

Eurosystem moving to next phase of digital euro project

*“In an increasingly digital world, the digital euro offers a strategic opportunity for supporting a competitive and resilient European payment system, contributing to Europe’s strategic autonomy and economic security, and strengthening the international role of the euro. **We welcome the recent progress achieved in advancing the digital euro project, and stress the importance of swiftly completing legislative work and accelerating other preparatory steps.** We will review progress at our next meeting.”*

- **Statement from the Euro Summit, 23 October 2025**

“The euro, our shared money, is a trusted sign of European unity. We are working to make its most tangible form – euro cash – fit for the future, redesigning and modernising our banknotes and preparing for the issuance of digital cash.”

- **Christine Lagarde**

“A digital euro will ensure that people enjoy the benefits of cash also in the digital era. In doing so, it will enhance the resilience of Europe’s payment landscape, lower costs for merchants, and create a platform for private companies to innovate, scale up and compete.”

- **Piero Cipollone**

The Governing Council decision in a nutshell

*The Governing Council of the ECB has **decided to move to the next phase of the digital euro project.***

This decision follows the completion of the preparation phase, launched by the Eurosystem in November 2023, which laid the foundations for issuing a digital euro.

*The **Eurosystem will implement its preparations flexibly, in line with calls from euro area leaders for the Eurosystem to be ready for potential issuance as soon as possible**, while also recognizing that the legislative process has not yet been completed.*



Preparation phase begun in November 2023 has successfully concluded



New phase will ensure technical readiness to launch



If legislation in place in 2026, pilot could start in 2027 and first digital euro issuance in 2029

Focus of the next phase as of November 2025

In this phase, **the Eurosystem will build the necessary technical capacity ahead of a possible decision to issue**, while maintaining flexibility and alignment with the legislative process.



Technical readiness

Developing the digital euro's technical foundations, including initial system set-up and piloting



Market engagement

- Collaborating with payment providers, merchants and consumers to finalise the rulebook
- Conduct user research and test the system through pilot activities



Legislative process support

Continue providing technical input to EU co-legislators and assist the legislative process as required

Estimated timeline



If legislation is in place in the course of 2026, **a pilot exercise could start in 2027** and the Eurosystem should be ready for a **potential first issuance of the digital euro during 2029.**



The Eurosystem's continued preparation for a digital euro will be implemented flexibly, ensuring alignment with the legislative process. To this end, work will be structured in modules to enable gradual scaling and limit financial commitments.



The ECB Governing Council's final decision on whether to issue a digital euro, and on what date, **will only be taken once the legislation has been adopted.**

Estimated costs



Total development costs until the first issuance currently expected during 2029, comprising both externally and internally developed components, are expected to amount around €1.3 billion.

Operating costs from 2029 projected to be approximately €320 million per year

Eurosystem would bear these costs as with euro banknotes, expected to be **compensated by seigniorage**