

Press release

30 July 2009

## Successful Close of Ninth Erste Group Summer University Danubia 2009

**With the Closing Ceremony on 29 July 2009 at Wiener Urania, the ninth Erste Group Summer University Danubia was successfully completed. Almost 60 students from eight countries (Austria, Croatia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Czech Rep., Hungary and the Ukraine) took part in the programme organized by Erste Group and the University of Economics of Vienna and visited five countries of Central and Eastern Europe.**

The starting point was the Serbian capital of Belgrade on 28 June from where the students then continued to Zagreb, Budapest, Prague and Vienna. The intensive academic programme, which included seminars in "Financial Services" and "Human Resources Management" at the faculties of economics of the partner universities as well as workshops on related themes with experts from the local Erste Group subsidiaries, gave the students a deeper insight into actual practice and the opportunity to visit the capitals of the host countries and get to know the local cultures better.

Olga Plazibat from Croatia commented: *"For me, Danubia is not only a certificate that I'll get at the end - it is a fortune of social and cultural programs of each city that we visited, cultural evenings of all participating nations and people who made this summer school unforgettable. Everything that I've learnt will be useful in my future career."* The Romanian student Bogdan Pralea added: *"We found ourselves discussing case studies from the perspective of eight different nationalities and in this way improving our knowledge in the field. It started to be normal having lunch in a group of 56 or feeling at home in every place we went. Every day and city brought something totally new, the chance to know each other and realize how fortunate we are of being here all together."*

In 2010, the programme will again offer students from the eight partner universities (universities of economics of Bratislava, Budapest, Bucharest, Kiev, Prague, Zagreb and Vienna) the opportunity to take part in Danubia. A requirement for participation is advanced knowledge in the areas of personnel management or financial services and the programme language is English. Selection and registration for the programme is done in close collaboration by the local partner universities with Erste Group and its subsidiaries. Detailed information is available for downloading from the Internet at <http://danubia.wu-wien.ac.at/>.

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