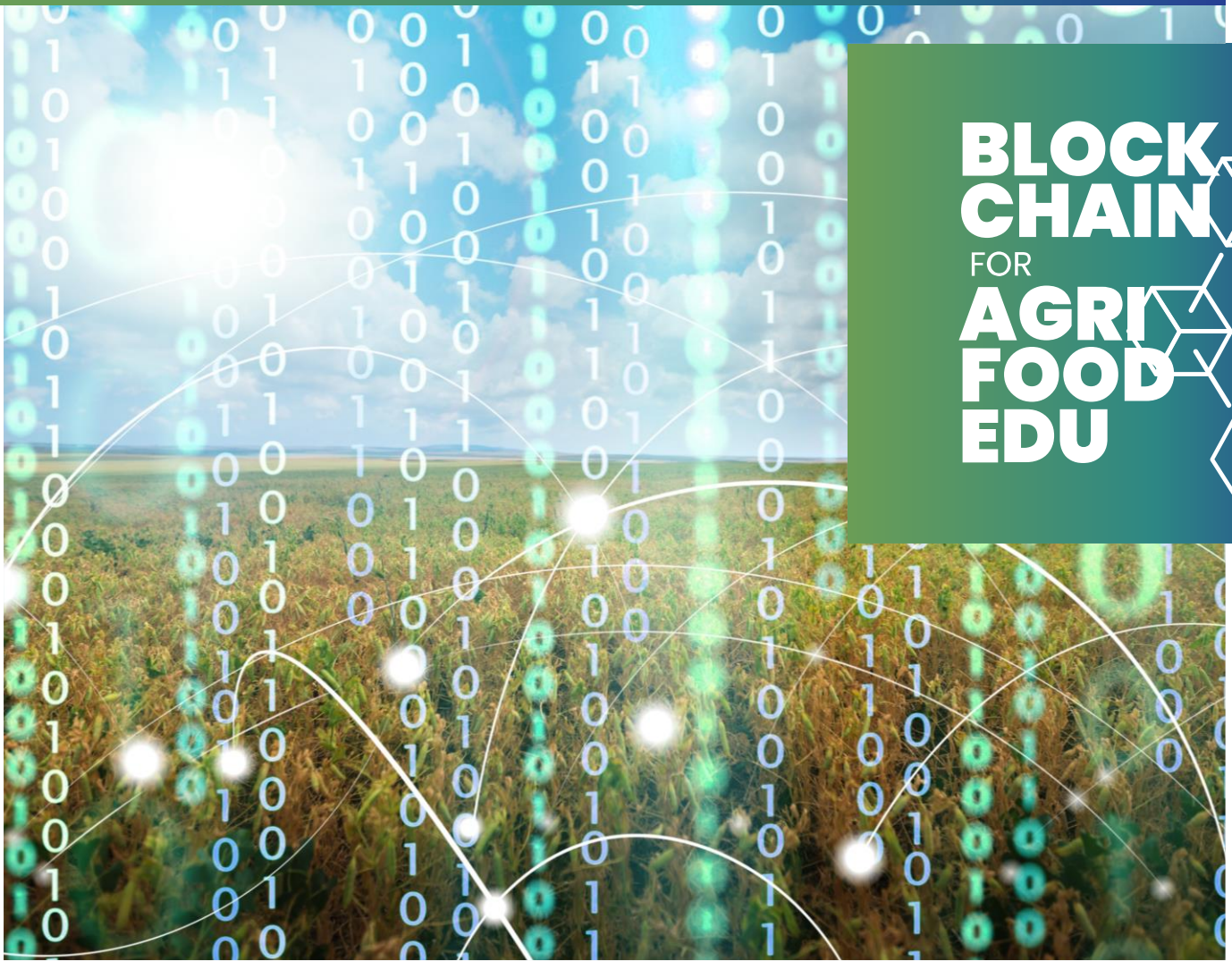


WELCOME TO OUR FIRST NEWSLETTER



BLOCK CHAIN FOR AGRI FOOD EDU



Welcome to our project

Blockchain for Agri-Food Educators is an innovative project that seeks to Xtransform the provision of education in the agribusiness, food science, and nutrition sectors through the strategic utilization of blockchain technology.

