

RatingsDirect®

Mediobanca SpA

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Table Of Contents

Major Rating Factors

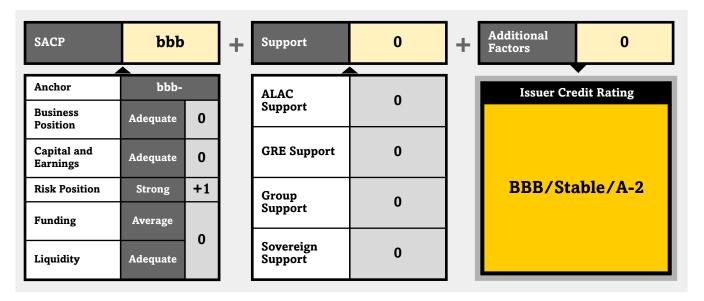
Outlook

Rationale

Related Criteria

Related Research

Mediobanca SpA



Major Rating Factors

Strengths:	Weaknesses:
Sound asset quality ratios.Satisfactory capitalization.Diversified business profile.	 Comparatively weaker creditworthiness of Italy. Single-name concentration. Higher reliance on wholesale funding than domestic peers.

Outlook: Stable

S&P Global Ratings' stable outlook on Italian bank Mediobanca SpA reflects our expectation that its asset quality will continue to outperform the Italian financial system average, in line with its track record, while preserving its sound capitalization in the next 24 months. We expect Mediobanca's risk-adjusted capital (RAC) ratio to remain above 8% over the same period.

We could raise the rating on Mediobanca if we raised the ratings on Italy and, at the same time, we considered that Mediobanca's capitalization had materially strengthened, leading our measure of the bank's RAC ratio to increase above 10%. We could also take this action if the operating environment in Italy improved, strengthening Mediobanca's creditworthiness and leading to a higher anchor for the bank.

We could lower the ratings if we downgraded Italy, as we consider Mediobanca unlikely to continue to fulfil its obligations in a timely manner in the event of an Italian sovereign default, given its domestic concentration. Although it appears unlikely at this stage, we could also lower our ratings on Mediobanca if we anticipated that its superior asset quality had deteriorated or if we anticipated that it would not be able to maintain its RAC ratio sustainably above 7%, most likely due to material expansion of its business that is not sustained by internal capital generation.

Rationale

The ratings on Mediobanca primarily reflect our view that it will maintain stronger-then-peers' asset quality and sound capitalization.

Mediobanca's superior asset quality is the result of its prudent risk selection process, strict controls, and efficient management of nonperforming exposures (NPEs). As a result, its stock of NPEs is considerably lower than peers. As of December 2017, its NPE ratio was 4.8% (or 5.5% including purchased NPLs), compared with an average 17% for Italian banks, and we expect Mediobanca to continue outperform its peers. That said, Mediobanca has demonstrated some single-name concentration in its equity and loan book, which adds some risk, in our view.

We expect Mediobanca to maintain satisfactory capitalization overall, in relation to its risk profile. Specifically, we forecast that its RAC ratio will be around 8.0%-8.5% in June 2019, down from about 9.1% as of June 2017 (pro forma calculation taking into account BICRA and sovereign parameters as of Feb. 26, 2018). Our forecast factors in Mediobanca's announced pay-out of about 40%-50% and our expectation that it will expand its retail or wealth management business. It also incorporates the benefits of the ongoing reduction in equity exposure.

We factor in that Mediobanca will expand further in the retail business and benefit from a solid domestic corporate and investment banking franchise. We anticipate that Mediobanca's successful completion of this business plan would allow it to improve its profitability prospects and its earnings stability.

Mediobanca has a higher-than-domestic-peers' recourse to wholesale funding--about 20% of its funding comes from bonds placed with institutional investors, 9% from deposits from the European Central Bank (ECB), and 13% from interbank deposits, as of Dec. 31, 2017. That said, its demonstrated capacity to obtain retail funds partly offsets this risk, in our view. In addition, Mediobanca's long-term funding maturities are well spread over time and we calculated that its broad liquid assets covered its short-term wholesale funding by more than 1x, as of end-June 2017.

