

Institute For the Future

Change is coming, let's shape it together

Blockchain, Digital Assets and Web3

- | Education & Training
- | Research & Development
- | Community & Events



UNIC | Institute For
the Future

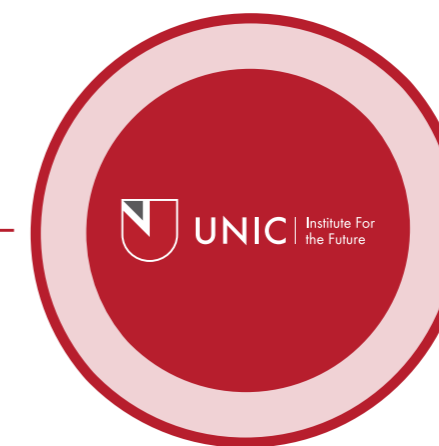
unic.ac.cy/iff

Leading Digital Assets and Web3 Education & Research Since 2013

**1st University to offer crypto education,
MSc in Blockchain & Digital Currency**



**95,000+ participants
in crypto, blockchain
and Web3 training
from 120+ Countries**



**1st to publish
blockchain-verifiable
academic certificates
as NFTs**



**M GLOBAL
FORECASTING
COMPETITIONS**



**FREE MOOCs:
-DIGITAL CURRENCIES
-DEFI
-NFTS & METAVERSE**



**ONLINE & ON CAMPUS
MSc DEGREE IN
BLOCKCHAIN AND
DIGITAL CURRENCY**



**ONLINE MSc DEGREE
IN COMPUTER SCIENCE
& BLOCKCHAIN
TECHNOLOGIES**



**MSc DEGREE IN
METAVERSE SYSTEMS
*UNDER DEVELOPMENT,
EXPECTED TO BE
OFFERED IN 2023**



**ONLINE BLOCKCHAIN
ACADEMIC
CERTIFICATION
PROGRAMS**



**BLOCKCHAIN PROTOCOLS,
DECENTRALIZED FINANCE,
MACHINE LEARNING,
FORECASTING**



**INDUSTRY & EU
FUNDED APPLIED
RESEARCH**



**DECENTRALIZED
CONFERENCE &
CHAPTERS**



**GLOBAL
FORECASTING
COMPETITIONS**

46 Makedonitissas Avenue, CY-2417
P.O. Box 24005, CY-1700, Nicosia, Cyprus
Tel: +357 22 367209
Email: iff@unic.ac.cy
Web: unic.ac.cy/iff

IFF Governing Board



Antonis Polemitis
CEO, University of Nicosia



Prof Dimitris Drikakis
VP, Global Partnerships, University of Nicosia



Prof George Giaglis
Executive Director, IFF, University of Nicosia



Prof Soulla Louca
Director, IFF, University of Nicosia



Prof Spyros Makridakis
Director, MOFC, University of Nicosia



Prof Marinos Themistocleous
Director, IFF, University of Nicosia

IFF Industry Fellows & Instructors



Andreas Antonopoulos



Jeff Bandman



Dr Pasquale Cirillo



Irénée Dondjio



Dr George Dotsis



Dr Konstantions Karasavvas



Dr Apostolos Kourtis



Athanasios Leontaris



Stefan Loesch



Dr Theodosios Mourouzis



Dr Evangelos Spiliotis



Prof Nassim Nicholas Taleb



Mark Toohey



Dr Dimitrios Tzouvas



Ioannis Vlachos



Dr Konstantinos Votis

IFF Faculty & Research



Prof Maria Michailidis
Director, MOFC



Dr Klitos Christodoulou



Dr Ifigenia Georgiou



Dr Elias Iosif



Dr Ariana Polyviou



Dr Charis Savvides



Dr Leonidas Katelaris



Lambis Dionysopoulos



Eugenia Kapassa



Stamatis Papangelou



Marios Touloupos



Jakub Houser

IFF Staff



Kristina Arapidou



Hazal Aripinar



Nick Assimenos



Maria Charalambous



Marianna Charalambous



George Ioannou



Armantos Katsiouloude



Elena Kontemeniotis



Ioanna Pavlou



Andreas Michael



Zoe Constantinou



Valentinos Theofilou



Gamaliel Dafe Tuoyo



Myvonne Alasia



Alik Ntouzou



Demetris Klokkaris

Free MOOC on Digital Currencies

Taught by **Andreas Antonopoulos, Antonis Polemitis and George Giaglis**
 Attended by **95,000+** students since 2014

Course name:	BLOC-511DL: Digital Currency
Duration:	12 weeks
Mode of study:	Distance Learning/Online
Language of instruction:	English
ECTS credits:	10

Digital Currency covers both a technical overview of decentralised digital currencies (e.g. Bitcoin) as well as their broader economic, legal and financial context.

The course starts with a basic technical overview of Bitcoin and then further explores the potential financial and non-financial changes that cryptocurrencies can enable.

