SMART CONTRACTS LAB

AN EDUCATIONAL ECOSYSTEM AIMING TO MAKE BLOCKCHAIN APPLICATIONS A STANDARD TOOL IN THE MARKET

WELCOME TO SCL

Dear New Members,

With great excitement, we extend our warmest welcome to you as you embark on this journey with Smart Contracts Lab!

As you step into our dynamic community, you are not only becoming a member but also a valued contributor to our shared pursuit of demonstrating the potential of blockchain technology beyond cryptocurrencies by making it accessible to companies and other interest groups.

At SCL, we aim to collaborate, innovate, and explore new horizons together. By joining us, you have become an integral part of a dynamic and diverse community committed to pushing the boundaries of knowledge and creating a meaningful impact. Expect to be challenged and inspired, to learn from your peers as much as you contribute your insights. Though the road might still seem uncertain right now, through it all, you will find camaraderie, support, and opportunities to contribute to transformative breakthroughs in Blockchain.

We are confident that the connections you will make and the knowledge you will acquire during your time with us will be invaluable. As we collectively navigate this journey, we remain dedicated to providing an environment that fosters growth and impactful research.

Welcome to the journey that lies ahead. We are excited to have you on board and to shape the future of Smart Contracts Lab with you. Do not forget to have fun and enjoy the ride with your fellow peers!

Remember, you are not alone on this journey. What makes Smart Contracts Lab are its students, the friendships we build, and the support we receive from each other. We are here to provide guidance, resources, and support. Make the most of this opportunity!

Best regards,
Selin Acar, Operations Team Leader

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Introduction to Smart Contracts

Definition of a Smart Contract

In our increasingly digital and interconnected world, the need for trust and security in transactions is more critical than ever. Enter Smart Contracts, a revolutionary concept that has the potential to transform industries, streamline processes, and reshape the way we engage in agreements and transactions.

IBM defines Smart Contracts as follows:

*"Smart contracts are programs that follow simple "if/when…then" statements **written into code** and stored on a blockchain. They typically are used to **automate** the execution of an agreement so that all participants can be immediately certain of the outcome. The blockchain is then updated when the transaction is completed. That means that the **transaction cannot be changed**, and only parties who have been granted permission can see the results." [1]*

> **Automate**: The contract is automatically executed when predetermined conditions are met, without any intermediary's involvement or time loss.

> **Transaction cannot be changed**: Once a transaction is recorded on a blockchain network, it is permanently recorded and cannot be altered or deleted.

> **Written into code:** Let's have a look.

For a comprehensive grasp of Smart Contracts, it's vital for project members to familiarize themselves with blockchain technology and its applications. During the Onboarding week you will get a basic introduction about Smart Contracts are and much more, such as Oracles, Consensus Mechanisms, and Tokenization. Additionally, you will receive the General Knowledge Document, which serves as guidance and a thorough explanation as well as use cases of these subjects.

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[1] https://www.ibm.com/topics/smart-contracts

Introduction to Smart Contracts Lab

What is SCL?

The Smart Contracts Lab is a student project based at the University of Zurich as well as an official association by Swiss Law. It is an opportunity for students to write their thesis with like-minded peers as well as a chance for companies and other interested groups to see the potential of blockchain technology beyond cryptocurrencies.

SCL's Mission

Our mission is to empower individuals and organizations to collaborate and innovate in the field of blockchain technology through accessible research and education.

We aim to promote a deeper understanding of blockchain oracles and smart contracts, while also developing key personal skills such as leadership and effective communication with the students. By working together, we strive to create a more transparent and secure blockchain ecosystem and to combat the prevalence of scams in the industry.

Our Vision

Our vision is to establish a recognized and respected research project that educates the public on the potential of blockchain technology and creates a vast network of partnerships with leading companies in the industry. We strive to be a trusted source of information and a driving force in the development and adoption of blockchain technology.

What we do

At Smart Contracts Lab, we embark on a journey into the realm of blockchain technology with a twofold mission: to gain new insights and to facilitate accessible research and education. Our research deliverables are high-quality papers and innovative products, all centered around the domains of smart contracts and blockchain oracles.

