

For reasons already given, I have referred to refugees and refugee settlements on several occasions in this writing and portrayed a more or less analogue example of a self-organized transaction system by the Somali community. An interesting project in that scope should be briefly mentioned, which is put in place by Bitnation, a decentralized blockchain-based platform. Claiming to be „the world’s first Decentralised Borderless Voluntary Nation“ (Bitnation 2018), Bitnation has issued Blockchain Emergency IDs (BE-ID) to refugees, which partly serves as a humanitarian aid project cooperating with Receiving States in providing services for refugees, but partly circumvents the idea of the nation state in an area where the statelessness of individuals is obvious and leads to existential problems of the individuals concerned.

„The Blockchain Emergency ID is a rudimentary emergency ID, based on the blockchain technology, for individuals who cannot obtain other documents of identification. The purpose is to cryptographically prove your existence and family relations, recorded on the Horizon blockchain, a distributed public ledger (like an international public notary, of sorts).

What is striking here is the expression „cryptographically prove your existence“ as it unfolds and concludes at the same time