

Block.IS

Block.IS Challenges Information Pack

June 2020



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 824509.

Block.IS Consortium			
Participant Number	Participant organisation name	Short name	Country
1	F6S NETWORK LIMITED	F6S	UK
2	INOSENS DOO NOVI SAD	INO	RS
3	INTRASOFT INTERNATIONAL SA	INTRA	LU
4	INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IRELAND LIMITED	IDI	IE
5	POSLOVNO UDRUZENJE VOJVODJANSKI IKT KLASTER	VOICT	RS
6	FEDERACION EMPRESARIAL DE AGROALIMENTACION DE LA COMUNIDAD VALENCIANA	FEDACOVA	ES
7	R-TECH GMBH	IT-Log	DE
8	EUROPEAN DIGITAL SME ALLIANCE	DSME	BE
9	FINTECHSTAGE LTD	FTS	UK
10	UAB CIVITTA	CIVITTA	LT
11	NEDERLANDSE ORGANISATIE VOOR TOEGEPAST NATUURWETENSCHAPPELIJK ONDERZOEK TNO	TNO	NL
12	SYNELIXIS LYSEIS PLIROFORIKIS AUTOMATISMOU & TILEPIKOINONION ANONIMI ETAIRIA	SYN	EL

LEGAL NOTICE

The information and views set out in this application form are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of the European Union. Neither the European Union institutions and bodies nor any person acting on their behalf may be held responsible for the use which may be made of the information contained therein.

Funding Scheme: Innovation Action (IA) • Theme: H2020-INNOSUP-2018-01-two-stage
Start date of project: 01 May 2019 • Duration: 32 months

© Block.IS Consortium, 2020

Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.

Table of contents

1 Introduction & Context 4

2 Challenges Overview 4

3 Eligibility Criteria 5

4 Agenda 5

5 Block.IS Challenge 1: Agrifood – GreenFoodDeal 6

 5.1 Motivation..... 6

 5.2 Theme 6

 5.3 Additional request for participants..... 6

6 Block.IS Challenge 2: Agrifood – Ensure The Agrifood Supply Chain 7

 6.1 Motivation..... 7

 6.2 Theme 7

 6.3 Additional request for participants..... 7

7 Block.IS Challenge 3: Logistics..... 8

 7.1 Motivation..... 8

 7.2 Theme 8

 7.3 Additional request for participants..... 8

8 Block.IS Challenge 4: FinTech..... 8

 8.1 Motivation..... 8

 8.2 Theme 8

 8.3 Additional request for participants..... 8

1 Introduction & Context

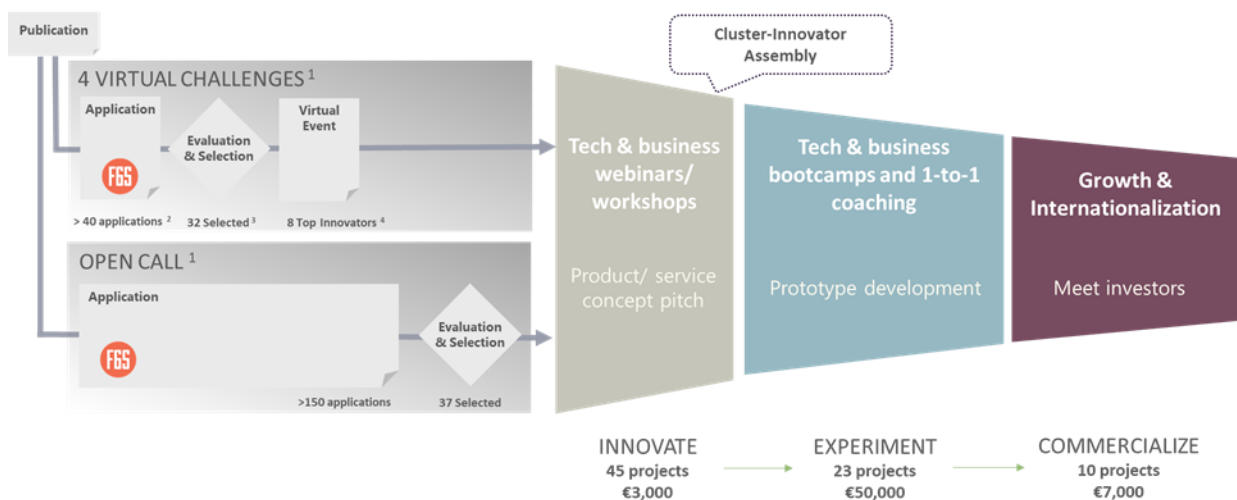
Dear Entrepreneurs,

Block.IS project accelerates innovation in the areas of agrifood, logistics and finance by supporting blockchain-based application proposals from market-oriented SMEs by investing up to 60.000€ (equity free) and offering mentoring services in the most promising SMEs.

