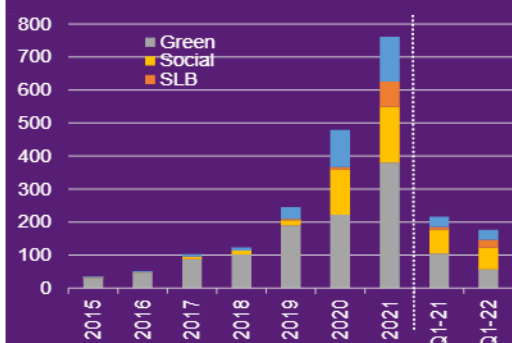


Green Bonds Review

April 2022



New issuance (€bn-eq) by type of ESG bonds



Sources : Bloomberg, Natixis

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Q1-22: Market enters a more mature phase

New green & sustainable bonds issuance by currencies & sectors

- We consider green, social, sustainability and sustainability-linked bonds as “green & sustainable” (G&S) in the entire document.
- For the first time in their history, **G&S bonds recorded a significant YoY decline in new issuance in Q1-22**: indeed, **total G&S supply dropped by 18% vs Q1-21** (although almost in line with the overall primary market decline), is a sign that **central banks’ normalization policies** and **the war in Ukraine** have not spared the Green bond dynamics.
- In a declining primary market overall in terms of volume, **some segments are still gaining traction**. The issuance volume in **sustainability-linked bonds (SLBs)** has **almost tripled** in Q1-22 vs Q1-21 at 24bn €-eq.
- The supply of European sovereign and covered bonds in GSS formats fell substantially in Q1-22. The lack of syndicated deal so far (only taps) largely explains this phenomenon for the former. Regarding the latter, financial issuers tend to frontload their annual funding plan in anticipation of ECB’s tightening monetary policy, favouring then the size through Conventional covered bonds. In addition, issuers favored the senior unsecured format for their green issuances.

G&S bonds in primary markets

- The pricing differences between G&S bonds and their conventional peers are **much less pronounced** for some euro-denominated issuances and **in favour of the conventional format** (for the first time) in other cases.

Greenium: the recent trends

- **The Greenium has expanded by 1 bp in the € corporate market during Q1-22**. It increased when credit spreads widened during the central bank’s normalization process earlier this year. **Green and sustainability bonds benefit from higher Greenium than social bonds and above all SLBs**.
- On the other hand, **Green sovereign bonds have been underperforming their conventional counterparts**, while the former suffered from a large widening of bid/offer spreads YtD. **Green covered bonds perform roughly the same way than conventional peers after launch**.

What’s next?

- **We expect a sizeable increase in bonds issuance in Q2** as **Austria** will be launching its **first Green RAGB**, The Netherlands will reopen their DSL 1/40 for a €5Bn an amount in June and **Belgium** could follow up as well with a **new 15Y to 25Y Green OLO**. **W keep in mind the potential issuance of the first ever Green linker by the French Treasury**.

Food-for-thought

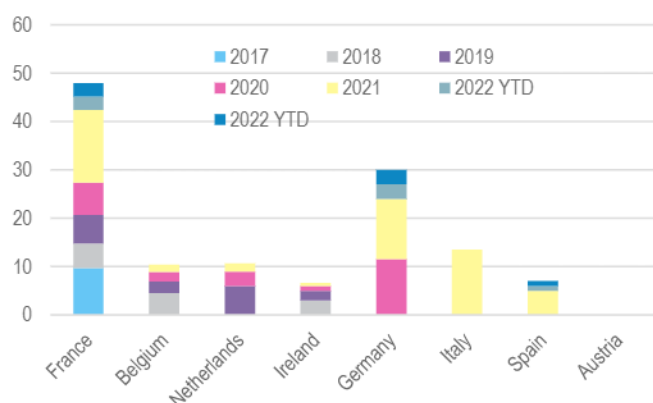


- Will the pricing differences between G&S and conventional format attenuate as the market becomes more mature?
- What does the acceleration in the energy transition mean for the supply from the EU in GSS format?

Focus on Eurozone sovereign debt: towards a strong increase in green supply in Q2

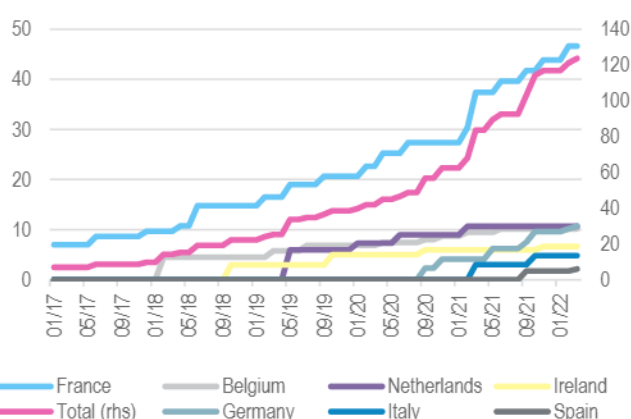
- The supply of European sovereign Green bonds during Q1 has been rather small compared to historical standards, with **only €6.8Bn offered versus €21Bn in Q1 2021** and €13.7Bn in Q4 2021. Of course, the lack of syndicated deal so far (we had only taps) explains this phenomenon, alongside the fact that the market is of course “maturing” as the number of newcomers decreases. Still, only 11% of the yearly Green issuance program (we expect €61Bn in 2022) has been done by the end of Q1 (vs. 42% one year ago) which means that **sovereigns are late and will have to increase their supply of Green bonds in the next two quarters**.
- France, Germany and Spain have been the sole sovereign issuers on a YTD basis with roughly €3Bn of Bund & OAT issued against €1Bn of SPGB 7/42. In terms of maturity, once again, all bonds were issued on the 10Y point and beyond, the longest bond being the Bund 8/50. The 3 issuers have been completed from 19% to 24% of their Green program while other European sovereigns are still in the starting blocks but are readying themselves for Q2, alongside the EU which issued €6Bn of a new 20Y Green bond (maturity April 2043).
- The EU has indeed raised €28.5Bn this year, of which €8.5Bn of Green bonds, or 30% of the total which is in line with the 33% target of the Institution. With €22,5Bn to go before the end of H1, the **EU should be issuing an additional €6-7Bn of Green bonds in Q2** (€12-13Bn in total), with at least a tap of the new EU Green 2043. In this context the next syndicated deal could be done either on June or July.
- Regarding the upcoming supply of sovereign Green bonds, we expect a **sizeable increase in bonds issuance in Q2** as Austria will be launching its **first Green RAGB**, The **Netherlands will reopen their DSL 1/40** for a €5Bn amount in June and **Belgium could follow up** as well with a new 15Y to 25Y Green OLO. Of course, we keep in mind the potential issuance of the first ever Green linker by the French Treasury as well but we are not sure it will be issued during Q2 as the **expected sovereign Green supply, without this deal, is likely to exceed €20Bn**. Making Q2 the biggest quarter ever in terms of Green € sovereigns supply.
- Regarding sovereign greeniums, Q1 and early Q2 have been nice revelators. In a market context characterized by a lower liquidity, higher volatilities and strong upside pressures on yield, the **bid-offer spread of Green bonds has been widening quite a lot**, as illustrated by the **G4** chart below, while **Green bonds have been underperforming standard bonds**. We can imagine having the EU issuing billions of Green bonds makes any core or soft-core Green bonds less special, hence the progressive reduction of the premium on sovereign issues.

