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The adoption of the digital euro in Spain and its impact on banks and businesses

Report
January 2024



Future confident

Agenda

- Understanding the definition of central bank digital currencies (CBDCs), ascertaining the probable features of the digital euro and the reasons that have led the ECB to develop it
- 2 Analysing the possible demand for the digital euro among both the Spanish population and businesses
- Having an initial approximation of the impacts of the digital euro on both financial institutions and businesses



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Introduction to the digital euro

Most of the information published to date on the digital euro has been eminently regulatory and technological in nature and has not analysed in depth the possible strategic impacts

What has been written about CBDCs?

REASONS FOR THEIR EXISTENCE

Several **studies** have focused on determining the **possible market failures** that **CBDCs** might resolve

RISKS

The possible adverse impacts that CBDCs might have on citizens' privacy, financial stability and the payment instruments industry have been analysed

DESIGN

An analysis has been conducted of what the digital euro's **optimum model** should be, taking into account levels of **privacy**, **use cases**, **technology** and the role of **public** and **private agents**

REGULATORY CONSIDERATIONS

Discussions have been held on the **regulatory scheme** that would set the associated **rules** and **regulations**

What has not been written about CBDCs?

What will the demand be?

Potential **demand** for the **digital euro** on the part of the population **has not been analysed** and **citizens' satisfaction** with the **payment instruments** available has not yet been ascertained

What impact will it have on businesses?

The digital euro will be **legal tender** and, accordingly, **all businesses will have to adopt it** although the possible **technological and financial impacts** that the digital euro will have on businesses have not yet been studied

What operating and financial impacts will it have on banks?

Beyond the **possible disintermediation** that might be caused by the **digital euro**, **the potential impacts** on the **operating and financial model have not been duly assessed**

Source: Publications; Monitor Deloitte

What are CBDCs and why are they being studied?

There are several reasons for the creation of a CBDC, and for Europe the sovereignty over European payments is the most important of them

Possible benefits of CBDCs

MONETARY POLICY
TOOL

FINANCIAL INCLUSION

SOVEREIGNTY OVER EUROPEAN PAYMENTS

PROGRAMMABILITY
OF PAYMENTS

MITIGATE THE FALL IN THE USE OF CASH

ALTERNATIVE TO
UNREGULATED
PRIVATE CURRENCIES

RESILIENCE OF PAYMENTS



A remunerated CBDC would enable a central bank to transmit changes in monetary policy in a more agile way

-



CBDCs can be an alternative solution to help increase banking penetration among the population and allow them to participate in the digital economy at a lower cost



A CBDC would enable the ECB to reduce the dominance of Visa and MasterCard on the European payment rails and protect the data associated with the payments



It will be possible to codify and programme CBDCs in order to reduce manual processes in payments, thus saving time and costs



In recent years there has been a significant fall in the use of cash together with an increase in digital payments



Since 2017, there has been strong growth in digital currencies such as stablecoins and cryptocurrencies, which have an inherent risk as they are private currencies

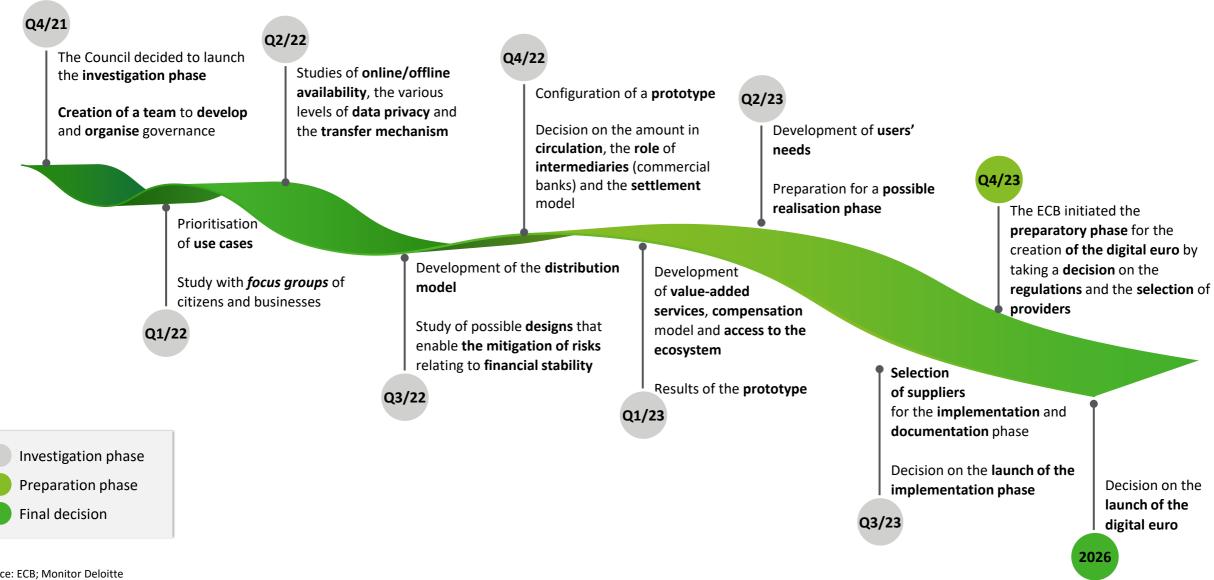


Nowadays, businesses' margins and cash flows are adversely affected by the long reconciliation times and the high transaction costs of card payments

Source: Publications; Monitor Deloitte

Timeline of the digital euro and features decided upon by the ECB

Since the commencement of the digital euro project in 2021, the ECB has gone through several phases and has reached decisions on several of the features of the digital euro



Timeline of the digital euro and features decided upon by the ECB

Following the ECB's first two investigation phases, the European Commission has proposed a series of features for the digital euro the most noteworthy of which are the absence of remuneration and the possibility of opening more than one wallet

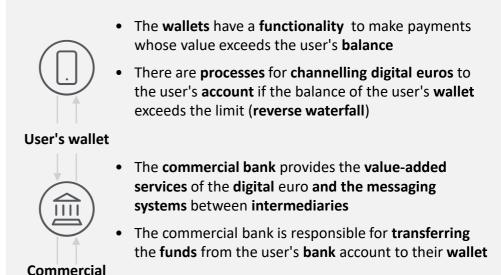
Features proposed by the European Commission based on the investigation phase