How we work

At Smart Contracts Lab, we operate within a dynamic matrix structure led by students who join our association to pursue their bachelor's or master's theses. These students hold dual responsibilities, overseeing both an organizational function and a specific research topic within SCL. This collaborative environment not only fosters knowledge acquisition but also promotes personal growth as we collectively strive to achieve our shared goals.

Meet the Team

SMART CONTRACTS LAB — Organizational Chart SCL

The organization is divided into two main categories: functions and topics. Each member is both part of their function team and their topic team. In the former, they contribute to the seamless functioning of the project, whereas in the latter, they conduct the research. The work for the topic should take up to 2/3 of the student's time and the role within their function up to 1/3.

Your Time at SCL

Embarking on your journey with the Smart Contracts Lab (SCL) is not just about research; it's about growth, collaboration, and innovation. Here's a detailed outline of what you can expect and your key responsibilities:

Dual Roles

At SCL, you'll serve in two main capacities:

- Function Role: This is all about helping the project run smoothly. Whether it's organizing events, handling communications, or any of the tasks that keep our project ticking, this is where you contribute to the core operations of SCL.
- Topic Role: This is your chance to dive deep into blockchain research. Here, you'll explore specific areas of interest, collaborate with peers, and contribute to our understanding of blockchain technology.

Time Management

Depending on whether you are a master student or a bachelor student you will spend 100% or 60% respectively of your work week on SCL Prjects. You should split your time, with two-thirds focused on the topic and one-third on the function.

Your Thesis

This is the end document that encapsulates your contributions, learnings, and achievements of your six-month journey with SCL.

- **Main Content**: Your thesis, approximately 10 pages excluding the appendix, will offer a clear overview of the tasks you undertook and the outcomes you achieved. It's a reflection of the value you added to SCL during your time here.
- **Appendix**: Think of this as the supporting pillar to your main content. It contains tangible evidence of your work, like research papers, screenshots, pieces of code, or any other relevant materials.
- **The Title**: The title is the reflection of your entire experience at SCL. Your title should encapsulate the essence of your work and contributions. It's a lasting imprint of your time here, so choose a title that you'll look back on with pride.

Thesis Title

You have to hand in your final thesis title by Saturday, November 04. This title will represent your work at SCL over the period of six months. It is important to get to know the respective teams beforehand. To simplify the title-finding process, we have provided you with an overview of the function and topic teams. During the onboarding week you will get to meet each team and tell us your preferences. You will find out the final allocation by Tuesday noon. To further assist, we've prepared a Thesis Title Findings Guide, so you can craft the perfect title for your work.

SCL Onboarding Week

During the onboarding week from October 30 to November 05, 2023, you will meet the current SCL members, learn more about blockchain and be introduced to SCL through a blend of learning activities. Here is a short overview of the Onboarding week:

SCL'S ONBOARDING WEEK SCHEDULE
30.10.2023 - 05.11.2023

Time	Monday 30.10.2023	Tuesday 31.10.2023	Time	Wednesday 01.11.2023	Thursday 02.11.2023	Friday 03.11.2023	Saturday 04.11.2023
9:00 - 9:30	Onboarding Welcome Presentation	Self-learning	10:15 - 10:30	Welcome & Quiz	Self-learning	EXAM (8:00 - 22:00)	HAND IN THESIS TITLE UNTIL 12:00
9:30 - 10:00	Ice breaker games + Break		10:30 - 11:00	Intro: Academic Writing			
10:00 - 12:00	Topics and Functions Presentations & Questions		11:00 - 11:30	Smart Contract Tokenization			
12:00 - 13:30	Lunch		11:30 - 12:00	Consensus Mechanism Oracles			
13:30 - 14:00	Photoshooting		12:00 - 14:00	Lunch			Sunday 05.11.2023
14:00 - 14:30	Normative Frame Code of Conduct		14:00 - 17:00	Use Case Analysis @Co-working space			CONFIRM TOPIC ON OLAT (WITHIN 24 H)
14:30 - 14:45	Self-Learning & Questions						
14:45 -15:00	Title Finding Presentation		from 17:00	SCL Event			
	Onsite Room: SOE-E-2	Online		Onsite Room: SOF-E-05	Online	Online	Online

- **October 30**: Kickoff day at the University with Function & Topics presentations
- **October 31**: Self-study day
- **November 01**: Technical presentations and collaborative activities at the University
- **November 02**: Self-study day
- **November 03**: Exam via OLAT
- **November 04**: Thesis Title submission
- **November 05**: Topic confirmations via OLAT

To ensure smooth communication throughout the onboarding week, we'll primarily use the Telegram Chat. All the documentation will be uploaded to the OLAT course.

