Project newsletter

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OBEC

One Block for Educational Credentials

What's inside this issue:

THE OBEC PROJECT REACHES ITS END IN SEPTEMBER. LET'S HAVE A LOOK AT THE LAST TWO YEARS AND WHAT WE ACHIEVED!

LAST UPDATE ON OUR PROJECT

EVENTS COMPLETED

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

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OBEC Project - The Journey

Our journey started with a research effort of the current state of the education and working contexts, as well as the current status of knowledge regarding Blockchain technology. Through this, a total of 152 people participated in our surveys and interviews, among migrants, exchange students, people with non-formal/informal learning backgrounds, and supporting institutions. Interviews were also completed with 8 private companies and 9 educational institution, and the partners did a desk research of the EU framework, the obstacles and possibilities, and of examples of standardized systems.

in order to test the opportunities of utilizing Blockchain to issue and verify certifications, the OBEC consortium developed 13 modules in total. The training sessions had a duration of 335h, and gathered 180 participants, having exceeded the target of 120h and 50 participants. Each participant was certified through the ECTA platform, which verifies education based on Blockchain.

What is OBEC?

OBEC is a project exploring how Blockchain technology can be used to promote recognition of skills and qualifications. It is doing this by testing out an innovative system for issuing and validating learning credentials. OBEC's ultimate goal is to encourage the professional and academic integration of migrants, exchange students, and individuals with alternative learning backgrounds.

Reflections & Guide to the Future

The project experience has been organized in a total of 6 videos, which portray the insights from participants of the project's activities and events, as well as the recommendations from experts. In addition to that, the consortium has finalized a report that outlines the project's experience and the main learnt lessons, resulting recommendations, and relevant information to support further research, investments, and initiatives to introduce the use of Blockchain technology in the European educational sector.

Events

In order to raise awareness about the project's topics and share our results and experiences, each partner implemented an event in Sweden, Belgium, Italy, and Croatia, gathering experts and interested people in interesting and inspiring discussions.

Recommendations

The OBEC consortium has identified several recommendations, which include, among others, the need to:

1) broadly disseminate and make available aiding tools that might help individuals to integrate in the labour market;
2) invest in the improvement in the comprehension of the available tools (ESCO system, the Europass CV, the Dublin Descriptors, and the diploma supplements) and their user-friendliness;
3) pay attention to the way in which each Member State implements the available systems;
4) invest in the successful standardization of credential systems;
5) employ the tools provided by the European Union (especially the EBSI) to have a supra-national guarantee that costs of the use of Blockchain to issue and secure educational credentials are kept under control and that the privacy standards are respected;
6) to address the privacy concerns, institutions could decide not to store sensitive and personal data on the Blockchain;
7) to address the concerns about the cost, five options will pointed out in the report;
8) enforce policies to push the agenda of unified credential systems that resemble the ones put forward by the EC;
9) push for the establishment of adequate evaluation procedures;
10) increase the number of investments made towards the dissemination and visibility of Blockchain technologies to address the perception issues;
11) prioritize the creation of interoperability.

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