

PlaNNet Finance and Capgemini to jointly promote Microfinance in Italy

The partnership between Capgemini Italia S.p.A. ("Capgemini Italia") and the non-profit organization PlaNNet Finance Italia takes off with the development of two imminent projects for the purpose of:

- 1 creating a venture capital fund to support small and micro local enterprises;***
- 2 promoting microfinance in university education through the European "University Meets Microfinance" program***

Milan, 9 June 2009- PlaNNet Finance Italia - the non-profit organization created by the famous French economist and essayist, Jacques Attali - and Capgemini Italia S.p.A., ("Capgemini Italia"), a subsidiary of the Capgemini Group, one of the world's foremost providers of consulting, technology and outsourcing services, have agreed to jointly promote Microfinance in Italy.

Capgemini Italia joins PlaNNet Finance as a *Partner* and plans for the next three years to support the activities of the non-profit body, contributing financially and through its own professionals to the launching of Corporate Social Responsibility projects. In addition, Capgemini Italia will place at PlaNNet Finance's disposal the technical and information technology equipment necessary to carry out the organization's day-to-day activities.

The commitment for this first year of collaboration is focussed on the development of two important projects: the creation of the **Financités** fund for transforming ideas into companies, and **University Meets Microfinance** to bring tomorrow's managers closer to the microcredit theme.

In particular:

Financités is a joint-stock joint-risk company whose objective is to support small and very small businesses, encouraging integration and economic development of the most underprivileged ranges of the population. This fund, which has attracted the interest of public institutions in Italy, today also takes the form of a collaboration with Banca Popolare di Milano, with the objective of carrying out a feasibility plan for Lombardy
"The present crisis leads us necessarily to consider concrete, innovative alternatives to encourage economic development and to review the entire banking system," states Jacques Attali, President of PlaNNet Finance. "The crisis obliges us to bring about solutions at all levels, public and private. Thanks to the help of certain private people, particularly visionary and charitable, our organization may develop microfinance projects also in Italy."

University Meets Microfinance is a European project co-funded by the European Union and promoted by PlaNNet Finance, whose objective is to promote microfinance among Europe's future decision-makers, students and the academic world in general, creating a collaborative network between the major European and Italian universities. The project consists of a three-year programme (2009-2011) that provides for the creation of seminars, workshops, scholarships and awards at French, Belgian, German, Italian and British universities. Capgemini, besides supporting the promotion of this program, intends to stimulate Italian research into microfinance in the ICT (Information & Communication Technology) sector by making available 5 scholarships.

"Capgemini believes the training of its resources represents are crucial factors for keeping abreast of the continual transformation in the markets, and therefore of the needs of its clients," comments Maurizio Mondani, CEO of Capgemini Italia *"We felt compelled to take*

this opportunity to support the UMM programme, which directly involves society's future entrepreneurs and encourages the development of microfinance and the necessary technological supports."

The agreement between Capgemini Italia and PlaNNet Finance Italia fits logically into the wider picture that sees SOGETI, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Capgemini Group and a leader in local Information Technology, Professional and Test Services, involved on a global scale in support of PlaNNet Finance and the Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) in the rationalization and improvement of their IT systems for 10 years.

Financités

Created in 2007 by PlaNNet Finance, it is a joint-stock and joint-risk company whose mission is to help small and very small neighbourhood enterprises by means of complementary loans for the development of the business. By means of loans to small neighbourhood businesses, Financités wants to contribute to consolidation, the creation of jobs and economic dynamism and improve general living conditions in these areas.

Financités completes existing lending to small French businesses by offering intervention with its own funds and joint funds, committing itself principally in capital development activities.

According to the reports of the World Bank and the World Economic Forum, which investigate the difficulties in having access to credit and borrowing, Italy is in 108th place among other countries, both European and non-European. In particular, the venture-capital sector is seen to be the least developed in Europe, with Italy at 87th place among 134 classified countries. These figures indicate a real need for investment in this sector. The leading shareholders are HSBC, Caisse des Dépôts, Club du XXI^e Siècle, Mme Taittinger, and the Evens Foundation. Further information may be had on www.financites.fr.

University Meets Microfinance

The UMM, programme provides for a series of activities to be agreed with the Universities, to promote microfinance and create a European network for the exchange of information and increasing know-how in the following areas: MF & ICT – MF & Public Goods (Health, Education, Environment) – MF & Investments – Rural MF – MF & Remittances – MF in Europe. Besides courses and seminars, provision is made for scholarships for field researches, for which application may be made.

According to figures published by Eurostat (The Statistics Office of the European Commission), Italy is among the last places for the number of university graduates in the 27 European countries investigated, with 19% graduates against the European average of 30%. In university research, moreover, Italy invests only 1.1% of its GNP against a European average of 2% with a resulting emigration of graduates abroad that is among the highest, equal to 2.3%.

Finally, according to the World Bank and the World Economic Forum, Italy occupies 77th place among the 134 countries classified for the lack of collaboration between universities and industry for research. For further information contact Clarisse Zanchi (mobile: 392.698.62.40; email: czanchi@planetfinance.org)

PlaNNet Finance

PlaNNet Finance is an organization for international solidarity whose mission is to fight poverty in the world by promoting and developing microfinance. Based in Paris, PlaNNet Finance is active in over 80 countries with 40 offices. In ten years of activity, PlaNNet Finance has supported 1500 microcredit institutions lending to more than 9 million people. For further information see www.planetfinancegroup.org.

About Capgemini

Capgemini, one of the world's foremost providers of consulting, technology and outsourcing services, enables its clients to transform and perform through technologies. Capgemini provides its clients with insights and capabilities that boost their freedom to achieve superior results through a unique way of working, the Collaborative Business Experience™. The Group relies on its global delivery model called Rightshore®, which aims to get the right balance of the best talent from multiple locations, working as one team to create and deliver the optimum solution for clients. Present in more than 30 countries, Capgemini reported 2008 global revenues of EUR 8.7 billion and employs over 90,000 people worldwide. More information is available at www.capgemini.com.

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Capgemini in social matters

*For over 40 years Capgemini has devoted itself to **Corporate Social Responsibility** activities, promoting projects directed to its own employees and the territory in which it operates both with local initiatives and projects of an international nature, such as the “Caring for Climate” project in collaboration with United Nations Global Compact and the initiative in support of the Naandi Foundation -an Indian non-profit organization – to encourage the placing of children belonging to the poorer strata of society in the educational system. In Italy it sponsors various charitable initiatives focused above all on improving children's living conditions.*

For further information:

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