Anchor: bbb-', based on its high exposure to Italy

Our view of economic risk for Mediobanca indicates that about around 75% of its exposure is to Italy. Much of its remaining exposure is to countries where we see lower economic risk than in Italy, such as France, Germany, and the U.K.

We expect that the Italian economy will continue to recover from the past recession, supporting Italian banks' efforts to repair their balance sheets. This process will be gradual, in our view, as Italy's GDP might take another four years to return to its prerecession level. High government debt of around 130% of GDP is likely to continue to constrain the government's flexibility to adjust its fiscal policy to support economic growth. In such a context, we would need to see more evidence of a substantial further contraction of NPEs before considering that the economic risks faced by Italian banks have reduced.

Industry risks for Italian banks are likely to remain higher than for banks in peer countries.

Better economic conditions, improving asset quality, banks' planned actions on cost-cutting, and the ECB's accommodating measures will help the Italian banking sector to improve its profitability over the next couple of years. However, we expect most banks to report only modest profitability, because ultralow interest rates will continue to weigh on revenues, while investments in digitalization and costs arising from new regulatory requirements will become an increasing burden, particularly for small-to-midsize enterprises (SMEs). Improving efficiency will therefore remain key for the Italian banking sector and could lead to further consolidation in the coming years, in our opinion.

Table 1

Mediobanca SpA Key Figures												
			Year-ended June 30									
(Mil. €)	2017*	2017	2016	2015	2014							
Adjusted assets	71,523.4	69,893.4	69,365.7	70,300.4	70,054.6							
Customer loans (gross)	40,737.2	39,639.7	35,772.7	34,914.7	33,369.4							
Adjusted common equity	7,634.6	7,356.6	7,027.4	6,808.4	6,536.7							
Operating revenues	1,175.5	2,210.1	2,087.7	2,004.5	1,790.9							
Noninterest expenses	549.1	1,132.2	983.7	917.5	852.1							
Core earnings	411.4	640.1	578.9	480.5	232.5							

^{*}Data as of Dec. 31

Business position: Strong corporate and investment banking franchise complemented by growing retail banking activity

Mediobanca's business and geographic diversification will continue to increase in the next couple of years, as the bank focuses on implementing its 2016-2019 business plan.

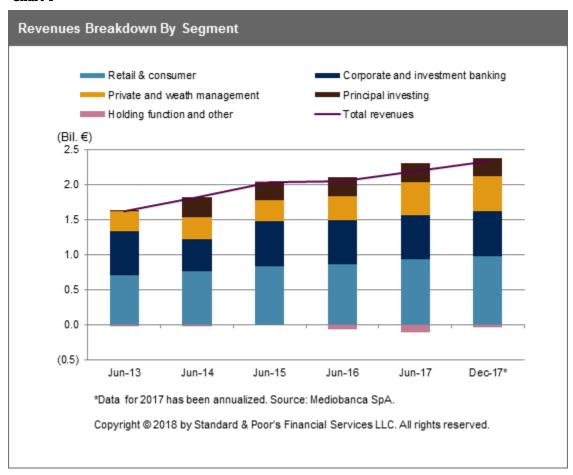
In line with its business plan, Mediobanca is gradually expanding its retail banking operations, which it has developed via long-term organic growth and the acquisition of a portion of Barclays' Italian assets in late 2015. Increasing its retail business reduces Mediobanca's higher-than-domestic peers' exposure to potential revenues volatility deriving from its investment banking activity. Expansion in the retail business thus enhances both the bank's funding structure and its revenue base, in our view.

Asset management also represent a growing business segment for Mediobanca, which has recently made two acquisitions in this area. It announced the acquisition of the remaining 50% of Banca Esperia, a private bank, in late 2016. Following the acquisition announced in November 2017, Mediobanca is currently integrating RAM Active Investments S.A., a small investment manager based in Switzerland. We expect asset management to be the focus of Mediobanca's expansion over the next couple of years.

We consider Mediobanca's expansion in this area to be positive because it would improve its profitability prospects and its earnings stability while interest rates remain low. That said, competition in the segments where Mediobanca operates is intensifying, which we anticipate could make it harder for the bank to fully achieve its business targets.

