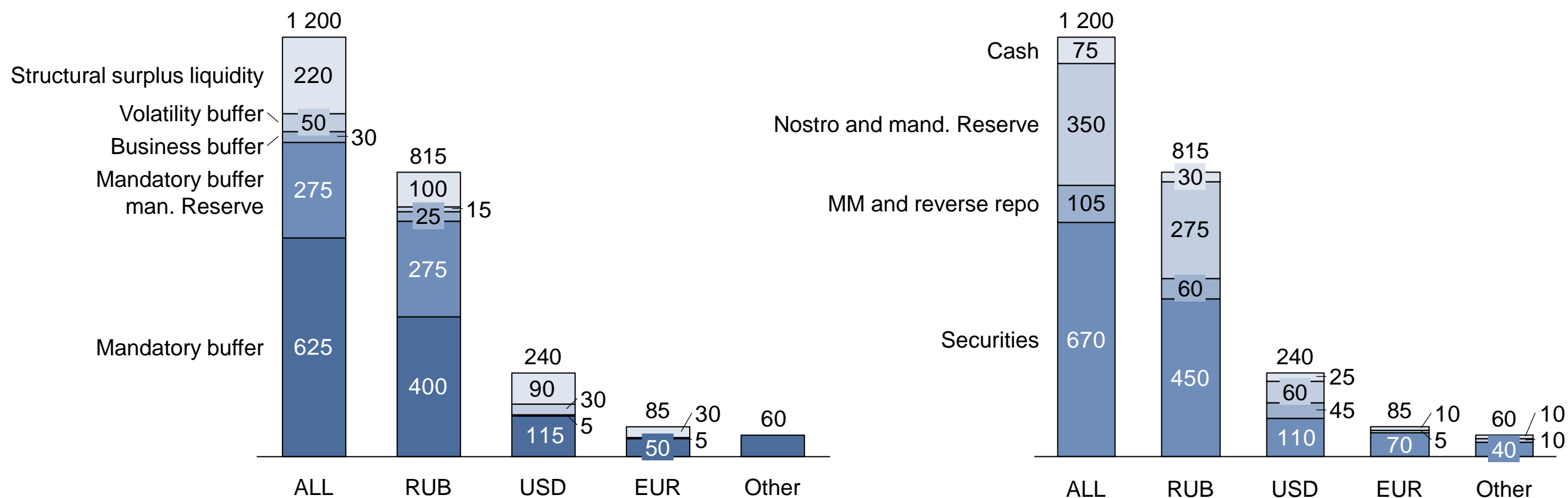
Liquidity: proven (tested) secondary market liquidity ie active, developed and recognized market or eligible for central bank operations

Risk profile: Typically liquidity buffers have low risk profile, both credit- and market risk, therefore exhibit low overall low price sensitivity and price volatility
Additionally concentration risk limits should be established and observed

Yield/RoRWA: While absolute yield is not in the focus for liquidity buffer management (it is high liquidity and low risk), yield shall be maximized given a certain chosen risk profile.