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www.blockchainforagrifood.eu



Co-funded by the
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WHAT MOTIVATES BLOCKCHAIN

FOR AGRIFOOD EDUCATORS?

Agri-food supply chains are complex and involve a large number of actors — from small-scale farmers, primary processors, and traders to product manufacturers, distributors, retailers, and consumers. The emerging blockchain technologies, which improve transparency, security, and durability of supply chains, show promise for addressing the current limitations of food supply chain management:

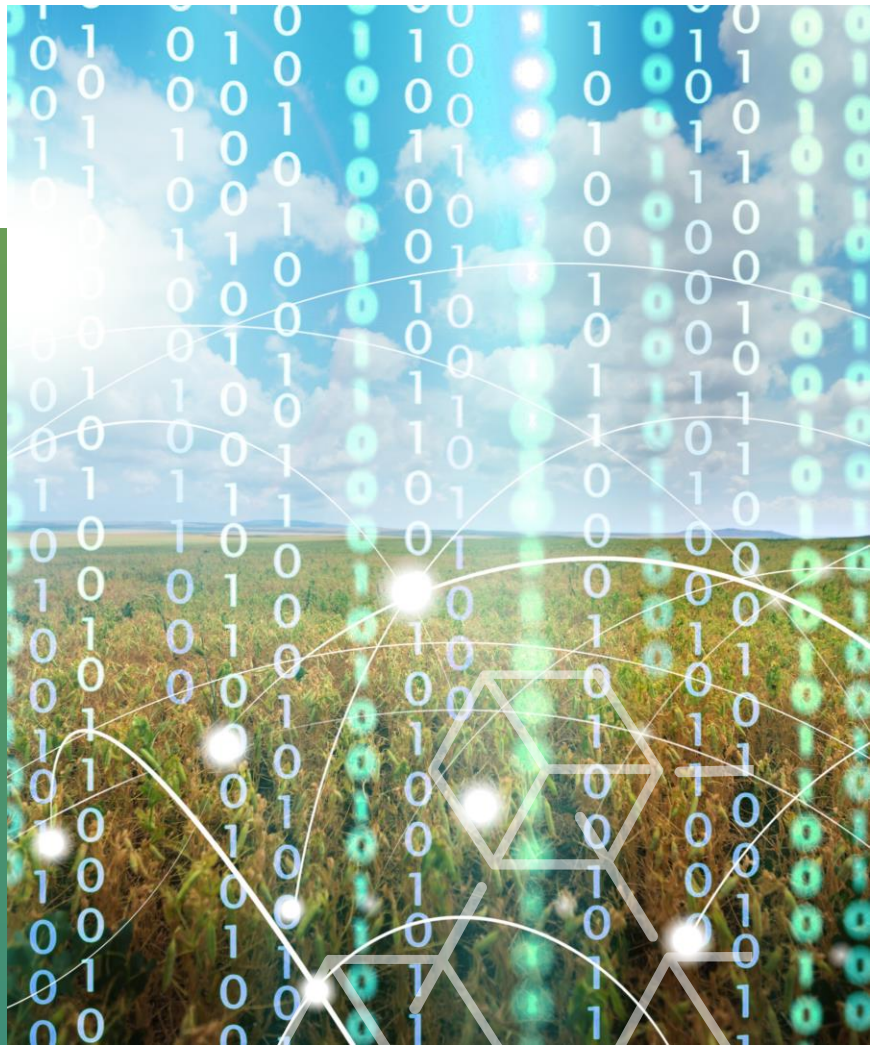
- Covid -19 has heightened the need for food sovereignty and the need for innovation in the agri-food sector. However, our food system today fails to meet the transparency and assurance demanded by many consumers. Over 71% of consumers around the world are willing to pay a premium for brands that provide transparent information.
- Food wastage reduction is another noteworthy benefit of blockchain. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, “Roughly one-third of the food produced in the world for human consumption every year - approximately 1.3 billion tonnes - gets lost or wasted”.