In addition, Mediobanca continues to benefit from a strong corporate and investment banking business position. The bank has been able to preserve a solid domestic franchise, despite intense competition. It has achieved organic international growth over the past few years that we expect to continue over the plan horizon. We consider increasing geographic diversification to be a positive rating factor.

Chart 1



Mediobanca also announced its intention to reduce to about 10% its stake in Italian insurer Assicurazioni Generali SpA (Generali), from the current 13%. As of December 2017, Generali contributed about 10% to total revenues.

We expect the above-mentioned initiatives will improve Mediobanca's earnings stability and profitability prospects, more than offsetting the lower profits it will report after disposing of part of its Generali stake.

Table 2

75 T 1					
Mediobanca SpA Business Position					
		Y	ear-end	ed June	30
(%)	2017*	2017	2016	2015	2014
Loan market share in country of domicile	3.6	2.6	2.3	2.2	2.0
Deposit market share in country of domicile	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.0	1.5
Total revenues from business line (currency in millions)	1,273.8	2,633.5	2,203.9	2,172.9	2,082.7
Commercial banking/total revenues from business line	24.9	24.1	88.0	82.0	N/A
Retail banking/total revenues from business line	38.7	35.6	N/A	N/A	N/A
Commercial & retail banking/total revenues from business line	63.6	59.7	88.0	82.0	82.7
Trading and sales income/total revenues from business line	7.3	7.0	1.8	4.6	(2.0)
Corporate finance/total revenues from business line	N/A	N/A	4.8	5.6	5.3

Table 2

Mediobanca SpA Business Position (cont.)										
		Ye	Year-ended June 30							
(%)	2017*	2017	2016	2015	2014					
Asset management/total revenues from business line	20.1	17.4	N/A	N/A	N/A					
Other revenues/total revenues from business line	9.0	15.9	5.4	7.9	14.0					
Investment banking/total revenues from business line	7.3	7.0	6.6	10.1	3.3					
Return on equity	10.4	8.4	6.9	7.1	6.3					

^{*}Data as of Dec. 31. N/A--Not applicable.

Capital and earnings: Good profitability and better-than-domestic-peers capitalization

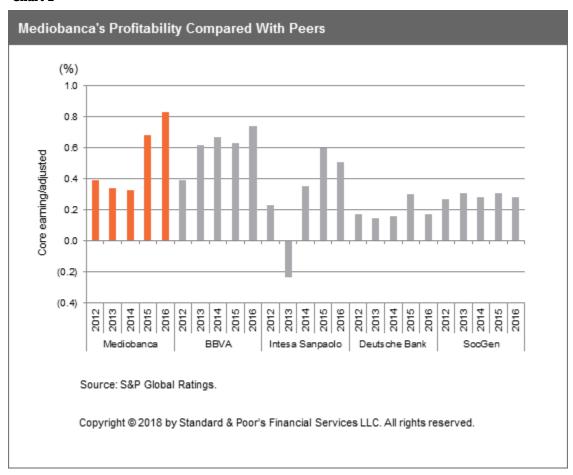
Mediobanca will maintain its sound capital position in the next few years, in our view, even though we expect high economic risk in Italy to constrain the bank's overall solvency.

Our pro forma RAC ratio before diversification was 9.1%, as of June 30, 2017. We expect this ratio to moderately decline to 8.5%-8.0% by end 2019, as a result of Mediobanca's announced pay-out of about 40%-50% and our expectation that it will expand its retail or wealth management business. Our forecast also includes the disposal of part of its stake in Generali.

We anticipate that Mediobanca's operating net income (net of extraordinary gains and losses) will strengthen over the forecasted period. Specifically, we anticipate that Mediobanca's net interest income will progress further on the back of growing lending and reducing funding costs. It increased by about 6% between June and December 2017, compared with the same period of 2016.

We also anticipate that fees and commissions income is likely to grow on the back of rising activity in corporate and investment banking and in asset management businesses. Costs should stabilize once the bank has completed the integration of acquired business and strengthened its distribution channels, in our view. Provisioning needs are likely to remain low, in our view, as nonperforming loans will gradually decline and we expect Mediobanca's cost of risk to stabilize at about 80 basis points (bps) in the next six quarters.

