



# Banca Popolare di Sondrio

## COMMUNICATION ON PROGRESS 2006 RENEWAL OF BANCA POPOLARE DI SONDRIO SUPPORT TO THE GLOBAL COMPACT FOR THE YEAR 2006

Banca Popolare di Sondrio renews its commitment to the UN project “Global Compact” also for the year 2006, confirming its support to the ten universal principles with respect to human rights, labour rights, environment protection and campaign against corruption.

On page 57 of the Annual Report 2006, our support to the Global Compact has been once more pointed out to all shareholders (more than 151.000): *“As members of the Global Compact project – proposed by the UN to companies for the support of ten universal principles regarding ethics, social progress on environmental protection – we have reported our achievements in these various areas during 2005 as required. This report contains news on various initiatives taken during the year that meet the purposes of this project”*.

In confirmation of our commitment towards the United Nations, we report hereafter the main enterprises undertaken by Banca Popolare di Sondrio in the year 2006, with the relative quotations taken by the latest Annual Report:

- **Cultural and social activities.** Banca Popolare di Sondrio has always paid particular attention, not only to the strictly «banking» and «financial» aspects of its common activity, but also to the promotion of cultural and social initiatives, dedicated to a large public of any age and professional status.

Culture and the books in particular have been one of the favourite focuses of the attention of Banca Popolare di Sondrio. *“To mark the centenary of the birth of the late-lamented Mario Soldati, an unforgettable author, we republished his «Adventure in Valtellina», which was first published, also by us, in 1985. We are grateful to film director Ermanno Olmi who defined this work as «a peak in 20<sup>th</sup> century literature», suggesting this initiative”*. (Page 75). Another important achievement has been the library offered from the bank to the town of Sondrio. *“As regards the library, work has currently being completed at Palazzo Guicciardi, the head office of BIM in Sondrio on the Lungo Mallerio, to prepare the structure with which the bank intends to make its book and document collection available to the general public. The Pareto and Leoni collections and donations are of particular value, among others”*. (Pages 75-76). The commitment of Banca Popolare di Sondrio to led the vineyard terracing of Valtellina admitted among the World Property of Humanity is going on. *“The complex application to UNESCO is going ahead, though any decision is likely to take a long time. Together with the other entities involved, starting with the Provincial Administration, as well as the Fondazione ProVinea, which is closely following the application, we are doing all we can to achieve this important objective”*. (Page 76).

In the end, we mention our solidary initiatives: *“Following the Pacific tsunami in December 2004, we promoted a very successful fund-raising campaign together with the Milanese newspaper Il Giornale: in total we reached a figure of one million Euro. This money was used by CESVI (Cooperazione e Sviluppo ONLUS) of Bergamo, to build 100 permanent houses in north-east Sri Lanka, in the adjacent villages of Tiriyaï and Kattukulam. This complex includes infrastructures and all that is needed to ensure that the inhabitants have a secure supply of food and water. At the time of writing, the works are at a good point, despite the difficulties. Along with other targeted initiatives of a philanthropic nature, fundraising continued on behalf of the Bambino Gesù, Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice, the Umberto Veronesi Foundations and the Comitato Italiano Maison Shalom (page 77).*

- **Initiatives for the environmental care.** Banca Popolare di Sondrio firm believes that the environmental care has to be applied in the everyday activities. *“With the «Save the Trees» initiative, the users of our internet banking system can receive their banking documentation in digital format rather than on paper, benefiting from evident advantages in terms of speed of delivery, confidentiality and ease of filing. It is obvious that the this initiative also has important environmental importance”.*
- **Initiatives in favour of youngsters.** Young people are the future, therefore it is highly important to involve them actively in promoting of the most important values *“Following tradition, we celebrated World savings Day, now at its 82<sup>nd</sup> edition, with the participation of the senior classes of the high schools in the Province of Sondrio. Walkers Giorgio Damilano, a champion of the past, and Elisa Rigauda, winner of the bronze medal at the European Championships and Italian hope for the coming Beijing Olympics, answered questions put by journalist and friend Giorgio Bacci concerning sacrifice and fatigue, in sport and in life. Two generations face to face to help youngsters understand the values remain the same over the time. In any case, we are convinced of the generosity and integrity of the young.”* (page 76).
- **Progress in the field of «Migrant Banking».** We keep on improving and extending the services to foreign workers in Italy. *“We have closely followed the provision of products and services to non-EU foreign workers domiciled in Italy. Our «International remittances» service has been expanded for this reason, making it possible for immigrants to send funds to their country of origin simply and at competitive rates ”.* (page 56).
- **Mutualistic activity.** According to its vocation as cooperative bank, Banca Popolare di Sondrio applies the mutualistic criteria in the whole activity. *“We would like to say that the cooperative bank as we intend and implement it operates by creating wealth, well-being and progress, geared to serving the individual. We are well aware that nothing can exist in reality if it does not in spirit.”* (page 86).

In addition to these initiatives, the board of directors of Banca Popolare di Sondrio decided during the latest annual general meeting to renounce the already approved reward raise in favour of the “Pro Africa Foundation” established by His Eminence the most Reverend Cardinal Ersilio Tonini, collecting an amount of EUR 75,000.