

## **SECOND PARTY OPINION (SPO)**

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Sustainability Quality of the Issuer and Social Bond

Cassa Depositi e Prestiti S.p.A.

11 September 2020

## CONTENTS

Overall Evaluation of the Social Bond.....	3
ISS ESG ASSESSMENT SUMMARY.....	3
Contribution of the Social Bond to the UN SDGs and COVID-19 crisis management .....	4
ISS ESG SPO ASSESSMENT.....	5
PART I: GREEN AND SOCIAL BOND PRINCIPLES AND SUSTAINABILITY BOND GUIDELINES .....	5
PART II: SUSTAINABILITY QUALITY OF THE SOCIAL BOND ASSET POOL.....	16
Corporate financing and employment generation .....	16
PART III: ASSESSMENT OF CDP'S ESG PERFORMANCE.....	18
ANNEX 1: ISS ESG Corporate Rating.....	20
ANNEX 2: Methodology.....	25
About ISS ESG SPO .....	26

## Overall Evaluation of the Social Bond

Cassa Depositi e Prestiti S.p.A. (CDP) commissioned ISS ESG to assist with its Social Bond by assessing three core elements to determine the sustainability quality of the Bond:

1. CDP's Green, Social and Sustainability Bond framework – benchmarked against the International Capital Market Association's (ICMA) Social and Green Bond Principles and Sustainability Bond Guidelines (SBGs).
2. The asset pool – whether the projects aligned with ISS ESG's issue-specific key performance indicators (KPIs) (See Annex 2).
3. CDP's sustainability performance, according to the ISS ESG Corporate Rating.

### ISS ESG ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

SPO SECTION	SUMMARY	EVALUATION <sup>1</sup>
<b>Part 1: Performance against the GBPs, SBPs and SBGs</b>	<p>The issuer has defined a formal concept for its Green, Social and Sustainability Bond framework regarding use of proceeds, processes for project evaluation and selection, management of proceeds and reporting. This concept is in line with ICMA's GBPs, SBPs, SBGs.</p> <p>The issuer intends to finance loans to Italian companies with the aim of preserving employment. Eligible assets will include loans to companies affected by the COVID-19 health emergency, and companies whose objective is to use the funds for Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) purposes.</p>	<b>Positive</b>
<b>Part 2: Sustainability quality of the asset pool</b>	<p>The overall sustainability quality of the Social Bond asset pool in terms of sustainability benefits, risk avoidance and minimisation is good, based upon the ISS ESG Social Bond KPIs. The proposed financing falls within the "Corporate financing and employment generation" project category.</p> <p>The use of proceeds category has a significant contribution to SDG 8 "decent work and economic growth" according to the methodology of ISS ESG. The asset pool can also be associated to SDG 9 "industry, innovation and infrastructure" according to the issuer's own mapping.</p>	<b>Positive</b>
<b>Part 3: Issuer sustainability performance</b>	<p>The issuer itself shows a moderate sustainability performance and has been given a rating of 'C-', which classifies it just below the 'Prime' threshold of 'C', according to the methodology of the ISS ESG Corporate Rating.</p> <p>It is rated 22<sup>th</sup> out of 41 companies within its sector as of 11.09.2020. This equates to a medium relative performance, with a Decile Rank<sup>2</sup> of 6. The issuer also achieved a very high transparency level.</p>	<p><b>Status: Not prime</b></p> <p><b>Rating: C-</b></p> <p><b>Decile Rank: 6</b></p>

<sup>1</sup> ISS ESG's evaluation will remain valid until any modification of the Sustainability Bond Framework or addition of new assets into the asset pool by the issuer and as long as the Corporate Rating does not change (last modification on the 24.08.2020).

<sup>2</sup> Rank relative to industry group. 1 indicates a high relative ESG performance, while 10 indicates a low relative ESG performance.

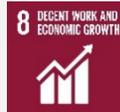
## Contribution of the Social Bond to the UN SDGs and COVID-19 crisis management

Based on the assessment of the sustainability quality of the Social Bond asset pool and using a proprietary methodology, ISS ESG assessed the contribution of the CDP's Social Bond to the Sustainable Development Goals defined by the United Nations (UN SDGs). This assessment is based on an ISS ESG proprietary methodology while taking into account the sustainability quality of the social bond loan pool and the issuer's specific sectorial context.

This assessment is displayed on 5-point scale (see Annex 2 for methodology):



Each of the bond's Use of Proceeds categories has been assessed for its contribution to, or obstruction of, the SDGs:

USE OF PROCEEDS	CONTRIBUTION OR OBSTRUCTION	SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
<b>Corporate financing and employment generation</b>	<b>Significant contribution</b>	
<p>Moreover, the asset pool can also be associated to SDG 9 "industry, innovation and infrastructure" according to the issuer's own mapping.</p>		

One part of the financing includes loans to companies whose objective is to use the funds for Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) purposes. The other part of the corporate financing asset pool is dedicated to the COVID-19 health emergency, contributing to address or mitigate social issues wholly or partially emanating from the coronavirus outbreak, as described by the ICMA Group<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.icmagroup.org/assets/documents/Regulatory/Green-Bonds/Social-Bonds-Covid-QA310320.pdf>

## ISS ESG SPO ASSESSMENT

### PART I: GREEN AND SOCIAL BOND PRINCIPLES AND SUSTAINABILITY BOND GUIDELINES

#### 1. Use of Proceeds

An amount equal to the proceeds from the issue of the Bonds will be exclusively allocated to finance or re-finance, in whole or in part, new and/or existing *Eligible loans/projects* that fall into the Eligible Categories and meet the Eligibility Criteria specified herein. The Eligible Categories are:

- Infrastructures and Development of Cities;
- SMEs and Corporate Financing;
- Social Housing; and
- Green Energy and Environmental Sustainability.

