

## **SMEs in the spotlight at the 2025 Excellence Gala organized by Intesa Sanpaolo Bank**

Bucharest, September 25, 2025 – **The second edition of the Excellence Gala, organized by Intesa Sanpaolo Bank Romania, under the patronage of the Italian Embassy in Romania and in partnership with the Italian Chamber of Commerce and Confindustria Romania**, brought together leaders from small and medium-sized enterprises, representatives of public institutions and business associations for an evening of dialogue, networking and recognition. The event took place at the Palace of Parliament, and the theme of the edition was: "*Stronger European value chains: connecting Romanian and Italian SMEs*", thus emphasizing the importance of cross-border collaboration for sustainable economic development.

Guests of honor **Dragoș Pîslaru, Minister of European Investments and Projects**, and **His Excellency Alfredo Maria Durante Mangoni, Italian Ambassador to Romania**, highlighted the role of SMEs in the economy and the strength of Romanian-Italian economic relations. The panel discussion included leaders from the financial and business sectors, such as Giuseppe Ferraro, Head of Corporate & SME International Banks Division at Intesa Sanpaolo Group; Alexandru Petrescu, President of ASF; Ciprian Morcan, Vice President of ClusteRO; and Răzvan Orășanu from the Competition Council, who discussed banks' support for SMEs, capital market opportunities, and the role of clusters in increasing competitiveness.

"The event is not only about recognizing results, but also about courage, perseverance, and each partner's contribution to the development of the local economy. For us at Intesa Sanpaolo Bank, every SME present is a valuable partner. Their energy and dedication are essential to the business community we support," emphasized **Alessio Cioni, General Manager and CEO of Intesa Sanpaolo Bank Romania**.

The awards ceremony recognized the contribution of small and medium-sized companies, customers of the Romanian subsidiaries of the Intesa Sanpaolo Group (Intesa Sanpaolo Bank Romania and First Bank):

- Moov Leasing and STARC4SYS - High Growth Business category;
- Royak Hospital and FomCo Group - Sustainability category;
- COMES and Velta Doors - Made in Romania category;
- FAR Foundation and Aleea Media - Family Business category;
- Prime Batteries Technology - Special Recognition Award.



Romania

The trophies were created by glass artist Ioan Nemțoi, whose works can be found in prestigious international collections.

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For further information, please email us at [comunicare@intesasanpaolo.ro](mailto:comunicare@intesasanpaolo.ro) .

Thank you!