

Online Workshop “Towards Global Interoperable Blockchain Infrastructure”

9 July 2020

Geneva, Switzerland (virtual)



This virtual workshop will present ongoing work on the project “**UN/CEFACT Chain – Guidance for cross-border interoperable blockchain infrastructure 4.0**”. The project is following two main directions: 1) to establish a framework/mechanism for development and implementation of the UN/CEFACT blockchain services infrastructure, which will be compatible and in line with other services infrastructure and usable or extendable globally, and 2) to prepare a whitepaper on the strategy for development and implementation of interoperable global blockchain technology infrastructure, taking into consideration existing relevant standards .

Date and time: 9 July 2020 from 10:00 to 13:00 (Geneva time)

Background

How can companies or governments collaborate on an international level? This is not a new problem, but in recent years blockchain and other distributed ledger technologies (DLT) have emerged as a leading contender in new technology to address these challenges. Use cases create opportunities for blockchain to increase trust and transparency among actors, to secure immutable data and increase efficiency in transactions, and incentivize actors to act responsibly according to the rules of a system. Many of these use cases have the characteristics of utilities, which could lead to a vendor lock-in and a disproportionate balance of power in favour of large blockchain solution providers, unless their development is managed carefully. For this reason, interoperability has become a priority for both governments and industry actors conducting pilot projects.

The whitepaper aims to explore the challenges to actually implementing blockchain interoperability from legal, technical, and governance points of view. Interoperability is complex, and the fact that blockchain is still an emerging technology further complicates efforts to solve interoperability in the general case. With most pilot projects being conducted by private sector actors, there is a risk of the dominant technology being chosen by market forces alone. At the same time, there is an opportunity for the public sector to take an active

role in guiding the development of the technology towards incorporating interoperability-by-design, as well as distributed governance models for DLT infrastructure.

Objectives of the Workshop and target audience

The objective of the Workshop is to present ongoing work on the development of the whitepaper through the main structural building blocks: Legal interoperability, Governance interoperability, Technical interoperability, Quantum Key Distribution and presentation of selected use cases analysed through three different aspects of interoperability.

UNECE welcomes the following groups to participate in this Workshop:

- UN/CEFACT experts
- Government officials and policymakers
- Blockchain stakeholders and actors
- Representatives of business associations
- Independent experts from various areas
- General public.

Agenda

10:00–10:15 Welcome speeches

Maria Rosaria Ceccarelli, Chief, Trade Facilitation Section, Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, UNECE

Nena Dokuzov, Project lead, UN/CEFACT Chain project and UN/CEFACT Head of Delegation for Slovenia

Session 1 – Working Groups

- 10:15–10:35, Nathan Williams, Legal interoperability
- 10:35–10:55, Roman Beck, Governance interoperability
- 10:55–11:15, Josip Maričević, Technical interoperability
- 11:15–11:35, Alan Kurešević, Quantum Key Distribution (TBC)
- 11:35–12:00, Nena Dokuzov, Use Cases

Session 2 – Use Cases

- 12:00–12:20 **Blockchain and digital identity**
Alex Puig, The Lorena middleware
Tali Režun, The 4th Pillar e-Delivery
- 12:20–12:40 **Blockchain in value chain/supply chain**
Marianne Schoerling, Minespider Raw Material Sector
Fiona Delaney, IGP Sicilian Oranges Provenance Tracking System
Žiga Drev, Instruments of Trust (TBC)
- 12:40–12:50 **Blockchain in energy**
Winfred K. Mandela, Suncontract (TBC)
Galia Kondova, EU InterConnect Project (TBC)

Participants will be able to submit their questions during the event, which will be gathered and addressed after each of the main sessions.

Connection details

To participate in the Workshop, please register at [online registration link](#) before 9 July 2020. For testing purposes, the meeting link will be **open from 09:00 (Geneva time)**.