

Switzerland Bank Exit

Project Genesis

“Deloitte supported us through a difficult period by collaborating with us and quickly becoming part of the team. They provided experience, insight and knowledge to achieve text book outcomes, in situations where there was no text book, but always recognising the importance of the team approach”

CEO of the Bank



The situation

In late 2013 a large international bank decided to exit from its Swiss private banking subsidiary and initially investigated a share sale. Once it became clear that this would be sub-optimal, the bank changed its focus to a wind down and solvent liquidation, appointing Deloitte's Restructuring Services team in June 2014.

How we helped

The immediate task was to engage pro-actively with the Regulator, FINMA as Swiss law requires a company that is closing to enter liquidation as soon as closure is externally announced. This enabled Deloitte Restructuring Services to help the client, a fully operational bank, negotiate a sensible period prior to entering solvent liquidation and develop a wind down plan. Included in that plan were both formal and informal update triggers to keep FINMA apprised of the situation, answer questions and establish their position on the many delicate issues that occur through a wind down.

Core to the pro-active management of the wind down was the collation and update of a single database containing all the accounts and their critical attributes. This was used as the basis for all on-going tracking and issue management processes.

A successful programme of written and verbal communication with all clients was put in place to encourage clients to transfer their account within the bank's global network. To cater for those clients who did not wish or could not move outside Switzerland, their accounts were sold to another Swiss bank using the Swiss merger act.

The cost of remaining under regulatory supervision is significant. FINMA provided a guidance letter which Deloitte used to prepare a plan for the end of supervision which was shared with FINMA to maximise the probability that there would be no delays.

The outcome

The bank is now in a situation where a significant number of clients have been retained within the group and the assets under management have been reduced to zero. Deloitte is currently leading the final steps of ending supervision and conversion to a shell company.