# The Beltug Blockchain Task Force – Mission & Scope

## 1   Background

Ledger technology, like blockchain, is very promising, and very relevant to Beltug members: 33% of the respondents of the 2017 Beltug survey on 'The priorities of digital technology leaders', marked Blockchain as a priority.  Within this group, 43% stated that they would like Beltug to demystify this technology.

In the meantime, a number of organisations have expressed interest in peer discussions around blockchain. While different initiatives on blockchain exist in Belgium, most are only about organising events. But those organisations already working with blockchain are looking for a platform to:

· Exchange experiences

· Discuss the barriers and find ways to bring these to the right platforms/regulators/organisations

· Inspire blockchain policies and act as an informal expert group for national and international (EU) interlocutors

· Explore the possibilities for joint blockchain projects

While a platform exists for informal discussions between governments, it is not intended, for practical reasons, to open this platform to private companies.

Two preparatory meetings that have taken place during the last months involved Agentschap Informatie Vlaanderen, Belfius, BOSA DG Digital Transformation, Colruyt, Fednot, Howest and SettleMint.

## 2   Scope & mission

For these reasons, Beltug is launching a new initiative. The Blockchain Task Force will provide a platform for experts to exchange experiences and best practices. Beltug will use the findings and suggestions of the initiative to inform its body of members, and to develop positions, activities and more, when and if relevant.

This high-level, multidisciplinary Blockchain Task Force will meet, discuss and make suggestions and recommendations to Beltug regarding issues, activities and lobbying efforts that can be undertaken in the area of blockchain. Topics can extend beyond the national borders of Belgium.

Organisation of events is not intended to be within the scope of this initiative, as that is already part of the regular Beltug activities.

Conclusions, best practices and insights will be communicated to the other members via the regular Beltug member activities.

## 3   Members: who can apply?

Typically, the members of the Blockchain Task Force will be practitioners in matters of blockchain, working for Beltug members. Whether or not blockchain is a specific part of their day-to-day responsibilities, they will be knowledgeable people with a high willingness to share their expertise.

Task Force members may therefore come from all areas of companies and organisations.

Beltug members interested to be part of the Blockchain Task Force will apply to Danielle Jacobs.  Only one person per company may be a formal member of the Task Force. The Task Force may not be used in any way for commercial purposes.

## 4   Participation

The Blockchain Task Force will meet on a regular basis, to be determined by the Blockchain Task Force members.  Blockchain Task Force members are expected to be engaged in the Task Force and attend the gatherings on a regular basis.

Blockchain Task Force members should be willing to host a Task Force meeting at times, either at the company's offices or elsewhere.

Meetings will be run according to the Chatham House Rule: participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed. Conclusions of Task Force conversations may be used to share knowledge and best practices.

## 5   Some proposed topics

This list is the result of a short brainstorming on the types of topics that may be covered by the Task Force. Its purpose is to show the many potential topics, and it is in no way a comprehensive list.

· Choosing a partner for cooperation on blockchain

· How to build a consortium

· Best practices for cooperation agreements for blockchain partners

· Best practices on IT issues, such as storage, security requirements, vendor lock-in - including large players (dependent on their roadmap and hardware) versus small players, etc.

· Importance of interoperability - Promotion of standards

· Changes to be made in the regulations/laws

· GDPR and blockchain

· Use cases that can be helpful to build awareness of the possibilities (e.g. the management of the authorised signature within companies)

· Blockchain in the context of IoT partnerships