

SSA sector and ESG

More social, more green

Free to View
Fixed Income - Rates

Global

- ◆ Social, green and sustainability issuance is the fastest growing segment in the SSA sector
- ◆ EUR remains the dominant currency but USD volumes are rising
- ◆ S&A supply in social bond format currently dominates but green issuance to rise in light of EU recovery fund volumes

Frank Will
Global Head of Covered Bond Research
HSBC Trinkaus & Burkhardt AG

Chris Attfield
Strategist
HSBC Bank plc

Dominic Kini
Credit and Green Bond Strategist
HSBC Bank plc

Fighting climate change and tackling the COVID-19 pandemic are currently two of the biggest challenges facing governments around the world. But thanks to growing investor interest in the ESG space, the huge financing required for both battles is proving easier to access than might otherwise be the case. Few parts of the financial markets are being left untouched by these developments, and that includes the Sovereigns, Supranationals and Agencies section of the bond market.

Indeed, issuance of green, social and sustainability (GSS) bonds is currently the fastest growing part of the SSA market. Issuers are finding strong demand for their bonds, but also ways to broaden their investor bases. KfW, the German state-owned development bank, recently noted that its green bonds have attracted 100 new investors since 2014 ie buyers who had not previously subscribed to its new issues.

The GSS sovereign market is growing very fast. According to Bloomberg, since 2018 the size of the sovereign GSS bond market has almost doubled each year to reach a total outstanding amount equivalent to USD142bn. More than 80% of these bonds are denominated in EUR while 12% are USD bonds. European sovereigns account for almost four-fifths of the outstanding volume, followed by Latin America (12%) and the Asia-Pacific region (8%).

Almost 90% of these bonds are **green** bonds. And green supply is set to rise further, given plans to issue as many as EUR250bn of green bonds over the next five years under the EU's recovery fund – New Generation EU. This could be a real game changer.

In the **social** bond space, another major EU initiative has already had a huge influence. This is the SURE (Support to Mitigate Unemployment Risks in an Emergency) programme that is designed to help protect workers whose jobs have been made less secure by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the EU has already raised almost 90% of the programme's maximum size of EUR100bn.

This is an abridged version of a report by the same title published on 26-May-21. Please contact your HSBC representative or email AskResearch@hsbc.com for more information.

Disclaimer & Disclosures

This report must be read with the disclosures and the analyst certifications in the Disclosure appendix, and with the Disclaimer, which forms part of it.

Issuer of report: HSBC Bank plc

View HSBC Global Research at:
<https://www.research.hsbc.com>

The laggards are **sustainability** bonds. Although they fund a mix of green and social projects, which broadens the eligibility criteria and typically increases the number of qualifying projects, in supply terms they currently form a much smaller segment than green or social bonds.

What does all this mean for pricing in a sector which has repeatedly shown in recent years that it is possible for GSS bonds to trade at a premium – a so-called greenium – to their conventional peers?

Going forward, we expect this differentiation to widen for three reasons:

- ◆ **Demand exceeds supply:** The number of ESG investors is currently increasing at a faster rate than the GSS supply volumes, resulting in an imbalance between supply and demand.
- ◆ **Broader investor base:** GSS issuance broadens the investor base as it can attract new investors and a higher share of asset managers than in conventional bonds, as highlighted by KfW.
- ◆ **More buy-and-hold investors:** The supply-demand imbalance points to a shortage of bonds. As many investors want to increase their share of GSS bonds, they might be more inclined to sell non-GSS bonds rather than GSS bonds.

Furthermore, we think an increasing number of investors will have internal guidelines or even external requirements such as the Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (SFDR) pushing them into the GSS space.

While all the above suggests a firm underpinning for greeniums, there is a constraint on the outperformance potential of GSS bonds – namely, that the underlying credit risk for GSS bonds and conventional bonds from the same issuer is usually identical.

This report is the latest in a series of reports by HSBC's Fixed Income team in the ESG space. The full report is split into three parts. Parts one and two discuss GSS developments, supply trends and outstanding volumes in the sovereign sector and the supra & agency space respectively.

Part three discusses the spread differentials in the SSA sector between GSS and conventional bonds, the differences in the performance of the two segments and analyses the ESG investor base for supras and agencies.

Please contact your HSBC representative or email AskResearch@hsbc.com for more information.