Should you have any questions or uncertainties leading up to or during the onboarding week, don't hesitate to reach out to Dario Ganz (@dario_ganz) or Sofiya Guta (@sofiya_guta) on Telegram. We are keen and ready to assist you with any questions you might have.

Overview of Functions and Topics

Functions

BD / CRM	Responsible for building and maintaining relationships with external in the target market; Organizing social events to foster team building.
Publication	Promotion of the project through dynamic engagement on social media platforms and website.
Operations	Ensuring the seamless and efficient functioning of operational processes.

Topics

Regulation	Identifying the challenges banks and other institutions face; Addressing these issues by leveraging the capabilities of blockchain technology.
Tokenization	Responsible for creating, managing, and leveraging tokens within the organization's ecosystem.
Functional Platforms & Accounting	Designing and developing a cutting-edge platform tailored for streamlining accounting processes within the blockchain ecosystem.
Newsletter	Delivering high-quality, up-to-date content about the blockchain industry in a reader-friendly format.

Over the next pages, you will find a thorough description of each team. Please feel free to contact the respective team leader if you need further information.

Contact Information Team Leaders (Telegram)

Functions:

Publication:	Anika Weimer	+41 78 826 60 44
BD/CRM:	Nadine Brönnimann	+41 76 338 26 96
Operations:	Selin Acar	@seseselin

Topics:

Accounting & FP:	Lilly Sciolli	+41 78 674 21 15
Regulation:	Davide Menegalli	+41 78 908 02 62
Tokenization:	Nadine Brönnimann	+41 76 338 26 96
Newsletter:	Erietta Douga	+41 79 127 18 81

Business Development / Customer Relationship Management

The BD/CRM function is responsible for building and maintaining relationships with external audiences in our target market. The team also organizes SCL social events to foster team building.

1. Objective

The BD / CRM team operates as the vital bridge connecting SCL with the outside world. We aim to establish and nurture strong relationships with industry stakeholders, facilitating seamless communication and collaboration. Further, we gather market intelligence, identify potential partnerships, and strategically leverage our association's resources and offerings to meet the evolving needs of the industry. Ultimately, we aim to reinforce our position as a trusted and indispensable resource within the broader blockchain ecosystem.

2. Key Activities

2.1 Event Research and Analysis

- Scan the internet for events related to blockchain, Web3, or start-ups, and select the ones that are relevant to the SCL project.
- Describe and critically evaluate these events before proposing them to the other members of the BD/CRM Team.

2.2 Event Attendance

- Attend the events you choose. Take notes from the main takeaways that can bring added value to the SCL project.
- Spread the word about SCL and network with the other participants. Have fun!

2.3 Internal Event Organization

- Organize social events to foster team building: escape game, barbecue, treasure hunt, volleyball tournament etc.
- Organize educational events: guest lectures, events for all teams to stay updated about each other's work, peer-review events etc.

2.4 External Relationships

- Interviews: Conduct interviews with industry experts to gain valuable insights for the SCL project.
- Surveys: Conduct surveys to learn more about the blockchain market.

3. Outlook

As the external representative of the SCL association, the team is essential as it serves as the initial point of contact with the industry. We want to develop this network with the long-term vision of being able to collaborate with companies to benefit from their knowledge, but also to be able to propose solutions to their problems by conducting interviews with partners.

Given the size of the SCL association, continuing to organize quality events is essential to facilitate collaboration and proximity between teams. We intend to continue organizing more professional events, such as guest presentations, to reinforce the association's high-quality image.

Publication

1. Objective

The mission of the Publication team is to promote education and the project through dynamic engagement on social media platforms and our website. As a member of our team, you will play a crucial role in crafting and sharing informative content that empowers our audience with valuable insights as well as builds trust in the SCL brand. Get ready to contribute to our journey of making knowledge accessible to all through the power of digital communication.

