



# ECDN Newsletter – June & July 2019

From one very long to one very short, but none the less interesting, newsletter. It is only a month since we sent out our last and anticipated newsletter which covered February, March, April and May. And now it is already time for the next one. In this issue we will cover the newest development in Romania, the 2<sup>nd</sup> MC meeting of 2019 and an update on our website and social media.



## Debt counselling in Romania – Now a Cresus-model?

Hurray! The final permit to start an economy- and debt counselling in Romania has now been granted, which was celebrated with an extra visit to the lovely country – a visit whose purpose was to talk about a closer collaboration with Cresus in France on the creation of a Romanian counselling model like the French. In ad-

vance of the meeting our president, Sandy Madar, and vice-president, Maxime Pekkip, met in Brussels in the end of May to discuss the most important elements when starting a Romanian debt counselling based on Cresus –an idea which was received positively by the team in Romania. As a result of this positive reception, a new trip was arranged for August, in advance of which employees of The Social Legal Aid have met with Maxime in Paris to hear more about Cresus and their modus operandi.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> MC meeting of the ECDN

On June 28<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> the 2<sup>nd</sup> board meeting of 2019 was held at the offices of Finance Watch in Brussels. The two main subjects of the meeting were FinTech and the planning of the upcoming General Assembly. At the meeting we heard both some positive, but also negative sides of FinTech. We had a presentation by Marie Guillaud,



Left to right: Rita Hornung, Jules (Guest), Juha Pantzar, Kosta Skliris, Pauline Dujardin, Maxime Pekkip, Francesco Gaetano, Sebastian Løper.

who works for a FinTech company called Nickel, a large French startup offering debit accounts for a couple of set fees. They work from the notions of: Universality, Simplicity, Usefulness and transparency. Most of their clients are young and have relatively low incomes (c. €1.500).



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At the board meeting it was decided that the upcoming General Assembly will take place in Brussels on November 8-9<sup>th</sup> so please make a note of the date, as we will be looking forward to seeing all of you. The name, and main theme of the General Assembly will be “*No border for financial exclusion*”, the first day will be open to all, and we will discuss subjects such as Fintech, Ethics rules and debt handling in Morocco. The first day will be an open event, so bring your friends and other people who are interested. Day two will be ECDN members only, as we will discuss developments within the ECDN.

More information will be sent out to all of you after the summer, when the real planning will start – We hope to see you all at the General Assembly!

### Questionnaire on Debt counselling options

In June we sent out a an email containing a number of questions regarding the accessibility of debt counselling in each of your countries. The purpose of these questions were to create a simple website, covering the entirety of the EU, on which people who need debt counselling will be able to go and find out about their options in each specific country. You were not supposed to answer the questions, but give feedback. So far we have received comments from Sweden, the Netherlands, Ireland, the Czech Republic and Austria, the original deadline for sending in your comments were June 15<sup>th</sup>, but we are now extending this to August 15<sup>th</sup>, in the hopes that more of you will have time to answer, this is why I have also attached the email and the questions to the current email. We are very thankful for your responses, and we are looking forward to receiving comments from the rest of you after summer.

### ECDN Website and Social Media

If you have not already noticed, then let me be the first to tell you that our website, [ecdn.eu](http://ecdn.eu), is currently down. We are working hard on getting it back up, but also on optimizing it so that when it comes back online it will be an even better website. Our vice-president, Maxime Pekkip from Cresus, will be the one taking care of the new website, and thus if you have any requests for the new website, please send them to him at [m.pekip@cresus-partenaire.org](mailto:m.pekip@cresus-partenaire.org).

There have for a long time been rather quiet on the ECDN's social media accounts, but we promise you that after summer, activity there will be resumed, as the board has decided to hand over all social media management to the president and the secretary of the ECDN, and we will do our best to reinvigorate our social media accounts.



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### Happy summer!

As our offices here, at The Social Legal Aid are closed for the summer, there is only one thing left to say – Happy summer to all of you! We hope that you will all have a great summer with your friends and family. We will be looking forward to continue our work when we return in mid-August.

Best wishes,

Sandy Madar, President of ECDN / Sebastian Løper, Secretary of ECDN.