Blockchain can assist the agricultural and food sector to deal and manage predictable dangers and maintain affordability throughout the ecosystem. However, our higher educators and those in advisory positions to traditional sectors such as food and beverage production and processing or agriculture are already lagging behind. There is a large digital knowledge gap given the fast-paced development and applicability of emerging technologies, our education provision and a consumer led pressure for change in a post Covid economy. The Blockchain for Agri-Food Educators project aims to tackle societal challenges in the food supply chain and drive the digital transformation of the food sector.

The project’s objectives include:

- empowering academics and lecturers from agribusiness, food science and engineering, and nutrition departments to unlock the power of blockchain for their agrifood student population while providing leadership for industry players in their regions.
- lead the education of the future workforce in a responsible manner that enables them to meet job market requirements.
- transform agrifood business models, productivity, competitiveness, and growth for the benefit of a broad range of stakeholders, from small-scale farmers to consumers, product manufacturers, distributors, and retailers.

BLOCK CHAIN FOR AGRI FOOD EDU



We are creating three key deliverables

- 1. The Guide to Blockchain Education** will recommend effective pedagogic strategies for teaching digital skills in blockchain integration in agrifood education. Its results include a research report and a guide to aid understanding of the relationship between blockchain and key agrifood challenges / opportunities.
- 2. Open Education Resources** for Blockchain Education in the Agrifood sector will provide lecturers with pre-made resources for in-person or digital classes. This will help facilitate the transition to digital education in a field of study that is becoming increasingly digital. The project will produce three key results: the Blockchain Education in the Agrifood Sector Open Education Resources, the Classroom Teaching Pack, and the Online Course for Direct Study.
- 3. Dissemination and Sustainability** will promote the adoption of Blockchain for Agri-food Educators among partners, peers, networks, and the wider education and agri-food sector. Its goal is to ensure the long-term sustainability and impact of the project.

FIRST PARTNER MEETING IN NITRA

In the rapidly evolving world of agriculture and food production, there is an increasing need for more transparency and trust between producers, retailers, and consumers. One way to achieve this is through the use of blockchain technology.

Blockchain, a decentralized and secure ledger system, allows for transparent and tamper-proof record-keeping of transactions and data. With this in mind, in October 2022, our team of European partners kicked off the Blockchain for Agri-Food Educators Project in Nitra, Slovakia. The project aims to advance the use of blockchain technology in the agri-food sector and to educate educators on the benefits and practical applications of the technology.

