EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

EUROSYSTEM

DIRECTORATE GENERAL MARKET INFRASTRUCTURE AND PAYMENTS

17 May 2022

Reference: Call for expression of interest for digital euro front-end prototyping

Questions & Answers

No. 02

Below are the European Central Bank (ECB)'s answers to the questions[1] submitted to date, which the ECB considers to be of general interest. They are communicated to all potential providers.

Question	Answer
1. Can entities apply jointly?	Yes, interested entities can apply jointly, through a temporary grouping, with a temporary grouping coordinator. For a temporary grouping, the group needs to fill in all the sections and indicate the details of all suppliers that are members of the temporary grouping. The essential criteria should include the details of the temporary grouping coordinator. As for the specific capabilities, this can be submitted as an aggregated proposal.
2. Longer answers in Annex 1 decrease the font size, which makes them hard to read, will this have an impact on the final application?	All answers will be extracted automatically. Therefore, format has no impact on the provided answers.
3. If a provider is *commercially deployed,* has *prototyping/explorative experience* and the	Yes, more than one box should be checked if applicable.

---

[1] The questions may have been partially shortened and/or adapted in order to facilitate reading or for anonymisation purposes.

ability to deliver as part of the answer to a capability, can all three boxes be checked?	
4. Will only selected submitters be made public or also those not selected?	Yes, only selected submitters will be made public.
5. What is the level of granularity expected for comments sections? Would bullet points with examples be suitable or would you prefer paragraphs with detailed explanations?	Both formats can be suitable, depending on what would best support the message.
6. Can we consolidate our responses in a presentation to attach to the application questionnaire or should we respond directly in the comments section?	The structure of the application questionnaire should be followed.
7. Question 1 – *Offering payment accounts to users*: does "payment account" refer to accounts for the banks at the central bank (a decentralised model) or actual corporate and consumer entities? Could "wallets", where they are shadowed by the actual bank that has a direct relationship with the customer, also be deemed as such?	Payment account, in this case, means a payment account for an end user (consumer or merchant). Expertise with regard to wallets can be specified in Question 18.
8. Question 2 – *Linking payment solutions to account systems (via APIs):* with "account systems" is the Eurosystem envisioning a ledger system that supports the bank and merchants, which then links to the accounts referred to above?	The revised Payment Services Directive (PSD2) states that all payment service providers in Europe must allow authorised third-party providers (TPPs) to access payment account information on behalf of their customers. This question aims at ascertaining experience in the establishment of such an interface to TPPs, potentially via APIs.
9. Question 3 – *Offering payment solutions involving secure elements*: does "secure element" relate to elements on mobile	A secure element is a tamper-proof chip that can store confidential and

phones and/or or back-end payment data storage/processing components?	cryptographic data and run secure applications.[2]
10. Question 6 – *Onboarding/registering and offboarding/deregistering end-users*: Does "end user" mean consumers and/or merchants? Is the Eurosystem envisioning a scenario where accounts are offered directly to the consumer?	The end user is a natural or legal person making use of an electronic payment instrument governed by a scheme/arrangement for the transfer of value, whether in the capacity of payer, payee, or both.[2] Consequently, end user includes both consumers and merchants. Regarding the latter question, various scenarios are analysed as part of the digital euro investigation phase.
11. Question 9 – *Authentication: Payment solution that has an integration with eID*: Are there any specific eID initiatives that the Eurosystem is envisioning as relevant for this section?	No specific eID initiatives within the EEA are referred to.
12. Question 10 – *Offering a payment solution where several consecutive payments can be settled, using a secure element, without having to connect to an online system*: What is the definition of "secure element" as opposed to online system? Would consumer monthly subscription, invoices or instalments qualify as such?	See answer to question 7. The focus of this question is on a payment that is settled between payer and payee with no need for network connectivity.
13. Question 17 – *Offering a solution that can connect a non-card based digital euro account/wallet to an established POS terminal that is connected to a card payment infrastructure to process payments*: Could you provide us with an example of what the Eurosystem is referring to?	A payment application on a smartphone that can initiate a payment at an established POS terminal that is connected to a card payment infrastructure.
14. Question 27 – *Offering a payment solution which promotes financial inclusion*: Beyond	The answer to this question must include a list of capabilities of the interested party and

---

[2] As can be seen in the published glossary: https://www.ecb.europa.eu/paym/digital_euro/investigation/profuse/shared/files/dedocs/ecb.dedocs220420.en.pdf?b268d673898445396fb1a59efbcf01f3.

cash, what other payment solutions would apply under financial inclusion?	a proposal on how this promotes financial inclusion. How financial inclusion can be supported will not be further specified by the ECB and will depend on the capabilities of the provider.
15. Question 28 – *Offering a payment solution that complies with the European Web Accessibility Directive*: In the payments solution context, beyond cash and financial inclusion, could you give us an example of some other scenarios that would fall under the umbrella of web accessibility?	The European Web Accessibility Directive aims at reducing barriers for people with disabilities and for older people so they can continue to play an active role in society.