Special Purpose Entities (SPEs)\(^1\) Statistics Q3 2019

- **Total assets of Irish-resident SPEs increased by €55bn to €851bn in Q3 2019.** The number of Special Purpose Entities (SPEs) increased by 50 to 2493, showing increased activity during the quarter in a number of segments.

- **Within Irish-resident Securitisation SPEs, or Financial Vehicle Corporations (FVCs), total assets increased modestly by €9bn, to €491bn in Q3 2019.** Collateralised Loan Obligation (CLO) vehicles continue to grow rapidly, with total assets increasing by 45% to €97bn since Q3 2018. Residential Mortgage Backed Securities (RMBS) vehicles saw assets decrease by €2bn (4%) to €51bn.

- **Within Non-Securitisation Irish-resident SPEs, or Other SPEs, total assets increased by €46bn to €360bn in Q3 2019.** Along with continued growth in investment fund linked entities, Q3 2019 saw continued growth in the total assets of intra group financing vehicles.

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\(^1\) Definition of a SPE, a FVC, other SPEs and a sponsor can be found on page 8, in Notes.
- Total assets of Irish-resident SPEs (FVCs and Other SPEs) increased 7% in Q3 2019, with Other SPEs engaging in a wide range of activities driving this longer-term growth trend. The number of SPEs reporting statistical returns increased by 50 to 2,493;

- Within the FVC reporting population there was a €10bn increase in total assets from €481bn to €491bn. The FVC population saw a slight increase, of 21, in the number of entities reporting, ending the quarter at 1,156.

- Within the Other SPE reporting population, there was a significant increase of €46bn in total assets from €313bn to €360bn. The Other SPE population saw a slight increase, of 29, in the number of entities reporting, ending the quarter at 1,337.
The top FVC category types by total assets for Q3 2019 are: the “Other” category (€148bn), Collateralised Loan Obligations (€97bn); and Residential Mortgage Backed Securities (€51bn).

The top FVC category types by debt securities issued for Q3 2019 are: Collateralised Loan Obligations (€83bn), the “Other” category (€67bn), and Residential Mortgage Backed Securities (€42bn).
• The top Other SPE category types by total assets for Q3 2019 are: Investment Fund Linked vehicles (€99bn), External Financing (€60bn), and Intragroup Financing (€60bn).

• The top Other SPE category types by debt securities issued for Q3 2019 are External Financing (€50bn), Intra Group Financing (€25bn), and Investment Fund Linked (€22bn).
The majority of FVC assets are held by entities setup by US and UK Banks, asset managers and investment firms. *Irish sponsors tend to be branches and subsidiaries of these US and UK entities.

The majority of Other SPE assets are held by entities setup by US and UK asset managers and investment firms as well as non-financial corporations. *Irish sponsors tend to be branches and subsidiaries of these US and UK entities.
FVC CLO Activity

- Total assets of CLO vehicles increased by €6bn, or 7%, in the third quarter to €97bn. The total number of vehicles reporting is now 278. Debt issued increased by 10% to €83bn, while the value of syndicated loans held has risen to €73bn. The remaining assets and liabilities held in these vehicles mostly consist of cash and bonds as well as a small amount of derivatives. For more Information on these vehicles please see our behind the data series article The Who’s Who of Irish Collateralised Loan Obligations.

Chart 10: CLO Total Assets. Debt Securities Issued, LX Loans €Bn (RHS), and number of vehicles (LHS)
Other SPE External Financing Activity

- Within the Other SPE population, total assets of External Financing vehicles increased by €4bn or 3% in the third quarter to €99bn, with the total number of vehicles reporting now at 80. Debt securities issued increased €2bn, while the value of loans received has fallen slightly. We can see a noticeable decline in the total assets of these vehicles over the past 4 years, reflecting some unwinding of this activity by Russian sponsored SPEs. For more on external financing vehicles please see [Shining a Light on Special Purpose Entities in Ireland](#).

![Chart 11: External Financing Vehicles Total Assets €bn, Debt Securities Issued €bn, Loans Received (RHS), and Number of Vehicles (LHS)](chart11)

![Chart 12: External financing Vehicles Total Assets €bn by Sponsor Country](chart12)
Appendix Notes

These data was collected under the requirements of Regulation (EC) No. 24/2009 concerning statistics on the assets and liabilities of financial vehicle corporations engaged in securitisation transactions (ECB/2008/30), which was passed on 19 December 2008, obliging financial vehicle corporations to report quarterly balance sheets. Reporting is obligatory for all financial vehicle corporations resident in Ireland.

The full data series for Ireland is available on the Central Bank of Ireland website here and euro area statistics are available from the ECB website here.

A Special Purpose Entity (SPE) is a legal entity created to fulfil narrow, specific or temporary objectives.

Financial vehicle corporations (FVCs) are undertakings which are constituted pursuant to National or Community Law and whose principal activity meets both of the following criteria:

- to carry out securitisation transactions which are insulated from the risk of bankruptcy or any other default of the originator;
- to issue securities, securitisation fund units, other debt instruments and/or financial derivatives, and/or to legally or economically own assets underlying the issue of securities, securitisation fund units, other debt instruments and/or financial derivatives that are offered for sale to the public or sold on the basis of private placements.

Securitisation refers to a transaction or scheme whereby: (i) an asset or pool of assets is transferred to an entity that is separate from the originator and is created for or serves the purpose of the securitisation; and/or (ii) the credit risk of an asset or pool of assets, or part thereof, is transferred to the investors in the securities, securitisation fund units, other debt instruments and/or financial derivatives issued by an entity that is separate from the originator and is created for or serves the purpose of the securitisation.

Other Special Purpose Entities (Other SPEs) are vehicles not engaged in securitisation.

The Sponsor refers to the entity on whose behalf the SPE was established. This usually the ultimate beneficial owner. However, where an investment fund sets up a vehicle to hold assets, the investment manager would be considered the sponsor. In insurance-linked securitisations, the ceding reinsurer would be considered the sponsor. The term ‘Sponsor’ does not refer to a charitable trust that owns shares of the SPE in an orphan vehicle structure.

Further information
Queries to: Central Bank, Press Office at media@centralbank.ie or (01) 224 6299.