

SCoREBOARD

Corporate Actions - H2 2024

Finnish NSG

Background

Since publication of the Collateral Management Harmonisation Report in December 2017, the Advisory Group on Market Infrastructures for Securities and Collateral (AMI-SeCo) has made a number of significant breakthroughs in its ambition to create a Single Collateral Management Rulebook for Europe (SCoRE).

What is SCoRE?

SCoRE defines common rules for managing collateral in Europe. These rules will replace the fragmented legacy standards, structural constraints and complex and diverse market practices that exist across Europe today. Implementation of SCoRE should remove operational impediments to the availability, usage and mobility of collateral. Market participants in AMI-SeCo have committed to implementing the SCoRE Rulebook, with the first set of rules due to be implemented by November 2024. Their implementation efforts are regularly monitored by AMI-SeCo which facilitates an active dialogue with market participants on issues related to the clearing and settlement of securities and to collateral management.

National stakeholder groups (NSGs) are coordination forums that have been established in the markets covered by the AMI-SeCo to support the implementation of the Single Collateral Management Rulebook for Europe (SCoRE).

The Single Collateral Management Rulebook for Europe contains 15 Standards related to the processing of corporate actions (published as the SCoRE Standards for Corporate Actions). Implementation progress is monitored twice per year.

Introduction

This summary report presents the results of the H2 2024 monitoring exercise conducted by the Finnish NSG with the involvement among the following stakeholders:

9 entities are monitored in the Finnish market

- 1 CSD Euroclear Finland
- 4 Custodians
- 4 Issuers

In this monitoring exercise, participants were expected to have achieved all the milestones up to Milestone 11 inclusive "Final external communication on SCoRE" (with a deadline of 22 May 2023) as described in section 3 below. The findings of the monitoring exercise reflect the Milestones roadmap in place by the time the survey closed (i.e., 13 September 2024) and do not yet consider the AMI-SeCo reflections on the rescheduling of the existing SCoRE Standards implementation deadline from 18 November 2024 to 16 June 2025.

Section 1 presents the key takeaways per entity type i.e., CSD, TPA, Custodian etc. Section 2 depicts for each entity type their compliance status with the standards. Section 3 focuses on the progress against the individual milestones and Section 4 provides concluding remarks.

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Key takeaways

The Finnish market is behind schedule in some issues, but there are no evident showstoppers for a successful ECMS launch in November 2024 Euroclear Finland would have been technically ready for ECMS launch in April 2024, but after customer consultation, EFi decided to delay the launch of ECMS features to November. All the ECMS features will be included in Infinity's April 2024 release, but the features will be activated only in June 2025. Euroclear Finland has delivered a schedule for filling the remaining gaps, and the Finnish NSG will follow the situation closely.

Figure 1 Summary of the monitoring exercise

S C C R E	Response Rate	Implementation Status of the standards	Are all milestones 1 to 11 inclusive achieved?	Will the last milestone 13 be Implemented on time (i.e. by 18 November 2024)?
Custodians	100%	Implemented 59.73% Implementation started 17.84% Analysis started 22.3% Analysis not started 0.14% Replies not submitted 0% Mon applicable standards 17.04%	Average % of milestones achieved 68%	% of custodians on time 50%
Issuers	75%	Aware of obligations 43.94% Not aware of obligations 31.06% Replies not submitted 25%	NA (milestones irrelevant for issuers)	NA
CSD - Euroclear Finland	Survey submitted	Implemented 83.13% Implementation started 0% Analysis started 16.87% Analysis not started 0% Non applicable standards 28.76%	No	12/27

CSD – Euroclear Finland

Euroclear Finland's Infinity roadmap for 2024 focuses on product stabilization, ECMS, Swift and fulfilling SCoRE standards. The outcome of the Future Dividend Model -project (October 2023 –October 2024) may have an effect on the roadmap, as the different potential dividend model outcomes from the project would require different amounts of resources from Euroclear Finland.

Custodians

Euroclear Finland implementation of the corporate action standard is not fully on schedule Custodians are preparing for ECMS launch in November

Finnish custodians reported compliance with several of the Standards. Although there are some gaps, the preparations for ECMS launch in November 2024 are proceeding according to plan. Euroclear Finland has, in joint operation with Bank of Finland, enabled ECMS community testing since spring 2024 with multiple corporate action testing rounds completed successfully allowing all counterparties to execute their own test scenarios. Testing remains possible until the planned go-live of the ECMS.