G1: Current Eurozone greenbond market



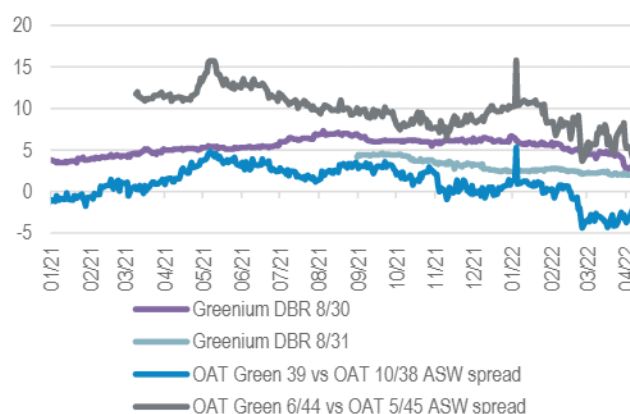
Source: Natixis

G2: Evolution of the outstanding of eurozone green bonds



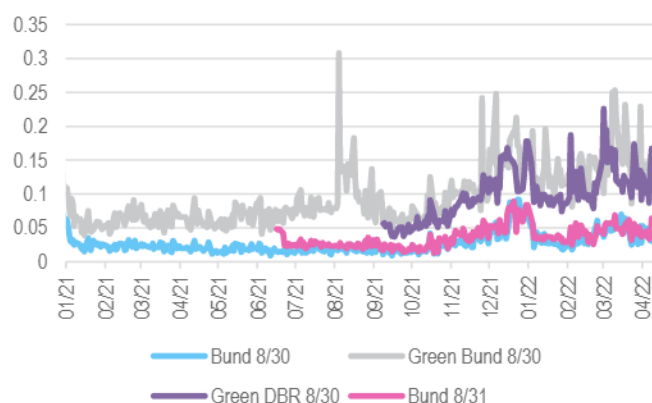
Source: Natixis

G3: Euro sovereigns greenium



Source: Natixis

G4: Green bond issuance in percentage of total EZ issuances

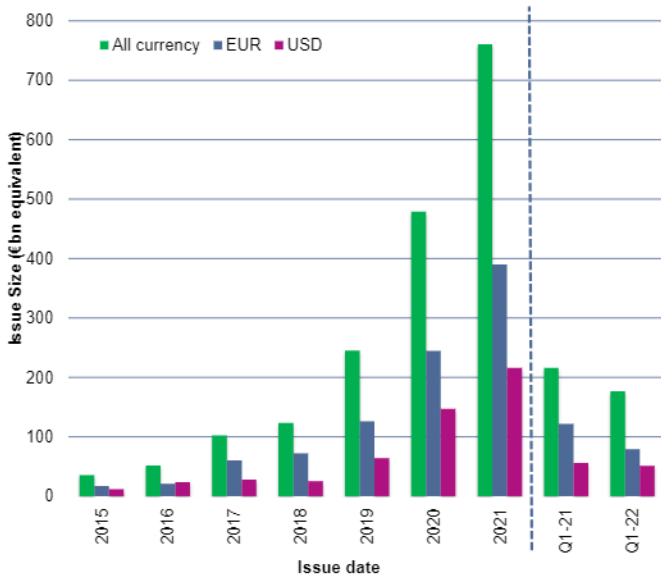


Sources: Bloomberg, Natixis

G&S bonds: trends in new issuance and outstanding

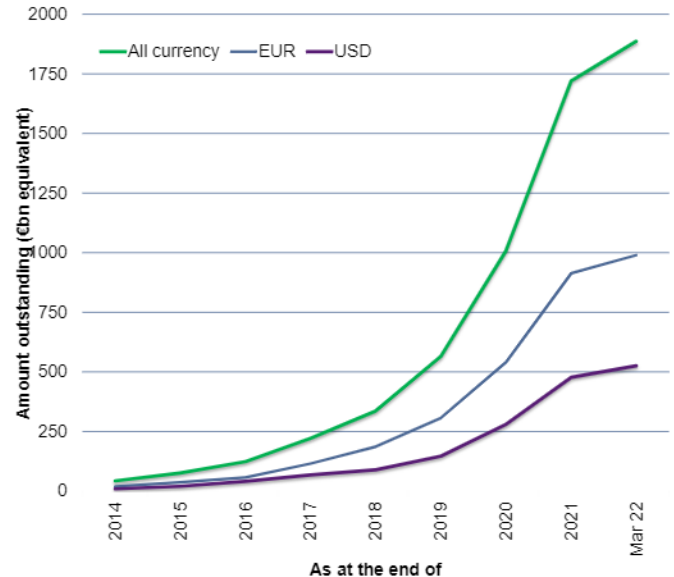
- For the first time in their history, **G&S bonds recorded a significant YoY decline in new issuance in Q1-22**: indeed, total G&S supply dropped by 18% vs Q1-21 (although almost in line with the overall primary market decline), in a sign that central banks' normalization policies and the war in Ukraine have not spared the Green bond dynamics. **€-denominated G&S supply has declined even faster** (-34%, see G5).
- On the other hand, the total outstanding of G&S bonds (graph G6) continues to increase: it has reached **1.89trn €-eq end Q1-22**, a **10% increase vs end 2021 levels**. It is worth noticing that the G&S total outstanding is expanding faster in GBP and in USD than in Euro.
- In a declining primary market overall in terms of volume, **some segments are still gaining traction**. The issuance volume in **sustainability-linked bonds (SLBs) has almost tripled** in Q1-22 vs Q1-21 at 24bn €-eq (see chart G8 below), including more than €15bn denominated in Euro. Sustainability bonds have also been gaining market share (from 14% in Q1-21 to 17% in Q1-22), at the expense of Green bonds mainly (from 48% to 32% market share for the same periods).
- France, suprationals and Germany** (see graph G7) are the "countries" reporting the biggest increase in G&S bond outstanding in Q1-22, mainly thanks to agencies in France (11bn €-eq issuance from Cades notably), while the G&S growth was more widespread in Germany (€7bn from corporate entities, €3bn from covered bonds, €5bn from financials).