Top Student Countries

- 1 United States
- 2 Canada
- 3 United Kingdom
- 4 Spain
- 5 Cyprus
- 6 The Netherlands
- 7 Germany
- 8 Australia
- 9 China
- 10 Brazil



Certificates issued on the blockchain



Rated Excellent by 95% of students



95,000+ enrolled students



International student community from over 120 countries



100% of students are likely to recommend the MOOC to others



88% of students say that the MOOC improved their skills and/or career

TOP REASONS TO REGISTER:

- 1. CONTINUOUSLY UPDATED**
to keep up with current advances.
- 2. TAUGHT BY CRYPTOCURRENCY EXPERTS**
Andreas Antonopoulos, Antonis Polemitis and George Giaglis.
- 3. FREE REGISTRATION**
and free certificate of completion.
- 4. PERSONAL SUPPORT**
Q&A and flexible schedule.
- 5. JOIN OUR LARGE COMMUNITY**
of present and former students (95,000+).

Free MOOC on Decentralized Finance (DeFi)

First open online course on DeFi in the world

Course name:	BLOC-529DL: Introduction to Decentralized Finance (DeFi)
Duration:	12 weeks
Mode of study:	Distance Learning/Online
Language of instruction:	English

Introduction to Decentralized Finance (DeFi) provides an introductory, yet thorough, coverage of the field of DeFi and its main components, including decentralized exchanges (DEXs), automated market making (AMM), liquidity mining, yield farming, stablecoins, blockchain derivatives, DeFi protocol governance and others.

Decentralized Finance (DeFi) has emerged as a blockchain-based form of finance that leverages innovations in cryptocurrencies and smart contracts to build fair, inclusive, and robust financial systems that do not rely on central financial intermediaries, such as banks, brokerages or exchanges. DeFi applications disrupt the traditional financial services industry by allowing people lend, borrow and trade financial assets without intermediaries.

In this course, you will familiarize yourself with the fundamentals of DeFi, its underlying technologies, popular applications, and transformative potential. The course will:

- Delineate the principles by which decentralized finance operates.
- Conceptualize the innovation/novelty and risks of DeFi by drawing parallels to its traditional financial (TradFi) applications.
- Survey the full range of existing DeFi applications and protocols.
- Explain how DeFi may disrupt existing financial system architectures.
- Discuss related emerging developments related to DeFi, such as Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs).



UNIC's DeFi course is a wonderful introduction to the fast-paced Decentralized Finance space. It doesn't matter if you want to build or just learn more - the staff and well-crafted curriculum have you covered! Expect a quick and exciting journey through what may well be the future of finance, with easy to understand material, even if you aren't particularly technical. By the end, you should have a solid understanding of what's going on.

Mario Panagiotopoulos
 Internal Audit Manager, Piraeus Bank

TOP REASONS TO REGISTER:

- 1. BE PART OF THE DEFI REVOLUTION**
Take a deep dive in the world of Decentralized Exchanges, Liquidity Mining, Yield Farming, Stablecoins, CBDCs and more.
- 2. TAUGHT BY EXPERTS**
UNIC's CEO Antonis Polemitis, Professor George M. Giaglis and Dr Klitos Christodoulou are joined by DeFi industry veterans and guest speakers.
- 3. FREE REGISTRATION**
100% free to attend, including access to all material, live sessions and final quiz.
- 4. FULL INTERACTIVITY**
12 live Q&A sessions and a flexible schedule
- 5. CLAIM ACADEMIC CERTIFICATES AS NFTS**
Optional one-off fee to receive "Certificate of Accomplishment" as NFTs.

Free MOOC on Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs) and the Metaverse

First open online course delivered on-chain and in the metaverse

Course name:	META-511: Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs) and the Metaverse
Duration:	12 weeks
Mode of study:	Distance Learning/Online
Language of instruction:	English

Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs) and the Metaverse provides a thorough, coverage of the fields of Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs), the Metaverse and Web3, including digital assets classes (fungible and non-fungible), representation of off-chain assets with NFTs, copyright and provenance in NFTs, and exploration of the usage of NFTs as a platform medium for digital art.

Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs) and the Metaverse course will showcase key considerations in the NFT space with a walk through in gaming and trends in visualization technology. Furthermore, evolution of the Metaverse and financing models in the NFTs are presented by touching upon the topics such as: DAOs, token offerings, crowdfunding and venture capital. The course will:

- Explain the main functionalities and usages of Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs)
- Explore the world of tokens and the applications of tokenization
- Explain the concepts of copyright and provenance in the NFT space
- Conceptualize the innovation and risks of NFTs
- Discuss financing models in NFTs and the Metaverse

LECTURERS:



PUNK 6529
Influential thinker on NFTs & Metaverse
one of the largest NFT collectors in the world



PROFESSOR GEORGE GIAGLIS
Executive Director, Institute For the Future
University of Nicosia

FEATURED GUEST LECTURERS:



