

PRESS RELEASE

European Challenger Bank Banco BNI Europa invests in US consumer loans via Fintex and Upgrade, Inc.

Lisbon, 19 July 2018. European challenger bank BNI Europa and Fintex have entered into a strategic partnership to invest in Upgrade's consumer loans and expand access to affordable credit to consumers in the United States. Banco BNI Europa, which is active across Europe, now invests in US consumer loans through Upgrade, one of the fastest growing platforms in the US. This loan purchase programme was implemented by Fintex Capital, which issued a bond to Banco BNI Europa backed by the portfolio and Fintex acts as asset manager for the underlying loans.

As part of the agreement, Banco BNI Europa committed an initial sum of USD 30 million. Banco BNI Europa has already invested in US consumer loans originated on platforms like Lending Club and Prosper through a third-party fund.

Upgrade is a US consumer credit platform that delivers access to affordable credit and credit education to consumers. With this investment, Banco BNI Europa is joining more than a dozen of institutional investors that are investing in consumer credit through the Upgrade platform.

Pedro Pinto Coelho, Executive Chairman of Banco BNI Europa said, "We are pleased to increase our exposure to the US consumer lending market and particularly delighted to benefit from the expertise of Upgrade's experienced team lead by Renaud Laplanche. We consider Upgrade to be different from other consumer loan offerings in light of its focus on borrower free cashflow as a key metric. We're also supportive of Upgrade's credit education initiative, which provides much needed advice and assistance to US borrowers as to how they can improve their credit health."

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About Banco BNI Europa

Banco BNI Europa is a Challenger Bank with a discrete strategy of open architecture and differentiation. Banco BNI Europa stands out as a leader in the Fintech generation and continues to achieve significant growth rates. Banco BNI Europa is a specialist in providing alternative solutions to fund loans, having already established partnerships with 18 European Fintech's and provide term deposits as well as a variety of credit products in several European jurisdictions, including Germany, United Kingdom, Netherlands, Austria, France, Belgium and Portugal. These credit products include consumer credit, student loans, SME lending, factoring and real estate lending.

As a result of its modern digital platform and low-cost processes with innovative products, Banco BNI Europa received several awards in Digital Banking, including the “Consumer Choice Award” by Consumer Trends, the “Five Stars Award” by the Five Star Committee, “Best Internet Bank in Portugal” by Global Business Outlook, “Excellence in Growth for Retail Banking in Portugal” by Finance Digest, “Most Innovative Bank in Portugal” by International Finance magazine, “Best Digital Bank in Portugal” by Global Banking & Finance News magazine and “Bank of the Year in Portugal” by The European.

About Fintex Capital

Fintex is an institutional investment and asset management firm dedicated to alternative credit. Fintex, a repeat issuer of bonds, was created to originate and asset manage credit investments for institutions. As part of this investment, Fintex issued a Bond to BNI Europa backed by the revolving portfolio of US consumer loans. Fintex Bonds are capital markets-friendly instruments. They carry an ISIN and are settled through Euroclear and Clearstream. Fintex established robust processes for turnkey bond issuance to accelerate the time to market. At the core of its proposition lies custom-made technology. The firm’s centralised risk management technology enables its team of credit professionals to closely track portfolio performance. Fintex launched has issued bonds for over \$125 million across multiple strategies.

About Upgrade

Upgrade is a consumer credit platform that combines access to affordable credit with credit monitoring and education tools to help consumers better understand their credit and unlock their credit potential. Upgrade employs over 300 team members and is headquartered in San Francisco, California, with an operations center in Phoenix, Arizona and an engineering center in Montreal, Canada. Upgrade does not facilitate loans to residents of Connecticut, Colorado, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Vermont and West Virginia. All loans originated through the Upgrade platform are issued by WebBank, Member FDIC. More information is available at: <https://www.upgrade.com>.