



# Legal Barriers to Blockchain Adoption in the Higher Education Sector of Ireland

Legal Technology and  
the Rule of Law

12 FEBRUARY, ATHLONE



# Academic Journey



Athlone,  
Ireland

Prague,  
Czech Republic

Minsk, Belarus



# Take ownership of your academic journey

BY DECLAN VARLEY

**O**h to be a teenager again... to experience for myself the diversity of educational experience that now exists. The choices that exist; the knowledge that the decision you make now will now lead you to a promised land, but to a series of forks in the road that will eventually lead you to fulfilment.

Choice in education is a fundamental aspect of personal and intellectual development, allowing you to tailor your learning experiences to match your unique needs, interests, and abilities. The importance of giving yourself choice in education cannot be overstated, as it empowers learners to take ownership of their academic journey, fostering a sense of autonomy and self-directed learning.

One of the primary benefits of educational choice is the ability to cater to diverse learning styles. Each person has a distinct way of grasping and processing information, and providing options in education allows individuals to

explore various approaches that align with their preferred learning methods. Whether it's visual, auditory, kinesthetic, or a combination of these, having the freedom to choose an educational path that suits one's learning style can significantly enhance comprehension and retention.

Additionally, offering choices in education encourages a deeper connection to the material being studied. When individuals have the opportunity to explore subjects that genuinely captivate their interest, they are more likely to remain engaged and motivated. This intrinsic motivation can lead to a more profound understanding of the subject matter, as well as the development of critical thinking skills. By fostering a love for learning, educational choice lays the foundation for a lifelong pursuit of knowledge.

Furthermore, the importance of choice in education extends beyond traditional classroom settings. It includes options in terms of educational institutions, programmes, and



extracurricular activities. Whether pursuing a formal degree, vocational training, or self-directed online courses, individuals can customize their educational paths to align with their career goals and aspirations. This flexibility enables learners to adapt to the rapidly evolving

demands of the job market and fosters a sense of relevance and applicability in their chosen field.

In a world where innovation and creativity are highly valued, providing oneself with choices in education becomes a catalyst for personal and professional success. It nurtures an entrepreneurial mindset and encourages individuals to think outside the conventional boundaries of education, fostering innovation and adaptability.

