

Press Release

BAI hosted the BAI InnovationsDay 2024

- **Burkhard Balz**, Member of the Board, Deutsche Bundesbank: "Europe's competitiveness will be immensely strengthened by the Digital Euro."
- **Prof. Dr. Isabell Welpke**, TUM, sees technological integration as the key to the future of Asset Management.
- A varied program with two panel discussions, two keynote speeches, and seven expert presentations.

Bonn, 23 September 2024 - Technological innovations and accompanying regulatory changes were again the focus of the annual **BAI InnovationsDay on 19 September**. Together with member and industry companies, the **Bundesverband Alternative Investments e.V. (BAI)** presented various topics, from Digital Assets and Tokenization to Artificial Intelligence and Regulation.

Burkhard Balz, Member of the Executive Board, Deutsche Bundesbank, kicked off the event with his keynote speech, 'The Digital Euro and its impact on the financial and real economy.' Regarding the current dependence on American financial companies in payment transactions, Balz emphasized that the digital euro could provide a remedy and promote independence. Another advantage is that the digital euro would allow 350 million people in Europe to pay conveniently and quickly with the same provider in all life situations. However, the digital euro would have to be considered a legal tender to achieve this. Its introduction is not expected before the end of 2028. Balz reported on the current status of the preparatory work: 'The Eurosystem is therefore working on two important elements for the digital ecosystem of the future with the digital euro for everyday payments and the discussion of new forms of central bank money for banks and other financial institutions ("wholesale CBDC"). This would offer the central banks, the financial industry, and citizens immense potential to strengthen Europe's competitiveness.'

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Practice-oriented presentations and panel discussions on electronic fund units and programmable financial instruments, Risk Management of Crypto Assets, the digital placement of securities, and various possible applications of AI in the fund industry followed this.

Another highlight was the keynote speech by **Prof Dr Isabell Welp** (TUM), who spoke about innovative trends in Asset Management. 'Technological integration is the key to the future of Asset Management,' she added: 'The use of augmented reality (AR) for real-time financial data visualization gives investors an intuitive way to monitor their portfolios and make decisions.' Welp also presented the revolutionary possibilities of blockchain-based Tokenization of assets and discussed virtual investment advisors that use empathy algorithms. These AI advisors could respond to the emotional and personal needs of investors and offer customized advice.

Frank Dornseifer, Managing Director of the BAI, summarised the event as follows: 'The Asset Management industry is also moving between disruption and evolution in the areas of Digitalization and Artificial Intelligence. Both technology trends have immense potential and, above all, are irreversible. The differences in adaptation in our industry are enormous. This is precisely why we are organizing the BAI InnovationDay for the fourth time: not only to inform members and the industry but also to actively and jointly help shape these developments. This is also why we will continue to intensify our activities in these areas. The BAI InnovationDay 2024 impressively demonstrated that the industry is well on the way to finding new paths for growth and innovation through digital transformation.'

Further information and photos of the BAI InnovationDay can be found here: <https://www.bvai.de/en/events/bai-innovationsday>.

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The Bundesverband Alternative Investments e.V. (BAI) is the central representative body for the alternative investments industry in Germany. The association serves as a catalyst between professional German investors and recognized providers of alternative investment products worldwide. It advocates for enabling German institutional and professional investors to diversify their capital investments in alternative investments more easily and effectively, with a particular focus on the long-term security of German pension provisions. The BAI promotes public awareness and understanding of alternative investments and supports scientific research in this field. It engages in dialogue with political decision-makers and relevant regulatory authorities, maintaining communication with national and international organizations and associations. The association aims to achieve legal reforms and developments that benefit its members and their investors and to establish attractive and internationally competitive conditions for investment in alternative assets. The BAI's membership, which includes professionals from all areas of the alternative investments sector, has grown to around 300 companies. Bundesverband Alternative Investments e. V.