Issuers

The Finnish NSG's increased cooperation with issuers did not lead to issuers participating in H2 2024 SCoRE monitoring exercise

The Finnish NSG has actively promoted the importance of SCoRE monitoring process to issuers. Although The Advisory Board of Finnish Listed Companies or the issuer companies it represents did not participate the H2 2024 SCoRE monitoring exercise, the listed companies have been actively involved in the Future Dividend Model -project managed by the Finnish NSG in cooperation with Euroclear Finland. Unfortunately, the Future Dividend Model -project failed to find a consensus on the dividend model, and eventually the Task Force was discontinued in November 2024. Although no consensus was reached, the NSG has continued unofficial negotiations with the issuer community and other stake holders.

The Bank of Finland implementation of the SCoRE Standards for Corporate Actions

for its collateral management activities depends on Euroclear Finland's

NCB

The Bank of Finland adoption of the SCoRE Standards is proceeding

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Compliance level with the standards

implementation of the standards.

This section provides an overview of the current status of compliance with the corporate actions standards. CSDs and TPAs are monitored on an individual basis and are assigned a colour-code status in accordance with the methodology outlined in figure 2 below. Custodians and Issuers are too many to represent individually. Thus the replies of custodians and issuers from the AMI-SeCo community participating in the monitoring are presented on an aggregated basis per market and assigned a percentage representing their compliance status.

Figure 2

Standards implementation status as defined in the AMI-SeCo framework document

S C R E B O A R D

SINGLE COLLATERAL MANAGEMENT RULEBOOK FOR EUROPE

- The Standard has been implemented
- Implementation of the Standard is on schedule (based on the agreed milestones)
- Implementation is behind schedule (based on the agreed milestones)
- Implementation has not started

Table 1

Compliance level with the standards by each entity type

STANDARD	Custodians	Issuers	CSD - Euroclear Finland
1A: Notification	95%	25%	Y
1B: Instruction	100%		В
1C: Advise	71%		Y
1D: Confirmation	65%		Y
1E: Reversal	50%		N/A
1F: Meeting Notification	100%	25%	В
1G: Meeting Instruction	100%		В
1H: Meeting Results	100%		В
2: Calculation of Proceeds	81%	50%	Y
3: Consistency of Information	67%	50%	Y
4: Rounding Rule 1	100%	50%	В
4: Rounding Rule 2	100%	50%	В
4: Rounding Rule 3	100%	50%	В
4: Rounding Rule 4	100%	50%	В
4: Rounding Rule 5	100%	50%	В
5: Negative Cash Flows	100%	25%	В
6: Business Day Rule		75%	В
7: Securities Amount Data Rule 1		75%	В
7: Securities Amount Data Rule 2		75%	В
7: Securities Amount Data Rule 3		75%	В
7: Securities Amount Data Rule 4		75%	В
8: Payment Time Rule 1		50%	В
8: Payment Time Rule 2		75%	В
8: Payment Time Rule 3		50%	В
8: Payment Time General Principle 3		25%	В
9: Processing Status	75%	50%	Y
10: Rule 1	100%		В
10: Rule 2	100%		В
10: Rule 3	75%		В
11: Default Option	100%	75%	В
12: Handling of Fees	50%		N/A
13: Reversal	100%	25%	N/A
14: Foreign Currency			В
15: ISO 20022 Messaging	65%		Y

Notes:

For CSDs and TPAs the colour-code reflects the current implementation status of each Standard in accordance with the methodology outlined in figure

2 above. TPAs are using custody services provided by CSDs or Custodians in order to disseminate CA information to Collateral Givers and Collateral Takers. Monitoring of TPAs thus focuses on the implementation of triparty specific workflows described in Standard 1. For custodians, the % indicates the percentage of custodians which have implemented the standard or have the standard under development and implementation.

Issuers were asked to confirm awareness of their obligation to provide all relevant information to the Issuer CSD (on a Yes/No basis). The % reflects the number of issuers who responded yes to the survey Percentages are calculated on the basis of expected respondents, i.e. number of entities monitored in the market.

3 Progress towards the milestones

This section tracks market stakeholders progress in implementing the Standards against the 13 set milestones identified by AMI-SeCo.

