

PRESS RELEASE

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NEW €4.2 MILLION FUND TO EMPOWER INTERNET INNOVATORS TO DEVELOP BLOCKCHAIN-BASED SOLUTIONS

ONTOCHAIN APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN

GET UP TO €123K (EQUITY-FREE FUNDING), FREE COACHING AND FREE ACCESS TO TOP INFRASTRUCTURE

The EU-funded project ONTOCHAIN has €4.2 Million euros to develop a new software ecosystem for trusted, traceable, and transparent ontological knowledge management, and is looking for internet innovators to co-create it.

18 proposals will be selected in the first open call of the project to produce functional and technical specifications for the ONTOCHAIN framework.

Through a 7-month supporting programme, participants will get up to €123k (equity-free funding), free coaching and free access to top infrastructure.

“Today, the digital life is an extension of our physical world and demands the same critical, moral and ethical thinking. By bringing ONTOCHAIN to you and building it with you we expect to contribute to a more distributed and transparent internet that respects and promotes the fundamental values of diversity, equality, privacy and participation.” Caroline Barelle, ONTOCHAIN Coordinator.

How it works?

In the first phase of the programme the 18 selected projects will start by conceptualizing a research project for one of the following topics:

- Applications
- Semantic interoperability
- On-chain data management
- Off-chain knowledge management
- Ecosystem economy
- Ecosystem scalability and integration

Six of them will proceed to the second phase to elaborate the concept proposed in phase one and prepare design specifications to be implemented. Additionally, the best projects will be awarded for the publication of their outcomes.

Applications are open on [F6S](https://www.f6s.com/ontochain/apply) until 15 January 2021, at 17:00 CET.
[http://www.f6s.com/ontochain/apply](https://www.f6s.com/ontochain/apply)

For more information about the ONTOCHAIN open call go to
<https://ontochain.ngi.eu/apply>

About ONTOCHAIN

ONTOCHAIN marries the Semantic Web with Blockchain to deliver a novel software ecosystem for trusted, traceable, and transparent ontological knowledge management. ONTOCHAIN, which is developed under the European Commission's Next Generation Internet initiative, explores and delivers novel interoperable on-chain and off-chain data, ontology, knowledge and information management methods. The ONTOCHAIN software ecosystem consists of a novel protocol suite grouped into high-level application protocols, such as data provenance, reputation models, decentralised oracles, market mechanisms, ontology representation and management, privacy aware and secure data exchange, multi-source identity verification, value sharing and incentives and similar, and core protocols that include smart contracts, authorisation, certification, event gateways, identity management and identification, secure and privacy aware decentralised storage, data semantics and semantic linking, ONTOCHAIN optimisation and similar. The ONTOCHAIN software ecosystem will demonstrate its potential in high impact domains, such as eHealth, eGovernment, eEducation, eCommerce, decentralised infrastructures and similar in order to achieve trustworthy information exchange and trustworthy and transactional content handling.

The project is operated by 7 partners with complementary expertise that form the core of a vibrant ecosystem: **European Dynamics** (Luxembourg), **University of Ljubljana** (Slovenia), **IntelliSemantic** (Italy), **iExec Blockchain Tech** (France), **Athens University of Economics and Business** (Greece), **German Hellenic Chamber of Commerce and Industry** (Greece) and **F6S** (Ireland).

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