



## *Ministero dello Sviluppo Economico*

Direzione Generale per la Politica Industriale, la Competitività e le Piccole e Medie Imprese

### **CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE SELECTION OF MEMBERS OF A GROUP OF EXPERTS FOR THE DRAFTING OF A NATIONAL STRATEGY ON DISTRIBUTED LEDGER TECHNOLOGIES AND BLOCKCHAIN.**

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

The Distributed Ledger Technologies, (hereinafter: **DLTs**) could be defined as technologies and informatic protocols using ledgers that are shared, distributed, decentralised, cryptographed, allowing to validate, store and update unalterable and unmodifiable data which each participant may verify. DLTs need a peer-to-peer network in order to manage the content between the various nodes of the ledger and the approval of operations.

The *blockchain* is the most well-known example of a DLT, originally used as a base protocol for *Bitcoin*, the most renowned cryptocurrency, the blockchain has soon developed from the mere financial application and is now able to be adapted to many public and private purposes.

Blockchain can be classified among the technologies based on cutting out the middleman, meaning the overcoming of the subjects holding the power of validating transactions and/or the ledgers, by substituting this with consent-based cryptography, allowing all the participants to the network to trust the legitimacy of a transaction without the need of a centralised validation.

In the last years many experimental applications of the protocol started up in many sectors. The blockchain can be used to manage public or private documents (passports, personal certificates) or registers (company, personal, scholastic), for tax-collecting, to automate contractual relationships through the use of smart contracts, to ensure the transparent traceability of private or public funds, for the certification of origin of certain products as well as to manage digital identities and the use of e-government services.

This emerging technology has gained the attention of legislators and regulators at a global level. Already in 2016, the European Parliament recognised the immense potentiality of DLTs in its Resolution (2016/2007(INI))<sup>1</sup> “*Notes that DLT’s potential to accelerate, decentralise, automate and standardise data-driven processes at lower cost has the potential to alter fundamentally the way in which assets are transferred and records are kept (...) the use of DLT might turn out to be transformational in terms of efficiency, speed, and resilience, but would also raise new regulatory challenges; (...) notes that DLT could be used to increase data sharing, transparency and trust not only between government and citizens, but also between private sector actors and clients*”.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P8-TA-2016-0228+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN>



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The European Commission on 10th April 2018 launched a EU *partnership* on this topic and established an Observatory and a EU forum to monitor national initiatives and the developments and goals reached and the exchange of *best practices* in order to inspire a European approach<sup>2</sup>.

With this partnership, joined by the Italian Government on 27 September 2018, on the initiative of the Minister of economic development, Luigi Di Maio, the European Commission aims at consolidating the role played by enterprises, public players and European centres for research on the development of blockchain, keeping in mind that “*Europe is well placed to take a global leadership position in the development and application of blockchain and distributed ledger technologies which can change the way citizens and organisations collaborate, share information, execute transactions, organise and deliver services*”.

Italy has to play a propulsive role in the ongoing European and global debate. DLT and blockchain are increasingly gaining relevance in the digital development both from the private and the public perspective, and Italy has to seize their strategic relevance and give impulse to research and development.

Against the background of the fourth industrial revolution, DLT and blockchain are attracting investments and producing new regulatory issues. In order to allow Italy to play a relevant role in the development of these sectors, it is necessary to analyse the topic, the potentially competitiveness of the Italian industry and to promote the existing best practices, by adopting a National Strategy on distributed ledger technologies and blockchain (hereinafter NS Blockchain).

### **2. FEATURES, GOALS AND COMPOSITION OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON DLT AND BLOCKCHAIN**

Bearing all this in mind, in order to prepare the Strategy, the Ministry of Economic Development sets up a Group of experts (hereinafter: the Group), whose members shall be of proven and relevant competence and experience in DLT, blockchain and their applications.

The Group will be chaired by the Minister or his delegate, and will be composed of:

- The Director General of the DG for Industrial Policy, Competitiveness and Small And Medium-Sized Enterprises of the Ministry of economic development, or his delegate;

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<sup>2</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/european-countries-join-blockchain-partnership>.



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- the Legal Counsel to the Minister of Economic Development in the fields of communications and digital innovation;
  - one representative from the Cabinet of the Minister of Economic Development.
- (hereinafter all referred to as “Ministry’s representatives”)

The Group is then composed of up to 30 members, of which:

- ten representing enterprises operating in the field of AI;
- ten representing research centres, public administrations academics, think-thanks;
- ten representing the labour market, the professions, the third sector, the consumers and in general the civil society.

The Group will provide the Ministry with its technical and scientific support in the drafting a national strategy on DLT and blockchain.