Each CDP's Green, Social and Sustainability Bond may focus on one, more than one or even on all of the above-mentioned Eligible Categories and it will be a tool contributing to promote the sustainable development.

- **Infrastructure and development of cities**

The proceeds derived from the issuance of CDP Green, Social and Sustainability Bonds will be exclusively used to finance or re-finance, in whole or in part, new and/or existing Eligible loans/projects aimed to foster, in particular, the sustainable growth and development of Italy, and eventually of selected developing countries, through the promotion of urban transformations, infrastructures development and general-interest projects.

CDP believes that Green, Social and Sustainability Bonds are an effective tool to channel investments to assets that have social and green objectives and benefits, thereby contributing to the improvement of living conditions in urban agglomerates, both in cities and underserved areas, for the entire population and to the development of territorial competitiveness.

Examples of target population include, but are not limited to, public services and social infrastructure (public health, public school services and buildings, environmental services, etc), disadvantaged groups, people living in unserved areas as well as in areas economically underperforming and/or devastated by natural and/or health disasters<sup>4</sup> (earthquakes, floods, pandemics, etc.).

Further details are described in the table below:

<sup>4</sup> According to law and applicable regulations.

SUB-CATEGORIES	GBP/SBP CATEGORIES	ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	EXAMPLE OF ELIGIBLE LOANS/PROJECTS
<b>Healthcare</b>	Social categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to essential services</li> <li>• Socioeconomic advancement and empowerment</li> <li>• Affordable basic infrastructure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities that improve the capacity of all countries for provisions of free and subsidized healthcare services with particular focus to the underserved areas or vulnerable populations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financing the construction, development, maintenance or renovation of healthcare facilities, medical equipment and technologies for the improvement and protection of public health</li> <li>• Financing healthcare facilities for providing access to affordable public services to low socio-economic groups</li> </ul>
<b>Water and Sanitation</b>	Social categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Affordable basic infrastructure</li> <li>• Socioeconomic advancement and empowerment</li> </ul> Green categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable water and wastewater management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving access to water and sanitation services</li> <li>• Improve existing sanitation facilities and sewers</li> <li>• Increase water - use efficiency</li> <li>• Improving wastewater treatment performance and better access to drinking water</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financing infrastructures related to water treatment facilities, such as raw water abstraction and transfer infrastructure, water treatment plants, water distribution networks, water storage</li> <li>• Financing water network construction, maintenance and upgrade</li> <li>• Financing wastewater treatment plants, such as sewage networks, wastewater treatment plants, on-site sanitation facilities</li> </ul>
<b>Education</b>	Social categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to essential services</li> <li>• Socioeconomic advancement and empowerment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities that improve educational infrastructure</li> <li>• Activities that foster a successful integration of disadvantaged groups in the education system</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction of new schools, campus, student housing, including school sports facilities, providing accessible and affordable services to the population</li> <li>• Financing the renovation, upgrade, safety, seismic retrofitting and energy efficiency of existing schools' buildings, providing accessible and affordable services to the population</li> </ul>
<b>Digitalisation &amp; Smart Cities</b>	Social categories:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop quality and sustainable infrastructures for all</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financing the construction, equipping, or maintenance of clean transportation</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Affordable basic infrastructure</li> <li>• Access to essential services</li> <li>• Socioeconomic advancement and empowerment</li> </ul> <p>Green categories</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean Transportation</li> <li>• Green Buildings</li> </ul>	<p>that contributes to the improvement of living conditions in urban agglomerations and underserved areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities that expand or maintain access to sustainable transport systems</li> <li>• Activities that improve the construction and the maintenance of sustainable and resilient buildings</li> </ul>	<p>facilities of rail transportation projects for public use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financing of recreational facilities such as parks, swimming pools, green and public spaces and similar, providing affordable access to all.</li> <li>• Financing the upgrade in infrastructure for the improvement of public utility grid as, for example, electricity, gas, optical fiber, etc.</li> <li>• Support digitalization and virtualization</li> <li>• Financing of roads in underserved, internal or isolated area</li> <li>• Financing the construction, equipping, or maintenance of clean transportation facilities, such as cycleways, pedestrian thoroughfares and other transportation infrastructure contributing to the reduction of harmful emissions</li> <li>• Financing the construction, refurbishment or maintenance of energy efficient buildings, including public service, recreational facilities, commercial and residential buildings in line with existing environmental standards<sup>5</sup></li> <li>• Construction, upgrade, safety and seismic retrofitting of public facilities and buildings</li> <li>• Requalification of the country's urban infrastructure, providing universal access to safe public spaces.</li> </ul>
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<sup>5</sup> Construction of new buildings, developments or renovation of existing buildings (including public services, commercial, residential and recreational) which meet recognised environmental standards, such as, for example: LEED –gold, BREEAM – good/very good, HQE –very good/excellent, CASBEE – A (very good)/ S (excellent) or equivalent or, buildings which have reduced life cycle consumption of energy levels of at least 20% less than statute/city baseline. If available, other criteria will be available within the Report, based on the specific typology of loans/projects financed.



- **SMEs and Corporate Financing**

The proceeds derived from the issuance of CDP Green, Social and Sustainability Bonds will be exclusively used to finance or re-finance, in whole or in part, new and/or existing Eligible loans/projects which are not dedicated to any other type of specific funding and have a positive social impact.

