

# Human stories of real world Ethereum

Next Billion Fellows

# Agenda

3:30 - 3:40 Welcome & why we are here

3:40 - 4:25 Next Billion Fellows' presentations

4:25 - 5:05 First round of breakout groups

5:05 - 5:20 Coffee break & stretching

5:20 - 6:00 Second round of breakout groups

6:00 - 6:30 Presentation in plenary

6:30 - onwards Drinks & networking

# **Next Billion Fellowship applications are now open!**



Deadline: January 12th, 2025

# Guo

Matters.Town

# Guo - Matters.Town

- Guo is a developer and researcher working on decentralized social media.
- Matters Town is a publication platform and social media based on Ethereum & IPFS
  - Censorship-resilient with decentralized storage
  - Combine on-chain advertisement and quadratic funding to fund public content
  - Used by over 500k users every month

# Guo - Matters.Town

- How can others help
  - What are some creator communities that face censorship?
  - What are some projects that have a hard time advertising, or project that cannot monetize their traffic?

**Internet runs on a problematic attention economy. By turning it into a protocol, we can make it work for us instead of against us.**

- **How would a permissionless reputation system work while preserving anonymity?**
- **Where to start when competing with a monopoly such as Google AdSense?**

# Eddie

Antugrow

# Eddie – Antugrow

- Eddie is a software researcher and entrepreneur working on digitizing trust onchain by leveraging decentralized identity for farmers to build reputation scores used to de-risk farming.
- Interest areas:
  - Decentralized Identity, Agriculture, Verifiable Credentials, Non-custodial liquidity sourcing
- Looking for help in:
  - Thoughts and actions in possible models of onchain reputation scoring
  - Thoughts and actions in non-custodial liquidity sourcing possibilities

**Can we leverage  
Open Standards to  
get Farmers  
Onchain anywhere  
in the world?**

## **Antugrow – Onchain Reputation Scoring for farmers**

- Digital Record Keeping for farming is largely unstandardized
- Multiple formats across multiple end user applications translate into underutilization of farm data for optimal returns/harvest
- Antugrow proposes an open standard data format for representing farm identities encapsulating decentralized farmer IDs and associated farm data
- You can help in thoughts and actions that will help realize this open standard

- **How can we create an Open Standard for Farm Identities that ensures multichain operability for Agricultural use cases?**
- **What are the limitations in reputation scoring that such a Standard would encounter?**

# **Rebecca**

Community Currencies &  
Commitment Pooling

# Rebecca

## About me and this work

- South African technologist/architect interested in tools for commoning (economic, cultural, spatial)
- Animating question: **How can we harness our shared abundance?**
- Research with the Grassroots Economics Foundation since 2018 on DeFi + indigenous social/cultural technology for resource coordination

## Beyond money

- **Grassroots Economics:** Learning from the field meant returning to what was already there: rotational labour practices, rituals of gathering, etc.
- How you can help:
  - Who needs to know about this?
  - What new stakeholders/practices/regions can we bring in to this work?

**Commitment Pooling is a new pattern language for community currency design.**



**How does new financial  
technology integrate with  
existing social/cultural  
technology?**

**Which stakeholders can help  
scale this work?**

# Karam

Web3 in  
Humanitarian and  
crisis contexts

- **Background & Vision:** Raised in Syria under an authoritarian regime, I've spent nearly a decade fighting for freedom and advocating for democratic change leading to my political detention. After jail, I left Syria and led major funded stabilization and reconstruction efforts in eastern Syria.

- **Project Overview:** Locally Informed Ethereum Applications for Humanitarian Aid and International Development and later as a catalyst for change. The project helped training up to 134 CSOs and NGOs from around the MENA. Then initiating a qualitative and quantitative analysis of the impact of this project after. We continue to provide one-to-one workshops for NGOs around the MENA.

