



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ON

The One-Leg Out Instant Credit Transfer (OCT Inst) Scheme



1. What is a One-Leg Out transaction?

It is a transaction whereby only one of the payment service providers (PSPs) - either the Payer's or the Payee's - is located in the Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA) Schemes' Geographical Scope.

The EPC's One-Leg Out Instant Credit Transfer (OCT Inst) scheme clearly supports such specific payment transactions. Additionally, the OCT Inst scheme supports cross-currency payments between euro and other non-euro SEPA currencies (i.e. Nordic currencies, CHF, GBP, Central and Eastern European currencies) **within** the SEPA Schemes' Geographical Scope.

2. Why has the EPC launched the OCT Inst scheme?

It all started in 2018 with a change request - which was not retained for the 2019 SEPA Credit Transfer (SCT) rulebook - to include incoming euro One-Leg Out (OLO) credit transfers under the SCT rulebook. In the following years, the EPC regularly received questions from SEPA payment scheme participants on whether such transactions are within the scope of the SCT scheme (which they are not).

At the same time, continuous enhancements to payment market infrastructures and national payment schemes across the globe have given opportunities for PSPs to improve their

international payment service offerings in terms of speed, transaction tracking, payment finality and costs. A good example is the progressive global roll-out of the ISO 20022 standard for payment instructions for completion by the end of November 2025. The use of this standard allows the transport of consistent, structured and accurate information about Payers, Payees, invoice data and more. The widespread use of this standard globally can facilitate technical interoperability between the various national or regional payment schemes or infrastructures.

As for the regulatory side, the European Commission (EC) issued already in 2018 a Communication on strengthening the international role of the euro and subsequently, in 2020, its Retail Payments Strategy¹ outlining among others a pillar on efficient international payments. In addition, the Financial Stability Board (FSB) - an international body monitoring and making recommendations about the global financial system - published in October 2021 several targets for enhancing cross-border payments and regularly reports on progress in implementing the G20 Roadmap for Enhancing Cross-Border Payments. One of the FSB's quantitative targets with respect to the international payments is that ***"75% of cross-border retail payments to provide availability of funds for the recipient within one hour from the time the payment is initiated..., by end 2027"***².

Against this background, the EPC decided to develop an arrangement which eventually led into the One-Leg Out Instant Credit Transfer (OCT Inst) scheme rulebook.

3. What are the main objectives of the OCT Inst scheme?

- The OCT Inst scheme makes it possible for PSPs in the Euro Leg to maximise synergies with the existing SEPA payment 'rails' - including procedures, features and standards - that are reflected in arrangements which PSPs are already familiar with such as the SEPA Instant Credit Transfer (SCT Inst) scheme and the existing SEPA payment infrastructures.
- PSPs in SEPA can process incoming and outgoing instant OLO credit transfers through highly automated funds transfer systems available in the Euro Leg and, if available, via similar systems in the respective non-Euro Leg countries or jurisdictions.
- It gives PSPs the opportunity to offer their customers a faster execution of such transactions, more up-front transparency on costs and parties involved, and a better payment status traceability.

4. Why does the OCT Inst scheme speak about Euro and non-Euro Legs (instead of SEPA and non-SEPA Legs)?

The comments from the public consultations on an initial EPC OLO arrangement document suggested not limiting an EPC arrangement only to credit transfers in euro end-to-end. Such

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0592&from=EN> (pillar 4: Efficient international payments, including remittances)

² [Targets for Addressing the Four Challenges of Cross-Border Payments: Final Report \(fsb.org\)](#) (table 1 on page 3).

extension would increase the attractiveness of the arrangement. Furthermore, such EPC arrangement should also support cross-currency payments between euro and other non-euro SEPA currencies (i.e. Nordic currencies, CHF, GBP, Central and Eastern European currencies).

This input led to the EPC's decision that the OCT Inst scheme is agnostic about whether, how, where in the payment chain and by whom the currency conversion operation is done under the condition that all details of a currency conversion operation are made available in a fully transparent way. The OCT Inst scheme is open to any possible currency (including non-euro SEPA currencies) under the condition that at least one of the two legs of the OCT Inst transaction is denominated in euro (the so-called Euro Leg).

