

Blockchain and AI Demystified

AN IACA OPEN TRAINING

IACA Campus Laxenburg · 14 - 15 December 2026

Monday, 14 December

08:45 – 09:00

Registration and Welcome Remarks

09:00 – 10:00

Session 1: A Confusing Word Soup Made Clear: What is Blockchain Actually

- Centralized, distributed and decentralized computing: which is which, and who holds power and responsibility in which scenario
- Blockchain as a way to establish and maintain a shared record of agreed-upon "truth", that follows defined rules and no single party controls
- How a blockchain gets constructed: The rules and the players, the blocks and the chain; what gets processed, how and by whom; transactions and fees
- Public and permissioned/private chains
- Self-sovereignty: What it means, when it matters and how it is often misunderstood
- Who is self-sovereign on a blockchain: Understanding the difference between node operators and users

10:30 – 11:00

Coffee break

11:00 – 12:30

Session 2: What Blockchain Can Do and What is Hype

- What can blockchain do: Coin/token transactions, data records, and smart contracts
- Why smart contracts are neither smart nor contracts, and what they actually are
- The blockchain hype waves: What's a pipe dream and what's real (and how even unreal things generate very real economic activity)
- The limits at the contact point between the real and the digital world: what a blockchain can prove, and the problem of proving what is true outside of it

12:30 – 13:30

Lunch

13:30 – 15:00

Session 3: Blockchain in The Real World

- Provenance and traceability: Procurement and supply chains, aid delivery, land registries, medicines, counterfeits etc.
- Transparency tools: Asset declarations, beneficial ownership registries, e-procurement, and digital identity
- Case study: National medicine-shortage monitoring for the Croatian Ministry of Health and Medicines Agency
- Case study: Stable coins/tokens and what we learned by building a world first stable token for a traditional European bank
- Blockchain and anti-corruption: How blockchain can make life easier for anti-corruption practitioners, but can also be used as a tool for corruption
- Stablecoins as the rail for sanctions evasion and bribery
- Tokenized assets and NFTs: Value transferred through prices nobody can verify
- Interactive discussion: Sector research and participants' perspectives

15:00 – 15:30

Coffee break

15:30 – 17:00

Session 4: How Illicit Value Moves, and How It Is Traced and (Maybe!) Recovered

- Chain hopping, mixers, privacy coins, cross-chain bridges, layering through DeFi
- Permanent public transparency, and why offenders still use public chains
- How a flow of funds is followed across addresses, chains, and exchanges
- From transaction graph to knowledge graph: Linking addresses to people and companies (also, subtly touching on tomorrow's topic - AI)
- The off-ramp: Where digital assets meet banking, and where cases are made
- What a tracing investigation involves, and what it cannot answer
- Interactive discussion: Thoughts, Feelings, Questions and Answers

Tuesday, 15 December

09:00 – 10:30	Session 5: An Even More Confusing Word Soup Made Clear: What is (Generative) AI, Actually? • What a large language model is: Where the brain analogy holds, when it's useful, and where it breaks • Generative and predictive AI: How they differ, in brief • Encoded Meaning: Vectors in multi-dimensional space, in plain language • How models learn: Data, parameters, attention, reinforcement learning from human feedback • What a model knows, and what we have to teach it before it becomes useful for our specific use case
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 12:30	Session 6: Getting AI to Work on Your Own Material • Prompt engineering and context engineering: Which one, when, and for what • Knowledge versus behaviour: Embedding compared with fine-tuning • Where your data goes: Confidential case material, cloud versus local models, and keeping control • Hallucinations: Why they happen, and how systems are designed to minimise them • Grounding answers in verified sources Knowledge graphs: Relationships first instead of rows and columns:- information entities, people, companies, contracts, and payments as one traceable network (Day One's tracing graph, as a general method) • The evidentiary question: Reproducibility, audit trail, and traceability to source
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 15:00	Session 7: AI That Acts: Agents in Integrity Work • Tools and (useful vs dangerous) agents, within harnesses, guardrails, and with human control • Skills: The institution's procedures, written so agents can follow them: From unstructured case documents to structured, auditable records • Where agents earn their place: Declarations, beneficial ownership, case deadlines and more • Where they cannot be trusted, and how to tell the difference • Interactive discussion: Use cases from participants' practice and sector research
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee break
15:30 – 17:00	Session 8: AI in the Hands of the Corrupt, and Where to Start • Synthetic identities, fabricated documents, and deepfakes at scale • Attacking AI systems: Prompt injection, data poisoning, and gaming risk scoring • What still gives them away, and why most AI-content detectors fail • Interactive discussion: Dangers and opportunities from participants' practice and sector research • Closing session: Reading vendor claims, choosing a first pilot, and avoiding lock-in
17:00 – 17:15	Wrap-Up, Closing Remarks and Certificates Awarding Ceremony