	Features	Latest European Commission proposal			
1	Legal tender	Obligatory acceptance at both physical and electronic businesses			
2	Distribution model	Through a wallet from the ECB or authorised entities (possibly more than one per user)			
3	Remuneration	The balance will not be remunerated			
4	Balance limits	Responsibility of the ECB (reference €3,000)			
5	Compensation model	No charges for users and the ECB will publish the maximum fees for merchants (will not apply to funding)			
6	Extraterritorial use	To be evaluated in a second phase			
7	Functionalities	Online and offline options available from launch, enabling the use of conditional payments			
8	Distribution	Instant settlement of payments, fraud module and compatibility with eIDAS and existing payment methods			
9	Privacy and data protection	Minimise personal data processing by PSPs and the ECB			

Functioning of the wallet

bank

ECB



 The ECB will be responsible for settlement and keeping the record of the holdings of digital euros in each wallet

The ECB will decide whether to start the implementation phase of the digital euro in October 2023 that will end in 2026 with the final decision on the CBDC

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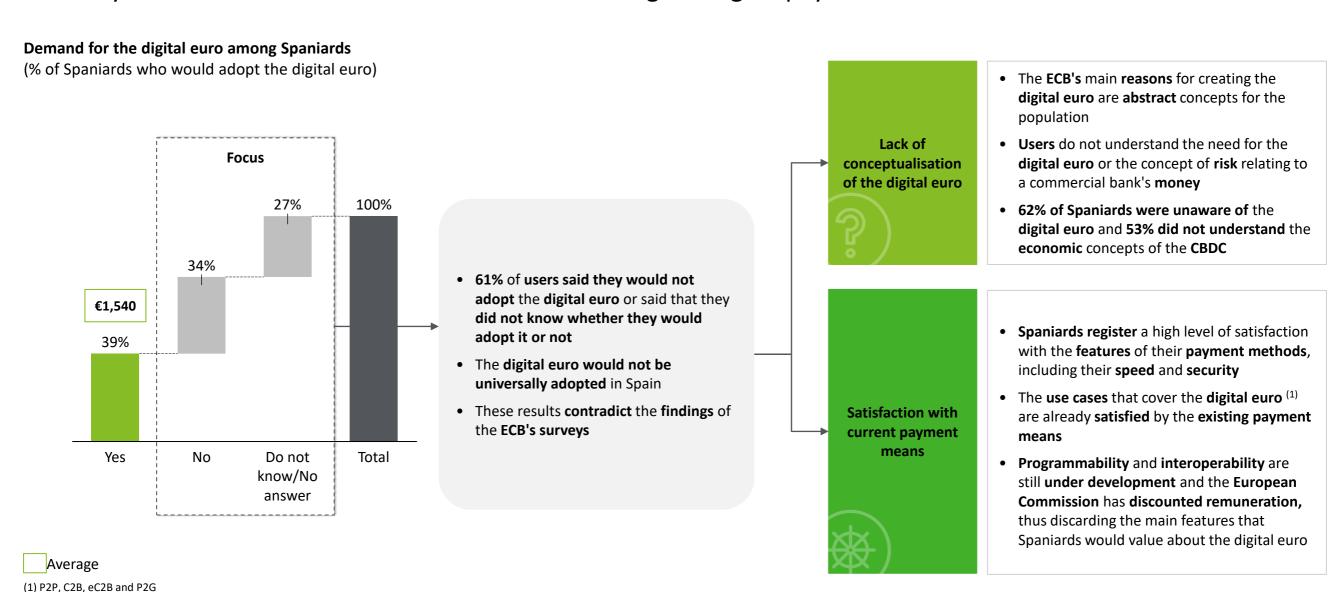


Monitor Deloitte survey

1,100 users500 merchants



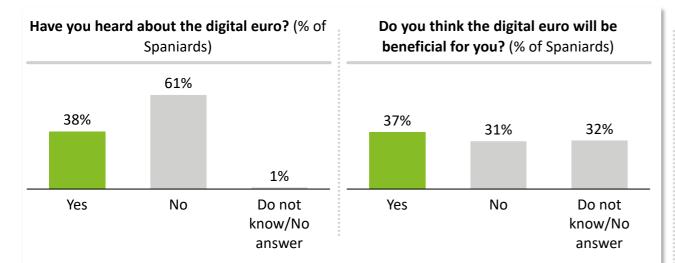
The probability of Spaniards adopting the digital euro is low, possibly because they find it difficult to conceptualise and they do not consider it useful due to the broad range of digital payment methods available



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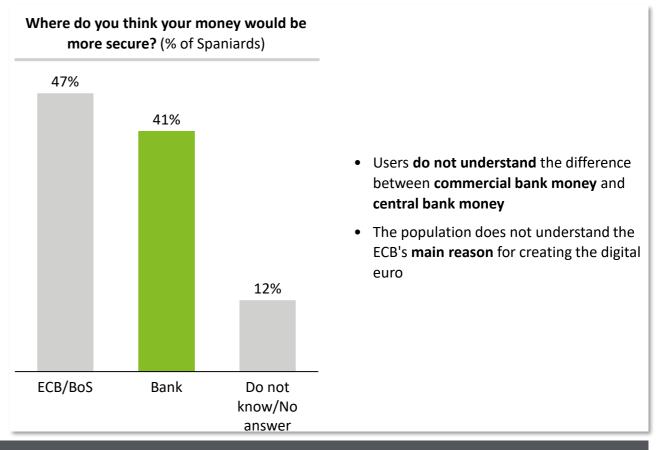
Most Spaniards are unaware of the digital euro and do not understand what its economic benefits would be, especially those relating to abstract economic matters

Lack of knowledge of the digital euro



- Most Spaniards were unaware of the digital euro
- Following an explanation of the risks of commercial banks' and central banks' money, the
 fact that the digital euro is free of charge, its privacy levels and other features, a minority of
 Spaniards thought that the digital euro would be beneficial for them
- 32% of the population would not be able to distinguish whether or not the digital euro would be beneficial for them, demonstrating the abstract nature of CBDCs

