



UNIC | Institute For
the Future

IFF at a glance

We are a cross-disciplinary educational and research institute of the University of Nicosia (UNIC), focused on technologies shaping the 4th industrial revolution:

**Blockchain
Artificial Intelligence**

Academic Education & Professional Training

World's first **MOOC** on cryptocurrencies

World's first full academic degree on blockchain (**MSc in Digital Currency**)

Blockchain/AI Professional Training Programs (online & offline)

Research & Technology Development

Fast growing **research** track record (EU research grants, direct industry funding)

Launch of first spin-off (**block.co**) commercializing credentialing technology developed at IFF

Conferences & Events

Europe's premier blockchain conference (**Decentralized**)

Global forecasting research conference (**M4**)

Self-organized local community **chapters** on blockchain

The Institute For the Future

Our **mission**:

- To explore and shape our future world, fueled by the technologies underpinning the 4th industrial revolution.

Our **vision**:

- To push the boundaries of human knowledge in blockchain & AI; to inspire our students to become technology leaders of tomorrow.

Our **goals**:

1. To bridge the supply/demand skill gap in blockchain and AI through continuously evolving educational offerings to meet the changing needs of the market.
2. To build global communities of highly engaged learners and professionals.
3. To foster partnerships with academia and industry.
4. To carry out basic and applied research, commercializing its outcomes where relevant.

Why IFF?

Foundational technologies, like blockchain and artificial intelligence, are highly disruptive, even on their own.

Taken together, they will have **compounding effects** on the economy, social structures, legal systems, income distribution, governance, education, and warfare – and raise fundamental questions on how future society will be organized.

We prepare students, faculty, researchers, policy-makers and business leaders for these changes to achieve societally beneficial outcomes.

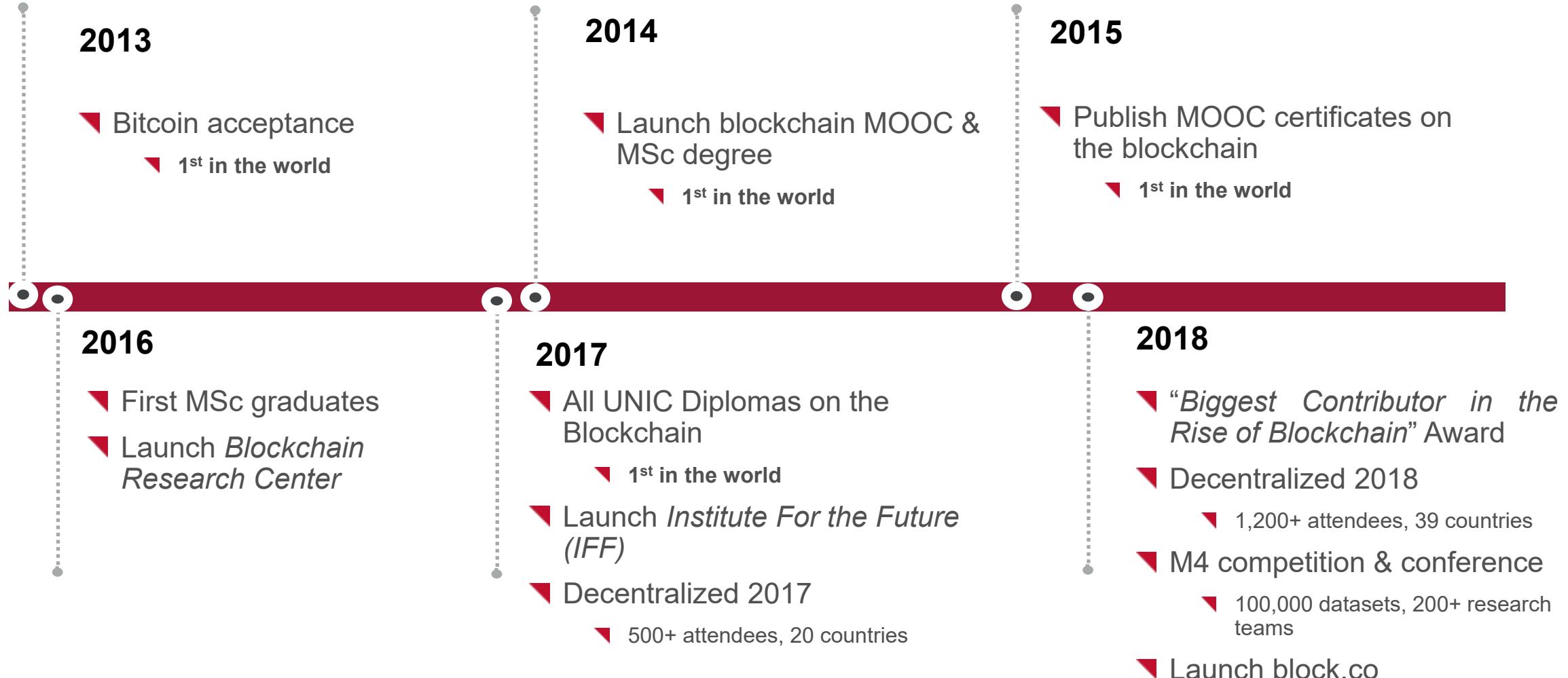
On **blockchain**, we specialize in:

- Technology for public & private blockchains (programs for **developers**)
- Business applications & venture funding (programs for **managers**, **executives** and **entrepreneurs**)
- Regulatory implications (programs for **lawyers**, **auditors** and **authorities**)