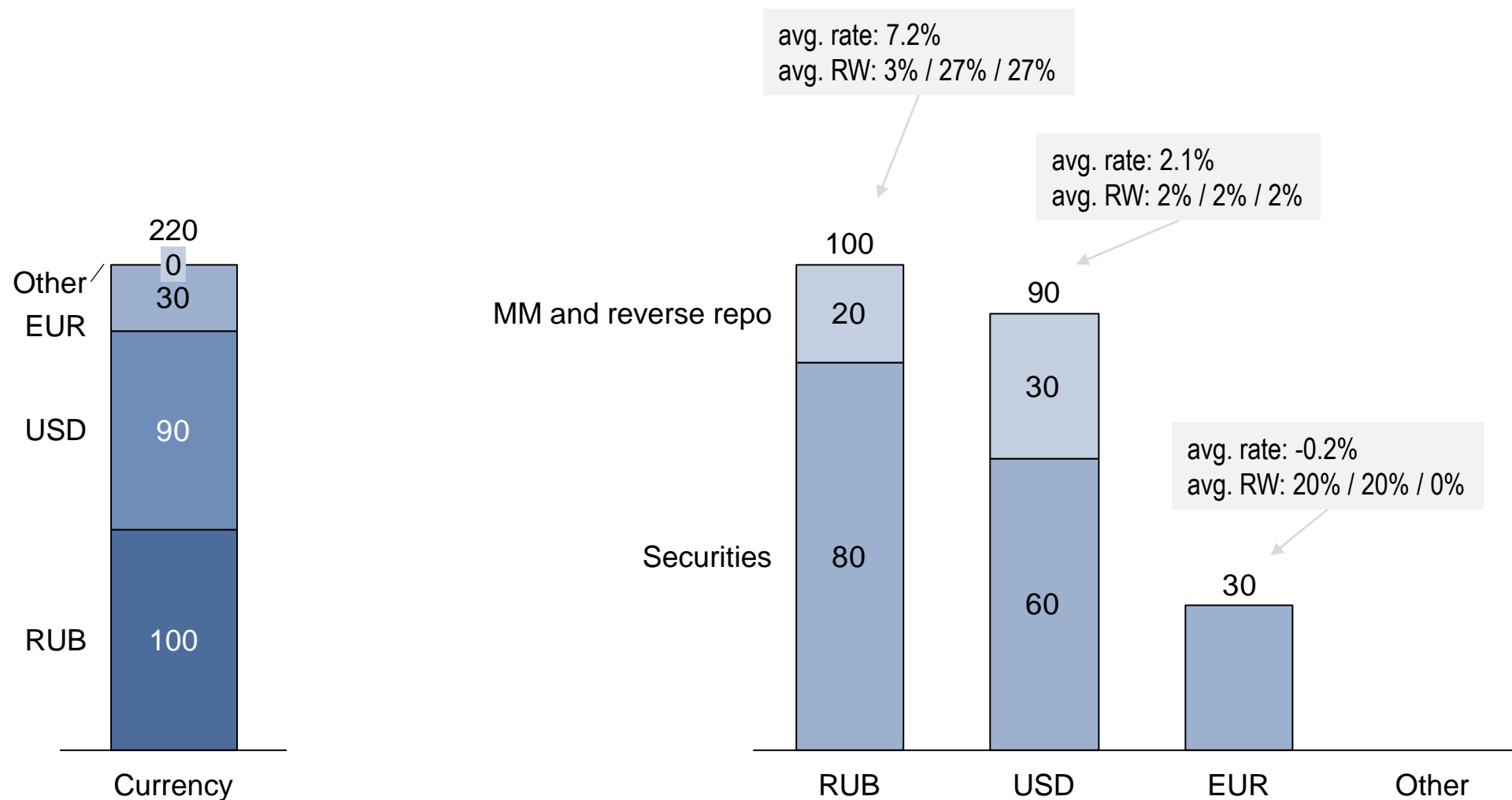
The above and the targeted split of the liquidity buffer among asset classes (products, industries, issuers), currencies, accounting categories ultimately forms the **strategic asset allocation for the liquidity buffer**.

Breakdown by Type, Product and Currency



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Breakdown of Surplus Liquidity



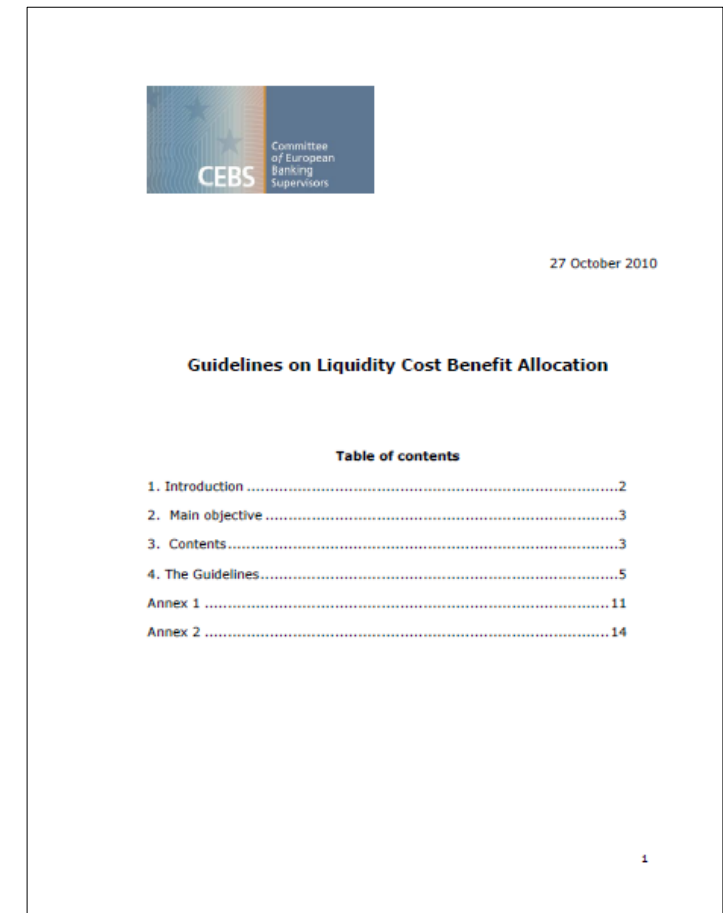
Allocation of Stress Buffer Cost (SBC)

