Project ID 1300094

https://milestones.projectcatalyst.io/projects/1300094

Empowering DeSci with Marlowe: A Free Course on Real-World Blockchain Applications

Final Milestone -

Evidence of Completion

Delivery date: 10/06/2025

Coordinator: Rivero Martín, PhD. (martinnicolasrivero@gmail.com)

Project Close-out Report

Name of Project: Empowering DeSci with Marlowe: A Free Course on Real-World Blockchain Applications
Project URL: https://milestones.projectcatalyst.io/projects/1300094
Project Number: 1300094
Name of Project Manager: Rivero Martín, PhD
Date Project Started: Jan 20, 2025
Date Project Completed: Oct 6, 2025
Final video link: https://youtu.be/JgXq32XpKJQ

Project KPIs and How DeSci Quark Addressed Them

1. **Course Completion & Accessibility**

   ○ **KPI**: Deliver 100% of course content, with bilingual support and quizzes.

   ○ **Addressed**: Completed the full 8-module curriculum (100 % content), subtitled in English and Spanish, with 8 quizzes + final exam uploaded and accessible.

2. **User Engagement & Growth**

   ○ **KPI addressed**: As of 06 October 2025, 106 users registered, with 80 of them in the last 30 days. In the first two weeks after public launch, over 80 enrolled and 20+ completed the full course.

3. **Pilot Testing & Iterative Improvement**

   ○ **KPI**: Recruit testers, collect structured feedback, and implement improvements.

   ○ **Addressed**: Collected 37 applications → selected 15 testers → received 11 detailed feedback reports, compiled into a 70-page document. Implemented improvements in UI, instructions, navigation, and accessibility.

4. **Community Outreach & Visibility**

- ○ **KPI**: Present the project in public events, issue certificates, and engage communities.

- ○ **Addressed**: Participated online at Hosken Academy (Sept 11), in-person at Bolivia Cardano Summit (Sept 27), awarded ADA/NFTs in live quiz, and issued thank-you certificates to 16 speakers.

5. **Open & Transparent Documentation**

- ○ **KPI**: Publish all course materials, revisions, and reports in public repositories.

- ○ **Addressed**: Maintained two GitHub repositories:

  - ■ Course materials: `desci-cardano-course`

    All updates, milestone reports (v1, v2, v3), quizzes, and feedback logs are available openly.

  - ■ Smart contract examples: `marlowe-smart-contracts`

6. **Sustained Accessibility & Future Growth**

- ○ **KPI**: Ensure the course remains free and continuously updated.

- ○ **Addressed**: The course is now publicly accessible, free of charge, with future roadmap ideas that include expansions (e.g. Aiken, Midnight), community hubs, hackathons, and continuous improvements.

Key Achievements

- Delivered the entire course as an 8-module, bilingual trabslation with 19+ hours of video content.

- Completed interactive components: quizzes and smart contract tutorials.

- Engaged 16 expert contributors across academia, blockchain, DeSci, legal, and tech sectors.

- Successfully ran a pilot-testing phase that directly shaped final improvements.

- Built strong visibility via online and in-person events, rewarding community participation with ADA and NFTs.

- Created and shared a final project summary video to document the journey.

- Ensured full transparency by publishing every milestone, revision, and feedback iteration publicly on GitHub.

Key Learnings

- Iterative feedback loops are vital: early testers identified UX issues that would have been missed otherwise.

- Community engagement multiplies reach — real events, token incentives, and certifications helped boost awareness.

- Transparent documentation builds trust: public repositories allow anyone to follow progress and verify authenticity.

- Flexibility in development is essential — adapting course content, platform features, and links as needed helped maintain quality.

Next Steps

- Expand the curriculum to include **Aiken** contracts and **privacy features via Midnight**

- Create **physical hubs & workshops** to bring DeSci in-person to research communities

- Host **DeSci hackathons** combining blockchain and scientific research

- Continue promoting, updating, and evolving the course — remaining open, free, and community-driven

Milestone 1 Summary (for context)

Milestone 1 focused on establishing the foundation of the *DeSci Quark* project (Project Catalyst ID: 1300094), an educational initiative aiming to bridge decentralized science (DeSci) and the Cardano ecosystem. During this phase, the team completed the initial 30% of the course content, launched the project's web presence and communication channels, and laid the groundwork for platform development.

