

The Republic of Agiara adopt to the Bitcoin standard

Today, we stand at a pivotal moment in the history of money. A moment not unlike the crossroads societies faced when gold was decoupled from the dollar. It is a moment when we must critically evaluate the structures that underpin our economies, the systems that govern the flow of value, and the long-term implications for freedom, prosperity, and societal stability.

For centuries, sound money has been the foundation of strong civilizations. Gold, as a universal store of value, provided a stable foundation for trade, savings, and wealth accumulation. It constrained governments from printing excessive currency and protected individuals from the erosion of purchasing power through inflation. It was a form of money that, by its very nature, demanded discipline.

But, as we know, the gold standard was abandoned. Governments chose the path of fiat money—currency backed by nothing but promises. Central banks began to print at will, eroding the value of the money in your pocket. The result? Endless cycles of boom and bust, growing inequality, and an accelerating gap between the rich and the poor. Unsound money has allowed governments to spend beyond their means, accruing mountains of debt and inflating the economy with unsustainable growth.

Unsound money is a system where the currency can be debased. It is a system where your savings are slowly confiscated through inflation, hidden under the veil of economic "stimulation." It is a system where monetary policy is a tool wielded by a small elite to manipulate markets, leaving the common citizen to bear the costs of inflation, instability, and eventual financial collapse.

Austrian economics teaches us that unsound money distorts incentives. When money can be printed out of thin air, the natural market signals that help us make sound economic decisions become clouded. Artificially low interest rates encourage borrowing and discourage saving. Short-term speculation is rewarded over long-term investment. Malinvestment spreads like a disease through the economy, and eventually, the consequences must be faced.

Enter Bitcoin—the most profound monetary innovation of our time. Bitcoin represents sound money in the digital age. It is decentralized, immutable, and scarce, with a fixed supply of 21 million units. It cannot be manipulated by central authorities, and it operates on a network that is secure, transparent, and governed by the rules of mathematics, not the whims of politicians. Bitcoin is, in essence, the modern-day gold standard, but with superior properties. It can be transferred instantly, securely, and without intermediaries.

As we speak, central banks around the world are toying with the idea of central bank digital currencies (CBDCs) backed by their own Fiat. The European Central Bank, for example, has recently announced its plans to potentially develop a digital euro—a digital platform with a €1.2 billion framework budget. They call it progress. They promise increased efficiency, more control over monetary policy, and a better ability to manage inflation.

But make no mistake—these are not improvements for the people. If you think inflation is bad now, imagine a world where every single unit of currency can be manipulated, tracked, and even invalidated at the discretion of a central authority. CBDCs grant governments unprecedented oversight into every aspect of your financial life. They may claim to offer stability, but the reality is that they offer control. Fiat CBDCs will allow governments to impose negative interest rates, freeze accounts, and enforce capital controls with a precision that is unimaginable today. They will exacerbate the very problems that fiat money has created—unsound money, endless inflation, and the erosion of individual liberty.

Bitcoin stands in stark contrast. It offers a return to sound money principles. In a world of Bitcoin, monetary policy is not subject to the whims of central banks or political expediency. It is governed by a decentralized protocol that ensures scarcity, transparency, and immutability. It incentivizes savings, long-term investment, and disciplined spending. In this way, Bitcoin aligns perfectly with Austrian economics, which teaches us that prosperity is achieved through savings, capital formation, and sound investments—not reckless consumption and debt accumulation.

Adopting a Bitcoin standard is not just about protecting wealth—it's about securing the future of a free society. A society where individuals have control over their financial destiny, where governments are held accountable for their spending, and where economic incentives promote real productivity, not speculative bubbles. Bitcoin is a safeguard against the debasement of currency and the loss of purchasing power. It is a tool of financial sovereignty.

We, who are from the Austrian school of economics, has eloquently argued that unsound money fuels wealth inequality and financial instability. When central banks print more money, the wealth of the upper class, who hold assets, grows disproportionately. Meanwhile, the average person sees their wages and savings eroded by inflation. This system is unsustainable. But with sound money—whether it was the gold standard in the past or Bitcoin today—this distortion is removed. Economic power is returned to the individual, and wealth is built on merit, not on financial manipulation.

The question we must ask ourselves is this: Do we want a future where every aspect of our financial lives is under the control of a central authority? Or do we want a governmental organization where individuals can choose to have true financial sovereignty, where wealth cannot be inflated away, and where economic growth is driven by real value, not endless debt and consumption.

Bitcoin offers that future for small countries and its people. It is not just a store of value; it is a store of principles—of discipline, transparency, and fairness. By adopting a Bitcoin standard, a country would align itself with the values of sound money, rejecting the destructive path of fiat and embracing a future of economic integrity.

We have a choice to make. And it is not only a choice about technology—it is a choice about freedom. Will we choose the sound money for our new nation, or will we giveaway our rights and allow our central bank full control our economic lives?

The answer lies before us. Bitcoin is sound money for the digital age. It is a store of value that stands against the tides of inflation, centralization, and control. And it is the foundation upon which a free and prosperous society can be built.

Building a CBDC platform based on the Bitcoin standard for a central bank requires careful planning, technological infrastructure, and a strong commitment to financial sovereignty. Much like the European Central Bank (ECB) is pursuing the development of a digital euro, we propose a similar framework for building a Bitcoin-based central bank digital platform, where Bitcoin (BTC) will serve as the underlying value layer. This will allow the nation to adopt Bitcoin as a store of value, supported by modern financial technology, while leveraging the benefits of decentralized sound money.