On **artificial intelligence**, we specialize in:

- **Forecasting** (machine learning, statistical inferencing, hybrid methods)
- **Intelligence augmentation** (IA)

Activity timeline



IFF numbers

- **Largest student community in the world**
 - 40,000 MOOC participants from 90+ countries.
 - 550+ MSc students and graduates from 76 countries, including USA (19%), UK (6%), Canada (5%), South Africa (4%), Brazil (3%), India (2%) and Australia (2%).
- **Accelerating research track record:**
 - €5m in competitive European Commission research grants since 2017.
 - Member of the Austrian Blockchain Center (€17m consortium, funded by the Austrian government)
- **Respected business & academic community organizer:**
 - Three annual Decentralized conferences with speakers including: Llew Claasen (*Director, Bitcoin Foundation*), Roger Ver (*CEO, Bitcoin.com*), Eva Kaili (*MEP*), Garrick Hileman (*Head of Research at Blockchain.com & Cambridge University*), etc.
 - Growing base of local Decentralized chapters: Nicosia, New York City, Mexico City, California, Amsterdam, Nigeria, Malta, Dubai, London, Thessaloniki, Brussels, Tokyo.
- **Strong team and partners:**
 - 15 full-time and affiliate UNIC faculty members
 - 20+ resident and visiting researchers
 - 50+ university and industry partners
 - One commercial spin-off

Leaders in blockchain education



- #1 University of Nicosia
- #2 University of Cumbria
- #3 Simon Fraser University
- #4 MIT
- #5 New York University
- #6 Duke University
- #7 McGill University
- #8 Pompeu Fabra University
- #9 Imperial College

Source: [Coindesk, 2015](#)

Top 5 University Bitcoin Courses

- #1 University of Nicosia
- #2 New York University
- #3 Stanford University
- #4 Princeton
- #5 Duke University

Source: [The Merkle, 2017](#)

Leaders in blockchain research

Project	Budget	Funding by	Duration	IFF role
INFINITECH	€ 21m	EC (H2020)	3.25 years	Partner
ABC	€ 17m	Austrian govt	4 years	Partner
EUNOMIA	€ 2.4m	EC (H2020)	3 years	Partner
BLOCKPOOL.EU	€ 1.5m	EC (H2020)	2 years	Partner
DLT4ALL	€ 1m	EC (Erasmus+)	3 years	Coordinator
Direct industry funding	€ 1m	Ripple, trade.io, PumaPay, etc.	1-5 years	Main/sole partner



Leaders in blockchain/AI community engagement



- Europe's premier annual blockchain conference since 2017
- Bringing industry & academia together
- Pre- and post-conference events (**Decentralized Training Series**)
- Bottom-up community engagement (**Decentralized Chapters**)



- Based on the results of the annual **M-Competition** on forecasting
- 200+ research teams; 100,000 real-life time series analyzed
- In collaboration with NYU & Nassim Taleb
- Sponsored by Google, Amazon and Uber

Our people: IFF Governing Board



Antonis Polemitis
UNIC CEO



Dimitris Drikakis
UNIC VP of
Global Partnerships



George Giaglis
IFF General Director



Soulla Louca
IFF Director of
Partnerships



Spyros Makridakis
IFF Director of
Research



Marinos Themistocleous
IFF Director of
Education & Training

Our people: IFF Researchers & Staff



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Dr Elias Iosif



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Dr Ioannis Katakis



Dr Konstantinos Karasavvas



Dr Ariana Polyviou



Andreas Vlachos



Jeff Bandman



Kypros Stefanou



Valentinos Theofilou



Irene Patrikios



Nick Assimenos



Sokratis Mina



Elena Kontemeniotis



Maria Charalambous



Eleni Alexi

Our people: Visiting Scholars & Faculty



Andreas Antonopoulos



Prof Nassim Nicholas Taleb



Stefan Loesch



Adam Hayes



Dr Theodosis Mourouzis



Athanasis Leontaris



Dr Apostolos Kourtis

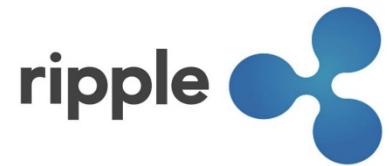


Yiannis Menelaou



Mark Toohey

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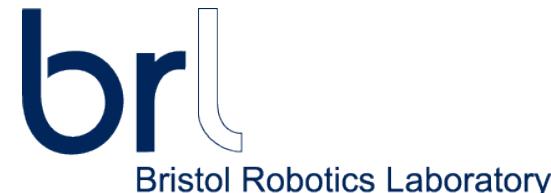
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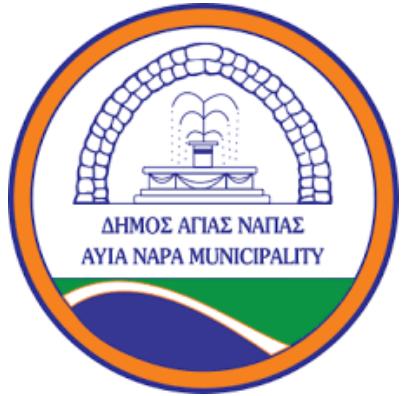
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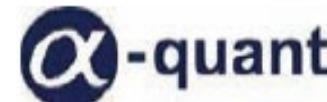
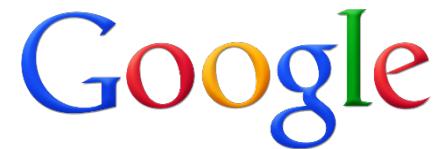
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