



EBSI-VECTOR

Education and work reloaded

D6.1: Ecosystem strategy

Project title:	EBSI-VECTOR - EBSI enabled VERifiable Credentials & Trusted Organisations Registries
Grant Agreement No.	101102512 - DIGITAL-2022-DEPLOY-02-EBSI-SERVICES
Deliverable Title	D6.1: Ecosystem strategy
Version:	1.8
Date:	05/04/2024
Responsible Partner:	UniLjubljana
Authors:	Vlado Stankovski (Uni Ljubljana), Nena Dokuzov (MEDT)
Contributing Partners:	IZERTIS, ENG, KUL
Reviewers:	Signe Seraphina Agerskov (ITU) Perrine De Coetlogon (Uni Lille)
Dissemination Level:	PU – Public



Project co-funded by the European Union under the Digital Europe Programme under Grant Agreement n° 101102512. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HADEA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

Document Change History

Version	Date	Author (organisation)	Description
v1.1	01/07/2023	Nena Dokuzov (MEDT)	Initial strategy
v1.2	20/08/2023	Vlado Stankovski (UL)	Strategy document created
v1.3	08/09/2023	Vlado Stankovski (UL)	MOU added, phased plan
V1.4	12/09/2023	Nena Dokuzov (MEDT)	Prefinal for internal review
V1.5	15/09/2023	Nena Dokuzov (MEDT)	Final version
V1.6	16/01/2024	UniLjubljana	First revision to address first external review and update with current initiatives and framework actions
V 1.7	26/02/2024	UniLjubljana, IZERTIS, ENG, KUL	MoU deleted-Prefinal for internal review
V1.8	05/04/2024	UniLjubljana	Final

Table of Contents

1	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	7
2	INTRODUCTION	8
3	APPROACH ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE STRATEGY TO BUILD STRONG EBSI ECOSYSTEM IN EUROPE HEADING 1	9
3.1	SUPPORT ON ECOSYSTEM DEVELOPMENT PHASES HEADING 2	9
4	DESCRIPTION OF THE APPROACH FOR EACH TARGET	14
4.1	EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND POLICY MAKERS	14
4.1.1	<i>Conduct Workshops and Seminars</i>	14
4.1.2	<i>Engage in Policy Dialogues</i>	14
4.1.3	<i>Utilize Pilot Projects and Case Studies</i>	15
4.2	EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS	16
4.2.1	<i>Collaboration on Requirements Gathering</i>	16
4.2.2	<i>Organization of Training Sessions and Webinars</i>	16
4.2.3	<i>Run Pilot Projects</i>	17
4.3	SOCIAL SECURITY AUTHORITIES AND PROVIDERS	17
4.3.1	<i>Engage in Stakeholder Consultations</i>	17
4.3.2	<i>Collaborate with Social Security Institutions</i>	18
4.3.3	<i>Conduct Pilots to Test Functionality</i>	18
4.4	RESEARCH AND INNOVATION COMMUNITIES	19
4.4.1	<i>Collaborate with Research Institutions</i>	19
4.4.2	<i>Partner with Innovation Communities</i>	19
4.5	DIGITAL WALLET DEVELOPERS AND PROVIDERS.....	20
4.5.1	<i>Engage in Developer Outreach</i>	20
4.5.2	<i>Jointly Promote the Ecosystem</i>	20
5	EBSI-VECTOR COMPLEMENTARITIES WITH OF OTHER ECOSYSTEMS/GROUPS OF STAKEHOLDERS, COMMUNITIES	22
5.1	ECOSYSTEMS AND STAKEHOLDERS.....	22
5.2	RELATED EUROPEAN PROJECTS	22
5.3	COMPLEMENTARITIES WITH COMMUNITIES OF EACH TARGET GROUP.....	23

