

## Press release/Information

### **Cornèrcard Prepaid Card for Asylum Seekers**

**Lugano, 7 April 2025: Cornèrcard has introduced a modern and secure payment solution to support the daily lives of asylum seekers, currently in use in the canton of Ticino and Geneva. With a specially developed Visa prepaid card, essential goods and services can be purchased conveniently and securely without the need for cash. At the same time, this reloadable payment card enables the automation of transactions and simplifies administrative processes within public administration.**

Shopping for groceries or buying a train ticket online? Asylum seekers in the cantons of Geneva and Ticino can now conveniently and securely pay for essential goods and services using a Cornèrcard Visa prepaid card. In Geneva, the reloadable payment card has been in use for several months and is managed by «Hospice général», while in Ticino, the prepaid card for asylum seekers is being handed out as part of a pilot phase by the relevant social authorities.

#### **More security, transparency and control**

The distribution of monthly funds to asylum seekers is often a labor-intensive process, as it typically involves cash payments, requiring significant administrative effort and time. With the introduction of prepaid cards, these manual processes are eliminated, allowing internal resources to be allocated more efficiently. The issuance and loading of the cards are simple, secure, and straightforward. The prepaid cards are managed directly by the relevant social authorities, distributed to asylum seekers, and subsequently topped up using existing banking procedures. This approach is beneficial, reliable, and also provides improved overview and control.

#### **Customised solutions**

The Cornèrcard Visa prepaid card solution is highly versatile in its application. It can be tailored to the specific needs and guidelines of social authorities and may therefore be extended to other cantons. Additionally, social authorities have the option to configure the card according to criteria for everyday use, such as purchases at a bakery, a kiosk, or a visit to the hairdresser.

«The Cornèrcard Visa prepaid card provides added value for all parties involved. For asylum seekers, it is practical and convenient, as no bank account is required. Additionally, it offers better overview and control of expenses, as only the amount loaded onto the card by the social authorities can be spent. For social authorities, on the other hand, the prepaid card is a relief, as it eliminates the cumbersome and time-consuming handling of cash, » confirms Alessandro Seralvo, Head of the Cornèr Group Cards Division.

**About Cornèr Group**

Founded in Lugano in 1952, the Cornèr Group is an independent Swiss private bank group operating as a full-service bank. Lugano is Switzerland's third-largest banking center, after Zurich and Geneva. Active across the whole range of traditional banking services, the Cornèr Group specializes in the private banking sector, as well as in the areas of lending, Visa, Mastercard and Diners Club payment cards (Cornèrcard) and online trading (Cornèrtrader) – the core businesses on which the growth of the Cornèr Bank Group is based.

The Cornèr Group comprises the Lugano-based parent bank Cornèr Bank Ltd., the branches in Chiasso, Geneva, Locarno, Zurich and Guernsey as well as the affiliates Cornèr Bank (Overseas) Limited, Cornèr Europe Limited, Finpromotion SA and Allegra Vermögensverwaltungs AG. Information at **cornergroup.ch**.

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