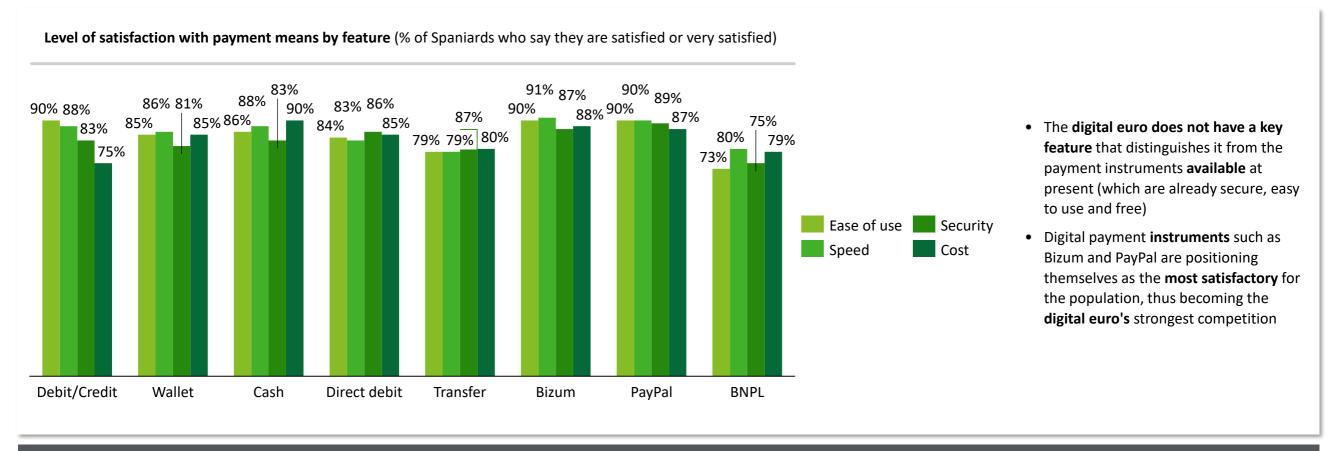
Lack of conceptualisation of CBDCs



In order to achieve mass adoption of the digital euro, governments would have to educate the population on its uses and especially its possible benefits

Users show a high level of satisfaction with the current payment methods as regards the most important features of the digital euro, such as immediacy, security and low cost

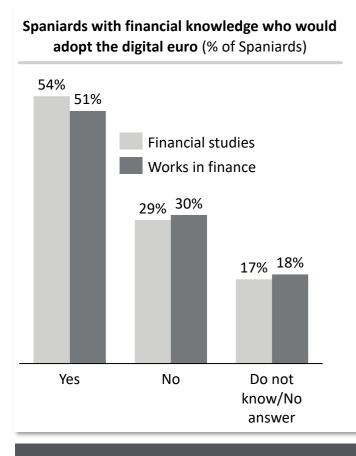
Satisfaction of payment means



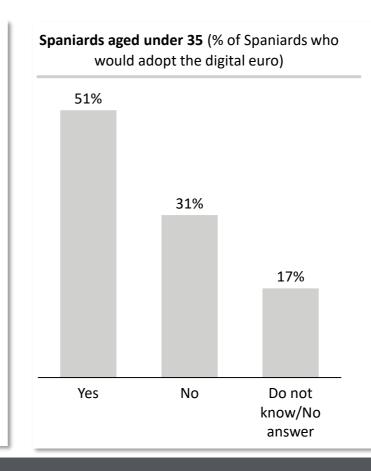
Since the digital euro's features are already covered by the existing payment means, the ECB must foster value-added services in order to obtain a certain level of adoption

Spaniards with greater financial knowledge and younger people would be those most interested in adopting the digital euro

Drivers of adoption



- Spaniards with greater financial knowledge tend to have a positive attitude towards the adoption of the digital euro
- Spaniards with financial knowledge have a better understanding of the possible benefits, in terms of risk, of a digital currency

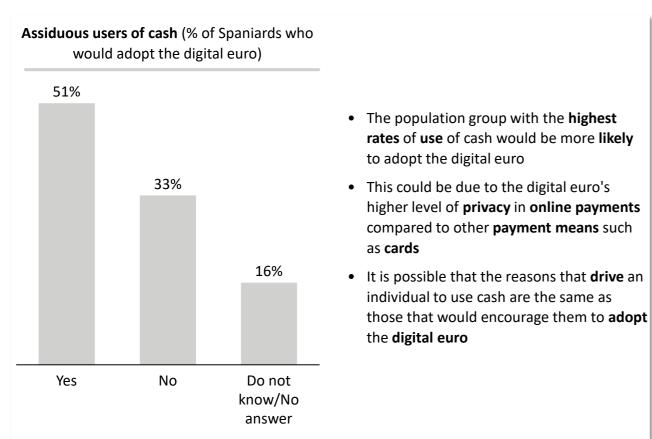


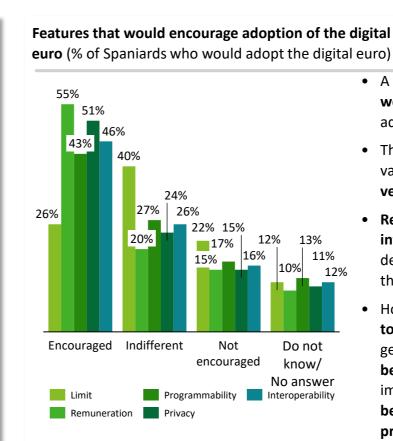
- Young people tend to adopt digital and innovative payment means such as buy now pay later (BNPL), Bizum and PayPal
- It is possible that this population segment is more willing to adopt the digital euro

The ECB could boost adoption of the digital euro by developing value-added services that are important to the young people segment

Spaniards consider that the remuneration of the digital euro, the programmability of payments and geographical interoperability would be the most important features in favour of its adoption

Drivers of adoption





- A higher retention limit for the digital euro would not have a large impact on the adoption of the digital euro
- The population would not use it for high value payments or as an investment vehicle
- Remuneration, privacy and interoperability are the features to be decided upon that are most important to the population
- However, the Commission has decided not to remunerate the digital euro, and geographical interoperability has not yet been decided, thus two of the most important drivers of adoption would not be available in the initial phases of the project

Value-added services would be a strong *driver* of the adoption of the digital euro, however, the Commission has decided to eliminate the possibility of remunerating the CBDC, the feature most highly valued by the Spanish population

The outlook for the digital euro is not very positive due to the population's lack of knowledge and the scant importance its use cases have for Spaniards

