



EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

EUROSYSTEM

User testing and Onboarding

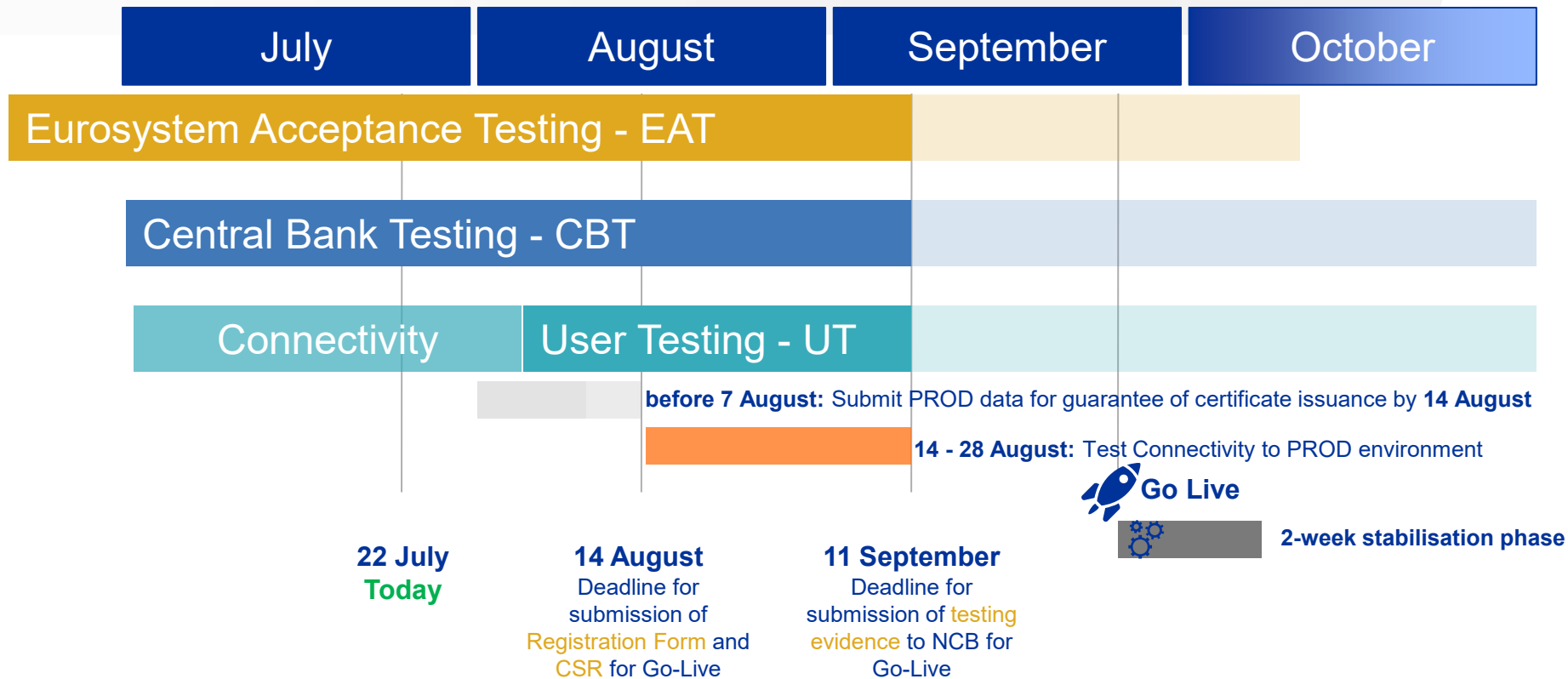


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Timeline

Timeline for the Go-Live in Q3 2026



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User Testing

User Testing Phase in Pontes UTEST

The **User Testing Phase**, conducted in the **Pontes UTEST** environment, is designed to:

- Enable **Market Participants** and **Market DLT Operators** to test the **functionality** of the Pontes application
- Validate application-to-application (A2A) **integration** between Pontes and users' systems
- Provide an environment for users to complete **mandatory certification test cases** required for migration to the production environment (PROD)
- Get familiar with the **Pontes application**

Support and Registration:

To register for the **User Testing Phase** or request assistance during testing, please contact your **National Service Desk (NSD)**, which serves as the first point of contact.

Start of User Testing

- The **User Testing Phase** is planned to start beginning of August following the approval of the Market Infrastructure Board (MIB).
- Until the **official start** of the User Testing Phase, support provided by the National Central Banks (NCBs) and the 4CB will focus solely on connectivity-related matters.
- Entry Criteria To start with User Testing Phase (see [Pontes Pilot Testing Strategy](#)):
 - Participants have completed **registration** for User Testing with their Central Bank;
 - Successful connectivity tests for the **test environment** have been performed;
 - Confirmation by the **relevant Central Bank of its readiness** to support the individual participant's UT; and
 - Confirmation of the **reference data set-up**.