2. Publication Tasks

2.1   Social Media - Instagram & LinkedIn

- Create appealing content
- Regular posts, stories, and reels
- Social Media Analytics

2.1.1 Instagram

The social media platform Instagram is a valuable tool for our student project to promote our content and provide insights into what we do at SCL to our followers, especially through visual content. In order to successfully manage Instagram, it is important to set up a strategy for the Instagram channel to have a good overview of our project goals, target audience (students), metrics, analytics tool, and type of content.

2.1.2 LinkedIn

With LinkedIn, we want to represent the professional and formal side of our association. Our LinkedIn account is a platform to engage with professionals and companies. We aim to represent SCL's core values and share insights about our projects, ongoing series, and the contributions we make as a student project.

2.1.3 Social Media Outlook

Given the fast-paced nature of social media, we ought to stay up-to-date and therefore consider additional platforms such as TikTok, Twitter, and Medium.

2.2   Video & Visuals

- Take pictures and videos
- Maintain the design and layout of all project documents
- Support all the teams in graphics

The Video & Visuals Team is responsible for a consistent brand identity, focusing on creating visual assets such as videos and various design elements that enhance the project's overall visual

appeal. Working closely with other teams, we provide support in creating visual assets that align with their specific needs. We work with InDesign, Illustrator, Photoshop, and other creative tools.

2.3 Website Administration

- Maintaining,
- designing,
- and building the website

The website serves as a first impression of the SCL project, providing a comprehensive overview of the project's activities, resources, and relevant information. Through the user-friendly interface, the website aims to inform, engage, and connect with students, companies, and other interested parties.

The website is built using WordPress, a content management system that requires no coding skills to maintain. This allows for easy updates and content management without the need for technical expertise. It is hosted on the BCP server, ensuring increased speed in editing changes and having some interesting features available (e.g. plugins) without having to pay for the WordPress premium service.

Operations

The operations team ensures the seamless and efficient functioning of operational processes. But what can you expect if you decide to join our team?

1. Objective

We aim to create a diverse and inclusive team that is aligned with our project's goal by identifying, attracting, and selecting talented individuals who share our project's vision and values. Further, we encompass a wide range of tasks that ensure the smooth execution of day-to-day activities, enabling the organization to achieve its goals, maintain high levels of productivity, as well as enhance the general experience during the project.

2. Operations Tasks

The team mainly focuses on providing the project with the right candidates.

2.1 Recruitment

- Applications: Check applications, select talented students, and invite them to the information session.
- Information Sessions: Present SCL's culture, our work, and our organization as well as carry out interviews.
- Interviews: Find out if the invitee is a good fit for SCL.

2.2 Onboarding

- Plan, organize, and manage the Onboarding Week.
- Ensure that the new joiners feel welcome and prepared.

2.3 Offboarding

- Plan, organize, and manage the Offboarding Event.
- Ensure a smooth exit procedure.

2.4 Administration

- Emails: Emails should be checked daily. However, we have a bot that simplifies the process.
- Organizational Chart and Capacity Planning: Keep track of our matrix organization. Find out which teams need additional support.
- Intranet: Maintain and update our intranet, where we also store our memoranda.

3. Outlook

The ability to embrace change, adopt new technologies, and continuously improve processes is crucial for ensuring that the team remains effective and aligned with the evolving needs of the organization. Since operations are pivotal for a project as dynamic as SCL, the team will have to focus on enhancing efficiency and attracting talented students. Moreover, as students form the core of our project, the operations team will persistently work toward attracting and recruiting talented students. In particular, we are in high demand of students with technical skills. Our team will consistently improve On- & Offboardings ensuring optimal procedures for our members, allowing them to make the most of their contributions while being part of SCL.

Regulation

1. Objective

Our fundamental purpose involves thoroughly examining regulations to combat money laundering and financial fraud. As we identify the challenges banks and other institutions face, we address these issues by leveraging the capabilities of blockchain technology. Our comprehensive research aims to enhance financial transparency, minimize risks, and improve compliance.

