

A MEANS OF PAYMENT TO MAKE OUR LIVES EASIER

As a cash-like complement to existing payment methods, a digital euro would be designed to fit easily into the daily lives of Europeans and would offer the following benefits:



SIMPLIFY REGULAR PAYMENTS

Offering a single, simple, digital alternative in many situations



ENABLE PERSON-TO-PERSON PAYMENTS

Creating a means of digital money transfer between two people that works both online and offline



FACILITATE TRAVEL IN EUROPE

Providing a secure, digital option with cash-like features that would work consistently throughout the euro area, both in stores and online



MAKE ONLINE PAYMENTS EASIER

Delivering a cash-like option for online payments, without requiring a current account or credit card

A digital euro would provide an anchor of stability for our money in the digital age

A MORE RESILIENT EUROPE

Amid increased global digitalisation, a digital euro would strengthen Europe's payment system. A digital euro would be provided as a public good to stand alongside private payment solutions. It would enhance Europe's resilience by ensuring transaction stability and protecting the payment system from various uncertainties.



TACKLING GEOPOLITICAL CHALLENGES

Reduced dependence on non-European means of payment



PROVIDING PROTECTION & STABILITY

As legal tender backed by the ECB, a digital euro would be universally accessible. Like cash, it would have a guaranteed value, unlike stablecoins and crypto "currencies", which have no guaranteed value



MAINTAINING THE STRENGTH OF THE EURO IN GLOBAL FINANCE

Helping to ensure the euro's international role and strength on the global financial stage

SPURRING INNOVATION

Europe embraces innovation when it comes to money and finance.

Over the last decade, Europe has seen no shortage of financial technology success, with a number of industry-redefining start-ups. However, innovation in payments has often remained confined within national borders.

As a new entrant in the payments domain, a digital euro would spur innovation among banks and other private players at a pan-European level. New initiatives might emerge to take advantage of opportunities yet to be envisaged.

Such innovation initiated by a digital euro would help improve the lives of European citizens.

GET IN TOUCH

Find out more information about the digital euro for the future

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EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK | EUROSISTEM

THE FUTURE OF MONEY

DIGITAL EURO

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The euro boasts a proud history in the areas of finance, banking and payments. That's why Europe is in a strong position to take the lead on bringing the valued features of cash into the digital age, supporting a world of increasingly digital engagement.

ANOTHER PAYMENT OPTION FOR EUROPEANS



CASH



CARD



BANK ACCOUNT



OTHER DIGITAL PAYMENTS



DIGITAL EURO

An additional way to pay across Europe



CASH-LIKE FEATURES

A digital version of the euro, issued and guaranteed by the European Central Bank (ECB), with cash-like features



PAY ANYWHERE IN THE EURO AREA

Any place that accepts debit or credit card payments, whether in physical stores or online, would also accept digital euro



DIGITAL MONEY THAT WORKS OFFLINE

A digital euro would be able to go places where cards today can't go, as transactions would be possible even when there is no internet or mobile service



PRIVACY IS KEY

The ECB would not be able to determine the identity or payment habits of people using digital euro



PUBLIC SERVICE

A public good, available to all euro area residents



IMMUTABLE VALUE

It would be impossible to change the value of a digital euro

FOR EVERYDAY PAYMENTS

The ECB is exploring a broad range of cases for daily use of a digital euro. Collaboration between the public and private sector is under way to ensure that a digital euro would be available for people's everyday payments. Some of the most significant ways in which a digital euro would have an impact on everyday payments and transactions include:

● SECURE PAYMENT FLEXIBILITY

Allowing payments to be made securely in real time in shops, online, offline and between individuals.

● DIGITAL AT ITS CORE

Useable across a variety of digital payment devices, like mobile phones, smartwatch apps, digital wallets and computers.

● WITH A LINKED BANK ACCOUNT

Seamless onboarding, easy flow of funds and automatic overflow management when a digital euro wallet or account is linked to an existing bank account.

● WITHOUT A LINKED BANK ACCOUNT

A digital wallet or app, most likely provided by the ECB, would ensure that a digital euro is accessible to anyone who has some form of digital device.

● INCLUSIVE BY DESIGN

Those without a bank account and/or digital device would still be able to use digital euro. For instance, a payment card could be distributed by, and topped up at, public agencies, such as post offices.

● INTEGRATION WITH EXISTING & NEW APPS

Private financial services entities like banks and other payment service providers would be able to integrate digital euro services as a new feature within their existing apps. They would also support a digital euro app made available by the ECB.

● ATM INTEGRATION

Digital euro services would be embedded in ATMs, where people would be able to exchange digital euro for cash or vice versa.

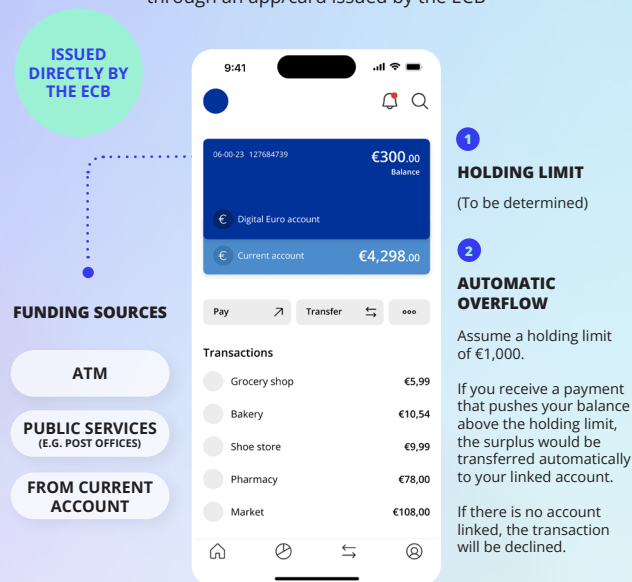
● DESIGNED TO MAKE & RECEIVE PAYMENTS

A digital euro would be designed to support payments and everyday transactions. It would not be intended for investment or earning interest.

HOW THE DIGITAL EURO WOULD WORK

DIGITAL EURO ACCOUNT

With a bank or deposit-taking institution or through an app/card issued by the ECB



DIGITAL EURO TRANSACTIONS



Making digital euro cutting-edge

