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**PRIVATE VS. PUBLIC
BLOCKCHAINS:
WHICH IS RIGHT FOR
YOUR BUSINESS?**

BY LAB51

USDC

**AND ITS ROLE
IN THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL SYSTEM**

EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Reader,

The world of crypto has experienced dramatic ups and downs, especially in the past weeks. Stablecoins promise predictability and protection from sharp fluctuations. One such stablecoin that has established itself as a market leader is USDC. Some claim it should be considered one of the safest coins.

So what exactly makes USDC popular? How does it maintain its value in such a volatile market? In this issue Olga Dovgopolyi explains the concept behind USDC. To highlight the benefits and how it works.

Yours,

Mark Forster

Founder & CEO of Adello Group and LAB51Inc.

Chairman of the Metaverse Division at IAB Switzerland, Investor, Speaker and Advisor.



PRIVATE VS. PUBLIC BLOCKCHAINS: Which Is Right for Your Business?

LAB51: FOCUS OF THE MONTH

The blockchain landscape presents a fundamental choice: private or public blockchains. Each option holds distinct characteristics that cater to specific needs and objectives.

In this article, we delve into the space of private and public blockchains and share insights to help you decide which aligns better with your business requirements.

Understanding Private Blockchains

Definition and Characteristics

Private blockchains are networks where access and permissions are restricted to specific individuals or entities. These entities control the validation process and overall governance, making them centralized systems. Examples of private blockchains are Hyperledger, Ethereum Enterprise, and R3 Corda.

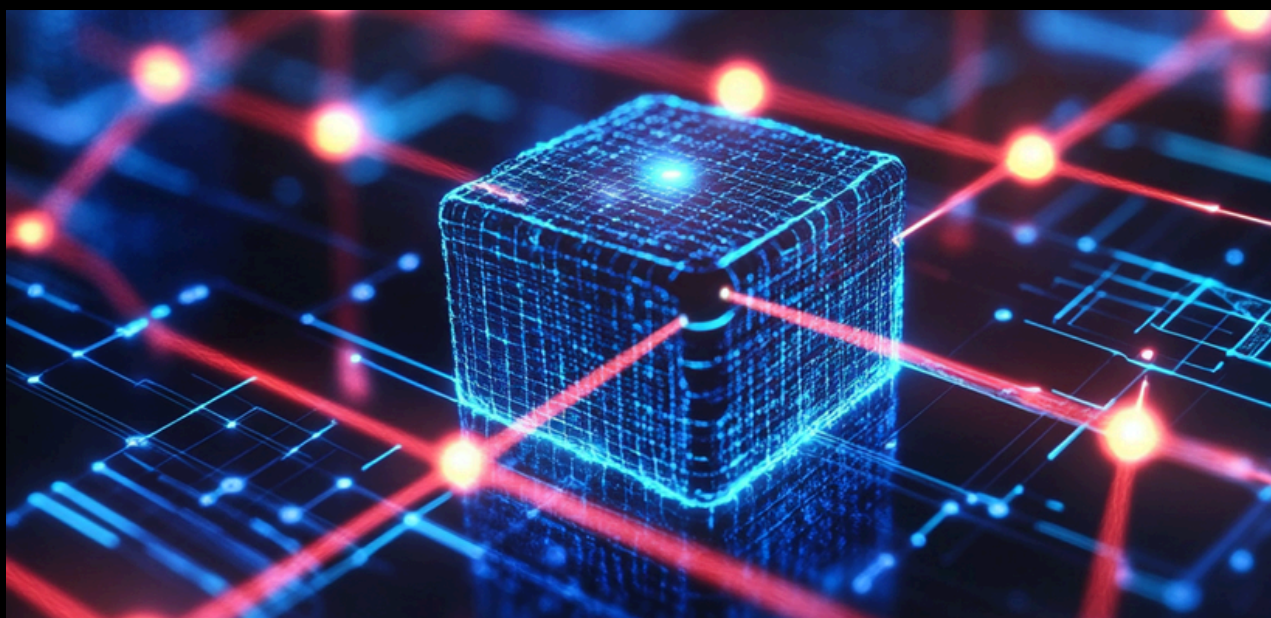


Control and Privacy

The centralized nature of private blockchains grants entities full control over the network, allowing for faster decision-making and efficient governance. Moreover, privacy is enhanced as only authorized participants can access and view the data.

