

## E) BRANCHES AND AGENCIES

As far as the NCBs network is concerned, we may distinguish the following categories:

■ NCBs which **don't have** branches or agencies: Central Bank and Financial Services Authority of Ireland, Central Bank of Luxembourg, Danmarks Nationalbank, Royal Bank of Sweden, Central Bank of Cyprus, Bank of Slovenia, De Nederlandsche Bank, Bank of Estonia, Central Bank of Malta, National Bank of Croatia, Bank of Norway, Central Bank of Iceland and Central Bank of Montenegro, i.e. 11 NCBs out of 33 examined NCBs or 34,4%.

■ NCBs having a **light network**: National Bank of Poland 16, Bank of England 12, Bank of Portugal 10, National Bank of Slovakia 9, Bulgarian National Bank 8, National Bank of Belgium 7, Tzech National Bank 7, Bank of Finland 5, National Bank of Austria 5, National Bank of Serbia 5, Bank of Latvia 5, National Bank of Hungary 2 and Bank of Lithuania 2.

■ NCBs with a **dense network** of branches and agencies: Bank of France 209, Bank of Italy 97, Deutsche Bundesbank 47, Bank of Greece 72, Swiss National Bank 26, Bank of Spain 22 and National Bank of Romania 19.

During the 32 last years the number of branches and agencies of the NCBs of the ESCB was decreased about by 30%, i.e. from 805 to 569 branches and agencies. Another tendency was the transformation of some branches or agencies to representation offices or to clientele cashier offices. We may divide the NCB's network in the following categories according to the volume and the nature of its activities:

### 1) Branches with full activities

They carry out cashier activities so vis-a-vis institutional clientele (banks, public entities, enterprises) as well as vis-a-vis individuals. Moreover, they offer services to the State (reimbursement of securities and coupons, transfer of funds). Some branches of this type organise regional conjuncture surveys while contribute to various Central Balance Sheet and Risk Data Offices and data banks operation or to the Secretariats for the Household Debt Commissions.

In the NCB's branches of the Mediterranean countries we encounter units charged with local banking supervision. Although there is not a standardised type of these branches, it is the case of branches of the Bank of Greece, the Bank of Italy, the Bank of Spain, partially the Bank

of Portugal, the Bank of France only regarding branches with institutional cashier office and the National Bank of Belgium only regarding the branches of Liege and Anvers. Among the other countries NCBs, such branches there are in the National Bank of Poland, the National Bank of Romania and the Bulgarian National Bank.

**2) Branches having limited activities**

We refer to branches or agencies where the cashier service and the transactions on behalf of the State play a prominent role. It is the case of branches or agencies of the Bank of Finland, De Nederlandsche Bank, National Bank of Austria, some branches of the Bank of France and the majority of decentralised units of other countries' NCBs including the branch of Geneva of the Swiss National Bank. The units of this category may carry out to a lesser extent other activities.

**3) Representation agencies and offices**

They organise exclusively regional conjuncture surveys and assure the local representation of the central bank as it is happening in the United Kingdom, or are only devoted to Central Balance Sheet or Central Risk Offices as is the case in Belgium.

**4) Treasury' offices**

We encounter this category only in Greece where units of central bank consisting of one, two or three persons operate within the public Treasury' offices assuring the collection of revenue and the payments of the government and other public entities.

**TABLE 5**  
**REGIONAL CENTERS, BRANCHES, AGENCIES AND OFFICES**  
**OF THE NATIONAL CENTRAL BANKS**

	R E G I O N A L C/R	B R A N C H E S	A G E N C I E S	O F F I C E S	T O T A L
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<b>A) EUROSISTEM</b>					
1) Deutsche Bundesbank	9	47	0	0	<b>56</b>
2) Bank of Greece	7	10	46	9	<b>72</b>
3) Bank of Finland	0	5	0	0	<b>5</b>
4) Bank of Spain	0	22	0	0	<b>22</b>
5) Central Bank and Financial Services Authority of Ireland	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
6) Bank of Italy	0	97	0	0	<b>97</b>
7) Central Bank of Luxembourg	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
8) De Nederlandsche Bank	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
9) National Bank of Austria	0	5	0	0	<b>5</b>
10) Bank of Portugal	2	1	7	0	<b>10</b>
11) National Bank of Belgium	0	5	2	0	<b>7</b>
12) Banque de France	68	28	32	81	<b>209</b>
13) Bank of Slovenia	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
14) Central Bank of Cyprus	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
15) Central Bank of Malta	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
16) National Bank of Slovakia	0	3	6	0	<b>9</b>
<b>EUROSISTEM' TOTAL</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>492</b>
<b>B) ESCB OUT OF EUROSISTEM</b>					
17) Bank of England	12	0	0	0	<b>12</b>
18) National Bank of Denmark	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
19) Royal Bank of Sweden	0	2	0	0	<b>2</b>
20) National Bank of Poland	0	16	0	0	<b>16</b>

<b>21) National Bank of Hungary</b>	0	2	0	0	<b>2</b>
<b>22) Tzech National Bank</b>	0	7	0	0	<b>7</b>
<b>23) Bank of Estonia</b>	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>24) Bank of Lithuania</b>	0	2	0	0	<b>2</b>
<b>25) Bank of Latvia</b>	0	5	0	0	<b>5</b>
<b>26) National Bank of Romania</b>	0	19	0	0	<b>19</b>
<b>27) Bulgarian National Bank</b>	0	8	0	0	<b>8</b>
<b>TOTAL ESCB OUT OF EUROSISTEM</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>ESCB' TOTAL</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>565</b>
<b>C) ACCESSION COUNTRIES</b>					
<b>28) Croatian National Bank</b>	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>ESCB + ACCESSION TOTAL</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>565</b>
<b>D) OTHER EUROPEAN NCBs</b>					
<b>29) Swiss National Bank</b>	1	2	18	5	<b>26</b>
<b>30) Bank of Norway</b>	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>31) Central Bank of Iceland</b>	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>32) National Bank of Serbia</b>	0	5	0	0	<b>5</b>
<b>33) Central Bank of Montenegro</b>	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL OF 33 INQUIRED CENTRAL BANKS</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>596</b>