Conclusions

MOST SPANIARDS WOULD NOT ADOPT THE DIGITAL EURO BECAUSE THEY ARE UNAWARE OF IT AND BECAUSE THEY ARE SATISFIED WITH THE EXISTING PAYMENT MEANS

THOSE WHO WOULD ADOPT THE DIGITAL EURO ARE NOT INTERESTED IN THE MOST IMPORTANT USE CASES

THE MOST IMPORTANT FEATURES OF THE DIGITAL EURO TO BE DECIDED WILL NOT BE DEVELOPED AT SHORT TERM





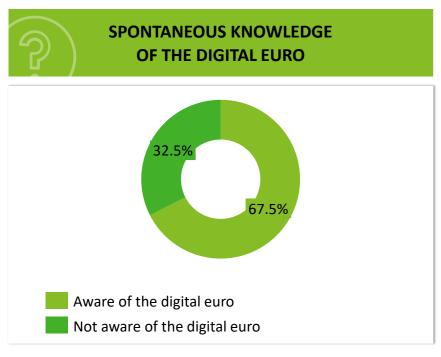


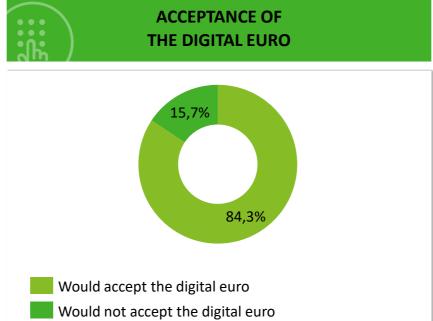
- 62% of Spaniards were unaware of the digital euro and 64% consider that it would not have broad benefits
- Only 47% of Spaniards understood economic concepts of importance for comprehension of the digital euro
- Users showed a high level of satisfaction with the features of their payment methods, and, accordingly, only 39% of Spaniards had the intention of adopting the digital euro

- Of the 39% who would adopt the digital euro, only 33% and 40% would use it for P2P and C2B payments (in a physical environment), respectively
- However, 50% of Spaniards who would adopt the digital euro would use it for online trade
- 48% would be interested in using the digital euro for international remittances, but this use case has not been confirmed by the Commission and the ECB
- The most important features of the digital euro for consumers are the possible remuneration, the programmability of payments and geographical interoperability
- At the date of this report, the European Commission has discounted remuneration as it would create two types of money in euros with different values
- Also, programmability and interoperability are not yet in development, and they are not expected to be available in the initial phases

Spanish businesses are more willing to adopt the digital euro possibly because of the benefits they consider the CBDC would bring

Businesses' perception of the digital euro





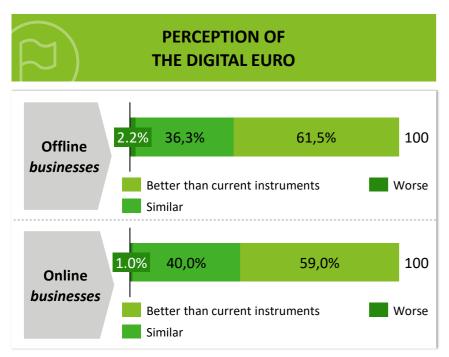


- More than two thirds of businesses were previously aware of the digital euro
- This is significantly higher than individuals' level of awareness

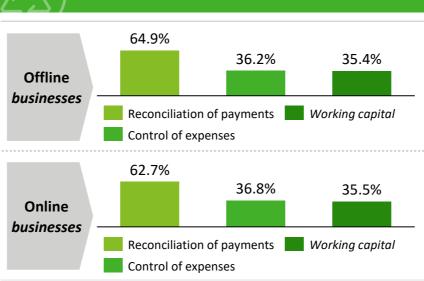
- The vast majority of businesses would be willing to accept the digital euro
- Businesses perceive that the digital euro will provide them with greater benefits than individuals
- The major reasons for not adopting the e digital euro are a lack of confidence in governance and its complexity
- Perceived low use of the digital euro is not a factor in businesses' decision

The immediate reconciliation of payments and the security of transactions would be the main improvements of the digital euro for businesses

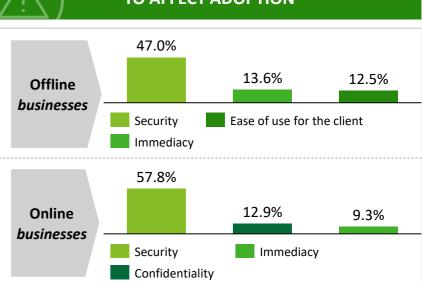
Businesses' perception of the digital euro