Chart 2



In our view, Mediobanca has maintained adequate loss-absorption capacity through the cycle, taking into consideration its overall contained risk profile. We estimate that the bank's three-year average earnings buffer will account for about 70 bps.

Table 3

Mediobanca SpA Capital And Earnings										
		Year-ended June 30								
(%)	2017*	2017	2016	2015	2014					
Criteria reflected in RAC ratios	N/A	2017	N/A	2010	2010					
Tier 1 capital ratio	12.9	13.3	12.1	12.0	11.1					
S&P RAC ratio before diversification	N/A	8.2	7.6	7.0	7.5					
S&P RAC ratio after diversification	N/A	7.6	7.7	6.9	7.4					
Adjusted common equity/total adjusted capital	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0					
Net interest income/operating revenues	58.4	58.0	57.7	57.2	59.5					
Fee income/operating revenues	17.4	17.1	15.5	18.3	18.7					
Market-sensitive income/operating revenues	4.0	1.0	1.3	2.7	(6.1)					
Noninterest expenses/operating revenues	46.7	51.2	47.1	45.8	47.6					
Preprovision operating income/average assets	1.8	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.3					

Table 3

Mediobanca SpA Capital And Earnings (cont.)									
		Year-ended June 30							
(%)	2017*	2017	2016	2015	2014				
Core earnings/average managed assets	1.2	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.3				

^{*}Data as of Dec. 31. N/A--Not applicable.

Table 4

(€ 000s)	Exposure*	Basel III RWA	Average Basel III RW (%)	S&P Global RWA	Average S&P Global RW (%)
Credit risk	Ziipooure	24001 111 11111	200 (75)	- Clobal IIII	G10501 1111 (70)
Government and central banks	7,699,636	37,121	0	3,145,784	41
Institutions and CCPs	6,009,077	2,151,266	36	2,517,501	42
Corporate	20,790,333	19,509,321	94	23,432,525	113
Retail	20,611,470	12,296,930	60	24,442,101	119
Of which mortgage	6,916,859	2,456,564	36	5,176,233	75
Securitization§	312,679	285,406	91	1,665,427	533
Other assets†	3,326,084	3,650,096	110	7,402,207	223
Total credit risk	58,749,279	37,930,140	65	62,605,545	107
Credit valuation adjustment					
Total credit valuation adjustment		758,735		986,355	
Market risk					
Equity in the banking book	3,677,884	8,228,441	224	18,120,187	493
Trading book market risk		2,239,129		3,358,694	
Total market risk		10,467,570		21,478,880	
Operational risk					
Total operational risk		3,551,803		4,143,992	
(€ 000s)		Basel III RWA		S&P Global RWA	% of S&P Global RWA
Diversification adjustments					
RWA before diversification		52,708,248		89,214,773	100
Total diversification/concentration adjustments				8,043,492	9
RWA after diversification		52,708,248		97,258,265	109
(€ 000s)		Tier 1 capital	Tier 1 ratio (%)	Total adjusted capital	S&P Global RAC ratio (%)
Capital ratio					
Capital ratio before adjustments		7,017,281	13.3	7,356,552	8.2
Capital ratio after adjustments‡		7,017,281	13.3	7,356,552	7.6

^{*}Exposure at default. §Securitization exposure includes the securitization tranches deducted from capital in the regulatory framework. †Other assets includes Deferred Tax Assets (DTAs) not deducted from ACE. ‡Adjustments to Tier 1 ratio are additional regulatory requirements (e.g., transitional floor or Pillar 2 add-ons). RWA--Risk-weighted assets. RW--Risk weight. RAC--Risk-adjusted capital. Sources: Company data as of June 30, 2017, S&P Global Ratings.