G5: Green & sustainable bond issuance (by currency, €bn equivalent)



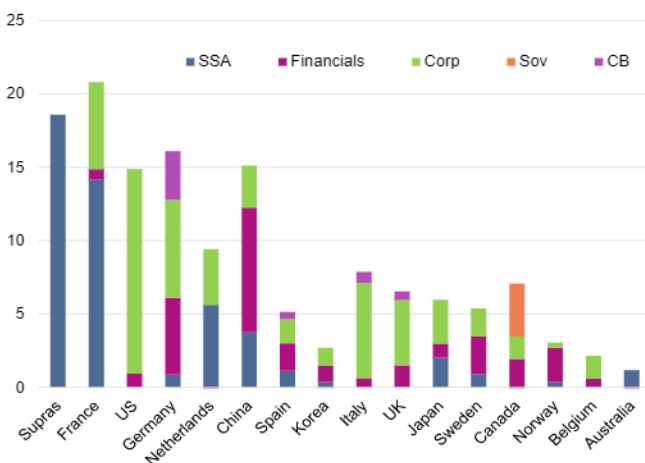
Sources : Bloomberg, Natixis

G6: Outstanding of green & sustainable bonds (by currency, €bn eq)



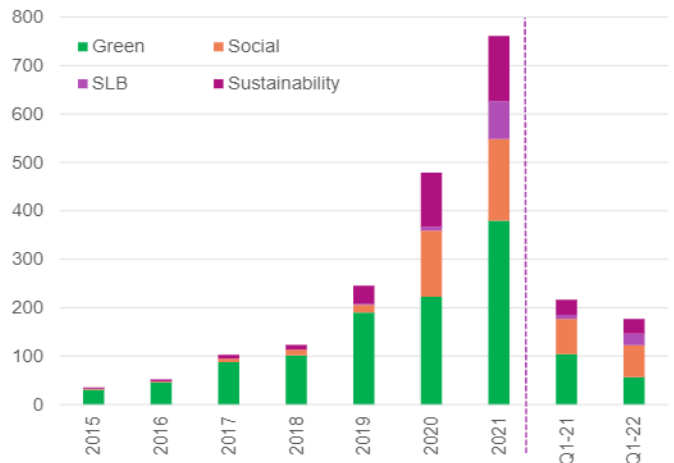
Sources : Bloomberg, Natixis

G7: change in outstanding (€bn Q1-21 vs FY2021) by country of domicile and sector



Sources : Bloomberg, Natixis

G8: Green & sustainable bonds issuance by type (all currencies, €bn equivalent)

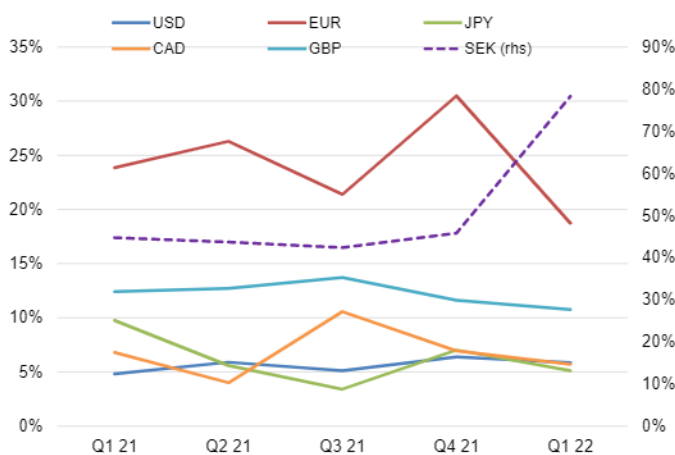


Sources : Bloomberg, Natixis

Green & sustainable bonds: share of total debt outstanding

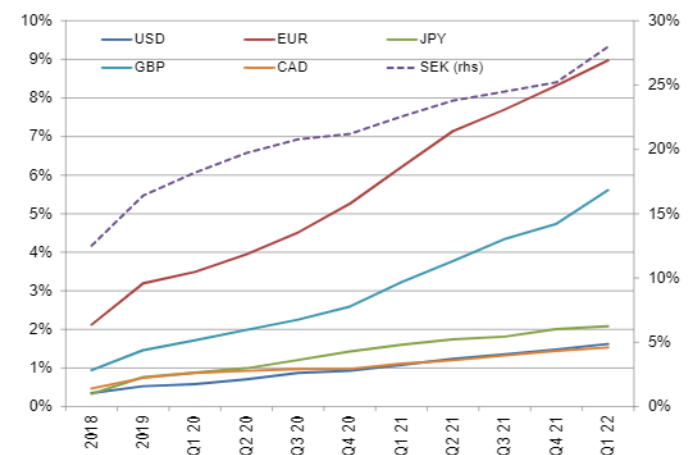
- The penetration rate of G&S issuance in total bond issuance (excluding sovereign debts) has decreased in almost all the currencies (see chart G9), except in SEK: in €, G&S issuance accounted for only 19% of all non-sovereign bond issuance, vs 24% in Q1 21.
- As shown on the chart G8, the penetration rate in the €-denominated primary market has dropped in all market segments, but particularly in covered bonds: less than 5% of new covered bond issuance in € was done in Green & sustainable formats (while the total € supply in CB has more than tripled vs Q1-21), compared with 15% on average over the past 4 quarters. G&S supply in financials excluding covered bonds was more resilient, with a penetration rate of 16% in Q1-22. However, the penetration rate of G&S bonds in total debt outstanding continues to grow. Although in decline too, **corporate non-financials** were actually the one to show the **lowest decline in G&S penetration rate**: it reached **36% in Q1-22** in a declining market overall (-22% for € corporate issuance vs Q1-21)... albeit lower than the peak reached in Q4-21 (46%), but it remains the **2nd highest penetration rate in the € G&S corporate history** (see chart G12 below).
- G&S bond outstanding continues to grow faster than the total market size: the former now accounts for 9% of the total non-sovereign debt outstanding denominated in € (see chart G10) vs 6.2% one year ago, and above 5% of the GBP outstanding.
- **Sector-wise (G11), agencies, supranationals, banks, utilities and real estate recorded the fastest growth in €-denominated G&S outstanding.** Supply in € G&S Real Estate bonds in Q1-22 was quite impressive at €11.4bn, almost twice as much as in Q1-21 with new G&S issuers tapping the market (P3Group and Logicor in €).

G9: Share of green & sustainable bonds in total bond issuance by currency, excluding sovereigns



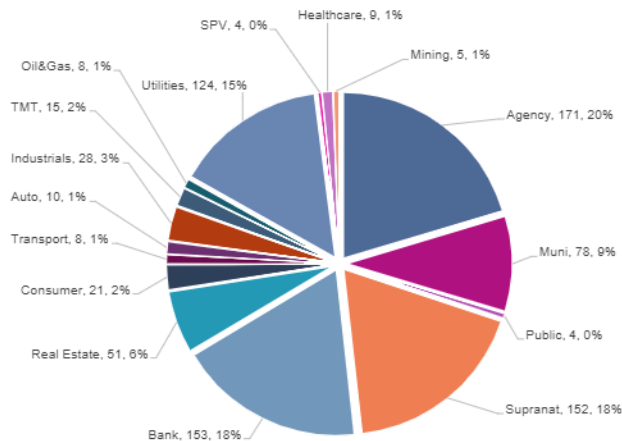
Sources: Dealogic, Bloomberg, Natixis. Note: SEK on the right-hand side.

