



HELIX

*...making Europe's economies grow closer
together through solving withholding
taxes + how we could start building public
institutions based on zk-native DeFi*

Berlin, June 15th, 2025

Problem

Every time an investor receives dividends on a cross-border basis they are taxed twice:
withholding tax + income tax

Refund opportunities are widely missed out because of fiscal complexities and technical challenges.



**Lack of knowledge about
complex reclaim procedures**



Costly reclaim procedures



**Time-consuming and
lengthy refund process**

Antrag auf Rückzahlung/Erstattung der österreichischen Abzugsteuer Kapitalertragsteuer auf Dividenden aus Aktien gemäß § 27 Abs. 2

Market size: Billions stay unreclaimed every year

2021

1500 bn USD

in paid dividends

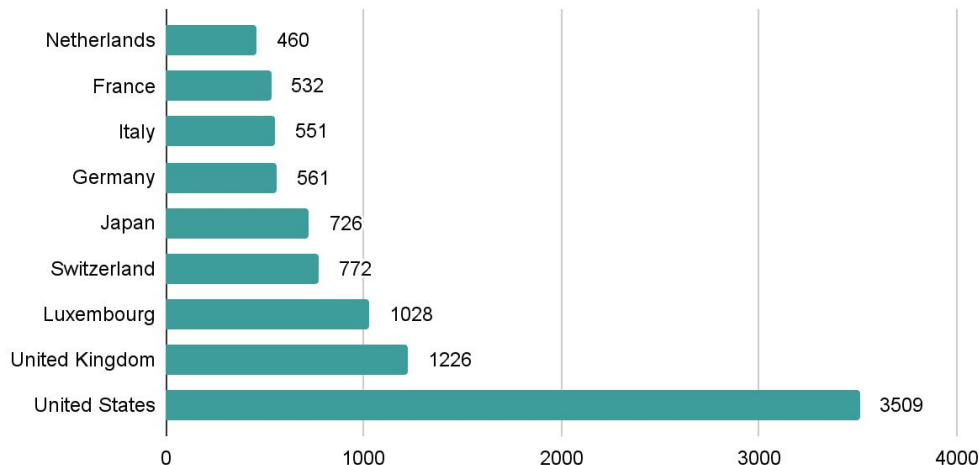
100 bn USD

in **paid** withholding tax
on cross border securities

20 bn USD

in **unreclaimed** withholding
tax on cross border securities

Unreclaimed withholding tax on cross-border securities in million USD (2017)



But why? The Dividend Payment Chain

Example: A dividend from a French stock-listed company, paid to a German investor (simplified)



stock-listed company / dividend issuer



financial intermediaries

paying agent



foreign Central Securities Depository (CSD)
→ pays French capital gains taxes



domestic CSD



my bank
→ pays German capital gains taxes



me (beneficial/economic owner)

