

Press release

Top companies honored at the 2024 Excellence Gala by Intesa Sanpaolo Bank Romania and First Bank

Bucharest, Noiembrie 15th, 2024 – Intesa Sanpaolo Romania and First Bank, local subsidiaries of the Intesa Sanpaolo banking group, hosted the 2024 Excellence Gala at the National Museum of Art of Romania. Representatives from the local business community and officials gathered to celebrate some of Romania's most outstanding companies.

In the presence of His Excellency Alfredo Maria Durante Mangoni, Ambassador of Italy to Romania, and Alexandru Petrescu, President of the Financial Supervisory Authority (ASF) – the gala spotlighted business leaders from various industries in a setting dedicated to celebrating performance and successful partnerships

Among the recognized companies, **Apulum Alba Iulia**, a local porcelain manufacturer with over five decades of activity, received the *Made in Romania* award. while **MATT Design & Production** and **CAREUS** (Car System Argeş) were distinguished in the *Family Business Award* category.

Prime Batteries, one of the European Union's leading energy storage solution manufacturers, was awarded for *Innovation*. In the *Sustainability* category, **Dentaş**, a producer of eco-friendly and recyclable packaging, received the award.

Adrem Invest, a company specializing in the development, digitalization, and maintenance of electrical networks, was honored for its performance with the *High Growth Business* award.

The trophies are unique works of art created by glass artist Ioan Nemţoi, an internationally renowned Romanian artist often referred to as the "Brâncuşi of Glass". Nemţoi's works are part of notable collections, including those of King Harald of Denmark, Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain, Kofi Annan, HRH Princess Margareta of Romania, as well as the Vatican Museum, Kunst Palast in Düsseldorf, UNICEF headquarters, Waterland Neeltje Jans Museum in the Netherlands, the White House, and prestigious galleries in Norway, Sweden, the Netherlands, France, Italy, Canada, Japan, Hungary, Germany, and Belgium.

"It was a privilege to be part of the Excellence Gala 2024, a memorable evening that highlighted the achievements of some of Romania's most outstanding companies. This event was a premiere for Intesa Sanpaolo and First Bank, as we continue our journey under the Intesa Sanpaolo Group umbrella. We were honored to recognize the exceptional contributions of businesses that are driving growth and innovation in the local economy. Looking ahead, we remain committed to supporting the future success of all of our clients, with a renewed focus on providing agile,

*simple, and efficient financial solutions to help them achieve their goals”, said **Alessio Cioni, CEO Intesa Sanpaolo Romania.***

*“Our clients and partners now benefit from being part of Intesa Sanpaolo Group, one of Europe’s largest and most stable banking groups. We are bolstering our position in the Romanian banking market, with the strength, expertise, and resources of an institution committed to drive economic resilience and create value in the communities we serve”, declared **Henk Paardekooper, CEO First Bank.***

Since May 2024, alongside Intesa Sanpaolo Romania, First Bank has been part of Intesa Sanpaolo’s International Banks Division, a key player in the Central and Eastern European region, serving retail, corporate, and SME clients.

About Intesa Sanpaolo

With over €420 billion in loans and €1,300 billion in client financial assets by the end of 2023, Intesa Sanpaolo is Italy’s largest banking group and a significant international player. It is a European leader in wealth management, focusing on digital and fintech solutions. By 2025, the Group aims to provide €115 billion in impact loans for ESG projects, supporting communities and ecological transition, alongside a €1.5 billion program (2023–2027) to assist individuals in need.

The bank’s museum network, Gallerie d’Italia, preserves its extensive art heritage and hosts recognized cultural projects.

The International Banks Division operates across three continents, managing retail banks in 12 countries (Central and Southeastern Europe and Egypt). This extensive network currently serves 7.2 million customers through over 900 branches, supported by a dedicated team of approximately 21,000 employees. Following the acquisition of First Bank in May 2024, the division now serves around 14,000 Romanian clients, has over 1,500 employees, and holds total assets exceeding €3.2 billion.