



# **Fund Flash**

# Nordea 1 - European Covered Bond Fund

ISIN: LU0076315455 (BP-EUR)

The fund's objective is to outperform the benchmark (Iboxx EUR Covered Bond Index) by mainly investing in European covered bonds.<sup>1</sup>

# Nordea 1 - Low Duration European Covered Bond Fund

ISIN: LU1694212348 (BP-EUR)

The fund's objective is to provide an attractive low risk option by mainly investing in European covered bonds with a targeted duration of around 1 year.<sup>1</sup>

#### Portfolio Comment as of 31/12/2018

In December, there were no new deals at all. Issuers were reluctant about issuing in the very unsure market we saw, as spread were widening in all jurisdictions towards the end of the year. Furthermore, the last deals in November suggested that there was not much appetite from the investors to absorb supply.

Overall, the spread of the iBoxx EUR Covered Bond index widened by 2bps. Most jurisdictions widened versus swaps. The learning from November was that a new issue dragged the secondary curve wider, and since there were no new issues in December, the widening has been more or less uniform in all jurisdictions. Among the main contributors, Greek covered bonds widened around 10-20bps which was a negative relative driver. With that said, it should be mentioned that the overweight on Greek covered bonds over Italy have had a massive contribution to the overall positive performance in 2018.

In this context, the Nordea 1 - European Covered Bond Fund delivered a positive return of +0.0008 over the month and it now accumulates a performance of +0.008 YTD (BP-EUR).

With a more or less closed covered bond market in December, we are ready for the large number of issuances that will hit the market. Historically, January is the busiest month for new issuances, and 2019 will be no exemption. We will therefore look for opportunities to position ourselves in covered bonds where we find them attractive versus alternatives. We expect to see limited spread widening in the beginning of the new year when new deals hit the market. However, we expect this correction to happen fast and with minor impact for the general covered bond market.

Regarding the portfolio positioning:

- We find the core (and semi-core) covered bond spreads vs the underlying sovereigns too wide at the moment and would like to take on more exposure.
- We are still more reluctant on issuers from the periphery. Given the headline risk, uncertainty about a new TLTRO and the relative pricing versus the underlying sovereigns still isn't that attractive, we would like to see on what level new issuances from these countries will trade.

### Nordea 1 - European Covered Bond Fund

| Portfolio Positioning  | 30/11/2018                | 31/12/2018                |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Effective Duration* 12m horizon return** Average weighted rating | 5.46 years<br>1.00%<br>A+ | 5.14 years<br>1.01%<br>A+ |

### Nordea 1 - Low Duration European Covered Bond Fund

| Portfolio Positioning   | 30/11/2018 | 31/12/2018 |
|-------------------------|------------|------------|
| Effective Duration*     | 1.97 years | 1.82 years |
| 12m horizon return**    | 0.61%      | 0.70%      |
| Average weighted rating | AA-        | AA-        |

| Cumulative<br>Performance <sup>2</sup> | MTD    | YTD   | 3 years |
|--|--------|-------|---------|
| Fund <sup>3</sup>                      | 0.08%  | 0.80% | 6.29%   |
| Benchmark <sup>4</sup>                 | 0.26%  | 0.24% | 2.74%   |
| Alpha                                  | -0.18% | 0.55% | 3.55%   |

| Cumulative<br>Performance <sup>2</sup> | 1M     | YTD    | Sine<br>launch |
|--|--------|--------|----------------|
| Fund <sup>5</sup>                      | -0.19% | -0.47% | -1.16%         |

<sup>1)</sup> There can be no warranty that investment objectives, targeted returns and results of an investment structure are achieved. \*Based on model portfolio. \*\*Estimated yield over the next twelve months, based on current model portfolio and market conditions, assuming no change in portfolio holdings and no movement in interest rates and spreads. 2) The performance represented is historical; past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results and investors may not recover the full amount invested. 3) Nordea 1 - European Covered Bond Fund (BP-EUR) 4) The Nordea 1 - European Covered Bond Fund's official benchmark is the Iboxx EUR Covered Bond Index. 5) Nordea 1 - Low Duration European Covered Bond Fund (BP-EUR)

Source (unless otherwise stated): Nordea Investment Funds S.A. Period under consideration (unless otherwise stated): 30/11/2018 to 31/12/2018. Performance calculated NAV to NAV (net of fees and Luxembourg taxes) in the currency of the respective share class, gross income and dividends reinvested, excluding initial and exit charges as per 31/12/2018.

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