CDP is a key player in the sustainable development of the Italian economy as it provides financial support to national enterprises in order to protect their economic sustainability and increase their competitiveness. Indeed, CDP provides loans to Italian companies both indirectly and directly supporting the entire potential lifecycle of a company, from startup to restructuring, with a particular focus on long term investments and research and development

With reference to the SMEs<sup>6</sup>, which represent the majority of Italian companies, CDP encourages access to credit, through the Italian Banking system<sup>7</sup>. Given their key role in economic growth and the context of high unemployment rate in Italy, supporting SMEs is of crucial importance. For this purpose, CDP has put in place development policies through the management of lending, based on specific legislation, and economic support mechanisms to provide liquidity to Italian SMEs through structured interventions in close synergy with financial institutions and facilitating their access to credit.

Moreover, CDP also provides Italian companies<sup>8</sup> with direct lending especially financing projects involving social, cultural or innovative initiatives and also supporting companies in temporary need or that are negatively affected by natural and/or health disaster in order to protect their self-sufficiency and preserve local employments.

CDP believes that Green, Social and Sustainability Bonds are an effective tool to channel investments to assets that have social objectives and benefits and thereby contribute to the improvement of living and working conditions for people living below the poverty line and underserved populations, and to the employment preservation and generation in concerned areas.

The proceeds of the CDP Green, Social and Sustainability Bonds will be used to fund loans to Italian SMEs and other corporates with the aim to foster Italian employment and economic growth through the support of areas and populations affected by natural and/or health disasters (earthquakes, floods, pandemics, etc.) or economically underperforming Italian areas<sup>9</sup>.

Examples of target population include SMEs, *Eligible companies* as well as areas economically underperforming and/or devastated by natural and/or health disasters (earthquakes, floods, pandemics, etc.).

More details are described in the table below:

<sup>6</sup> Companies employing fewer than 250 persons, according to the EU recommendation 2003/361/CE.

<sup>7</sup> Based on specific agreements with the Italian Banking Association (ABI) with established criteria for allocating CDP funding, granting uniform and transparent terms of conditions to access.

<sup>8</sup> According to CDP definition. In relation to extraordinary situations (*i.e.*, natural and/or health disaster), CDP may select the *Eligible companies* to be financed or re-financed on the basis of additional specific criteria.

<sup>9</sup> For example, Italian regions with a level of GDP (gross domestic product at market prices per inhabitant) lower than the national average.

GBP/SBP CATEGORIES	ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	EXAMPLE OF ELIGIBLE LOANS/PROJECTS
<p>Social categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Affordable basic infrastructure</li> <li>Access to essential services</li> <li>Socioeconomic advancement and empowerment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support Italian employment</li> <li>Improve the Italian economic growth through the support of companies facing natural and health disasters or based in economically underperforming Italian areas</li> <li>Support the Italian companies in order to promote socioeconomic development of territories, their growth and international expansion</li> <li>Support access to credit of small-scale industrial and other companies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financing to Italian companies that promotes and support country development as, for example, companies active in social tourism and culture sectors.</li> <li>Financing to SMEs, including start-ups</li> <li>Support the access to banking and financial services in underserved area</li> <li>Promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products</li> <li>Financing the preservation, protection and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage, by type of heritage, level of government, type of expenditure and type of private funding</li> <li>Financing companies operating in social infrastructure sector, supporting their access to banking and financial services</li> <li>Financing to enterprises for investment in research and development</li> </ul>

• **Social Housing**

The proceeds derived from the issuance of CDP Green, Social and Sustainability Bonds will be exclusively used to finance or re-finance, in whole or in part, new and/or existing Eligible loans/projects, such as CDP equity financing in the Fondo Investimenti per l’Abitare (FIA), which is managed by CDP Investimenti Sgr since 2010. These Bonds are an effective tool to channel investments to assets that have social objectives and benefits and thereby contribute to the improvement of housing conditions.

Examples of target population include, but are not limited to, people living without adequate housing and household in position of exclusion.

More details are described below:

GBP/SBP CATEGORIES	ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	EXAMPLE OF ELIGIBLE LOANS/PROJECTS
<p>Social categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access to housing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Projects that increase the access to social housing aiming to support people living in social and economic difficulties and person living without adequate housing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction, renovation or upgrade of social housing in Italy as to provide decent housing</li> </ul>

- Affordable basic infrastructure

- **Green Energy and Environmental Sustainability**

The proceeds derived from the issuance of CDP Green, Social and Sustainability Bonds will be exclusively used to finance or re-finance, in whole or in part, new and/or existing loans/projects which are dedicated to the support of energy transition and the promotion of environmental sustainability.

CDP believes that Green, Social and Sustainability Bonds are an effective tool to channel investments to assets that have green objectives towards a low-carbon and more climate resilient economy, befitting the entire population.

More details are described below:

GBP/SBP CATEGORIES	ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	EXAMPLE OF ELIGIBLE LOANS/PROJECTS
<p>Green categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Renewable energy</li> <li>• Energy efficiency</li> <li>• Pollution prevention and control</li> <li>• Environmentally sustainable management of living natural resources and land use</li> <li>• Climate change adaptation</li> <li>• Circular economy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adaptation projects that demonstrably contribute to reducing vulnerability to climate change identified in the project area</li> <li>• Reduction of GHG emission, due to low- carbon energy use and/or energy recovery</li> <li>• Projects aiming at reducing the impacts of climate change</li> <li>• Projects aiming at developing local renewable energy production and/or energy recovery</li> <li>• Activities that improve waste management</li> <li>• Projects aiming at extending useful life of products and assets</li> <li>• Projects aiming at reducing virgin material consumption and waste generation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Renewable energy projects including wind, solar, hydro power<sup>10</sup>, biomass<sup>11</sup>, geothermal, and their associated components</li> <li>• Energy efficiency projects such as in new and refurbished buildings, energy storage, smart grid solutions, appliance and products, such as LED street lighting</li> <li>• Public lighting</li> <li>• Natural disaster prevention</li> <li>• Financing recycling or composting projects to divert waste from landfill</li> <li>• Construction/refurbishment of energy efficient, thermal insulation for buildings in line with existing environmental standard<sup>12</sup></li> <li>• Product life extension or increased intensity of use</li> <li>• Repurposing, refurbishment and/or retrofitting of end-of-life or redundant immovable assets</li> <li>• Recovery of secondary materials, chemicals, re-usable products and parts from waste, production residues for reuse or recycling</li> </ul>

