

A 6.5 million euro program to empower youth across 10 European countries *The UniCredit Foundation and the Youth Achievements organization are joining forces*

Belgrade, 25.07.2023– UniCredit Foundation, the Corporate Foundation of UniCredit Group whose purpose is to unlock the potential of Europe's next generation, and Junior Achievement Europe, the largest organisation in Europe dedicated to inspiring and preparing young people to succeed, launch "Re-power your future" to prevent early school leaving.

Through this partnership UniCredit Foundation will invest €6.5 million to promote a three-year program, across ten UniCredit countries: Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Slovenia. Designed for 10-19 year-old students - an age that is critical for further education and the future labour market integration - the initiative aims at re-engaging students in school, improving outcomes, preventing dropouts and inspiring students to find careers they are passionate about.

Andrea Orcel, Chairman of UniCredit Foundation, said: *"UniCredit is united behind a collective Purpose, to empower communities to progress, and the UniCredit Foundation's work in education is essential to this. It is more important than ever that we are committed to building brighter futures for our youth and their communities through education, paving the way for future growth and development. The Foundation's partnership with JA Europe will help us to do this by directly combatting one of the major challenges our continent's educators face at this moment: school dropout rates, which stifle employment opportunities and leave a lasting impact on lifetime earnings. Through this new partnership, the UniCredit Foundation and JA Europe aim to reach over 400,000 students in ten countries, empowering them through the transformative power of learning"*.

Nikola Vuletić, President of the Management Board of UniCredit Bank Serbia, said: *"Our bank in Serbia has been very successfully cooperating with the Junior Achievement organization in Serbia for years, and now the partnership at the level of the UniCredit Foundation and the European Junior Achievement network will provide even more opportunities and the exchange of practices to empower young people to progress, learn and develop throughout Europe. This partnership and exchange of experience and different models of approaches to empowering education in different countries will significantly affect the improvement of conditions for the education of young people locally. Our employees will certainly continue to provide support to young people through numerous educational programs of Youth Achievement, because we believe that the future of all of us lies in the development of young people's skills and their preparation for future career steps"*.

Darko Radicanin, executive director of the Junior Achievement organization in Serbia, said: *"The mission of the Junior Achievement organization is to bring the real world of business closer to young people and develop their potential, and in order to achieve this, the active participation of the business sector in the education process is necessary. We are very glad that the UniCredit Foundation is dedicated to the same goal and that together we will influence the creation of an enterprising generation that is open to change, empowered and ready to face the future. We believe that involving students in interesting, interactive and educational programs is the best model for preventing early school leaving and motivating young people to explore their possibilities"*.

More in detail, the proposed programs will be implemented through partnerships with schools, businesses, and community organizations and will be structured into a triple approach with activities across "Inspire", "Prepare" and "Succeed" pillars.

Through the "Inspire" and "Prepare" sessions JA Europe Member organisations together with UniCredit mentors and advisors will empower participants with essential knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to seize control of their future and accomplish their aspirations. Meanwhile, the "Succeed" session aims to provide comprehensive support to students as they transition from the realm of learning to earning, bringing them closer to securing valuable opportunities such as internships, job placements, or even embarking on an entrepreneurial journey. These activities will include an extended "Job Shadow Week", engaging internships, and enlightening "Incubation" workshops.

About UniCredit

UniCredit is a pan-European Commercial Bank with a unique service offering in Italy, Germany, Central and Eastern Europe. Our purpose is to empower communities to progress, delivering the best-in-class for all stakeholders, unlocking the potential of our clients and our people across Europe.

We serve over 15 million customers worldwide. They are at the heart of what we do in all our markets. UniCredit is organized in four core regions and two product factories, Corporate and Individual Solutions. This allows us to be close to our clients and use the scale of the entire Group for developing and offering the best products across all our markets.

Digitalisation and our commitment to ESG principles are key enablers for our service. They help us deliver excellence to our stakeholders and creating a sustainable future for our clients, our communities and our people.