

Central Bank GS1 User Group

Mandate

Background

The Cash Departments of Deutsche Bundesbank, Banque de France, Banca d'Italia and Banco de España decided to modernise their national cash applications. The modernisation shall include the Central Banks' internal cash handling processes but extends also to their customer operations. In this context the four NCBs shared the idea of a logistical approach based on industrial standards and converged in their analyses of the potential for using one specific standard, as this provides best practice for the banking industry.

The Deutsche Bundesbank, Banque de France, Banca d'Italia and Banco de España agreed to adopt the GS1 Standards not only for both cross-border operations with customers and bulk transfers, but also as a standard for communications with their domestic clients, and aiming for on extending its future use to all the cash movements in their countries. The intention to establish the "Central Bank GS1 User Group" emerged in 2009 to support the harmonisation process.

In parallel the Eurosystem was striving for a solution for an electronic data exchange for cash services. The Governing Council of the European Central Bank strengthened the four NCBs' decision by approving the GS1 Standards as one format for the Eurosystem's communication in cash in July 2010.

Objectives and scope

The Central Bank GS1 User Group is a community which facilitates the exchange of views and experiences between Central Banks which are already using GS1 standards or intend to do so.

The Central Bank GS1 User Group aims for the following goals:

- Exchange of views and experience concerning the use of GS1 standards,
- Locating and, if applicable, utilisation of synergies in the GS1,
- Creation of a platform for collaboration and resource sharing,
- Common representation of the interest of the participants,
- Harmonisation of message types, if applicable, and preparation of user recommendations,

- Provision of assistance for new/joining countries,
- Promoting the use of the GS1 standards throughout the whole national cash cycles, and
- Promoting new projects that are of common interest.

Organisation

The Central Bank GS1 User Group is composed of GS1 related representatives of the participating central banks, aiming for a balanced composition, between both business and IT sides with the collaboration of their national GS1 Member Organisation.

The Central Bank GS1 User Group offers two ways of participation:

- Member

Full participation with all rights in the Central Bank GS1 User Group.

- Observer

Limited participation. Central Banks who show interest in GS1 Standards and modern technology in cash handling. The Central Banks may be invited to attend meetings or share documentations.

The Central Bank GS1 User Group is scheduled to meet at least once a year (Central Bank meeting "GS1 standards for cash handling"). The meeting venue will be decided in advance. A rotation between the participating central banks would be desirable. Each participating institution can nominate up to two representatives for physical attendance that can be accompanied by a representative from its national GS1 Member Organisation.

There will be a permanent secretary elected from members on a rotary basis for a period of 12 months by a participating Central Bank¹. The secretary's main tasks will be:

- Calling meetings of the Central Bank GS1 User Group or of sub-groups,
- Drafting and distribution of the minutes of each meeting to the members,
- Maintenance of members directory and contact data,
- Maintenance and administration of the list of GTINs for cash related articles,
- Relations with other Central Bank and GS1 Organisations (especially ECB and GS1 Europe),
- Support the GS1 Organisation to prepare the GS1 project meetings,

- Distribution of the common documents to the members and observers, and
- Any other task allocated by the Group.

The Central Bank GS1 User Group can establish sub-groups, e.g. for message harmonisation purposes. Participating Central Banks are allowed, but not obliged to nominate national representatives for sub-group meetings. The results of the sub-groups shall be reported to the secretary of the Central Bank GS1 User Group.

Participating Central Banks

Participation in the Central Bank GS1 User Group shall be limited to those Central Banks which have decided to use the GS1 Standards actively for their internal cash processing (including bulk transfers) or for customer operations or those who intend to do so. Due to its background the Central Bank GS1 User Group's core area are the Central Banks of Europe, but in line with the global approach of the GS1 Standards the Central Bank GS1 User Group welcomes Central Banks of other countries as well.

Central Banks can apply for a membership or an observer status in the Central Bank GS1 User Group by written request. The members of the Central Bank GS1 User Group decide this request by simple majority.

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ⁱ Order to be defined