5.3.1	<i>European Commission and Policy Makers</i>	23
5.3.2	<i>Collaborating with Policy Advisors and Think Tanks</i>	23
5.3.3	<i>Close collaboration with European Blockchain Partnership and EBSI-EBP-EDIC</i>	23
5.3.4	<i>Educational Institutions</i>	23
5.3.5	<i>Involving Student Representative Organizations</i>	23
5.3.6	<i>Social Security Authorities and Providers</i>	24
5.3.7	<i>Involving Social Security Professionals in Pilots</i>	24
5.3.8	<i>Students and Learners</i>	24
5.3.9	<i>Involving Learners in Co-Creation Activities</i>	24
5.3.10	<i>Research and Innovation Communities</i>	24
5.3.11	<i>Partnering with European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs) and Incubators</i>	25
5.3.12	<i>Digital Wallet Developers and Providers</i>	25
5.3.13	<i>Contributing to Developer Forums and Conferences</i>	25
5.3.14	<i>Collaboration with existing and future initiatives around EBSI</i>	25
5.3.15	<i>Engagement of the communities built upon the Diploma and Social security use cases</i>	25
5.4	IDENTIFYING SYNERGIES AND INITIATIVES	26
5.5	ONLINE WORKSHOPS AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE.....	26
5.6	COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION STRATEGY	26

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE 1 – ECOSYSTEM BUILDING PHASES10



List of Terms and Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Definition
EBP	European Blockchain Partnership
EBSI	European Blockchain Service Infrastructure
EDIC	European Digital Infrastructure Consortium
EHIC	European Health Insurance Card
eIDAS	Electronic Identification, Authentication, and Trust Services
EUBOF	European Blockchain Observatory and Forum
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
INATBA	International Association for Trusted Blockchain Applications
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
WP	Work Package

1 Executive Summary

The main objective of the Ecosystem Strategy is to contribute to the establishment of the EBSI ecosystem, which will be achieved by contributing to the efforts of EBSI ecosystem building, co-creating a new ecosystem around the use cases and contributing to the sustainability of the EBSI ecosystem by bringing together the most advanced stakeholders in Europe to work together under a common platform.

To this end this report outlines an approach to promoting and expanding the EBSI ecosystem, by also defining a plan to strengthen collaboration and communication within and outside the consortium on EBSI current and future capabilities.

Specifically, EBSI-VECTOR activities will support and complement the general strategy for EBSI ecosystem building, focusing on

- the promotion and aware-raising of its solutions in the education, social security, and business registry domains. I think the distinction can be made as follows.
- collaborating with similar initiatives in education, social security, and business registry domains.
- engaging with policy-makers, stakeholders, and general public in the identified domains (education, social security, business registries).
- collaborate with EBSI team in reaching out to country-level stakeholders and working on creating national helpdesk for interested parties.

The dissemination and knowledge sharing activities towards targeted user groups will be supported and complemented with the WP7 activities.

2 Introduction

The purpose of the ecosystem strategy is to build a strong ecosystem through establishment of European partnership of key stakeholders: policy makers, technology providers and end user organizations in the domains of education and social security to foster the exchange of high-quality and trustworthy data to the citizens of the European Member States and beyond. In this context, the ultimate goal of EBSI-VECTOR project is to contribute to the establishment of the EBSI ecosystem, through the following actions:

- bringing together the most advanced stakeholders in Europe to work together under a common platform, but also all interested parties from different fields and topics relevant for EBSI;
- co-creating a new ecosystem around the use cases, such as organizing awareness-raising activities with stakeholders in education, social security, and business registry use cases,
- contributing to the efforts of EBSI ecosystem building (e.g., disseminating materials prepared by the EBSI team on various occasions and through the platform, organizing webinars to inform stakeholders about EBSI capabilities, etc.)
- contributing to the sustainability of the EBSI ecosystem, which can be achieved through institutionalized collaboration with the stakeholders, either through:
 - signing letters of intent with interested parties,
 - compiling national stakeholders use cases and EBSI nodes as possible national helpdesk points/competence centers for EUROPEUM and EBSI ecosystem,
 - creating an online platform that allows interested parties to access and exchange information materials and engage with experts and national/sectoral stakeholders.

Another related objective of this activity is to enable further research, innovation, and knowledge transfer among the stakeholders. This will be materialized through the proposed set of actions within this initial ecosystem strategy document. Moreover, in order to achieve sustainability, EBSI will be implemented in the framework of actions of EUROPEUM-EDIC.

3 Approach on the development of the strategy to build strong EBSI ecosystem in Europe Heading 1

The methodology pursued under the Ecosystem development set of tasks and activities is to build on the initial ecosystem partnership and provide a catalog of resources, organizations, and business interests. Following this, the initial strategy presented in this document will be refined and improved. Alongside this, the project will maintain its dissemination and communication channels with stakeholders beyond the consortium members.

