

MONETA continues to support women entrepreneurs. This year, it has already provided them with loans worth almost 60 million

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Since January, 150 MONETA Money Bank clients have already taken advantage of a unique business loan offer designed exclusively for women. Moreover, interest in it is growing year by year. With the help of this loan, which MONETA offers thanks to its cooperation with the European Investment Fund (EIF), the bank has financed nearly CZK 60 million worth of projects by women entrepreneurs in the first nine months of this year.

The women who have applied for this loan are mostly entrepreneurs in the wholesale and retail sector. *"Other common business sectors include manufacturing, professional, scientific and technical activities, accommodation, catering and hospitality,"* says Zuzana Filipová, Director of Communication and ESG at MONETA Money Bank. The most frequent applicants for credit are women aged between 40 and 50: the youngest was 22 years old, and the oldest was 70 years old.

"Diversity in the business sector is important, it brings a new drive to the business environment, which at the end of the day benefits everyone. This is one of the reasons why we continue to work with the European Investment Fund to support women entrepreneurs. Even though Czech business is dominated by men, we see that women's interest in entrepreneurship is growing. We are therefore happy to be able to participate in this thanks to the EaSI loan offer," says Zuzana Filipová in this context.

The predominance of men in business is also shown by Moneta's portfolio of business accounts, which is made up of only a quarter of women. There may be more reasons why women are hesitant to start a business. *"Business is an uncertain and risky activity. Women generally have a more careful and cautious nature than men, so it is more secure for them to be employed. Moreover, it is often not easy for them to combine business and family life,"* says Zuzana Filipová.

MONETA provides the loan in cooperation with the European Investment Fund (EIF) under the EaSI Guarantee Programme for Employment and Social Innovation and currently offers a rate of 5.9% per annum. It is intended for women running their own business as self-employed persons or legal entities where women's ownership exceeds 50 % and the micro-enterprise condition is met. Applicants can receive up to CZK 650 000 for business development in the form of investments or payments for operating expenses. Further information is available at www.moneta.cz/program-easi.

For more information, please contact:
Zuzana Filipová, mob.: +420 702 246 545, zuzana.filipova@moneta.cz

Beaufort PR
Václav Junek, +420 602 426 625, vaclav.junek@beaufortcz.cz

or Media Service media@moneta.cz and www.moneta.cz



MONETA Money Bank, a.s., which is the controlling person of MONETA holding, is a leading independent Czech bank, servicing clients through its nationwide branch network. The bank has been traded on the Prime Market of Prague Stock Exchange since 2016. The bank has focused on retail and SME oriented business model with a strong position in the consumer and agriculture segments. In addition, the bank provides customers with insurance products and investment funds. MONETA serves more than 13% of the Czech population via an omni-channel distribution strategy which includes 153 branches and 563 ATMs, a market-leading digital banking platform, a call center, auto dealers, building society and mortgage bank, brokers and leasing partners.

PRESS RELEASE

For more information, please contact:
Zuzana Filipová, mob.: +420 702 246 545, zuzana.filipova@moneta.cz

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