BALAJI SRINIVASAN
General Partner - a16z
Former CTO - Coinbase



FRED WILSON
Co-Founder and Partner,
Union Square Ventures



KEITH GROSSMAN
President,
TIME Magazine



CHRIS DIXON
General Partner,
Andreessen Horowitz



YAT SIU
Chairman
Animoca Brands



4156
Co-Founder
Nouns

TOP REASONS TO REGISTER:

- FIRST ON-CHAIN COURSE IN THE WORLD**
whole course is implemented on Web3, without touching upon centralized systems
- FULL IN-METaverse EXPERIENCE**
all course sessions take place in UNIC's Virtual Campus in the Open Metaverse.
- MORE THAN 50 GUEST LECTURERS**
the two course lecturers are joined by an amazing team of NFT artists, collectors, entrepreneurs and thinkers.
- FULL FLEXIBILITY**
12 weeks of live sessions & invited talks in the metaverse, live streamed on YouTube and recorded for on-demand watching.
- CLAIM ACADEMIC CERTIFICATES AS NFTs**
one-off fee for students interested in receiving a "Certificate of Accomplishment" as NFT



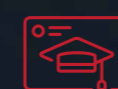
UNIC | Open Metaverse Initiative

A new comprehensive initiative focused on the academic, research and policy issues relating to the metaverse.

About the Initiative

The Department of Digital Innovation and the Institute For the Future (IFF) of the University of Nicosia (UNIC) recently announced the UNIC Open Metaverse Initiative, a new comprehensive initiative focused on the academic, research and policy issues relating to the metaverse, with a particular emphasis on open public systems and standards.

Focus Areas:



Academic/Professional
Training Programmes



Research
& Policy



Innovation and
Entrepreneurialism



NFTs on
Campus

MSc in Blockchain and Digital Currency

The first and leading university degree in the world focused on Blockchain & Digital Currency

Course name:	Master of Science in Blockchain and Digital Currency
Duration:	3 semesters or 18 months
Mode of study:	-Distance Learning/Online or -On campus
Language of instruction:	English
ECTS credits:	90 (9 modules)

The MSc in Blockchain and Digital Currency is the first- and the leading academic degree programme globally on decentralised digital currencies and blockchains (distributed ledger technology). By participating in this fully flexible online program, students are positioning themselves to be part of an exclusive set of professionals in business, law, startups, government and IT that have a broad understanding of the financial, technical, regulatory, cryptographic and game theoretic aspects of this technology.



The MSc Digital Currency program is a MUST in order to gain the skills required to navigate and lead in an emerging tokenized economy. The intersectionality between technology, law, programming value and the application of blockchain was perhaps most stimulating for me. I met the most incredible people along the way, CEOs, physicians, students hungry to learn more. The professors and staff challenged us to do better – thank you!!

Monique J. Morrow, Class of 2019

Senior Distinguished Architect for Emerging Technologies,
Syniverse and ex-CTO Cisco Systems



As I progressed through the MSc program I knew that I had found my passion. The program focused on a variety of topics including understanding the idea of money, the technical intricacies of blockchain technology and the principles of innovation. Courses were stimulating and insightful and they also gave me the opportunity to interact with my peers from across the globe. Simply hearing and discussing the different perspectives of others further highlighted how impactful digital currencies are for the future of finance. With each one of these interactions, I knew that I was a part of a program that would shape the future. After graduating, I found an opportunity to work at Coinbase, one of the leading companies in the crypto industry.

Trey Edwards, Class of 2019

Project Manager, Coinbase

TOP REASONS TO STUDY MSc IN BLOCKCHAIN AND DIGITAL CURRENCY:

1.

ACADEMIC QUALITY

Taught by leading faculty and industry practitioners from around the world

2.

STUDENT COMMUNITY

Join the largest student community in the world (over 1,350 students registered since 2014)

3.

BECOME A BLOCKCHAIN PROFESSIONAL

Developer, consultant, regulator, business analyst, financial analyst, startup entrepreneur

4.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Excellent professional development and networking opportunities among students and the broader UNIC community

5.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Over €300,000 in scholarships annually

MSc in Computer Science

Concentration in Blockchain Technologies

Qualification:	Master of Science in Computer Science
Duration:	3 semesters or 18 months
Mode of study:	Distance Learning/Online
Language of instruction:	English
Minimum ECTS credits:	90 (9 modules)

The Master's degree in Computer Science advances the students' knowledge in core areas of computer science beyond the undergraduate level and exposes them to current and emerging trends.

The programme offers a concentration in Blockchain Technologies focused on application of decentralized ledger technology across a wide range of applications.

Profile of the Programme

The Master's degree in Computer Science prepares the student for a wide variety of computer-oriented careers, such as research, development, management, and teaching. The degree constitutes an independent and terminal study in addition to providing the basis for acceptance to, and continued studies towards a doctoral degree in computer science. The programme has three concentrations: (a) Cyber Security, (b) Mobile Systems and, (c) Blockchain Technologies.