2. Scope of Research

2.1 Anti-Money Laundering

Our ongoing research focuses on understanding Know Your Customer (KYC) and Anti Money Laundering (AML) regulations within the context of money laundering. The team is investigating how blockchain technology can enhance regulatory processes. The first step involves providing a document outlining how institutions conduct KYC and AML processes. At the heart of our efforts lies creating a detailed report that sheds light on the complex world of banking regulations.

Therefore, the research aims to grasp the legislative frameworks of KYC and AML, along with their procedures, challenges, and integration potential onto the blockchain. This research lays the foundation for developing a comprehensive smart contract incorporating the KYC and AML processes onto the blockchain.

2.2 Fraudulent Expense Reporting

The regulatory team is also engaged in a research project exploring blockchain technology's potential applications and benefits in receipt management within expense reporting systems. Our goal is to make sure that expenses are recorded accurately and that people do not try to cheat the system by submitting the same receipt to different institutions. Our research lays the groundwork for a smart contract that prevents fraud in expense reporting.

The research aims to provide a holistic comprehension of digital Receipt Management. It will look at the challenges involved and suggest ways to improve how it works using Non-fungible tokens (NFTs). NFTs are like unique digital certificates, and they are stored on the blockchain. Unlike regular digital money (like bitcoins), you cannot swap NFTs because each one is special and unique. In simple terms, we are making receipts like unique tokens on the blockchain to make sure they cannot be used more than once. This will create a transparent and honest system for tracking expenses.

3. Significance

3.1 Anti-Money Laundering

This research aims to contribute to a comprehensive understanding of the KYC and AML landscape in Switzerland and worldwide. It will provide insights into the challenges faced by financial institutions and provide a solution aimed at improving KYC and AML practices. Cryptocurrencies pose a significant challenge to these preventive measures as they offer an avenue to bypass such controls by leveraging their anonymity and their limited effectiveness of AML prosecution. It also has the potential to enhance compliance in traditional finance. Hence, this research paper aims to contribute to global efforts against financial crime.

3.2 Fraudulent Expense Reporting

By breaking down receipt content into discrete tokens and harnessing the power of natural language processing, this research addresses challenges related to data extraction, fraud detection, categorization, and overall process optimization. The anticipated outcomes have the potential to improve financial transparency, reduce errors, enhance compliance, and streamline auditing procedures. This study aspires to contribute to advancing financial technology, offering tangible solutions to the complexities of expense reporting and documentation handling.

4. Prior Research: KYCrypto

The regulatory team proposed a solution called KYCrypto to combat money laundering through blockchain. This solution provides a holistic concept that links regulatory processes to a cryptocurrency. Further, the paper introduces a smart contract corresponding to the Ethereum Request for Comment 20 (ERC-20) standard. The smart contract provides tokens for whitelisted customers and enables AML prosecution through its blocking function. The oracle is the bridge between off-chain and on-chain processes. Thus, KYCrypto combines the advantages of the traditional banking system with the potential of blockchain technology, leading to an approach to regulate the environment within the blockchain.

The paper can be accessed here.

Tokenization

1. Objective

In a startup, a tokenization team is responsible for creating, managing, and leveraging tokens within the company's ecosystem. Tokens are digital assets or representations of value that can be used for various purposes, including fundraising (through Initial Coin Offerings or ICOs), facilitating transactions within a platform or network, or representing ownership rights in digital or physical assets.

Our team is on a mission to reduce tax fraud and evasion with the help of Blockchain. The modern tax landscape features a critical vulnerability as it is still very susceptible to fraud. Among the most striking examples of this vulnerability are the significant revenue shortfalls of European tax authorities in Value-Added Tax (VAT). EU Member States lose billions of euros a year in revenues due to VAT fraud. This loss in VAT revenues has a profoundly detrimental effect on the funding of essential public goods and services that are vital to our society, including schools, hospitals, and transportation systems, which we all rely on. New developments are required to tackle the problem of VAT refund fraud in order to safeguard government revenues and protect the integrity of the tax system. Thanks to new technologies such as receipt tokens it is possible to verify the authenticity of receipts, thereby reducing the risk of fraudulent VAT transactions.

Hence, we are exploring how a non-fungible receipt token, implemented as a smart contract, can help. We will analyze global VAT transactions and key challenges and gaps in existing tax regulations and enforcement mechanisms that contribute to significant revenue shortfalls. Through interviews with custom authorities and experts in the field of VAT and NFT, we will further refine our insights.

