

Mandate of Rulebook Development Group (RDG)’s workstream B1: “Certification and Approval Framework”

1. Reminder of the Rulebook Development Group’s mandate

The digital euro scheme’s Rulebook Development Group (RDG) was established by the High-Level Task Force on Digital euro at its meeting on 19 January 2023 with the aim of drawing up a draft rulebook for the digital euro, building on design decisions taken by the Governing Council of the European Central Bank (ECB).

Under the RDG’s mandate, the Chair of the RDG can set up workstreams for the elaboration of deliverables requiring specific skills and knowledge. The Chair of the RDG reports to the Digital Euro Programme Manager.

2. Mission and objectives of workstream B1: “Certification and Approval Framework”

Workstream B1 (“Certification and Approval Framework”) has been established by the Chair of the RDG.

Workstream B1 will operate under this revised mandate as part of its renewed call for experts. It will continue to pursue this mandate until otherwise instructed by the Chair of the RDG.

The main objective of workstream B1 is to develop a proposal for the digital euro scheme as regards the applicable certification and approval framework.

3. Deliverables

Workstream B1 will develop a proposal for the scheme encompassing:

- (a) a certification and testing ecosystem (including requirements that must be met, as well as a roadmap for the establishment of that ecosystem);
- (b) an approval framework covering testing and certifications of end-user devices and acceptance solutions of payment service providers and technical service providers as well as end-to-end testing of services (e.g. (soft)POS, e-commerce gateways, apps);
- (c) rules governing the acceptance of actors in the certification and testing ecosystem with regards to their related (in)compliance.

The proposal should include draft paragraphs for the following annex to the scheme’s rulebook: “Testing, Certification and Approval”.

All intellectual property rights, copyright, and rights of development and disposal relating to the deliverables of workstream B1 will reside exclusively with the ECB.

4. Key guiding principles

The guiding principles governing the work of the RDG will also apply to workstream B1. As a reminder, these are as follows:

- 1) The building blocks of the digital euro rulebook should be developed on the basis of design decisions taken by the Governing Council or a delegated body.
- 2) Digital euro solutions that are enabled by the Eurosystem – and potentially complemented by the market – must be attractive to all actors in Europe’s retail payment market, particularly users of the digital euro.
- 3) The design of the digital euro rulebook must enable the market to develop further services and solutions on top of the scope initially foreseen for the digital euro. At the same time, the digital euro must function as a basic means of payment in the euro area without any such additional market-driven developments.
- 4) The RDG must leverage and build on existing standards and scheme solutions to the extent possible, without limiting the Eurosystem’s freedom of choice in the further development of the digital euro.

5. Composition of the workstream

Workstream B1 will consist of representatives of the private sector and of the Eurosystem.

A call for candidates for the private sector places will be launched by the RDG’s secretariat and published on the ECB’s website.

The composition of workstream B1 will seek to ensure fair and balanced representation of the various relevant stakeholders and types of player, while considering the mission and objectives of the workstream. The Chair of the RDG will decide on the final composition.

Candidates for workstream B1 should be experts on payment ecosystems, certification and testing frameworks, and scheme management. Candidates should be inspired by the opportunity to shape the digital euro scheme’s rulebook and be committed to the success of the digital euro in general and the delivery of the rulebook in particular.

They should be able to devote the necessary time to workstream B1 and be proficient in English (the working language of the workstream). Where relevant, a supporting statement from a member of the RDG would be appreciated¹.

RDG members are also allowed to join workstream sessions as observers.

¹ See RDG member list:

https://www.ecb.europa.eu/euro/digital_euro/timeline/profuse/shared/pdf/ecb.derdgp251030_RDG_members.en.pdf

Workstream B1 will be chaired by a representative of the Eurosystem, who will be proposed by the Chair to the RDG.

6. Organisational arrangements

In general, workstream B1 will hold remote meetings by video conference in line with the demands of its work. Potential in-person meetings at the ECB premises in Frankfurt can be arranged if needed and if there is interest from the B1 workstream members. Members are encouraged to participate in all meetings and contribute actively to deliverables.

Workstream B1 will report to the RDG.

7. Confidentiality, transparency and publication of materials

Most material shared with participants will be available to both workstream B1 and the RDG, but some – exceptionally – may be available only to members of the workstream. The material will be labelled accordingly.

The deliverables of workstream B1 (including interim reports) will be submitted to the RDG for review and consideration.

8. Data protection

Participants in workstream B1 must refrain from processing any personal data accessed or obtained through their participation, except as required to perform the workstream duties described in this mandate.

9. Resources and remuneration

Participants in workstream B1 are expected to contribute reasonable human and financial resources to its activities. Participation in the workstream's activities will not be remunerated, and participants will not receive any reimbursement of travel or subsistence expenses in connection with their attendance at workstream meetings.

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