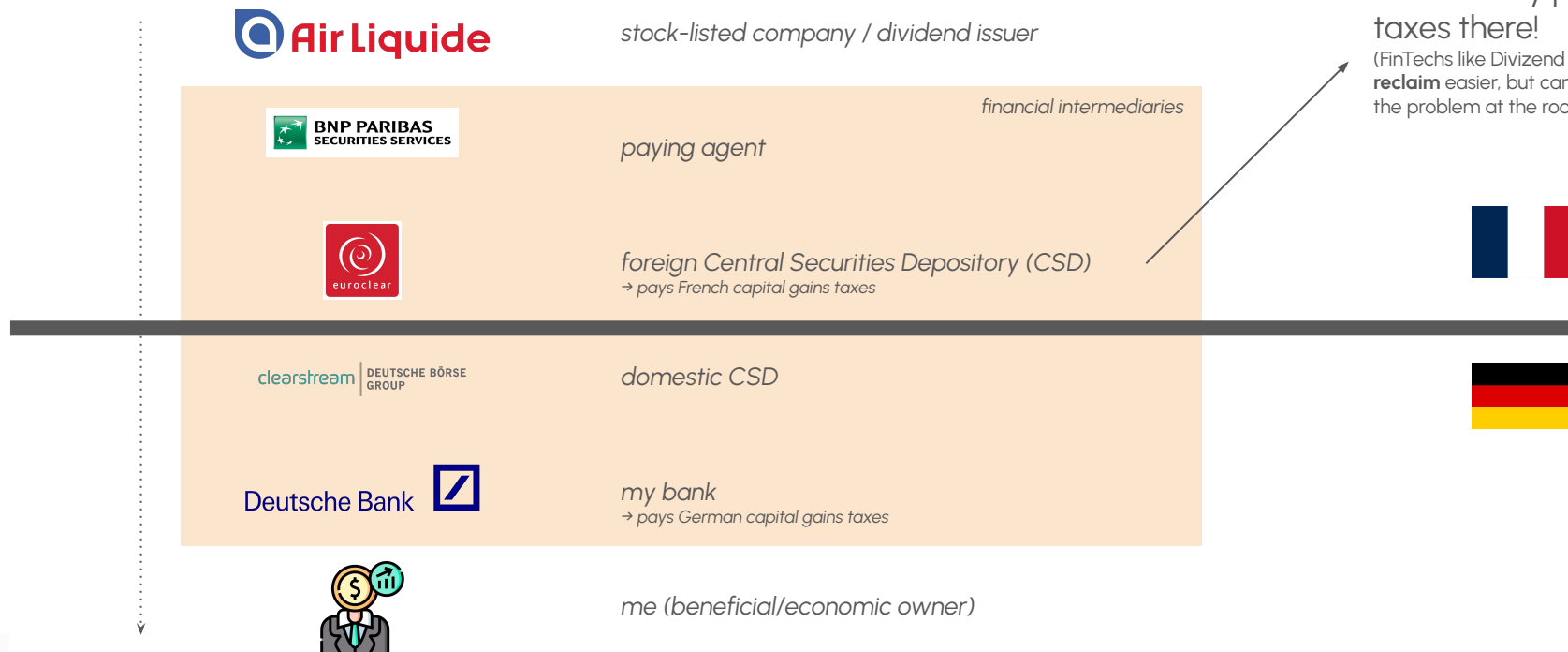


But why? The Dividend Payment Chain

Example: A dividend from a French stock-listed company, paid to a German investor (simplified)

withholds too much French taxes,
because Euroclear **doesn't know that I'm from Germany** and already pay taxes there!

(FinTechs like Divizend make the **reclaim** easier, but cannot solve the problem at the root)



Solution

According to **FASTER, Council Directive (EU) 2025/50 on faster and safer relief of excess withholding taxes (published on 10 December 2024)**, the following must be realized for all EU countries:



Relief-at-Source

For investors from other countries, the CSD in the dividend issuer's country should already use the correct reduced withholding tax rate right at the point of payment.



Quick Refund

If the necessary information was not known at the date of payment and too much tax was withheld, at least the reclaim should be fast and easy.

But how?

Fixing withholding taxes in compliance with FASTER needs two new pieces of public infrastructure, which **interconnect** **two important types of data** that are currently trapped in legacy systems:

tax residency + beneficial ownership



Electronic Tax Residency Certificate (eTRC)

Who pays taxes where? All local tax offices must become able to digitally issue a document certifying that an individual or legal entity is registered for tax purposes in that country.



Reconstructing all shareholder registers

Who owns which stocks and bonds? All financial intermediaries (not stock-listed companies or shareholders!) must do the appropriate reporting of dividend payments, so that the foreign CSDs can learn when to apply the reduced withholding tax rate applicable for foreign investors.

We believe that this **cannot be realized with Web2** in a **privacy-protecting**, resilient way.

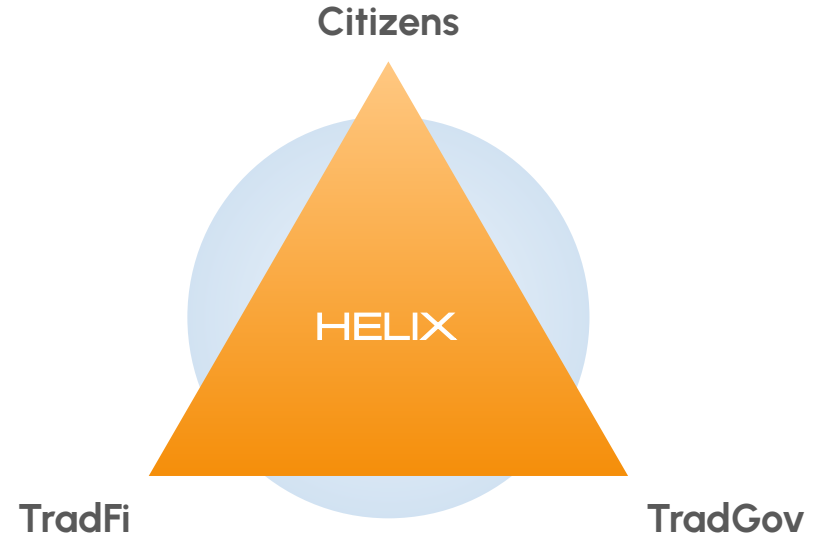
So let's think in **Web3 terms**.

Value Proposition

HELIX is **public administration** rethought from a **privacy-first, zk-native perspective**.

We don't see DeFi as competing with TradFi, but instead as an **upgrade** which makes everything cheaper and more privacy-preserving. **Everyone deserves to have convenient access to it.**

As the very first step, we'll solve the regulatory burden of FASTER for the financial industry.



