ECU — Specifications (Overview)

ECU is a mobile app that helps everyone keep track of their money on a daily basis and manage it better with personalized advice.

1. The Concept

Many people don't know "where their money goes." Existing tracking apps simply display numbers and are rarely designed with the African reality in mind: cash, mobile money, and tontines.

ECU addresses this need with two simple ideas:

1. **Track everything in one place**: cash, mobile money, bank accounts, tontines, savings, loans, and even assets.

2. **Guide, not just display**: The app offers advice, sends timely alerts, and helps you make decisions—always in a supportive tone.

ECU adapts to African financial practices while remaining usable anywhere in the world (multi-currency).

2. Who is it for?

	Profile	What they're looking for
Amina, 24 — the newbie	First job, irregular income, uses cash and mobile money	Understanding where her money goes, with simple explanations and encouragement
Kevin, 32 — the regular user	Salaried employee, bank account + mobile money + cash, participates in a tontine	More structure, faster data entry, concrete goals (purchases, travel, emergency fund)
Sarah, 40 — the savvy user	Executive, multiple accounts, two currencies, already tracks her finances in Excel	A comprehensive view of her assets, detailed tracking of her loans, precise analyses

The app adapts to these three levels: beginners see a simplified version, while experienced users have access to advanced tools.

3. What the app lets you do

💼 Manage your accounts

Create as many accounts as needed: cash, mobile money (Orange Money, MTN MoMo, Wave, Moov Money, Airtel Money…), bank, tontine. Each account has its own currency. You can see the balance of each account and the **total amount of all your money** at a glance. You can also transfer money from one account to another (for example, from a mobile money account to a cash account).

🧾 Track Your Expenses and Income

Record an expense or income in just a few seconds: amount, account, category, date. A **built-in calculator** helps you add numbers together (2,000 + 1,500 + 750). The categories are tailored to everyday local life (motorcycle taxi, sending money to family, tontine, etc.). Recurring transactions (rent, salary) can be scheduled.

🐖 Saving

Set money aside as you like, or set a **goal** (amount + date). The app calculates how much you need to save each month and congratulates you at key milestones (25%, 50%, 75%, 100%). **Tontine** contributions are tracked separately.

🎯 Manage Your Budget

Set a limit for each category and see your spending in real time. The app **alerts you when you reach 80% and then 100%** of your budget. To get started, it can suggest a starting budget (typically split 50/30/20).

🏠 View Your Net Worth

Add what you own (real estate, vehicles, investments, etc.) and what you owe to calculate your **net worth** and track how it changes over time.

💳 Track your loans

Record a loan (bank loan, microfinance loan, loan from family or friends), track each payment, receive **reminders before each due date**, and simulate the impact of a new loan or an early repayment.

🎓 Get guidance

- **My Financial Coach**: personalized advice based on the user's actual behavior.
- **A library** of short content pieces (articles, videos, quizzes) for learning.
- **"Can I afford this?"**: a clear answer (Yes / Proceed with caution / Not recommended) before making a purchase.
- **A monthly summary** and a **financial health score** explained transparently.

🔔 Get alerts at the right time

Reminders to enter data, budget nearly reached, low or negative balance, credit or savings plan due dates. Each type of notification can be turned on or off, and all remain viewable in the app.

📊 Understanding Your Finances

Charts showing expense breakdowns, comparisons of income and expenses over several months, key metrics (savings rate, debt-to-income ratio, disposable income), and **export** to CSV or PDF. The home screen provides a summary of the month: total balance, remaining budget, savings progress, and alerts.

🔒 Protecting Your Data

Lock with a PIN, fingerprint, or Face ID; **privacy mode** that hides amounts on the screen; backup and restore features in case you switch phones; and the option to permanently delete your account and data.

4. What Makes ECU Different

Designed for Africa	Cash, mobile money, tontines, and local categories are at the heart of the app
A real coach	Tips based on real behavior, delivered at the right time, without being intrusive (1 to 2 per week at most)
Tailored to each user	Simple for beginners, feature-rich for experienced users
Supportive	Never criticize: we encourage and offer concrete suggestions

That never holds you back	A balance can be negative, a due date can be missed: the app alerts you, but it doesn't block you
Transparent	The calculation of the score, the source of the suggestions, and the fact that some figures are estimates are always explained
Fast	You can add an expense with just 1 or 2 taps from the home screen

5. An example of how to use it

First-time setup (less than 2 minutes). The user signs up with their phone number (SMS code) or email address. If they wish, they answer a few questions about their skill level and goals, choose their currency (e.g., the CFA franc), create their first account ("Orange Money," balance 15,000), and explore the app in just a few screens.

In his daily life. He logs his motorcycle taxi ride with just two taps. At the end of the week, the app tells him he's already used up 80% of his "Food" budget.

Over time. He sets a savings goal for a trip: the app tells him how much to set aside each month and congratulates him halfway through. On the 1st of the month, he receives his summary with two or three recommendations.

6. How the app is organized

ECU is based on five simple concepts:

Concept	**In plain language**
User	The person's profile, including their primary currency and preferences
Account	A place where money is held (cash, mobile money, bank, tontine)
Transaction	Any movement of money: expense, income, transfer between accounts, balance adjustment

Concept	In plain language
Goal / budget / loan	What gives structure to money over time: a spending limit, a savings goal, a debt to pay off
Support	Tips, alerts, and content generated based on user behavior

7. Development Priorities

Level	Features
🔴 **Essential** *(core of the app)*	Sign-up · currency selection · account creation and transfers · expense and income entry with calculator and categories · transaction history · flexible savings and goals · budgets with alerts · balance alerts · personalized advice · expense breakdown · home screen · PIN/biometrics · account management
🟠 **Important**	Profile questionnaire · recurring transactions and duplication · savings pool · budget suggestions · net worth · tracking loans and repayments · content library · "Can I afford this?" · reminders · export · privacy mode · backup · account deletion
🟢 **Desirable**	Tutorial · tags · savings incentives · tracking multiple goals · planned vs. actual comparison · loan calculator · monthly summary · financial health score · advanced analytics · home screen customization

Total: **57 features** described, including 23 essential, 24 important, and 10 desirable.

8. What the first version doesn't do

- **No connection to** mobile money **providers**: the user enters transactions manually.
- **No automatic exchange rates**: the user enters or adjusts the rates; totals in mixed currencies are therefore **approximate**.
- **No automatic estimation of the value of goods**: the user updates the value themselves.
- **Simplified credit calculations**: the repayment schedule is presented as an **estimate**.
- **Recommendations are based on** clearly defined **rules**, not on predictive analytics.
- **Home screen customization** is planned for a future release.

9. Learn More

Document	Content
Functional Specifications — ECU	Screens, business rules, and edge cases for each module
User Story Template — ECU	The 57 user requirements with their acceptance criteria and priorities
Release Plan	Feature Delivery Schedule