

Bank Robbers Usually End up in Police Hands

The Czech Police are successful in detecting bank branches robberies or their attempts. Also Ceska Sporitelna pays great attention to bank robberies prevention, it concentrates on its security systems and on extensive cooperation with the police and patrolling. Therefore, despite worsening security situation in the Czech Republic, the number of robberies at CS branches keeps declining (2008 - 2009). Furthermore, branches only operate with a limited amount of cash. In the vast majority of cases, robbers only take away several thousand crowns, if anything at all. The sentences are high and thanks to the close cooperation of Ceska Sporitelna with the Czech Police and also due to easy identification of perpetrators from bank systems the offender is caught within several weeks or even days.

“We attribute the worsening of the security situation to the fact that only now is the crisis hitting inhabitants with full force. Many offenders are thus acting rashly, without being aware of the consequences of their acts and the sentences they face. We are able to offer them a solution to their complicated situation within the bounds of the law, such as debt restructuring or a change in their payment calendar,” explains Aleš Sloupenský, Director of the Ceska Sporitelna Branch Network for the Eastern Region.

Ceska Sporitelna is facing the trend successfully. Last year, offenders were unsuccessful in over half of robberies and attempted robberies. Thanks to the fast response time of the intervention units and the low amounts of cash at branches, they did not get any booty or they were caught. 2008 was similarly as successful.

Although attempts at robberies are not ceasing, Ceska Sporitelna is glad to note that its extensive security measures are effective and it will continue to carefully monitor and strengthen this area. The Bank appreciates the work of the Czech Police and it will continue to provide all possible support and information for capturing the offenders. Sentences for robberies are high: depending on the extent of the crime, they can reach up to 17 years.

Krstiýna Havligerová
CS Press Officer
E-mail: tiskove_centrum@csas.cz

Ceska Sporitelna in Figures

Over **1.2** million clients use Ceska Sporitelna's direct banking; the **No. 1** bank in the Czech Republic as for Total Assets (CZK 856.70 bn) with a profit of CZK 9.65 bn); **3** main direct banking channels – Servis 24 (Telephone, Internet, and GSM); **4** main groups of clients – retail, small and medium-sized enterprises, municipalities, and large corporations; over **5** million clients – the largest number of clients in the Czech Republic; clients have **6** ways of servicing their accounts: in person at branches, through collection boxes, via a telephone, the Internet, ATMs, or a mobile telephone; **18** branches throughout the country are open 7 days a week, available to any client (overall, CS has 652 branches), because CS clients are not tied to a single branch; **12** subsidiaries covering the entire spectrum of financial services and client needs; **15** Commercial Centres for SME clients; **52** ATMs for the visually impaired, throughout the country; more than **180** years of history and tradition; **1,195** ATMs; **10,877** professional employees. *Figures as of 30 September 2009. Financials are consolidated, and calculated according to the International Financial Reporting Standards.*

Ceska Sporitelna – A Responsible Partner for Society

Ceska Sporitelna develops and maintains the philanthropic tradition that has been a part of the savings bank principle for 180 years. Ceska Sporitelna supports charities, non-profit organisations, civic associations, foundations, and funds. In 2002, Ceska Sporitelna established its own foundation – **Nadace České spořitelny** (Ceska Sporitelna Foundation). The foundation's purpose is to support projects from the fields of culture, education, science, public and social concerns, healthcare, charity, community activities, sport, and ecology. The following non-profit organisations are among the partners supported by the Foundation's resources: **Charita Česká republika** (Caritas Czech Republic); the humanitarian association **Život 90** (Life 90); the civic association **Sananim**; **Nadační fond Livie a Václava Klausových**; **Nadace VIA** (VIA Foundation); and the **Partnership Foundation**. Since November 2005, Ceska Sporitelna has included its clients in its charitable activities, through the bank's loyalty Bonus Programme, which enables clients to donate their points collected for card transactions to selected charitable projects. Since 2007, Ceska Sporitelna has made it possible for all of its employees to donate two workdays per year to charitable causes. Ceska Sporitelna's social responsibility on the financial market is exemplified by its responsible lending policy initiative. In January 2008, it took part in the birth of the Counselling Centre for People in Financial Distress, an independent organisation, and the first of its kind in the Czech Republic.

Erste Group

Erste Group is one of the leading financial providers in CEE. More than **51,000** employees serve **17.5** million clients in **2,900** branches in **8** countries (Austria, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Ukraine). As of 30 September 2009 Erste Group has reached EUR **203.6** billion in total assets, a net profit of EUR **720.1** million and cost-income-ratio of **50.9%**.