Architecture

HELIX as the new **foundation** for some of our civilization's **most critical and privacy-sensitive processes and types of data**.

Taking FASTER as the springboard to **making zk mainstream** and **battle-testing it in production**.



Vision

The privacy-first civilization: **We deserve to know who handles our sensitive information.**

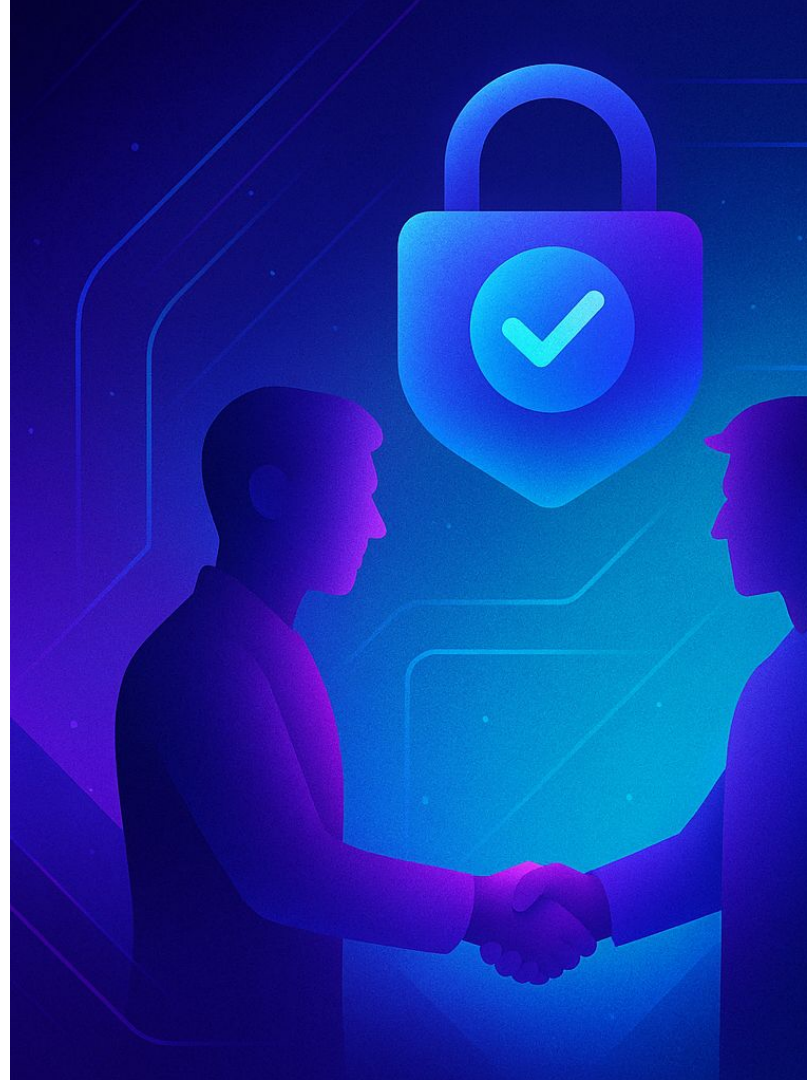
Internally, among other parts, HELIX will need to provide **a wallet-like structure for every citizen.**

Of course citizens must own the private keys for their wallets.

And then **every citizen will get a personal dashboard** transparently displaying **when and how which institution** (e.g. the tax administration, their bank, any financial intermediary etc.) **used or modified data about them.** This dashboard will also be commons infrastructure, served from the blockchain, not owned by any specific government or company, but by us all.

Dividends and the capital markets are just the start.

Full data sovereignty in all economic and legal systems is our end goal.



A Day in the Life with HELIX



Before HELIX:

Frustrated investor digging through paper forms

18-month tax refund **delay** (or more)

Bureaucratic maze: no transparency, no control

Multiple intermediaries with **siloed data**

“I was taxed twice. No one could tell me why. I gave up on reclaiming it.”

With HELIX:

Investor logs into their wallet-connected **dashboard**

Sees **real-time proof** of tax residency & ownership

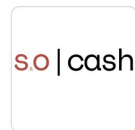
Dividend payment **auto-adjusted** to reduced rate

Foreign tax office and foreign CSD can **verify without seeing private financial data**

“I claimed my dividend once. HELIX handled the rest. I didn’t lose a cent—or my privacy.”



Collection of some relevant discoveries we made during W3PN HACKS



so | cash

Sustainable & Open Cash framework

27 September 2024

EU's Digital Product Passport: Advancing transparency and sustainability

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What are Paymasters? (ERC-4337)



Flow State



Scaffold-ETH 2



Team



Julian Nalenz

Co-founder and CTO of Divizend,
withholding tax expert



Yvanik

Passionate frontend developer
curious about the privacy and
blockchain ecosystem

Want to build with us or just stay up to date?

