



EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

EUROSYSTEM

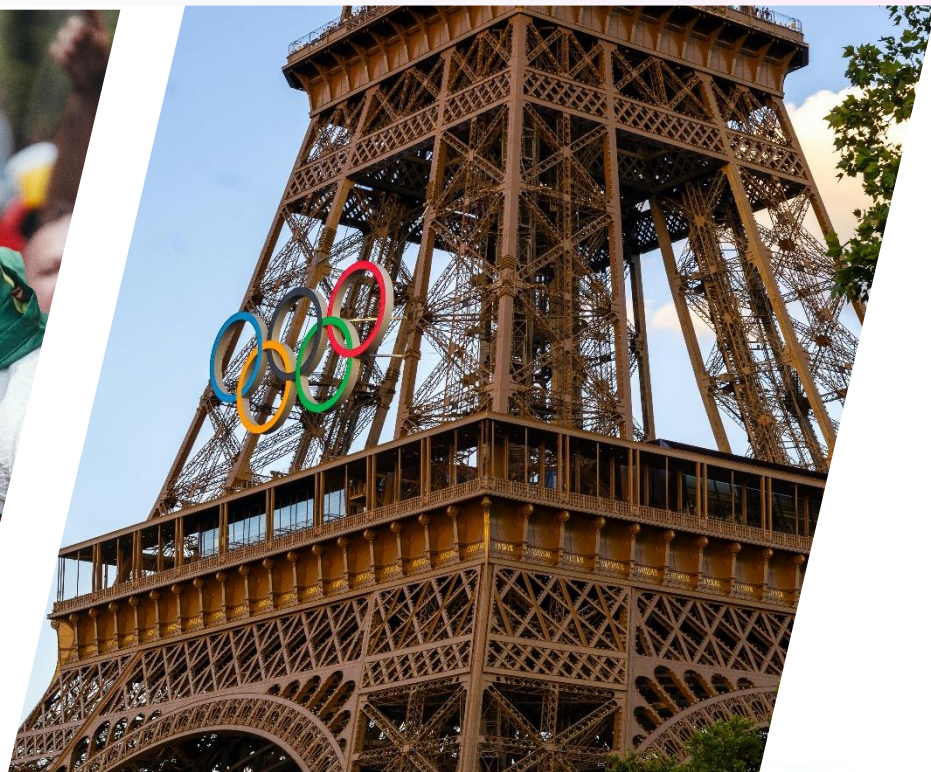
Project update

09/09/2024



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Programme Director, Digital euro project

European by design



The case for a digital euro in an increasingly digitalised world



ADAPT

- A digital euro would integrate **central bank money** and the latest **payment trends**
- It would be a form of digital cash **universally accepted** in the euro area, complementing current means of payment



FACILITATE

- **An additional payment choice** for euro area citizens, complementing cash
- **Legal tender status**, ensuring pan-European reach and acceptance
- **Always an available option** for euro area citizens in all payment scenarios



STRENGTHEN

- Preserving **Europe's strategic autonomy** and monetary sovereignty
- Reducing our **dependence on non-European payment service providers**
- Fostering **innovation** and **competition** in the European payments sector

Focus on the fundamentals: key design choices

**Pan-European
Reach**



Person-to-person
payment



Point-of-sale
payment



E-commerce

Use cases



Highest privacy standards



Inclusive and accessible



Paying offline

Preparing our currency for the future

Investigation phase

Oct. 2021 – Oct. 2023

Concept definition, technical exploration and design proposal

Preparation phase

Nov. 2023 – Oct. 2025

Main expected next steps:

- Finalise the **scheme rulebook**
- Select **service providers**
- Learn through **experimentation**
- **Deeper dive** into technical aspects, including further research into offline functions and developing a testing and rollout plan for the future

Next phase

From Nov. 2025

Potentially developing and rolling out digital euro use cases

A decision to issue a digital euro will only be considered by the ECB once the European Union's legislative process has been completed

At the core of the project: constant collaboration with all stakeholders...

...which was crucial during the digital euro project's investigation phase (2021-2023) and will now be strengthened further.



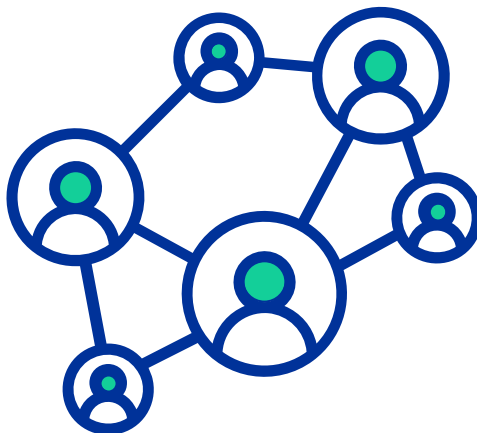
European policymakers:
a joint European effort

- + European Parliament
- + Council & Eurogroup
- + European Commission
- + Other EU bodies



Market participants:
broad support from consumers
and merchants

- + Financial institutions
- + Consumers, merchants and acquirers
- + Infrastructure and technology providers



General public:
engaging with end users



- + Civil Society Organisations
- + EU citizens

Central banks:
setting global standards



- + Non-euro area ESCB members
- + Bank for International Settlements
- + Central banks with CBDC projects

Our progress so far

Milestones on the first part of the preparation phase



Producing a first draft of the **rulebook with the standards** to pay with a digital euro across the euro area



Guaranteeing a high level of privacy for digital euro payments, coming close to cash



Selecting providers for technical components of a digital euro



Working on a **methodology for setting the limits** to the amount of digital euro holdings per account limit



Looking into payments **offline functionality and an Eurosystem app to pay with a digital euro, accessible** to everyone in the euro area



Providing support to the **legislative process with technical analysis on topics in debate**

Staying ahead of the curve: towards further testing and development

Tentative – timeline subject to change

Q4 - 2023

- Setting up the preparation phase
- Publication of **ECB legal opinion**

Q2 - 2024

- Start engagement with market on **calibration of holding limits**

Q4 - 2024

- **Evaluation and negotiation** of procurement offers
- Detail out piloting and rollout approach

Q2 - 2025

- Finalise **Architecture**
- **Data Protection Impact Assessment**
- **Positioning and Outreach plan**



- RDG review of **Rulebook**
- Publication of **Call for Applications (CfA)**
- Draft **requirements** related to sourcing

Q1 - 2024

- Publishing of **procurement documentation**
- Initiate **user research**

Q3 - 2024

- **Selection of providers**
- 2nd round of **procurement** procedures
- **Initiate** planning for next phase

Q1 - 2025

- **Draft rulebook**
- Preparation of **Governing Council** decision

Q3 - 2025

October 2025
Governing Council decision to potentially launch next phase