We are in the process of developing an improved concept for a new way of doing international transactions that mitigates fraudulent activities, improves efficiency and increases transparency within VAT systems. Our strategy involves the utilization of receipt tokens. The aim is to put our concept into into practical application through the implementation of a smart contract. This creates the opportunity for SCL members with blockchain programming skills to develop smart contracts based on our concept.

2. Scope of Research

2.1 Significance of Receipt Tokens and NFTs

Receipt tokens serve as indispensable instruments across various systems, playing multifaceted roles in the domains of security, verification, and accountability. These tokens are like digital seals that make things more secure and reliable. They confirm if something is real, track what is happening, and help fix mistakes. They also give users a thumbs-up when they do something right, like logging in or making a payment. The potential applications of receipt tokens extend beyond traditional sectors, encompassing entities such as health insurance companies, retailers,

and employers. Leveraging receipt tokens in these domains can significantly mitigate fraudulent activities, especially concerning international Value Added Tax transactions. By introducing these tokens into the equation, our endeavor aims to establish a robust framework that prevents fraud, fosters transparency, and facilitates the management of significant international purchases. Our innovative concept that will be implemented in smart contracts will help the government save money and recover revenue, particularly by monitoring significant international transactions.

2.2 Research Approach

As the concept of receipt tokens is relatively new with limited available information online and in books, we see both challenges and exciting opportunities for creativity and research. Our goal is to leverage these tokens, alongside the growing popularity of NFTs, to develop an innovative solution.

To achieve this, we'll start by thoroughly understanding VAT's significance and its role in government revenue, as well as delving into existing regulations and recent controversies. To gather insights into the current state of affairs and potential regulatory gaps, we will conduct interviews with experts at Swiss borders and those knowledgeable in Token and VAT. Additionally, we will be presenting our token solution for their valuable feedback. To ensure the reliability of our findings, we will validate our research outcomes through consultations with experts. Following this thorough research phase, we will proceed to translate our concept to improve VAT transactions into the practical realm by implementing it through a smart contract.

Functional Platform & Accounting

1. Objective

Our team's objective is to design and develop a cutting-edge platform tailored for streamlining accounting processes within the blockchain ecosystem. By combining expertise in functional platform development and accounting automation, our team seeks to create innovative solutions that bridge the gap between the blockchain world and traditional accounting systems.

2. Scope of Research

2.1 Backend Data Aggregation

Our research revolves around sourcing and refining financial data from the Polygon blockchain via the Polygonscan API. We aim to streamline the transformation of smart contract data, ensuring its alignment with accounting standards. We will extensively explore the Polygonscan API to identify and extract key financial data. As raw blockchain data can be complex and overwhelming, we intend to transform this data into a format that is meaningful and usable for accounting purposes.

2.2 Frontend Interface Development

In a second step, we aim to design and implement an intuitive and visually appealing web application that simplifies the user experience. This will involve designing a user-friendly interface for entering contract addresses and initiating data retrieval. Data visualization research will be pivotal in presenting complex financial information in a clear and human-readable format. We'll explore a range of visualization techniques, including charts, graphs, and tables, to enhance data comprehension. Research into use cases and the utility of this data will also be conducted.

3. Significance

The convergence of functional platforms and accounting automation holds immense potential for both the blockchain and financial sectors. Automated accounting processes can mitigate challenges faced by crypto companies in managing transaction data, taxation, and compliance. This offers greater transparency, efficiency, and accuracy for businesses operating in the blockchain space. Simultaneously, it also allows blockchain data to be accessible to a broader audience. It empowers users with accurate, automated, and secure accounting tools, enabling better financial decision-making, regulatory compliance, and efficient blockchain integration.

4. Prior Research

4.1 Functional Platform

In the functional platform domain, prior work has explored basic Oracle functionalities and their integration with blockchain applications. An oracle was developed as well as a website to

inform about the oracle use. Furthermore, users have the option to register off-chain via the website and directly engage with the Oracle by connecting their MetaMask Wallet.

