



EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK  
EUROSYSTEM

# Digital euro

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AMI-Pay

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# Overview

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# What is a “digital euro”?

*Digital euro would be **central bank money** made available in **digital form** for **retail use in payments** by citizens and firms*



**Digital equivalent** of legal tender euro banknotes



**Complementing**, not replacing, cash



Costless access for citizens' basic payment needs to a **simple, risk-free and trusted** digital means of payment

# CBDC versus other forms of money and assets



## Liability of central bank

- i. **Cash:** physical form, to *general public*
- ii. **Central bank deposits:** *digital form*, limited access

→ **CBDC/ Digital euro:** complement to cash and deposits



## Liability of a private entity

- i. Commercial bank money
- ii. E-money
- iii. Some 'stablecoins' that entail a claim/liability on an identifiable entity



## Not a liability

- i. Crypto-assets\*

\* This definition corresponds to [Occasional Paper Series No 223](#), ECB, 2019.

# Digital euro: a complement to private initiatives



## Key arguments to support this view:

- Co-existence of several means of payments is desirable
- Private sector will remain more innovative
- Central banks do not have ambition
  - to take-up the front-end or
  - to take away deposits from banks' balance sheets.
- Digital euro would be offered preferably through supervised service providers

# Way forward



## **Towards mid-2021 the Eurosystem will consider whether to launch a digital euro project**

- **Start with an investigation phase**

*... to obtain answers to open questions raised in the report*

*... to develop a minimum viable product that would be able to meet Eurosystem requirements and the needs of prospective users*



**The objective is to ensure that the Eurosystem will be prepared to issue a digital euro if it decides to do so in the future.**

# Questions for discussion



- What role can you or your organisation play in facilitating the appropriate design and uptake of a digital euro as an effective means of payment?
- What potential challenges need to be considered in the design of the technology and standards for the digital euro?
- How to ensure wide usability and sufficient consumer demand?

# Link to digital euro pages

[Executive  
summary page](#)



[Full report](#)