The concentration in Blockchain Technologies focuses on the fundamentals of digital currencies and the underlying blockchain technology. Emphasis is given on programmable smart contracts and the associated architectures such as Ethereum. The programme aims to prepare students on the potential impact of these technologies on various applications including those based on Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and Internet of Things.



"Studying Computer Science at UNIC is a great experience. The staff is knowledgeable and always willing to share their expertise and provide support. The majority of classes have an impressively low student-to-teacher ratio, which makes it easier to get to know your fellow classmates, and also gives professors the opportunity to familiarise themselves with their students and deliver material at the right pace."

Hanna Sababa, Class of 2018

Computer Science, Full-Stack Developer, Amdacs

Career Prospects

Graduates of the MSc programme with the specialization in Blockchain Technologies should be able to:

- Hold managerial positions in the ICT industry or government offices
- Work as Senior Blockchain Engineers developing new decentralised solutions
- Work as Blockchain Architects designing new blockchain systems
- Become Senior Technical Developers or Administrators in the ICT marketplace
- Become Entrepreneurs and establish their own enterprises
- Continue studying towards a doctoral degree
- Hold positions such as Blockchain Advisors or Consultants

Academic Certification Programs

Duration:	Workload:	Mode of Study:
18 weeks 3 courses of 6 weeks each	12h/week	Self-paced online training

Academic Certification Programs are designed for people who want to become competent blockchain professionals but do not wish to embark on a full MSc programme.

Academic Certification Programs consist of three courses of the MSc in Blockchain and Digital Currency and are delivered by the same world-class instructors and in the same mode of delivery.

- 1. Blockchain Financial Analyst Certification Program:**
Focuses on Principles of Money, Banking & Finance, Emerging Topics in Fintech, Open & Decentralized Financial Systems and Token Economics
- 2. Blockchain Business Analyst Certification Program:**
Focuses on Blockchain Systems & Architectures, Emerging Topics in Blockchain & Digital Currency and Blockchain & Entrepreneurship Management
- 3. Blockchain Developer Certification Program:**
Focuses on Digital Currency Programming, Smart contract programming, Permissioned Blockchain Programming and Cryptographic Systems Security
- 4. Blockchain Regulator Certification Program:**
Focuses on Token Economics, Law & Regulation in Blockchain and Emerging Topics in Law and Regulation

Free MOOC - BLOC-511DL: Digital Currency is recommended as an additional course. It provides introductory understanding of crypto assets and blockchain technology.

Customised Executive Training

- In collaboration with private and public organisations, IFF customises and delivers blockchain related courses
- Courses are customised based on the industry, job function, technology and organisational needs
- The duration of the training courses varies depending on the topic and seniority level
- IFF has delivered many courses to organisations around the world

TOP REASONS TO INVEST IN IFF BLOCKCHAIN TRAINING:

- 1. UNIQUELY POSITION YOURSELF**
in a rapidly growing industry
- 2. CONSTANTLY UPDATED COURSES**
in place with developments in the technology separating hype from real-work applications
- 3. UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES**
for career advancements and growing together with a new industry
- 4. UNDERSTAND THE IMPACT**
in your sector, before it disrupts your business
- 5. GAIN COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE**
by interacting with experts in the field



MOFC
Learn. Forecast. Compete. Disseminate. Excel.

THE MAKRIDAKIS OPEN FORECASTING CENTER

M6 COMPETITION: February 2022 – February 2023

Organizers:



UNIVERSITY of NICOSIA



Forecasting &
Strategy Unit at
National Technical
University of Athens



Center for Decision
Making and Risk
Analysis at INSEAD

MOFC
Learn. Forecast. Compete. Disseminate. Excel.

Learn. Forecast.
Compete.
Disseminate. Excel.

MOFC

THE MAKRIDAKIS OPEN FORECASTING CENTER (MOFC)

The Makridakis Open Forecasting Center (MOFC) is led by IFF Director, Prof Spyros Makridakis, a pioneer in the field and for many, the founding figure of forecasting, Prof Maria Michailidis, and a number of associates.

The MOFC conducts cutting-edge forecasting research, provides business support and training with emphasis on: achieving accurate predictions, estimating the levels of uncertainty, avoiding costly mistakes and applying best forecasting practices to businesses.

The mission of the MOFC is to conduct multidisciplinary research in the area of forecasting with emphasis on accuracy and uncertainty and to expand the utilization of forecasting to business firms by identifying their needs, suggesting the most appropriate way of fulfilling them, demonstrating its benefits in reducing costs and/or improving profits while also avoiding untested practices.

The Center's vision is to improve the accuracy of forecasting as well as the correct estimation of uncertainty and to offer specific suggestions on how such improvements can be made and how to rationally deal with the ensuing risks.

