



NATIONAL PAYMENT COUNCIL

in function of supporting the reforms in the payments area, through the expansion of inclusion and increased cooperation between the actors of the payment market ecosystem in the Republic of Kosovo

organizes

The re-establishing and opening meeting for 2024

Date: 31/01/2024

Location: Ulpiana Hall - Swiss Diamond Hotel, Prishtinë

Objectives of the Meeting¹

1. Re-organization and functionalization of the National Payment Council - NPC

Expanding the membership of the NPC as an advisory body in support of reforms in the payments area and increasing the security of the National Payment System.

2. Updates on developments of legal and technical infrastructure in the payments area

Developments in the process and plans for the advancement of the legal framework and technical infrastructure of the payment system and services.

3. Defining a national plan for financial inclusion and reducing the use of cash

Stakeholder activities to be defined and agreed to increase access, use of payment accounts and electronic payment instruments and cash reduction, in order to reduce the cost of payment services for more efficient flow of transactions as well as other positive effects in the economy.

Intended Audience

NPC meeting is suggested for all local actors involved in the National Payment System of the Republic of Kosovo, as well as representatives of other relevant local and international institutions that have supported the CBK in the development of reforms in the payments area.

In addition, due to the development initiatives based on the new Strategic Plan of the CBK (2024-2028), the NPC will have an expanded composition and a decision-making body, for the inclusion of the appropriate level of coordination and interaction to achieve common development goals for multiple economic effects.

¹ All participants have been informed that this meeting does not contain any confidential information and in accordance with the rules defined by the legislation on competition, no direct or indirect information on competition issues was disclosed.

Meeting Agenda

08:30-09:00	Welcome and coffee
Opening Remarks	
09:00-09:10	<i>Ahmet Ismaili – Governor, Central Bank of the Republic of Kosovo</i>
Governor presents an overview on developments in the national payment system as well as the strategic plan of developments in this area.	
09:10-09:20	<i>Hekuran Murati – Minister, Ministry of Finance, Labor and Transfers</i>
Overview on Strategy of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo in the area of digitization of services, related to payment services, reducing the use of cash and the positive impact on the economy.	
Functionalization of the NPC and developments in the legal and technical infrastructure in the payments area	
09:20-09:40	<i>Dardan Fusha – Deputy Governor for Banking Operations, CBK</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Re-organization and functionality of the National Payments Council (NPC); Revised Instruction of NPC, structure and responsibilities of the NPC, the possibility of creating working groups, etc. - Developments in the legal infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Law on payment services and revision of the regulatory framework derived from this Law. o Revision of the legal framework for SEPA membership. - Developments in the technical infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Implementation of the Fast Payments System, known as Instant Payments; o Providing the non-bank payment providers with IBAN code; o Standardization of the QR code, as a facilitating mechanism in the payment process.

09:40-09:55	<i>Ilir Murtezaj – Director, Tax Administration of Kosovo</i>
	- Importance of the digitalization of payment services for the country's economy in terms of increasing the efficiency of services and reducing informality. TAK's plans for development and areas of interaction for achieving goals.
09:55-10:10	<i>Holti Banka – Senior Financial Sector Specialist, World Bank</i>
	- World Bank support for CBK and the central banks of the Western Balkan countries in regard of the modernization of the payment services and preparation for SEPA and TIPS membership.
10:10-10:25	<i>Suat Bakkal, Chairman of Board, Kosovo Banking Association</i>
	- Readiness of payment service providers, in function of new legal and infrastructural developments for payment services. The role and contribution of the sector.
10:25-10:45	<i>Lumni Rrustolli – Director, Payment System Department, CBK</i>
	- Data about usage of card payment terminals and electronic payment instruments. - Effects of accessing basic payment accounts with basic services on financial inclusion. - Campaign for the use of card payments; The role of institutions and the division of tasks between them;
10:45 -11:00	Coffee break
Financial inclusion and reducing the use of cash	
11:00-11:20	<i>Oya Pinar Ardic Alper - Senior Financial Sector Specialist, World Bank</i>
	- Factors influencing the acceptance of electronic payments by businesses and public institutions. Recommendations from the best practices.
11:20-11:35	<i>Petrit Balija – Executive Director, Kosovo Banking Association</i>
	- Advancement of services in function of increasing the usage of electronic money payments and other electronic instruments.

11:35-11:50	<i>Ms. Eda Shaqiri and Mr. Gazmend Selmani, Representative from Non-Bank payment service providers</i>
	- Advancement of services in function of increasing the usage of electronic money payments. The role and contribution of the sector.
11:50-12:05	<i>Snezana Sofjanic, VISA</i>
	- Examples from other countries and advanced solutions, in function of the increasing the usage of card payments and terminals.
12:05-12:20	<i>Silvia Hadzhiyaneva, MasterCard</i>
	- Examples from other countries and advanced solutions, in function of the increasing the usage of card payments and terminals.
12:20-12:30	<i>Dardan Fusha – Deputy Governor for Banking Operations, CBK</i>
	Presentation of Conclusions/Recommendations General Q&A (with all presenters)
12:30-14:00	Luncheon
14:00-15:00	Roundtable discussion with the NPC members and invited institutions on the recommendations for reducing the use of cash and enabling electronic payments, and for the ongoing projects for the developments of the legal and technical infrastructure.
15:00-15:30	<i>Lumni Rrustolli – Director, Payment System Department, CBK</i>
	Information for the establishment of the Inter-institutional Working Groups for the preparation and implementation of technical and legal infrastructure, and for the Cashless Economy Initiative, as the follow-up mechanisms.
15:30	Closing Remarks - Final conclusions and recommendations for next steps and appointment of the next meeting.