Disclosure appendix

Analyst Certification

The following analyst(s), economist(s), or strategist(s) who is(are) primarily responsible for this report, including any analyst(s) whose name(s) appear(s) as author of an individual section or sections of the report and any analyst(s) named as the covering analyst(s) of a subsidiary company in a sum-of-the-parts valuation certifies(y) that the opinion(s) on the subject security(ies) or issuer(s), any views or forecasts expressed in the section(s) of which such individual(s) is(are) named as author(s), and any other views or forecasts expressed herein, including any views expressed on the back page of the research report, accurately reflect their personal view(s) and that no part of their compensation was, is or will be directly or indirectly related to the specific recommendation(s) or views contained in this research report: Frank Will, Chris Attfield and Dominic Kini

Important disclosures

Fixed income: Basis for financial analysis

HSBC believes an investor's decision to make an investment should depend on individual circumstances such as the investor's existing holdings and other considerations.

HSBC believes that investors utilise various disciplines and investment horizons when making investment decisions, which depend largely on individual circumstances such as the investor's existing holdings, risk tolerance and other considerations. Given these differences, HSBC has two principal aims in its fixed income research: 1) to identify long-term investment opportunities based on particular themes or ideas that may affect the future earnings or cash flows of companies in corporate credit and based on country-specific ideas or themes that may affect the performance of these bonds in the case of covered bonds, in both cases on a six-month time horizon; 2) to identify trade ideas on a time horizon of up to four months, relating to specific instruments, which are predominantly derived from relative value considerations or driven by events and which, in the case of credit research, may differ from our long-term opinion on an issuer. Buy or Sell refer to a trade call to buy or sell that given instrument; HSBC has assigned a fundamental recommendation structure, as described below, only for its longer-term investment opportunities.

HSBC believes an investor's decision to buy or sell a bond should depend on individual circumstances such as the investor's existing holdings and other considerations. Different securities firms use a variety of terms as well as different systems to describe their recommendations. Investors should carefully read the definitions of the recommendations used in each research report. In addition, because research reports contain more complete information concerning the analysts' views, investors should carefully read the entire research report and should not infer its contents from the recommendation. In any case, recommendations should not be used or relied on in isolation as investment advice.

HSBC Global Research is not and does not hold itself out to be a Credit Rating Agency as defined under the Hong Kong Securities and Futures Ordinance.

Definitions for fundamental credit and covered bond recommendations

Overweight: For corporate credit, the issuer's fundamental credit profile is expected to improve within the next six months. For covered bonds, the bonds issued in this country are expected to outperform those of the other countries in our coverage over the next six months.

Neutral: For corporate credit, the issuer's fundamental credit profile is expected to remain stable for up to six months. For covered bonds, the bonds issued in this country are expected to perform in line with those of the other countries in our coverage over the next six months.

Underweight: For corporate credit, the issuer's fundamental credit profile is expected to deteriorate within the next six months. For covered bonds, the bonds issued in this country are expected to underperform those of other countries in our coverage over the next six months.

Definitions for trades (Rates & Credit)

Buy and **Sell** refer to a trade call to buy or sell a bond, option on an interest rate swap ("**swaption**"), interest rate cap or floor, inflation cap or floor, or Total Return Swap ("**TRS**"). The buyer/seller of a TRS receives/pays the total return of the underlying instrument or index at the end of the period and pays/receives the funding leg.

Buy protection and **Sell protection** refer to a credit default swap (CDS): the protection buyer/seller is effectively selling/buying the reference entity's credit risk.

Pay and **receive** refer to a trade call to pay or receive the fixed leg of an interest rate swap (IRS), a non-deliverable IRS, the first-named leg of a basis swap, the realised inflation leg of an inflation swap, or a forward rate agreement (FRA). An investor that executes a pay or receive trade is said to be "**paid**" or "**received**."

Payer and **receiver** refer to inflation caps or floors and to swaptions: a payer is an option giving the right but not the obligation to enter a paid position in an interest rate or inflation swap, and a receiver is an option giving the right but not the obligation to enter a received position in an interest rate or inflation swap.

ASW (also asset-swap, Buy on asset swap, Buy on an asset-swapped basis): Buy a bond packaged with a swap that is tailored to eliminate the bond's interest rate risk, effectively transforming the bond to a floating rate instrument whilst preserving the credit exposure to the bond issuer.

