



## **Presentation of the Günter Geyer Awards 2014: Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein promotes corporate volunteering in the VIG**

**The Günter Geyer Award for Social Conscience is presented by the main shareholder of Vienna Insurance Group, Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein, to honour special acts of social responsibility. The award is also aimed at encouraging a sense of solidarity and compassion and at motivating employees to carry out voluntary work.**

In March 2015, the Günter Geyer Awards for Social Conscience were presented for the third time. Over the past year, the Group companies presented with awards have demonstrated their commitment to social responsibility in a variety of ways. Particular attention was paid to the sustainability of the sponsored projects. Prize money totaling EUR 100,000 is earmarked to provide funding for further initiatives.

*"It never ceases to delight me when I see the enthusiasm and personal commitment shown by our colleagues when it comes to helping others. I am particularly impressed by their creativity in achieving great things, even with limited resources. This reflects our company's core values – social responsibility and social awareness,"* enthuses Günter Geyer, Chairman of the Managing Board of Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein.

### **The award winners**

#### **1st place: Poist'ovňa Slovenskej sporiteľne, Slovakia – "Brána do života" (Gateway to Life)**

The Slovakian life insurance company Poist'ovňa Slovenskej sporiteľne (PSLSP) and its employees have been working with the Pontis Foundation and "Brána do života" for more than three years. "Brána do života" runs a crisis centre for victims of domestic violence, a children's home and a crisis centre for young adults.

The support provided by PSLSP comes from the company itself and its employees, for example through joint activities with children from the aid organisation. The financial support also made it possible to provide a sports field.

However, PSLSP's commitment goes even further: collecting donations for Ukraine, regular blood donations and providing the children and youngsters of "Brána do života" with an understanding of financial matters.

Martin Kaňa, General Manager of PSLSP says: *"I'm happy to see how the idea of helping others has appealed to so many people in our company. We've experienced some very special moments in the last three years we've spent with the children from "Brána do života". I would be delighted if this also motivated other people to do something useful to bring joy to others."*

WIENER STÄDTISCHE WECHSELSEITIGER VERSICHERUNGSVEREIN, MAIN SHAREHOLDER OF VIENNA INSURANCE GROUP

VIENNA INSURANCE GROUP: Wiener Städtische (AT) • Donau (AT) • s Versicherung Gruppe (AT, CZ, HR, HU, RO, SK) • Intersig (AL) • Sigma Interbalkanian (AL) • Bulstrad (BG) • Bulstrad Life (BG) • Wiener Osiguranje (BIH) • Kupala (BY) • Kooperativa (CZ) • CPP (CZ) • VIG RE (CZ) • InterRisk (DE) • Compensa Life (EE, LT, LV) • GPIH (GE) • IRAO (GE) • Wiener osiguranje (HR) • Union Biztosító (HU) • Vienna Life Biztosító (HU) • Vienna-Life (LI) • Donaris (MD) • Wiener Städtische Podgorica (ME) • Winner (MK) • Winner Life (MK) • Makedonija (MK) • Compensa (PL) • InterRisk (PL) • Benefia (PL) • Polisa (PL) • Skandia (PL) • Omnisig (RO) • Asiom (RO) • Wiener Städtische Beograd (RS) • Kooperativa (SK) • Komunálna poisťovňa (SK) • Ray Sigorta (TR) • Kniazha (UA) • Globus (UA) • Jupiter (UA) • UIG (UA) • Branches: Donau (IT), Wiener Städtische (IT), Wiener Städtische (SI)

## **2nd place: Wiener Städtische Osiguranje, Serbia – including "Straighten up!", "100 oaks for 10 years"**

Serbian Group company, Wiener Städtische Osiguranje, has interpreted its CSR strategy very broadly and is involved in initiatives across the country. The success of the projects is thanks to the strong personal commitment of employees in particular.

As part of its long-standing co-operation with the Serbian Volleyball Association, the "Straighten up!" sports initiative has been touring around schools all over Serbia since 2011. Aim of the workshops is to motivate children and youngsters to play volleyball and, in so doing, to raise awareness of the importance of sport for health and wellbeing. It is also aimed at putting a stop to the rising number of postural defects in young people.

"100 oaks for 10 years" focuses on environmental awareness. On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the founding of Wiener Städtische Osiguranje, ten oaks were planted in ten Serbian towns. The campaign accompanying this voluntary initiative raised awareness of sustainable and careful treatment of the environment.

Other projects: Wiener Städtische Osiguranje employees collected donations for the aid organisations "NURDOR" and "Circle of Serbian Sisters". The "Wiener for Serbia" campaign was set up on the spur of the moment to provide immediate aid for victims of the flood disaster in 2014 – with the impressive involvement of numerous employees.

## **3rd place: Ray Sigorta, Turkey – "Gonulluyum Yanındayım" (I volunteer to stand by you)**

In Turkey, VIG company Ray Sigorta concentrated its activities on a public school for mentally handicapped children. This led the company to working closely with the school with direct involvement of Ray Sigorta employees.

Supported by trained staff and teachers, employees played sport, helped the children to read and write and did arts and crafts with them. This is aimed at helping the children to find their role in society and to encourage them to interact with people outside the school environment. As Ray Sigorta's employees had visited the school, the pupils were invited to visit Ray Sigorta's head office in Istanbul where they spent the day.

A video was also made of the project and distributed via social media, such as Twitter and Facebook, in order to raise awareness of the problems faced by mentally handicapped people in Turkey.

Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein is the main shareholder of the Vienna Insurance Group (VIG) and provides support for the Group's cultural and social activities, with a focus is on enhancing cross-border, intercultural exchange. The emphasis is also on creating an environment in which individual cultures can thrive. Partnerships and initiatives are geared towards supporting the activities of social organisations, especially in the Central and Eastern European countries in which the Vienna Insurance Group has a presence. As the main shareholder, Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein is also concerned with key strategic matters within the Group.

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