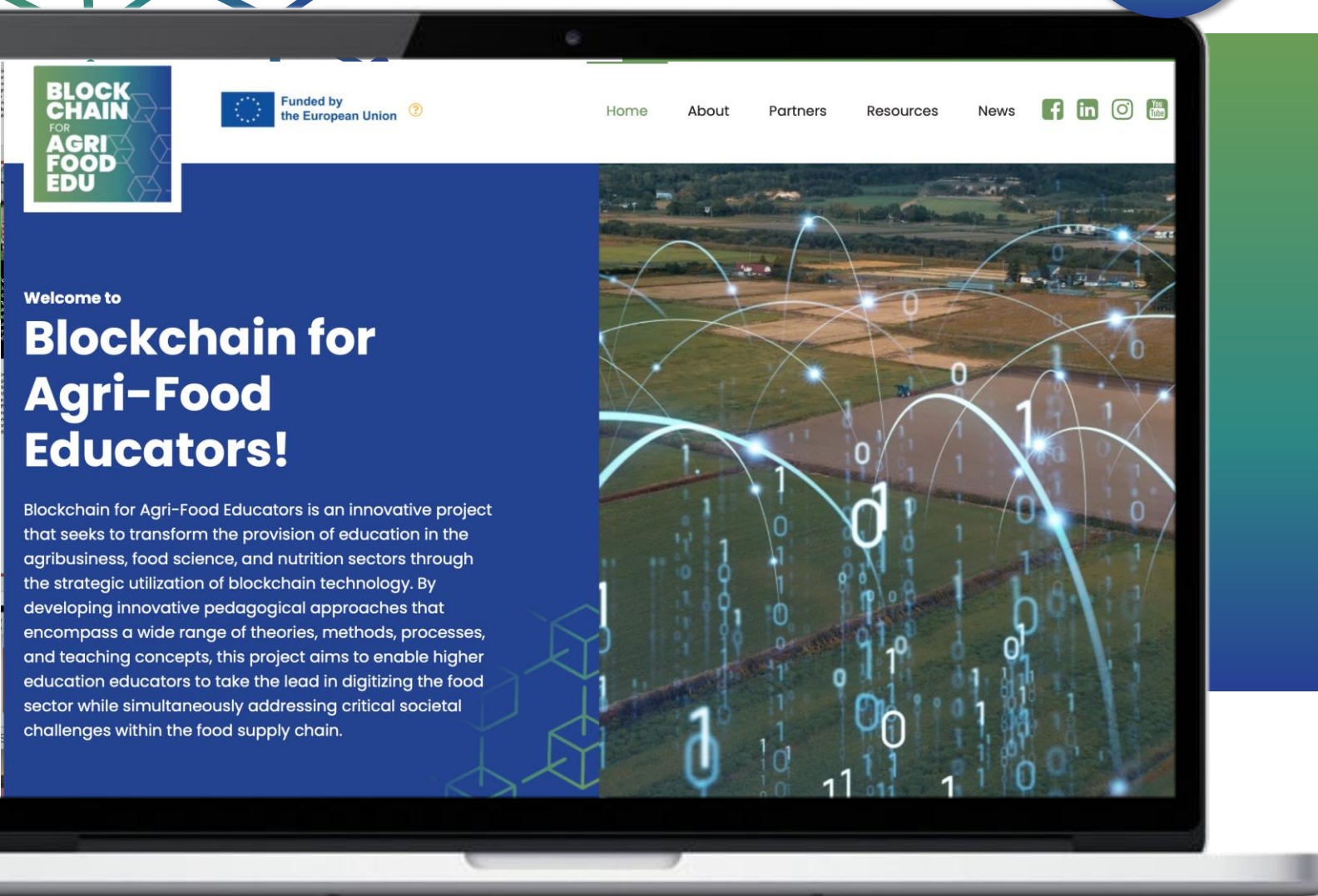
The meeting brought together our partners, including the Slovak University of Agriculture, Momentum Innovate and Educate from Ireland, Czech University of Life Sciences Prague from the Czech Republic, European E-Learning Institute from Denmark, and Arctur from Slovenia. The team was also joined online by FH Münster University of Applied Sciences from Germany. The meeting was a success, as we were able to discuss the project's goals and objectives, as well as their individual roles and responsibilities. There was also a lively exchange of ideas and insights on the use of blockchain technology in the agri-food sector, including its potential to increase transparency and trust, reduce fraud, and improve supply chain management.

Our partners expressed their gratitude to the Slovak University of Agriculture for hosting the meeting, which provided a lovely and dynamic setting for the event. The gathering was a testament to the importance of international collaboration and knowledge-sharing in the development of innovative solutions to complex challenges. Moving forward, we will continue to work together to advance the project's goals, including developing training materials for educators and promoting the use of blockchain technology in the agri-food sector.

The hope is that this project will contribute to a more transparent and sustainable food system, benefiting producers, retailers, and consumers alike. The Blockchain for Agri-Food Educators Project is a prime example of how innovation and collaboration can drive positive change in our world. With the use of blockchain technology, we can build a more transparent and trustworthy food system, and this project represents an important step in that direction.



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