

About Kontakt

The “Kontakt” programme serves as a platform for the social and cultural commitment of Erste Bank Group in the Central and Eastern European region. “Kontakt” aims at actively supporting the social and cultural transformation processes in Central and Eastern Europe. We would like to bring the people of this region together to work on common ideas and perspectives.

In line with this objective we take our own initiatives and enter into partnerships. Our partners include institutions, initiatives and artists that are involved in cultural activities as well as in educational and social projects in the Central and Eastern European area.

“Kontakt” was initiated by Erste Bank Group, which operates in Croatia, Austria, Romania, Serbia, the Slovak and Czech Republics and Hungary. With more than 70 million people, this region is characterised by strong growth, far-reaching change processes as well as social and cultural differences. As Erste Bank Group we are aware of the challenges this involves.

We seek to contribute to rising to these challenges by offering platforms for dialogue and working on proposals for solutions together with our partners. The “Kontakt” programme opens up opportunities for cooperation. Together we want to develop strategies on how to tackle the economic, cultural and socio-political issues in Central and Eastern Europe in the near future.

Kontakt is open, eager to learn and ready to try new approaches. We welcome any contact which helps us improve our work and our programmes.

Erste Bank Group today encompasses nine countries in Central and Eastern Europe – reaching from the Swiss to the Ukrainian border, from the High Tatra Mountains to the Adriatic Sea in the south. Focusing on private clients and medium-sized companies our services range from asset management to financing and insurance services. Erste Bank has turned from an entirely Austrian bank into a transnational group based in Vienna, a transcultural company embracing new perspectives and new standards. With more than 15 million customers and a market capitalisation of about EUR 16 billion, Erste Bank Group today is one of the leading financial services providers in Central and Eastern Europe. About 36,000 employees and 3,000 subsidiaries operate a wide network covering the entire region.

Erste Bank Group comprises Česká spořitelna in the Czech Republic (5.4 million customers, 33% market share in retail business), Slovenská sporiteľňa in the Slovak Republic (2.5 million customers, 34% retail market share), Erste Bank Hungary in Hungary (900,000 customers, 6% retail market share), Erste & Steiermärkische Bank in Croatia (600,000 customers, 10% retail market share), Erste Bank a.d. Novi Sad (300,000 million customers, 2% retail market share) as well as Banca Comerciala Romana (2.8 million customers, 30% retail market share) since December 2005. In Austria, Erste Bank der oesterreichischen Sparkassen AG has become the lead bank of the Savings Bank Group. With 2.8 million customers and a retail market share of 24%, Erste Bank is Austria’s second-largest bank.