Efficiency and Scalability

Private blockchains often process transactions faster due to their centralized structure. Additionally, they can be easily scaled to meet growing demands, making them suitable for enterprise applications.



Advantages of Private Blockchains

Enhanced Privacy and Security

Restricted access ensures that sensitive business data is only available to authorized participants, significantly enhancing privacy and security.

Faster Transactions

The centralized nature allows for quicker transaction validation and consensus, enabling faster transaction speeds compared to public blockchains.



Adaptability

Businesses have the flexibility to tailor the blockchain according to their specific needs, modifying consensus mechanisms and other parameters.

Understanding Public Blockchains

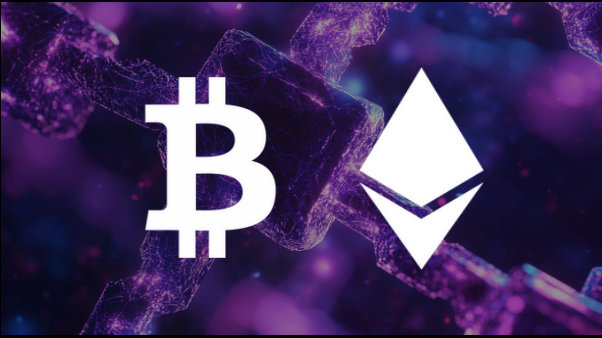
Definition and Characteristics

Public blockchains are decentralized networks open to anyone, and all transactions are visible to all participants.

They operate on a trustless system, utilizing a consensus mechanism like proof-of-work or proof-of-stake. Bitcoin and Ethereum are two popular examples of public blockchains.

Decentralization and Trust

Public blockchains achieve decentralization by distributing the control and validation process among a diverse set of participants, fostering a trustless environment where no single entity governs the network.



Transparency and Immutability

Every transaction and record on a public blockchain is transparent and verifiable by anyone, promoting accountability. The immutability of data ensures that once a transaction is added, it cannot be altered or deleted.

Advantages of Public Blockchains

Decentralization and Trustworthiness

Public blockchains remove the need for trust in a central authority, as the network's integrity is upheld through decentralized consensus mechanisms.

Community and Collaboration

A public blockchain attracts a diverse community of developers, businesses, and enthusiasts, fostering collaboration and innovation, often resulting in a wider range of use cases and applications.

Inclusivity

Public blockchains provide an equal opportunity for participation, allowing anyone to engage, transact, and contribute to the network.



Choosing the Right Blockchain for Your Business

For businesses aspiring to venture into blockchain, the decision between private and public blockchains holds immense strategic significance. It's comparable to the choice of the best operational model that complements your business goals and aligns with your overarching vision. Making a well-informed choice here sets the stage for a successful blockchain journey. This will eventually push your business towards innovation, efficiency, and competitiveness.