Key accomplishments included:

- Creation of a clearly branded identity (*DeSci Quark*), with a dedicated domain (desciquark.com) serving as the central hub for the course and community.

- Development of a detailed course structure covering 8 modules, up from the 6 initially planned.

- Delivery of 16 recorded and subtitled videos, along with quizzes and extra materials for Modules 0–2.

- Publication of an initial landing page (in English and Spanish) and a platform framework built on WordPress + LearnDash.

- Activation of official social media channels (X, LinkedIn, Instagram).

- Collaboration with 6 international contributors, each delivering insights on blockchain, legal, scientific, and decentralized topics.

In addition, feedback from Milestone 1 reviewers was addressed through:

- Clarification of technical terms (e.g., distinction between Cardano sidechains and partner chains like Midnight).

- Public sharing of previously restricted mockup links.

- Centralization of all deliverables and course materials in a structured GitHub repository: https://github.com/desciquark/desci-cardano-course

Milestone 2 Summary (for context)

This milestone marks the completion of the DeSci Quark course, focused on finalizing content, pilot testing, and refining the platform for public launch.

Key accomplishments included:

- Full course delivery: The remaining 70% of content was completed, bringing the total to 8 modules, 19+ hours of bilingual video, and 8 quizzes (including a final exam).
- Diverse speakers: 16 experts contributed from blockchain, science, education, fintech, and the Cardano ecosystem.
- Practical tutorials: Topics included wallet setup, SPO/DRep delegation, DeFi tools, scientific NFTs/FTs, and 6 Marlowe smart contracts for science.
- Pilot testing: 37 applied, 15 testers selected, 11 submitted detailed feedback—resulting in a 70-page improvement document. Testers received 50 ADA + NFT certificates.
- Platform refinement: Continuous improvements were made based on feedback, enhancing UX, navigation, and clarity.
- GitHub repositories launched:

  Course: github.com/desciquark/desci-cardano-course
  Smart Contracts: github.com/desciquark/marlowe-smart-contracts

- Public access: Platform demo video published (YouTube).

💬 Reviewer-informed updates:

- All broken/restricted links were fixed.
- Quiz permissions (Modules 3–7) corrected.
- Tester data anonymized in the new spreadsheet.
  All updates compiled in the latest milestone report:
  📘 PoA-M2 v3 (Reviewer-informed)

Final Report

Introduction

This final milestone marks the public release and community engagement phase of the *DeSci Quark* project — an educational initiative bridging **Decentralized Science (DeSci)** with the **Cardano ecosystem**.

Following the successful delivery of all course content, structured testing, and multiple iterations based on community and reviewer feedback, our final efforts focused on:

- **Opening public access** to the course

- **Improving platform and course UI/UX**

- **Promoting the course through strategic communication and community events**

- **Collecting data** and feedback from users

- **Defining next steps and growth opportunities**

Public Course Launch

- We transitioned from **"pre-registration" to full public registration** on our website. The course is now available for anyone to access, completely free of charge.

- Website improvements included:

  - Addition of a **GitHub button** to improve transparency.

  - **Visual alignment** of speaker photos.

  - Enhanced **navigation scroll behavior** for smoother UX.

- Platform refinements within the course:

  - Adjusted **video ratio settings** for better playback.

○ Added a **"Dashboard" button** at the course start for easier navigation.
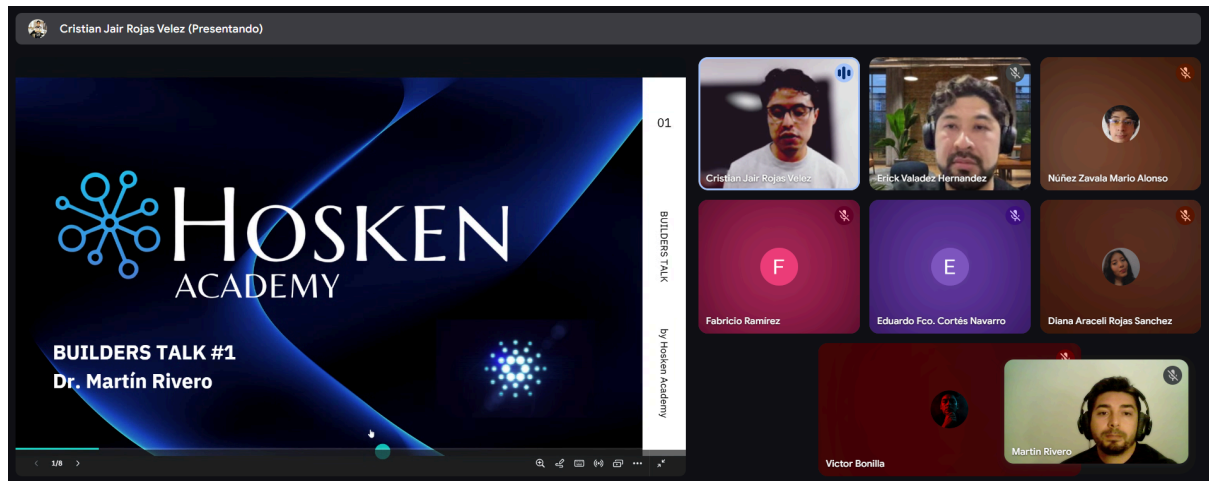

