Promotion of Blockchain technology for implementation in small and medium size enterprises

Framed in the European Union programme H2020 (Horizon 2020), Peers to Blockchain (P2B) shares the objective of business innovation support within its framework project, and it focuses its mission in the promotion of Blockchain technology for the implementation in small and medium size enterprises.

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PROJECT RATIONALE AND OBJECTIVES

Blockchain technology is destined to significantly transform business transactional models and management operations. The P2B consortium is investigating the strategic impacts that this disruptive technology represents for SMEs and will target its efforts in capturing best practices and in boosting the exchange of knowledge.

The initial objective of the project will be to characterize the Blockchain ecosystem in each region of the participating entities (Algarve, Andalusia and Luxembourg). Secondly, the benefits of Blockchain for SMEs and real cases serving as a reference will be captured and analyzed. According to these initial phases, findings and solutions will be shared, and a handbook of good practices on Blockchain will be developed, with the application of innovative methodology oriented to SMEs.

ABOUT THE PEERS2BLOCKCHAIN CONSORTIUM

The Peers to Blockchain consortium is coordinated by the Technology Park of Andalusia (Spain) with the contribution of the University of Algarve (Portugal) and Technoport technology business incubator (Luxembourg). In addition, about twenty international entities from Bulgaria, China, Estonia, Finland, France, Hungria, Italy, Palestine or Rusia among other will be participating in the project as collaborative partners.

WORKING PLAN

Within the P2B project, one work package will be implemented with one deliverable called “Design Options paper” for “Twinning advanced”. Indeed, using the Twinning Advanced methodology, project partners will elaborate a Design Option Paper (DOP), which will serve as a “guide” or a “handbook” to other innovation agencies to design and deliver similar, more enterprise-friendly programs and services on Blockchain. This document will identify and describe the implementation options, guidelines and implementation alternatives that the partners in the challenge have experienced and would recommend to an agency which is interested in implementing the proposed better practice. The overall structure of the work plan is defined as follows:

**ACTION 1** Analysis of the state of art in each regional ecosystem from the partners, and the collaborative partners as well. Two main topics will be peer to peer reviewed: on the one side, the definition of blockchain, main targets, uses and benefits for SMEs; and, on the other side, to get to know the actual Blockchain pilot projects and good practices (use cases) implemented. (under the leadership of the PTA).

**ACTION 2** Sharing of the results obtained and identification of the most efficient solutions for the design of the guide of a Blockchain Good Practice Handbook and the establishment of an innovative methodology. (under the leadership of the Technoport).

**ACTION 3** Design of a strategy to promote the creation of synergies, and collaboration between the actors involved in the project. (under the leadership of the University of Algarve).

IMPACT FORESEEN

The action 1 and 2 of the P2B project will enable the partnership to investigate on new topics and approaches in innovation support to SMEs, especially in the field of Blockchain, and, to have a detailed vision when it comes to develop peer learning activities based on these new approaches. Providing relevant indicators, stating effective governance models, implement the strengths of blockchain into traditional assets, create ecosystems of digital services that is compelling for consumers or develop online communities where users are rewarded for helping each other will be some of the topics to be explored.

- One of the expected impacts is to improve the quality management of the innovation agencies and strategic actors participating in the project, more especially in concepts and technologies related to Blockchain and in learning process, in order to deliver efficient services to SMEs, based on their real needs, with the objective to increase their satisfaction and to propose solutions that will fast-track their development.

- Other foreseen impact is to increase the number of innovation agencies engaged in peer learning activities. In this sense, during the preparation of the proposal, several associate partners have been selected to carry out peer to peer activities with them, as listed next, and to transfer the results of the project within each participant region. Moreover, during the project, strategic actors (universities, chambers of commerce, technology parks and association of science and technology parks, public entities) will also be invited to participate in the foreseen activities.

- As indicated in the previous paragraph, all the partnership will work on the transfer of the results of the P2B project, especially the conclusions of the peer learning. The Blockchain Good Practice Digital Handbook to be developed in the action 2, will be a good tool to promote the improvements suggested and include them in regional and national innovation supporting programs.