The national strategy on DLT and blockchain will specifically address policies and tools in order to:

- monitor and analyse private initiatives already existing at a national level, their developments and socioeconomic impact;
- determine use cases of DLT in the public sector, to promote and support their spread;
- determine the needed conditions to promote research, development, use, adoption and maintenance of the decentralised structure of DLT and blockchain in order to increase and accelerate their spreading in public and private services;
- elaborate the necessary tools to create and grant economic, political and regulatory conditions in such a way citizens and enterprises, particularly SMEs and start-up, can seize the potential of these technologies and their functionalities;
- elaborate technical and legal tools to allow smart contracts to spread.

In its first meeting, the Group will agree on its rules of procedures, also splitting into sub-groups on specific aspects, to guarantee the efficiency and swiftness of its work, in order for the Ministry to adopt the definitive Strategy by March 2019, after having submitted the draft to a public consultation.

### **3. SELECTION CRITERIA AND APPOINTMENT OF THE MEMBERS.**

The members of the Group are nominated by a Minister’s Decree, once an internal Commission composed of the Ministry’s representatives as above determined, will have assessed the applications. Their mandate lasts for six months, starting from the first meeting of the Group, it can be renewed, and in any case, it lasts until the Strategy is adopted by the Ministry.



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The interested individuals and organisations are invited to submit their applications to the Ministry. They have to possess the following requisites of proven experience and professionalism, which will be used by the Commission as evaluation criteria while selecting the applications:

- proven and relevant competence and experience, in the DLT, blockchain and their applications, including the technological, commercial, legal and scientific expertise of clear relevance;
- proven capacity to actually represent the position of interest of the stakeholders.

The candidates must possess the following requisites of compatibility, which they have to specifically declare:

- they have not been convicted, even with a decision that has not become definitive, for the offenses indicated in Chapter I, Title II, Book II of the Penal Code pursuant to art. 35(a) paragraph 1, c) of the legislative decree 30 March 2001, n. 165;
- they are not prosecuted in an ongoing penal proceeding;
- they do not find themselves in situations of incompatibility pursuant to legislative decree no. 39/2013 or in situation of conflict of interests which, in accordance with the current law framework, may preclude the participation to the Group's activities.

The members of the Group are not entitled to any compensation, indemnity, payment of attendance fees nor reimbursements. The Group operates without charges on public finance.

#### **4. APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

The applications must be completed using the form available on the Ministry's website [www.sviluppoeconomico.gov.it](http://www.sviluppoeconomico.gov.it), and candidates will have to assess the compliance to the abovementioned requisites, pursuant to Articles 46 e 47, D.P.R. n. 445/2000.

A CV dated and signed shall also be provided, along with a photocopy of a valid ID and a cover letter (max. 2 pages) explaining the reason for applying and proposing the candidate's vision of DLT, blockchain, and its impacts on industry, work and society, and suggestions of policy relevant to the drafting of the National Strategy, as well as any other useful and relevant material to support the application.

The application and the CV shall also be accompanied by the authorization to process personal data with regard only to the current procedure, in accordance with current law framework on the protection of personal data.

The application shall be presented within the period starting from the date of publication of this call for applications and by 12am of 28 October 2018 and must be sent via e-mail to the certified e-mail address [dgpicpmi.blockchain@pec.mise.gov.it](mailto:dgpicpmi.blockchain@pec.mise.gov.it), indicating in the subject line



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of the email “**Call for applications for the selection of members of a group of experts for the drafting of a National Strategy on Distributed ledger technologies and blockchain**”.

The Ministry of Economic Development takes no responsibility in the event of dispersion of communications or delayed receiving of the application after the deadline for reasons which imply no fault of the administration or to major force events.

Applications with incomplete documentation, not signed and presented or received after the deadline will not be considered.

For the purposes of compliance with the deadline for the submission of the applications, the receipt of the certified e-mail system will be considered a valid proof.

### **5. OFFICIAL IN CHARGE**

The official in charge of the present proceeding is Fabiola Bechelli, Head of II Division “Legal and regulatory affairs”, DG for industrial policy, competitiveness and small and medium-sized enterprises.

### **6. PUBLICITY OF THE PROCEDURE**

The present call for application is uploaded on the website of the Ministry of Economic Development ([www.sviluppoeconomico.gov.it](http://www.sviluppoeconomico.gov.it)).

The Minister of Economic Development, after the deadline for sending the applications and after the evaluation conducted by the aforementioned Commission, appoints within 30 days the members of the Group.

The outcome of the procedure is communicated on the website of the Ministry of Economic Development ([www.sviluppoeconomico.gov.it](http://www.sviluppoeconomico.gov.it)).

Rome, 28 September 2018

The Director General  
Stefano Firpo