

Erste Bank and Sparkassen with workshops in 110 schools around Austria

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spark7 Slam Tour starts on 10 May in Vienna

- Focus on sports, careers, media and debt prevention
- New: workshops on managing money properly
- Visits to 110 schools around Austria

New focus: preventing young people falling into debt

Erste Bank and Sparkassen are this year visiting approximately 110 schools in Austria again as part of the spark7 Slam Tour. In addition to sports, media and career workshops, for the first time this year the topic of "Managing Money Properly" will be a key focal point of the tour in Vienna and some of the provinces. This will cover modern money management, from saving pocket money to managing the household budget. "Children and young people must learn early on how to manage and plan with money. This is the only way we can combat the problem of debt at an early stage", says youth psychologist Dr. Martina Leibovici-Mühlberger from ARGE Erziehungsberatung (counselling organisation for children) who will be holding the workshops. The new workshop "Money for You" deals with topics such as managing pocket money, bank accounts for young people, consumer traps and spending overviews, while games ensure the participants can take an interactive part. This is designed to raise their awareness about how to manage money properly.

Sport as a motivation to take part

In addition to a great deal of practical knowledge, the tour also concentrates on sports. Led by ex-basketball pro Renaldo O'Neal, the young people are encouraged to get more exercise. There is a broad range of sports activities on offer under the watchful eye of specialists, from obstacle courses to reaction training. Various sports associations from the given regions such as Rapid Wien, Red Bull Salzburg, Sturm Graz or the Black Wings Linz have been involved in the different sports projects of the spark7 Slam Tour for years. "Our goal is to get young people moving about more and taking more exercise. Ideally, they will take a fancy to a sport offered by their local association", says youth coach O'Neal.



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Tried-and-tested combination: sport and knowledge

The spark7 Slam Tour was launched seven years ago. Over the years, a mix of diverse workshops has more than proved its worth at Austria's largest sports project for schools. "We consciously wanted to ensure a broad spectrum of topics so that everyone could take something home from the events", explained Mathias Fanschek, who is responsible for the tour at Erste Bank. What is common to all workshops is that there must be active participation from the school pupils. What comes naturally for sports is worked on in a playful manner during the other workshops. For example, in the media workshop the pupils create, design and print a school magazine together based on journalistic criteria. In the advertising workshop the pupils produce job profiles in order to find their place on the job market. The necessary professional and social skills are discussed and practised. What is more, in simulated interviews the young people are taught all the tricks for their first job interview.

Key figures on spark7 Slam Tour

The foundations for the spark7 Slam Tour were laid in 2002 with the

visits made to one school per provincial capital. In the meantime the tour has developed into a unique, nationwide project for schools. In recent years there has also been some input and cooperation from the State Secretariat for Sport.

Every day the Slam Team tours Austria's schools with the workshop programme, taking extra-curricular know-how straight into the gym halls and classrooms. By integrating regional sports associations in collaboration with the SPORTUNION and ASVÖ umbrella organisations, great importance is also attached to sports activities in addition to know-how workshops. In the last three years alone a total of 400,000 pupils, 360 schools and more than 1,400 associations have participated in the spark7 Slam Tour. Interested schools can register at the www.slamtour.at website.



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spark7 – Youth Club of Erste Bank and the Sparkassen

spark7 is the Youth Club of Erste Bank and the Sparkassen. School pupils and young people up to the age of 19 can use products and services that are designed especially for them: besides the free young people's bank account, spark7 offers many benefits such as discounted tickets, pocket money bonuses, a free check of job application documents, free text messages and a range of seminars for pupils, etc. spark7 is a community for young people to grow up, and accompanies them on their way to becoming financially independent. For more information: www.spark7.com

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