

Blockstart

Increasing SMEs' competitiveness in health, logistics and agrofood with blockchain solutions

Background

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the health, agrofood and logistics sectors rely heavily on data transactions (eg: exchanging medical records, assuring food origin, tracking physical assets). Blockchain optimises internal processes, by allowing for automated, efficient and secure data transactions between parties that do not need to trust each other. However, SMEs are unable to develop & implement blockchain solutions alone, with most R&D projects and investments targeting large corporates / the finance sector. Therefore, SME-specific solutions are not market ready, remaining at Technology Readiness Level TRL 4.



Aim

Blockstart will increase regional competitiveness by helping SMEs in the health, agrofood and logistics sectors take advantage of the opportunities provided by blockchain applications. The project will both unlock the potential value addition of blockchain for SMEs in these sectors and will develop suitable business opportunities for blockchain innovations. Blockstart will improve SMEs' innovation capacity, efficiency and profitability while attracting blockchain experts and innovators in these sectors.

Approach

The project consists of multi-stakeholder challenge groups from 8 countries in the North-West Europe area. An ecosystem of business networks, incubators, and blockchain experts will define (cross) sectoral challenges and address the most pressing issues for SMEs in the health, agrofood and logistics sectors (e.g. data security, tracking & invoicing). This ecosystem will provide business support, networking opportunities and testing environments. SMEs, actively engaged, will test in real-life settings and increase the market readiness of modular and replicable blockchain solutions.



Results

- 4 sharable blockchain solutions with accelerated testing phase and increased technology readiness level (TRL 4-6)
- Decrease data related costs with 20% (based on 10% increased operational efficiency, reducing costs of data errors by 20% and data security by 30%)
- Blockstart creates >20 new jobs and €2M new turnover in the 3 sectors and in ICT
- Validated business cases based on demonstrated blockchain solutions for SMEs
- Modular and reusable blockchain application templates (e.g. "Blockchain as a Service") to be used by other SMEs in health, agrofood and logistics sectors
- Self-sustaining Blockstart ecosystem connecting blockchain innovation demand/supply and expertise with healthcare, logistics and agrofood stakeholders

Impact

Blockstart will increase the competitiveness and competences of SMEs in health, logistics and agrofood in NWE by developing and promoting a wider uptake of the 4 blockchain solutions. Creating an international self-sustaining ecosystem will raise awareness of the business cases and lessons learned. The project will increase the SMEs' efficiency and profitability by reducing risks and costs, and showcasing new business opportunities. This project will bring NWE to the helm of EU blockchain innovation.



Programme	Interreg NWE
Duration	3.5 years
Budget	5 million €
Coordinator	Brightlands

Partners:



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