5. What are the main features of the OCT Inst scheme?

- 1) The OCT Inst scheme supports the processing of the Euro Leg of incoming and outgoing instant account-to-account-based one-leg out credit transfers. The scheme only sets business and processing rules for the Euro Leg of such credit transfers. It does not set rules for the non-Euro Leg as the non-Euro Leg rules for each OCT Inst transaction will differ due to the payment infrastructures, systems or practices used in each non-Euro Leg jurisdiction. It may thus well happen that e.g., the non-Euro Leg of an OCT Inst transaction is not processed instantly because e.g., the jurisdiction of the non-Euro Leg concerned has no instant retail payment infrastructure yet. For such specific non-Euro Leg situations, the Euro Leg-based Payer's PSP informs the Payer upfront that the non-Euro Leg of an OCT Inst transaction will not be processed instantly.
- 2) In the inter-PSP space of the Euro Leg, the execution of an OCT Inst transaction involves the following main actors: the Euro Leg-based Payee's PSP and the Euro Leg Entry PSP for incoming OCT Inst transactions, and the Euro Leg-based Payer's PSP and the Euro Leg Exit PSP for outgoing OCT Inst transactions. These four Euro Leg PSPs must be a participant of the OCT Inst scheme.
- 3) The OCT Inst scheme is an optional scheme, available to any PSP in the SEPA Schemes' Geographical Scope. The PSPs wishing to become an OCT Inst scheme participant need to act at least as a Euro Leg-based Payee's PSP to support incoming OCT Inst transactions.
- 4) All adhering scheme participants must be technically capable to process the Euro Leg of the OCT Inst transactions on a 24/7/365 basis.
- 5) The scheme is built on the foundation of the existing SCT Inst scheme with which it is aligned as much as possible. This gives the PSPs which currently offer the SCT Inst scheme an ideal stepping stone to implement the OCT Inst scheme.
- 6) The scheme encourages the processing of OCT Inst transactions via ISO 20022 standard-based XML messages end-to-end. As a minimum, the Euro Leg of the OCT Inst transaction will always be based on ISO 20022. The scheme currently follows the 2019 version of that ISO standard.
- 7) When end-to-end processing based on ISO 20022 in the non-Euro Leg is not possible, the Euro Leg Entry PSP and the Euro Leg Exit PSP ensure that all instructed data is made available to the subsequent parties in the payment chain.
- 8) The OCT Inst scheme allows all types of charging options - with the recommendation to apply the 'shared' principle.

The 'shared' principle is to be respected in case the EU Payment Services Directive (PSD) applies to both the Euro Leg PSP and the non-Euro Leg Financial Institution (FI) (e.g., for an EUR-to-SEK OCT Inst transaction between PSPs respectively based in Germany and Sweden).

- 9) The scheme foresees an inter-PSP space inquiry process about outgoing OCT Inst transactions in case of a Claim of Non-Receipt whereby the Payee in the non-Euro Leg claims not to have received the initial OCT Inst transaction.
- 10) The scheme facilitates the transport of more data in line with SWIFT's Cross Border Payments and Reporting Plus (CBPR+) and Cross-Border Instant Payments Plus (IP+) guidelines to achieve the highest possible level of harmonisation and data compatibility with the non-Euro leg processing.

The full information about the OCT Inst scheme is described in the [OCT Inst scheme rulebook and related implementation guidelines](#).

6. What currency payment situations does the OCT Inst scheme support?

The scheme supports the following payment situations:

- An OCT Inst transaction from or to an account held at a FI which operates outside the SEPA Schemes' Geographical Scope (e.g., an FI based in USA, Japan etc): the currency of the funds transferred in the non-Euro Leg can be in each possible currency **including in euro**.

The scheme thus supports even payment use cases whereby the Payer or the Payee with an account held at a FI in that non-SEPA jurisdiction wants to send or to receive an international instant credit transfer in euro end-to-end (e.g., because the Payer or the Payee holds a euro account with that FI concerned).

