

PRESS RELEASE

KRUSO KAPITAL: PORTUGUESE SUBSIDIARY CRÉDITO ECONÓMICO POPULAR OPENS A NEW BRANCH IN ELVAS, FURTHER STRENGTHENING ITS LOCAL PRESENCE

- The new opening brings CEP's network in Portugal to 17 branches, in line with the Group's development strategy
- Elvas's location close to the Spanish border expands the company's potential customer base

Milan, 21 September 2026

CEP - Crédito Económico Popular, the Portuguese company of the Kruso Kapital Group specialising in pawn loans secured by gold and precious metals, announces the opening of a new branch in Elvas, bringing the total number of branches in Portugal to **17**.

The opening marks a further step in CEP's growth path and forms part of the broader development strategy of **Kruso Kapital, parent company of the eponymous Financial Group**, focused on consolidating and expanding its activities in its target markets through a combination of **external growth, through acquisitions, and organic growth, through new branch openings and the progressive expansion of its service offering**.

Giuseppe Gentile, General Manager of Kruso Kapital, commented: *"As parent company, our goal is to support and foster the growth of the Group companies by providing expertise, resources and a shared development model. Our strategy is based on two complementary pillars: on the one hand, growth through acquisitions; on the other, organic development through new openings, broader services and deeper penetration in the territories in which we operate".*

The choice of Elvas also has particular strategic significance due to its **geographical location just a few kilometres from the Spanish border**. In addition to strengthening CEP's presence in Alto Alentejo, the new branch can tap into a cross-border customer base, including Spanish citizens who conduct activities in Portugal and already hold identity documents valid for accessing the pawn loans offered by CEP.

The new branch offers customers **immediate loans secured by gold, silver and jewellery**, through a process designed to ensure speed, discretion, security and transparency.

Against a backdrop of growing interest in gold as an investment asset and store of value, CEP is also expanding its offering by making available **fine gold investment bars**, in 5- and 10-gram

denominations and with a purity of 999.9. Each bar is accompanied by a certificate attesting to its purity, weight and authenticity, with prices linked to international gold prices.

The network expansion comes at a time of significant growth in CEP's business. At the end of the first half of 2026, the company had approximately **17,500 contracts**, up **4.9%** year-on-year, and **outstanding loans exceeding EUR 27 million**, up **45%** compared with the same period of 2025.

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Kruso Kapital S.p.A.

Kruso Kapital, a company listed on Borsa Italiana's Euronext Milan regulated market, adopted its current corporate name in November 2022 and operates both in the pawn lending business and in the auction market for precious items, works of art and other collectibles. Through its brands, products and innovative services, the company provides appraisal and financing services for valuables and works of art; in particular, in the pawn lending sector, it operates through ProntoPegno-branded branches in Italy and Greece, while in Portugal it operates under the Credito Economico Popular brand, offering loans to individuals secured by pledged assets. Through its Kruso Art auction house, it is also active in the modern, contemporary and ancient art market, as well as in selected collectibles segments such as luxury fashion and design. Headquartered in Milan, Kruso Kapital operates 16 branches in Asti, Brescia, Civitavecchia, Florence, Genoa, Livorno, Mestre, Naples, Palermo, Pisa, Parma, Rimini, Rome, Sanremo and Turin; 2 branches in Greece, in Athens and Piraeus; and 17 in Portugal, between Lisbon and Porto. It employs a total of 159 people and operates through a multichannel structure.

CEP - Crédito Económico Popular S.A. - part of Kruso Kapital S.p.A.

Pignus - Crédito Económico Popular S.A. is a Portuguese company active in the pawn lending sector since 2008 and wholly owned by Kruso Kapital S.p.A. The company operates under the CEP - Crédito Económico Popular brand through a network of 17 branches nationwide, offering pawn loans to individuals secured by gold, silver and jewellery. Headquartered in Lisbon, CEP has 17 branches located in Lisbon (Martim Moniz, Alvalade, Morais Soares), Corroios, Cacém, Elvas, Moscavide, Amadora, Braga, Loures, Setúbal, Mem Martins, Porto (Formosa, Marquês), Évora, Santarém and Beja, and employs a team of 45 people.