M5 COMPETITION

March 2 to 30 June 2020

The M5 Competition was the latest of the M Competitions. The competition used actual/authentic data generously made available by Walmart and implemented using Kaggle's Platform. The competition was a huge success with over 100,000 entries from forecasters from over 100 countries competing for the \$100,000 prizes. The Accuracy Challenge is currently Kaggle's 6th most popular competition of all time based on the number of teams.

M5 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

6-7 December, 2021

Following the M5 Competition, the M5 Virtual Conference presented and analyzed the findings of the most accurate winning forecasting methods as well as suggested how what was learned from the competition can be implemented into future forecasting methods.

M PUBLICATION

December, 2022

Similar to the M4 Publication that includes 35 papers covering all aspects of the M4 Competition and Conference, there is a special issue devoted to the M5 Competition, focusing on how what has been learned can be integrated and applied in practice, will be published in the International Journal of Forecasting. Practitioners have been invited to submit their articles, comments and suggestions on how future competitions can be improved.



University of Nicosia,
Cyprus



Forecasting &
Strategy Unit at
National Technical
University of Athens



Center for Decision
Making and Risk
Analysis at INSEAD



Learn. Forecast.
Compete.
Disseminate. Excel.

M6 Sponsors

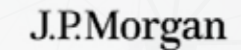
Platinum Sponsor



Gold Sponsor



Diamond Sponsor



THE MAKRIDAKIS OPEN FORECASTING CENTER (MOFC)

M6 COMPETITION

February 2022 – February 2023

The aim of the M6 Competition is similar to the previous five: that is to empirically identify the most appropriate way of forecasting financial (stock and ETF) prices as well as to investigate the connection between the accuracy of such forecasts and the associated returns on investment. Its purpose is to shed new light on the EMH (Efficient Market Hypothesis) by explaining the poor performance of professionally managed funds, as well as the exceptional achievements of the likes of Warren Buffet, Peter Lynch and George Soros as well as celebrated firms including Blackstone, Bridgewater Associates and Renaissance Technologies. An objective of the M6 competition is to learn as much as possible about the factors producing above average financial returns and their relation to accurate forecasting while explaining deviations from the EMH and why they occur.

M6 CONFERENCE

Following the M6 Competition, the M6 Conference will present, analyze and discuss the findings of the winning methods as well as explore how what was learned from the competition can be implemented to advance the theory and practice of forecasting.

M PUBLICATION

Following the completion of the M6 Competition there will be a special issue of the International Journal of Forecasting, as it was done with the M4 and M5 competitions, exclusively devoted to papers describing the winning methods and what we have learned while providing comments and discussions on all aspects of the M6 as well as suggestions on how future competitions could be improved.

M APPLIED FORECASTING COURSE

The M Applied Forecasting Course is a six week online course, covering all types of forecasting in both time series and regression, offering concrete insight to businesses on how to improve their accuracy realistically estimating the uncertainty in their forecasts and its implications to risk. In addition to the traditional forecasting methods, newer ones will be presented like Machine Deep and Cross Learning.

The most important advantage of the course is its emphasis on hands-on learning by encouraging participants to use actual data to both predict and estimate the uncertainty of their forecasts and its implication to risk. This course will offer students the opportunity to harness 40 years of Professor Makridakis knowledge and experience and master forecasting, in six weeks. In addition, Dr. Evangelos Spiliotis will present the R popular forecasting software and how they can be used, while Dr. Cirillo will lecture on fat-tails and their implications to forecasting and uncertainty.

Research

€8m+ in competitive European Commission research grants since 2017

Areas of Research

- Blockchain Protocols
- Decentralized Finance (DeFi)
- NFTs and Blockchain-based Metaverse
- Decentralized Autonomous Organizations (DAOs)
- Convergence of Blockchains with AI, IoT and VR
- Data Science and Analytics in Blockchains
- Forecasting
- Machine Learning

The IFF was founded to explore the hypothesis that exponential technologies will cause rapidly accelerating societal change. Technologies like blockchain and artificial intelligence are highly disruptive, even individually. However, as they reach commercial maturity and start becoming synergistic, they are expected to have compounding effects on the economy, social structures, legal systems, income distribution, governance, education, and warfare – and raise fundamental questions on how future society is organised.

Academic and Research Excellence

- IFF research is being published in top conferences and journals
- IFF members organise leading conferences, minitracks and tracks
- IFF faculty serves as editors in well-established scientific journals
- IFF participates in R&D projects funded by EU and industry
- Joint research with 100+ organisations
- Large network of academic collaborators
- Strong contribution to the scientific community
- Accelerating research track record

Representative Research Co-Participants



Research

Distributed Ledgers Research Centre (DLRC)

DLRC positions itself as the bridge between pure academic research and the open challenges from the wider Blockchain ecosystem. The Centre aims to advance the field with transformative applications of the technology that emerge directly from the ecosystem.



