July 2026

European Consumer Debt Network Newsletter

Welcome to the July edition of our newsletter!

We are delighted to report on the strong participation of ECDN members in the RIPARTO project with Movimento Consumatori. We are also proud to share that ECDN President has been reappointed to the FSUG, ensuring that ECDN continues to have a voice in discussions shaping EU financial services policy and have very early informations.

Our regular CCDII Update is back, covering the latest developments across Europe. We also share updates from Germany, Bulgaria, and Slovakia, including new debt advice initiatives and the growing role of artificial intelligence in supporting advisers.

We also look at recent developments in Hungary following the change of government, as well as the latest decisions concerning Swiss franc mortgage loans—a long-standing issue with important implications for consumers and the banking sector across Central Europe.

We hope you enjoy the read!

In this edition:

- RIPARTO project : Workshops with ECDN members
- ECDN President Continues His Work in the European Commission's FSUG
- Germany: 21th Conference of the IFF
- Letter from Bulgaria:Temida Foundation updates
- Letter from Slovakia: News from Poradne Komplexnej pomoci
- Legal Updates: Hungary Temporarily Suspends Enforcement of Certain FX Loan Claims
- CCD II Updates
- Calendar of Events for Debt Advisors in Europe



RIPARTO project : Workshops with ECDN members

As part of the RIPARTO project, three webinars were held in May and June 2026 with the participation of ECDN experts and project partners. The meetings focused on how the new CCD II Directive is influencing debt advice services provided across Europe.

The meetings brought together experts from France, the United Kingdom, Austria, Poland, Croatia, Greece, Ireland, Germany, Finland, Romania, and Italy. They provided a unique opportunity to look at European challenges from different perspectives – not only from a legal perspective, but above all from a practical one.

During the round table discussions, participants particularly valued the comparison of:

- current debt advice models operating in different countries,
- directions of change resulting from the implementation of CCD II,
- available legal and institutional tools supporting consumer debt resolution

One of the key topics discussed was the financing of debt advice services. Paolo Fiori from Movimento Consumatori APS presented the situation in Italy in detail, highlighting that **the new legislation implementing CCD II does not provide any financial resources for the development and operation of debt advice services.**

The discussions were highly practical, supported by data, examples, and statistics. Particular attention was drawn to the gap between high levels of consumer over-indebtedness and the relatively low number of restructuring procedures in many countries. Participants pointed out that possible reasons include limited access to professional debt advice, as well as a lack of awareness and resources needed to make use of available legal instruments.

We would like to sincerely thank Movimento Consumatori APS for inviting ECDN members to participate in the project and for creating a valuable space for sharing experiences. It was an inspiring journey through different European approaches, showing that although our legal systems vary, the challenges faced by debt advice services are remarkably similar.

More information about the RIPARTO project was presented in the January edition of the ECDN newsletter.

ECDN President Continues His Work in the European Commission's FSUG

ECDN President Dieter Korczak as been reappointed **to the Financial Services User Group (FSUG) of DG FISMA and DG Justice** for the term 2026 -2030. Also reappointed have been Patricia Suarez (Asufin/ Spain), Peter Norwood (Finance Watch/ Belgium), Frederick Beckendorff (DSW - Deutsche Schutzvereinigung für Wertpapierbesitz), Duygu Damar-Blanken (Professor for Civil Law at Hochschule für Wirtschaft und Recht Berlin), Sari Lounasmeri (Finish Foundation for Share Promotion), Anna Martin (BEUC/ Belgium) and Vasiliki Yiatrou (Centre for Social Innovation/ Cyprus).

New members are Andrea Carosi (Professor of Corporate Finance at University of Sassari), James Doorley, (National Youth Council of Ireland), Joanna Farajota (New University of Lisbon), Andrea Fejos (Essex Law School), Paulo Fonseca (DECO/ Portugal), Stanislas Jourdan (Sustainable Finance Lab), Aleksandra Maczynska (Better Finance/ Belgium), Christoph Nijdam (ADAM/ France), Justyna Opoka (SBB/ Poland), Catalin Gabriel Stanescu (Associate Professor of Law, University of Southern Denmark), Thanos Verousis (Professor in Finance at Vlerick Business School and Gent University) and Marcel Waarnaar (Nibud/ Netherlands).
The newly appointed FSUG has already held its first meeting, during which Patricia Suárez Ramírez (ASUFIN, Spain) was elected Chair. Duygu Damar-Blanken, Aleksandra Mączyńska, and Peter Norwood were elected Vice-Chairs.

The Group consists of 20 members representing consumers, retail investors, micro-enterprises, and financial services experts, providing the European Commission with user-focused advice on financial services policy.



Germany: 21th Conference of the IFF

The 21st conference of the IFF took place from June 18-19 in Hamburg.