Testing Terms of Reference

- Pontes testing will be performed in **one single shared environment** (EAT, CBT, and UT)
- The Testing Terms of Reference document (see ECB website) outlines the specifications and principles for use of the **Pontes Test environment** (Pontes UTEST)
- It details the **testing activities** which will be carried out, the **entry and exit criteria**, and the **roles and responsibilities** of the different testing actors.
- During the User Testing, the Pontes UTEST environment will operate in **live-timing mode** from **Mondays to Thursdays**, excluding Fridays and August 13.

Communication and Reporting during Testing

- The Pontes Operator will provide on a daily basis information about the **status of the Pontes UTEST environment indicating any environment related issues** to the National Service Desk (NSD) to be further distributed to market actors if relevant
- The NSD will receive on a **weekly basis** a list of open defects and incidents, which will be further shared with market actors
- In case **any restrictions** arise at the start of the User Testing Phase, the **NSD** will promptly notify all relevant stakeholders and provide applicable workarounds if needed
- Testers are required to report any **bugs** or **unexpected behavior** encountered during the testing process by opening incidents (pontes-TEST@target-ssp.eu) in line with the process described in the Terms of Reference

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Onboarding

Pontes - High Level Onboarding Checklist

- Read the docs: **Service Description Document (SDD)**¹ and **User Handbook (UHB)**¹
- If you are a **Market Participant**, find a Market DLT Operator (contact your NSD)
- Contact your **National Service Desk (NSD)** and request the Pontes Registration Form
- Fill out the **Pontes Registration Form**, create **cryptographic key pair** and **Certificate Signing Request** and submit to your NSD
- Establish **Connectivity** to the Pontes **UTEST** environment
- Conduct mandatory **Certification Test Cases** in the UTEST environment
- Submit **Pontes Registration Form** for PROD to your and NSD
- Establish **Connectivity** to the Pontes **PROD** environment
- Provide **evidence** of mandatory Certification Test Cases to your NSD

See: <https://www.ecb.europa.eu/paym/target/target-professional-use-documents-links/pontes-documents-links/html/index.en.html>

First Steps

Read the docs



Service Description Document (SDD): describes the functionality and key flows provided by Pontes; additionally covers how to establish connectivity to the solution; Further complemented by the **OpenAPI Swagger** specification for the available API endpoints (A2A, application-to-application)



User Handbook (UHB): describes the full range of functionalities available in user-to-application (U2A) mode, detailed reference information on all GUI screens and step-by-step instructions for the different use cases.

Work in partnership with your National Service Desk on



Pontes Registration Form: covers static data configuration (incl. IP address for whitelisting purposes)

Cryptographic key pair and Certificate Signing Request:

- **Web-Based Tool**: utilize the web-based tool (URL provided by NSD)
- **Local Generation**: Generate the key pair locally using tools such as OpenSSL

Connectivity for Testing (Pontes UTEST)

Establish Connectivity to the UTEST Environment

-  **Point to Point Connectivity:** <https://utest.pontes-pilot.target-ssp.eu/check/ip>
-  *You can reach the application and your IP address has been whitelisted.*
- mTLS (mutual Transport Layer Security):** <https://utest.pontes-pilot.target-ssp.eu/check/mtls>
-   *You have a secure and trusted communication channel with the application.*

Authenticate with your user and confirm full connectivity

-  **U2A:** [https://utest.pontes-pilot.target-ssp.eu/dlt/\[NODE_NAME\]/webapp/login](https://utest.pontes-pilot.target-ssp.eu/dlt/[NODE_NAME]/webapp/login) (see Swagger)
-  *Authentication to the web application (Certificate DN = User DN).*
-  **A2A:** Retrieval of a JSON Web Token (JWT) and Dummy API request / response

Certification Testing - Conceptual Logic

Depending on the type of institution (**Market Participant** or **Market DLT Operator**) and the **functionality** utilized in Pontes, several mandatory certification test cases as requested by your National Central Bank need to be passed:



MP Market Participant

or



MDLTO Market DLT Operator

Settlement method	Use Case	
Cash Token	<i>(Wholesale) Payment</i>	<i>XvP: Delivery-versus-Payment (DvP) and Payment-versus-Payment (PvP)</i>
Direct settlement in T2-RTGS	<i>(Wholesale) Payment</i>	<i>XvP: Delivery-versus-Payment (DvP) and Payment-versus-Payment (PvP)</i>



Mandatory Certification Test Cases

See: <https://www.ecb.europa.eu/paym/target/target-professional-use-documents-links/pontes-documents-links/html/index.en.html>

Preparations for Production and going live

Submit Registration Form for PROD and supplementary material to your National Service Desk

 Registration Form for Production

 Certificate Signing Request for Production

 Evidence for Mandatory Certification Test Cases; can be submitted **until shortly before go-live**

Test Connectivity to the PROD environment

Once you have received your signed certificates, re-test connectivity: pontes-pilot.target-ssp.eu (see connectivity testing URLs, replacing the domain accordingly)

Attention: the CA (Certification Authority) will change from UTEST to PROD.

 Go Live!



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Thank you

