

## PRESS RELEASE

### Support for development of women entrepreneurship

\* Banca Intesa, in cooperation with Guarantee Fund of AR Vojvodina financing start-up projects and projects for equipment purchase for women entrepreneurs in Vojvodina. \*

\* Within the provided credit line, the Bank will approve long-term loans in the amount of RSD 50 million with repayment period of up to 5 years and annual interest rate of 6.95% with FX clause \*

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**Novi Sad (14 November 2006)** – Ms Draginja Đurić, President of the EB of Banca Intesa and Mr Goran Vasić, Director of Guarantee Fund of AR Vojvodina, have today signed an Agreement on the long-term financing of start-up projects for unemployed women and projects for equipment purchase for women entrepreneurs on territory of AR Vojvodina. On the signing ceremony were present Mr Bojan Pajtić, President of the Executive Council of Vojvodina, representatives of European Agency for Reconstruction, Regional Agency for Development of Small and Middle Enterprises, Educational Centre from Zrenjanin and Academy for women entrepreneurship from Kikinda.

Due to mutual dedication to development of entrepreneurship, Banca Intesa and Guarantee Fund of AR Vojvodina, have launched the first project of this kind in the country, that will enable unemployed women or women entrepreneurs with up to 3 years of service, to finance the start-up and development of their own business at extremely favorable conditions.

"Banca Intesa pays particular attention to small business segment, actively developing and improving its offer intended for entrepreneurs and due to its cooperation with Guarantee Fund of AR Vojvodina, it now has the opportunity to offer financing of start-up projects, that was, until now, the main obstacle for those with a good business idea but not enough funds to realize it", said Ms Draginja Đurić, President of the EB of Banca Intesa on the occasion and added that by signing this Agreement, Banca Intesa has once again confirmed its commitment to be present in the development of corporate of Vojvodina in the long run.

Within the provided credit line, the bank will approve long-term loans in the amount of RSD 50 million with repayment period of up to 5 years. Owing to the support of Guarantee Fund of Vojvodina, that provides adequate risk protection with its guarantee potential, these loans will be approved at considerably more favourable conditions in relation to the market ones, at annual interest rate of 6.95% with FX clause. In the beginning, projects on Banat territory

will be financed, where the problem of women unemployment is a little more pronounced.

Besides, this Agreement signing represents a continuation of a successful cooperation between Banca Intesa and Guarantee Fund of Vojvodina, which has already resulted in financial support of more projects, in those areas that are relevant for the future development of Vojvodina.

In this way, through short and long term financing, projects for purchase of agricultural machines (for both legal and natural entities), purchase of artificial fertilizers, crediting of export-oriented companies have already been successfully realized so far. In all these arrangements, Banca Intesa appears as the giver of the loans that are, due to guarantees by Guarantee Fund of AR Vojvodina, available at very favourable conditions.