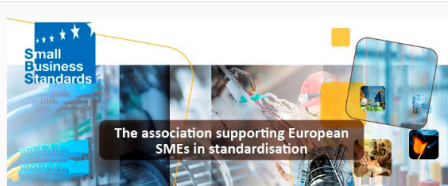


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Brussels, 16 May 2023

JOINT PRESS RELEASE

Launch of new EU-funded project BlockStand: Levelling up European leadership in blockchain standardisation

Brussels, 16 May 2023

- Today, the consortium composed of the DIGITAL SME Alliance, leading the project, and the partners Small Business Standards (SBS), the International Association for Trusted Blockchain Applications (INATBA) and UNINFO, launched the new EU-funded project **BlockStand**, aimed at supporting the participation of European experts in blockchain standardisation activities
- BlockStand is a new building block for EU leadership in global blockchain standardisation, ensuring the reflection of European values in internationally used standards
- Over a two-year cycle, the project will feature a Blockchain Standardisation Platform, a web-based one-stop-shop for any stakeholders to connect and find all resources on blockchain standardisation
- An experts selection process will be launched in July 2023 providing up to 6400.000 for European experts' participation in technical committees and for other blockchain-related standardisation activities

Blockchain is an important technology for the EU's industrial leadership on the international level. BlockStand will not only enable European leadership in global blockchain standardisation but will also ensure that internationally used blockchain standards reflect European values. Through the coordination of SME experts' inputs, recruited via an experts' selection process to be launched at the beginning of July, BlockStand will create an online blockchain community platform comprised of all relevant stakeholders. Its aim is threefold:

- Support the implementation of the Rolling Plan for ICT Standardisation chapter on blockchain and DLT (Distributed Ledger Technology)
- Reinforce links with the European Blockchain Services Infrastructure (EBSI) and the European Blockchain Partnership (EBP)
- Support participation of European standardisation experts in international and European standard developing organisations

The project consortium invites all interested stakeholders to get together and bring the European blockchain standardisation community forward. For regular updates about the funding calls and other information, a preliminary [expression of interest](#) in the project can already be submitted.

*** END ***



About SBS

Small Business Standards (SBS) is a European non-profit association (anb) co-financed by the European Union and EFTA Member States. As an Annex III organisation under Regulation (EU) 1025/2012, its goal is to represent and defend small and medium-sized enterprises' (SMEs) interests in the standardisation process at European and international levels.

About the European DIGITAL SME Alliance

The European DIGITAL SME Alliance (DIGITAL SME) is the largest network of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the ICT sector in Europe, connecting more than 45,000 digital SMEs. The Alliance is the joint effort of 30 national and regional SME associations from EU Member States and neighbouring countries to put digital SMEs at the centre of the EU agenda. Through its advocacy work in all areas of digital policy and regulation, and thanks to its active presence in technical committees such as ISO/IEC, IEEE, CEN-CENELEC and ETSI, DIGITAL SME has been able to achieve decisive strategic successes for SMEs in the area of digitalisation.

About INATBA

Launched in 2019 with the support of the European Commission, INATBA – International Association for Trusted Blockchain Applications, is a highly influential association advocating for blockchain and DLT adoption in Europe and globally. INATBA is mainly known for its work with regulatory authorities and policymakers and is appreciated for its contributions to Markets in Crypto Assets Regulation (MiCA), Transfer of Funds Regulation (TFR), electronic Identification, Authentication and Trust Services (eIDAS), the EU-funded CHARGE Project, the EU Pact for Skills, Academic & Governmental Advisory Bodies, and its passionate diverse global community of CEOs, CTOs, Heads of Policy, Public/Institutional Relations, Legal, Marketing & BizDev, Developers, Policymakers. To learn more, visit www.inatba.org.

About UNINFO

UNINFO is a not-for-profit association and an Associated Body to UNI (the Italian Standards Organisation) responsible for the information technologies field. UNINFO represents Italy in standardisation activities at the European and international levels for the ICT sector and organises the participation of national delegations in the standardisation work. On blockchain, it has taken a leading role at CEN-CENELEC's JTC19, dedicated to blockchain and DLT standardisation activities.

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