<sup>10</sup> Hydro projects up to 20 MW in installed capacity or, if larger than 20 MW, satisfying International Finance Corporation (IFC) Standards

<sup>11</sup> Biomass projects may be included subject to availability of adequate raw materials, locally produced and derived from cultivation byproducts, lignocellulosic materials, manure and organic waste. Vegetable oils and other dedicated cultivations are eligible in compliance with applicable regulations and lack of conflicting utilization of the resources with human consumption.

<sup>12</sup> And as defined in footnote 5.

### Excluded Categories and limitations

CDP will not allocate proceeds received from the issuance of Green, Social and Sustainability Bonds to recipients either directly operating, involved in the supply chain or distribution in the following sectors:

- Tobacco
- Raising of fur animals and manufacture of fur items
- Extraction and support extraction activities of natural gas, crude oil and other products deriving from oil refining
- Nuclear power generation and treatment of nuclear fuels
- Fertilizers
- Distilling, rectifying and blending of spirits
- Explosives, weapons and ammunition
- Military fighting vehicles and ballistic missiles
- Gambling and betting activities / adult entertainment

**Opinion:** ISS ESG considers the Use of Proceeds description provided by CDP Green, Social and Sustainability Bond Framework as aligned with the 2020 SBPs, with the 2018 GBPs and SBGs, and with market best practices. Expected environmental and social benefits are clearly displayed in a granular way and the eligible categories are aligned with the broader strategy of the issuer toward sustainability. Moreover, the issuer includes clear exclusion criteria.

## 2. Process for Project Evaluation and Selection

A dedicated Green, Social and Sustainability Bond Working Group has been established to create this Green, Social and Sustainability Bond Framework, manage any future updates to the Framework, including expanding the list of Eligible Categories and oversee its implementation.

The Green, Social and Sustainability Bond Working Group is composed of representatives from CDP's:

- Finance department;
- Relevant business departments;
- Investor Relations & Rating Agencies department; and
- Sustainability department.

The CDP Green, Social and Sustainability Bond Working Group has defined the evaluation and selection process and the Green, Social and Sustainability Bond Framework implementation. It will select loans/projects to be financed among those already financed in CDP's portfolio and in the pipeline, according to the evaluation and selection criteria described in the Use of Proceeds section. In particular:

- Each relevant business department may propose a portfolio of loans/projects to be considered as eligible to Green, Social and/or Sustainability Bond financing, accordingly to CDP Framework requirements;

- CDP Green, Social and Sustainability Bond Working Group will do a second analysis to approve, as appropriate, each proposed selected portfolio of loans/project based on the defined Eligible Categories that meet to the Eligibility Criteria;
- The final decision on the allocation of the loans/projects designated to the Bonds is taken by CDP Green, Social and Sustainability Bond Working Group.

These three phases of the process of evaluation and selection involves all relevant parties to ensure autonomy and independence in the respective activities.

**Opinion:** ISS ESG considers the Project Evaluation and Selection processes as aligned with the 2020 SBPs, and with the 2018 GBPs and SBGs. Relevant internal stakeholders are involved in this process thanks to the creation of a working group. The eligibility criteria are clearly defined and publicly disclosed and the process for project selection is structured and transparent.

### 3. Management of Proceeds

The Working Group will ensure an accurate allocation of proceeds, reviewing the disbursements made and the investments that will be made. The Working Group will be in charge for the purpose of identifying loans/projects that meet the Eligibility Criteria and allocating the bond proceeds from the treasury to these loans/projects.

The proceeds of the bonds will be allocated to Eligible loans/projects and in case of loan/project that would be no longer eligible with, CDP will use the proceeds to finance/re-finance other Eligible loans/projects which are compliant with the current Use of Proceeds section. Moreover, until full allocation, the Proceeds of the Bonds will be credited to CDP's treasury liquidity portfolio and managed in cash or in other short-term instruments in accordance with CDP's risk rules.

The unallocated funds of the bond will be managed within the CDP liquidity portfolio and will be invested in accordance with CDP's risk rules in money market activity such as, for example, marketable securities.

**Opinion:** ISS ESG considers the management of proceeds as aligned with the 2020 SBPs, and with the 2018 GBPs and SBGs. Appropriate tracking of the proceeds is in place and intended types of temporary investment instruments for unallocated proceeds are disclosed.

### 4. Reporting

CDP will publish the Bond Report within approximately one year from the date of the issuance of each Green, Social and Sustainability Bond and annually thereafter, at least until the full allocation of the proceeds.

The Bond Report provide an overview of the Eligible loans/projects financed through the proceeds raised from the Green, Social and Sustainability Bond issuances and their social and / or environmental impacts, based on some impact indicators.

The Green, Social and Sustainability Bond Working Group will collect information from relevant departments and will produce the Bond Report, which will include, for example:

- the total amount of proceeds allocated per Eligible Categories/Loans/Projects;
- the bond proceeds allocated per region and sector of activity;
- the balance of unallocated proceeds, if any.

CDP will use qualitative or quantitative performance indicators<sup>13</sup> to communicate the expected impact of loans/projects<sup>14</sup>. For each of the Eligible Categories, CDP will report the loans/projects associated with the most relevant SDG(s).