The Block.IS 2nd acceleration process has three phases: INNOVATE (where in total 45 proposals will enter), EXPERIMENT (where the 23 top projects from the INNOVATE phase will enter) and COMMERCIALISE (where the 10 top projects from the EXPERIMENT phase will enter).

In parallel, Block.IS organises 4 **Challenges** for the European community of entrepreneurs. Up to eight (8) SMEs will be selected to participate at each Challenge and **two (2) winners per Challenge, in total eight (8) SMEs, will receive 3.000€ and directly enter the INNOVATE phase of the 2nd acceleration process where they will be invited to networking events to showcase their work and get the chance to compete for the full 60.000€ as well as receive mentoring services.**

Block.IS Second Acceleration Process



(1) SMEs can apply to one challenge and open call but cannot be selected in both; (2) >10 applications per challenge; (3) 8 SMEs per challenge; (4) Top 2 per challenge are selected to the INNOVATE phase.

2 Challenges Overview

Up to eight (8) SMEs will be selected to participate at each Challenge. The selection criteria for participating at each challenge will be: 1) the SME fit to challenge, 2) the expected impact of Block.IS support services, 3) the team and 4) the geographical coverage.

Registrations for all challenges will **end on June 30th**, the challenges will take place between **July 6th and July 10th** and will last a **full 25 hours**. Participants will be working on a blockchain-based concept solution to solve a problem routed in the agrifood, logistics and finance industries. The full scope of the problem will be explained on the day of the challenge.

Teams will have up to 3 mentoring breaks with our inhouse experts, each “break” will be of 15 minutes. Once the 25 hours are up, each team will have 10 minutes to present their concept to our

jury and 5 minutes to answer any questions. The top two winners per challenge will be selected applying the same criteria used to select teams in the open call: Concept & technology, Impact, SME/Team.

Teams not selected as winners in the challenge **can apply** to the Block.IS open call process either improving the concept that they presented in the challenge or with a new concept.

The document summarising the full terms and conditions for the 2nd Block.IS Acceleration Programme and the Challenges rules and criteria is available at the Block.IS project website.¹

3 Eligibility Criteria

The main eligibility criteria for SMEs are summarized as follows:

- I. It is a legal entity established and based in one of the EU Member States or an H2020 Associated country as defined in H2020 rules for participation:
- II. It is a technology provider or technology adopter/user providing innovation in the agrifood, logistics and/or finance sector.
- III. Start-ups that do not have yet annual turnover or balance sheets are also considered eligible given that they fulfil specific criteria as described at European Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC at submission time.
- IV. In case an SME is awarded a sub-project, it will remain eligible even if, at a certain point during the sub-project execution, it not considered SME anymore.

The full list of eligibility criteria of the Block.IS 2nd Acceleration Programme are provided at Annex 2, Section 3 (Guidelines for Applicants Document).

4 Agenda

Block.IS Challenges Agenda	
Date, Time (CEST)	Event Agenda Point
June 30 th (17:00)	Applications close on F6S Platform
July 3 rd (17:00)	Announcement of selected SMEs via F6S Platform & Email
July 6 th (13:00)	Start of Challenge 1 Agrifood on Zoom
July 7 th (13:00)	Start of Challenge 3 Logistics on Zoom
July 8 th (13:00)	Start of Challenge 4 FinTech on Zoom
July 9 th (13:00)	Start of Challenge 2 Agrifood on Zoom
July 15 th (17:00)	End of Contract Procedures for Winners
July 22 nd (17:00)	End of Contract Procedures for Reserve list

¹ <https://blockis.eu/apply-now/start-ups-smes/>

5 Block.IS Challenge 1: Agrifood – GreenFoodDeal

5.1 Motivation

We may be facing a change of paradigm on agrifood. European Commission has made a proposal to restore our endangered ecosystem and natural habitat, while increasing our resilience and food sovereignty. #EUGreenDeal #EUBiodiversity

Clusters and Agrifood Associations can play a significant role in providing support to the complete food value chain *From Farm to Fork*². The main goal is to make food systems fair, healthy and environmentally friendly. Blockchain technology could make a solid contribution to create trust and transparency in food value chain.

5.2 Theme

COVID–19 has highlighted the importance of strengthening a sovereign, resilient and environmentally friendly food system. Local farmers, industry and logistics need to get a fair payment, CO₂ emissions must be dramatically reduced, social and environmental dumping must be eliminated.

Clusters and Associations are key to provide means and tools to assess all member of the value chain on their process towards this new GreenFoodDeal. A platform built with blockchain where participants state information related to the origin, quality, composition or other relevant aspects of their products would improve the traceability and accountability on this value chain.