○

Communication & Community Engagement

To spread awareness of the course and foster community interaction, we carried out several outreach initiatives:

🖥️ **Online Participation**

● On **September 11, 2025**, we were invited to present at the first **Hosken Academy** event, organized by the Mexican Cardano community. 🔗 Event Link – Luma

🌍 **In-person Presentation**

- On **September 27, 2025**, we took part in the **Bolivia Cardano Summit**, where we:

    - Gave a live presentation of the course.

        https://www.instagram.com/p/DPNRyiCEV6g/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link

        https://x.com/DeSciQuark/status/1972821206530445532

        https://x.com/CardanoSummitBo/status/197390458124022988

    - Engaged participants through interactive science trivia based on course content.

    - **Awarded ADA and NFT prizes** to those who answered correctly.
      https://x.com/DeSciQuark/status/1973522730793443440

🎖️ **Speaker Recognition**
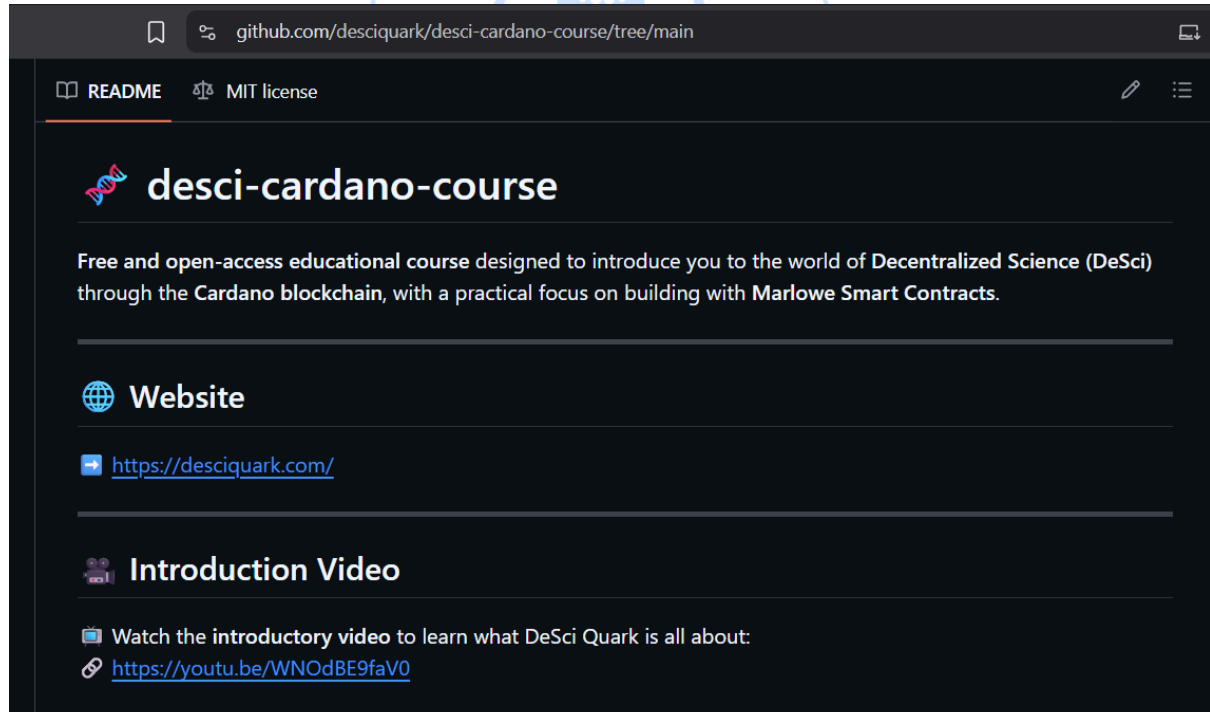
- We created and sent **thank-you certificates** to all 16 course speakers.