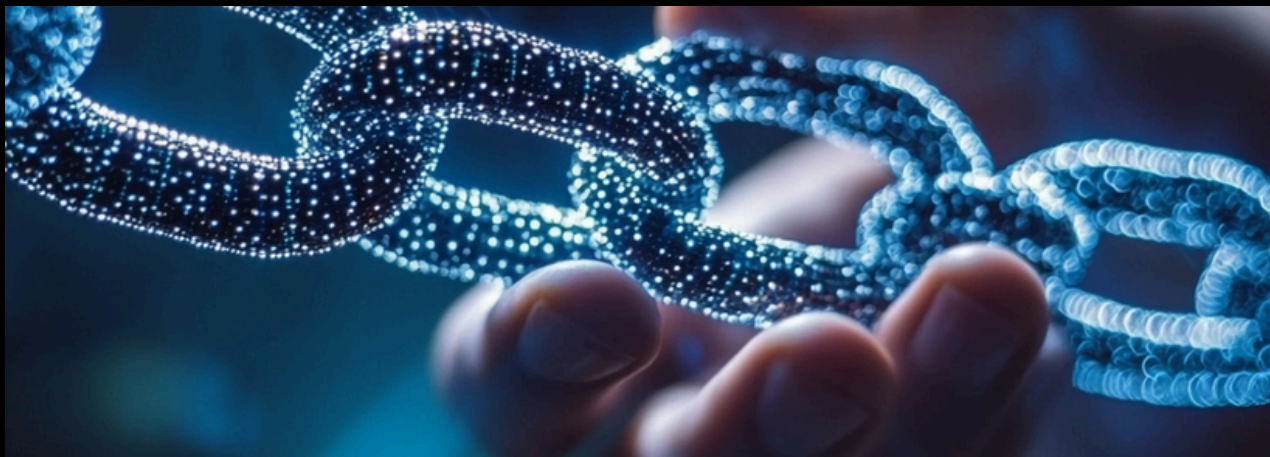
First of all, you need to consider your needs and goals. This means assessing the level of control, privacy, scalability, and decentralization your project requires. Match

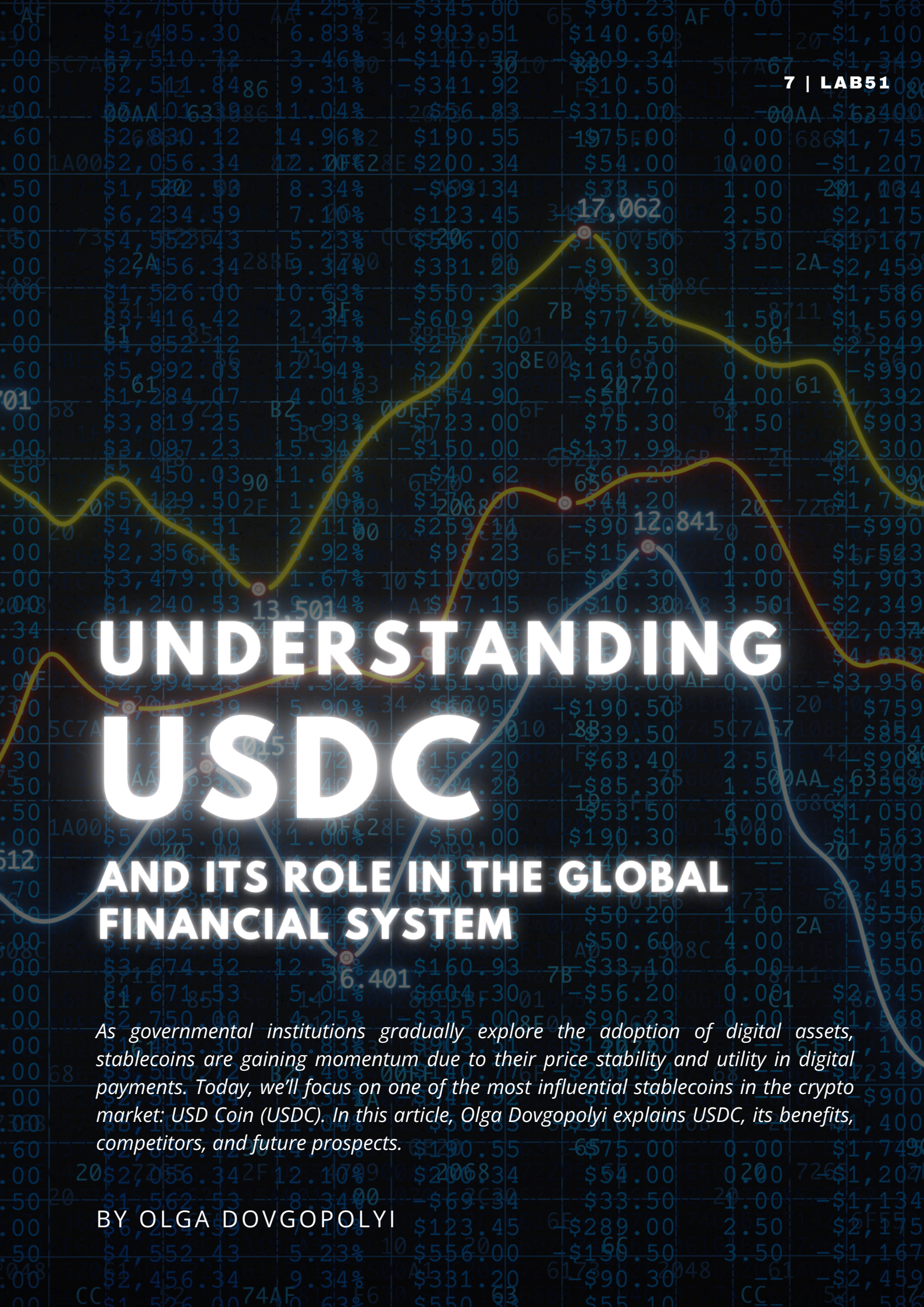
these needs with the characteristics of private and public blockchains. You then need to evaluate regulatory and compliance requirements. Depending on your industry and jurisdiction, compliance with specific regulations may steer you towards either a private or public blockchain to ensure adherence to legal standards. Finally, cost and resource assessment play a big role. Every company needs to evaluate the costs associated with setting up and maintaining each type of blockchain. In doing this, you can consider factors like operational costs, development expenses, and ongoing maintenance.