3.1 Support on Ecosystem Development Phases Heading 2

This section outlines an approach to promoting and expanding the EBSI ecosystem. The plan focuses on influencing the knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors of target groups, while also strengthening collaboration and communication within and outside the consortium. The plan encompasses webinars, events, and continuous monitoring to ensure the ecosystem's growth and success. Below, an abstract list of phases of an ecosystem development:

1. Ecosystem Building Promotion and Launch

- Begin communication and dissemination activities targeting stakeholders, raising awareness about the innovation ecosystem initiative and its objectives.

2. Ecosystem Building Continuation and Engagement:

- Exchange knowledge through webinars to provide updates and showcase successful ecosystem-building stories, encouraging active engagement from stakeholders.
- Execute planned events, emphasizing stakeholder participation, best practices, and collaboration within the ecosystem.

3. Technology Plan Integration and Expansion:

- Organize webinars highlighting technology advancements and their role in the ecosystem's digital transformation.
- Conduct ecosystem-building events emphasizing capacity building and knowledge sharing among participants.

4. Sustainability Framework and Collaboration:

- Host discussions through webinars on the long-term sustainability framework for the ecosystem, fostering collaboration with external EU ecosystem organizations.

- Emphasize a process to expand the network, onboard new members, and involve them in discussions.

5. Ongoing Growth and Innovation:

- Conduct a final webinar to highlight achievements, lessons learned, and the way forward for the ecosystem, influencing target groups' attitudes and behaviors.
- Execute a final ecosystem-building event focusing on technology planning and its role in supporting continuous growth and innovation, strengthening communication within the consortium.

6. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting:

- Continuously monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of ecosystem-building activities, gathering feedback from stakeholders to influence their knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors.
- Compile a comprehensive final report detailing outcomes, challenges, and recommendations for sustaining and expanding the innovation ecosystem for EBSI infrastructure and use cases, providing insights for communication strategy refinement.

The table below outlines the objectives and main activities for each phase:

Table 1 – Ecosystem Building phases

Phase	Objective	Activities
Phase 1: Ecosystem Building Promotion and Launch	Raise awareness and engage stakeholders in the innovation ecosystem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiate communication and dissemination activities targeting stakeholders, introducing the innovation ecosystem's objectives and benefits. • Develop promotional materials and resources to effectively convey the ecosystem's value proposition. • Organize a kickoff event or webinar to officially launch the ecosystem, inviting key stakeholders for participation.
Phase 2: Ecosystem	Foster active engagement and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host a series of webinars to provide regular updates on ecosystem progress,

Phase	Objective	Activities
Building Continuation and Engagement	collaboration within the ecosystem.	<p>showcasing successful stories and developments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Plan and execute ecosystem-building events, such as workshops and collaborative sessions, emphasizing participation and knowledge sharing among stakeholders. ● Establish an online platform or community for continuous interaction, idea sharing, and partner searches among ecosystem members.
Phase 3: Technology Plan Integration and Expansion	Emphasize the role of technology in driving the ecosystem's digital transformation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Organize webinars that highlight technology advancements and innovations relevant to educational credentials and social security sectors. ● Conduct ecosystem-building events with a focus on capacity building, providing training and knowledge-sharing opportunities for participants. ● Explore partnerships with technology providers to integrate cutting-edge solutions into the ecosystem.
Phase 4: Sustainability Framework and Collaboration	Develop a sustainable framework for the ecosystem and foster collaboration with external organizations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Host webinars to discuss and define a long-term sustainability framework for the innovation ecosystem, ensuring its viability beyond the project's duration. ● Strengthen collaboration with external EU ecosystem organizations through joint events, knowledge sharing, and partnership agreements. ● Implement a structured onboarding process for new members, integrating them into the ecosystem's activities and discussions.

Phase	Objective	Activities
Phase 5: Ongoing Growth and Innovation	Continue to drive growth and innovation within the ecosystem.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a final webinar to highlight the ecosystem's achievements, share lessons learned, and outline future directions for growth and innovation. • Execute a culminating ecosystem-building event, with a focus on technology planning and its role in supporting ongoing innovation. • Encourage consortium members to propose and initiate new projects or initiatives within the ecosystem to fuel innovation.
Phase 6: Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting	Evaluate the effectiveness of ecosystem-building activities and provide recommendations for refinement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a continuous monitoring system to assess the impact of ecosystem-building efforts, collecting feedback from stakeholders and members. • Compile a comprehensive final report, summarizing outcomes, challenges, and key recommendations for sustaining and expanding the innovation ecosystem. • Share the report with consortium members, stakeholders, and relevant EU organizations to inform communication strategy refinement and future planning.