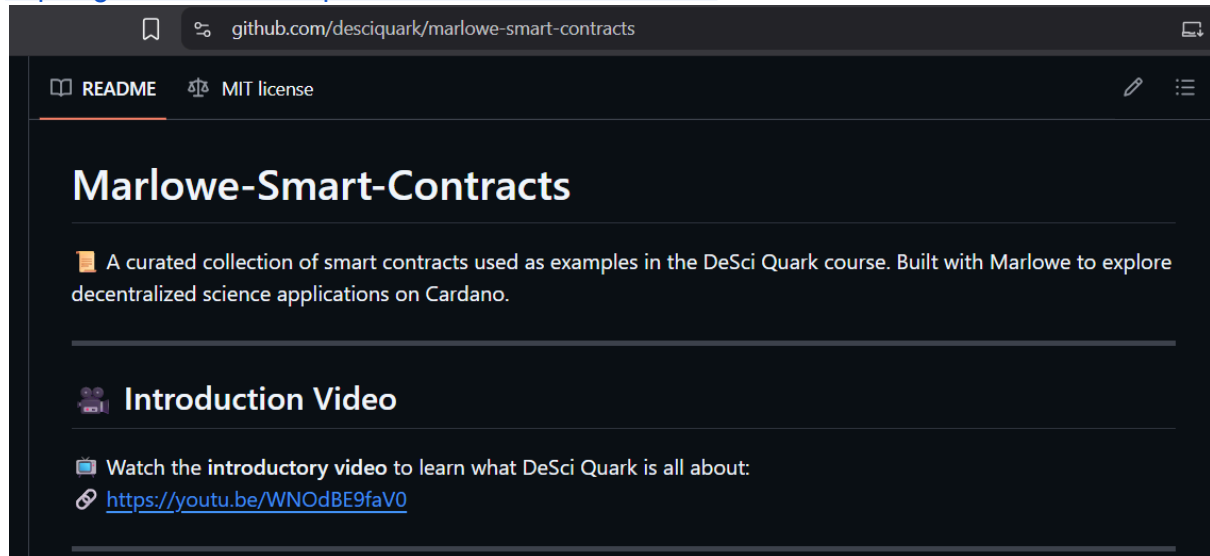- Some of our speakers publicly shared their certificate on X:
  🔗 https://x.com/andamioseb/status/1974608678872633428

  🔗 https://x.com/DanielaHubBr/status/1975193480688480551

🎬 Video Summary & Promotion

- We produced a **short video summary** of the project.
  🔗 [https://youtu.be/WNOdBE9faV0]

- The course launch and video were shared across our channels:

  - X (Twitter): https://x.com/DeSciQuark/status/1974517796882292745

  - LinkedIn:
    https://www.linkedin.com/posts/desci-quark_desci-cardano-cardanocommunity-activity-7380305597801316353--7Pd?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAABJ_MiYBYBdNtMNRIKtyazYYEWPj9ASyP50

  - Instagram:
    https://www.instagram.com/reel/DPcOXK6CJ1t/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=azFyd3FiZXk3bm1z

  - Cardano Forum (English): [View Post](#)

  - Foro de Cardano (Español): [Ver publicación](#)

