

Banking and Payments **BULLETIN**



Will the resilience of domestic card schemes continue?

Global cashless payments surpass one trillion

Fraudsters target vulnerable in wartime Ukraine

The evolving threats to card issuance

Mobile money sees strong post pandemic growth

Country profile:
Greece

Banking and Payments

BULLETIN



Will the resilience of domestic card schemes continue?

Our lead story is once again based on RBR's annual payment cards research, but this month

analyses domestic schemes (see page 2). 13% of cards in issue worldwide are domestic-only – this figure has remained flat in recent years and excludes cards which are dual-badged.

Given the seemingly inexorable rise of the international card schemes, this is a surprisingly large share, which is largely attributable to the role domestic schemes play in extending financial services in countries with large unbanked or underbanked populations. Just seven countries – India, Japan, Iran, Brazil, Indonesia, Russia and Vietnam – represent 88% of domestic-only cards in issue. Several of these, such as RuPay in India and Elo in Brazil are relatively new and have grown impressively over the past decade. GPN in Indonesia and Meeza in Egypt are even newer, having only been launched in 2019.

What most of these domestic-only schemes have in common is strong government backing and a desire to improve financial inclusion through a domestic scheme that incurs lower costs for cardholders, issuers and merchants. In some countries, such as Malaysia and Serbia, governments or their central banks are not just driving the schemes, but mandating issuance.

Domestic schemes are not having things completely their own way, however. As discussed in our feature, issuers in a number of countries are moving in the opposite direction and migrating away from domestic schemes. In some cases this is moving from domestic-only to dual-badged, to provide enhanced functionality and international acceptance, but in others, banks are switching fully over to international schemes, believing this is more appealing to customers.

In Europe, where no new Maestro cards will be issued after July 2023, is causing disruption and forcing a re-evaluation of card issuing strategy for many banks. Some are taking the opportunity to move from dual-badged to purely internationally branded cards, bringing into question the long term viability of some domestic schemes.

Domestic schemes have proved remarkably resilient over a long period of time, and while this resilience is set to continue for some time, it will be increasingly focused on a minority of countries where domestic schemes play an important social role. In the majority of countries, there will be a gradual drift away from domestic schemes which will struggle to compete with the benefits that the international schemes can offer.

Dominic Hirsch, Editor

- 2 GLOBAL CARDS**
Domestic schemes prosper in developing countries

- 4 GLOBAL PAYMENTS**
Global cashless payments surpass one trillion

- 5 MERCHANT PAYMENTS**
MPE 2023 discusses payments innovations

- 7 SOUTH AMERICAN CURRENCY**
Argentina and Brazil propose bilateral trade currency 'sur'

- 8 FRAUD IN UKRAINE**
Fraudsters target vulnerable in wartime Ukraine

- 10 CARD ISSUANCE**
The evolving threats to card issuance

- 11 OPEN BANKING**
Open banking use cases offer potential in the UK

- 13 CROATIAN PAYMENTS**
Croats choose cards over cash as euro introduced

- 14 MOBILE MONEY**
Mobile money sees strong post pandemic growth

- 15 NEWS BULLETIN**
Banking and payments news

- 17 COUNTRY PROFILE**
ATM and cards intelligence on Greece

- 21 CONFERENCE DIARY**
Upcoming industry events from around the world

Editor-in-chief Dominic Hirsch

Managing Editor Morten Jorgensen

Editor Tomomi Kimura

Contributors Sam Blackwell, Catherine Gibbons, Chris Herbert, Felix Kronabetter, Karolina Rachwol, Chiara Sandifer, Gillian Shaw, David Shipper, Ethan Turner Freeman, Ron van Wezel

Subscriptions Dani Wright

Advertising Amanda Hardy, Felix Kronabetter

For all editorial and advertising enquiries:

Telephone: +44 20 8831 7300

Email: bulletin@rbrlondon.com

Advertisers in this issue:

Diebold Nixdorf www.DieboldNixdorf.com

Mastercard www.mastercard.com

Annual subscription (12 issues):

Printed and electronic (1-5 users) £1,500

Printed and electronic (6+ users) £3,000

Follow us: [in](https://www.linkedin.com/company/rbr/) [tw](https://twitter.com/RBRLondon) @RBRLondon

ISSN 1748-5304

RBR
393 Richmond Road
London TW1 2EF, United Kingdom