G10: Share of green & sustainable bonds in total bond outstanding by currency, excluding sovereigns



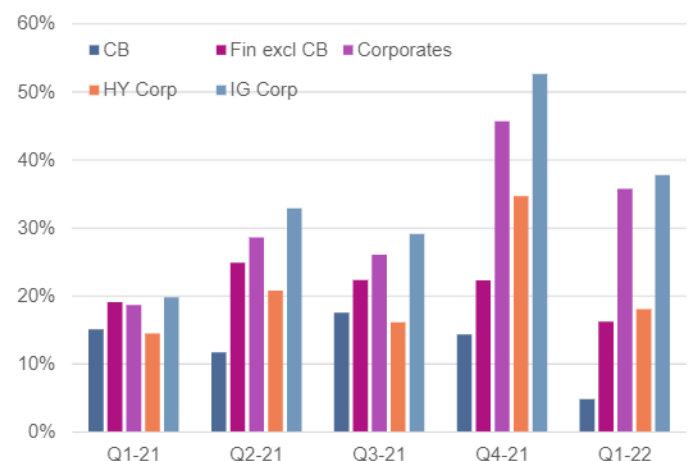
Sources: Dealogic, Bloomberg, Natixis. Note: SEK on the right-hand side.

G11: Outstanding of € G&S bonds by sector (in €bn) at end March 2022



Sources: Markit, Bloomberg, Natixis

G12: Penetration rate of G&S bonds in €-outstanding by segment

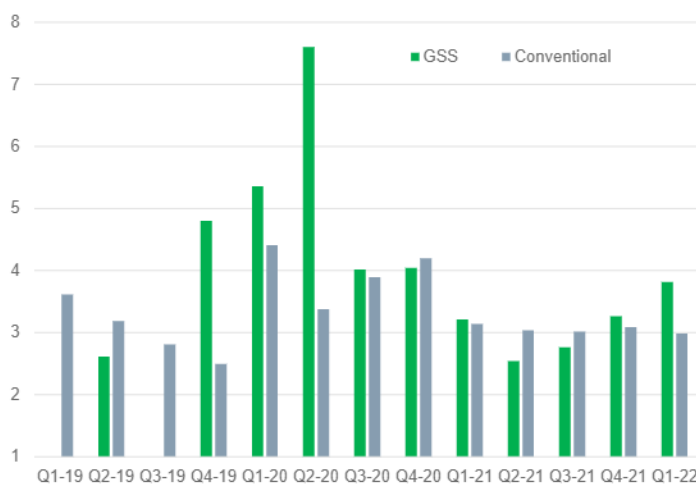


Sources: Bloomberg, Natixis

Focus on €-denominated A-rated Corporate debt

- **Oversubscription rates indicate the magnitude of investor appetite for bonds at the moment of their issuance.** While the investors' appetite for G&S bonds in this category significantly exceeded their demand for comparable conventional bonds between Q4-19 and Q2-20, both G&S and conventional bonds in this category were, on average, similarly sought after since Q3-20 and Q1-21. G&S bonds were slightly more sought-after during Q4-21 and the trend became more pronounced in Q1-22.
- **Spread compression between the time of the IPT and the time of pricing is closely related to oversubscription rates.** As part of the pricing process, bonds experience spread tightening. Stronger investor demand for a bond (reflected in higher oversubscription rates) results in a higher spread compression between the time of the IPT and the time of pricing. Euro-denominated G&S A-rated corporate bonds exhibited slightly higher spread compression versus the IPT than their conventional peers in Q1-22.
- **New issuance premium (NIP) refers to the extra yield received by the buyer (paid for by the seller) for a newly issued bond relative to how other bonds from the same issuer trade in the secondary market at the time a new bond is priced.** To calculate NIPs, we built z-spread curves for each issuer in our sample and interpolated the secondary curve on the maturity of the newly issued bond.
- **The pricing in primary markets is consistently in favour of the G&S format** compared to conventional issuances with similar characteristics as **the average NIPs exhibited by G&S €-denominated A-rated Corporate debt are consistently lower** than the issuance premia displayed by similar bonds in a conventional format, although the differences have been less pronounced since Q4-21.