Under the main theme '**Financial Consumer Protection in the Digital Age – Between Innovation and Regulation,**' it was discussed how the digital transformation of the financial world can be designed with consumers in mind. The focus was on current challenges like cybercrime, digital payments, and handling transaction metadata, as well as the question of how innovation and effective consumer protection can be balanced.
President Dieter Korczak of ECDN actively took part in the panel '**What Debt Counseling Can Do: Between Service and Advice - Consumer Protection in the Digital Age.**' He emphasized once again the need for sustainable and adequate funding and professionalization of debt counseling services.







Letter from Bulgaria: Temida Foundation updates

During the last year, Temida Foundation has continued to strengthen its support services for people experiencing debt and financial difficulties.

Our activities remain focused on **direct assistance to individuals** facing over-indebtedness. We provide debt counselling, financial literacy training and practical support for consumers seeking solutions to complex debt situations.

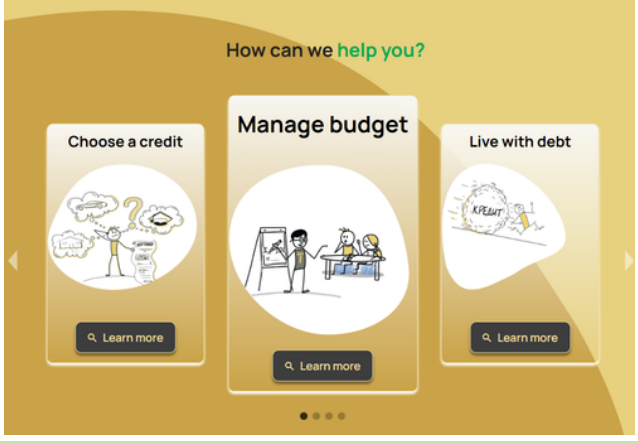
In parallel, we have invested significantly in the modernization of our technological infrastructure. We completed a full migration from our previous WordPress-based environment to a new open-source architecture using GitHub, Cloudflare and Zoho Mail. This transition improves security, reliability and scalability while reducing operational costs.

We are also developing **AI-based tools** to support our daily activities. These tools are designed to assist with administrative tasks, including drafting letters and templates, processing incoming requests, providing initial guidance to consumers and **analysing debt situations based on information contained in Bulgarian Central Credit Register reports**. Our objective is to increase efficiency and allow our team to devote more time to direct support for vulnerable consumers.

Temida Foundation continues its cooperation with the Bulgarian Ministry of Finance through the National Financial Literacy Platform, where we are listed as an official partner. We remain committed to improving financial education and consumer protection in Bulgaria.



Written by Willie Pierre Abbal
Temida Foundation

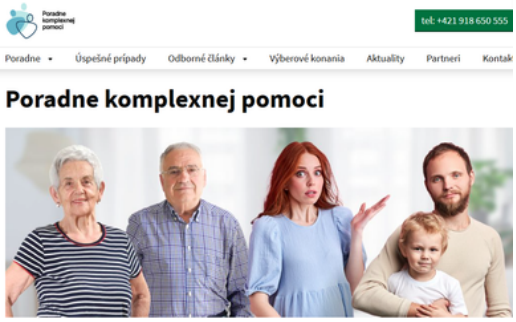


Letter from Slovakia: News from Poradne Komplexnej pomoci

The National Project "Network of Professional Counselling in Slovakia" has consolidated the previously existing systems of free debt counselling and family counselling into a single, integrated network of **46 Comprehensive Assistance Centres** operating across the entire territory of the Slovak Republic.

The Centres provide free-of-charge financial, legal, social and psychological counselling services, ensuring a holistic and multidisciplinary approach to supporting individuals and families facing challenging life circumstances. Since the commencement of project implementation on 1 March 2025, more than **30,000 clients have benefited from the services provided, including nearly 8,680 clients who received specialised debt counselling support.**

To enhance inter-institutional cooperation in addressing financial hardship and over-indebtedness, Memoranda of Cooperation have been concluded with the Slovak Chamber of Enforcement Officers, the Slovak Banking Association and the Association of Slovak Debt Collection Companies.



These partnerships contribute to strengthening coordinated responses and improving access to effective support mechanisms for individuals experiencing financial difficulties.

An integral component of the system is the introduction of **peer counselling**, implemented in cooperation with the Platform of Families of Children with Disabilities. This innovative support mechanism is based on the sharing of lived experience and practical knowledge by individuals who have personally encountered similar life situations, thereby complementing professional counselling services and fostering greater empowerment, resilience and social inclusion among beneficiaries.

Written by Jan Karol

Legal Updates: Hungary Temporarily Suspends Enforcement of Certain FX Loan Claims

The Hungarian Parliament voted to pause the enforcement and collection of specific payment obligations that originate from pre-2015 foreign-currency loan contracts. These are the same CHF/EUR loans that were later judged to contain non-transparent or unfair terms. The suspension applies to ongoing legal **disputes and enforcement actions**, not to regular, already-converted HUF mortgage payments.

The stated purpose was to prevent immediate enforcement while legal review continues. Government communication framed the measure as: preventing sudden foreclosures or debt collection, protecting households involved in ongoing FX-loan lawsuits, ensuring courts can review disputed contract elements without pressure from active enforcement. This mirrors the logic of the 2014–2015 suspension, but on a much smaller, targeted scale.