También agregamos el video introuctorio al inicio e los githubs

https://github.com/desciquark/desci-cardano-course

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https://github.com/desciquark/marlowe-smart-contracts
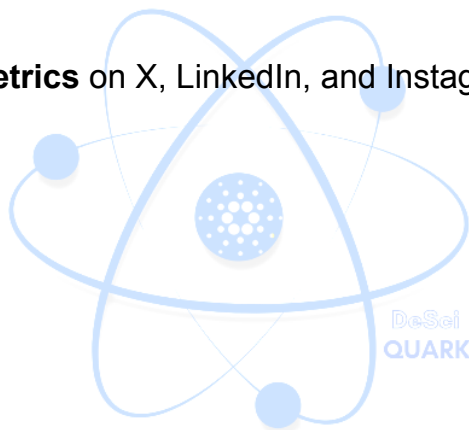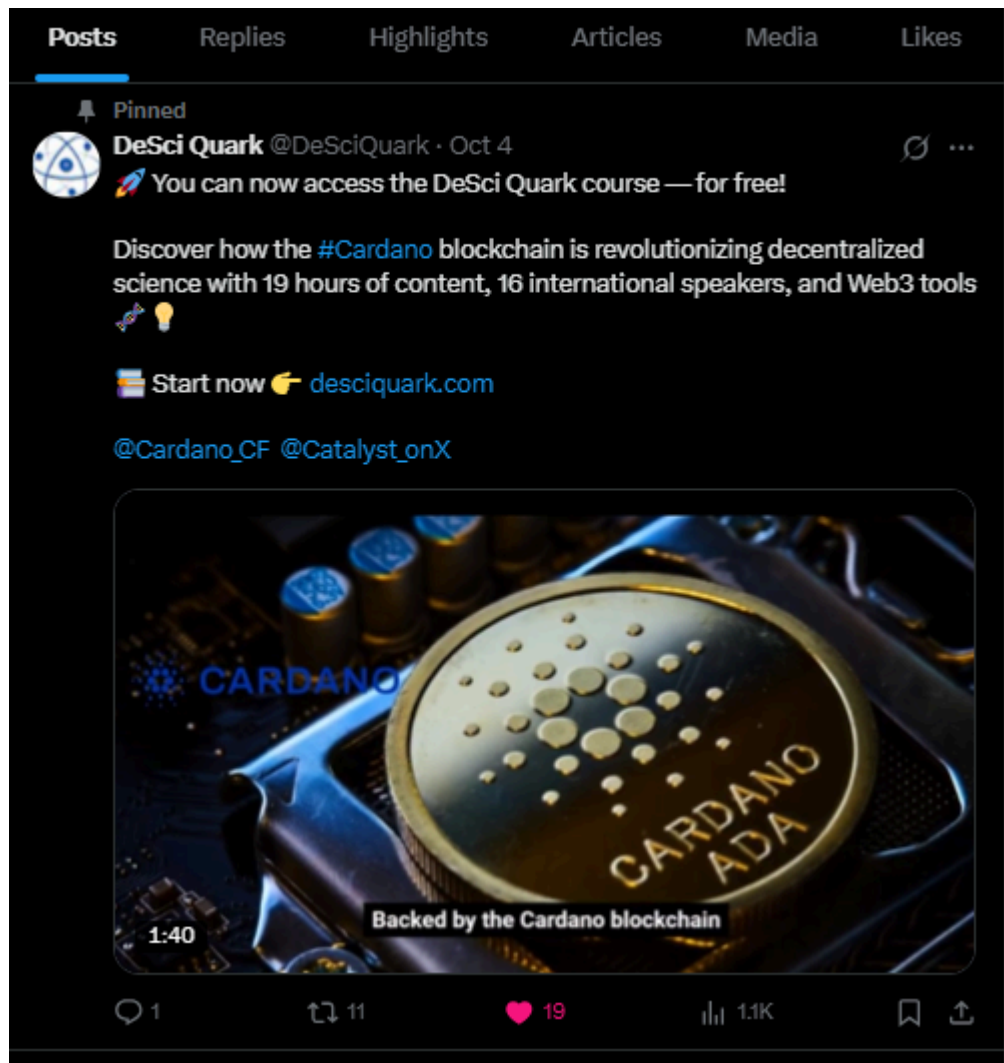

Impact Analysis

We collected data from:

- **Social media metrics** on X, LinkedIn, and Instagram.

