

## Press Release

Paris, 8 October 2010

### **FRANFINANCE, CGI and CRESUS – joining forces to benefit our customers**

**FRANFINANCE and CGI have signed an agreement with CRESUS to provide greater support for voluntary clients who are showing signs of financial vulnerability.**

Fully committed to providing ongoing support for their clients, FRANFINANCE and CGI, Societe Generale group's French specialist consumer credit subsidiaries, have signed a partnership agreement with CRESUS, a network of associations established in 1992, specializing in providing assistance to individuals with excessive or poorly structured debt ([www.cresusalsace.org](http://www.cresusalsace.org)). This innovative venture, in a first trial phase, should allow FRANFINANCE and CGI to increase their support for clients who are showing signs of financial vulnerability.

Under the terms of this partnership, when restructuring an ongoing loan, the two consumer credit specialists will offer clients who are continuing to experience difficulties in meeting their repayment schedule the opportunity to contact CRESUS. A "support charter," signed by the association and the client, will lead to a budget and social review, followed by close support aimed at safeguarding the client's financial equilibrium. At the same time, CRESUS will provide FRANFINANCE and CGI with real-time feedback on the monitoring of these clients.

Over-indebtedness is a key financial and social factor in social exclusion. Experience shows that providing individuals and households with legal, social and psychological assistance helps prevent and curtail over-indebtedness. This assistance significantly contributes to reducing the emergence of social exclusion through over-indebtedness.

Initial tests of this partnership will begin in October in the Nantes and Nancy regions, in order to assess the programme's effectiveness and determine the conditions under which it can be extended.

The partnership with CRESUS seeks to be highly pragmatic and to provide concrete, effective solutions for FRANFINANCE and CGI clients who are facing difficulties. It is an integral part of both organisations' reflections around successful lending, and reinforces the new FRANFINANCE motto: "Our commitment, supporting you" (*"Notre engagement, vous accompagner"*).

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**Societe Generale**

Societe Generale is one of the largest financial services groups in the euro-zone. The Group employs 157,000 people worldwide in three key businesses:

- Retail Banking, Specialised Financing & Insurance: Societe Generale serves 32 million individual customers worldwide.
- Private Banking, Global Investment Management & Services: Societe Generale is one of the largest banks in the euro-zone in terms of assets under custody (EUR 3,246 billion, March 2010) and under management (EUR 164 billion excluding Amundi, March 2010).
- Corporate & Investment Banking: Societe Generale tailors solutions for its clients across sectors by capitalising on its worldwide expertise in investment banking, global finance, and global markets.

Societe Generale is included in the socially-responsible investment indexes: FTSE4Good and ASPI. In 2010, the title of SAM Sector Mover was awarded to Societe Generale.

[www.societegenerale.com](http://www.societegenerale.com)

**Franfinance**

Franfinance, a fully owned subsidiary of Societe Generale group, is a leader on the French specialist lending market, with a loan portfolio of €1.927 billion at year-end 2009. With its 1,200 employees in France, Franfinance offers financing solutions for consumers (consumer credit) and corporate financing (Equipment Finance).

[www.franfinance.fr](http://www.franfinance.fr)

**CGI**

Founded in 1951, the CGI group, fully owned by Societe Generale, specializes in the financing of automobiles, motorcycles and recreational vehicles, as well as pleasure crafts. It is also one of the main French players in consumer debt pooling.

With 940 employees in 29 sites in France, Europe and the United States, more than 300,000 clients and a loan portfolio of €5 billion at the end of June 2010, today, CGI is a major player in specialized financing in France.

<http://www.credit-cgi.fr/>

**Fédération française des associations CRESUS****- Chambres REgionales de SUREndettement Social ("regional chambers of social over-indebtedness") -**

The Association's objectives are to:

- create and make available to consumer-members prevention and management means, along with legal, social and financial support, in order to overcome their difficulties
- promote social microcredit as an instrument to fight financial exclusion
- organize support groups to exchange experiences in order to break down the barriers of isolation facing over-indebted individuals
- lead community-based structures in collaboration with local communities
- raise the public's awareness of problems related to over-indebtedness and its consequences
- train employees in community services who face over-indebtedness issues on a daily basis so they can identify solutions applicable to the situations they face
- promote the creation of an over-indebtedness observatory to favour sustainable development of a balanced budget and consumer credit that corresponds to the individual's reimbursement capacity
- favour and promote the development of a national, then European, network in order to exchange know-how and experience

[www.federationcresus.fr](http://www.federationcresus.fr)