Digital euro
Privacy options

Eurogroup
Focus group research on new digital payment methods and a digital euro suggests:

- Ability to “pay anywhere” is the most important feature.
- Instant, easy, contactless payments, especially for person-to-person payments, are the second most valued feature.
- Options that give people control over their personal data are appreciated.
Privacy is a fundamental right, and the baseline option for a digital euro is mandated by legislation.

The ECB’s report on a digital euro highlighted privacy as a key concern of future users.

A gradual shift to digital payments implies less privacy by default. There is a choice to preserve certain cash-like features.

But privacy needs to be assessed in the context of other EU policy objectives, notably anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT).
Preliminary views

User anonymity is not a desirable feature, as this would make it impossible to control the amount in circulation and to prevent money laundering.

The Eurosystem should only be able to see the minimum transaction data required to validate digital euro payments, even if it decides to perform the settlement function.

Anonymised/aggregate data on the use of the digital euro should be available to the Eurosystem under any privacy option for statistical, research, supervisory and oversight purposes, including to fight fraud/illicit activities.
Privacy options (from a user perspective)

**Transparent to intermediary**
- Checks during onboarding
- Data transparent to intermediary for AML/CFT purposes

**Privacy for low-value payments (selective privacy)**
- Checks during onboarding
- Higher degree of privacy for low-value transactions

**Privacy under offline functionality**
- Checks during onboarding
- Low-value balances and transaction amounts are not known to intermediary or central bank

Currently applicable baseline scenario

Desirable options beyond the baseline, which could be investigated with co-legislators
Baseline scenario: transparency to intermediaries

Baseline: a digital euro would provide people with a level of privacy equal to that of private digital solutions

Customer checks during onboarding

Personal and transaction data would be accessible to intermediaries to ensure compliance with AML/CFT requirements
Going beyond the baseline scenario: low-value payments (selective privacy)

- Customer checks during onboarding

- Higher degree of privacy for low-value/low-risk payments
  - Implies simplified checks (e.g. specific wallet with lower requirements during onboarding)

- Higher-value transactions would remain subject to standard controls
Going beyond the baseline scenario: **offline functionality**

- Customer checks during onboarding
- **Fully private offline transactions and balances**, non-transparent to intermediary or central bank
- To contain risks of illicit activities, full privacy only for **close proximity payments** that are low-value and low-risk
Policy considerations

- Eurosistem is committed to enabling high privacy standards if politically desired.

- Greater privacy than existing payment solutions would need to be integrated in the regulatory framework.

- What is the desired balance between a high standard of privacy in the use of digital euro and other EU policy objectives?