Conclusion

For a business looking to enter the space, the choice between private and public blockchains is pivotal and should align with your project's objectives and requirements. Private blockchains offer control, privacy, and efficiency, ideal for specific enterprise needs. On the other hand, public blockchains provide decentralization,

transparency, and inclusivity, attracting a wide range of use cases and a diverse community. By carefully assessing your goals and evaluating the advantages of each type, at [Lab51](#), we help our clients make an informed decision that suits their business model and aspirations.





UNDERSTANDING USDC

AND ITS ROLE IN THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL SYSTEM

As governmental institutions gradually explore the adoption of digital assets, stablecoins are gaining momentum due to their price stability and utility in digital payments. Today, we'll focus on one of the most influential stablecoins in the crypto market: USD Coin (USDC). In this article, Olga Dovgopolyi explains USDC, its benefits, competitors, and future prospects.

BY OLGA DOVGOPOLYI

My name is Olga Dovgopolyi, I am a Chief Business Development Officer at SI8.online (Cassator Corp.).

At SI8.online, we're building a blockchain-powered social media platform where users don't just engage with content — they monetize their interactions within the SI8 ecosystem. Our platform integrates a crypto wallet built on Stellar Distributed Ledger that supports our token SSLX, the Stellar token XLM, and USDC (USD Coin), a MiCA-compliant stablecoin.

A few days ago, I had a conversation about stablecoins with my husband, who works in IT

and digital technologies but has no direct connection to the crypto and blockchain. He asked me about USDC and how it fits into the global financial system. That question made me reflect on USDC and the stablecoin phenomenon because my brief explanation to my husband wasn't informative enough!

In this article, I'll try to break it down step by step so that even someone with limited crypto knowledge can understand it.

I will also discuss USDC's competitors, Circle's partners and clients, and how the company could expand in Europe.



What is USDC

USDC is a stablecoin, meaning it's a digital currency designed to maintain a stable value. Unlike Bitcoin or Ethereum, the widely known digital assets that experience high price fluctuations, stablecoins are pegged to traditional currencies like the US dollar. USDC maintains a 1:1 peg with the US dollar, meaning 1 USDC always equals 1 USD and is fully backed by reserves. It is issued by **Circle**, a US-based financial technology company, and is used for fast, secure, and low-cost payments, including cross-border transactions, decentralized finance (DeFi), and business operations.



Unlike some cryptocurrencies, USDC is fully backed by cash and short-term US government bonds. This ensures that for every USDC in circulation, Circle holds an equivalent amount in reserves, providing stability and preventing price fluctuations. This makes it a reliable option in digital finance.