Since EBA 2010 Guidelines on liquidity cost and benefit allocation, institutions under EBA supervision are **required to have adequate allocation mechanisms** of liquidity cost, benefits and risk in place.

Usually running a liquidity buffer comes at a cost for the bank. Therefore, in order to achieve **proper bank steering** and **risk-adjusted performance measurement of products and business lines**, liquidity buffer cost needs to be allocated by outflow drivers.

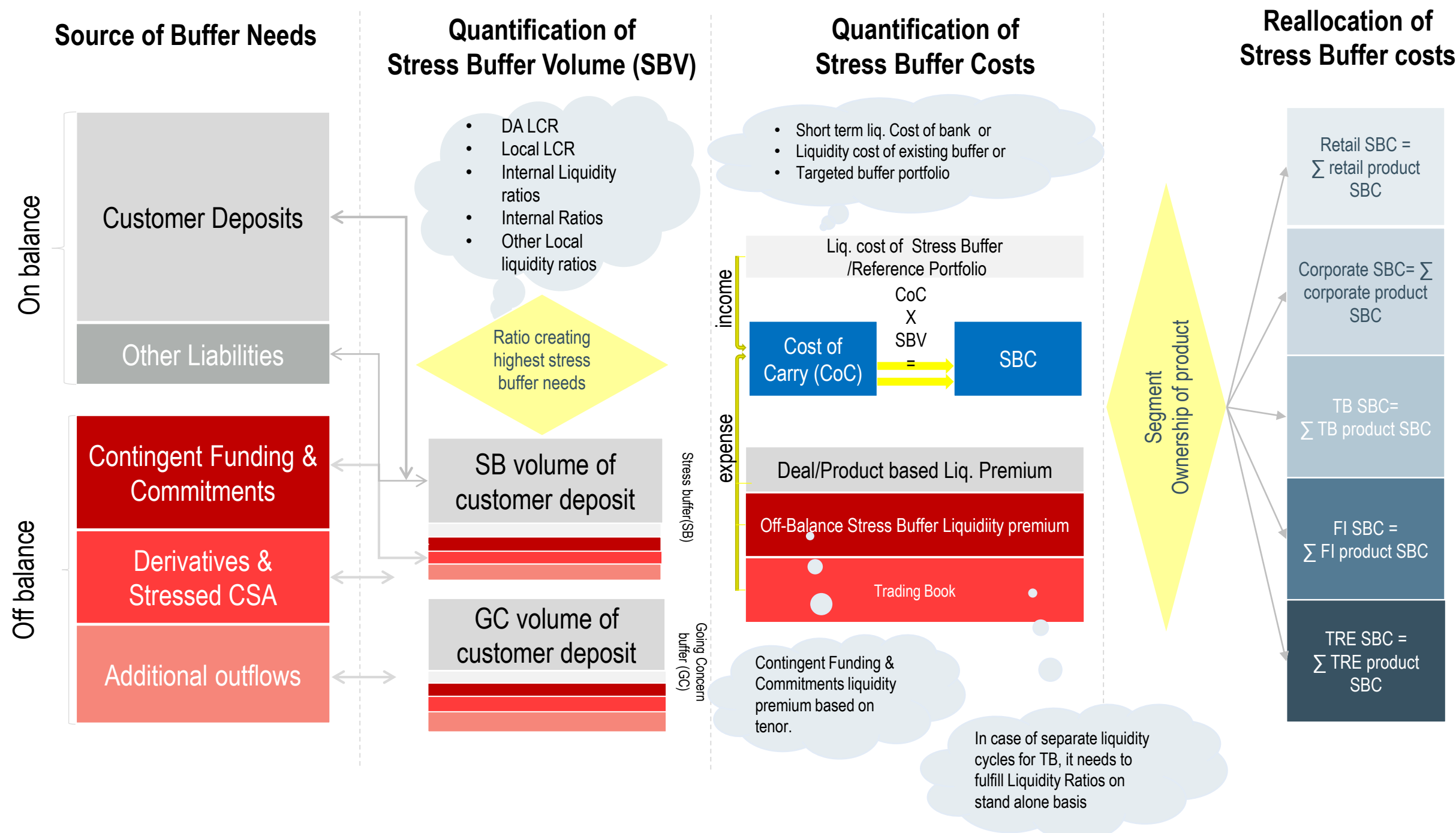
Major principles (based on a setup where Treasury has financial KPIs and risk based FTP is implemented):

