

Press release

ECDN has the pleasure to announce a new board: Monday, 4th April, Dieter Korczak (GP-Forschungsgruppe/Germany) was elected as President, Pauline Dujardin (Cresus/ France) as Vice-President and Gwen Harris (MABS/Ireland) as Treasurer.

Dieter Korczak has a Ph.D. in sociology and a diploma (masters) in economics. He is one of the founding members of ECDN. He served already as ECDN President from 2015 – 2018. He is an internationally experienced researcher and looks back on a long line and broad range of research projects and publications. Besides others, he was from 2008-2010 Consultant for the European Commission, DG Internal Market and Services, Expert Forum of Financial Services Users (Fin-USE Group), and Peer Reviewer Social Inclusion for DG Employ (2004, 2007).

He expressed his deep commitment to the tasks and objectives of ECDN: *“ECDN and its members have a great expertise in fighting over-indebtedness of private households. Due to the effects of the corona pandemic and the war in Ukraine we live in challenging times. We have to consider that the gap between rising energy prices and increasing costs of living are great burdens and risks of becoming over-indebted for many households. Therefore the work and engagement of ECDN becomes more and more important. But we see also new opportunities due to the new Credit Directive. I believe that together with Pauline and Gwen, with our Finish and Polish friends in the Management Committee and our international members we are able to develop debt advice, debt research and financial education to a higher level.”*

Pauline Dujardin is a graduated lawyer and legal counsellor of the federation of the 30 associations of CRESUS in France. The CRÉSUS associations are charitable organizations which support the people suffering from excess debt and over-indebtedness by individualised support and budgetary analysis, helping with

establishing the excessive debt file, banking mediation, supporting with appeals, training in budget management and psychological support for people in difficulty. Since 2020 Pauline serves as Vice-President and was now re-elected.

Gwen Harris has worked in MABS since 1996 and has spent 23 years of her career serving clients and communities in North Dublin. Gwen has held many client advocacy roles in the MABS service including Money Adviser, and is currently Regional manager for North Dublin MABS. Her long history of volunteering was focused on access to education, in-work poverty, fuel poverty and housing needs. On her new role in ECDN Gwen said *'I am delighted to join ECDN MC, after many years working with the Network. Over indebtedness is a problem in all European countries and by coming together we can have great impact across borders. I look forward to continuing the great work of the network and to develop stronger relationships with other experts in the field.'*



Dieter Korczak



Pauline Dujardin



Gwen Harris