Discussion of "The coming battle of digital currency"

Morten Bech

ECB Money Market Conference, Frankfurt, 3-4 November 2022

BIS Innovation Hub

The views expressed are those of the presenter and not those of the BIS



Global force for innovation



Shaping the Bank for tomorrow



Central banks and innovation





What we do? - use technology/innovation to enhance monetary and financial stability



Monetary stability



Project Mariana

















One equation to explain CBDC

$CBDC = MM_0GA$



The right-hand side is short for

MM₀GA =

Making M_{zero} Great Again (base money)



What are Central Bank Digital Currencies?





What are Central Bank Digital Currencies?











BS = The Bahamas; ECCB = Eastern Caribbean Central Bank; HK = Hong Kong SAR; JM = Jamaica; SG = Singapore. The use of this map does not constitute, and should not be construed as constituting, an expression of a position by the BIS regarding the legal status of, or sovereignty of any territory or its authorities, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and/or to the name and designation of any territory, city or area. Update 1 July 2022.

Source: R Auer, G Cornelli and J Frost (2020), "Rise of the central bank digital currencies: drivers, approaches and technologies", BIS working papers, No 880, August.







Model combine two concepts/literature

Currency substitution

Use of a foreign currency in parallel to or instead of a domestic currency

Currency competition

The free entry of privatesector firms into the issuance of a currency



The CBDC issuance game

- I = Investment to implement CBDC Very expensive for dominant country today
- \$ = Seigniorage benefit/loss from "dollarisation" a CBDC pre-empts Bitcoin growth
- B = Seigniorage loss from Bitcoin

Country B ("non-dominant")

		Today		Tomorrow		Never	
Country A (dominant)	Today	1+\$-3I		1+2\$-3I,		1+2\$-3I,	
			1-\$-I		1-2\$-I		1-3\$
	Tomorrow	1+\$-₿-I		1+\$-₿-I		1+2\$-₿-I	
			1-\$-I		1-\$-I-₿		1-2\$-₿
	Never	1-3₿		1-3 ₿		1-3 ₿	
			1-I-2₿		1-I-2₿		1-3₿



The CBDC issuance game

		Country B ("non-dominant")							
		Today		Tomorrow		Never			
		1+\$-31		1+2\$-31,		1+2\$-31,			
	Today								
Country A (dominant)			1-\$-I		1-2\$-1	1	-3\$		
	Tomorrow	Non-dominant		1+\$-₿-I		Very weak			
		currency B				currency B			
		(CHF, RMB, E	UR)		1-\$-I-₿	(El Salvador)			
		1-3₿		1-3₿		1-3B			
	Never								
		1	-I-2₿		1-I-2₿	1	-3₿		





Conclusion

Reasons for CBDC



Even if the precise **use cases are not yet definitively fixed**, there are **several material reasons** to consider the issuance of a **digital euro**

1. preserve the **accessibility and usability of central bank money**,

2. support our monetary sovereignty,

3. support the **strategic autonomy** of the European continent

Central bank digital currency (CBDC) and bank intermediation in the digital age – Speech 12 July 2022







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