

**PRESS RELEASE**

*INTESA SANPAOLO AND “FONDAZIONE INTERCULTURA” TOGETHER FOR THE NINTH YEAR IN A ROW*

**50 NEW SCHOLARSHIPS ALLOCATED BY INTESA SANPAOLO FOR THE 2012-2013 SCHOOL YEAR**

*Milan, 15 June 2012* - **Intesa Sanpaolo**, in collaboration with the “Fondazione Intercultura” intercultural foundation, this year once again has decided to award a certain number of scholarships that will allow deserving high school students – some of whom children of collaborators of the Intesa Sanpaolo Group – to experience life and study abroad. For Intesa Sanpaolo the relationship with the Fondazione Intercultura represents a consolidated partnership that has been operational for nine years.

In addition, five years ago Intesa Sanpaolo (through banks of the Group active abroad) also began setting up scholarships that allow foreign students to experience life and study in Italy. **To date a total of 232 scholarships have been assigned, 50 of which this year:** 30 awarded to Italian students, 16 to students from foreign countries where the Group’s banks are present and four under the auspices of the “Cassa di Risparmio” of Florence.

With this initiative, **Intesa Sanpaolo** intends to facilitate the families in making challenging decisions from the economic standpoint and to encourage young people who live in countries where the Bank is present to come to Italy.

“In a world that is constantly becoming smaller and ever increasingly more interconnected, and where an act of one country has immediate repercussions on the others, being able to immerse oneself for a whole year in a culture other than one’s own represents a great fortune and a great opportunity for the growth and formation of our youth,” commented Intesa Sanpaolo CEO Enrico Cucchiani. “The renewed commitment of our Group to collaborate with Intercultura is intended as a small contribution toward making a better world, as we would like it to be: a world consciously open and willing to engage in constructive confrontation on a daily basis with ways of thinking and acting different from those we are accustomed to.”

Since 1955, Fondazione Intercultura has been supporting activities and projects that favour educational and cultural exchanges between young Italians and youth from other countries in the world. It is a non-profit organization whose aim is to contribute to making young people of different cultures better acquainted and more knowledgeable.

The values and objectives of the Intercultura project, deeply shared by Intesa Sanpaolo, are the valorisation of the person, support for merit, cultural openness and tolerance.

[www.fondazioneintercultura.org](http://www.fondazioneintercultura.org)

[www.intesasanpaolo.com](http://www.intesasanpaolo.com)

### ***The Intesa Sanpaolo Group***

*Intesa Sanpaolo has a selective presence in Central and Eastern Europe, in the Middle East and in North Africa thanks to over 1,600 branches and 8.3 million customers of the subsidiary banks operating in retail and commercial banking in 13 countries: Albania (Intesa Sanpaolo Bank Albania), Bosnia-Herzegovina (Intesa Sanpaolo Banka Bosna i Hercegovina), Croatia (Privredna Banka Zagreb), Egypt (Bank of Alexandria), Russian Federation (Banca Intesa), Greece (the Athens and Salonika branches of Intesa Sanpaolo Bank Albania), Czech Republic (the Prague branch of VUB Banka), Romania (Intesa Sanpaolo Bank Romania), Serbia (Banca Intesa Beograd), Slovakia (VUB Banka), Slovenia (Banka Koper), Ukraine (Pravex-Bank) and Hungary (CIB Bank). Moreover, the Group boasts an international network specialized in providing support to the corporate clientele, which covers 29 countries and is particularly active in the Middle East and North Africa, and in areas where the greatest dynamism of Italian businesses is registered, such as the United States, Russia, China and India.*

### ***The Fondazione Intercultura***

*THE FONDAZIONE INTERCULTURA ([www.fondazioneintercultura.org](http://www.fondazioneintercultura.org)) is a non-profit organization that was born on 12 May 2007 as an offshoot of the “Associazione Intercultura, Onlus ed Ente Morale,” which since 1955 has been promoting and organizing international student exchanges involving young people and families from all over the world. Its work focuses on the awarding of scholarships (based on a process of selection, preparation and assistance) that allow the scholarship holders to participate in a programme featuring a one-year stay (or for even shorter periods) in a foreign country. The programme includes hospitality in select families (board and lodging), public school attendance and organized extracurricular activities.*