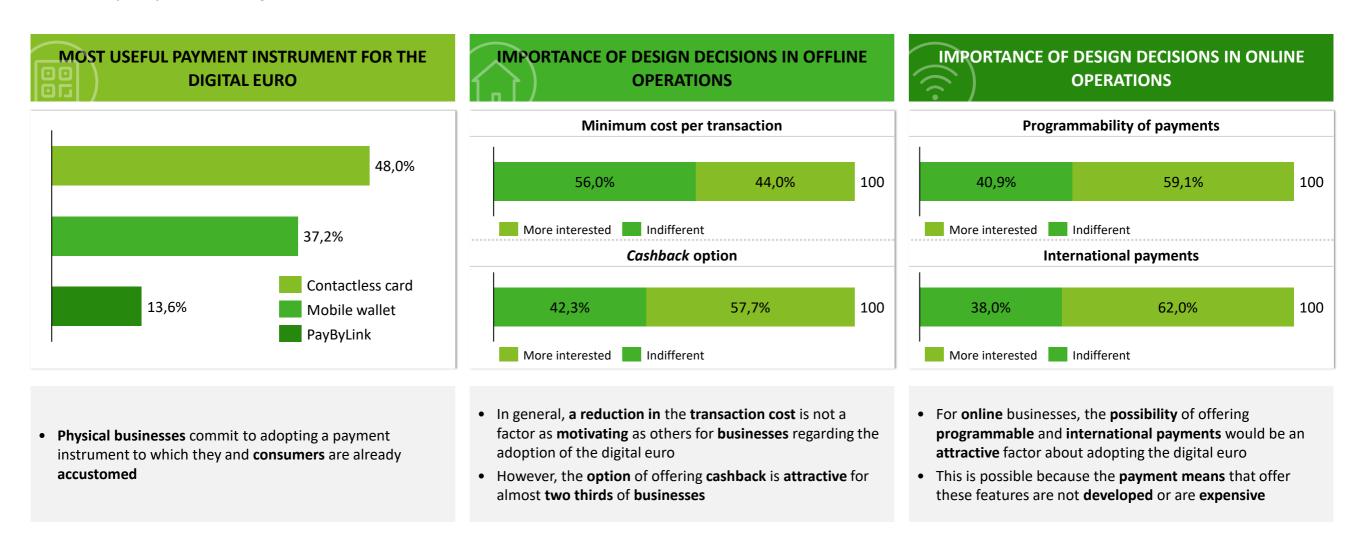




- Both offline and online businesses consider that the digital euro would improve the payment instruments that are accepted nowadays
- However, some consider that the digital euro would not be an improvement and a residual percentage consider that it would be worse
- The most important improvement the digital euro would provide for businesses would be the speed in the reconciliation of payments
- This is probably due to the long reconciliation times of payments made with cards
- Online businesses place greater interest on the possible security and confidentiality of the digital euro, probably because of the levels of fraud in their environment
- Physical businesses are more interested in customers' needs and in the immediacy of payments

Also, the possible design decisions that might be taken regarding the digital euro such as cashback and programmability would be a great attraction for businesses

Businesses' perception of the digital euro



In contrast with the individuals' segment, businesses do see potential for the digital euro to offer value-added services

Conclusions

In general, businesses are more aware of the digital euro and tend to be willing to adopt it



The most attractive feature of the digital euro for businesses is the immediacy of payments, which would enable them to use instant reconciliation, which is not available using their present instruments



As regards the **possible designs** of the digital euro, the **minimum transaction cost** is the **least important** for businesses, which place a higher **value** on the **value-added services** that might be provided



The **design features** of the digital euro **that have not yet been decided** are important for businesses and, accordingly, the **ECB** could create a differential **value proposition** for them



Potential adoption of the digital euro under seven scenarios

The modelling of the digital euro in collaboration with



FNA is a leading company in artificial intelligence based on graphs (Graph AI) and simulation. FNA's software is used to uncover anomalies in large databases; to build digital replicas (digital twins) of complex systems; to predict the impact of stress events on complex systems; and to design and optimally configure financial systems and infrastructures. FNA's solutions for Suptech, Regtech, liquidity optimisation and detecting and combating financial crimes are used by the most important central banks in the world, and by governments, financial market infrastructures and leading global financial institutions.

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- W. <u>www.fna.fi</u> | <u>www.fnalab.com</u>







An analysis has been carried out of the potential adoption of the digital euro by configuring seven scenarios in which the digital euro would be a combination of different features

Scenarios modelled

	Basic	Top-up limit	Anonymous payment limit	Cannot be reversed	Aid	Remunerated	Low limit	High limit
Legal tender								
Balance limit	€3,000	€3,000	€3,000	€3,000	€3,000	€3,000	€1,000	€5,000
Top-up limit	X	€500	\times	X	X	\times	X	\times
Anonymous payment limit	\times	X	€200	X		X	X	X
Reverse waterfall				X				
State benefits	\times	\otimes		×		X	X	X
Remuneration	×			×				

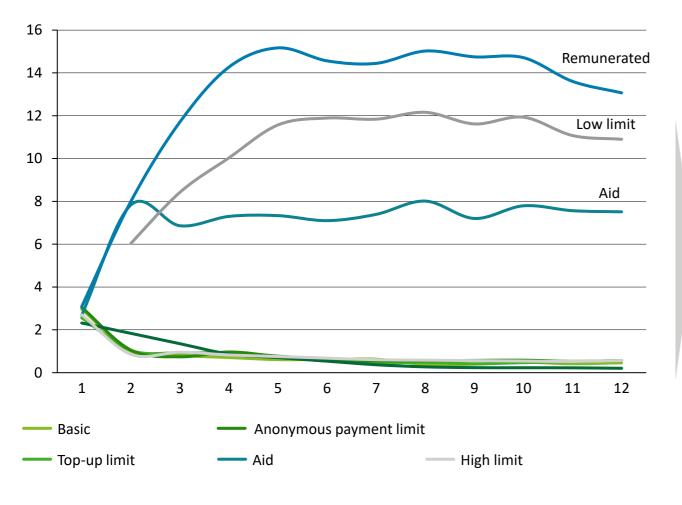




The model shows a residual adoption of the digital euro in all the scenarios except those with strong incentives such as remuneration or the distribution of state benefits

CBDCs as a percentage of the total amount of money available for payments

(% of the total amount of money available; month after commencement)



Low adoption

In all cases in which the **digital euro** does not have **a strong incentive** for **adoption** (remuneration or distribution of benefits) the percentage of money in **digital euros** is between **0.6%** and **0.8%**



The distribution of state benefits and remuneration through the digital euro would provide a significant boost but these measures entail difficult political decisions



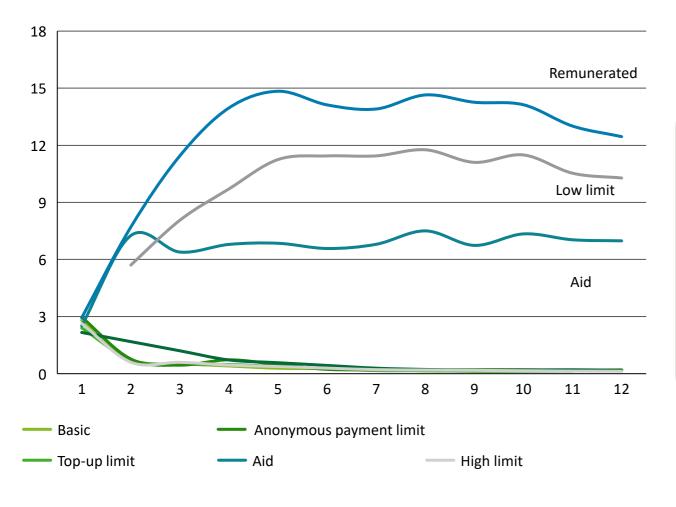
A lower balance limit (€1,000 vs. €3,000) in a scenario with a remunerated digital euro would moderately reduce the percentage of money assigned to CBDCs (15% vs. 12%) and, accordingly, the limits would be useful measures to avoid disintermediation



The digital euro would present low transactionality in C2B payments both in *online* and *offline*, except for those scenarios in which adoption is incentivised

