

PRESS RELEASE**BPER Banca successfully issues its inaugural Social Bond for 500 million euro****Orders of more than 1.25 billion euro, confirming the strong interest from institutional investors in a strategy that combines financial growth with environmental and social sustainability objectives**

Modena, 25 March 2021 - BPER Banca has successfully concluded the placement of its inaugural Social Bond (Senior Preferred) for an amount of 500 million euro and a 6-year maturity for institutional investors.

The bond, issued as part of a recently published Environmental, Social and Sustainability Bond Framework (the “**Framework**”) and under the 6 billion euro EMTN programme, will finance a selected portfolio of loans to SMEs which are covered by a government guarantee under the Liquidity Decree in response to the the Covid-19 emergency.

Each year, BPER will publish a section in its Sustainability Report on how the proceeds of the issue have been allocated.

The Framework, which is used to assess the impact of the Bank's sustainability and ethical practices, has been integrated into corporate strategy with the aim of achieving complete alignment of stakeholders' interests and define the scope and methods of intervention on the ESG Bond market.

It is also worth mentioning that BPER has received certification of its Framework known as a Second Party Opinion (SPO) from Institutional Shareholder Services (ISS), an independent entity with expertise in environmental, social and sustainability matters.

Both documents are available on the Bank's website at the page:

<https://istituzionale.bper.it/en/investor-relations/obbligazioni-e-prospetti/esg-framework>.

The issue generated strong market interest with demand that exceeded 1.25 billion euro from more than 110 institutional investors. This made it possible to reduce the spread from the initial level of +200 bps above the 5-year Mid Swap to the final level of +175 bps.

The security (ISIN XS2325743990) has an expected rating of Ba3/BB (Moody's/Fitch) and a duration of 6 years, with an early redemption option for the issuer in the fifth year. The annual yield is 1.38%. The bond will be listed on the Luxembourg Stock Exchange. The settlement date will be 31 March 2021.

This is a translation into English of the original in Italian. The Italian text shall prevail over the English version.

The following banks acted as Joint Bookrunners on the transaction: Crédit Agricole CIB, Citi, Goldman Sachs International, Mediobanca, Natixis and NatWest Markets.

Crédit Agricole CIB and NatWest Markets also acted as Green and Social Structuring Advisors.

BPER Banca S.p.A.

The press release is also available in the 1INFO storage device.

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