Framework and Budget Overview

The ECB has kicked off 2024 with an estimated spend of more than €1.2bn to set up framework agreements with potential providers of digital euro components and related services. Similarly, transitioning a country to a Bitcoin standard would involve a similar scale of financial commitment and technological investment.

The framework for the Bitcoin standard will encompass five core components:

App and Software Development Kit (SDK) for Bitcoin
Budget: €153.6m

We will need to develop an app and SDK to support banks, payment processors, and other intermediaries in integrating Bitcoin services with their mobile apps and online platforms. Building a new decentralized Bitcoin Layer 2 solution, will be central to enabling faster bitcoin transactions and seamless integration with banking software for instant settlement and global mass adoption. Bitcoin has come far, but UI and UX has not.

Offline Payment Services for Bitcoin
Budget: €220.7m €662.1m

This component will develop a bearer instrument for offline payments using Bitcoin, allowing individuals to transact even without an internet connection. The challenge here is creating a robust solution that retains the security and decentralization of Bitcoin while making offline payments a practical reality. Building these services will require extensive engineering to align with Bitcoin's trustless principles while keeping the user experience smooth and intuitive.

Secure Exchange of Payment Information in Bitcoin
Budget: €27.6m / €55.2m

The exchange of sensitive transactional data will need to be secure and private. Using Bitcoin as the underlying store of value ensures the decentralization and transparency of transactions, but we will also implement cryptographic solutions to safeguard the conversion of sensitive data, such as account numbers and payment amounts, especially during interactions between commercial banks and their clients.

Alias Lookup for Simplified Bitcoin Transactions

Budget: €27.9m / €55.9m

One of the key barriers to Bitcoin adoption is the complexity of its transaction addresses. To streamline user experiences, we will develop an alias lookup system that allows users to send and receive Bitcoin payments using simpler, more intuitive identifiers like usernames or email addresses. This will foster mass adoption by making Bitcoin payments more accessible to the average user.

Fraud and Risk Management for Bitcoin Transactions

Budget: €79.1m / €237.3m

A system for fraud detection and risk management will be developed to identify and prevent malicious transactions in the Bitcoin network. While Bitcoin's cryptography offers a high level of security, integrating fraud management tools will give financial intermediaries and users greater confidence in adopting Bitcoin for everyday transactions. This will involve monitoring on-chain activity, detecting suspicious behaviour, and offering support to users and institutions alike.

Bitcoin Layer 2 dev for Instant Settlement

At the heart of the CBDC Bitcoin standard platform, will be a new Layer 2 solution an instant settlement network, which is designed to process micro-transactions and offer instant settlement without overloading the main Bitcoin blockchain. The Bitcoin Layer 1 will serve as the secure, immutable ledger, while the layer 2 will handle the bulk of day-to-day transactions, ensuring scalability and speed.

In our nations system, banks, payment processors, and individuals can transact instantly without sacrificing the security and decentralization that Bitcoin offers at the base layer. This Layer 2 approach allows for immediate finality and reduces fees, making the platform viable for small and large transactions alike. The SDK developed will integrate within Bitcoin's Layer 2, ensuring a smooth experience for all users—whether they are executing a large institutional transaction or buying a cup of coffee.

Timeframe and Costs

Transitioning to a Bitcoin-based national financial platform will be a time-consuming but necessary process, just as the ECB's preparation phase for the digital euro will take two years before full-scale implementation when the platform is fully developed and ready to be implemented. Our approach will be faster, preparation will include deep collaboration between our Bitcoin core, Layer 2, and banking software developers, and financial institutions, and regulators to ensure seamless integration of the Bitcoin Layer 2 solution into our financial system.

The ECB estimates that its digital euro framework will cost between €432.1m and €1.164bn for a first attempt to build a platform, but probably will cost 5 times that amount when finished, - with contracts lasting up to 15 years. Similarly, the development of a nation's similar Bitcoin standard platform will require comparable financial investment and timeframes. Although costly, this transition is essential for nations seeking to adopt sound money and protect their economies from the long-term risks associated with inflationary fiat currencies.

This investment is not just an expense but a down payment on a future of financial sovereignty, where the value of the currency is preserved through Bitcoin's limited supply and decentralized structure. For a small nation, this could provide the competitive edge needed to escape the pressures of global fiat inflation and secure its position in the future digital economy.

By building this infrastructure, small nations can lead the way in adopting the Bitcoin standard, ensuring that their currency remains a true store of value in an increasingly uncertain global financial landscape. With the right technological infrastructure, Bitcoin can provide a stable foundation for a future where monetary policy is determined not by central banks but by mathematical certainty and decentralized consensus.

Financials: long-term purchases power against the dollar estimate. A prediction for BTC-USD, stretching out to the year 2045.

Bitcoin 21-Year Price Forecast				
	2024	2045		
		Bear	Base	Bull
				
₿ Price	\$65K	\$3M	\$13M	\$49M
₿ % of Assets	0.1%	2%	7%	22%
₿ Market Cap	\$1.3T	\$68T	\$280T	\$1,030T
₿ ARR		21%	29%	37%

Conclusion: The Path Forward

While building our Bitcoin standard platform mirrors the framework envisioned by the ECB for the digital euro, the fundamental difference lies in the underlying monetary philosophy. Whereas the digital euro retains the risk of inflation and centralization, Bitcoin offers a scarce, deflationary asset that provides long-term stability.

The transition to a Bitcoin standard will require substantial upfront investment in infrastructure, including app development, offline payment services, secure data exchange, alias systems, and risk management. Moreover, Bitcoin Layer 2 solutions will play a pivotal role in ensuring the system is scalable and fast enough for daily use. While the costs may seem high, this is an investment in sound money and economic resilience.

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Republic of Agiara