C2B payments in CBDCs as a percentage of the total amount by scenario

(% of total C2B payments; month after commencement)

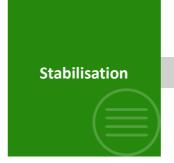


Low transactionality

In most scenarios, transactionality would account for between **0.4%** and **0.6%** of the total volume of payments at businesses

Satisfaction with the payment instruments available

This finding is because of users' current satisfaction with their payment instruments and shows that the digital euro does not present differential elements



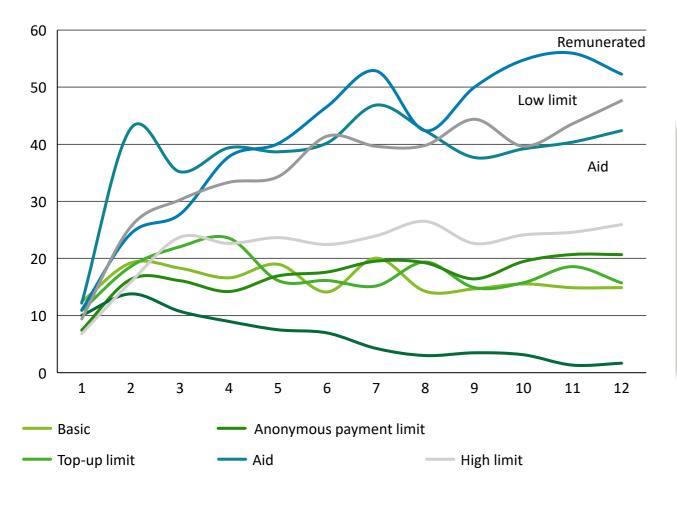
The results in those scenarios with high adoption and use incentives **show** that the digital euro would have **rapid initial growth** followed by a **process of stabilisation**



The digital euro would have a high level of transactionality in P2P payments, possibly due to the lower competition from other payment means and to the strengthening of adoption among users

P2P payments in CBDCs as a percentage of the total

(% of total P2P payments; month after commencement)



Competition between payment instruments

The digital euro shows higher transactionality in P2P payments because it has less competition from other payment instruments (cash, PayPal and Bizum) and because it is common for users to use it more as they see that others also use it due to the network effect

Stability

In the most **probable** cases (scenarios 1, 2 and 7 and the basic scenario), the digital euro would have a share of between 15% and 25% of P2P payments

Importance of the reverse waterfall function

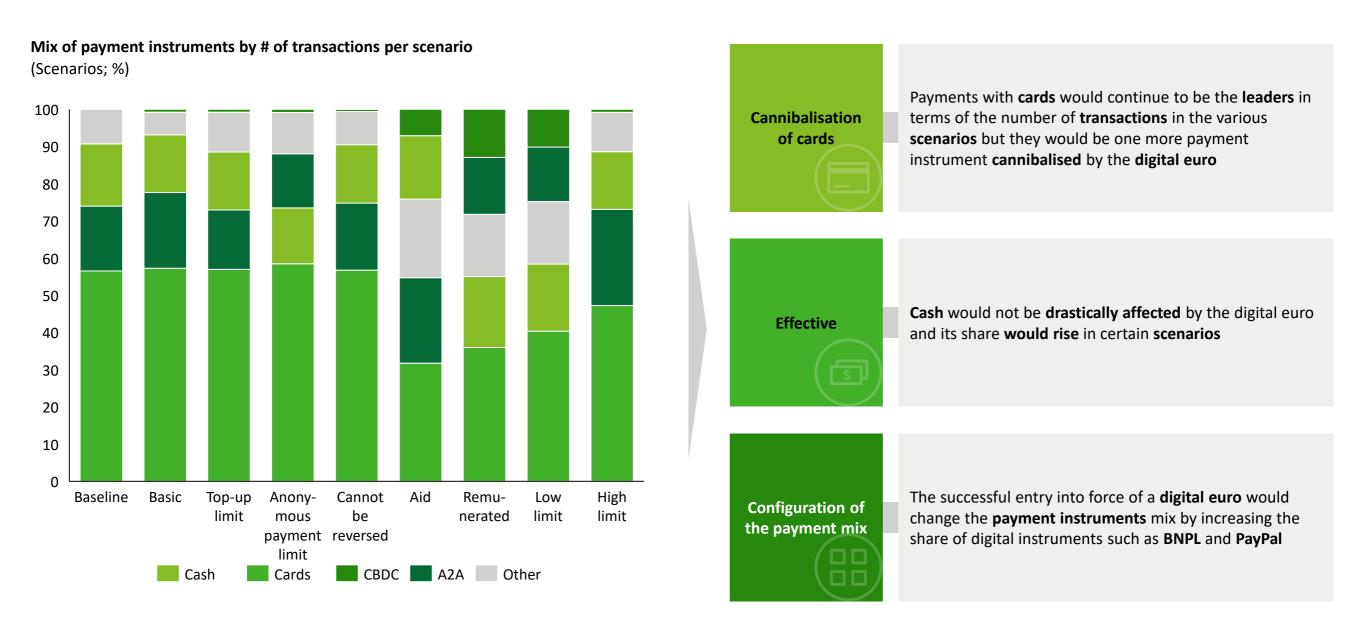
The only scenario in which the **digital euro** does not have certain **transactionality** in **P2P** transactions is the one without the **reverse waterfall** functionality, and accordingly, it is assumed that this is an **indispensable feature** for consumers





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The entry into force of the digital euro will not give rise to a change in the Spanish payments *mix* except in those scenarios with adoption incentives in which the most adversely affected payment instrument would be cards



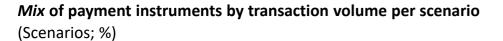
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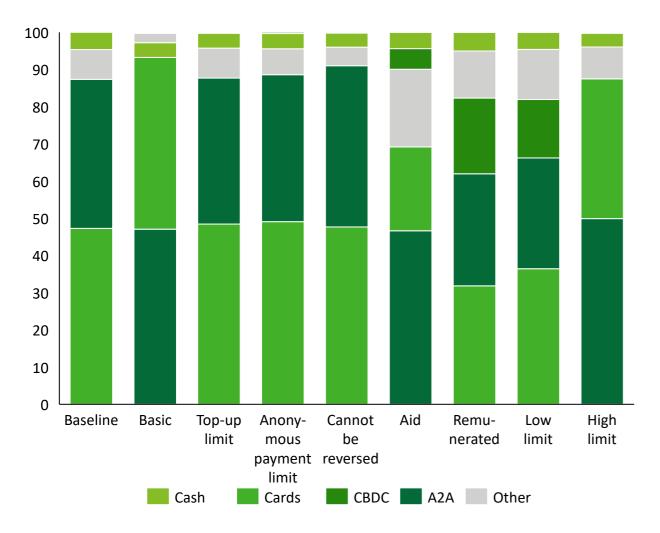




