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LAUNCHING THE SECOND PÉNZ7 - EUROPEAN MONEY WEEK

On behalf of the Editorial Board of *Economy & Finance*, we welcome you to the Pénz7 series of events, the local version of European Money Week, held in Hungary for the second time from 7 to 11 March 2016. The main objective of this initiative, carried out annually with the participation of almost 30 countries, is to transfer financial and economic knowledge to young people of school age that is of practical use in everyday life, thereby contributing to the development of financial awareness among the younger generations.

The thematic week of events, held for the first time in Hungary in 2015 and introduced into schools with the professional support of the Ministry of Human Resources (EMMI), immediately achieved outstanding results by international comparison in its first year. Some 660 primary and secondary schools took part in the programme, thereby providing more than 90,000 students – one third of the audience addressed across Europe – with access to the educational materials devised in playful interactive format especially for the occasion of Pénz7. Building on last year's success, the organisers – the Hungarian Banking Association and the Pénziránytű Foundation – have developed a programme for primary and secondary schools this year even more colourful than the last.

The central theme of this year's series of events is financial planning and frugality, a message that forms the basis of the teaching materials prepared with the full professional cooperation of Pénz7 and coordinated by the Pénziránytű Foundation. The curriculum has been developed with the participation of a skilled team of educators, bank and Banking Association experts, as well as the Hungarian Institute for Educational Research and Development. The school lessons held within the framework of the programme this year will be addressed to four age groups, providing instruction tailored to the individual needs of children in junior school, the 5th and 6th grades, 7th and 8th grades, and secondary school.

Teachers at more than 700 schools participating in the programme in 2016 have had the chance to take part in preparatory courses prior to imparting their knowledge of financial and economic topics to students. Thanks to the active collaboration of the financial sector, and at the invitation of the Banking Association, some 200 voluntary financial experts have also joined the initiative, supporting the development of learning materials for classes held countrywide. We hope that during the event we will succeed in raising awareness among many students of the benefits of financial awareness.

We thank participants in the programme for their voluntary efforts and wish them every success, since they already know that knowledge repays with interest!

Levente Kovács
Chairman of the Editorial Board

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