

## **UBI BANCA MEETS UP WITH FINTECH AND INDUSTRY: PROGRESS AND INNOVATION FOR SUSTAINABLE FINANCE**

*The Bank organised a meeting to discuss new organisational processes and business models capable of stimulating sustainable development. Protagonists of the fintech ecosystem, the world of academia and representatives from major firms expert on ESG issues were those involved.*

**Milan, 6<sup>th</sup> February 2020**– Today UBI Banca brought together major players in the worlds of finance, industry and academia for the event “Sustainable finance and fintech: progress and innovation”. The objective of this appointment, organised by the Bank in collaboration with Fintastico, a website that specialises in news on the fintech universe, was to create an opportunity to discuss and reflect on the role that fintech is taking on in processes linked to sustainable growth.

The speakers were various and numerous, consisting not only of senior staff at UBI Banca but also those provided by the Fintech & Insurtech Observatory at the Politecnico of Milan and by IBM, Luxottica, Grifal, Banor SIM, ESGeo, Eurizon, InVento Lab and MDOTM. They illustrated some of the key arguments on how to create responsible growth. The broad scenario of sustainable investments was examined in detail during the event, ranging from the European regulatory framework to the influence exerted by the behaviour of institutional investments and the discussion included the various actions which companies must undertake to best manage environmental, social and governance risks.

*“Sustainability and social responsibility are the pillars of economic growth. A rapid process of transformation is taking place which also involves industry and banks which, if they are to support sustainable development, must review their business models and organisational processes”,* said Rossella Leidi, Chief Wealth & Welfare Officer and Deputy General Manager at UBI Banca. *“It is absolutely essential in an evolving global environment to identify the most important technological trends and in the world of banking the interplay between players with consolidated know-how and new protagonists can generate completely new business models even in the most traditional industries thereby adding direct value to the socio-economic fabric of society”.*

The event underlined the need for ever-increasing contact with the fintech ecosystem through the adoption of an open innovative approach which involves a way of working together to manage innovation that is open and does not have the sole aim of establishing business relationships for the supply of services, but which is aimed at developing and consolidating direct contacts with the system to drive the internal generation of innovative initiatives. This is why UBI Banca is a partner in the London Fintech Innovation Lab, a start-up incubator in the financial sector, and it was again with a view to co-operation and collective growth that it launched a partnership with Plug & Play, the first international accelerator of start-ups located in Silicon Valley.



UBI Banca has issued 96 social bonds since 2012 for a total value of greater than one billion euro. In 2019 the Bank successfully placed its first green bond reserved to institutional investors which received orders for approximately €1.5 billion. The Group's commitment in this sphere is daily and constant, as borne out by the numerous results achieved in the areas of environmental sustainability, social and economic development in communities and welfare initiatives. For the first time this year UBI Banca has been included among the 325 companies inserted by Bloomberg in its 2020 Gender-Equality Index (GEI).

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