The following are potential criteria<sup>15</sup> used for this analysis:

Eligible Categories	Indicative Reporting Criteria
Infrastructures and Development of cities	Number of hospitals and other healthcare facilities built/upgrade Number of patients and/or population of regions served by new/upgraded healthcare facilities Number of water infrastructure projects built/upgrade Percentage/size of populations provided access to clean water and/or sanitation Number of tonnes of clean water provided Water use efficiency Wastewater treatment management Number of schools built/upgraded Number and type of initiatives supporting public university education Number of students served Number of residents benefitting from basic infrastructure new/upgraded which is otherwise not accessible (i.e. rail transportation, development road) Type of basic infrastructure funded and number of projects per each type of affordable basic infrastructure Type of essential service funded and number of projects per each type of essential service funded Number of beneficiaries of social infrastructures Length of rail tracks, cycle ways, roads, pedestrian thoroughfares (km) Length of new/upgraded energy, water grids (km) Number of residents reached by new/upgraded grids or by transportation services Number of refurbished buildings and surface (square meters) Number of passengers accommodated (estimate) Rate of coverage of the digitalization initiatives in the concerned area

<sup>13</sup> The methodology used to estimate the impacts of the projects financed will be well described and made public in a report that will be published on CDP website [www.cdp.it](http://www.cdp.it) for each bond issue under the framework.

<sup>14</sup> The final impacts of the Eligible loans/projects will be evaluated highlighting the component directly related to CDP's contribution. The reporting indicators will be elaborate internally based on the relevant expertise including in the Working Group. Furthermore, CDP may consider to be assisted by an external expert to develop reporting indicators in order to better represent the social impacts of eligible projects.

<sup>15</sup> For each specific bond, a sub-set of these criteria will be used according to the characteristics of eligible projects, data availability and methodological issues

Eligible Categories	Indicative Reporting Criteria
SMEs and Corporate Financing	Number of SMEs financed Number of employees of the financed SMEs (estimate) Number of enterprises that invest in research and development
Social Housing	Number of beneficiaries Savings in terms of housing rents Number of jobs supported by the projects Number of dwellings renovated or constructed
Green Energy and Environmental Sustainability	Number and type of initiatives financed in the renewable energy field Number and type of initiatives financed in the waste management field Number and type of initiatives financed for the promotion and the growth of renewable energy production (estimate) Energy savings (estimate) Estimate of CO2 emissions avoided KW of clean energy provided Number of household/residents benefitting from affordable and clean energy which is otherwise not accessible Number of solar farms or wind farms Location and type of solar or wind farms Number of electric/hybrid/ low-emission vehicles provided Number of projects for recycling or composting projects to divert waste from landfill Number of initiatives supported to prevent natural disaster and to improve energy efficiency Number of projects in the field of circular economy

CDP may select alternative quantitative or qualitative indicators to report on the impact of loans/projects financed through the proceeds of the Green, Social and Sustainability Bonds, where it believes these to be relevant to the Eligible loans/projects.

The Reporting aims at informing the bondholders about key features of the loans/projects, in line with the best market practice. For this reason, CDP will give a summary of the impact of these Eligible loans/projects and some case studies will also be presented to highlight the qualitative impacts of CDP's lending, in accordance with the recognized international standards on impact reporting.

CDP's annual Green, Social and Sustainability Bonds Report will be available on CDP's website ([https://www.cdp.it/sitointernet/it/green\\_social\\_sust\\_bonds.page](https://www.cdp.it/sitointernet/it/green_social_sust_bonds.page)) and it could be integrated in CDP's annual sustainability report.

**Opinion:** ISS ESG considers the reporting as aligned with the 2020 SBPs, and with the 2018 GBPs and SBGs. The issuer gives great details about level, frequency, scope and duration of reporting for both allocation and impact reporting. Impact indicators are well defined, and intended public disclosure further enhances the quality of the reporting.

## **External review**

CDP has appointed as Second Party Opinion provider to verify the sustainability credentials of this framework and assess the alignment of this framework with the Green Bond Principles and the Sustainability Bond Guidelines issued in June 2018 and the Social Bond Principles issued in June 2020 by ICMA.

The Second Party Opinion will be made available on CDP's website at [https://www.cdp.it/sitointernet/it/green\\_social\\_sust\\_bonds.page](https://www.cdp.it/sitointernet/it/green_social_sust_bonds.page)

Furthermore, CDP will appoint an independent auditor to perform an assurance engagement of the Green, Social and Sustainability Bonds Report and/or the Second Party Opinion provider to review the compliance of Eligible loans/projects with the Eligibility Criteria.

## PART II: SUSTAINABILITY QUALITY OF THE SOCIAL BOND ASSET POOL

### Corporate financing and employment generation

As a Use of Proceeds category, Corporate financing and employment generation has a significant contribution to the SDG 8 “Decent work and economic growth”, according to the methodology of ISS ESG. The asset pool can also be associated to the SDG 9 “industry, innovation and infrastructure” according to the issuer’s own mapping.

CDP’s aim is to support Italian companies through two types of loan programs:

- One consists of medium-long term financing to support companies in temporary need or located in economically underperforming Italian areas, for Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) purposes.
- The other one, consists of medium-long term financing targeting companies affected by the COVID-19 health emergency and the related social and economic downturn, through legislative frameworks put in place by the Italian government.

Regarding this last one, CDP’s issuance revolves around the following national decree:

- Decreto Legge N. 23 del 8 Aprile 2020 cd. “Decreto liquidità” which promotes loans guaranteed by SACE S.p.A, subsidiary of CDP.

All proceeds will be granted in Italy.

The eligibility criteria have been shared by the Issuer for both loan programs.

