Debtwire Direct Lending Awards 2026 – Shortlisted for the "Benelux Direct Lending Manager of year, Italy Direct Lending Manager of the year, Iberia Direct Lending Manager of the year, Senior Debt Provider of the year, Direct Lending Manager of the year: LBO deals, European Mid-market Direct Lending Manager of the year and European Small-cap Direct Lending Manager of the year" awards

Muzinich & Co. Limited has been shortlisted for 7 awards at the upcoming Debtwire Direct Lending Awards 2026. Muzinich was informed of this on 20th April 2026. The awards ceremony will be held on 17th June 2026 at the Peninsula hotel, London.

Muzinich has been nominated for:

- Benelux Direct Lending Manager of the year
- Italy Direct Lending Manager of the year
- Iberia Direct Lending Manager of the Year
- Senior debt provider of the year
- Direct lending manager of the year: LBO deals
- European Mid-market direct lending manager of the year
- European Small-cap direct lending manager of the year

To read more about the award categories, please click here.
To read more about the award shortlists, please click here.

Methodology

Deals completed between 1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025 are recognised.
How are shortlists created?

The Debtwire European Direct Lender Rankings are carefully analysed to identify the standout direct lenders in each category. Once the shortlist is finalised, each firm is invited to submit a 300-word pitch showcasing their achievements.

How are winners for the shortlisted awards and deal of the year awards selected? A panel of private credit experts and industry veterans reviews the submissions, assessing each pitch alongside Debtwire's league table data. Judges deliberate to determine the winners based on measurable performance and industry impact. Judges will receive the following data for each nominee:

- League table ranking for the category
- Overall deal count for the nominated category

How to Write a Winning Pitch

If a firm has been shortlisted, a pitch may be submitted for a chance of winning. A 300-word pitch should be sent to Debtwire by the 24th of April. Tips are provided below.
The pitch should bring the numbers to life. The judges want to see:

- How the firm added value to deal processes
- How clients were supported and complex challenges were tackled
- What made the deals stand out in the market

Should one deal or several be highlighted?

- If success is best demonstrated across multiple deals, explain why they were significant and how the firm played a crucial role.
- If one landmark deal defines the year, make it clear why that example stands out.

What the judges will disregard:

- References to non-Debtwire awards and rankings
- Deals that do not meet the rankings criteria, as detailed in the final page of the rankings report

Additional Notes:

- All pitches are confidential, except for People's Choice Award submissions, which will be displayed publicly on the Awards website. Any previously undisclosed information should be clearly marked as "confidential."
- There's no need for a presentation, illustrations or pitchbooks; just a single page will do fine.
- Only deals completed between 1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025 are eligible.

Deal of the Year Awards:

There are three Deal of the Year awards, self-nominated by the direct lenders themselves. Everyone who submits a pitch is then considered for shortlisting by the judging panel.

- Direct lending deal of the year – Large-cap (>/€200moftotaldebt/>/€200m of total debt / > /€200moftotaldebt/>/€50m EBITDA)
- Direct lending deal of the year – Mid-market (/€40m–/€40m- /€40m–/€200m of debt / $/€10m-50m EBITDA)
- Direct lending deal of the year – Small-cap (</€40mofdebt/</€40m of debt / < /€40mofdebt/</€10m EBITDA)

Criteria for the Deal of the Year awards:

- Must be a direct-lending deal
- Cannot include add-ons; must be a new deployment
- Transaction executed between 1 January and 31 December 2025
- Can be sponsored or non-sponsor-backed direct-lending deal

Submission requirements:

Firms should submit a 300-word pitch. The judges want to know why an entry deserves to win. An ideal pitch will show how value was added to deal processes, how clients were supported and creative solutions were offered to complex situations. The pitch should explain why the deal(s) were so important and what the direct lender did to get them across the line.

The pitch is then handed to the judges who will review all entries received, compare them with the league table data and debate who deserves to be shortlisted and ultimately win. The judges are asked to ignore any reference to non-Debtwire awards and rankings, and deals that don't meet the criteria for inclusion in the Debtwire database.

The pitches are treated as confidential documents. However, any previously undisclosed information should be clearly marked as "confidential."

To learn more about the criteria and methodology, please click here.

The awards were free to enter.

At the time of writing Muzinich has not confirmed that it will attend the awards ceremony. There is a cost to attend the awards ceremony.

- Standard table - £5,500 + VAT
- VIP Table - £6,500 + VAT

To read more about the table booking process – please click here. Firms are not required to attend the ceremony to be considered for an award.

Important Information

Descriptions of, or references or access to other publications does not imply endorsement of those publications. The award mentioned above may not represent investor experience with Muzinich & Co. or Muzinich funds or services, nor does it constitute a recommendation of Muzinich & Co. or its services. The award mentioned herein is not indicative of Muzinich's performance. Past performance is not indicative of future results. Future returns are not guaranteed and a loss of principal may occur.