G13: Oversubscription: G&S vs Conventional Bonds



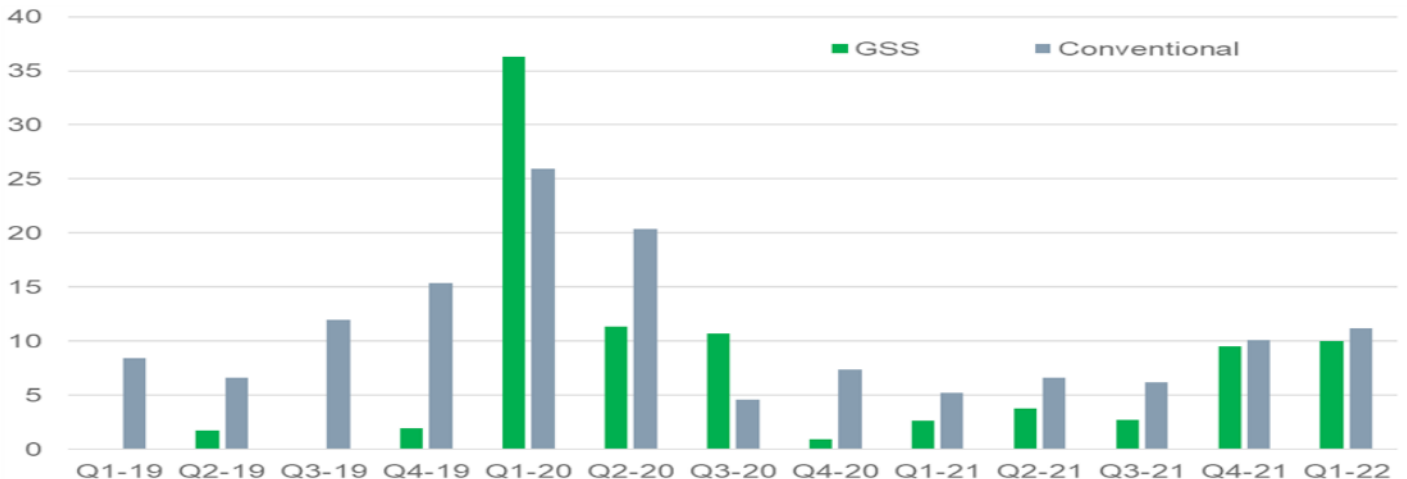
Sources: Bloomberg, Natixis

G14: Spread – IPT: G&S vs Conventional Bonds



Sources: Bloomberg, Natixis

G15: New issuance premium (NIP): G&S vs Conventional Bonds

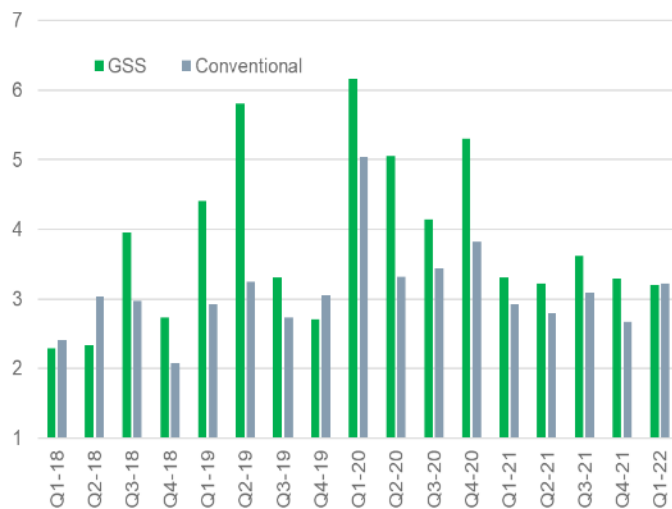


Sources: Bloomberg, Natixis

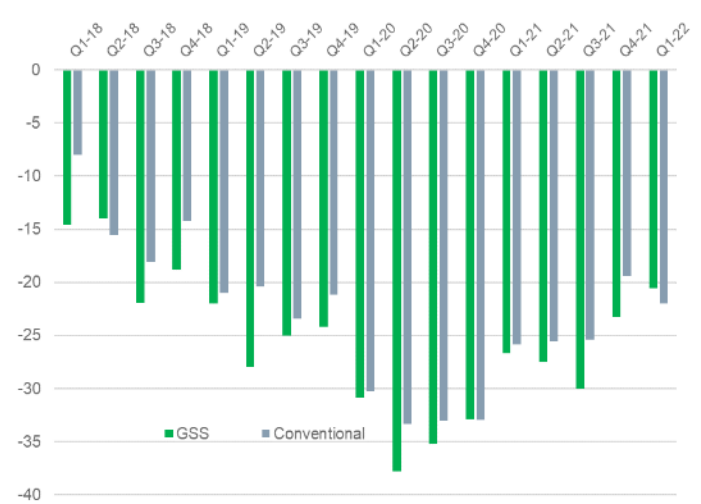
Focus on €-denominated BBB-rated Corporate debt

- Investor appetite for **G&S BBB-rated corporate debt** far exceeds their demand for similar conventional bonds as **G&S bonds** in this category exhibit, on average, a higher oversubscription rate in all but three quarters since the beginning of 2019. It was the case again in **Q1-22**, particularly for 7-year Pernod Ricard SLB (4.5x oversubscribed), 5-year CEZ SLB (5.3x oversubscribed) and 7-year EDP (4.9x oversubscribed).
- Despite the strong investor appetite, Euro-denominated G&S BBB-rated corporate bonds exhibited slightly lower spread compression versus the IPT than their conventional peers in Q1-22 (see chart G17).
- G&S bonds** in this category had consistently displayed a lower NIP than conventional bonds between **Q4-18 and Q4-21** but the trend has reversed for the first time in **Q1-22** (see chart G18), although name specifics explain part of that reversed trend. The highly oversubscribed above mentioned 5-year **CEZ** SLB displayed NIP of 29bp, the similarly sought-after 7-year **EDP** displayed NIP of 19bp. The much less sought after (merely 2.3x oversubscribed) 4-year green **Kojamo** displayed NIP of 27bp, the 8-year Green **NE Property** (2.6x oversubscribed) NIP of 28bp, and 4-year Green **CTP** (1.7x oversubscribed) NIP displayed NIP of 20bp, both issued on the same day (13th January).
- Furthermore, **Sustainability-linked issuances from SNAM** displayed high NIPs, in line with what has been observed previously for such issuances: 7-year SLB displayed NIP 22bp and 12-year SLB displayed NIP of 18bp.

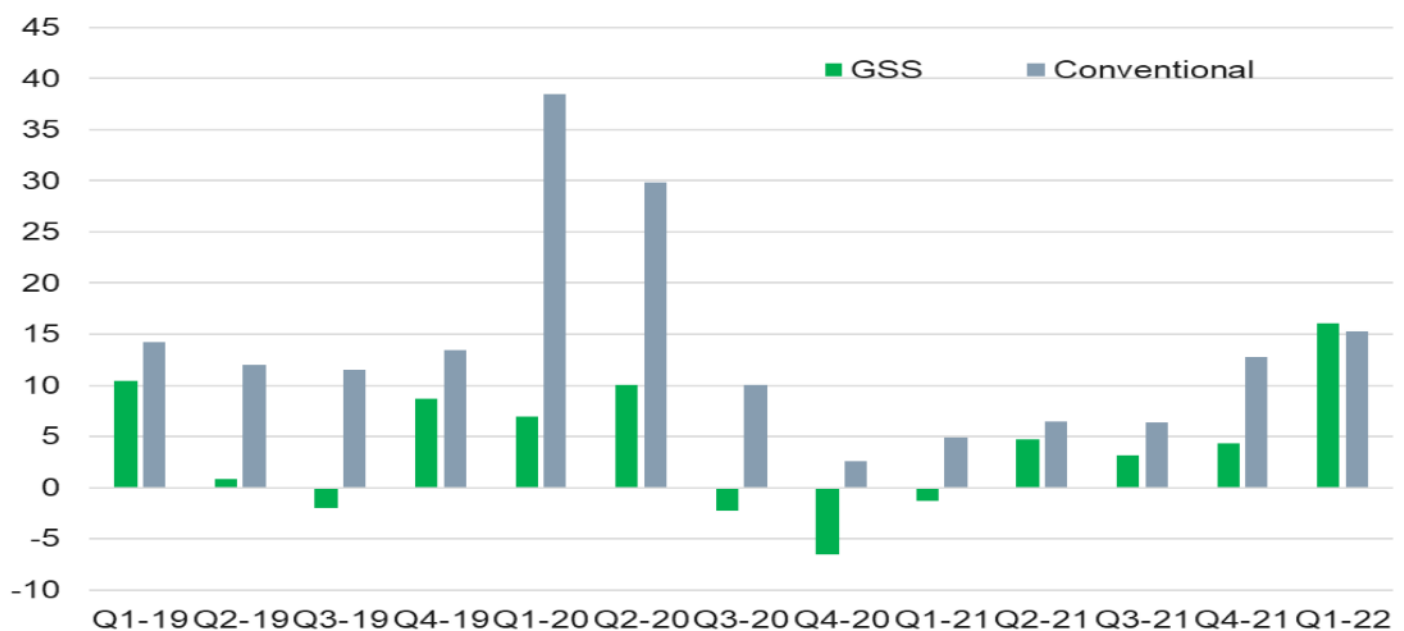
G16: Oversubscription: G&S vs Conventional Bonds



