



## The new coordination office of ECDN is the Centre Innovation and Development (Bulgaria)



Since April 1st, 2016 ECDN has a new coordination office. The task of coordinating the different activities of ECDN will be fulfilled by the [Centre Innovation and Development](#) (CID) at the University of Economics-Varna (UEV).

The CID was established in 2013 and is led by Director Assoc. Prof Dr. Bistra Vassileva. Professor Vassileva and her institution is one of the founding members of ECDN.

The main tasks of the coordination office will be to organize the communication activities and tasks of ECDN, document and database management as well as preparation of meetings and conferences.

## Netherlands-OECD Global Symposium on Financial Resilience throughout life

From April 20 – 21, the OECD and the Money Wise Platform, part of the Dutch Ministry of Finance, conducted in the beautiful building of the old Amsterdam Beurs a conference on financial resilience. The Dutch Queen Maxima opened the conference with a speech expressing the importance of financial resilience, the resistance against making debts. Financial literacy is a key life skill in today's societies.

The OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría made in his opening speech a critical remark, that only 44% of 48 European States have developed, implemented or revised a National Strategy for Financial Education. Though such strategies are

urgently needed because of the complexity of financial life and financial products.

The Dutch Finance Minister Jeroen Dijsselbloem pointed out that bank products should be kept simple. He got support by the President of the Dutch Central Bank who said that “in the past we have made products which people did not need and did not understand. Customers need a basic understanding of the risks of products and therefore they need advice and regulations to provide over-indebtedness”.

**20-21 April 2016, Amsterdam**



Netherlands-OECD Global Symposium on

## **FINANCIAL RESILIENCE** **throughout life**

The Danish behavioral designer Sille Krukow demonstrated in her presentation that by a good choice architecture consumers can be moved to a responsible money behavior. Most relevant are in such an educational architecture reminder systems, visual feedback and the referral to relevant others as social proof.

Shocking figures from the United States were presented by the Italian professor Annamaria Lusardi showing that 40% of the adult US population is financially fragile. This group cannot come up with an unexpected expenditure [e.g. for car repair or medical bill) of US \$ 2,000 within 30 days. Even 31% of the fully employed people are financially fragile.

In the working groups quite a lot of useful apps for getting more financial competence were presented but it remained an open question how adolescents or seniors can be effectively motivated to use these apps.

The conference gave interesting insights in the international efforts to improve the financial knowledge and capabilities of adolescents (10 – 25 years) but it

missed completely to analyze the social circumstances of getting into debt. Nobody from the speakers mentioned the effects of the economic system on the income of people (e.g. low income of fully employed people), critical life events like unemployment or the unequal distribution of wealth as a relevant factor for financial fragility. Thus the presented coping strategies for strengthening financial resilience jumped too short by focusing only on the change of attitudes.

On behalf of ecdn, the president Dieter Korczak attended the conference. The ecdn members Gerjoke Wilmink (Nibud, The Netherlands), Joke de Kock (NVVK, The Netherlands) and Catarina Frade were also participants.

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