## Today's Takeaways & How to Help:

1. **Recognize that “ basic ” knowledge for you may be a breakthrough for someone else. Similarly, basic rights here are unattainable dreams for many in crisis regions. Approach with empathy and not merely seeing local communities as stakeholders but as drivers of change.**
2. **Understand that crisis, though deadly, can catalyze innovation . To truly support these communities, we need solutions designed with their input and agency, enabling them to lead decision-making and gain direct access to resources without the barriers of traditional aid channels.**
3. **When the winds of crisis settled, remittance and financial transactions, while vital, took a back seat . Many CSOs who went through blockchain workshops began to see possibilities for blockchain applications beyond finance.**

- 1- Beyond direct financial transfers, how can blockchain facilitate **vital non-monetary support systems**, such as secure credential verification, and historical preservation in crisis zones? Can these systems redefine how international aid values **long-term societal restoration over immediate relief**?
- 2- **Traditional aid metrics often quantify impact but overlook the qualitative transformation of lives**. Could blockchain create a “network of roots” that measures change through relationships, local ownership, and sustained outcomes, rather than numbers? How would such system look like in a crisis-setting context?
- 3- Could a **blockchain-based repository of personal stories and cultural records outlast oppressive regimes** and ensure that narratives from marginalized communities are never lost? How would this look in practice? And what impact would this have on collective memory and historical accountability?

# Lefteris



Towards a sustainable marine ecosystem

# Context



Unemployment: 29%

*(Elstat, Feb. 2017)*



Need for personnel:  
14,000 fishing boats  
in Greece

*(Elstat, 2017)*

# Fishing Trips



# Stats



By 2050 there will be more plastic than fish in the sea  
(Ellen McArthur Foundation)



600 years to break down



15-20% of marine plastic pollution is lost fishing equipment

# What can we do?



Prevention



Circular Economy





# ENALEIA



A photograph of a green ocean kayak resting on a bed of large, flat, brownish rock slabs on a beach. The kayak has "NELO" printed on its bow. In the background, the calm blue sea meets a clear blue sky under a bright sun.

Circular economy:

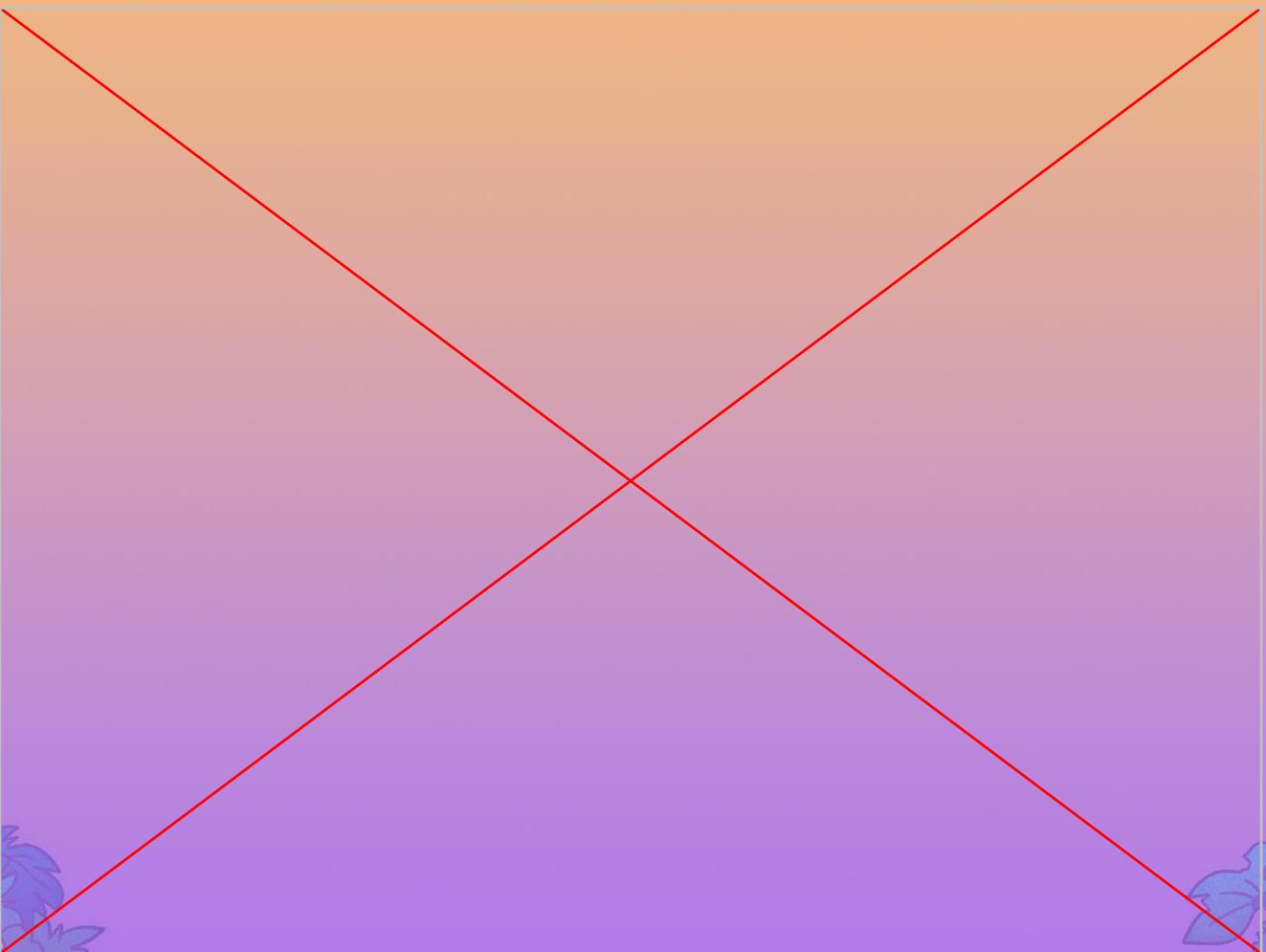
The ocean kayak

**Support in scaling from  
5k to 1 Billion**

- 1. How can we involve the public into taking real action for ocean plastic pollution?**
- 2. How can we involve them either as collectors or sponsors?**
- 3. How do we design incentive and reward mechanisms for those involved in ocean plastic removal?**

# **Mercedes [Meche]**

Activism, Human Rights and  
Web3 in Venezuela



# Mercedes

- **I'm in a quest of purpose:** After working with community projects for NGOs and political organizations for 7 years in Venezuela, I'm deep diving in the space where tech and social impact meet to transform people's lives.
- **My research tries to give simple answers to 4 questions:**
  - How does crypto adoption actually looks like for Venezuelans in a daily basis and how has the way we save, use and move our money has been transformed in that context?
  - What do we mean when we say that crypto communities are transforming lives in Venezuela?
  - How is quadratic funding and crypto donations being used by grantees to make tangible impact in their communities?
  - How can we scale the current state of adoption by small players in their communities to increase their impact and onboard the next billion users?

# The “Myth” Behind Adoption in Venezuela

From hyperinflation to the crypto-dollar nation.

Venezuelans see crypto as:

- A means to preserve value
- A solution for real time payments through stablecoins and peer-to-peer markets
- A means for 8 million people to send remittances through peer-to-peer platforms
- A tool for investment

Does adoption still qualify as crypto adoption if its users don't factually understand what the "crypto" part of it means?

# How Crypto is Changing Lives for Venezuelans

The impact of crypto ecosystems through the lenses of human experience



And a thousand more in the ecosystem

## From zero to hero

### Crypto as a means for community coordination

These are **some** communities solving coordination problems through community onboarding efforts and quadratic funding:

- ETH Venezuela
- ETH Aragua
- Asilo Digital
- Cripto Curiosas
- ReFi Venezuela
- Mi Costa de Oro
- Huottoja University Of Ancestral Knowledge
- Emprende DAO

**Crypto ecosystems are a solution to the coordination issues behind social and civic action in the midst of state censorship and repression.**

**How can we scale a decentralized structure that fosters intentional onboarding for small players and changemakers?**

**Could it be feasible to create a solution that protects the activists working in their communities and their beneficiaries with applications beyond the donation use case?**

**How can we drive traditional players working in Venezuela, to adopt crypto use cases into their projects?**

# **David**

Running a Node in  
Africa

# David

- Web3 security expert and educator
- Founded Guild Audits - training blockchain security auditors and conducting smart contract audits
- Focused on decentralizing staking in Africa through NodeBridgeAfrica - an initiative to support access to affordable hardware, hands-on education, and community support, addressing challenges unique to the African context, like high costs and limited infrastructure.