FOCUS ON CHALLENGES FROM THE ECOSYSTEM

We focus on the transformative future of Blockchain Technologies by supporting Blockchain protocols from the ecosystem to collaborate, do research and solve real-world challenges.



PROMOTE INDEPENDENT RESEARCH

We provide engagement opportunities with the uses of the technology through an open, collaborative environment of Blockchain Researchers and other technology practitioners from the wider Blockchain ecosystem.



FOSTERING A COMMUNITY OF APPLIED RESEARCH

We are publishing independent academic research on the pragmatic challenges of Blockchains and Distributed Ledgers, while at the same time accelerating societal change for the benefit of the society.

Join the DLRC Community

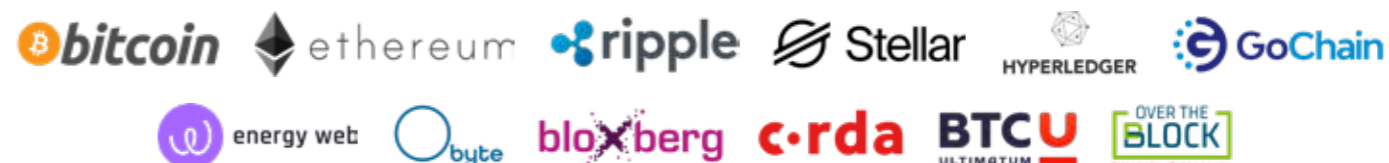
DLRC seeks collaborations with:

- Like-minded individuals, and blockchain enthusiasts with technical expertise (Blockchain Developers, Blockchain Researchers, Researchers in Data Analytics etc.) from the wider blockchain eco-system;
- Individual researchers from other Institutions to join the Lab and create synergies;
- Industry scholars or other Blockchains experts;
- Faculty members that would like to expand their network of collaborators;

... and those that seek to do applied research on the future of Blockchains in collaboration with projects from the ecosystem.



Supporting the Blockchain Ecosystem



Research, Institutional & Industry Projects



UNIC is a member of the consortium that has been awarded by the European Central Bank (ECB) a contract for the provision of strategic consultation, training, and SW development services on key emerging technologies, including SupTech, FinTech, Artificial Intelligence and Blockchain, by leveraging the European innovation ecosystem. UNIC will provide tailored training sessions, online and on-prem in Frankfurt, including the creation of customised materials and delivery of sessions with a blend of theoretical and practical content. In addition, it will provide monitoring services about emerging technology trends and will analyze their disruptive potential.



Ripple have entered a multi-year agreement with UNIC to support its world-leading initiatives in the areas of blockchain technology and cryptocurrency, through support of academic research, technical development and student scholarships. This agreement is part of Ripple's University Blockchain Research Initiative, through which Ripple is funding basic and applied research at some of the leading universities in the area of blockchain technology and cryptocurrency, including UNIC, MIT, Stanford, Princeton, Wharton, UCL and others.



The European Union Blockchain Observatory and Forum (EUBOF) is a European Commission initiative aiming to accelerate blockchain innovation and the development of the blockchain ecosystem within the EU, and so help cement Europe's position as a global leader in this transformative new technology. The University of Nicosia (UNIC) occupies the role of academic partner of the Consortium, who has distinguished itself as a pioneer in blockchain and Distributed Ledger Technologies (DLTs) higher education. UNIC is responsible for helping the EUBOF in filling the gap that exists today between the supply of and demand for academic knowledge in the area of blockchain.



Infinitech aims to provide the technological capabilities, the experimentation facilities (testbeds & sandboxes) and the business models needed to enable European financial organizations, insurance enterprises and FinTech/ InsuranceTech innovators to fully leverage the benefits of BigData, IoT and AI technologies. The latter benefits include a shift towards autonomous (i.e. automated and intelligent) processes, that are dynamically adaptable and personalized to end-users' needs, while being compliant to the sector's complex regulatory environment. The University of Nicosia (UNIC) offers its own important know-how and experience on the field of blockchain applications and has a decisive contribution in the project working in close collaboration with the project partners.



PARITY addresses the "structural inertia" of existing distribution grids by delivering a transactive grid & market framework that will increase the durability and efficiency of the electrical grid and facilitate the penetration of RES beyond 50% of the generation mix in the distribution network. Regarding blockchain, PARITY will offer distributed intelligence (DER profiling) and self-learning/self-organization capabilities (automated real-time distributed control), orchestrated by the cost-reflective flexibility market signals generated by the blockchain market platform.



Stellar Development Foundation has entered into an agreement with the University of Nicosia (UNIC), aiming to provide educational support in bridging the gap between technical education and hands-on experience through the recently launched Stellar Next-Gen, an initiative established with the objective to foster the growth and development of blockchain and FinTech education amongst tomorrow's business leaders and developers.