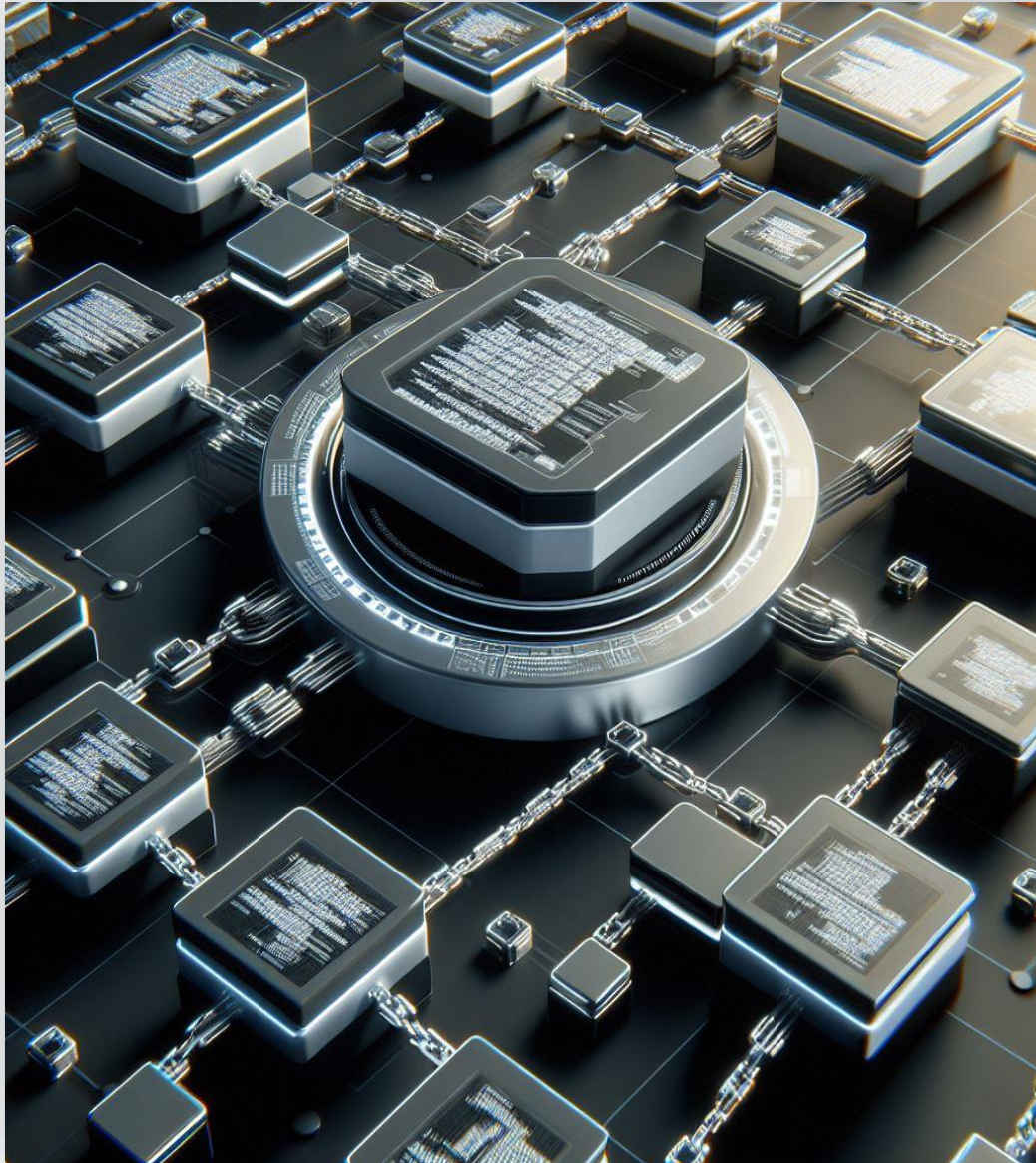
The importance of giving yourself choice in education cannot be overstated. It is a cornerstone of personal growth, fostering a sense of autonomy, motivation, and relevance in the learning process. By embracing educational choice, individuals unlock the door to a world of possibilities, tailoring their educational experiences to meet their unique needs and aspirations. I hope that what is contained in the pages in this supplement will aid that process and enable you to become fulfilled with whatever you do.



# What is ownership?

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Blockchain gives students ownership of their personal records, allowing them to control their academic identity.



# Blockchain

Blockchain is a **system of recording information** in a way that makes it difficult or impossible to change the system. It is a **digital ledger** of transactions that is duplicated and **distributed** across the entire network of computer systems on the blockchain.

Blockchain is a registry or journal (*ledger*), which does not have a central authority to control the database (*decentralized*), which involves many participants who store information (*distributed*) and operates safely due to securing information from unauthorized access (*cryptographic rules*).