Table 5

(€ 000s)	Exposure*	Basel III RWA	Average Basel III RW (%)	S&P Global RWA	Average S&P Global RW (%)
Credit risk					
Government and central banks	7,699,636	37,121	0	2,253,253	29
Institutions and CCPs	6,009,077	2,151,266	36	1,911,779	32
Corporate	20,790,333	19,509,321	94	21,266,255	102
Retail	20,611,470	12,296,930	60	20,526,545	100
Of which mortgage	6,916,859	2,456,564	36	4,124,147	60
Securitization§	312,679	285,406	91	1,665,427	533
Other assets†	3,326,084	3,650,096	110	6,583,509	198
Total credit risk	58,749,279	37,930,140	65	54,206,768	92
Credit valuation adjustment					
Total credit valuation adjustment		758,735		986,355	
Market risk					
Equity in the banking book	3,677,884	8,228,441	224	18,120,187	493
Trading book market risk		2,239,129		3,358,694	
Total market risk		10,467,570		21,478,880	
Operational risk					
Total operational risk		3,551,803		4,143,992	
(€ 000s)		Basel III RWA		S&P Global RWA	% of S&P Global RWA
Diversification adjustments					
RWA before diversification		52,708,248		80,815,996	100
Total diversification/ concentration adjustments				7,687,829	10
RWA after diversification		52,708,248		88,503,825	110
(€ 000s)		Tier 1 capital	Tier 1 ratio (%)	Total adjusted capital	S&P Global RAC ratio (%)
Capital ratio					
Capital ratio before adjustments		7,017,281	13.3	7,356,552	9.1
Capital ratio after adjustments‡		7,017,281	13.3	7,356,552	8.3

^{*}Exposure at default. §Securitization exposure includes the securitization tranches deducted from capital in the regulatory framework. †Other assets includes Deferred Tax Assets (DTAs) not deducted from ACE. ‡Adjustments to Tier 1 ratio are additional regulatory requirements (e.g., transitional floor or Pillar 2 add-ons). RWA--Risk-weighted assets. RW--Risk weight. RAC--Risk-adjusted capital. Sources: Company data as of June 30, 2017, S&P Global Ratings. Note: RAC data is based on our sovereign and Banking Industry Country Risk Assessment scores as of Feb.

Risk position: Prudent risk management

Mediobanca will maintain better-than-peers' asset quality, in our view. We expect it to continue to benefit from its prudent lending strategy. Over the past years, Mediobanca avoided lending to riskier borrowers, such as real estate developers, and strictly controlled the performance of its retail loans book. This resulted in a much better track record than domestic peers in terms of loss experience over the recent crisis.

The bank's ratio of NPEs ratio, at 4.8% (or 5.5% including purchased NPLs) as of December 2017, is much lower than the average of its Italian peers. In addition, we anticipate that Mediobanca's high coverage of NPEs, at about 76.1% (or 67.1% including purchased NPLs) as of December 2017, puts it in a better position than many other Italian banks.

Mediobanca proactively manages its retail nonperforming loan book by initiating collection activities at a very early stage past due. Consumer nonperforming loans are written off or disposed of after about 12 months, on average.

The credit quality of Mediobanca's corporate loan book is generally good--NPEs comprised a low ratio of 4.5% as of December 2017. Mediobanca takes collateral in most operations, which we view as positive because it reduces the risk of losses for the bank. That said, Mediobanca shows some single-name concentration in its loan book, which adds some risk, in our view.

Mediobanca does not have a complex balance sheet, although it operates in the investment banking business. The bank has a low asset-liability mismatch, and it limits its underwriting risk to short periods. We therefore consider that our RAC ratio adequately captures all of Mediobanca's risks.

Mediobanca has historically been significantly exposed to market risk through its portfolio of equity stakes. That said, we consider that this risk is adequately captured under our RAC framework. Moreover, Mediobanca has already disposed of a significant part of these stakes, and will continue reducing them in the coming months.

