

Commission

Directorate-General for Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union

# National Payment Committees' actions on fraud prevention

Outcome of 2025 stock-take on national payment committees and national payment strategies



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# Introduction

- 2025 Stock-take on National Payment Committees and National Payment Strategies
- 19 responses received and analysed
- > Main topics covered:
  - Functioning and current activities of national payment committees
  - National Retail Payment Strategies
  - Fraud prevention

# **National Payment Committee Functioning**

- 16 respondents have established a committee or a forum in charge of discussing payment matters - no changes reported compared to previous stock-take.
- More than half of National Payment Committees are reportedly competent for payment security/financial crime/fraud prevention matters - but not always solely/for all aspects.
  - In 6 countries, another relevant body has competence for these topics <u>in addition to</u> the National Payment Committee
- 1 Member State is working on setting up a payment committee
  - payment security, financial crime and fraud prevention topics may be part of the mandate of the committee under discussion



# **National Retail Payment Strategies**

- **11** responding countries **have adopted or follow** some form of national strategy for payments.
- **5** countries are **planning to adopt** a specific national strategy.
  - Of which 2 currently follow the Eurosystem strategy.
- Since the previous stock-take:
  - I country has now adopted a national payment strategy
  - 2 Member States have begun planning to adopt/develop a national strategy for payments.



# Main priorities for national retail payment strategies

Most frequently included key points in national retail payment strategies (including those following the Eurosystem RPS):

- Fostering integrated pan- European payment solutions
- ➢ Working on CBDCs

- Increasing the use of instant payments (including at the POI)
- Promoting mobile payments

#### 7 out of 12 respondents\* include

payment fraud prevention within their national payment strategy.

# Activities taken to prevent or combat fraud

### Which activities have been taken in your community to prevent or combat fraud?



- Several targeted (or broad) educational media campaigns, concentrating on trends/types of fraud and related mitigation measures
- Development and promotion of VoP and CoP services
- Majority report ongoing sharing of fraud related information with other entities <u>both within and beyond the payment sector</u>.
  - Including via dedicated fora, authorities and initiatives related to payment security.
  - In some jurisdictions, this is limited by law.
- 9 respondents report some usage of AI for fraud detection/transaction monitoring.
- 7 countries report the existence of extra notifications for customers (e.g. within internet banking/mobile apps and via text messages)

# Fraud and innovation

# How can innovation <u>contribute to fraud prevention</u>?

- Real-time transaction monitoring using AI/ML
- New SCA methods (e.g. voice ID, facial recognition & behavioural biometrics)
- **Dynamic systems** can reduce fraud exposure (e.g. smart limits which adjust based on risk profile)
- Verification and Confirmation of Payee services
- **Privacy-enhancing technologies** for secure data sharing
- **Tokenisation** and **end-to-end encryption** of sensitive data to prevent data theft
- Open banking APIs and secure integrations increasing the safety of **cross-institution** data sharing and fraud monitoring

# How can payment innovation <u>lead to more fraud</u>?

- User unfamiliarity with new payment channels may be exploited (e.g. through social engineering and impersonation scams)
- Al can increase the scale and sophistication of fraud and lower the entry barrier for fraudsters.
- **Speed/convenience and security trade-off** (especially for instant payments)
- Cryptocurrencies and DeFi make it harder to trace fraudulent transactions.
- **Regulatory lag** as innovation often outpaces innovation
- Innovative cross-border payment systems may also bypass traditional controls & allow fraudsters to exploit regulatory and enforcement gaps between jurisdictions

# In which areas should collaboration be strengthened?

- Much agreement that **cross-sectoral collaboration**, as well as collaboration at both a **national** and **international level** should be strengthened.
- Cross-sectoral perspective:
  - New features of fraud and fraud realisation channels are increasingly involving different actors not limited just to the financial environment.
  - Potential collaboration with law enforcement, banks, telecommunication service providers...
- International dimension:
  - Fraud is often not an isolated problem of one country
  - Cross-border collaboration and information exchange can help reduce fraud risks

But there is always a **trade-off** between **legal privacy requirements** and the extent to which PSPs can **share personal information** to combat fraud.

# How can central banks contribute to fraud prevention?

Suggestions include:

Fostering dialogue within and beyond the payment sector

Promoting/providing information-sharing platforms

Supporting innovation in the field of fraud prevention

Running and supporting public awareness campaigns

Collecting fraud statistics, analysing trends and publishing findings

Contributing to the development of regulations to enhance fraud prevention measures

Promoting and implementing technical measures to reduce fraud (e.g. VoP and CoP services)

Setting up committee(s) to combat payment fraud

# Suggested next steps

- National Payment Committees to act on fraud prevention by setting up or strengthening existing cross-sectoral collaboration.
  - While PSD3/PSR negotiations (notably relating to the EU network on fraud) are still ongoing, this should not be a reason to delay addressing the issue on a national level.
- Continue to **exchange on experiences** to raise awareness and identify actionable measures, **following up as relevant in national contexts**.
- Encourage the **creation of a committee/forum in Member States where they do not yet exist** and monitor planned efforts to ensure establishment progresses within a reasonable timeframe
- Review the actions taken by National Payment Committees and any identified issues in 6 months' time via a follow-up (written) stock-take.