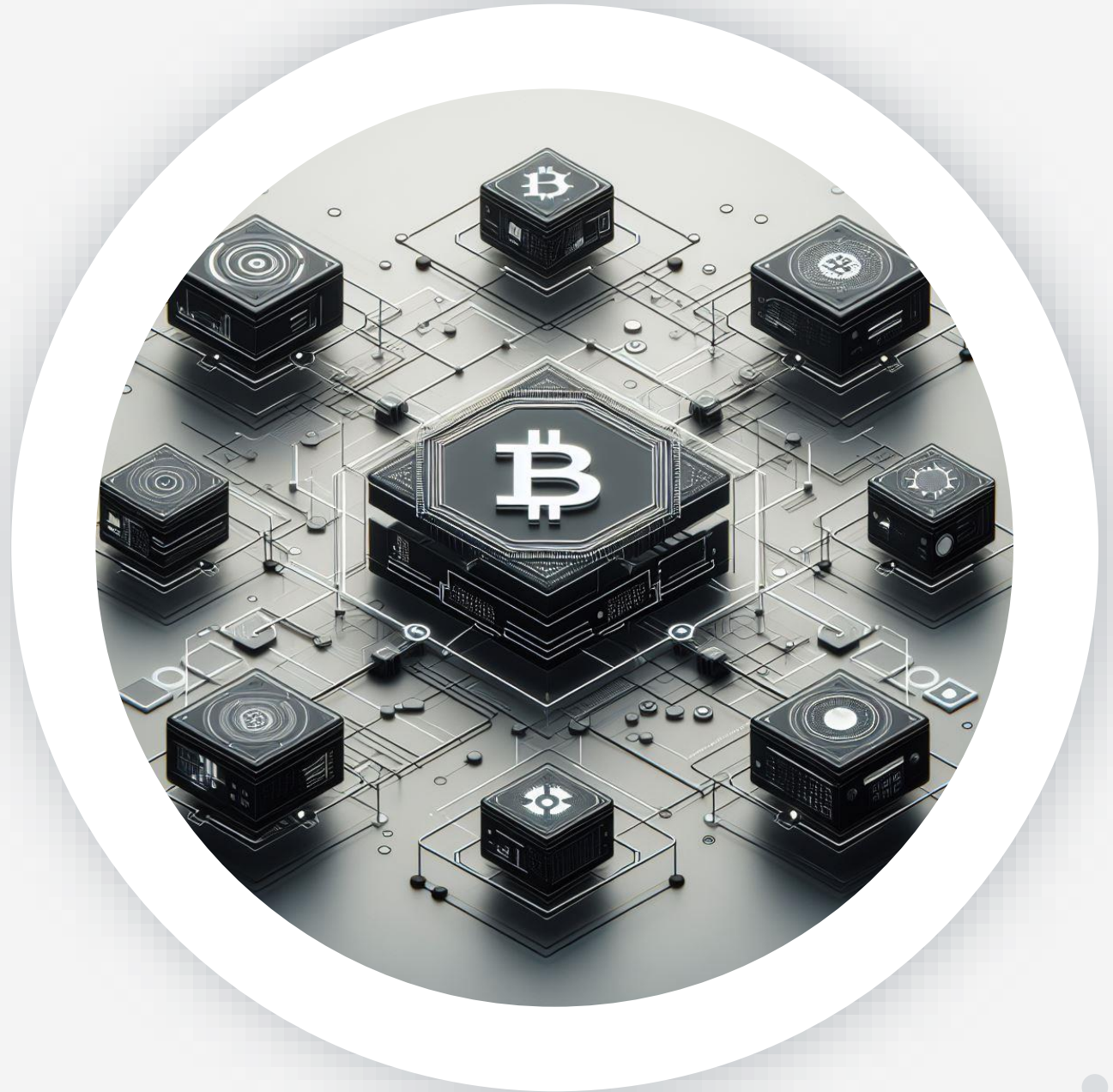
Blockchain is a registry that is distributed among many participants with no central entity to control.

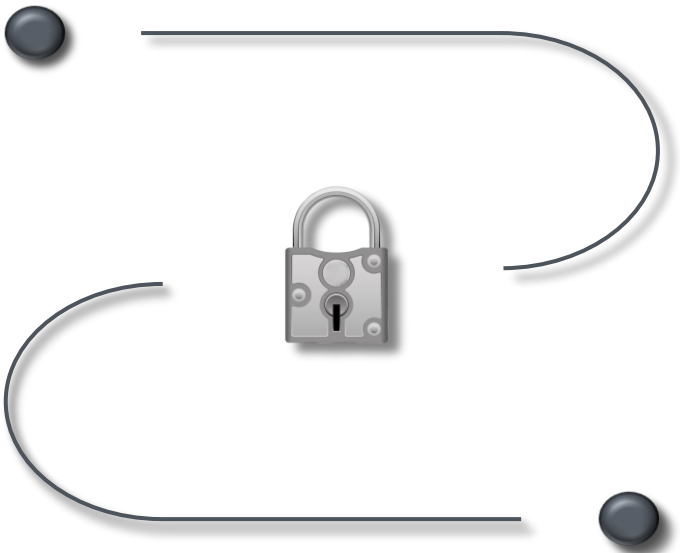
The goal of blockchain is to allow digital information to be recorded and distributed but not edited. In this way, a blockchain is a foundation for immutable ledgers or records of transactions that cannot be altered, deleted or destroyed.

