

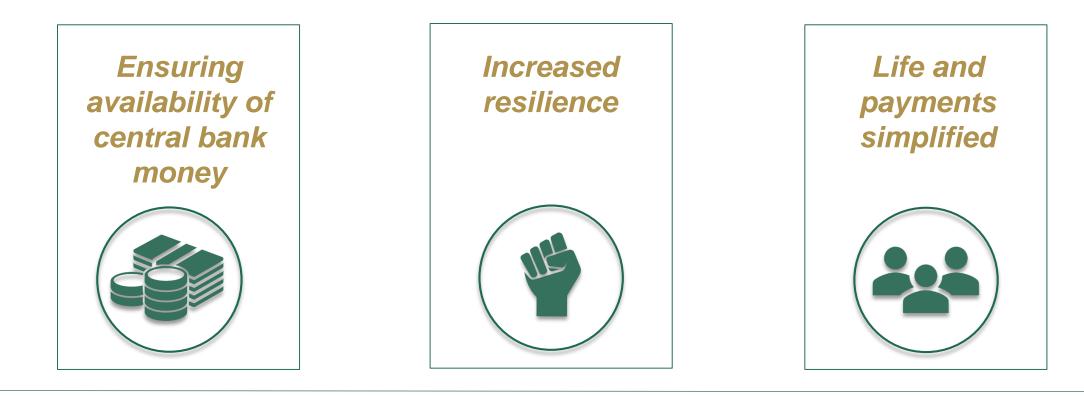
# Digital Euro – What do we already know?

Digital Euro – Cash meets technology

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### Why do we need a digital euro?



**Monetary anchor** 



#### Strategic autonomy



#### **Economic efficiency**



### How far have we come?

### Investigation phase (Oct. 2021 – Oct. 2023)

- Collaboration with different market and institutional stakeholders
- Result
  - High-level design of a digital euro and related user and technical specifications
  - Prototype of a digital euro

Conclusion

"It is possible to develop a digital euro that would serve the needs of end-users and meet the requirements of the Eurosystem."





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### How far have we come?

#### Preparation phase - Part 1 (Nov. 2023 – Oct. 2025)

- Laying the foundations for a potential digital euro
- Focus on
  - Finalising the digital euro **scheme rulebook**
  - Selecting providers who could develop the service platform and infrastructure
- Testing and experimentation will also be conducted

A decision to enter the preparation phase does not imply the issuance of a digital euro!



#### **Key features**

- Public money "digital cash"
- Central bank money for digital retail payments
- Legal tender status
- One solution for all payments **excellent UX** 
  - Person-to-person payments, e-commerce, payments in physical stores and government payments
  - Payment app or a physical card

#### Resilience

Payments without the need for an internet connection



### What would it look like?

#### **Key features**

- Privacy by design
  - Fundamental human right
  - Minimal set of personal data collected
  - "Cash-like" levels of privacy for offline payments
- Preserving financial stability
  - Holding limits (means of payments, not an investment tool)
- Free for basic use by consumers
  - As cash is today



#### Consumers

- A new option to pay, giving more choice
- An instant payment solution for every occasion, anytime
  - Accepted throughout the entire euro area, 24/7, offline
- Preserving cash-like features
  - The digital euro could go where cash does not reach
  - Preserving valued cash-like features
- Leaving no one behind
  - A guarantee that the digital euro would be accessible to everyone



#### **Merchants**

- Standardisation of payment acceptance
- Legal tender: Stronger negotiating power and lower costs
- Instant receipt of funds

#### Intermediaries

- A key role in distribution / keeping end-user relations
- Immediate reach throughout the euro area
- A platform for innovation





### The way forward

After two years of the preparation phase (October 2025) the Governing Council will decide whether to move forward with the digital euro project

The decision to issue a digital euro will depend on the result of the legislative process

*Regulation on the establishment of a digital euro* to give powers to the ECB/Eurosystem to issue a digital euro



## Thank you!

