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## Erste Entrepreneurship Academy held

Zagreb, June 2, 2010 – Within the framework of the European Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Week, Erste&Steiermärkische Bank d.d. (Erste Bank) organized the Erste Entrepreneurship Academy workshop today, where small and medium-sized entrepreneurs/bank clients had the opportunity to learn about macro-economic and corporate financing news and to obtain information about European Union funds from a banking and entrepreneurial perspective as well as the optimization of corporate tax obligations. This professional lecture also represents the beginning of a larger project - Erste Academy, a series of workshops and lectures Erste Bank will periodically organize for existing, but also for potential clients.

“Small and medium-sized entrepreneurship is defined as a clear priority in the development strategy of the European Union from 2010 to 2020 considering that this segment represents the main pillar of the economy despite the crisis. Small and medium-sized businesses account for 99% of all trade companies in the European Union and at the same time they generate as much as two-thirds of all jobs. On the other hand, Erste Bank is well-known as an institution that is particularly oriented towards small and medium-sized businesses, so we decided to organize this professional lecture as a starting point for Erste Academy”, said the head of Erste Bank’s EU and International Desk, **Goranka Crnković**.

The European Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Week, an EU-level initiative coordinated by the European Commission – General Administration for Industry and Entrepreneurship, was held for the first time in 2009, when 1,200 different events from local, over national, to coordinated European events were organized throughout Europe. This year the “week” was extended over a period of two months, during which various events will be organized, and it is estimated that around 3.3 million people will partake in them. The aim is to present to entrepreneurs the support they can receive for their businesses from governments on a European, national and local level, to promote entrepreneurship and to acknowledge entrepreneurs for their contribution to Europe’s welfare, employment, innovations and competition.

**For all additional information:**

Erste & Steiermärkische Bank d.d., 51000 Rijeka, Jadranski trg 3a, [www.erstebank.hr](http://www.erstebank.hr)

**Communications Department**

Zagreb – Dario Gabrić, tel.: +385 (0)62 37 13 71; fax.:+385 (0)62 371 981; e-mail: [pr@erstebank.com](mailto:pr@erstebank.com)

Zagreb - Nataša Vuletić, tel.: +385 (0)62 37 15 21; fax.:+385 (0)62 371 981; e-mail: [pr@erstebank.com](mailto:pr@erstebank.com)

Zagreb – Danijela Trbović, tel.: +385 (0)62 37 15 31; fax.:+385 (0)62 371 981; e-mail: [pr@erstebank.com](mailto:pr@erstebank.com)

Rijeka - Irena Loščac-Gombač, tel.:+385 (0) 62 37 52 22; fax.:+385(0)62 375 947; e-mail: [pr@erstebank.com](mailto:pr@erstebank.com)