The milestones facilitate consistent implementation across markets (given the longterm efforts that are needed) and avoids issues remaining undetected until the deadline to achieve compliance and implementation of the standards.

Table 2 Milestones identified by AMI-SeCo

Vilestone	Description	Date
11	Analysis Started: Have you commenced an in-depth analysis of all applicable SCoRE Standards in order to identify and document all the changes required to internal processes and procedures in order to comply with the SCoRE Standards?	
12	Initial Communication: Has initial high-level communication with external stakeholders on the changes introduced by SCoRE commenced?	01/03/2021
13	Analysis Completed: Have you completed an in-depth analysis of all applicable SCoRE Standards?	31/07/2021
14	Documentation Completed: Have you documented all the internal processes and procedures which need to be adapted in order to comply with the SCoRE Standards?	31/12/2021
15	Detailed External Communication: Has detailed communication started regarding (i) upcoming changes in business processes, (ii) messaging formats and usage guidelines (in the case of new messages based on non-registered latest drafts by SWIFT) and (iii) planned testing activities been provided to users?	31/12/2021
16	SCoRE Adaptation Started: Have you started to adapt/develop the processes and procedures in order to comply with the SCoRE Standards?	01/01/2022
17	SCoRE Adaptation Complete: Have you completed the necessary adaptations/developments for the processes and procedures in order to comply with the SCoRE Standards?	30/06/2022
18	Internal Testing Started for SCoRE: Have you started to test the changes to your internal processes and procedures which have been introduced in order to comply with the SCoRE Standards?	01/07/2022
9	Internal Testing Complete for SCoRE: Have you completed the necessary internal testing?	10/03/2023
110	External Testing Started for SCoRE: Are you in a position to test the changes introduced in order to comply with the SCoRE Standards with your user community (i.e. CSD participants / Collateral Givers and Collateral Takers in the context of the Standards applicable to TPAs)?	22/05/2023
111	Final External Communication on SCoRE: has final communication to users been provided (i.e. updated user guide to reflect the changes implemented, final message usage guidelines for A2A communication) related to the SCoRE Standards?	22/05/2023
12	External Testing Completed for SCoRE: Is the testing of the changes introduced in order to comply with the SCoRE Standards with your user community completed (i.e. CSD participants / Collateral Givers and Collateral Takers in the context of the Standards applicable to TPAs)?	20/09/2024
13	SCoRE Standards Implemented: have the SCoRE Standards been implemented?	18/11/2024

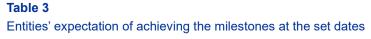
The current H2 2024 monitoring exercise focuses on milestones 1 to 11 given that Milestone 11 "Final external communication on SCoRE" (with a deadline of 22 May 2023) was meant to have been achieved by the time the survey closed. The findings of the monitoring exercise reflect the Milestones roadmap in place by the time the

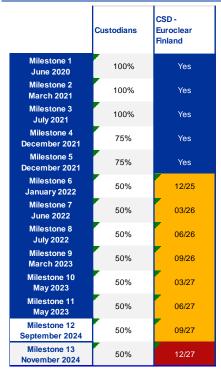
survey closed (i.e., 13 September 2024) and do not yet consider the AMI-SeCo reflections on the rescheduling of the existing SCoRE Standards implementation deadline from 18 November 2024 to 16 June 2025.

In each survey round, all the entities are asked to confirm (on a yes/no basis) whether the milestones will be met by the set milestones dates. If it is not the case, they are also asked the expected date for when the milestone will be reached.

For the milestones which had to be achieved by the time the survey closed: the blue colour code is assigned to those milestones that have been successfully achieved. Milestones that will only be achieved later than their set deadline are assigned a yellow status with indication of the likely date of achievement.

For the milestones that are only due to be achieved after the current reporting cycle: the green colour code indicates that the entity anticipates achieving that future milestone on time. A yellow status indicates that the milestone is foreseen to be met later than the set milestone date. In this case, the date of achievement anticipated is also indicated in the table.





4 Concluding remarks

There is a delay in implementing the milestones which seems to jeopardise compliance with all the standards by November 2024. Despite the numerous uncertainties related to the milestones, the Finnish market is moving in the right direction.

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For specific terminology please refer to the ECB glossary (available in English only).