- An OCT Inst transaction from or to a payment account held at a FI established and/or licensed within in the SEPA Schemes' Geographical Scope (e.g., a PSP based in Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, UK etc): the currency of the funds transferred in the non-Euro Leg can be in each possible currency **except** in euro.

For example, a corporate customer based in France can use the OCT Inst scheme to instantly pay a supplier in Switzerland when that supplier wants to receive the funds in Swiss francs. Such transaction is facilitated by the scheme, allowing efficient cross-currency payments even though the transaction is from Euro to Swiss francs. The table under Question 7 shows a complete overview of the currency payment situations in scope of the OCT Inst scheme.

In case the Payer or the Payee holding a payment account with that FI wants to instantly send or to receive the funds in euro as well, it needs to use a euro payment instrument instead (e.g., SCT Inst scheme, T2, EURO1).

The actors involved in the execution of an OCT Inst transaction are free to determine which actors can do a currency conversion when necessary.

The document [EPC 205-25](#) gives a high-level overview of the processing timeline and message flows under the OCT Inst scheme.

7. Is there some overlap between the OCT Inst scheme and the SCT Inst scheme?

The key determinants for using either the OCT Inst scheme or the SCT Inst scheme are the following:

- In which currency the Payer wishes to transfer funds (i.e. in euro or in another currency).
- The currency requested by the Payer in which the Payee must receive the funds (i.e. also in euro or in another currency).
- In which countries the financial institutions sending and receiving these funds respectively are based (i.e. only one is based in SEPA or both are based in SEPA).

The SCT Inst scheme has been designed for instant credit transfers processed **in euro** end-to-end **within SEPA**. The Payer explicitly instructs its PSP based in SEPA to instantly transfer an amount **in euro** from his/her payment account to a payment account held at another PSP based in SEPA whereby the Payee has to receive the transferred amount in euro as well.

The SCT Inst scheme cannot be used to send euro via an instant credit transfer from an account (in euro or in another currency) held at a financial institution based in a non-SEPA country, to a payment account in euro at a PSP based in SEPA (or vice versa). In this scenario, the OCT Inst scheme is to be used.

The table below summarises in which circumstances only the OCT Inst scheme or only the SCT Inst scheme can be used:

Which EPC instant credit transfer scheme to use?				Payee Holds							
				an account held at PSP in SEPA:				an account at FI outside SEPA:			
				CCY of funds to be received by the Payee, as instructed by the Payer, is:							
				EUR	EEA CCY	NON-EEA SEPA CCY	NON-SEPA CCY	EUR	EEA CCY	NON-EEA SEPA CCY	NON-SEPA CCY
Payer holds	an account held at PSP in SEPA:	CCY of account in EURO or in another CCY	CCY of the amount instructed by the Payer in the p/o is:	EUR	SCT Inst	OCT Inst	OCT Inst	OCT Inst	OCT Inst	OCT Inst	OCT Inst
				EEA CCY (e.g., SEK) non-EEA SEPA CCY (e.g., GBP) Non-SEPA CCY		Out of scope of any EPC payment scheme (e.g., CBPR+)	Out of scope of any EPC payment scheme (e.g., CBPR+)	Out of scope of any EPC payment scheme (e.g., CBPR+)	Out of scope of any EPC payment scheme (e.g., CBPR+)	Out of scope of any EPC payment scheme (e.g., CBPR+)	Out of scope of any EPC payment scheme (e.g., CBPR+)
	an account at FI outside SEPA:	CCY of account in EURO or in another CCY	CCY of the amount instructed by the Payer in the p/o is:	EUR	OCT Inst	OCT Inst	OCT Inst	OCT Inst	OCT Inst	OCT Inst	OCT Inst
				EEA CCY non-EEA SEPA CCY Non-SEPA CCY		Out of scope of any EPC payment scheme (e.g., CBPR+)	Out of scope of any EPC payment scheme (e.g., CBPR+)	Out of scope of any EPC payment scheme (e.g., CBPR+)	Out of scope of any EPC payment scheme (e.g., CBPR+)	Out of scope of any EPC payment scheme (e.g., CBPR+)	Out of scope of any EPC payment scheme (e.g., CBPR+)

In addition, the EPC has published [an infographic and a more detailed document](#) highlighting the differences between the OCT Inst scheme and the SCT Inst scheme.

