



PRESS RELEASE

8 new SMEs join ELITE through the UniCredit CEE Lounge

- The UniCredit ELITE CEE Lounge supports fast-growing SMEs from Central and Eastern Europe
- The ELITE platform facilitates business model upgrades and encourages SME networking across UniCredit's CEE countries
- 8 companies from four CEE countries – Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary and Romania – have joined ELITE today through the UniCredit CEE Lounge

UniCredit is pleased to announce 8 new companies joining the UniCredit ELITE CEE Lounge today. UniCredit CEE Lounge is the model established by ELITE and UniCredit to leverage the London Stock Exchange Group's ELITE platform to support the growth of promising companies from Central East Europe.

The new joiners are companies from four Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries where UniCredit has active operations. To date, the UniCredit CEE Lounge has admitted more than 70 companies from 11 countries across UniCredit's CEE network.

The UniCredit CEE Lounge aims to help SMEs in structuring for their further growth, raise capital and access a network of peers, advisers and investors. The companies that joined ELITE previously are currently in the process of their growth path leveraging the ELITE ecosystem.

The new businesses joining the UniCredit ELITE CEE Lounge are:

- **Accedia**, Bulgaria
- **Baristo**, Bulgaria
- **Bestamed**, Bulgaria
- **Rasco**, Croatia
- **Sirma**, Bulgaria
- **Teilor Jewelry**, Romania
- **Poslovna inteligencija**, Croatia
- **Mirelite Mirsa**, Hungary (as a result of the special cooperation between UniCredit Hungary and Budapest Stock Exchange)

*“We are proud of our partnership with ELITE that helps us to support SMEs in upgrading their business models and boosting their growth” said **Andrea Diamanti, Head of UniCredit Corporate and Investment Banking and Private Banking in CEE.** “Being a true partner and advisor to the SME client segment, as the growth engine of the European economy, is one of our core activities. For the fifth year in a row, we are providing our SME clients with all the benefits that participation in this program can offer: the possibility to connect directly to capital markets, have their business reviewed by experts, discover new areas for growth and have the opportunity to network”.*



“In ELITE we really believe in partnership and the one with UniCredit is part of the success of ELITE across Central and Eastern European countries” added Luca Peyrano, CEO, ELITE. “Today ELITE is a unique international ecosystem that put together over 1,300 companies from 45 different countries and 36 sectors. ELITE continues to innovate and support the job creators and innovators of today and tomorrow. Together with our partners, we are committed in supporting the most ambitious companies, allowing them to scale and grow.”

Since its launch in 2012, ELITE has supported over 1,300 companies internationally. ELITE services are designed to meet the specific needs of each company selected for the UniCredit CEE Lounge, with UniCredit contributing to training modules and tutoring as well as providing access to its own tailored SME support services. ELITE is London Stock Exchange Group’s business support and capital raising platform for high growth private businesses designed to help the most ambitious companies to structure for further growth, raise capital and access a network of peers, advisers and investors. Please read more at www.elite-network.com.

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