

Enabling entrepreneurship education providers to teach blockchain technology to their SME and entrepreneur learners



Introducing the BEGIN Blockchain programme

BEGIN Blockchain is an Erasmus+ project bringing together six partners from the UK, Ireland, Denmark, Estonia, The Netherlands and Spain. The overall goal of this programme is: **To enable entrepreneurship education providers to teach blockchain technology to their SME and entrepreneur learners.**

The impact of digital technology adoption on European economies

SMEs are the backbone of our economies. They make up 99% of businesses in the UK, Ireland and across Europe and create 85% of new jobs.

Yet the business environment is changing rapidly, not least due to developments in digital technology. If the EU is to meet its [Startup Scaleup initiative](#) to help more businesses grow faster, more work must be done to teach business managers and entrepreneurs the skills they need to adapt to the digital global economy.

Enable SMEs and entrepreneurs to benefit from blockchain technology by upskilling enterprise educators

By equipping enterprise educators with a strong understanding of the value of blockchain technology skills for the SME sector, they can teach SME managers and entrepreneurs how to identify, evaluate and integrate blockchain technologies into their business models.



What is Blockchain technology?

Simply put, blockchain is a database. While a typical database structures its data in tables, blockchain, as its name implies, stores data in blocks, that are chained together. This structure means that ownership of the database is decentralised, and very secure. Blockchain databases can store any kind of information, but historically have been used for finance, and often for the transaction of cryptocurrencies.

Who is the BEGIN Blockchain programme for?

The overall programme beneficiaries will be SME Managers and entrepreneurs. They will be reached via:

- Entrepreneurship Educators
- VET Managers
- Enterprise Support Organisations
- Other stakeholders engaging with SMEs and entrepreneurs

How can Blockchain help SMEs and entrepreneurs?

Blockchain is reaching a tipping point. SMEs and entrepreneurs choosing to adopt it, as a digital technology, will discover that it can offer a number of benefits to the daily challenges experienced by small businesses. It can:

- Facilitate cashflow

Programme activities and outcomes

The programme will develop and create three innovative and practical resources.



1. Guide to Blockchain Skills Development for SMEs and Start-ups

A publication that introduces the importance of blockchain training for SMEs with high growth potential, illustrated with case studies.



2. BEGIN Problem-based Learning Resources

Structured around a curriculum, this suite of Open Education Resources (OERs) is designed for use by entrepreneurship educators in small groups or coaching scenarios.



3. BEGIN Online Course

A multilingual, interactive learning course in which SME managers and entrepreneurs can access training directly at their own convenience.

- Reduce the risk of cybercrime
- Build supply chains
- Streamline operations

Why do SMEs and entrepreneur learners need to be taught blockchain technology?

Across Europe, economic stability and growth are reliant on SMEs - they represent 99% of businesses and provide 85% of new jobs. With digital technology playing an increasing role in the business environment, and technologies such as blockchain gaining momentum, the choice facing SMEs is "to adapt to change or get life behind". Those SMEs and entrepreneurs that adopt blockchain technology and integrate it into their business models will:

- Remain competitive
- Experience faster growth
- Contribute more to the economy

Get involved

Look out for further information about the programme, including ways in which you can get involved. To register your interest now, please email us at carol.daniels@nationalenterprisenetwork.org

Visit the [BEGIN Blockchain website](#) and stay up to date by connecting with us through our [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) pages.



UNIVERSITY OF TARTU



Universidad de Alcalá



Erasmus+

This programme has been funded with support from the European Commission. The author is solely responsible for this publication (communication) and the Commission accepts no responsibility for any use that may be made of the information contained there.