Table 6

Mediobanca SpA Risk Position										
		Ye	Year-ended June 30							
(%)	2017*	2017	2016	2015	2014					
Growth in customer loans	5.5	10.8	2.5	4.6	(5.6)					
Total diversification adjustment / S&P RWA before diversification	N/A	9.0	(1.5)	0.7	1.1					
Total managed assets/adjusted common equity (x)	9.4	9.6	9.9	10.4	10.8					
New loan loss provisions/average customer loans	0.5	0.8	1.1	1.4	2.0					
Net charge-offs/average customer loans	0.0	(0.5)	0.0	(0.6)	0.1					
Gross nonperforming assets/customer loans + other real estate owned	5.5	5.6	6.0	6.8	6.8					
Loan loss reserves/gross nonperforming assets	67.1	70.4	68.0	62.1	58.8					

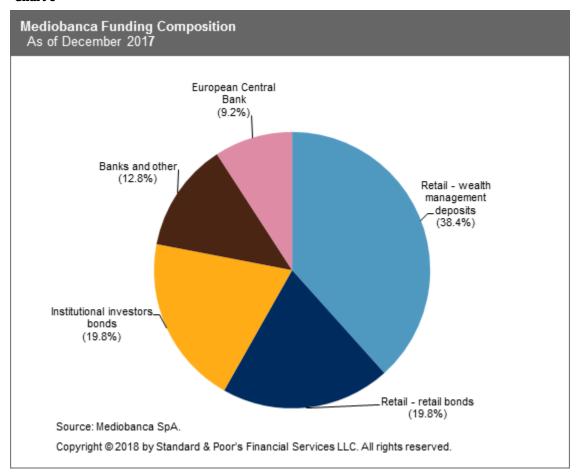
^{*}Data as of Dec. 31. N/A--Not applicable.

Funding and liquidity: Mainly retail-financed, though reliance on wholesale funding remains high

We expect that Mediobanca will continue to sustainably finance its long-term funding needs through stable long-term funding sources. Our measure of the bank's net stable funding ratio stood at 112% as of June 30, 2017 and we expect it to remain above 100% over the next few years.

In the past few years, Mediobanca has progressively rebalanced its funding position and increased retail funding--which is now its main financing source--through its retail bank subsidiary CheBanca!, the Italian post office, Italian commercial banks, and the regulated debt market (MOT). We consider that Mediobanca remains more reliant on wholesale funding than most of its domestic peers. That said, Mediobanca's long-term funding maturities are well spread over time, in our view. Moreover, Mediobanca has demonstrated its capacity to access capital markets even under tight conditions.

Chart 3



We expect Mediobanca to retain its comfortable liquidity buffers. We expect that liquid assets will continue to cover the bank's short-term wholesale funding by close to 2x as of end-June 2017. We base our view on Mediobanca's liquidity policy, which requires the bank to maintain a large buffer of liquid assets that are eligible for refinancing with the ECB. This more than covers the amount of wholesale funding coming due in the next 12 months.

Table 7

Mediobanca SpA Funding And Liquidity						
		Year-ended June 30				
(%)	2017*	2017	2016	2015	2014	
Core deposits/funding base	46.6	49.4	46.7	45.8	53.4	
Customer loans (net)/customer deposits	147.4	139.1	137.3	135.9	111.7	
Long-term funding ratio	N/A	86.4	76.7	66.9	73.8	
Stable funding ratio	N/A	112.2	105.2	89.4	96.8	
Short-term wholesale funding/funding base	N/A	15.8	27.0	38.3	29.9	
Broad liquid assets/short-term wholesale funding (x)	N/A	2.1	1.3	0.9	1.2	
Net broad liquid assets/short-term customer deposits	N/A	50.2	30.8	(16.0)	18.9	
Short-term wholesale funding/total wholesale funding	N/A	31.2	50.6	70.8	64.2	

Table 7

Mediobanca SpA Funding And Liquidity (cont.)									
		Year-ended June 30							
(%)	2017*	2017	2016	2015	2014				
Narrow liquid assets/3-month wholesale funding (x)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.9				

^{*}Data as of Dec. 31. N/A--Not applicable.

Support: No uplift for additional loss-absorbing capacity

We do not apply uplift for additional loss-absorbing capacity (ALAC) because we currently expect the amount of ALAC on S&P Global Ratings' risk-weighted assets to be below our 5% threshold for one notch of uplift. In our ALAC calculation, we include capital instruments issued by Mediobanca that have the capacity to absorb losses without triggering a default on senior obligations; namely, subordinated debt. ALAC also includes common equity that is already counted in total adjusted capital, up to the amount by which it exceeds the minimum needed to maintain a RAC ratio consistent with our assessment of the bank's capital and earnings (which for Mediobanca is 7%).