8. Does the amended SEPA Regulation affect the OCT Inst scheme?

The Regulation (EU) 2024/886 of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulations (EU) No 260/2012 and (EU) 2021/1230 and Directives 98/26/EC and (EU) 2015/2366 as regards instant credit transfers in euro, also known as the [Instant Payments Regulation](#) (“IPR”), had been published in March 2024.

The IPR, introducing new requirements for instant credit transfers in Regulation (EU) No 260/2012 (so-called ‘[SEPA Regulation](#)’), sets out several obligations for PSPs based in the European Economic Area (EEA)³, whereby some of them already entered into force for eurozone-based PSPs on 9 January 2025 and 9 October 2025 respectively. The IPR introduced among others stipulations affecting existing and future SCT Inst scheme participants and/or the SCT Inst scheme.

The OCT Inst scheme is not affected by the IPR amending the SEPA Regulation. Article 1 (1) of this Regulation only lays down rules for credit transfer (and direct debit) transactions denominated **in euro within the EEA** where both the payer’s PSP and the payee’s PSP are located in the EEA, or where the sole PSP involved in the payment transaction is located in the EEA.

Therefore, stipulations with respect to instant credit transfers (Article 5a) and verification of the payee in the case of credit transfers (Article 5c) do not apply to the OCT Inst scheme.

9. Can the EPC Verification Of Payee scheme rulebook be used for OCT Inst transactions?

The version 1.0 of the EPC Verification Of Payee (VOP) scheme rulebook in force since 5 October 2025 has been designed to perform VOP requests and related responses for so-called **Payment Account-based Payments** being only a SEPA instant credit transfer or a SEPA credit transfer (see the corresponding term’s definition in Chapter 6 of the VOP scheme rulebook).

Future versions of the EPC VOP scheme rulebook may be amended to support the performance of VOP requests and related responses for OCT Inst transactions as well.

10. What are the current insights from the payments industry on the OCT Inst scheme?

In May 2025, the EPC held a well-received webinar on how the OCT Inst scheme can simplify and transform the landscape of international payments. The [video](#) of and the [presentations](#) given during that webinar can be found on the EPC website.

³ The EEA covers the 27 EU member states, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

11. How can Payers and Payees benefit from the OCT Inst scheme?

- Payers and Payees in the Euro Leg would have an account-to-account based payment solution supporting both incoming and outgoing international instant euro credit transfers, whereby maximum execution times are set for the Euro Leg of such transfers. Depending on the performance of the channel used in the non-Euro Leg jurisdiction where the transaction is coming from or going to, this may lead to a more rapid and predictable end-to-end execution of these payments.
- Attributes are foreseen to provide Payers and Payees with better transparency on the costs for all parties - both those inside and outside of the Euro Leg - as well as on payment status traceability (e.g., via the option of using the Unique End-to-End Transaction Reference (UETR)).
- The scheme relies on open and commonly accepted standards and data elements which help to improve the initiation and reconciliation of such transfers on a Straight-Through-Processing (STP) basis.
- The scheme also supports the possibility to send or to receive remittance data end-to-end on either a structured or an unstructured basis.
- The current maximum amount of 100.000 EUR per OCT Inst transaction can already support a wide variety of payment use cases. The current maximum amount can be revised at any time in response to any needs from the market.

12. How can PSPs benefit from the OCT Inst scheme?

Euro Leg-based Payee's PSPs and Payer's PSPs

- The scheme allows these Euro Leg PSPs to offer account-to-account based payment solutions supporting both incoming and outgoing OCT Inst transactions. It gives them the possibility to offer their Payees and Payers a faster execution of such transactions, more up-front transparency on costs and on the parties involved in/concerned about, and a better payment status traceability (e.g., via the UETR and inquiry use cases).
- The scheme sets well defined processing timelines and steps for OCT Inst transactions in the Euro Leg. It also enables more efficient and cost-effective processing, clearing and settlement for these credit transfers within the Euro leg, using the ISO 20022 XML messaging standard and existing intermediary PSPs and Clearing and Settlement Mechanisms (CSMs) operating in the Euro Leg.
- The clearing and settlement for such credit transfers through Euro Leg-based intermediary PSPs and CSMs, and through the preferred non-Euro Leg channels (e.g., national payment infrastructures, schemes or systems) will potentially improve the liquidity management for those involved (e.g., via the offset between incoming and

outgoing payment positions). It may also allow participants to optimise the number of euro correspondent banking relationships.