Advantages of USDC

USDC offers several advantages over traditional financial systems. Transactions are processed almost instantly, regardless of location or time. Blockchain-based transfers often come with significantly lower fees than traditional bank transactions, particularly for cross-border payments. Moreover, USDC

operates 24/7, unlike banks that stick to fixed schedules, and its transactions are publicly verifiable on the blockchain. That ensures greater transparency and security. While traditional financial systems have their strengths, USDC provides unique benefits suited for the digital economy.

USDC competitors

Surely enough, USDC competes with several other stablecoins, each with its characteristics.

USDT (Tether)

USDT (Tether) is the largest stablecoin by market capitalization and is widely used in trading and remittances, though it has faced ongoing concerns about transparency and reserve backing. There are several months of market uncertainty about whether USDT will be delisted or not. Up to now (21 March 2025), we still see quite a wide usage of this stablecoin, especially in the MENA and ASEAN regions, though the shift to USDC is happening month by month. For example, we, as SI8.online, discussed the listing of our SSLX token with one of the top-tier centralized exchanges (CEXs) in January 2025. We agreed on all the terms but asked to have a pair of SSLX/USDC. The CEX refused to meet this parameter 2 months ago, sticking to the USDT pair, though yesterday they got back to us with the news that the SSLX/USDC pair will be supported, and we can renew our negotiations.



BUSD (Binance USD)

BUSD (Binance USD) was issued by Binance but has encountered regulatory challenges that have affected its growth.

DAI

DAI is a decentralized stablecoin backed by crypto assets instead of USD reserves, making it more volatile due to its underlying collateral.

EUROC (Euro Coin)

Circle has also issued EUROC (Euro Coin), which is pegged to the euro and expands its presence in Europe.



USDC and Circle

Among stablecoins, USDC stands out due to its regulatory compliance and transparency. Regular audits confirm its reserves, **making it one of the safest and most trusted stablecoins**. It sticks to strict US and European financial regulations and is widely

accepted across businesses, exchanges, and financial institutions. Unlike USDT, which has faced scrutiny, **USDC benefits from strong institutional backing and solid banking partnerships**.



USDC past 5 years chart, www.kraken.com

Circle primarily serves businesses, institutions, and developers rather than individual traders. Its partnerships play a key role in integrating stablecoins into mainstream finance. Clients include banks and payment providers that facilitate instant money transfers using blockchain, major crypto exchanges like Coinbase, Binance, and Kraken, and DeFi protocols such as Aave and Compound. Circle also works with e-commerce companies that

accept crypto payments and fintech startups that integrate USDC for fast transactions. Key partners include BlackRock, the world's largest asset manager, which invests in Circle's reserve fund, and Coinbase, which co-founded USDC. Visa and Mastercard have integrated USDC for global transactions, while Stripe and Checkout.com use it for digital payments.

Market Expansion and Opportunities in Europe

Europe presents a significant opportunity for stablecoins, but Circle's expansion requires regulatory approvals and market penetration. The company already holds an Electronic Money Institution (EMI) license in France, allowing it to issue stablecoins under the EU MiCA framework.

Expanding into Germany, the UK, and Switzerland would further enhance its credibility and accessibility. Partnerships with European banks and payment providers, such as Revolut, N26, Santander, and Deutsche Bank, could drive wider adoption of USDC and EUROCC.

Encouraging merchant adoption for e-commerce, remittances, and payroll through integrations with platforms like Adyen, Klarna, and Stripe could also strengthen its presence.

Also, increasing USDC use in DeFi, Web3, gaming, and NFTs through collaborations with European crypto startups and tech hubs in Berlin, Lisbon, and Paris would solidify its role in the region. The launch of EUROCC (Euro Coin) further positions Circle to capture a share of Europe's cross-border payment market.



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With over 15 years of experience in strategy and business development, Olga's focus is on strategic growth within the FinTech, digital assets, and crypto sectors. She specializes in leading strategic initiatives across European financial markets and holds an Executive MBA from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business.

Olga Dovgopolyi's core competencies include strategic planning and execution, policy analysis, investment facilitation, and negotiation. She is passionate about technology and innovation, which has led her to co-found, invest in, and lead several ventures in the digital and EdTech fields. Olga's goal is to contribute to the development and transformation of organizations and markets, making a positive impact on society.





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