The table below presents the financing intentions and the findings of an ISS ESG assessment of the assets (re-)financed against KPIs.

#### ASSESSMENT AGAINST ISS ESG KPIs

##### Expected social benefits related to COVID-19 crisis management (for applicable assets only)

100% of applicable assets are targeting populations and groups affected by the COVID-19 crisis:

- ✓
  - Production plants and business activities needing support with personnel costs, investments, or circulating capital to maintain and create employment.
  - Corporates needing support with working capital costs, such as cash for salary payments, liquidity for supplier payments and investment costs to maintain and create employment.

##### Alignment with COVID-19-related national legislative framework (for applicable assets only)

- ✓ 100% of the assets are formulated around the Italian National Decree related to COVID-19 crisis management and supporting employment. <sup>16</sup>

<sup>16</sup> Decreto Legge N. 23 del 8 Aprile 2020 cd. “Decreto liquidità”. <https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2020/04/08/20G00043/s>

**Exclusion of controversial activities**

- ✓ Controversial business activities (e.g. coal and fossil fuel) are excluded from financing in accordance with the exclusion criteria set out in the Framework.

**Labour standards**

- ✓ 100% of assets provide for high labour and health and safety standards (e.g. ILO core conventions).

**Environmental management** (for non COVID-19 related assets only)

- ✓ For 100% of assets, comprehensive environmental management systems are in place.

## PART III: ASSESSMENT OF CDP'S ESG PERFORMANCE

The ISS ESG Corporate Rating provides a rating and then designates a company as 'Prime<sup>17</sup>' or 'Not Prime' based on its performance on basic ESG requirements for its industry sector. It is also assigned a Decile Rank, indicating this relative industry group performance, with 1 indicating a high relative ESG performance, and 10 a low relative ESG performance.

COMPANY	STATUS	Rating	DECILE RANK
CDP	NOT PRIME	C-	6

The issuer itself shows a moderate sustainability performance and has been given a rating of 'C-', which is just below the 'Prime' threshold of 'C', according to the ISS ESG Corporate Rating methodology

As of 11.09.2020, this rating places CDP 22<sup>th</sup> out of 41 companies rated by ISS ESG in the Financials/Development Banks sector. The issuer also achieved a very high transparency level.

Key Challenges facing companies in term of sustainability management in this sector are:

- Sustainability standards for financial products and services
- Goal-oriented promotion of sustainability issues
- Climate change and related risks
- Labour standards and working conditions

In all of the key issues CDP rates above the average for the sector. The issuer achieved a significant outperformance in the "Labour standards and working conditions" key issue performance.

The company faces no severe controversies.

Details on the rating of the issuer can be found in Annex 1.

<sup>17</sup> Prime is only awarded to the top sector performers, often less than 10% of companies within the respective sector.

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1. Validity of the SPO: the SPO is valid as long as no new asset categories are added to the pool.
2. ISS ESG uses a scientifically based rating concept to analyse and evaluate the environmental and social performance of companies and countries. In doing so, we adhere to the highest quality standards which are customary in responsibility research worldwide. In addition, we create a Second Party Opinion (SPO) on bonds based on data from the issuer.
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## ANNEX 1: ISS ESG Corporate Rating

The following pages contain extracts from CDP's ISS ESG Corporate Rating.

# Cassa depositi e prestiti S.p.A.

## Company Information

Country  
Italy

ISIN  
IT0005273567

Industry  
Financials/Development Banks

## Key Results

Rating  
**C-**

Decile Rank  
**6**

Transparency Level  
**Very High**

Performance score  
**46.69**

Status  
**Not Prime**

Prime Threshold  
**C**

## Absolute Rating

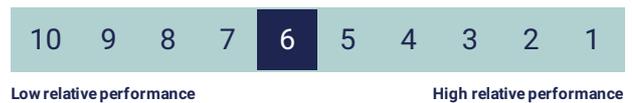


The assessment of a company's sustainability performance is based on approximately 100 criteria, selected specifically for each industry. A company's failure to disclose, or lack of transparency, regarding these matters will impact a company's rating negatively.

## Transparency Level



## Decile Rank

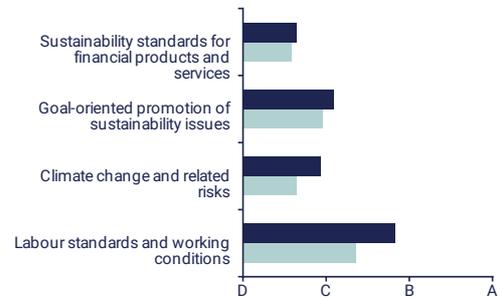


## Industry Leaders

Company name (in alphabetical order)	Country	Grade
Asian Development Bank	PH	B
European Investment Bank	LU	B-
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development	US	B-

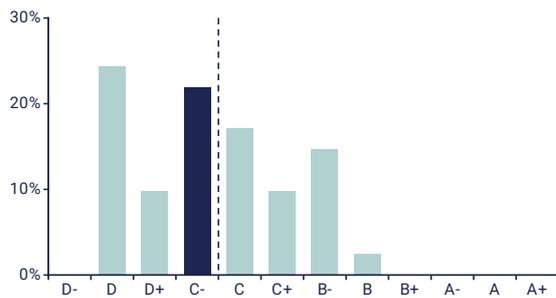
Legend: ■ Industry ■ Company --- Prime

## Key Issue Performance

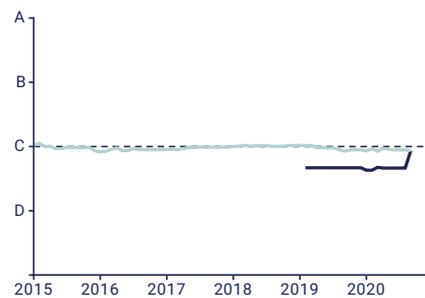


## Distribution of Ratings

41 companies in the industry



## Rating History



# Cassa depositi e prestiti S.p.A.

## Analyst Opinion

### Sustainability Opportunities

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Cassa depositi e prestiti provides financing services for public-sector investments. The company offers a range of financial services with a high social benefit including loans to social infrastructure and the provision of capital for microcredit institutions and social enterprises. The company also develops social housing. With regard to the environment, Cassa depositi e prestiti finances projects in the energy efficiency, renewable energy, and clean urban transport sectors. However, the relevant business volume is estimated to be low.

