

A brief comparison between credit cards, debit cards, and instant payments

The Association of Credit Card Issuers Europe (ACCIE) welcomes the Commission’s ambition for a wider roll-out of instant payments, which will stimulate greater competition in the European payments market, and offer consumers a speedy and convenient alternative payment solution. However, certain payment methods can be more convenient and favourable for certain purchases. In terms of payment methods, consumer’s choice should therefore be the most important criteria as preferences can differ among member states. Although, ACCIE welcomes instant payments to the mix of available payment methods, it would like to remind that consumers should be able to make a knowledgeable decision between the different payment solutions for each transfer. Indeed, each payment method offers a variety of services and can differ between acceptance, fees and consumer security. Thus, the illustration below compares the key features of credit cards, debit cards and instant payments.

What you should know about credit cards, debit cards and instant payments:

Credit cards	Debit cards	Instant payments
✓ access to credit facilities	✗ access to credit facilities	✗ access to credit facilities
✓ immediate transaction	✓ immediate transaction	✓ immediate transaction
✓ extensive protective services e.g. against fraud ¹	✓ protective services e.g. against fraud	✗ protective services e.g. against fraud
✓ PSP ² liability for unauthorised transactions	✓ PSP liability for unauthorised transactions	✗ PSP liability for unauthorised transactions
✓ insured purchases e.g. against non-delivery ¹	✗ insured purchases e.g. against non-delivery	✗ insured purchases e.g. against non-delivery
✓ reward programmes ¹	✗ reward programmes	✗ reward programmes
✓ available in-store	✓ available in-store	✓ available in-store
✓ fully available online	✓ fully available online	✗ fully available online
✓ fully available on mobile	✓ fully available on mobile	✗ fully available on mobile
✓ available peer-to-peer	✓ available peer-to-peer	✓ available peer-to-peer
✓ fully available for cross-border payments	✓ fully available for cross-border payments	✗ fully available for cross-border payments

¹ The specific services depend on the product features and added value services defined in the credit card contract.

² Payment Service Provider.