G17: Spread – IPT: G&S vs Conventional Bonds



G18: New issuance premium (NIP): G&S vs Conventional Bonds

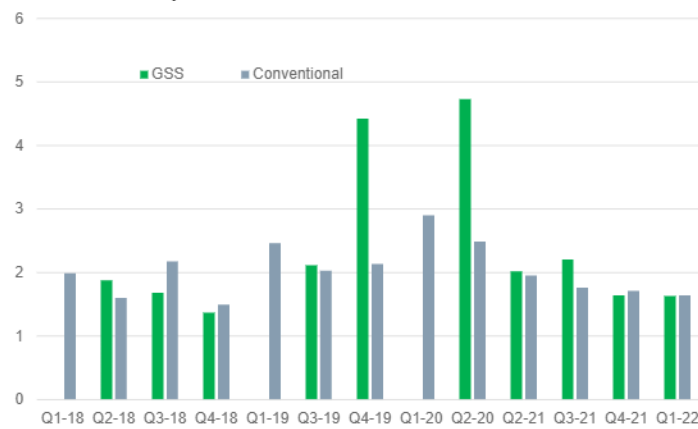


Sources: Bloomberg, Natixis

Focus on €-denominated Senior Preferred Financial debt

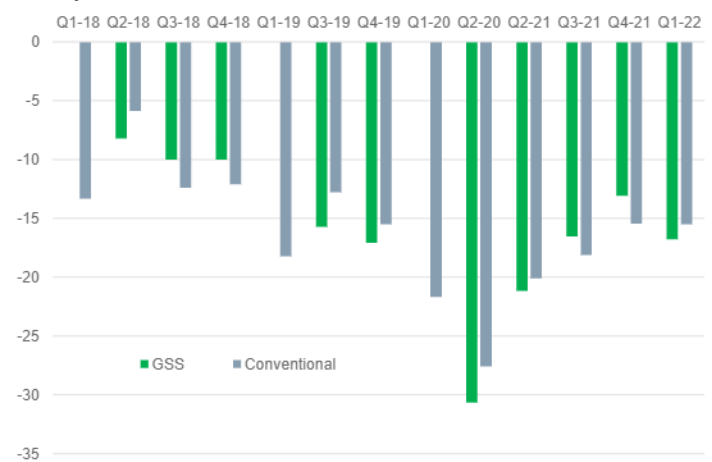
- ESG Senior Preferred issuances reached new record during this first quarter of 2022, totalling €5.15bn. However, this positive trend has been stopped early February.
- This quarter, subscription rates on average were in line with their conventional peers (BTC 1.6x for ESG and conventional bonds). The difference in oversubscription rates between G&S and conventional bond format in this category has become particularly pronounced throughout 2020 and much more attenuated throughout 2021.
- €-denominated G&S Senior Preferred Financial bonds experience, on average, slightly higher spread compression versus the IPT than their conventional peers. During this quarter, ESG issuers were able on average to tighten by c. 17bp vs 15.5bp for their conventional peers. This was also the case in every observed quarter since Q2-19, with the exception of Q3-21 and Q4-21. It is also worth mentioning that Berlin Hyp's green senior 5Y note issued mid-January at ms+30bp was able to price the tightest euro senior preferred transaction Year to date.
- Compared to the previous quarter, the average G&S NIPs returned to positive territory, even offering a slightly higher NIP than conventional bonds (c. 12bps vs 10bps respectively).

