

PRESS RELEASE

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Erste Group Summer University Danubia „on tour“ in Central and Eastern Europe

Applications open until 10 April

For the ninth year in a row, Erste Group Bank AG and the Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU) are delighted to invite students of economics and business administration to take part in the Erste Group Summer University Danubia. Students from Austria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and the Ukraine are encouraged to apply for a program that offers them academic seminars, practical workshops as well as a great networking opportunity. In July, the program will tour across Central and Eastern Europe for an entire month.

Five universities in 30 days: Within this year's Danubia program, students will travel to Belgrade, Zagreb, Budapest, then Prague and finally Vienna. The unique blending of knowledge transfer on a very high level and the direct experiencing of different cultures has been making Danubia outstanding since its very beginning in 2001. This year's kick-off will take place on 28 June in Belgrade; the Closing Ceremony will take place on 29 July in Vienna.

On their journey, students will take part in an academic program hosted by the economics and business departments of the five partner universities and can choose between the areas of "Financial Services" or "Human Resource Management". Furthermore, they are also offered practical workshops by Erste Group experts in the respective bank branches and thereby gain hands-on knowledge on banking in the CEE region. The summer university will be rounded off by an extensive cultural and leisure programme.

Students from the eight partner universities (apart from the above-mentioned, these are also Kiev, Bucharest and Bratislava), who can demonstrate advanced knowledge of Human Resource Management and Financial Services, are eligible to apply for the Erste Group Summer University Danubia 2009. Lectures, workshops and seminars will be conducted in English. The closing date for applications is 10 April (for applicants in Vienna: 13 March). All information and application documentation is available for download at <http://danubia.wu-wien.ac.at>.

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Erste Group is one of the leading financial providers in CEE. 53.000 employees serve 17.2 million clients in more than 3,000 branches in 8 countries (Austria, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Ukraine). As of 31 December 2008 Erste Group has reached EUR 201.4 billion in total assets, a net profit of EUR 859.6 million and cost-income-ratio of 57.2%.