Linkedin

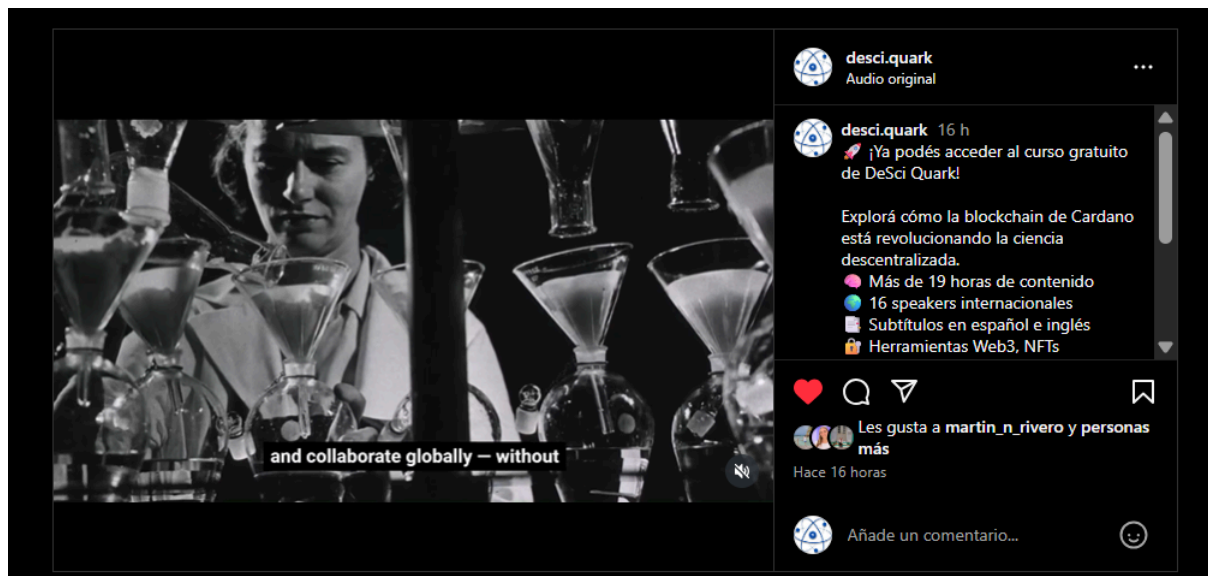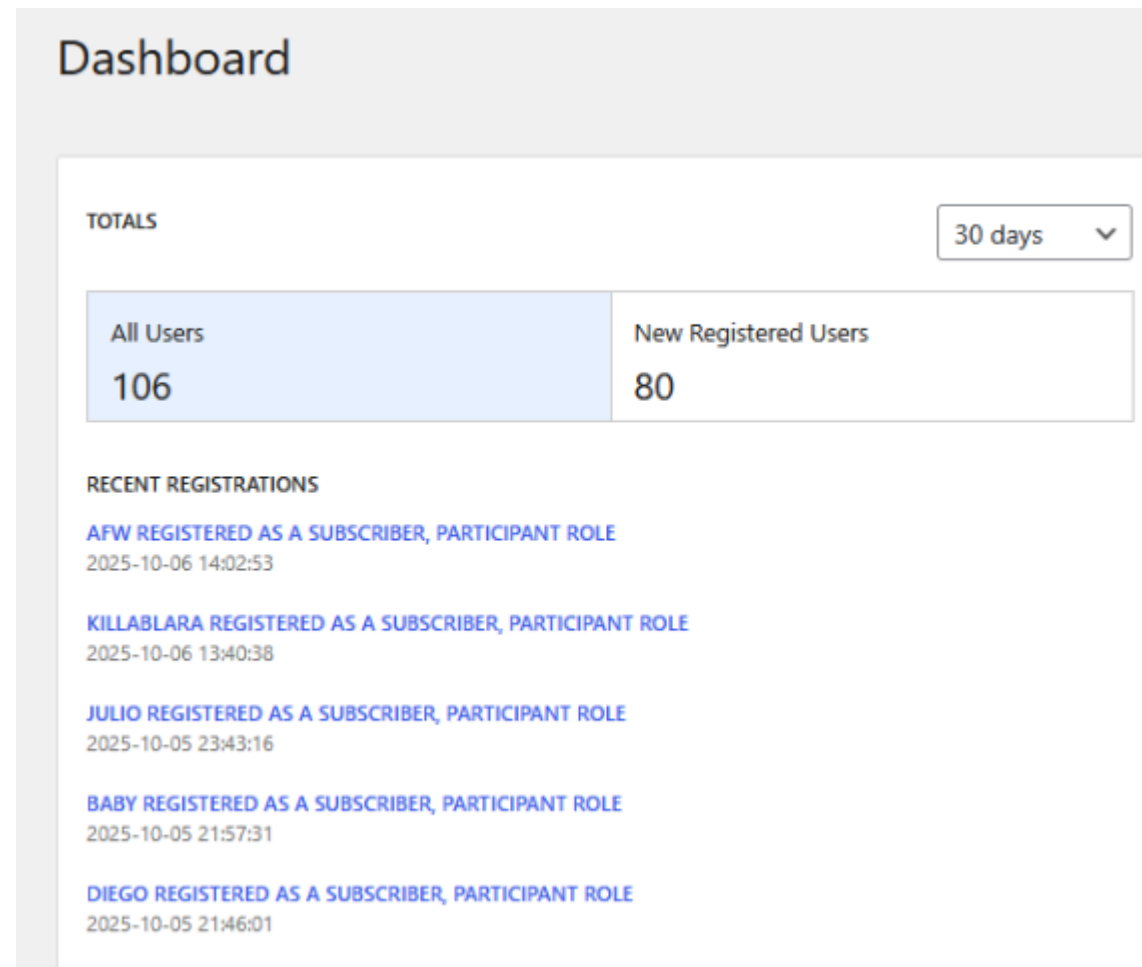| 19	4	275	8
Apariciones en búsquedas	**Nuevos seguidores**	**Impresiones de la publicación**	