



blockchers

Facilitating the revolution of DLT across European SMEs

Working Breakfast with the European Parliament

**How policy makers can support the
digitalization for European SMEs**

Thursday, 28th of January 2021



Agenda

11:30 – 11:35 Introduction

- Ms. Adriana MALDONADO – MEP – Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats. Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection.

11:35 – 11:45 Vision of the future of DLTs in Europe. Initiatives at EU level.

- Mr. Daniel GASSMAN – Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, EASME.
- Mr. Rapolas LAKAVICIUS – Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology. European Commission.

11:45 – 11:50 Challenges of digital SMEs in the EU.

- Ms. Almudena de la MATA – Alastria.

11:50 – 12:05 Preliminary political recommendations based in the project experience.

- Ms. Denise DUVE and Mr. Stefan SCHMITT – Frankfurt School Blockchain Center.

12:05 – 12:20 Examples of real projects and use cases directed to the spreading of the DLTs in SMEs. Acceleration programmes.

- Mr. Néstor ETXALEKU – Blockchers.
- Mr. Robert RICHTER – Blockpool.
- Mr. Joao FERNANDES – Blockstart.

12:20 – 12:50 Presentation of 3 innovative DLT application uses cases.

- Mr. Luis CARBAJO / Ms. Marta VALLES – Representatives of VOTTUN.
- Mr. José Manuel AVELINO – Representative of VESTIGIA.
- Mr. Philipp ROTHE / Ms. Rebecca JOHNSON – Representatives of Datarella.

12:50 – 13:00 Q&A.

13:00 Summary of conclusions by MEP Adriana MALDONADO.

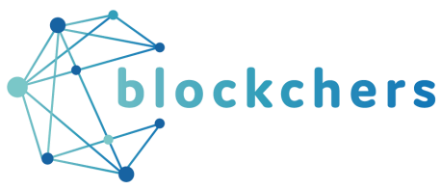
BLOCKCHERS: Supporting the implementation of breakthrough technologies in the European SMEs

In the framework of the H2020 Innovation and Research Programme of the European Commission, **BLOCKCHERS** project (<https://blockchers.eu/>) was selected to support the implementation of breakthrough technologies in the European SMEs. BLOCKCHERS aimed to facilitate the revolution of **Distributed Ledger Technologies** (DLTs) across European SMEs, supporting the development of innovative use-cases. BLOCKCHERS has been supporting technological SMEs through the road to market during 2019 and 2020.

Different reasons make the transition to DLTs slow and arduous. Some reasons that are holding blockchain back from large-scale adoption:

- **There is a huge community of innovative SMEs** with excellent ideas to contribute to the DLT uptake. However, they need to be supported in their early stages to demonstrate new applications in which DLTs make sense.
- **Traditional SMEs do not have enough knowledge on how DLTs work** nor how they could uptake these technologies. They need to be sensitized to uptake the technology in their verticals. Lack of knowledge makes them reluctant to technological changes. To make relevant players in the key sectors aware of the DLT advantage is crucial for a major adoption and success of these technologies.
- **A regulatory framework should foster** the uptake and prevent from fraudulent actions such as i.e. those linked to the anonymity of users in transactions. Furthermore, Blockchain SMEs face uncertain regulation that limits their scope of action and imply a risk for their growth.

BLOCKCHERS difference was the focus on the use-case concept, where a technological SME works together with another SME of a traditional sector giving them an innovative solution based in DLTs. The project supports them in the development of the use case, that



will impact positively both in the growth of the technological SME and in the performance of the non-technological one.

After two different open call with 159 eligible proposals from 30 different countries, our portfolio of SMEs and use case was comprised of **30 teams of companies from 12 different European countries**. In the frame of this session, three relevant cases will explain in detail, as real examples of application and success.

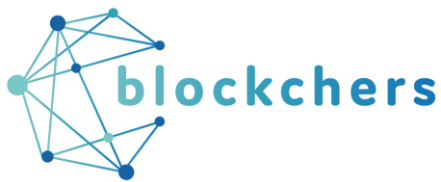
In addition to a financial support up to 50.000€ to the selected SMEs, **BLOCKCHERS** has put in place several free support services oriented to four types of activities:

- Individualized coaching process, directed to ensure the success of the Use-case development, focusing not only on the technical part, but also in related issues as Commercialization strategy and Public Exposure of the company.
- Training by experts: online personalized courses and a Certificate programme in Blockchain by Frankfurt School Business Center and webinars on different topics such as pitch-deck presentations, personalized mentoring activities, etc.
- Access to a DLT infrastructure: possibility to use the Alastria network in the development of the Use cases.
- Networking opportunities: organization of matchmaking events with regional communities of corporates and investors.
- Promotion: free access to major startup events in Europe like Crypto Asset Conference, Paris Blockchain Week Summit, South Summit, Startup Olé and other Conferences. Blog visibility with promoted contents online, etc.

During this event the attendees will have the opportunity to know the main challenges that SMEs have towards this digitalization, and some policy recommendations for the future regulations in the field of these disruptive technologies (Blockchain and DLTs).

The session is jointly organized with other accelerators with a relevant role fostering the adoption of Blockchain and DLTs, by the SMEs in Europe:





BLOCKSTART (www.blockstart.eu) is a 3-stage partnership programme. Each DLT/blockchain startup receives a grant (equity-free) of up to €20,000, tailored tech and business mentoring. This accelerator is focused on fintech, ICT, and retail.

BLOCKPOOL (<https://blockpool.eu>) project has selected for funding 25 SMEs from 27 different countries to develop and test BDLT in 8 distinct sectors.

Registration (limited places):

<https://www.getdrip.com/forms/125986322/submissions/new>

More information:

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