This abstract list of phases, objectives and activities are already followed and conducted by the EBSI team and related initiatives. The project plans to support such activities by focusing on the following aspects/phases:

- **Supporting the activities of EBSI.** The project will support the initiatives run by EBSI team (and the coming EUROPEUM-EDIC). The project will actively engage in their events, contribute to the development of the materials for them (e.g. contributing to their Wiki,

development platform etc), and disseminate their info-materials through the information channels.

- **Awareness raising activities in sectoral domains:** To run tailored engagements and webinars/seminars...etc in three sectoral area (Education, Social Security and Business Registry). The project will identify and collect the pain points identified through these events at national or sectoral level, and share them with the EBSI team.
- **Sustainability efforts:** In collaboration with EBSI/EUROPEUM team and other projects, the project will work on establishing sustainable solutions to continue the ecosystem building efforts (e.g creating the platform for community engagement and dissemination of information, establishment of national helpdesks).

This roadmap serves for promoting and expanding the innovation ecosystem, addressing the objectives of the project. By influencing target groups and fostering collaboration, it aims to accelerate the digital transformation of educational credentials and social security sectors, together with verifiable credentials regarding SSI, ensuring the success and sustainability of the EBSI ecosystem. Through a well-coordinated series of webinars, events, and continuous monitoring, the plan seeks to drive positive change and advance the goals of the consortium.

4 Description of the approach for each target

4.1 European Commission and Policy Makers

4.1.1 Conduct Workshops and Seminars

To effectively engage with the European Commission and policy-making bodies, a multifaceted approach will be employed. Organize comprehensive workshops and seminars designed specifically for representatives from these institutions. These events should be meticulously tailored to address the intricate facets of the project to support EBSI Ecosystem. During these workshops and seminars, the following should be accomplished:

- **Objective Emphasis:** Offer a thorough understanding of the EBSI-VECTOR project's overarching goals. This includes delineating its core objectives and how they align with the European Union's broader vision for digital transformation.
- **Impact Assessment:** Provide a detailed analysis of how EBSI stands to influence and enhance Quality Education and social security elements integration. Illustrate how the project can act as a catalyst for improved service delivery and increased accessibility within these domains.
- **Practical Demonstrations:** Offer practical demonstrations and use cases that prove how the ecosystem can seamlessly facilitate secure, verifiable, and efficient interactions in both the education and social security sectors. Showcase real-world scenarios where EBSI can make a tangible difference, improving citizens' lives.
- **Stakeholder Involvement:** Extend invitations to key decision-makers and stakeholders to actively participate in these workshops and seminars. Encourage open discussion and solicit feedback, creating a collaborative environment where constructive insights can shape the project's direction.

4.1.2 Engage in Policy Dialogues

The engagement with policy makers requires an approach that aligns EBSI with the European Union's digital and educational strategies. Dialogues and consultations with relevant EU departments and working groups should include:

- **Strategic Alignment:** Highlight how the EBSI ecosystem seamlessly aligns with the EU's digital strategy, emphasizing key pillars such as digital sovereignty, data protection, and citizen empowerment.
- **Broader Objectives:** Illustrate how the project activities and EBSI fit into the EU's overarching objectives for enhancing education and social security services. Emphasize its role in fostering cross-border cooperation and driving digital transformation within these sectors and possibly others as well.
- **Regulatory Compliance:** Demonstrate the project's commitment to support EBSI to complying with existing EU regulations, such as eIDAS (Electronic Identification, Authentication, and Trust Services) and GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation). Showcase how EBSI can serve as a foundational element for secure, privacy-friendly interactions while bolstering the EU's regulatory framework.