**Visitantes de la página**
▲280 % últimos 7 días	▲300 % últimos 7 días	▲1864,3 % últimos 7 días	▲300 % últimos 7 días
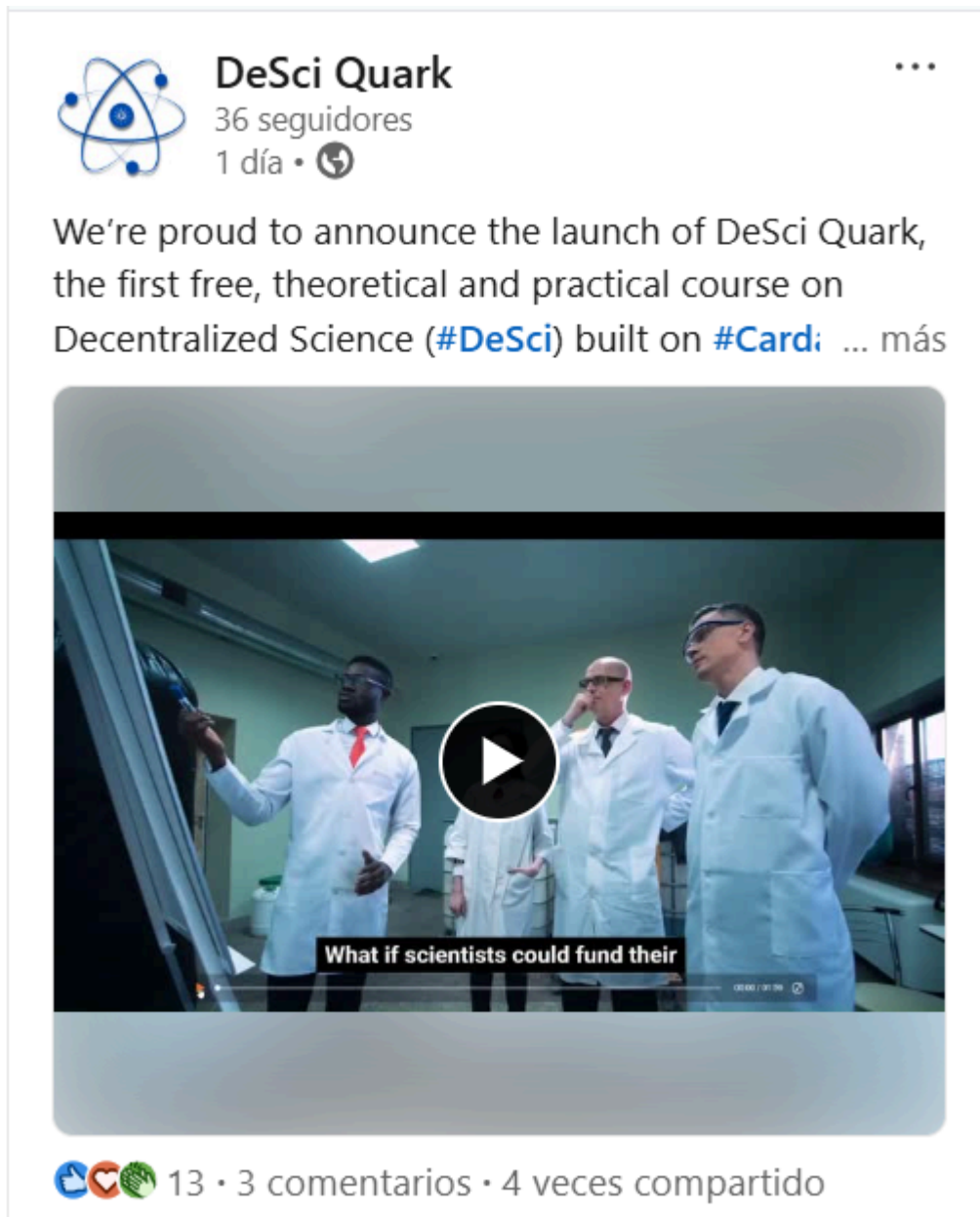
Instagram