- The scheme supports concepts, processes and attributes covered in the CBPR+ and IP+ guidelines, facilitating the processing of such transfers based on better structured and richer data under the ISO 20022 XML messaging standard.
- Participants would also be able to rely on a predictable and automated r-transaction handling and inquiry processing which could support several use cases.

Euro Leg Entry PSPs and Exit PSPs

- These participants can develop new business models by offering OCT Inst transaction services in the role of Euro Leg Entry PSP and/or Euro Leg Exit PSP for both Euro Leg-based PSPs and non-Euro Leg FIs.
- They can establish agreements with entities in the non-Euro Leg jurisdictions and to position themselves as a gateway to access the Euro Leg. It gives them opportunities to gain market share in incoming and outgoing international payments.
- They can offer a standardised way of processing the Euro leg of international instant credit transfers and they can re-use the existing SCT Inst rails to process them.

13. How much effort require Euro Leg PSPs to implement the OCT Inst scheme?

During the OCT Inst scheme webinar in May 2025 (see Question 10), the Spain-based OCT Inst scheme compliant CSM Iberpay reported to have conducted a survey among its OCT Inst scheme participant-clients (about 90 PSPs at that time) about this question.

This CSM stated that the percentage of effort required by the surveyed PSPs to implement OCT Inst compared to their efforts for the SCT Inst implementation was the following:

- In the role of Euro Leg-Based Payee's PSP: 5 to 20 percent.
- In the role of Euro Leg-Based Payer's PSP: 5 percent.
- In the role of Euro Leg Exit or Entry PSP: 10 percent.

The timespan needed for PSPs to implement the OCT Inst scheme in full was six to twelve months. This CSM also reported that according to the results of the survey the number of working hours to do this implementation range from 600 working hours for a medium-sized PSP to 5.000 working hours for a large PSP.

Disclaimer: the findings reported by the CSM concerned are shared as communicated by the CSM, and cannot in any way be attributed to the EPC. The EPC has not performed any validation of the findings from this CSM.

Although each CSM community has its own technical and operational set-up which may be quite different from the CSM which conducted this internal survey among its client-PSPs, one

can conclude that the level of effort a SCT Inst scheme participant has to make to implement the OCT Inst scheme, appears to be much lower compared to the efforts it had to make for the SCT Inst scheme implementation.

14. Will it be more financially attractive for PSP customers to make OCT Inst transactions?

The matter of the fee charged - or not - by the PSP when a customer makes an OCT Inst transaction is outside of the scope of the OCT Inst scheme designed by the EPC. In other words, each PSP will decide on its own pricing policy.

15. Which entities can adhere to the OCT Inst scheme?

- PSPs established in and/or licensed to operate in a country or territory included in the SEPA Schemes' Geographical Scope, and operating in the Euro Leg, can adhere on an individual basis as a **participant**.
- Participants adhering to the OCT Inst scheme will as a minimum support the scheme as a Euro Leg-based Payee's PSP. They can also indicate whether they also support the scheme as a Euro Leg-based Payer's PSP, Euro Leg Entry PSP and/or as Euro Leg Exit PSP. **OCT Inst processors** can adhere to the OCT Inst scheme as well. An OCT Inst processor is a legal entity established and/or under oversight to operate in a country or territory included in the SEPA Schemes' Geographical Scope. It offers OCT Inst scheme-based services towards one or more participants and formally adheres to the scheme on behalf of the participants using its services.