### Sustainability Risks

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With regard to sustainability in financing activities, Cassa depositi e prestiti applies the IFC performance standards but only for its international finance and export credit activities. Moreover, the company demonstrates an approach to integrating ESG in equity investment decisions. In the social dimension, the company addresses some customer-related risks regarding clients with debt repayment problems and ensures goal-oriented financial services through monitoring and ex-post impact assessments of some of its financed activities. Cassa depositi e prestiti has implemented good measures to ensure employee well-being, such as offering work-life balance options and implementing a health and safety management system. There is no adequate strategy for the corporate value chain regarding climate change, though.

Finally, Cassa depositi e prestiti has a code of conduct covering almost all important compliance topics at least in general terms. To ensure the application of the policy, the company provides compliance training, compliance risk assessments and audits, as well as anonymous reporting channels.

### Governance Opinion

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While Cassa depositi e prestiti's board chair is considered independent, it remains unclear whether most of the remaining board members are independent and thus whether there are independent committees for audit, nomination and remuneration in place (as at July 2020). The company discloses its remuneration policy for the CEO only, including long-term components, which could incentivize sustainable value creation.

Regarding the company's governance of sustainability, there is no evidence of a committee tasked with the supervision of sustainability issues. Moreover, while the company states that sustainability performance objectives are integrated into the variable remuneration of members of the executive management team, there are no details available. Cassa depositi e prestiti has a code of conduct covering almost all important compliance topics at least in general terms. To ensure the application of the policy, the company provides compliance training, compliance risk assessments and audits, as well as anonymous reporting channels.

# Cassa depositi e prestiti S.p.A.

## Methodology - Overview

The ESG Corporate Rating methodology was originally developed by Institutional Shareholder Services Germany (formerly oekom research) and has been consistently updated for more than 25 years.

**ESG Corporate Rating** - The ESG Corporate Rating universe, which is currently expanding from more than 8,000 corporate issuers to a targeted 10,000 issuers in 2020, covers important national and international indices as well as additional companies from sectors with direct links to sustainability and the most important bond issuers that are not publicly listed companies.

The assessment of a company's social & governance and environmental performance is based on approximately 100 environmental, social and governance indicators per sector, selected from a pool of 800+ proprietary indicators. All indicators are evaluated independently based on clearly defined performance expectations and the results are aggregated, taking into account each indicator's and each topic's materiality-oriented weight, to yield an overall score (rating). If no relevant or up-to-date company information with regard to a certain indicator is available, and no assumptions can be made based on predefined standards and expertise, e.g. known and already classified country standards, the indicator is assessed with a D-

In order to obtain a comprehensive and balanced picture of each company, our analysts assess relevant information reported or directly provided by the company as well as information from reputable independent sources. In addition, our analysts actively seek a dialogue with the assessed companies during the rating process and companies are regularly given the opportunity to comment on the results and provide additional information.

**Analyst Opinion** - Qualitative summary and explanation of the central rating results in three dimensions:

- (1) Opportunities - assessment of the quality and the current and future share of sales of a company's products and services, which positively or negatively contribute to the management of principal sustainability challenges.
- (2) Risks - summary assessment of how proactively and successfully the company addresses specific sustainability challenges found in its business activity and value chain, thus reducing its individual risks, in particular regarding its sector's key issues.
- (3) Governance - overview of the company's governance structures and measures as well as of the quality and efficacy of policies regarding its ethical business conduct.

**Controversial Business Practices** - The assessment of companies' sustainability performance in the ESG Corporate Rating is informed by a systematic and comprehensive evaluation of companies' ability to prevent and mitigate ESG controversies. ISS ESG conducts research and analysis on corporate involvement in verified or alleged failures to respect recognized standards for responsible business conduct through Norm-Based Research.

Norm-Based Research is based on authoritative standards for responsible business conduct such as the UN Global Compact, the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, the UN Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights and the Sustainable Development Goals.

As a stress-test of corporate disclosure, Norm-Based Research assesses the following:

- Companies' ability to address grievances and remediate negative impacts
- Degree of verification of allegations and claims
- Severity of impact on people and the environment, and systematic or systemic nature of malpractices

Severity of impact is categorized as Potential, Moderate, Severe, Very severe. This informs the ESG Corporate Rating.

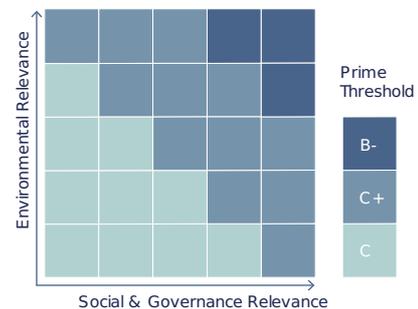
**Decile Rank** - The Decile Rank indicates in which decile (tenth part of total) the individual Corporate Rating ranks within its industry from 1 (best – company's rating is in the first decile within its industry) to 10 (lowest – company's rating is in the tenth decile within its industry). The Decile Rank is determined based on the underlying numerical score of the rating. If the total number of companies within an industry cannot be evenly divided by ten, the surplus company ratings are distributed from the top (1 decile) to the bottom. If there are Corporate Ratings with identical absolute scores that span a division in decile ranks, all ratings with an equal decile score are classified in the higher decile, resulting in a smaller number of Corporate Ratings in the decile below.