Blockchain is named as an immutable ledger, because once it is created, it cannot be changed or tampered with because of the special technique of securing information, which is called cryptography.

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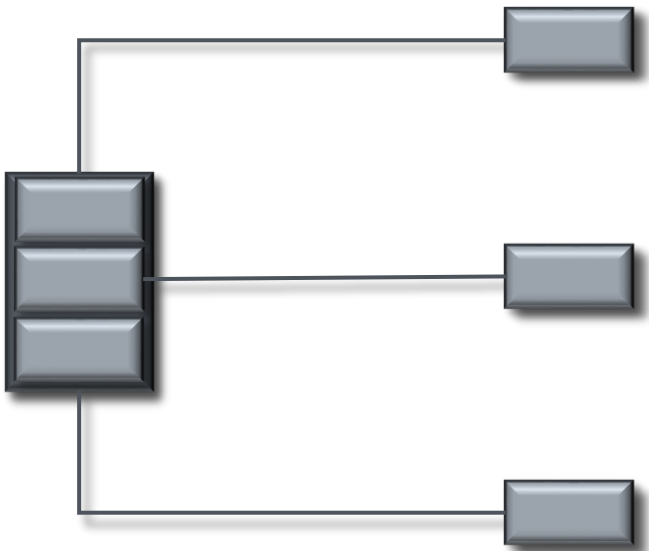
# Blockchain Goals



