Blockchain standardization activities in Europe

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This presentation expresses the position of the above mentioned presenter, not of CEN, CENELEC, UNI nor UNINFO

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CEN-CENELEC Focus Group Blockchain and DLT

- CEN and CENELEC are two of the three European Standardization Organizations whose members are also ISO and IEC members
- The **CEN-CLC Focus Group Blockchain and DLT** was established by CEN and CENELEC in January 2018 and the secretariat was assigned to UNI (the Italian National Standardization Organization) – UNINFO is in charge of UNI activities in ICT
- A Focus Group in CEN/CENELEC is a short-term group created to ensure the interaction between all relevant European stakeholders **interested in (a potential) standardization activity in a new field or subject**

Objectives of the Focus Group

- To prepare an **overview for the stakeholder community on suitable standards already available or in preparation**, to meet specific European needs in Blockchain and DLT

- Where no suitable standards exist, to **define best ways to provide them in preference internationally but if necessary at European level**, and make recommendations accordingly

Objectives of the Focus Group

- To identify and **give due consideration to any relevant specific issues linked to European legislation or policy** and/or **innovation/research projects** impacting the subject

- To **map these needs with the current work items of ISO/TC 307** and identify any European standardization needs that are not yet covered at international level

- The Focus Group **aims to encourage further European's countries participation in ISO/TC 307 and not to determine or define a common European position on the subject**
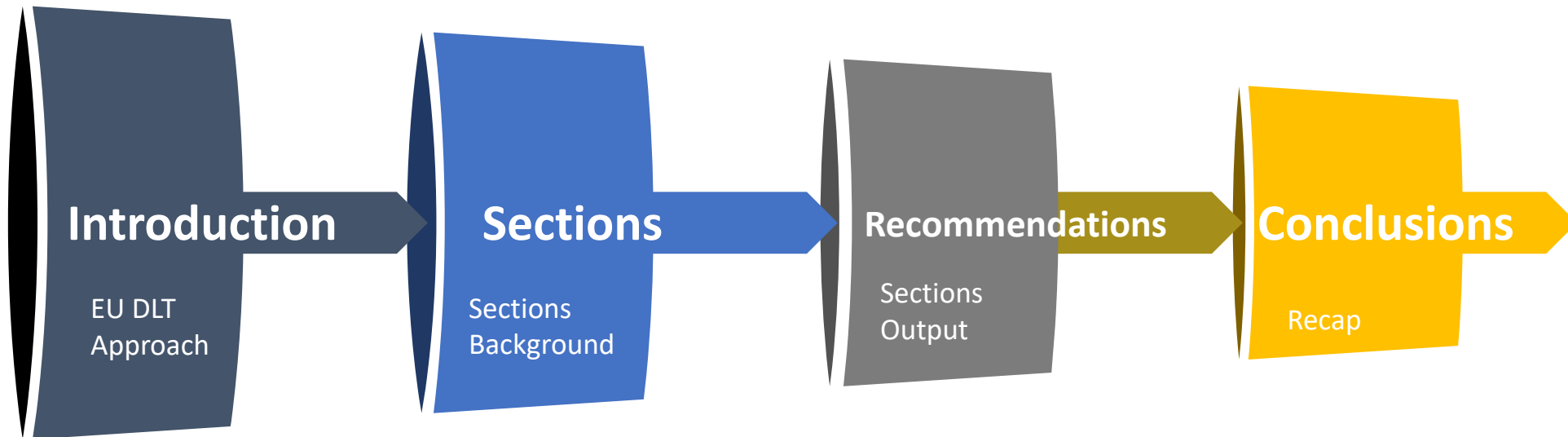
Objectives of the Focus Group

- A specific Focus Group subgroup developed a white paper whose objective is to **identify potential specific European needs** to be addressed by international standardization for the successful implementation of Blockchain/DLT in Europe

- The white paper has been formally approved by CEN and CENELEC boards on 2018-10-10

- No position on the solution to address these needs is taken but the document contains several recommendation

