

DIGITAL PAYMENTS REDUCE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND CARBON EMISSIONS OF PAYMENT ECOSYSTEM

IN 14 OUT OF 19 EURO AREA COUNTRIES, cash was still the most common method to pay for goods or services in 2022

Total number of non-cash payments in the euro area
INCREASED BY 12.5% BETWEEN 2020 AND 2021



11.50 g CO₂ = **2.1 x**



18.07 g CO₂ = **5.9 x**



51.80 g CO₂ = **23.5 x**



A CASH PAYMENT EMITS MORE CO₂ THAN A DIGITAL PAYMENT

Over an entire year, the average person who pays digitally saves the equivalent in CO₂ of the following number of single use plastic bags:

37 x



in



49 x



in



74 x



in



IN 17 OUT OF THE 18 IMPACT CATEGORIES SUBJECT TO THE SCIENTIFIC STUDY, **DIGITAL PAYMENTS HAVE A LOWER ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT THAN CASH PAYMENTS**

HOW CAN WE ACT?



- Encourage the development of electronic payment infrastructures
- Create incentives for businesses to accept digital payments such as tax benefits
- Promote use of digital receipts



- Produce less (material-intensive) terminals and cards
- Continue efforts to recycle cards and terminals
- Reduce the energy consumption of data centres
- Run public awareness campaign to educate about environmental benefits of digital payments