4.2 Accounting

In the Accounting Team, a Python code capable of retrieving transactions from the Polygon blockchain was previously developed. This code allows to gather smart contract data and gives CSV files as output that can easily be read and imported into a variety of accounting software. Throughout their research, they utilized Banana+, a popular Swiss accounting software widely adopted by Swiss companies.

For our research, we can build on and enhance this code as some of our objectives are similar, i.e. to collect data from a smart contract and display it in a relevant way.

Newsletter

The SCL Times team is dedicated to fulfilling three primary objectives: delivering high-quality content, offering a comprehensive overview of the latest blockchain news and trends, and presenting it in a reader-friendly format.

Below is a letter of the Newsletter Team Leader, Erietta:

"Dear you,

At the moment, we are a dynamic team of three students. We will welcome you with open arms if you decide to join us 😋

Since I took the lead of this topic, my vision for The SCL Times has been to depict the vision of SCL. Namely,

*"Our vision is to establish a recognized and respected research project that **educates** the public on the potential of blockchain technology and creates a **vast network** of partnerships with leading companies, experts, and institutions in the industry. We strive to be a **trusted source of information** and a **driving force** in the **development** and **adoption** of blockchain technology."*

To me and to our readers the Newsletter is not only a reliable source of information, but also an educational, aspirational, and entertaining platform.

If you are interested in being informed about the latest news and trends in the blockchain space, like to work both in a dynamic, creative and fun environment, but also on your own, enjoy writing and you are confident in your English skills, then I am sure you will appreciate this topic.

The Newsletter topic brings a breeze of lightness among the other topics making "work, not feel like work". The collaboration with other team members also makes this a quite team-spirited platform for all SCL members.

I am looking forward to working with you and to answering whatever questions you may have.

Warm regards,

Erietta"

Newsletter Tasks

- Content Research:
    - Scan the internet and newspapers for the latest blockchain news.
    - Use only reliable sources.
    - Distinguish between real and fake news.
    - Judge which news are relevant to SCL's readership, and which are not.

- Content Quality:
    - Focus on delivering high-quality and informative content.
    - Quality Management checks on all articles
    - Ensure that the newsletter provides in-depth insights into the blockchain industry.
- Design & Layout
    - The team is responsible for the design and layout of the Newsletter. This is a highly detail-oriented task.
    - High-quality pictures
- Publication Schedule:
    - The newsletter is sent out bimonthly on Wednesdays at 11am-3pm by email, providing a regular and predictable release schedule for readers.
    - The newsletter is uploaded to SCL's website
- Online Presence:
    - Maintain a presence on LinkedIn and Instagram to make it easy for readers to access and follow the newsletter.
    - Integrate the Newsletter in SCL's website and promote it on our socials.
- Regular Meetings and Feedback rounds either onsite or online ensure a friendly co-working atmosphere and maximize our efficiency.

Outlook

The Newsletter Team is committed to providing readers with the latest and most comprehensive news and insights about the blockchain industry. We aim to achieve this by consistently delivering high-quality content in a reader-friendly format. By adhering to a regular publication schedule and maintaining an online presence on social media platforms, the team ensures that their readers have convenient access to the newsletter. Also, the team has newly integrated a "guest author" section, where members of other topics are welcome to contribute to each issue. Lastly, internal and external interviews have been taking place.

Overall, the Newsletter Team plays a vital role in keeping the SCL community and interested parties updated on the rapidly evolving blockchain industry, contributing to the dissemination of knowledge and information within the organization and beyond.

Requirements

- C-Level English skills (or at least very good B2...)
- Time flexibility (ideally not a side-hustle...)
- Tasks flexibility
- Strict adherence to deadlines
- Creativity (ideas for articles, interviews, special editions, social media posts, layout etc.)
- Broad interests' palette (would be open to write about blockchain in sports, gaming, partying scene, but also about crypto crimes, various countries, bank updates etc.)
- "Good eye" for details
- Proactive work ethic (you come up to Erietta and the team with various ideas)
- Able to receive and give constructive feedback
- Humor 😊

Final Remarks:

Erietta would like to automatize the emailing process. If you have coding experience i.e. with Python and would like to take over this challenge, you are welcome to help her out. To do this you don't have to be part of the Newsletter topic, as other teams may need your support more.