TRUSTFOOD is an ambitious Digital Europe project that aspires to design and deliver short-term training courses for upskilling and reskilling of the labour force, with a particular focus on SMEs owners, managers, and employees in the Food Supply Chain sector. The courses will be highly practical and will provide specific knowledge about key digital technologies of Blockchain and their applications to the food supply chain sector. Within the consortium, UNIC will be responsible for designing and implementing the project's learning Ecosystem.



The Blockchain Benchmarking Framework aims to develop a user-friendly UI that abstracts the underlying complexities of blockchain technology and allows the user to have a seamless and easy interaction with the framework. The goal of the project is to enable usability for: (a) the demand (i.e., developers, technical teams, managers), (b) the supply (i.e., organizations and companies that provides data and/or services and wish to adopt blockchain technology) and (c) the academic (i.e., researchers, students, educators).



The University of Nicosia (UNIC) and EMURGO Academy Partner partnered to offer a DeFi Blockchain Course. This course is the outcome of an educational partnership between UNIC- the leading University in digital currency and blockchain technologies - and EMURGO Academy, the business arm of the Cardano Protocol (the leading 3rd generation Proof-of-Stake blockchain) and industry leader in the blockchain space. This partnership aims to bring the best of academic research and industry-relevant experience as a value offering to potential learners.

Other Research Projects

CEF European Blockchain Services Infrastructure (EBSI)

Mission: EBSI is a joint initiative from the European Commission and the European Blockchain Partnership (EBP) to deliver EU-wide cross-border public services using blockchain technology.

IFF's Goal:

- The deployment and maintenance of the first EBSI node in Cyprus;
- The deployment of use-cases with the enhancement of an existing process;
- EBSI's training activities.

Bloxberg

- Mission: First international blockchain for science, Initiated by Max Planck Digital Library (MPDL)
- Goal: to securing scientific information online and worldwide with no risk of manipulation through a decentralized blockchain infrastructure "bloxberg"

Austrian Blockchain Centre Project

- Mission: One-stop-shop for Blockchain R&D
- Goal: Advance the application of Blockchain technology
- Applied research, education and development of use-cases, prototypes, proofs of concepts
- Planned expansion: 50 PhDs in year 4
- Budget: 20 Million Euros for 4 years

Hyperledger

- IFF is a Hyperledger Associate Member through the Hyperledger Global Collaboration for advancing cross-industry blockchain technologies

Past Research Projects



DLT4ALL aims to address effectively the lack of European entrepreneurs, students, angel-investors and incubator managers in understanding and exploiting Blockchain and Distributed Ledger Technologies by co-creating and deploying an innovative curriculum with lean-training and personalized implementation methodology, accompanied by a relevant foresight exercise.



BLOCKPOOL aims to enhance SME innovation capacity by providing better innovations support. The consortium will use the power of intermediary organizations (e.g. clusters, federations) and cross-regional industrial networks to pilot the acceleration of SME uptake and deployment of Blockchain and Distributed Ledger Technologies.



EUNOMIA aims to assist users in determining the trustworthiness of information in social media using an intermediary-free approach. This is achieved by employing a decentralized architecture and via a digital companion providing the user with intuitive indications of the reputation of the sources and nodes along an information cascade, as well as about the content and context, as derived by a machine learning approach. Crucially, the users can contribute to the process by voting on the trustworthiness of each social media post.



- Facebook: @blockdotco
- LinkedIn: @blockcounic
- Twitter: @Blockdotco

BLOCK.CO is a spin-off company of the University of Nicosia that has been engaged in the blockchain space from the outset, and is now leading the way into the Metaverse through its Open Metaverse Initiative. BLOCK.CO has for the last three years been active in the Blockchain credentialing space through their proprietary platform securing to date millions of documents on the Blockchain. As part of that Open Metaverse Initiative, powered their proficiency in this space, BLOCK.CO is advancing its endeavors into NFTs and the Metaverse through its NFT minting platform, built with features and functionality that focus on supporting brands to make the transition through better engagement with their audiences:

BLOCK.CO NFT Minting Platform

The first NFT platform to support brands transition into the metaverse through a simple interface to bulk mint and email NFTs with gasless claims.

Value for Brands

1. Attract and excite customers through a new incentive: exclusivity, membership, access, and product experiences
2. Immerse customers in a community of people with similar interests
3. Grow the community through engaging customers with benefits to their habits and reward loyalty and participation
4. Grow customer base by evangelizing people who've enjoyed and shared these new, richer experiences

Want to know more ?

Book a Free Demo of BLOCK.CO Platform and get your First NFT for FREE!

Decentralized Conference

World's Premier Learning Conference on Blockchain and Digital Currencies

Decentralized Conference

- World's premier annual blockchain conference
- since 2017
- Bringing industry & academia together
- Pre and post-conference events
- Bottom-up community engagement (Decentralized Chapters)



	Location	Participants	Speakers	Sponsors & Exhibitors
Decentralized 2017	Cyprus	500+ from 40 countries	60	30
Decentralized 2018	Greece	1,000+ from 50 countries	100	50
Decentralized 2019	Greece	1,200+ from 53 countries	120	60
Decentralized Learning Series DLS 2020-2021	Virtual Conference	1,100+ from 75+ countries per event	-	-

Decentralized Learning Series 2020-2021

As the world goes online due to the coronavirus pandemic, DECENTRALIZED 2020 is adapting its format to continue the robust discussion surrounding the critical next steps in our Decentralized future.