G19: Oversubscription: G&S vs Conventional Bonds



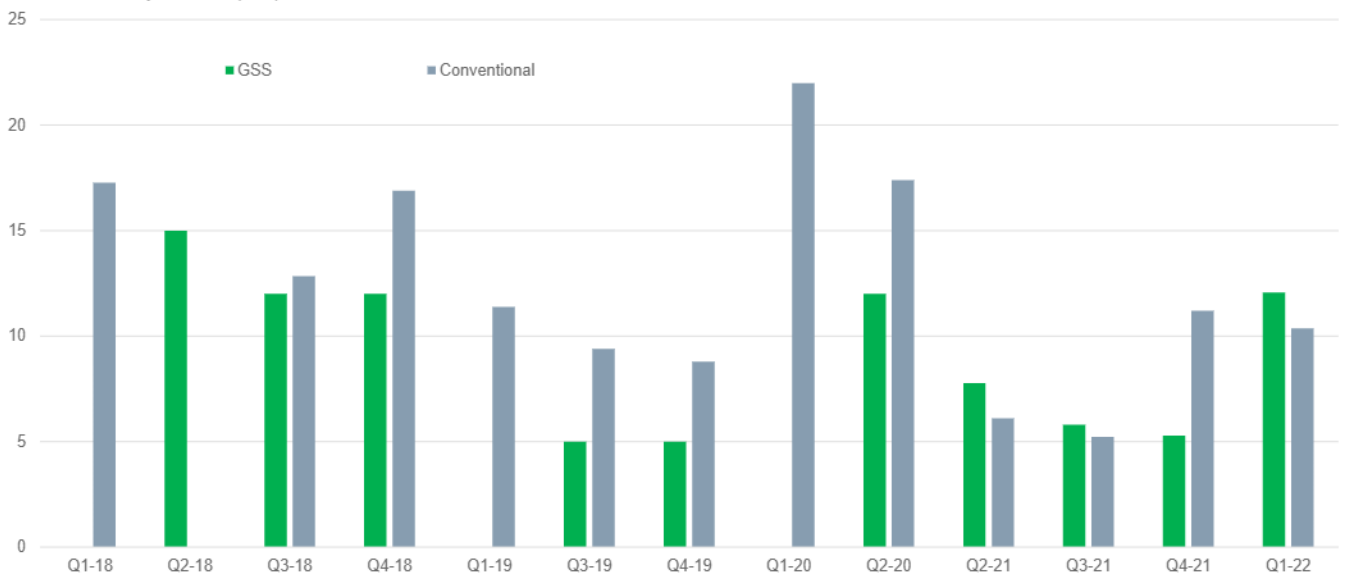
Sources: Bloomberg, Natixis

G20: Spread – IPT: G&S vs Conventional Bonds



Sources: Bloomberg, Natixis

G21: New issuance premium (NIP): G&S vs Conventional Bonds

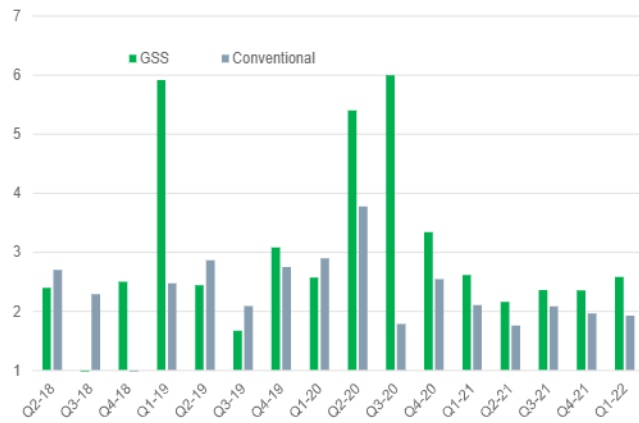


Sources: Bloomberg, Natixis

Focus on €-denominated Senior Non-Preferred Financial debt

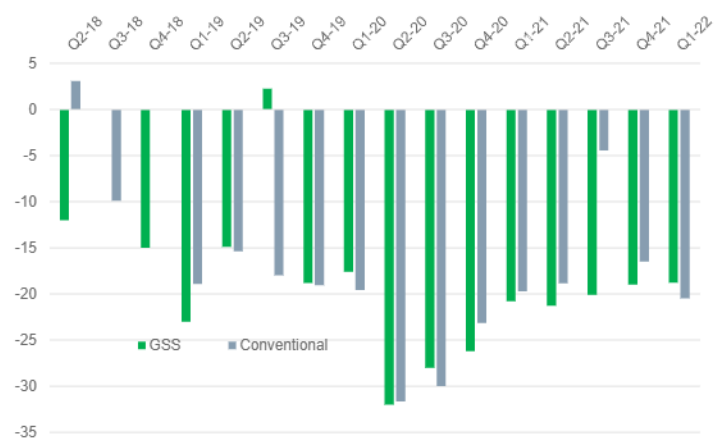
- Like senior preferred debts, **ESG Senior non-preferred registered their highest level of issuance on a quarterly basis, reaching €8.1bn**. Nordic issuers have been particularly active accounting for c.46% of the ESG deals.
- In terms of investors' appetite for G&S bonds, the latter benefited this quarter from a higher subscription rate than their conventional peers (BTC 2.4x vs 1.9x for conventional bonds)**. On March 16th, Sabadell was the first bank from a Southern European issuer to come back to the market after two months: it attracted a strong interest, totalling an orderbook of €4.2bn for its €7504 NC3 non-preferred green bond. The deal benefited from the highest BTC YTD for NPS transactions.
- Trends in average spread compression versus the IPT in this category are heterogeneous over time. In Q1-22, G&S issuances achieved lower average spread compression versus the IPT than their conventional peers** (19bp for ESG bonds vs 21 bp for conventional bonds).
- Average NIP increased significantly during this quarter, but we observed a slightly lower NIP for ESG bonds (c.16bp) than for conventional bonds (c.18bp).

G22: Oversubscription: G&S vs Conventional Bonds



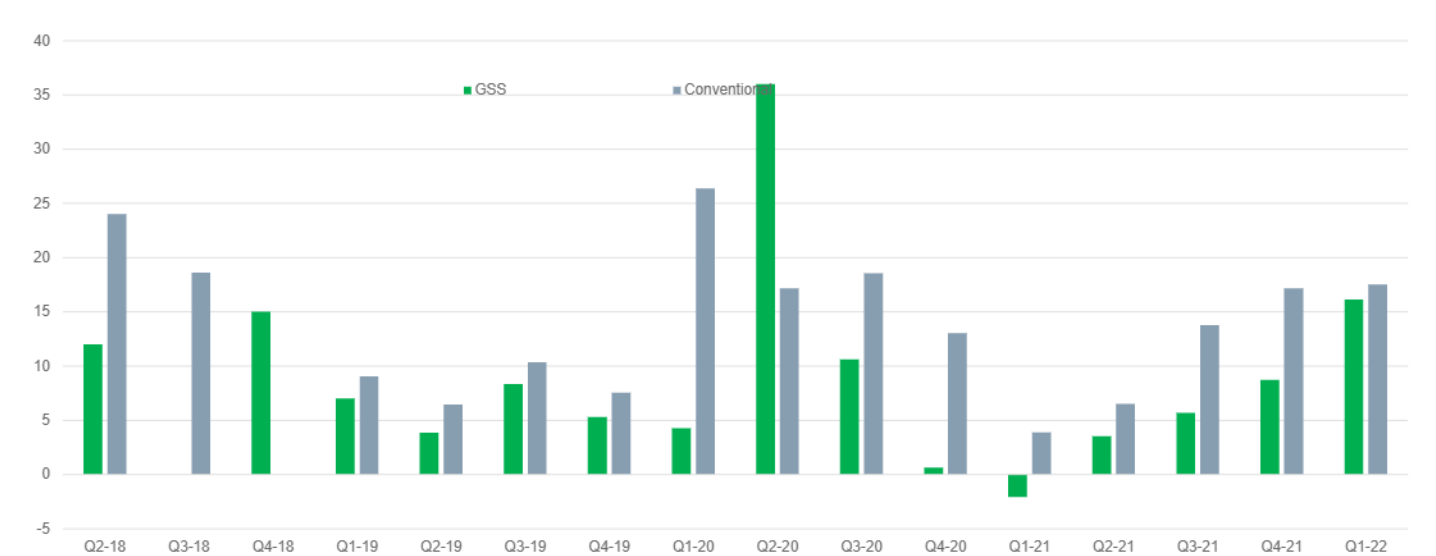
Sources: Bloomberg, Natixis

G23: Spread – IPT: G&S vs Conventional Bonds



Sources: Bloomberg, Natixis

G24: New issuance premium (NIP): G&S vs Conventional Bonds

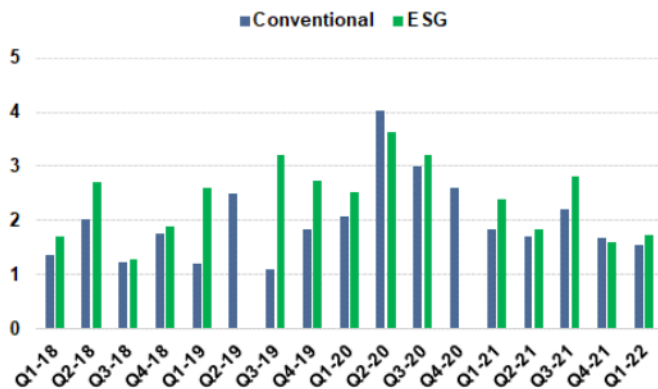


Sources: Bloomberg, Natixis

Focus on €-denominated Covered bonds

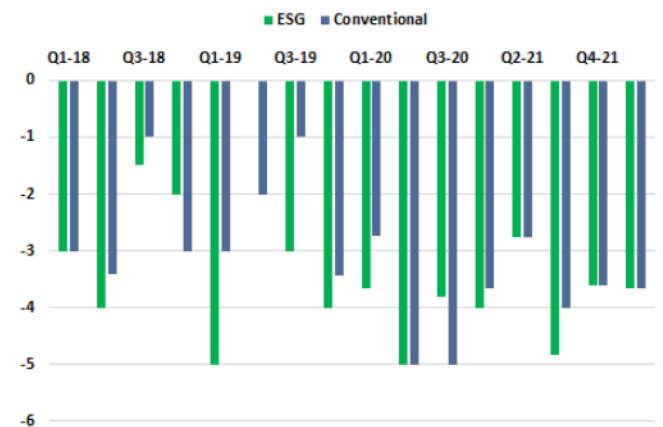
- ESG covered bond issuances reached €3.9bn in Q1-2022, decreasing by 9% compared to Q1-2021. Their share in the covered bond market also declined by 14% yoy compared to the same period last year representing now 5.1%. It can be explained by the exceptional level of Covered bonds issued since the beginning of the year (€76.3bn vs €22bn issued in Q1-21). Issuers tend to frontload their annual funding plan in anticipation of ECB's tightening monetary policy, favouring then the size through Conventional covered bonds. In addition, issuers favored the senior unsecured format for their green issuances.
- Among the five ESG transactions coming to this market this quarter, two were inaugural: **Banco BPM** issued its first euro green covered bond with a 5Y maturity, €750m at ms+23bp. and **DZ HYP** priced its inaugural green Mortgage Pfandbriefe : a 7Y €1bn at ms-1bp. The net proceeds for both deals will be used to finance and refinance green mortgages.
- By country, the largest **ESG issuers in terms of outstanding issue volume are in France (28%)**, followed by Germany (21%) and Norway (20%). Norway represents 20% of the ESG market while only seizing a 4% market share of the global covered bond market, just as South Korea represents 13% of the ESG market but has only issued ESG covered bonds. As a result, key covered bond players such as Canada are still absent from the ESG segment.
- With an average subscription ratio of 1.7x, investor demand for ESG covered bonds slightly strengthened compared to the previous quarter (1.6x), while demand for conventional covered bonds continued to weaken (1.5x vs 1.7x for Q4-21), notably following the ECB's hawkish stance and the conflict in Ukraine. That said, spread compression at launch remained stable compared to the previous quarters for both conventional and ESG covered bonds (3.7 bp on average). Regarding the new issue concession, ESG covered bonds offered on average a similar NIP as their conventional (c. 3bp on average).
- In terms of performance, **ESG covered bonds perform roughly the same way than conventional peers after launch** (0.2bp vs 0.3bp respectively).