# Cassa depositi e prestiti S.p.A.

## Methodology - Overview

**Industry Classification** - The social and environmental impacts of industries differ. Therefore, based on its relevance, each industry analyzed is classified in a Sustainability Matrix.

Depending on this classification, the two dimensions of the ESG Corporate Rating, the Social Rating and the Environmental Rating, are weighted and the sector-specific minimum requirements for the ISS ESG Prime Status (Prime threshold) are defined (absolute best-in-class approach).



**Industry Leaders** - List (in alphabetical order) of the top three companies in an industry from the ESG Corporate Rating universe at the time of generation of this report.

**Key Issue Performance** - Overview of the company's performance with regard to the key social and environmental issues in the industry, compared to the industry average.

**Performance Score** - The ESG Performance Score allows for cross-industry comparisons using a standardized best-in-class threshold that is valid across all industries. It is the numerical representation of the alphabetic ratings (D- to A+) on a scale of 0 to 100 with 50 representing the prime threshold. All companies with values greater than 50 are Prime, while companies with values less than 50 are Not Prime. As a result, intervals are of varying size depending on the original industry-specific prime thresholds.

**Rating History** - Development of the company's rating over time and comparison to the average rating in the industry.

**Rating Scale** - Companies are rated on a twelve-point scale from A+ to D-:

A+: the company shows excellent performance.

D-: the company shows poor performance (or fails to demonstrate any commitment to appropriately address the topic).

Overview of the range of scores achieved in the industry (light blue) and indication of the grade of the company evaluated in this report (dark blue).

**Distribution of Ratings** - Overview of the distribution of the ratings of all companies from the respective industry that are included in the ESG Corporate Rating universe (company portrayed in this report: dark blue).

**Sources of Information** - A selection of sources used for this report is illustrated in the annex.

**Status & Prime Threshold** - Companies are categorized as Prime if they achieve/exceed the sustainability performance requirements (Prime threshold) defined by ISS ESG for a specific industry (absolute best-in-class approach) in the ESG Corporate Rating. Prime companies are sustainability leaders in their industry and are better positioned to cope with material ESG challenges and risks, as well as to seize opportunities, than their Not Prime peers. The financial materiality of the Prime Status has been confirmed by performance studies, showing a continuous outperformance of the Prime portfolio when compared to conventional indices over more than 14 years.

**Transparency Level** - The Transparency Level indicates the company's materiality-adjusted disclosure level regarding the environmental and social performance indicators defined in the ESG Corporate Rating. It takes into consideration whether the company has disclosed relevant information regarding a specific indicator, either in its public ESG disclosures or as part of the rating feedback process, as well as the indicator's materiality reflected in its absolute weight in the rating. The calculated percentage is classified in five transparency levels following the scale below.

0% - < 20%: very low

20% - < 40%: low

40% - < 60%: medium

60% - < 80%: high

80% - 100%: very high

For example, if a company discloses information for indicators with a cumulated absolute weight in the rating of 23 percent, then its Transparency Level is "low". A company's failure to disclose, or lack of transparency, will impact a company's ESG performance rating negatively.

## ANNEX 2: Methodology

### ISS ESG Social Bond KPIs

The ISS ESG Social Bond KPIs serves as a structure for evaluating the sustainability quality – i.e. the social and environmental added value – of the use of proceeds of CDP's Social Bond.

It comprises firstly the definition of the use of proceeds category offering added social and/or environmental value, and secondly the specific sustainability criteria by means of which this added value and therefore the sustainability performance of the assets can be clearly identified and described.

The sustainability criteria are complemented by specific indicators, which enable quantitative measurement of the sustainability performance of the assets and which can also be used for reporting.

To review the KPIs used in this SPO, please contact Federico Pezzolato (details below) who will send them directly to you.

### Asset evaluation methodology

ISS ESG evaluates whether the assets included in the asset pool match the eligible project category and criteria listed in the Social Bond KPIs.

All percentages refer to the amount of assets within one category (e.g. wind power). Additionally, the assessment “no or limited information is available” either indicates that no information was made available to ISS ESG or that the information provided did not fulfil the requirements of the ISS ESG Social Bond KPIs.

The evaluation was carried out using information and documents provided to ISS ESG on a confidential basis by CDP (e.g. Due Diligence Reports). Further, national legislation and standards, depending on the asset location, were drawn on to complement the information provided by the issuer.

### Assessment of the contribution and association to the SDG

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were endorsed in September 2015 by the United Nations and provide a benchmark for key opportunities and challenges toward a more sustainable future. Using a proprietary method, ISS ESG identifies the extent to which CDP's Social Bond contributes to related SDGs and has a positive association with their respective sub-targets.

## About ISS ESG SPO

ISS ESG is one of the world's leading rating agencies in the field of sustainable investment. The agency analyses companies and countries regarding their environmental and social performance.

As part of our Sustainable (Green & Social) Bond Services, we provide support for companies and institutions issuing sustainable bonds, advise them on the selection of categories of projects to be financed and help them to define ambitious criteria.

We assess alignment with external principles (e.g. the ICMA Green / Social Bond Principles), analyse the sustainability quality of the assets and review the sustainability performance of the issuer themselves. Following these three steps, we draw up an independent SPO so that investors are as well informed as possible about the quality of the bond / loan from a sustainability perspective.

Learn more: <https://www.isscorporatesolutions.com/solutions/esg-solutions/green-bond-services/>

For Information about SPO services, and this Sustainability Bond, contact:

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