

UBB ExpertEase Defensive Balanced (EUR)

UBB ExpertEase Defensive Balanced (EUR) is a global mixed "balanced" investment sub-fund of the umbrella mutual fund UBB ExpertEase, which is a feeder collective investment scheme within the meaning of Article 67 of the Law on the Activity of Collective Investment Schemes and Other Collective Investment Enterprises (LACISOCIE). The investment objective of the sub-fund is to invest at least 85% of its assets in the main sub-fund and up to 15% of its assets in cash and derivatives. The main sub-fund **Horizon ExpertEase Defensive Balanced** follow a multi-signal strategy which investment objective is to generate the highest possible return for its shareholders in accordance with its investment policy. The main sub-fund Horizon KBC ExpertEase Defensive Balanced follows multi-signal strategy in which the target allocation is **30% equities and 70% bonds**.



FUND INFORMATION as of 28.02.2022

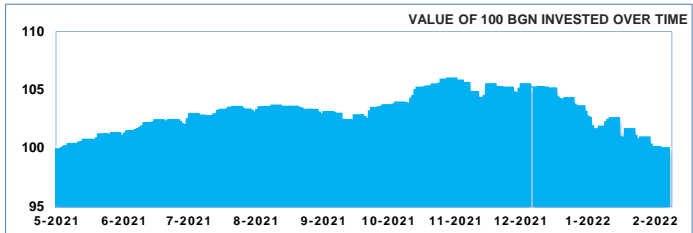
Launch date	05 March 2021
Last confirmed NAV	35 870 611.09
Last confirmed NAV per unit	10.0083
Lowest - Highest NAV per unit for the last year	9.9997-10.6056
Standard deviation for the last year	-

RETURN

Year to date /not annualized/	-
For the last 12 months /not annualized/	-
For the last 3 years /annualized/	-
Since inception /annualized/	-

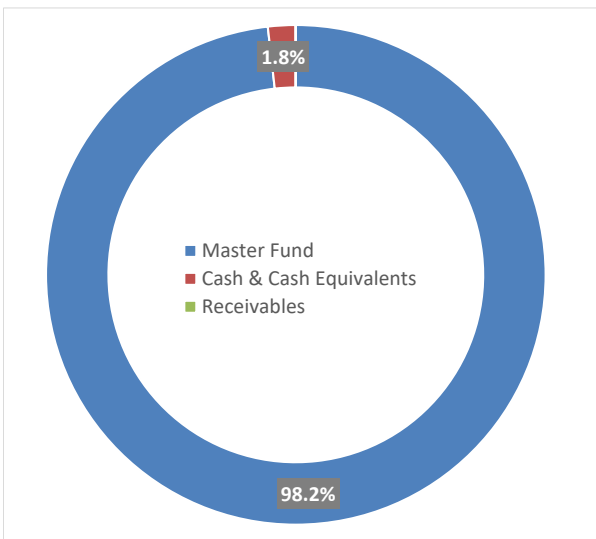
PORTFOLIO

HORIZON KBC EXPERTEASE DEFENSIVE BALANCED EUR	SHARES
CASH	CASH
RECEIVABLES	CASH



ANNUAL RETURNS

As the sub-fund was established in 2021, there is insufficient data to give investors a useful indication of past performance.



MASTER FUND

Horizon KBC ExpertEase Defensive Balanced Institutional F share BG class in EUR

MASTER FUND CURRENCY

EUR

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN OF THE MASTER FUND

BELGIUM

STRATEGY OF THE MASTER FUND

MULTI-SIGNAL

TARGET WEIGHT OF THE MASTER FUND

EQUITIES	30.00%
BONDS	70.00%

COMMENT

In February financial markets were hit hard by the military invasion of Ukraine by Russia. The month started with investors mainly being concerned with the prospects of higher inflation and pondering the possibilities of accelerated rate hikes by the main central banks (the Fed, BoE, ECB) – fears were that too fast rate hikes will stifle growth. However, in the second half of the month, the shocking news of the invasion in Ukraine overshadowed all financial market activity. The immediate effect were a sell-off of risky assets (stocks sank) and skyrocketing food and energy prices. Russia is a significant exporter of commodities, accounting for about a sixth of global crude oil production, 17% of natural gas production and nearly a tenth of global wheat supplies (both, Russia and Ukraine account for around 30% of global wheat exports). Brent oil ended the month at \$100 per barrel, and the price has increased by over 40% in the last three months.

Compared to other global markets, European shares fell particularly badly. Europe has a significant reliance on Russian energy, especially gas, and the invasion saw energy prices spike sharply – European natural gas prices rose 15% in February. Higher energy prices could fuel higher or at least more persistent inflation, eating into household incomes. The Consumer Discretionary and Financials sectors were the worst performing shares, reflecting expectations for pressure on consumer spending and economic activity as energy prices rise.

American stocks also lost ground during the month, as investors tried to process the implications of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The United States have imposed a broad range of severe sanctions on Russia after the invasion. Transactions with the Russian central bank were banned, and access to its foreign reserves was limited. Restrictions have been placed on the nation's key financial institutions – including its biggest banks, Sberbank and VTB - as well as its wealthiest individuals and families. The heaviest penalty was also triggered – Russia was cut out of the Swift International Payments System.

Western sanctions sent the ruble plummeting, with the currency dropping 30% to an all-time low versus the dollar. In response, Russia's central bank more than doubled its key interest rate to 20%, freed local bank reserves to boost liquidity and banned Russian residents and companies from transferring foreign currency abroad. The Moscow Exchange also remained closed for a week to shield stocks from a brutal selloff.

Now what remains unknown is whether central banks react to higher energy prices by increasing the magnitude or speed of interest rate rises in order to combat inflation, or reduce their pace of tightening in order to support the economy. The answer will depend on the extent to which higher energy prices dampen growth or cause strong wage rises as workers try to protect their purchasing power amid a tight labor market. However, towards the end of the month bond markets scaled back rate hike expectations for 2022, leaving them barely changed for the month.

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