White Paper:
Recommendations for Successful Adoption in Europe of Emerging Technical Standards on Distributed Ledger/Blockchain Technologies

Available here for download

Structure of the document

Document Main Sections

Government transformation

The digital transformation of government is a key element to the success of the Single Market; helping to remove existing digital barriers and preventing further fragmentation arising in the context of the modernization of public administrations
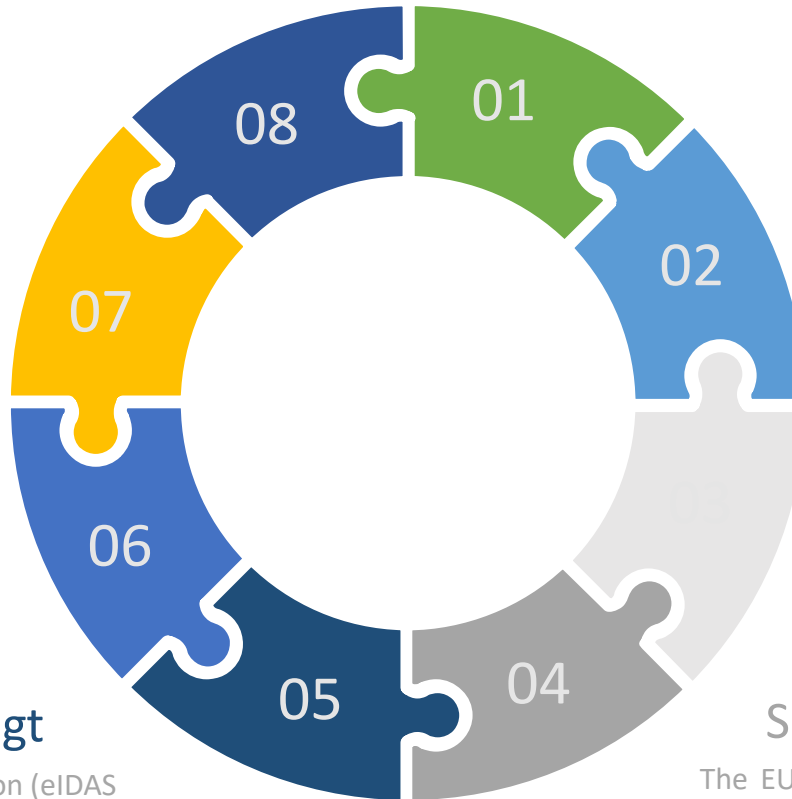
Standards Landscaping

There is a large number of standardization initiatives on DL/Blockchain technologies. At the same time, there is a relative shortage of experts with relevant experience. The combination of both facts requires more coordination and wider participation to deliver timely sound standards.

Privacy and Data Protection

The interplay between the GDPR and DLTs is complex and still under debate. It is key for EU that the GDPR should be kept in mind when moving toward the definition of standards applied to Blockchain/DLT.

Digital Identity and Signature Mgt

EU has developed the Regulation on electronic identification (eIDAS Regulation), to provide a regulatory environment to enable secure and seamless electronic interactions between businesses, citizens and public authorities.

European industrial priorities

Ref. Digitising European Industry initiative (DEI) with the objective to reinforce the EU's competitiveness in digital technologies and ensure that its citizens and businesses can draw the full benefits from digital innovation in the so-called 4th Industrial Revolution