G25: Average BTC: G&S vs Conventional Bonds



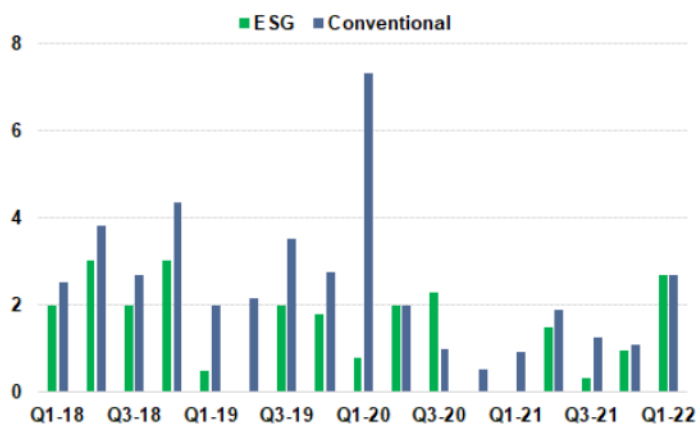
Sources: Bloomberg, Natixis

G26: Spread – IPT: G&S vs Conventional Bonds



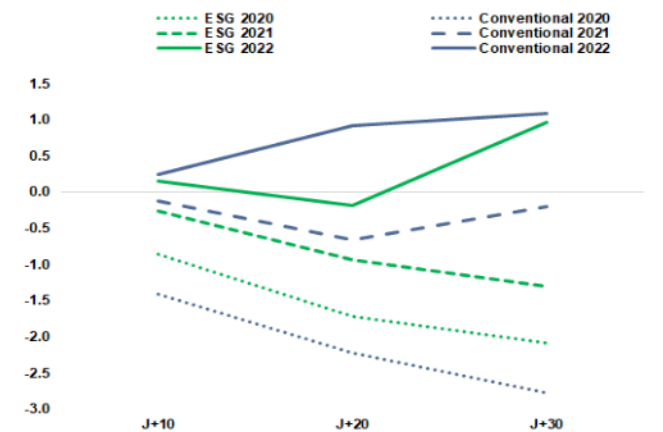
Sources: Bloomberg, Natixis

G27: New issuance premium (NIP): G&S vs Conventional Bonds



Sources: Bloomberg, Natixis

G28: Performance of new issues (1 month): G&S vs Conventional Bonds



Sources: Bloomberg, Natixis

Focus on Corporate Greenium

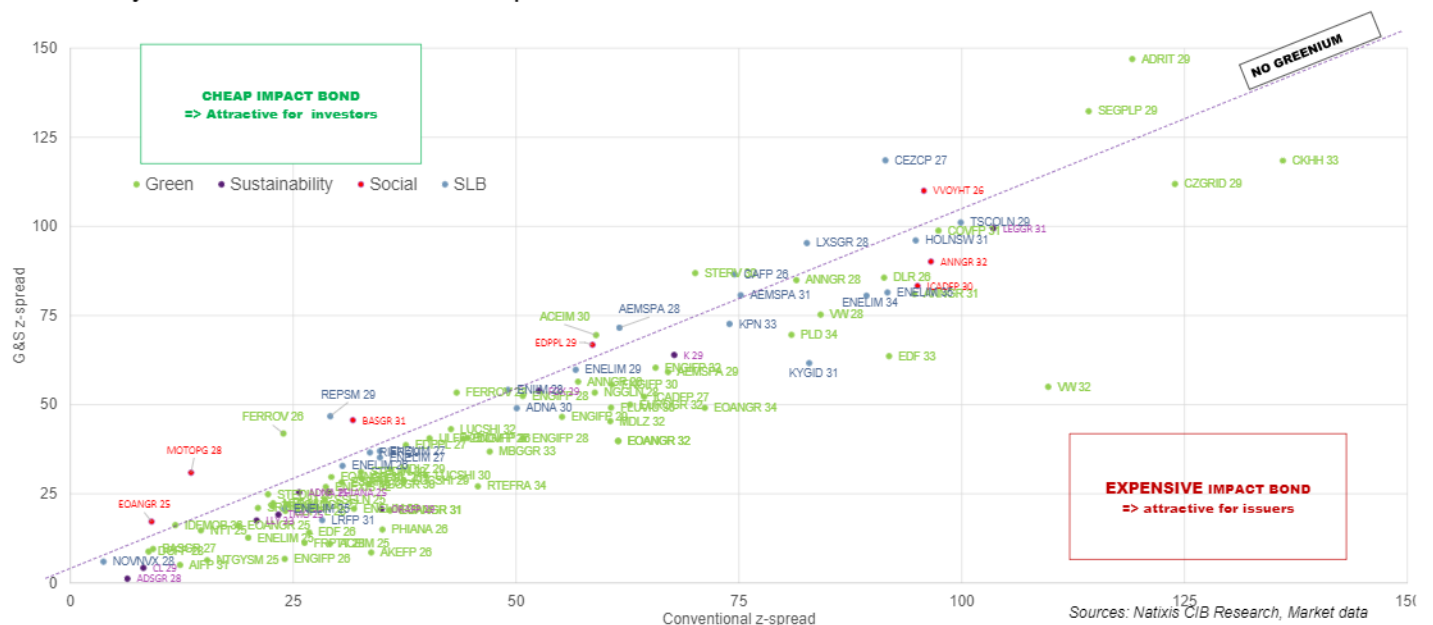
- The Greenium has significantly expanded in the € corporate market during Q1-22 (1 pb on average). It is worth noticing that the Greenium increased when credit spreads widened earlier in the year.

G29: New issuance premium (NIP): G&S vs Conventional Bonds



- 67% of secondary market Greenium are negative (i.e G&S Bonds trading tighter than their conventional counterparts) for corporate bonds in €, with the Greenium increasing with the maturity of the bond and its credit risk. Green and sustainability bonds benefit from higher Greenium than social bonds and above all SLBs, which display a premium vs equivalent conventional bonds. In particular, all recently issued SLBs (CAFP 26, LXSGR 28, AEMSPA 28, RIFP 29, SANFP 29, CEZCP 27) are all trading, so far, significantly wider than their respective conventional curves

G30: Secondary Market Greenium in €-denominated corporate non-financial bonds



Sources: Bloomberg, Natixis

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