Additional rating factors: None

No additional factors affect this rating.

Related Criteria

- Criteria Financial Institutions General: Risk-Adjusted Capital Framework Methodology, July 20, 2017
- General Criteria: Methodology For Linking Long-Term And Short-Term Ratings, April 7, 2017
- General Criteria: Guarantee Criteria, Oct. 21, 2016
- Criteria Financial Institutions Banks: Bank Rating Methodology And Assumptions: Additional Loss-Absorbing Capacity, April 27, 2015
- Criteria Financial Institutions Banks: Bank Hybrid Capital And Nondeferrable Subordinated Debt Methodology And Assumptions, Jan. 29, 2015
- General Criteria: Principles For Rating Debt Issues Based On Imputed Promises, Dec. 19, 2014
- General Criteria: Ratings Above The Sovereign--Corporate And Government Ratings: Methodology And Assumptions, Nov. 19, 2013
- General Criteria: Group Rating Methodology, Nov. 19, 2013
- Criteria Financial Institutions Banks: Quantitative Metrics For Rating Banks Globally: Methodology And Assumptions, July 17, 2013
- Criteria Financial Institutions Banks: Banking Industry Country Risk Assessment Methodology And Assumptions, Nov. 9, 2011
- Criteria Financial Institutions Banks: Banks: Rating Methodology And Assumptions, Nov. 9, 2011
- General Criteria: Use Of CreditWatch And Outlooks, Sept. 14, 2009
- Criteria Financial Institutions Banks: Commercial Paper I: Banks, March 23, 2004

Related Research

- Banking Industry Country Risk Assessment: Italy, Nov. 16, 2017
- Positive Actions Taken On Italian Banks On Reduced Economic Risks And Sovereign Upgrade, Oct. 31, 2017

Anchor	Anchor Matrix												
Industry	Economic Risk												
Risk	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			
1	a	a	a-	bbb+	bbb+	bbb	-	-	-	-			
2	a	a-	a-	bbb+	bbb	bbb	bbb-	-	-	-			
3	a-	a-	bbb+	bbb+	bbb	bbb-	bbb-	bb+	-	-			
4	bbb+	bbb+	bbb+	bbb	bbb	bbb-	bb+	bb	bb	-			
5	bbb+	bbb	bbb	bbb	bbb-	bbb-	bb+	bb	bb-	b+			
6	bbb	bbb	bbb-	bbb-	bbb-	bb+	bb	bb	bb-	b+			
7	-	bbb-	bbb-	bb+	bb+	bb	bb	bb-	b+	b+			
8	-	-	bb+	bb	bb	bb	bb-	bb-	b+	b			
9	-	-	-	bb	bb-	bb-	b+	b+	b+	b			
10	-	-	-	-	b+	b+	b+	b	b	b-			

Ratings Detail (As Of February 27, 2018)	
Mediobanca SpA	
Counterparty Credit Rating	BBB/Stable/A-2
Senior Unsecured	BBB
Short-Term Debt	A-2
Subordinated	BB+
Counterparty Credit Ratings History	
31-Oct-2017	BBB/Stable/A-2
18-Dec-2014	BBB-/Stable/A-3
24-Jul-2013	BBB/Negative/A-2
12-Jul-2013	BBB/Watch Neg/A-2
Sovereign Rating	
Italy	BBB/Stable/A-2
Related Entities	
MB Funding Lux S.A.	
Issuer Credit Rating	BBB/Stable/A-2
Mediobanca International (Luxembourg) S.A.	
Commercial Paper	
Local Currency	A-2

^{*}Unless otherwise noted, all ratings in this report are global scale ratings. S&P Global Ratings' credit ratings on the global scale are comparable across countries. S&P Global Ratings' credit ratings on a national scale are relative to obligors or obligations within that specific country. Issue and debt ratings could include debt guaranteed by another entity, and rated debt that an entity guarantees.

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