16. In what way does an OCT Inst processor differ from an OCT Inst participant?

The services concerned of an OCT Inst processor do not necessarily include OCT Inst clearing or settlement services. Such entity may operate in the capacity of a CSM in the Euro Leg but alternatively can be a financial messaging service provider, a currency conversion service provider or even an OCT Inst participant. The OCT Inst processor may offer, either directly by itself or indirectly using other actors, Euro Leg Entry PSP-related and/or Euro Leg Exit PSP-related services to participants.

The idea behind allowing processors to adhere to the OCT Inst scheme is that they may already serve a large community of PSPs for which they have designed or will design specific rules for OLO transaction processing. A SEPA-wide reach through legal commitments with OCT Inst processors can be achieved much faster than on an individual PSP basis.

17. What adherence option may suit the best for each interested PSP?

The hybrid adherent model gives PSPs in the Euro Leg the choice how they want to support the OCT Inst scheme. Some PSPs may prefer the reachability to the scheme via an OCT Inst processor as they have already a direct access to such entity (e.g., an SCT Inst scheme

participant to an SCT Inst scheme-compliant CSM) and these PSPs are just interested to take up the role of a Euro Leg-based Payee's PSP.

PSPs adhering on their own may do this because the OCT Inst processors concerned may only support a few currency pairs/corridors or countries or these PSPs already have their own (extensive) network covering various regions and/or currencies. These PSPs may also be interested to position themselves in the Euro Leg as an Entry PSP and/or Exit PSP.

Another reason a PSP may adhere to the OCT Inst scheme on its own is that certain PSPs cannot or wish not to enter in a direct relationship with some of these OCT Inst processors.

18.How many OCT Inst scheme adherents are there? Where to find more information about the OCT Inst adherence process?

The number of OCT Inst scheme participants and OCT Inst processors are available on the [Register of EPC Participants webpage](#). One of the published documents also mentions under which role(s) each OCT Inst scheme participant currently supports the scheme.

Such information can be of interest for PSPs who consider adhering to the OCT Inst scheme only as a Euro Leg-Based Payee's PSP or as a Euro Leg-Based Payee's and Payer's PSP, and look for a possible Euro Leg Entry/Exit PSP.

Interested PSPs can find the OCT Inst scheme adherence pack on the [EPC website](#).

Furthermore, the list of OCT Inst scheme compliant CSMs can be found on the dedicated [CSMs webpage](#) on the EPC website.

19.Do OCT Inst scheme adherents have to pay an annual scheme participation fee?

The EPC reserves the right to recover costs to manage the scheme from the participants. The policy of the EPC about fees related to the management of the OCT Inst scheme will be decided from time to time by the EPC. These fees will be published in a timely manner on the EPC website. The EPC does not levy fees in 2025 and 2026.

20.What are the next steps with respect to the OCT Inst scheme?

As for the other payment schemes currently managed by the EPC, the EPC carries out the administration of the OCT Inst scheme, as well as its maintenance and evolution.

The administration and compliance processes aim to ensure that the OCT Inst scheme is administered in a fair and transparent manner at every stage in accordance with the rulebook and general principles of applicable law.

The OCT Inst scheme will follow the same transparent change management cycle as the other four EPC payment schemes. The scheme is updated every two years to reflect market needs and the evolution of technical standards.

The next OCT Inst scheme rulebook change management cycle will take place in 2026.

Scheme participants and other stakeholders are invited to submit change requests for the OCT Inst scheme rulebook by 31 December 2025 by completing a [dedicated template](#). These change requests will be considered for the rulebook version and associated implementation guidelines to be published in November 2026 and taking effect in November 2027. A three-month public consultation on these change requests will take place in the Spring of 2026.

In addition, the EPC applies a more flexible approach to changing the maximum amount of an OCT Inst transaction. The Payment Scheme Management Board (PSMB - the EPC decision-making body in charge of the payment schemes' administration and evolution) reviews this amount every year, and it will decide if it is still appropriate.

Scheme participants also have the opportunity to suggest to the PSMB a new maximum amount. With this process, the maximum amount of an OCT Inst transaction could be changed quickly (90 calendar days after its publication on the EPC website).

The change management procedures aim to ensure that the scheme will be kept relevant for its users, up-to-date, and innovative.