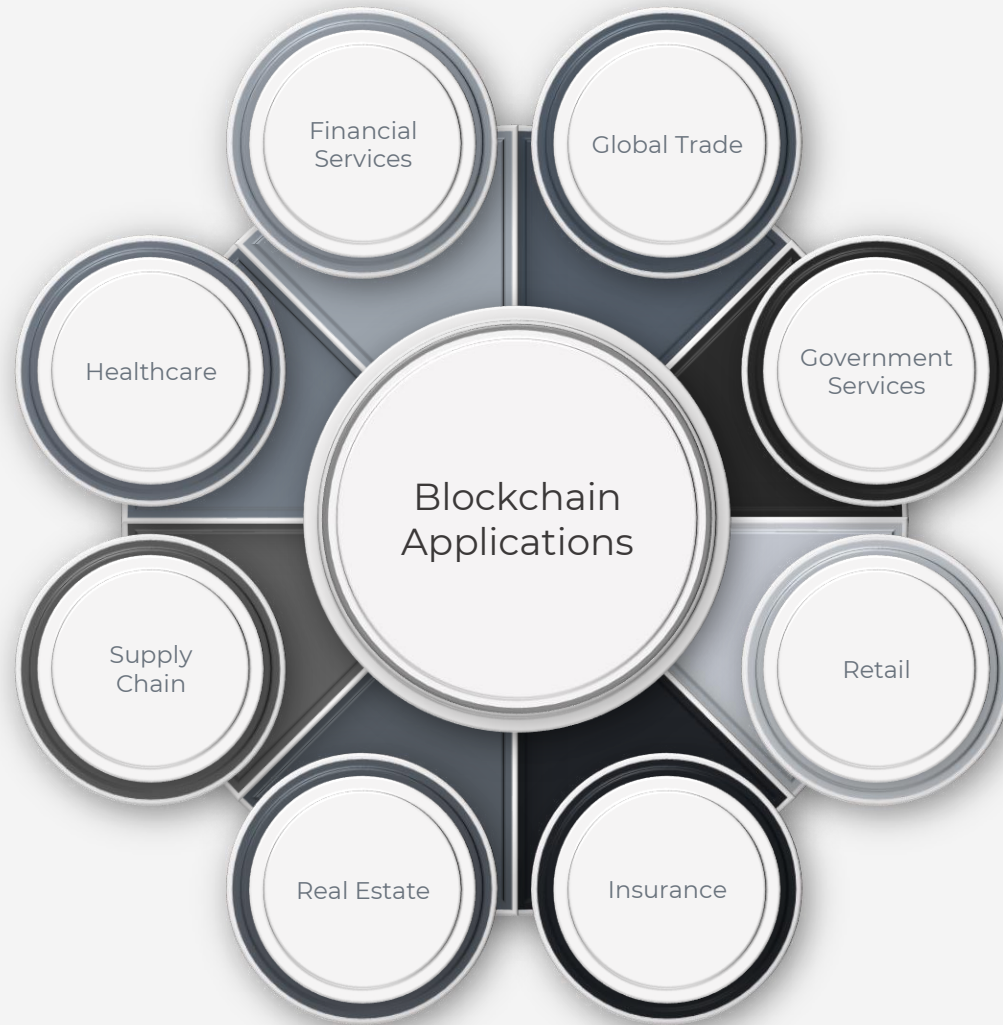


**immutable**

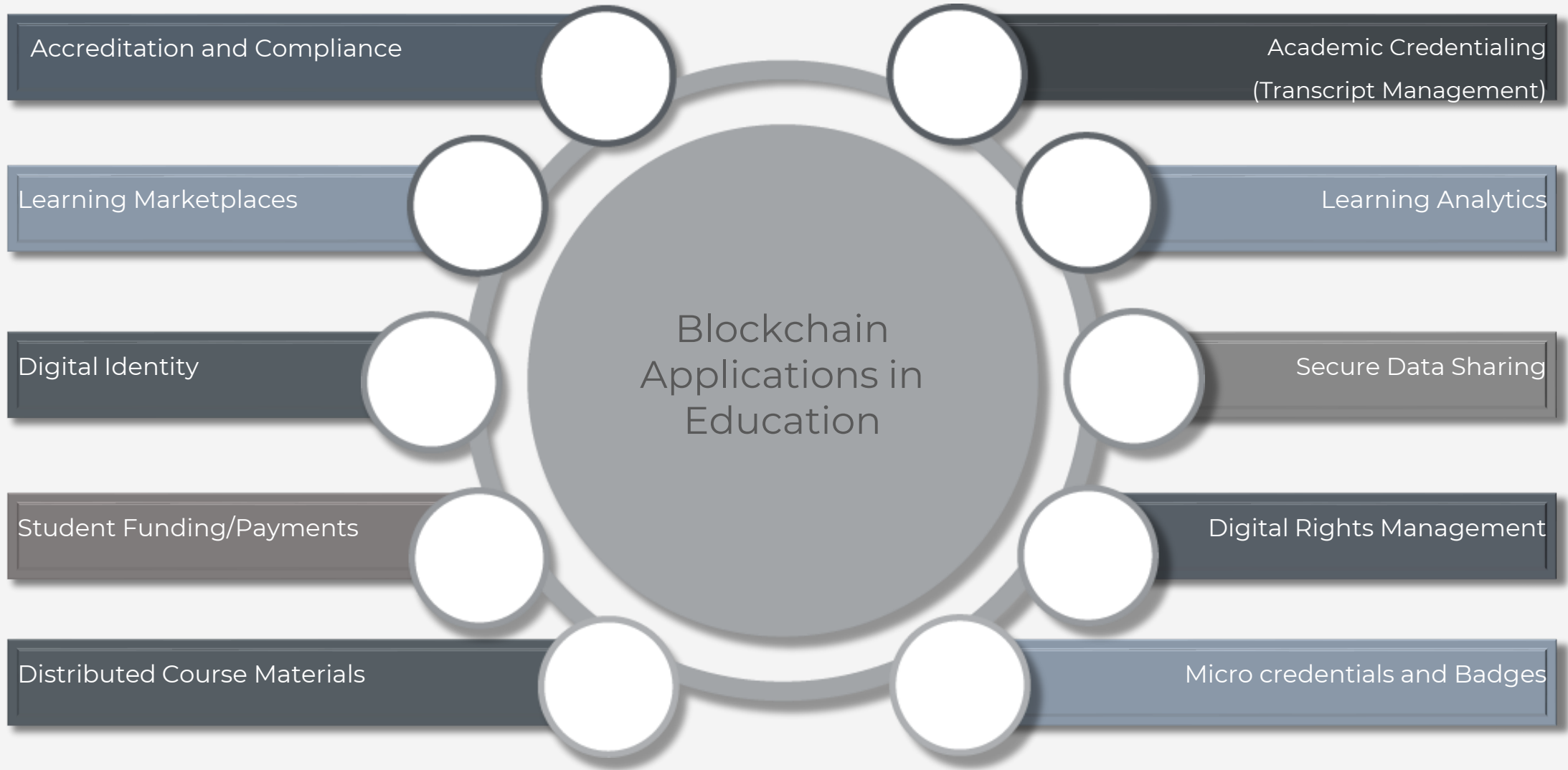
# Blockchain Technology



**distributed**









# Academic Credentialing Use-cases

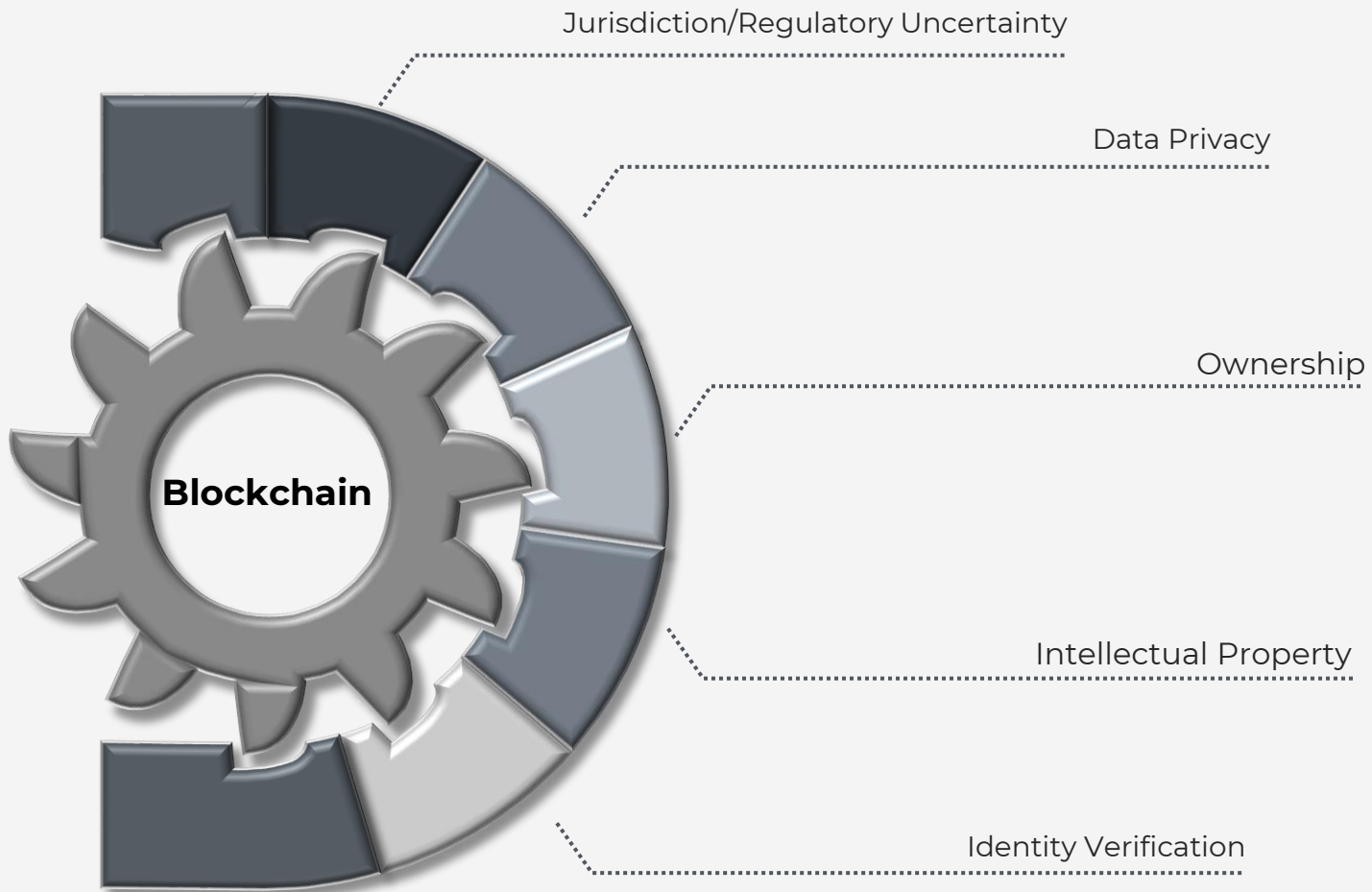
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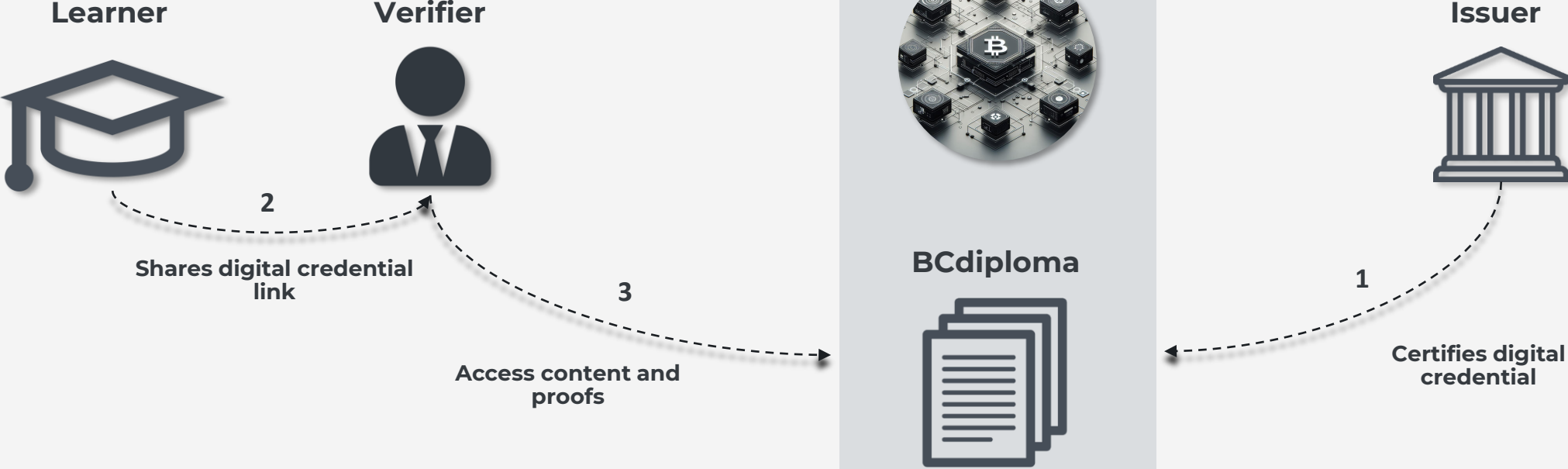
# Benefits of blockchain integration in education

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- Instant verification
  - Global recognition
  - Fraud prevention
  - Cost reduction
  - Data integrity
  - Ownership of credentials
  - IP protection
  - Verification of copyrights
  - ...

# Legal Barriers to Blockchain Adoption in Education



# Digital Credentials Successful Project by University of Lille, France





# Collaboration

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Blockchain technology often operates across sectors, involving technology, legal, regulatory and industry stakeholders.

**An effective legal framework requires collaboration** among these diverse groups to ensure that regulations are comprehensive, realistic, and adaptable to technological advancements.



# Thank you

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