

November 2014 - Pleasant Weather, Currency Storm on Horizon

This month was "boring" for US stock market. Stocks went up gradually whole month with no big swings, backed by positive economic data showing US recovery and by solid earning season. A 60% of reporting companies have beaten the estimates. On the other hand the energy sector was hit by falling oil prices and lost about 7% this month.

The European stocks have shown more dynamics, especially in the second half of the month after two statements by Mario Draghi: first on 17th, when he said it would be willing to provide additional monetary stimulus to keep inflation from staying too low and second on 21st, when he reiterated that the ECB is ready to expand its asset purchases if inflation stays too low for too long.

In connection with such QE, we looked at Japan, as a possible preview of what could be coming to the EU. Japan faces 3 intertwined problems: 1. high amount of debt (230% debt-to-GDP), substantial fiscal deficits (7.6%) and 2. shrinking of population in productive years caused almost no growth in last two decades and are also causing 3. weakening of demand hence deflation. Their options how to reduce debt-to-GDP ratio, are very limited. With falling population it is impossible to increase the output, without high growth in productivity - unimaginable for such a developed country. Another option is to induce the inflation, which erodes outstanding debt and increases demand, also unimaginable with falling output and downward pressure on prices. The only remaining, and chosen option, is devaluation of the currency. Weaker Yen helps Japanese businesses to be more competitive abroad and lifts the prices of imports, reducing deflation. Until growth or inflation arrive, (and those seem to be far) we expect further decline of Yen relative to major currencies. What is more scary is that BoJ has really no choice, their hand was partially forced by pension funds, which gave up on Japan and started selling Japanese government bonds with low yields and reallocating their capital to global equities. Because of high amount of debt, BoJ cannot let yields on government bonds go up, as Japanese budget could not finance high interest yield in future. Most importantly, the devaluation of Yen will not be left without response of other central banks, especially in Asia. The next round of currency wars is brewing. What is the relevance for rest of the world? We will continue to study this topic as it is crucial for understanding the future of financial markets.

This month we have added 2.1%. We outperformed **EU Enlarged** (-2.9%) and **MSCI EM Eastern Europe** (-6.9%). We underperformed **DAX** (+7.0%), **S&P 500** (+2.5%) and **NASDAQ** (+3.5%).

We again stepped into SolarCity position after deep decline due to drop in oil prices and closed the position later with 7.7% return. We also committed very small part of the fund to venture capital project Oru Kayak. This business produces unique foldable kayaks for affordable price. The project offers valuation of venture capital projects, but already generates positive EBITDA and has significant demand for its product. We will carry this investment forward at book value.



Jan Pravda
Launch Date
2.6.09
Location
Prague
Fund Current
EUR
Share Price
€ 1 665.46

2% p.a.

Fund Manager

Prague
Fund Currency
EUR
Share Price
€ 1 665.46
Performance Fee
20 % HWM
Management Fee

Period	Sanning ⁽¹⁾	EU Enlarged ⁽²⁾	MSCI EM EU(2)	DAX	S&P 500	Nasdaq
1 month	2.1%	-2.9%	-6.9%	7.0%	2.5%	3.5%
3 months	5.2%	-2.4%	-7.7%	5.4%	3.2%	4.6%
12 months	4.2%	-5.7%	-14.6%	6.1%	14.5%	18.0%
3 years	5.0%	-3.8%	-7.1%	63.9%	65.8%	82.9%
5 years						
Since inception (2.6.2009)	66.5%	-6.7%	24.1%	94.0%	118.8%	160.9%

18.6%

0.11

0.51

Volatility (3) Beta relative to: EU Enlarged 15 0.29 Alpha (vs EU15) DAX 0.21 Sharpe ratio

- (1) Net off management fees, gross off performance fees
- (2) These two indeces presented only to illustrate performance in 2009-2014, when focused on Central Eastern Europe
- (3) Annualized standard deviation since inception

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