The global conference series is set to return for a fourth year, this time reformatted as a series of dynamic webinars focused on learning.

1. BUSINESS

Executives, business leaders and policy makers learn how Blockchain and digital currency applications will propel their business forward with a real-world impact.

2. TECHNOLOGY

Professionals from the Blockchain and digital currencies spaces discuss the latest developments with like-minded experts from all over the world.

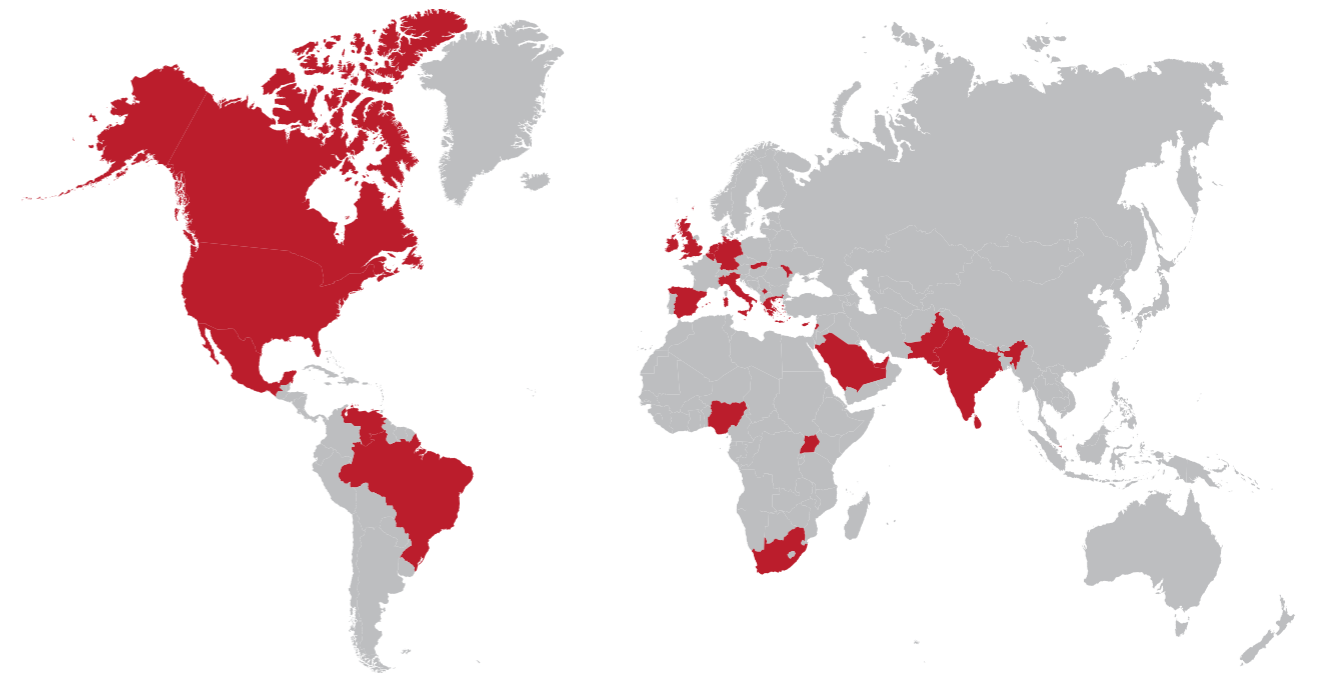
3. ACADEMIA

The world's elite researchers will debate what the future will bring to this exciting space.

Leaders in Blockchain Community Engagement

Decentralized Chapters

- Operate in 28 countries, 39 locations
- Easy to join
- Easy to create a new chapter



- | | | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1 Belgium | 6 Germany | 11 Lebanon | 16 Nigeria | 21 South Africa | 26 Kosovo |
| 2 Brazil | 7 Greece | 12 Malta | 17 Pakistan | 22 Spain | 27 Sri Lanka |
| 3 Canada | 8 India | 13 Mexico | 18 Saudi Arabia | 23 Uganda | 28 Venezuela |
| 4 Cyprus | 9 Ireland | 14 Moldova | 19 Singapore | 24 UK | |
| 5 Dubai | 10 Italy | 15 Netherlands | 20 Slovakia | 25 USA | |


IFF & Decentralized Sponsors






46 Makedonitissas Avenue, CY-2417 P.O. Box 24005, CY-1700, Nicosia, Cyprus

 +357 22 367209

 iff@unic.ac.cy

 unic.ac.cy/iff

 @IFFunic