

PRESS RELEASE



2009 VIRTUS AWARDS PRESENTED

Belgrade, December 5, 2009 – Today, the winners of the Award for Corporate Philanthropy, VIRTUS 2009, were announced during a ceremony at the National Parliament of Serbia. The traditional annual Award ceremony, which honors companies and enterprises distinguished for their support to public or non-profit actions or organizations, has been established and is being organized by the Balkan Community Initiatives Fund (BCIF), thanks to financial support provided by the American people through USAID's Civil Society program, implemented by the Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC). It has also received significant support by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, and numerous other partners.

The winners of the 2009 VIRTUS Award for Corporate Philanthropy are:

- RDP B92 a.d. Belgrade, for their contribution at the national level,
- Euro bank EFG a.d. Belgrade, for their contribution to the local community,
- Erste bank a.d. Novi Sad, for the support of the most innovative project of the year
- Infostud 3 d.o.o. Subotica, for their contribution in the small and medium-size enterprise category and
- Societe Generale Bank Serbia a.d. Belgrade, for a long-term partnership between the business and non-profit sectors

The winners in three categories - for the contribution at the national level, at the local community level and support to the most innovative project, will be sponsored by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund to travel to New York City, where they will visit the Rockefeller Fund and participate in numerous important business meetings. The winner in the category of small and medium-size enterprises will be sponsored by USAID to participate in a trip to the region of Central and Eastern Europe in spring 2010 year, for an experience exchange with firms from that region and gaining additional insight into the concept of socially responsible business operations.

„These companies have pleasantly surprised us by presenting different programs for cooperation with the non-profit sector, which is a good indicator that they have strategically incorporated the concept of social responsibility into their business operations, and have a sound understanding of the significance of corporate philanthropy,” noted Ivan Vejvoda, Executive Manager of the Balkan Fund for Democracy, and Chairman of the VIRTUS Jury.

This year's award ceremony, symbolically organized on the International Volunteering Day, was attended by distinguished special guests, including Tomica Milosavljevic, , the Minister of Health, Snezana Lakicevic Stojacic, State Secretary for Labour, Troy Pederson, the Acting U.S. Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission, as well as Radovan Jelasic, the Governor of the National Bank of Serbia.