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In most scenarios the digital euro's share of payment volumes is ~0.2%, rising to 16% or 20% in those scenarios with remuneration associated with them



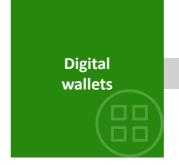


Higher value payments

In the scenarios in which the digital euro is **remunerated** ("Remunerated" and "low limit"), users would have a higher balance in their account and would be able to make payments of **larger amounts**



If the CBDC were incentivised through the distribution of state benefits, payments with the digital euro would have a lower value because the users would be consumers with lower incomes and would probably have a lower balance in their account



With the introduction of state benefits in digital euros, the use of cash would decline and that of wallets and other digital payment means would rise, possibly because of the digitalisation of segments of the population with lower incomes and unsatisfied payment needs

The results show the considerable importance of incentives as *drivers* of the adoption of the CBDC

Conclusions by scenario



NON-DIFFERENTIAL TOP-UP LIMIT













The **basic** scenario with a **digital euro** as **legal tender**, a **limit** of €3,000, a **reverse waterfall** functionality and **no anonymity limits** shows a **low level of adoption** with a share of **0.78%** of transactions with no change in the payment instrument mix, in line with observations in the Bahamas and China

The **introduction** of a **daily top-up limit of €500** would not give rise to a change in the **adoption** of the digital euro in comparison with the **basic scenario** (because of its **0.77%** share of total **transactions**)

As with the daily top-up limit, the **introduction** of a **€200 limit on anonymous payments** would not affect the adoption of the digital euro either, as its share of total transactions would be **0.83%**

The third scenario presents the lowest level of adoption of the digital euro as it excludes the reverse waterfall function, demonstrating the importance for consumers of having the CBDC connected to their current or savings account and being able to perform transactions with a lower balance than the amount of the payment

The fourth scenario that allows the distribution of benefits through the CBDC shows a transactionality of the digital euro of ~7%, rapid adoption and an increase in the use of other digital payment means (at the expense of cards) as a segment of the population with lower income is digitalised

The remuneration of the digital euro at a higher rate than deposits increases its adoption and use drastically in comparison with the basic scenario and also shows a fall in the use of payment means linked to deposits due to the higher balance of users in CBDCs

The sixth scenario proposes a **remunerated CBDC** with a **lower balance limit** (€1,000) and, even so, exhibits **high transactionality** of the **digital euro**, demonstrating that the reduction of the limit could be a useful measure for avoiding the **disintermediation of deposits**

A scenario with a higher balance limit (€5,000) indicates a **low transactionality** of the digital euro but also shows **a lower use of payment means** based on **current accounts**, possibly because users **would adopt** the **CBDC** as a **store of value** but **not as a payment instrument**

Source: Monitor Deloitte

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Banks will obligatorily be intermediaries of digital euro and, accordingly, they should prepare to assume the costs that this will entail, while merchants will be obliged to accept it as legal tender

NOT EXHAUSTIVE

Players affected by the digital euro

Commercial banks Positive impacts Negative impacts Positive impacts Possible reduction in payment Income increases from fees for digital Possible disintermediation of bank acceptance costs with a simpler euro transactions deposits structure Marketing of innovative services Costs of developing and adopting new Stimulation of competition from other through the digital euro products and services methods of payment Adaptation of the channels of Offline use in times of electricity communication with the customer outages Immediacy of payments and Creation and adoption of new consequent improvement in processes and technologies reconciliation Increase in data management The possible innovation of responsibilities programmable payments Use cases at reduced cost such as split Use of scarce resources payments or the initiation of payments **Evolution of the corporate structure**

reporting

Possible changes in regulatory

Retailers/merchants



Negative impacts

- - Cost per digital euro transaction
- Adoption and adaptation of payment infrastructures and technologies

Mandatory acceptance of the digital euro

The entry into operation of the digital euro will have a considerable impact on the design of the value proposition and in the operating model of the banking industry (I/II)

Impacts of the digital euro on a bank

Layer	Issue	Considerations for banks
Customers	Customers	Banks must offer the digital euro to individuals and businesses with C2B activities, and it is necessary to identify customers' needs and determine the suitability of the digital euro
Customers	Needs	Banks will have the opportunity to develop value-added services, which are the levers of income from the digital euro
	Арр	Banks will need to create an inclusive section dedicated to the digital euro to enable customers to open a wallet, make payments, transfer and withdraw funds, and connecting with the application from the Eurosystem in banking applications will be a mandatory requirement
Channels	Physical banking	Banks must offer onboarding of the digital euro in the offline ⁽¹⁾ environment and develop onboarding services for digital euro wallets at physical branches , and it will be necessary to train employees and adapt the bank's ATMs
	Call centre	It is recommended that the customer care service is adapted to help individuals and businesses in matters related to the digital euro
	PoS payments	Banks must create and/or adopt instruments to enable offline payments at businesses, and these instruments must be interoperable (e.g. NFC, QR codes, Smart PoS terminals and wallets)
Products and	P2P payments	Banks will have to decide how to adapt the instruments used in P2P transfers in the online environment for the digital euro and analyse whether to develop an instrument that allows these in the offline environment or adopt the innovation of another intermediary
services	Online payments	Banks must create and/or adopt instruments to enable online payments at businesses
	Optional services	Banks will have to decide whether to develop optional services (with the support of the Eurosystem) and value-added services (without the support of the Eurosystem)
	кус	Banks will have to adopt a new KYC process designed by the ECB for each channel of the digital euro (e.g. app, digital banking, physical branch, etc.)
Processes	Funding	Banks must create processes to allow the immediate withdrawal of funds in accounts when a payment is made that exceeds the balance in the account , and design the channelling of digital euros to the user's account in the event that their wallet exceeds the limit (reverse waterfall)
	Commencement	Payments with digital euros must have the same level of security as payments with cards (e.g. Strong Customer Authentication (SCA))