- Strictest liquidity requirements shall be taken as a basis
- If partial outflows (eg current accounts) are already reflected in base FTP rules, only add. stress-based outflows shall be priced
- All on- and off-balance sheet products shall be covered
- Only the liquidity risk part within FTP is affected (if you price it off a clean OIS curve). Interest rate risk component not in scope.
- Stress buffer cost (liquidity buffer cost of carry) per product = stress induced buffer amount * (liquidity premium paid eg for deposits – liquidity cost earned on liquidity buffer)
- SBC should be priced against HQLA ie minimal credit risk
- Depending on Treasury operating model, also economic capital cost for credit spreads may need to be charged



Source
https://www.eba.europa.eu/documents/10180/16094/cebs18_Guidelines.pdf

Allocation of Stress Buffer Cost



Allocation of Stress Buffer Cost

Example: USD Retail Current accounts (illustrative figures)

Product amount: 500 mn USD

Internal liability premium: 100 bps (average FTP out of eg. replicating portfolio model)

Cumulative outflow	1 day	1 week	1 month	2 months	3 months
Internal risk model - going concern	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.5%	1.5%
Internal risk model - combined stress	3.0%	5.0%	10.0%	12.0%	14.0%
LCR & NSFR			7.5%	7.5%	7.5%

	Most strict liquidity risk requirement
Liquidity buffer required	
1st month	10%
2nd and 3rd month	4%
Total requirement	14%

Delta between max. requirement and going concern	12.5%
Liquidity buffer requirement in mn USD	62.5

Liquidity premium, bps	100
Liquidity cost earned from buffer	10
Cost of carry	-90

Stress buffer cost, mn USD p.a.	-0.56
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The same approach can be applied for all items that cause a liquidity buffer need

Regulatory and operational Requirements

Selected EBA requirements

Characteristics which indicate high liquidity value

Market related liquidity factors

- Active and sizable market
- Presence of committed market makers
- Low market concentration

Fundamental characteristics

- Low credit and market risk
- Ease of valuation
- Low correlation with risky assets
- Listed on a developed and recognized market

Delivering liquidity value

- Maintaining an OTC market repo capability
- Regular turning-over of assets in the liquidity buffer
- Not holding a large proportion of the market

Selected Operational requirements by CBR

- Decision authority on operations with HQLA is with bank's department that manages liquidity risk (Treasury)
- Assets should be grouped in **separate portfolio** for liquidity management purposes. Assets which are not included into the separate portfolio for liquidity management can be included into HQLA upon condition that they can be sold or pledged by order of Treasury without violation of Bank's (risk) strategy.
- Securities included into HQLA have to be **market tradable and have market price**. Adequate **haircut** for 30d price decline need to be applied. Securities included into HQLA have to have low market, credit, FX risk.
- Price volatility, possibility of immediate sale or pledging of all kinds of assets included into HQLA have to be **estimated on regular basis**.
- HQLA assets needs to be **diversified** and bank needs to have HQLA portfolio management approach including relevant limits and respective compliance control

Selected related Questions for discussion

- How to ensure sufficiently broad diversification in the HQLA part of the liquidity buffer taking into account the narrow HQLA definition and market liquidity in Russia?
- How much dependency to the central bank is acceptable for financial institutions, the central bank and the banking system?
- How to run liquidity buffers within international banking groups across multiple legal entities, jurisdictions, regulations, time-zones, transfer restrictions?
- How to ensure operational control of the liquidity buffer and is it in conflict with reduction of stress buffer cost?
- How to achieve Corporate deposits exhibiting “operational stability”?
- What is the right currency split for your liquidity buffer?

Thank you

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