RASW (also reverse asset-swap, Sell on asset swap, Sell on an asset swapped basis): Sell a bond packaged with a swap that is tailored to eliminate the bond's interest rate risk, effectively transforming the bond to a floating rate instrument whilst preserving the credit exposure to the bond issuer.

Distribution of fundamental credit and covered bond recommendations

As of 24 May 2021, the distribution of all independent fundamental credit recommendations published by HSBC is as follows:

	All Covered issuers		Issuers to whom HSBC has provided Investment Banking in the past 12 months	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
Overweight	120	26	64	53
Neutral	223	49	93	42
Underweight	112	25	35	31

Source: HSBC

For the purposes of the distribution above the following mapping structure is used: Overweight = Buy, Neutral = Hold and Underweight = Sell. For rating definitions under both models, please see "Definitions for fundamental credit and covered bond recommendations" above.

Distribution of trades

As of 31 March 2021, the distribution of all trades published by HSBC is as follows:

	All Covered instruments		Issuers to whom HSBC has provided Investment Banking in the past 12 months	
Recommendation	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
Buy	133	76	84	63
Sell	41	24	22	54

Source: HSBC

For the purposes of the distribution above the following mapping structure is used: Buy/Sell protection/Receive/Buy Receiver/Sell Payer = Buy; and Sell/Buy protection/Pay/Buy Payer/Sell Receiver = Sell. ASW is counted as a buy of the bond and a paid swap, and RASW as a sell of the bond and a received swap. For rating definitions under both models, please see "Definitions for trades (Rates and Credit)" above.

For the distribution of non-independent ratings published by HSBC, please see the disclosure page available at <http://www.hsbcnet.com/gbm/financial-regulation/investment-recommendations-disclosures>.

Recommendation changes for long-term investment opportunities

To view a list of all the independent fundamental recommendations disseminated by HSBC during the preceding 12-month period, and the location where we publish our quarterly distribution of non-fundamental recommendations, please use the following links to access the disclosure page:

Clients of Global Research and Global Banking and Markets: www.research.hsbc.com/A/Disclosures

Clients of HSBC Private Banking: www.research.privatebank.hsbc.com/Disclosures

HSBC and its affiliates will from time to time sell to and buy from customers the securities/instruments, both equity and debt (including derivatives) of companies covered in HSBC Research on a principal or agency basis or act as a market maker or liquidity provider in the securities/instruments mentioned in this report.

Analysts, economists, and strategists are paid in part by reference to the profitability of HSBC which includes investment banking, sales & trading, and principal trading revenues.

Whether, or in what time frame, an update of this analysis will be published is not determined in advance.

Non-U.S. analysts may not be associated persons of HSBC Securities (USA) Inc, and therefore may not be subject to FINRA Rule 2241 or FINRA Rule 2242 restrictions on communications with the subject company, public appearances and trading securities held by the analysts.

Economic sanctions imposed by the EU, the UK, the USA, and certain other jurisdictions generally prohibit transacting or dealing in any debt or equity issued by Russian SSI entities on or after 16 July 2014 (Restricted SSI Securities). Economic sanctions imposed by the USA also generally prohibit US persons from purchasing or selling publicly traded securities issued by companies designated by the US Government as "Communist Chinese military companies" (CMCs) or any securities that are derivative of, or designed to provide investment exposure, to the targeted CMC securities (collectively, Restricted CMC Securities). This report does not constitute advice in relation to any Restricted SSI Securities or Restricted CMC Securities, and as such, this report should not be construed as an inducement to transact in any Restricted SSI Securities or Restricted CMC Securities.

For disclosures in respect of any company mentioned in this report, please see the most recently published report on that company available at www.hsbcnet.com/research. HSBC Private Banking clients should contact their Relationship Manager for queries regarding other research reports. In order to find out more about the proprietary models used to produce this report, please contact the authoring analyst.

Additional disclosures

- 1 This report is dated as at 26 May 2021.
- 2 All market data included in this report are dated as at close 24 May 2021, unless a different date and/or a specific time of day is indicated in the report.
- 3 HSBC has procedures in place to identify and manage any potential conflicts of interest that arise in connection with its Research business. HSBC's analysts and its other staff who are involved in the preparation and dissemination of Research operate and have a management reporting line independent of HSBC's Investment Banking business. Information Barrier procedures are in place between the Investment Banking, Principal Trading, and Research businesses to ensure that any confidential and/or price sensitive information is handled in an appropriate manner.
- 4 You are not permitted to use, for reference, any data in this document for the purpose of (i) determining the interest payable, or other sums due, under loan agreements or under other financial contracts or instruments, (ii) determining the price at which a financial instrument may be bought or sold or traded or redeemed, or the value of a financial instrument, and/or (iii) measuring the performance of a financial instrument or of an investment fund.

