



Press release

Belgrade, September 13th 2017

The EBRD partners with UniCredit Bank to support women-led businesses with know-how

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and UniCredit Bank Serbia has organized the first in a series of seminars as part of the Women in Business program aimed to empower women-led SMEs.

The seminar „My business in numbers: How to manage your finances“ gathered more than 40 successful business women from Belgrade and surroundings. The President of the Management Board of UniCredit Bank Serbia, Csilla Ihasz, EBRD Director for Serbia, Daniel Berg, prominent lecturers and finance experts provided participants with insight of how to improve the management of their finances as well as the best practices of managing working capital, cash flow, income and costs.

The event also provided advice on the process of measuring financial performances of the company and making financial decisions. Moreover, participants had the opportunity to learn how the EBRD diagnostic tool, [Business Lens](#), can support them in identifying business's strengths and opportunities for further development.

In addition to the official part of the seminar, participants got the opportunity to expand their business network, meet other women in business from Serbia and share their knowledge and experience.

About the Women in Business Programme

Under the Women in Business Programme, EBRD provides a €5 million loan to UniCredit Bank Serbia for on-lending to women-led Small and Medium-sized Enterprises. Loans can be used for financing working capital and investments with annual interest rate starting from 2.8% and in the amount of maximum EUR 500,000 in dinar counter value. Working capital loans have a maximum repayment period of 36 months, while investments loans are approved with the repayment period up to 60 months and have a grace period up to 12 months. Customer can also benefit from advisory support within the Programme by accessing business advice through local consultants on a cost sharing basis, participate in interactive workshops and sharing experiences with other women entrepreneurs on regular seminars. Moreover, in order to encourage clients to invest in their business ideas, UniCredit Bank will not charge maintenance fee for Account package during the repayment period, while Visa Business Card will also be free of charge.

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In total, the EBRD has provided € 24.5 million in the Western Balkans in the form of Women in Business loans to partner financial institutions for lending to female entrepreneurs in five countries. Building economies which are inclusive and therefore more resilient is one of the EBRD's main strategic priorities. The Bank adopted its first Strategic Gender Initiative in 2013.

About UniCredit Bank Serbia JSC

UniCredit is a strong Pan-European Group with a simple commercial banking model and a fully plugged in Corporate & Investment Bank, delivering its unique Western, Central and Eastern European network to its extensive 25 million strong client franchise. Besides offering local expertise and international reach, UniCredit accompanies and supports its clients globally, providing them with unparalleled access to member banks of the Group in its 14 core markets as well as to another 18 countries worldwide. UniCredit's European banking network includes Italy, Germany, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey. For more information please visit www.unicreditbank.rs

About EBRD

The EBRD is a multilateral bank committed to the development of market-oriented economies and the promotion of private and entrepreneurial initiative in more than 30 countries from Morocco to Mongolia and from Estonia to Egypt. The Bank is owned by 65 countries, the EU and the EIB. Follow us on the [web](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).