Impact on the value proposition

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Source: Monitor Deloitte

Impact on the operating model Must be considered by the ECB

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Impacts of the digital euro on a bank

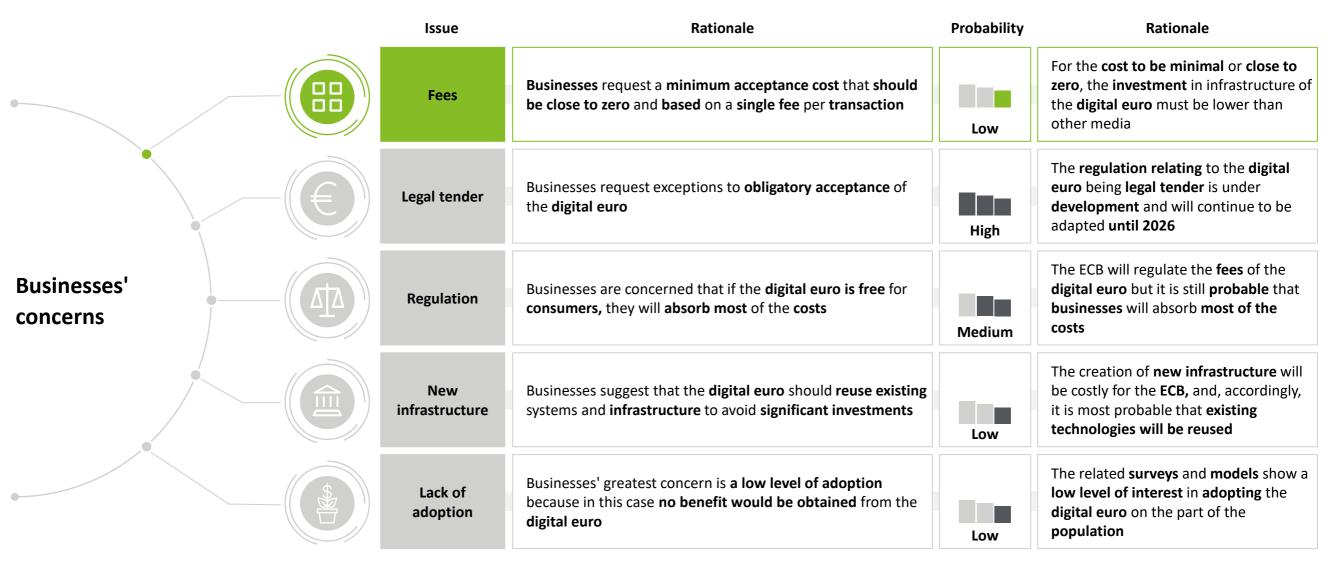
Layer	Issue	Considerations for banks
	Settlement	Banks will have to adopt information exchange processes developed by the ECB to enable the settlement of payments with digital euros
Processes	Post-reconciliation	Banks must have messaging processes , possibly designed by the ECB, to notify the participants of a payment of the confirmation immediately and create processes to deal with payment disputes and reimbursements in digital euros
	Reporting	Although the regulatory requirements for the digital euro have not yet been defined, the holding of digital euros will probably have to be shared with the Single Resolution Board (SRB)
	KYC management	Banks will have to manage consumers' personal data when the wallet is opened, but the technological processes will not be able to use any data item in offline payments
Data	AML/CFT management	Banks will adapt data infrastructure so that online payments with the digital euro meet the rules of Directive 2015/849
	Losses	Due to the privacy levels of the digital euro , data of payments with cards cannibalised by the CBDC will be lost, and, accordingly, an analysis will have to be conducted of how the possible decline in the capture of data will affect the business
	Connection	Banks must allow a technological connection between businesses, users and other banks for services to be provided
Tech- nology	Offboarding	Banks will have to provide users with the possibility of changing digital euro intermediary in an immediate and efficient manner
	Adaptation	Banks will adapt the technologies for the performance and acceptance of payments with the digital euro so that any instrument is interoperable throughout the EU
Customers	Structure	It is recommended that an organisational structure related to the digital euro is created to help with the provision of its services
Customers	Training	All employees with contact with important digital euro customers (individuals and businesses) must be trained and individuals with difficulties must be provided with help in handling digital tools
Castomers	Persons in charge	Banks must provide all branches and other customer-facing channels with the resources necessary to offer all the digital euro services and its value-added services

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Source: Monitor Deloitte

Impact on the value proposition Impact on the operating model Must be considered by the ECB

Businesses need a series of prerequisites to be met in order to adopt the digital euro that at the date of this report are unlikely to occur



Source: EuroCommerce; Monitor Deloitte

Reflections

Banks must prepare themselves for the change brought about when the digital euro becomes operational and must cooperate with the regulator to maximise the benefits and minimise the impacts

Considerations for banks



Integration of the current PoS

Which optional value-added services best fit my value proposition as a bank and what is the potential income?



Regulatory impact

What regulatory needs will CBDCs bring with them? Although the regulatory impact will foreseeably be small, how will the possible disintermediation of deposits impact the bank's results and how they are reported to the regulator?



First mover vs. W&S strategy

Should I take an **active** position and **boost** the **digital euro** or is it appropriate for me to adopt a passive position and **minimise costs** and **impacts?**



In-house vs. outsourced development

Depending on my size, is it advisable for me to design services to be adopted by other entities and intermediaries? How can I adopt innovations from other entities that allow me to minimise costs?



Reflections

Businesses must contact regulators and intermediaries of the digital euro with a view to preparing for the adoption of the CBDC and leveraging its possible benefits

Considerations for businesses

Commercial strategy

Should I incentivise the use of the digital euro among my customers because I consider that the digital euro is going to provide me with significant benefits (e.g., an increase in working capital)?



Cost strategy

How can I make my checkouts more profitable, in light of the entry into operation of the digital euro, through an improved PoS system?

As a merchant, what **costs** am I facing from the entry into operation of the digital euro?





Value proposition

Which value-added services could I adopt and which will bring me most benefits?



Industry strategy

Is it advisable for me to associate myself with other merchants and together attend possible meetings with the ECB or developer bodies to achieve my objectives in relation to the digital euro, especially those related to the fee per transaction?

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