Disclaimer

Legal entities as at 1 December 2020

'UAE' HSBC Bank Middle East Limited, DIFC; HSBC Bank Middle East Limited, Dubai; 'HK' The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, Hong Kong; 'TW' HSBC Securities (Taiwan) Corporation Limited; 'CA' HSBC Securities (Canada) Inc.; 'France' HSBC Continental Europe; 'Spain' HSBC Continental Europe, Sucursal en España; 'Italy' HSBC Continental Europe, Italy; 'Sweden' HSBC Continental Europe Bank, Sweden Filial; 'DE' HSBC Trinkaus & Burkhardt AG, Düsseldorf; 000 HSBC Bank (RR), Moscow; 'IN' HSBC Securities and Capital Markets (India) Private Limited, Mumbai; 'JP' HSBC Securities (Japan) Limited, Tokyo; 'EG' HSBC Securities Egypt SAE, Cairo; 'CN' HSBC Investment Bank Asia Limited, Beijing Representative Office; The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, Singapore Branch; The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, Seoul Securities Branch; The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, Seoul Branch; HSBC Securities (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd, Johannesburg; HSBC Bank plc, London, Tel Aviv; 'US' HSBC Securities (USA) Inc, New York; HSBC Yatirim Menkul Degerler AS, Istanbul; HSBC México, SA, Institución de Banca Múltiple, Grupo Financiero HSBC; HSBC Bank Australia Limited; HSBC Bank Argentina SA; HSBC Saudi Arabia Limited; The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, New Zealand Branch incorporated in Hong Kong SAR; The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, Bangkok Branch; PT Bank HSBC Indonesia; HSBC Qianhai Securities Limited; Banco HSBC S.A.

Issuer of report

HSBC Trinkaus & Burkhardt AG
 Königsallee 21/23
 D-40212 Düsseldorf
 Germany
 Telephone: +49 211 910-0
 Fax: +49 211 910-98091
 Website: www.research.hsbc.com

This document has been issued by HSBC Trinkaus & Burkhardt AG ("HSBC") for the information of its customers only. If it is received by a customer of an affiliate of HSBC, its provision to the recipient is subject to the terms of business in place between the recipient and such affiliate. This document is not and should not be construed as an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to purchase or subscribe for any investment. HSBC has based this document on information obtained from sources it believes to be reliable but which it has not independently verified; HSBC makes no guarantee, representation or warranty and accepts no responsibility or liability as to its accuracy or completeness. Expressions of opinion are those of the Research Division of HSBC only and are subject to change without notice. From time to time research analysts conduct site visits of covered issuers. HSBC policies prohibit research analysts from accepting payment or reimbursement for travel expenses from the issuer for such visits. The information and opinions contained within the research reports are based upon publicly available information at the time of publication which are subject to change from time to time. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The value of any investment or income may go down as well as up and you may not get back the full amount invested. Where an investment is denominated in a currency other than the local currency of the recipient of the research report, changes in the exchange rates may have an adverse effect on the value, price or income of that investment. In case of investments for which there is no recognised market it may be difficult for investors to sell their investments or to obtain reliable information about its value or the extent of the risk to which it is exposed.

HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. accepts responsibility for the content of this research report prepared by its non-US foreign affiliate. The information contained herein is under no circumstances to be construed as investment advice and is not tailored to the needs of the recipient. All U.S. persons receiving and/or accessing this report and wishing to effect transactions in any security discussed herein should do so with HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. in the United States and not with its non-US foreign affiliate, the issuer of this report.

