

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Imre Sztanó awarded Young Banker of the Year**

**Budapest, 13 November 2009 – Imre Sztanó, Deputy CEO of Erste Bank Hungary in charge of the bank's retail division, has been voted Young Baker of the Year in 2009. Sponsored by MasterCard, the contest Bank of the Year has featured this award for the first time this year, designed for specialists that, despite their young age, have been conducting essential work for an institution or an entire sector.**

Imre Sztanó said after the award ceremony that he was honoured even by being nominated, and considered the award a serious recognition of not his work alone, but also of his co-workers, the bank's retail division and Erste Bank itself. "This award is the result of the hard work we have done in recent years with the aim of enhancing demand-based sales and increasing the level of customer satisfaction. This award is made all the more special by the fact that this has been a year of extreme harshness and tough challenges," he added.

The 34-year-old executive has headed the retail business of Erste Bank Hungary Nyrt. since March 2007. In his career with Erste Bank spanning 12 years he was instrumental to the Postabank acquisition project, and the renewal of the strategic partnership with Magyar Posta [Hungarian Post] can also be attributed to his name. Under his management, the bank's retail loans and deposits have increased annually by 30 per cent and 20 per cent, respectively. He is also noted for the development of the bank's Money Guide Program.

The MasterCard Bank of the Year award was established in the Czech Republic in 2002. Organiser Fincentrum held the contest for the first time in Hungary in 2006 with the aim of recognising and awarding the best banks, financial institutions, and bankers of the Hungarian market, reaping loud success in the financial community and the general public alike. This year the Minister of Finance Péter Oszkó was the grand patron of the now traditional contest that embraces the Hungarian financial scope.

#### Additional information:

**Ms. Adrienn Illés** – Communication Specialist  
**Erste Bank Hungary Nyrt.**  
1138 Budapest, Népfürdő u. 24-26.  
Phone: (06 1) 268 4371 Mobile: (+36) 20 468 8709  
Fax: (06 1) 373 2705  
E-mail: [adrienn.illes@erstebank.hu](mailto:adrienn.illes@erstebank.hu)

**Ms. Emese Danks** –Director of Communication  
**Erste Bank Hungary Nyrt.**  
1138 Budapest, Népfürdő u. 24-26.  
Phone: (06 1) 268 4347 Mobile: (+36) 30 499 6358  
Fax: (06 1) 373 2705  
E-mail: [emese.danks@erstebank.hu](mailto:emese.danks@erstebank.hu)