

With “Future Guarantee”, the Cassa Centrale Group consolidates its partnership with SACE to support the growth and sustainable transition of Italian companies

The SACE guarantee provides 70% coverage for transactions of strategic importance for the country's economy in terms of internationalisation, economic security and activation of production and employment processes in Italy.

Trento, 20.03.2024 – The **Cassa Centrale Group** strengthens its collaboration with **SACE** by signing the “**Future Guarantee**” agreement with the aim of encouraging and supporting **the growth process of companies** in Italy and on global markets.

The “Future Guarantee” agreement allows the Group's banks to make available to companies **the SACE guarantee with 70% coverage** to support transactions of strategic importance for the country's economy in terms of internationalisation, economic security and activation of production and employment processes in Italy.

The loans will be granted for investments, already incurred or still to be incurred, or for working capital needs that fall within the macro categories identified by Sace. These include: infrastructure (priority, energy, water, social or digital), development of economically disadvantaged areas, reduction of seismic and hydro-geological risk, strategic supply chains, technological and digital innovation, and female entrepreneurship.

The new agreement - which is added to the “Green Guarantee”, already stipulated previously between Cassa Centrale Group and SACE - once again confirms the commitment to finance the sustainable transition of companies, innovation, the competitiveness of the country and of Italian businesses around the world, and employment levels through new tools and an increasingly multifarious offer.

“Our support given to the investments of businesses, especially SMEs, and to the Italian economy has become structural with Future Guarantee” – said **Daniela Cataudella, Head of Dynamic Business Solutions at SACE**. – “Working as a team with the Cassa Centrale Group is an important step in continuing our support to Italian companies in the transition towards sustainability and innovation, so as to make them increasingly competitive both in Italy and abroad”.



“The well-established partnership with the SACE Group, also thanks to the signing of this additional agreement, allows us to support investments useful for the development and growth of Italian SMEs even more tangibly, confirming the Cassa Centrale Group's ability in knowing how to respond to the ever-changing needs of businesses. In this way, we renew our commitment to favouring the various sustainable and digital transition processes of companies, able to increase their competitiveness with a direct impact on the cost-effective fabric of the country”, commented **Letterio Merlino, Chief Lending Officer of Cassa Centrale Banca.**

The Cassa Centrale – Credito Cooperativo Italiano Group includes 66 Cooperative Banks - Rural Banks - Raiffeisenkassen and 1,480 branches across Italy, more than 12,000 employees and over 470,000 cooperative partners. With balance sheet assets of EUR 89.6 billion as at 31 December 2023, the Group ranks among Italy's top 10.

SACE is the Italian insurance-financial group directly controlled by the Italian Ministry of Economy and Finance, specialised in supporting businesses and the national economic fabric through a wide range of tools and solutions to support competitiveness in Italy and around the world. The SACE Group has been the reference partner for Italian companies that export and grow in foreign markets for over 45 years. It also supports the banking system to facilitate access to credit for companies with its financial guarantees to support their liquidity and investments for competitiveness and sustainability in the Italian Green New Deal sector, starting from the domestic market. The Group is present in the world with 13 offices in target countries for Made in Italy products, with the aim of building relationships with leading local counterparties and, through dedicated financial instruments, facilitating business with Italian companies. With a portfolio of insured transactions and guaranteed investments amounting to EUR 164 billion, SACE, together with all the companies of the Group - SACE FCT which operates in factoring, SACE BT which is active in the Credit, Suretyship and Other property damage branches and SACE SRV, specialised in data collection and information asset management activities - supports over 40,000 companies, especially SMEs, supporting their growth in Italy and in around 200 countries worldwide.