In the UK, this publication is distributed by HSBC Bank plc for the information of its Clients (as defined in the Rules of FCA) and those of its affiliates only. Nothing herein excludes or restricts any duty or liability to a customer which HSBC Bank plc has under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 or under the Rules of FCA and PRA. A recipient who chooses to deal with any person who is not a representative of HSBC Bank plc in the UK will not enjoy the protections afforded by the UK regulatory regime. HSBC Bank plc is regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority. In Singapore, this publication is distributed by The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, Singapore Branch for the general information of institutional investors or other persons specified in Sections 274 and 304 of the Securities and Futures Act (Chapter 289) ("SFA") and accredited investors and other persons in accordance with the conditions specified in Sections 275 and 305 of the SFA. Only Economics or Currencies reports are intended for distribution to a person who is not an Accredited Investor, Expert Investor or Institutional Investor as defined in SFA. The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, Singapore Branch accepts legal responsibility for the contents of reports pursuant to Regulation 32C(1)(d) of the Financial Advisers Regulations. This publication is not a prospectus as defined in the SFA. This publication is not a prospectus as defined in the SFA. It may not be further distributed in whole or in part for any purpose. The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited Singapore Branch is regulated by the Monetary Authority of Singapore. Recipients in Singapore should contact a "Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, Singapore Branch" representative in respect of any matters arising from, or in connection with this report. Please refer to The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited Singapore Branch's website at www.business.hsbc.com.sg for contact details. In Korea, this publication is distributed by either The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, Seoul Securities Branch ("HBAP SLS") or The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, Seoul Branch ("HBAP SEL") for the general information of professional investors specified in Article 9 of the Financial Investment Services and Capital Markets Act ("FSCMA"). This publication is not a prospectus as defined in the FSCMA. It may not be further distributed in whole or in part for any purpose. Both HBAP SLS and HBAP SEL are regulated by the Financial Services Commission and the Financial Supervisory Service of Korea. In Australia, this publication has been distributed by The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited (ABN 65 117 925 970, AFSL 301737) for the general information of its "wholesale" customers (as defined in the Corporations Act 2001). Where distributed to retail customers, this research is distributed by HSBC Bank Australia Limited (ABN 48 006 434 162, AFSL No. 232595). These respective entities make no representations that the products or services mentioned in this document are available to persons in Australia or are necessarily suitable for any particular person or appropriate in accordance with local law. No consideration has been given to the particular investment objectives, financial situation or particular needs of any recipient. This publication is distributed in New Zealand by The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, New Zealand Branch incorporated in Hong Kong SAR.

In the European Economic Area, this publication has been distributed by HSBC Continental Europe or by such other HSBC affiliate from which the recipient receives relevant services.

In Japan, this publication has been distributed by HSBC Securities (Japan) Limited. In Hong Kong, this document has been distributed by The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited in the conduct of its Hong Kong regulated business. The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited makes no representations that the products or services mentioned in this document are available to persons in Hong Kong or are necessarily suitable for any particular person or appropriate in accordance with local law. All inquiries by such recipients must be directed to The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited. It may not be further distributed in whole or in part for any purpose. HSBC Trinkaus & Burkhardt AG is regulated by the Federal Financial Supervisory Authority ("BaFin").

In Canada, this document has been distributed by HSBC Securities (Canada) Inc. (member IIROC), and/or its affiliates. The information contained herein is under no circumstances to be construed as investment advice in any province or territory of Canada and is not tailored to the needs of the recipient. No securities commission or similar regulatory authority in Canada has reviewed or in any way passed judgment upon these materials, the information contained herein or the merits of the securities described herein, and any representation to the contrary is an offense. In Brazil, this document has been distributed by Banco HSBC S.A. ("HSBC Brazil"), and/or its affiliates. As required by Instruction No. 598/18 of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Brazil (Comissão de Valores Mobiliários), potential conflicts of interest concerning (i) HSBC Brazil and/or its affiliates; and (ii) the analyst(s) responsible for authoring this report are stated on the chart above labelled "HSBC & Analyst Disclosures".

If you are an HSBC Private Banking ("PB") customer with approval for receipt of relevant research publications by an applicable HSBC legal entity, you are eligible to receive this publication. To be eligible to receive such publications, you must have agreed to the applicable HSBC entity's terms and conditions for accessing research and the terms and conditions of any other internet banking service offered by that HSBC entity through which you will access research publications ("the Terms"). Distribution of this publication is the sole responsibility of the HSBC entity with whom you have agreed the Terms. If you do not meet the aforementioned eligibility requirements please disregard this publication and, if you are a customer of PB, please notify your Relationship Manager. Receipt of research publications is strictly subject to the Terms and any other conditions or disclaimers applicable to the provision of the publications that may be advised by PB.

© Copyright 2021, HSBC Trinkaus & Burkhardt AG, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, on any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior written permission of HSBC Trinkaus & Burkhardt AG. MCI (P) 028/02/2021, MCI (P) 087/10/2020

[1171586]