Blockchain will provide trust

- about all the raw materials, fruits, vegetables, meat and food, their origin, treatments, social condition of producers (providing confidence and tools against fraud, re-labelling and other bad praxis)
- transformation processes respectful towards the environment, reduce of emissions, reuse and circular economy practices
- logistics with priority to short channels.

Objectives

Contribute to the following objectives (most of them included on 'A Farm to Fork Strategy'³):

- Improving sustainable food production
- Ensuring food security
- Stimulating sustainable food processing
- Promote sustainable food consumption, sustainable and healthy diets
- Reducing food loss and waste
- Combating food fraud along the food supply chain

5.3 Additional request for participants

Experience on blockchain solution for the agrifood sector.

² https://ec.europa.eu/food/farm2fork_en

³ https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/communication-annex-farm-fork-green-deal_en.pdf

6 Block.IS Challenge 2: Agrifood – Ensure The Agrifood Supply Chain

6.1 Motivation

The agrifood sector has shown itself capable of resisting a global pandemic and the countless problems it implies, such as the closure of borders. Innovation and development are essential to the evolution of a sector of vital importance to our regions.

Preventing new sanitary risks, improving production and logistics processes and optimizing systems will be key to ensure that products and the supply chain can withstand further potential national and international crises.

6.2 Theme

The COVID-19 crisis is teaching us many things, like the need to strengthen the supply chain to our supermarkets. The increase in sales of some food products and the lack of provision of certain resources for their manufacture has broken the supply chain of certain goods, generating temporary shortages, in flour, snacks, and other agrifood products.

This could be avoided by having a platform for exchanging reliable and non-reputable data among the actors in the food value chain. These features can be provided by blockchain. This platform will, hence, provide the data to build, on top of it, methods to control suppliers' stock, foreplan purchases, make forecasts, implement automatic replenishment, etc.

Blockchain will provide trust

1. To provide a business network that connects suppliers and distributors so that the supplier can share information like its sales history and warehouse stock in a secure and confidential manner with customers. This will allow customers to control their suppliers' stock and anticipate purchases, make forecasts, automatic replenishment, etc.
2. The platform must allow participants to flexibly define transactions according to the required information exchanges. The platform will define a set of transactions that are relatively standard across the platform. However, you may want to flexibly customize them or add new ones. This will be done through smart contracts.
3. The supplier is given the opportunity to share its purchase history through a system of smart contracts to optimise the orders with the distributor. In addition to the distributors, it allows them to have an aggregated view of their customers' orders. Forecast of the demand for weeks, monthly, quarterly, etc.

Objectives

- To improve stability in the warehouses of companies supplying food producers.
- To help the management and communication systems of the agro-food value chain.
- To ensure the supply chain and prevent stock breakages.

6.3 Additional request for participants

Experience on blockchain solution for the agrifood sector.

7 Block.IS Challenge 3: Logistics

7.1 Motivation

In the logistics industry there are some areas in which blockchain technology can lead to a fundamental change. Many processes have not changed in decades and still happen on paper. This not only harms our environment but is also slow, expensive, manipulable and out of date. The use of blockchain technology, with all its advantages, could speed up the processes and thereby reduce administration costs as well as ensure the transparency and authorization of the goods.

7.2 Theme

In times of COVID-19, in which everyone realizes how important functioning supply chains are and entire deliveries in other countries simply disappear, more transparency through secure documentation and authorization should be an absolute priority. The bill of lading is just such a non-transparent process. It has hardly developed over the past 30 years and urgently needs to be replaced by a digital concept. The challenge is to use blockchain to create a secure environment for documentation and authorization of the freight in order to avoid the exchange of papers between buyers, sellers and forwarders along the transport chain.

7.3 Additional request for participants

The SME domain must be aligned with the theme of the challenge, in this case logistics.

8 Block.IS Challenge 4: FinTech

8.1 Motivation

Blockchain has gained tremendous momentum globally and is recognized as a disruptive technology platform that has the potential to greatly disrupt many sectors. In the financial industry, where this challenge will focus, the Blockchain technology has already proven its versatility and positive impact. From allowing lower costs and faster execution of transactions to improving the transparency and auditability of operations, Blockchain facilitates safe, easy exchanges and build trusts quickly between partners.

8.2 Theme

The coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak is causing widespread concern and economic hardship for consumers, businesses, and communities across the globe. The situation is fast moving with wide impacts. One of consequences of the pandemic is that both bank and non-bank lenders as well as servicers face some unique challenges at the momen And it is exactly one of these challenges that we will ask you to solve, using the blockchain technology.

8.3 Additional request for participants

The SME domain must be aligned with the theme of the challenge, in this case lending.