Financial & Tax compliance

Standards on DL/Blockchain technologies should take on board key elements to reduce the administrative burden of compliance with the global and European regulations for financial stability and the compliance of AML & Tax Compliance regulations.
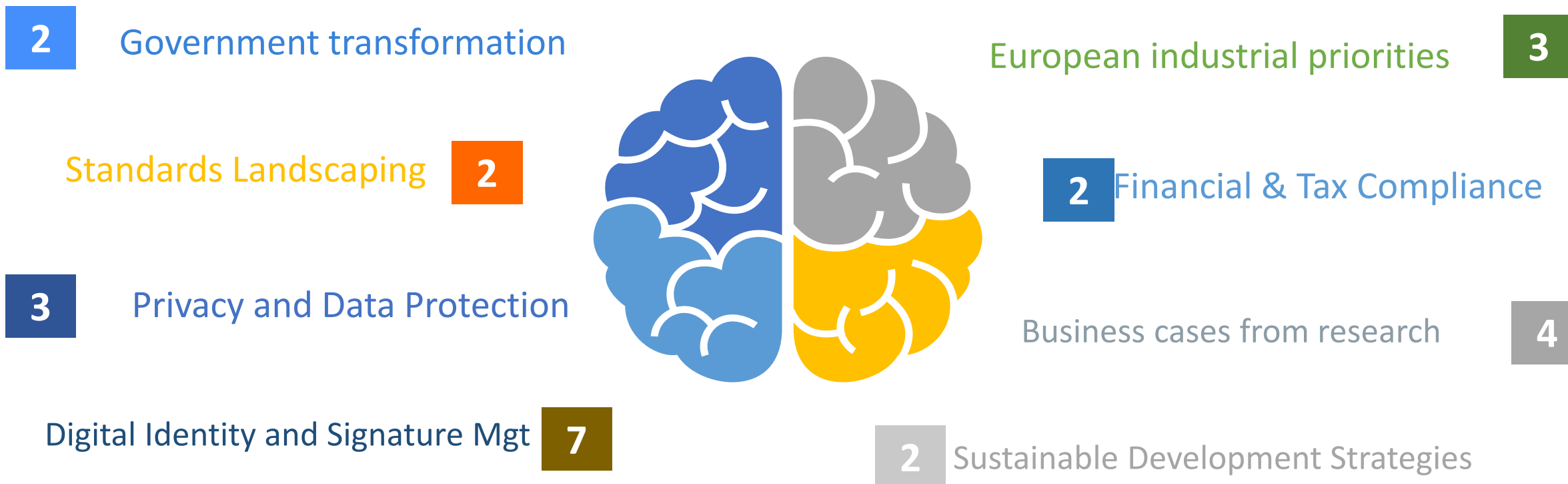
Business cases from research

Both at national level and at European level, several research projects are being funded on Blockchain and DLTs. All these projects will produce a documented output that can be useful for standardization bodies.

Sustainable Development Strategies

The EU Sustainable Development Strategy aims to identify and develop actions to enable the EU to achieve a continuous improvement of quality of life through the creation of sustainable communities able to manage and use resources efficiently

01
02
04
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08

Number of recommendations developed

2 Government transformation

3 European industrial priorities

Standards Landscaping **2**

2 Financial & Tax Compliance

3 Privacy and Data Protection

Business cases from research **4**

Digital Identity and Signature Mgt **7**

2 Sustainable Development Strategies

Focus Group recommendations and way forward

- The White Paper includes already 25 recommendations, but no position on how to address them

- FG members agreed on the primacy of international standards setting on Blockchain and Distributed Ledger Technologies and that ISO/TC 307 shall be the first target for new development proposals

- The FG however recognized that specific European standardization needs and/or priorities not recognized at the international level might require the development of standards at the European level

- The FG agreed then to recommend to the Technical Boards of CEN and CENELEC to establish a Joint TC

Scope foreseen for CEN/CENELEC Joint TC on Blockchain & DLT – if approved

- When ISO/TC 307 standards on Blockchain and DLT are developed, they need to be adopted: the JTC can do so at CEN/CENELEC level guaranteeing automatic adoption in Europe, by all CEN/CENELEC members (European NSOs)

- The JTC will undertake standardization for specific European standardization needs and/or priorities establishing collaborative development with ISO, whenever applicable

- CEN/CENELEC have in fact agreements already in place with ISO/IEC (Vienna/Frankfurt agreements): they foresee procedures for the notification of the documents developed in one body to allow simultaneous approval in the other body

- The new JTC will also take over the white paper maintenance

Thanks!

Questions / discussion