- **Course registration numbers** and completion data.

Growing Momentum! As of **October 6, 2025 (midday)**, we've reached an exciting milestone: **106 users have registered** for the DeSci Quark course — with **80 of them signing up in just the last 30 days!**

We officially began introducing the course to the public on **September 11** during our presentation at the **Hosken Academy**, and launched the full promotional campaign across social media on **October 4**.

The rapid uptake shows a growing interest in Decentralized Science and real-world blockchain education — and we're just getting started!

Dashboard

TOTALS   30 days ▾

All Users	New Registered Users
106	80

RECENT REGISTRATIONS

AFW REGISTERED AS A SUBSCRIBER, PARTICIPANT ROLE
2025-10-06 14:02:53

KILLABLARA REGISTERED AS A SUBSCRIBER, PARTICIPANT ROLE
2025-10-06 13:40:38

JULIO REGISTERED AS A SUBSCRIBER, PARTICIPANT ROLE
2025-10-05 23:43:16

BABY REGISTERED AS A SUBSCRIBER, PARTICIPANT ROLE
2025-10-05 21:57:31

DIEGO REGISTERED AS A SUBSCRIBER, PARTICIPANT ROLE
2025-10-05 21:46:01

Recommendations & Next Steps

Based on the feedback received from participants, academics, universities, speakers, and community members (Cardano & DeSci), we propose the following future directions:

- **Expand the curriculum** with advanced topics such as:

  - Smart contracts in **Aiken**
  - **Privacy tools** using Midnight

- **Develop local hubs & in-person events**, including:

  - Talks
  - DeSci-themed workshops
  - Academic + research-focused hackathons

- **Ongoing accessibility**: Even after this final milestone, *DeSci Quark* will remain:

  - Open
  - Free to access

○ Continuously promoted in the broader ecosystem

We are committed to **keeping the educational content live and evolving**, and to participating wherever needed to support the growth of Decentralized Science on Cardano.

Final Project Summary Video

To provide a concise overview of the DeSci Quark project, we have created a short summary video that highlights the goals, development, course content, engagement, and future vision of the initiative.

Watch the Final Project Summary Video:
🔗 Click here to view *(https://youtu.be/JgXq32XpKJQ)*

Documentation & GitHub Tracking

All course updates, improvements, and milestone-related modifications have been carefully documented and made publicly accessible through our **GitHub repository**, which was specifically created for transparent tracking of project progress and deliverables.

Project Repository:
🔗 github.com/desciquark/desci-cardano-course

The repository includes:

- Course structure and content
- Smart contract examples
- Feedback iterations
- Updated milestone reports
- Quiz and test materials
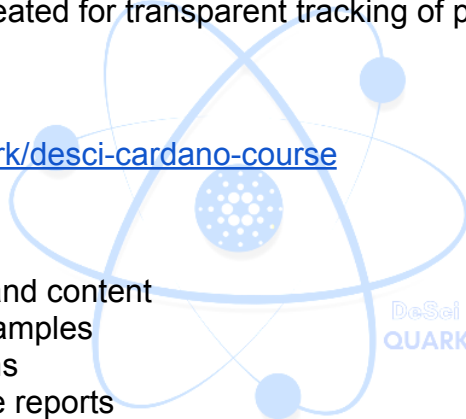
This ensures transparency, traceability, and long-term accessibility for the community and reviewers alike.

Warm regards,
Martín Rivero
Project Lead – DeSci Quark
ID: 1300094