

NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, IN OR INTO THE UNITED STATES, AUSTRALIA,
CANADA OR JAPAN

Vienna, 1 October 2012

INVESTOR INFORMATION

Erste Group informs about transactions of ERSTE Foundation and CaixaBank

Erste Group informs about the sale of up to 14 million Erste Group shares by ERSTE Foundation. The sale will start today by way of an "Accelerated Bookbuilt Offering" (ABO). ERSTE Foundation will remain the most important key shareholder of Erste Group, controlling 20.2% of shares outstanding after the transaction. Erste Group reaffirms its guidance for its operating result and risk provisions which it announced as part of its H1 2012 results presentation.

CaixaBank, the second largest shareholder of Erste Group, recently purchased a block of one million Erste Group shares from ERSTE Foundation. CaixaBank has thereby increased its stake to slightly below 10% of Erste Group's share capital after being diluted in the share swap with most minority shareholders of Romanian BCR in March 2012.

These materials are not being issued in the United States of America and should not be distributed to U.S. persons or publications with a general circulation in the United States. These materials are not an offer for sale of the securities in the United States. No public offering of the securities will be made in the United States. The securities have not been registered under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), and may not be sold in the United States absent registration or an exemption from registration under the Securities Act.

This communication is directed only at (i) persons who are outside the United Kingdom or (ii) persons who have professional experience in matters relating to investments falling within Article 19(5) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005 (the "Order") and (iii) high net worth entities, and other persons to whom it may lawfully be communicated, falling within Article 49(2) of the Order (all such persons together being referred to as "relevant persons"). Any investment activity to which this communication relates will only be available to and will only be engaged with, relevant persons. Any person who is not a relevant person should not act or rely on this document or any of its contents.

For more information, please contact:

Erste Group, Investor Relations, Graben 21, 1010 Vienna, Austria, Fax: +43 (0) 5 0100 9 13112

E-mail: investor.relations@erstegroup.com

Internet:

Thomas Sommerauer	Tel. +43 (0)5 0100 Ext. 17326, E-Mail: thomas.sommerauer@erstegroup.com
Peter Makray	Tel. +43 (0)5 0100 Ext. 16878, E-Mail: peter.makray@erstegroup.com
Michael Oplustil	Tel. +43 (0)5 0100 Ext. 17764, E-Mail: michael.oplustil@erstegroup.com
Simone Pilz	Tel. +43 (0)5 0100 Ext. 13036, E-Mail: simone.pilz@erstegroup.com
Gerald Krames	Tel. +43 (0)5 0100 Ext. 12751, E-Mail: gerald.krames@erstegroup.com