In recent months, several consumer groups and legal representatives reopened arguments that: certain interest-rate formulas, exchange-rate margin practices, and risk disclosures may still not fully comply with EU consumer-protection standards. Parliament's suspension gives time for: courts to evaluate these claims, regulators to clarify compliance, banks to prepare for potential recalculations.
Under the decree, banks must temporarily suspend the enforcement of disputed FX-related claims and refrain from initiating new enforcement proceedings in these cases.

Why now?
Several factors appear to have contributed to the government's decision, including evolving interpretations of EU consumer protection law, ongoing litigation before Hungarian courts, continued pressure from borrowers affected by foreign currency loans, and a desire to prevent a sudden increase in enforcement actions while legal uncertainty remains.

Written by József Mészáros

CCD2 Updates



The implementation of the CCD II in Poland has been delayed. In May 2026, the government decided to halt work on the draft Consumer Credit Act prepared by the Polish Competition Authority (UOKiK) and restart the legislative process.

The draft faced strong criticism from the banking and lending sectors, as well as the Polish Financial Supervision Authority (KNF), which argued that several provisions went beyond the requirements of the Directive. The main concerns related to the **free credit sanction mechanism,** creditworthiness assessments, and the legal consequences of non-compliance.

As the transposition deadline has already passed, the European Commission launched infringement proceedings against Poland in January 2026 for failing to notify national implementation measures. The Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Justice are now expected to prepare a revised draft.

In the draft bill, debt advisory services were entrusted to the Financial Ombudsman. The second draft eliminated the provision of debt advice by NGOs.



Sweden is preparing to implement the CCD II through a new Consumer Credit Act, expected to enter into force on 20 November 2026. The proposed legislation strengthens consumer protection by introducing stricter creditworthiness assessments and a cap on interest rates.

No major changes are planned for Sweden's debt advice system, as it is considered to already comply with Article 36 of CCD II.

The only change related to debt advice is that it since March 2025 is mandatory for credit providers to provide a statement when **advertising credit** agreements, entailing information about turning to municipal debt advice if needing support.

CCD2 Updates



Hungary has not yet transposed the EU's CCD II directive, and progress has effectively stalled.
As of mid-2026, no draft law, no government proposal, and no MNB-initiated regulatory package has been published. The Hungarian Official Gazette contains no CCD II-related legislation, and neither the Ministry of Finance nor the central bank has issued a public timetable for implementation.
This means Hungary is behind schedule relative to the EU's transposition deadline, and the financial sector remains in a waiting position, unable to finalize compliance processes for BNPL, consumer credit marketing rules, or digital creditworthiness assessments.



Italy has completed the transposition of CCD II through Legislative Decree No. 212 of 31 December 2025, published in the Official Gazette on 9 January 2026 and entering into force the following day. The Decree amends the Italian Banking Act (Testo Unico Bancario – TUB) and was adopted under the delegated legislative procedure provided for in Article 4 of Law No. 91/2025 (the European Delegation Act 2024). Creditors and credit intermediaries must, with limited exceptions, comply with the new framework by 20 November 2026, or within 90 days of any subsequent implementing provisions issued by the Bank of Italy.
Legislative Decree No. 212/2025 also contains provisions on debt advice services. It adopts a broad approach to defining both the providers and beneficiaries of these services. Eligible providers include non-profit organisations, Organismi di Composizione della Crisi (OCCs), and consumer and users' associations. In addition, creditors may refer consumers to debt advice services.
The Decree provides that debt advice services should be offered free of charge. **However, it does not establish any funding mechanism or identify a source of public financing to support the provision of these services.**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR DEBT ADVISORS IN EUROPE

CONFERENCE: DEBT AND DETENTION – COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE AND AVENUES FOR ACTION



13/10/2026

9:30am-4:15pm

National Bank of Belgium

OCE invites you to an inspiring study day dedicated to exchanging ideas, sharing experiences, and exploring an often overlooked topic: **the indebtedness of people in custody before, during and after prison** .
This bilingual study day (French/Dutch) will be held in person only.
More information: https://observatoire-credit.be/fr/nos-formations/358/colloque-endettement-et-detention-regards-croises-et-pistes-daction-131026-bruxelles

On the agenda:

- Presentation of a national research study conducted by the Credit and Debt Observatory
- Cross-disciplinary perspectives from experts
- Participatory workshops to share experiences and identify concrete ways to improve the systems
- Time for discussion between all stakeholders: support for prisoners during and after detention, prison administration, social sector, judicial system, debt recovery, debt mediation, etc.

We would like to encourage you to share your new materials, educational resource publications, best practices (case studies, reports, and research), tools, templates, and success stories with us in our next edition. We are a growing community, and sharing our work helps us all learn and grow stronger as a consumer debt network.

You can email your contributions to secretary@ecdn.eu with a brief description of the materials.

Thank you for your dedication and support.