

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Erste Bank again voted Financial Institution of the Year**

Figyelő TOP 200 – prestigious award of excellence for performance in 2008

**Budapest, 19 October 2009 – In consideration of the bank’s performance in 2008, Erste Bank Hungary has been awarded “Financial Institution of the Year” by the renowned panel of experts commissioned by Hungarian economic weekly *Figyelő*.**

Accepting the award at the award ceremony *Figyelő* TOP 200, Ms. Edit Papp, President and CEO of Erste Bank Hungary, said the award, which the bank won for the second time after three years, was an extremely important acknowledgment for the bank, because along with the awards Superbrand and last year’s “Most Engaging Bank of the Year” it was a clear indication that the bank’s business strategy, started in 2007 and focusing on customers service as well as speed and accuracy, had been appreciated not only by the general public but also by the financial community.

The *Figyelő* TOP 200 gala is a symbolic closure of the previous year for the Hungarian business community, with the most successful companies operating in the country being awarded in several categories. Defined by the weekly paper, the TOP 200 list is an objective ranking where the award for supremacy is indeed based on actual economic success.

Defying dramatically deteriorating macroeconomic conditions as well as the financial and economic crisis that had lasted since last autumn, Erste Bank Hungary managed to retain its place among major banks in Hungary in 2008. Considering its 900,000-strong customer base and 204-unit branch network, Erste Bank Hungary is the second-largest retail bank in the country.

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