



EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

EUROSYSTEM

The digital euro: central bank money in the digital age

Il Salone dei Pagamenti

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A digital euro would be designed to serve 347 million people that live in the euro area



Responding to evolving payment trends

Bridging people's changing preference for digital payments with the benefits of central bank money (digital form of cash)

Making people's lives easier

Providing a public digital means of payment for everyone to pay anytime and anywhere throughout the euro area

Strengthening Europe's resilience

Preserving Europe's strategic autonomy while supporting innovation and competition

A digital euro to serve an increasingly digitalised European society



Available in several payment scenarios

- + **Person-to-person** payments
- + Payments in **physical** and **online stores**
- + Payments to and from the **government**

Widely accessible and accepted

In line with the legislative proposal presented by the European Commission:

- + **All euro area payment service providers** will offer digital euro to customers who ask for it
- + **All euro area merchants** accepting digital payments will also have to accept digital euro

Moreover, a digital euro would:

- + **Be inclusive**, leaving no one behind

Bringing together the advantages of cash with the benefits of digital payments



Distinctive features welcomed by consumers and merchants alike

- + Like cash, digital euro would be **accepted everywhere** in the euro area
- + **Online** and **offline** functionalities
- + High level of **privacy** by default
- + **Conditional** payments, but NOT programmable money
- + Easy **porting of digital euro holdings**, including for emergency situations
- + **Free** for citizens basic use

Comfortable payment experience

- + Smooth onboarding and simple access for end-users via (i) **existing online banking apps** or (ii) **new digital euro app**
- + Payments via **mobile phone** and/or **physical card**
- + **Contactless** payments via QR-codes and alias
- + Usability with **holding limits** and linked account

Supervised intermediaries play a key role as distributors of the digital euro



Intermediaries at the front line

- + Intermediaries, including banks, will distribute the digital euro, managing **customer relationships, digital euro payments and related services**
- + The Eurosystem will issue the digital euro and settle payments and develop a **digital euro scheme** to ensure a digital euro can be equally used throughout the euro area

Adequate compensation principles

- + A digital euro would be **free for basic** use by citizens
- + **Network effects** generating economic incentives for acquirers and merchants
- + **Economic incentives** for distributing payment service providers
- + Eurosystem bears its **own costs**, as for production and issuance of banknotes

Staying ahead of the curve: stocktaking to move on to further testing and development

Investigation Phase

Oct 2021 – Oct 2023

Concept definition, technical exploration and design proposal

Preparation Phase Part 1

Nov 2023 – Oct 2025

- Main foreseen activities:
- + Finalising the **scheme rulebook**
 - + Selecting **service providers**
 - + Learning through **experimentation**
 - + **Diving deeper**, incl. further research on offline functions and a testing and roll-out plan for the future

Next phase

From Nov 2025
subject to GovC's approval

Development and preparation of roll-out of digital euro use cases

* The digital euro project will **evolve in parallel to legislative deliberations**, to which the ECB stands ready to contribute.

Engagement with European stakeholders and the public will remain at the core of the digital euro project



EU policymakers

EU Parliament | Eurogroup | EU Commission | other EU bodies

Market participants

Financial Institutions | Consumers | Merchants | Infrastructure and technology providers

Central banking community

BIS | Non-EA/EU central banks | Central banks with CBDC projects

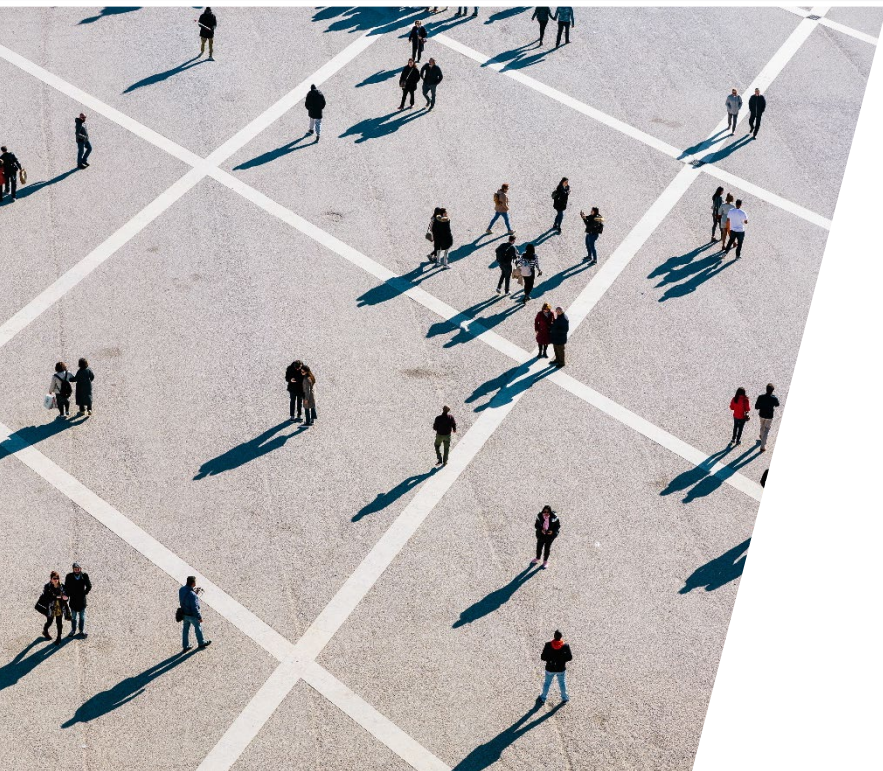
Other stakeholders

CSOs | Academics

Public communication efforts

The ECB will **intensify communication with the general public** and address their concerns towards the project

A digital euro to prepare Europe for the digital age and strengthen our single currency



Fit for the digital age

A digital euro would combine the benefits of digital payments with some of the most valued properties of cash

Truly pan-European

A digital euro would be equally accepted and distributed throughout the euro area, as currently happens for euro banknotes and coins

Additional supporting materials:

Updated digital euro [FAQ](#)

[Report](#): A stocktake on the digital euro

[ECB opinion](#) on the EU Commission's digital euro legislative proposal

Digital euro [one-pager](#)

Digital euro [booklet](#)

Thank you