# What to learn today

**Decentralization in Action:** Local nodes in Africa strengthen Ethereum's global resilience.

**Tailored Support for Africa:** NodeBridge offers affordable hardware, education, and community resources for African node operators.

**Growing Community Impact:** Empowering African operators builds a skilled network dedicated to a decentralized Ethereum.

**Real Solutions for Real Challenges:** Addressing power, cost, and accessibility issues to make running nodes feasible in Africa.

# How others can help

1. **Funding & Grants:** Provide financial support to expand affordable hardware and educational resources for African node operators.
2. **Community Mentorship:** Offer mentorship, technical guidance, and knowledge-sharing to help African operators build skills and overcome challenges.
3. **Infrastructure Support:** Partner on projects to improve internet access, power stability, and equipment availability across Africa.
4. **Promote Awareness and Encourage Participation:** Spread awareness about the importance of African node operators in Ethereum's global decentralization, encouraging more involvement and investment.

1. What innovative solutions can make running an Ethereum node more accessible and affordable in regions with limited infrastructure and lack of education like Africa?
2. What specific actions can communities and organizations take to support African node operators in addressing challenges like unreliable power and connectivity?
3. How can we actively encourage regional participation in Ethereum by highlighting the benefits of local node operations in Africa for global decentralization?

# Tomo

[muqa.org](https://muqa.org)

**Onboarding cities to Ethereum**

# Tomo

- Ethereum evangelist, builder, cofounder of BlockSplit and Muqa.
- Non-speculative uses  
AKA Ethereum in the real world  
AKA #IRLverse
- Learn how to get **your mother on Ethereum**.
- Get involved: onboard your local community.

**Cities want Ethereum.**

**(They just don't know it yet.)**

## **What Ethereum has to offer is already good enough.**

- Cities regularly do:
  - Public goods funding
  - Governance
  - Social interactions
  - Access gating
  - Auctions & tenders
  - etc.
- We started with PGF.

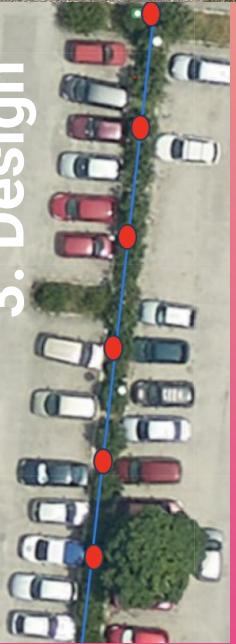
### 3. Design



### 2. Imagine



### 1. Find



### 5. Build



# Zazelenimo

Citizens voting for green spaces

### 4. Vote & Fund

**Participatory budgeting platform for cities.**

First implementation:  
planting trees.

Key features:

- Passkey wallet (Cometh Connect)
- Quadratic funding (Allo protocol)
- No-KYC onramp
- Local currency denominated stablecoin (EUR)
- Familiar, simple UX

**How can we achieve high engagement  
of the citizens and businesses?**

**How can we get other cities and  
communities to start using  
Zazelenimo?**

**How can we increase the value cities  
are getting from using Zazelenimo?**

# Next Billion Fellows



**Guo**  
Community owned  
digital spaces  
(Matters.town)



**Eddie**  
ID for farmers  
(Antugrow)



**Rebecca**  
Saving circles &  
commitment pooling



**Karam**  
Web3 in Humanitarian  
and crisis contexts



**Lefteris**  
Solving marine  
plastic with  
fishermen (Enaleia)



**Meche**  
Activism, Human  
Rights and Web3  
in Venezuela



**David**  
Running  
Ethereum nodes  
in Africa



**Tomo**  
Participatory  
budgeting for  
Croatia (MUQA)

# Agenda

3:30 - 3:40 Welcome & why we are here

3:40 - 4:25 Next Billion Fellows' presentations

4:25 - 5:05 First round of breakout groups

5:05 - 5:20 Coffee break & stretching

5:20 - 6:00 Second round of breakout groups

6:00 - 6:30 Presentation in plenary

6:30 - onwards Drinks & networking

# **Next Billion Fellowship applications are now open!**



Deadline: January 12th, 2025

# Thank you!

**Team NxBn**

[nextbillion@ethereum.org](mailto:nextbillion@ethereum.org)

@EFNextBillion