4.1.3 Utilize Pilot Projects and Case Studies

To solidify the EBSI-VECTOR project's value proposition, pilot projects and case studies should be developed to offer tangible evidence of its practicality and effectiveness. These projects should address real-world challenges within education, social security and business registries, showcasing the following:

- **Streamlined Processes:** EBSI can streamline bureaucratic processes and enhance the efficiency of service delivery. To demonstrate this, concrete examples of how it simplifies administrative tasks and reduces redundancy must be developed.
- **Security Enhancement:** Highlight the robust security features of the ecosystem, underlining how verifiable credentials and decentralized identity can fortify data protection and reduce the risk of fraud or identity theft. Decentralized identity will empower citizens with control over their personal information, providing secure access and data sharing.
- **Data Control:** Emphasize how citizens gain greater control over their personal data within the EBSI ecosystem. Showcase how individuals can manage and consent to data sharing, in line with EU data privacy principles.
- **Evidence-Based Insights:** Collect data and feedback from these pilot projects to provide evidence-based insights to policy makers. This empirical data can be used as a tool in demonstrating the significance of the EBSI ecosystem as a vital driver for the EU's digital transformation agenda.

4.2 Educational Institutions

4.2.1 Collaboration on Requirements Gathering

To support the seamless integration of educational institutions into the EBSI ecosystem, an approach rooted in collaboration and comprehensive requirements gathering is fundamental. This approach encompasses:

- **Engagement with Diverse Stakeholders:** the project shall engage in close collaboration with a diverse array of educational institutions, spanning universities, schools, and vocational training centers. This engagement shall extend beyond administrative circles to include educational administrators, faculty members, and other relevant stakeholders.
- **Consultations:** A series of consultations shall be conducted with educational stakeholders. These consultations will delve into the specific needs and challenges faced by educational institutions, addressing unique pain points and tailoring solutions to their distinct requirements.
- **Customized Application Development:** The insights gleaned from these consultations shall serve as the base for the design and development of specialized applications within the project. These applications shall be crafted to cater to the diverse needs and operational nuances of various educational settings.

4.2.2 Organization of Training Sessions and Webinars

Elevating awareness and proficiency within educational institutions regarding verifiable credentials is a central facet of the EBSI-VECTOR initiative. This approach involves:

- **Targeted Training Initiatives:** EBSI-VECTOR shall orchestrate training sessions and webinars that are targeted at educational administrators and faculty members. These initiatives will be designed to not only raise awareness but also to foster an understanding of the substantial advantages inherent in verifiable credentials.
- **Insights into Enhancements:** These sessions will serve as platforms for delivering insights into how EBSI can substantially elevate the processes associated with issuing, verifying, and transferring educational credentials. The sessions will offer tangible examples of how these technologies can improve the educational landscape.

- **Hands-On Training:** Practicality and implementation will be at the core of these initiatives. EBSI-VECTOR will offer hands-on training and interactive sessions, empowering educational institutions to navigate the adoption process seamlessly. This hands-on approach ensures that institutions are not only informed but also equipped to harness the full potential of EBSI capabilities.

4.2.3 Run Pilot Projects

Validating the functionality and usability of the EBSI-VECTOR platform within real-world educational settings is pivotal. To this end, EBSI-VECTOR will:

- **Collaborate:** Forge active collaborations with educational institutions to initiate and run pilot projects. These projects will act as opportunities for testing the platform's efficacy and adaptability in diverse educational environments.
- **Student Involvement:** Engage students directly within these pilot projects, soliciting their feedback on the user experience. This engagement serves the dual purpose of fine-tuning the platform based on direct input and fostering a sense of ownership and engagement among students.
- **Continuous Improvement:** The insights accrued from these pilot projects will be analyzed and applied to fine-tune the platform's features. This iterative approach ensures that the platform's usability is continually optimized, addressing the evolving needs and expectations of educational stakeholders.

This multifaceted approach positions the project as a collaborative partner to educational institutions, dedicated to addressing their unique requirements, enhancing their operational efficiency, and empowering them to embrace innovative credentialing solutions.

4.3 Social Security Authorities and Providers

4.3.1 Engage in Stakeholder Consultations

A cornerstone of the EBSI-VECTOR project initiative is the active engagement in comprehensive stakeholder consultations within the social security pillar. This approach involves:

- **Stakeholder Engagement:** EBSI-VECTOR actively engages with a spectrum of social security authorities and key representatives from various social security institutions. This

includes discussions with social security administrators, practitioners, regulatory bodies, and other relevant entities.

- **In-Depth Understanding:** The consultations will dive into the intricacies and complexities of the social security domain, recognizing the nuances of social security, requirements, and regulatory frameworks. EBSI-VECTOR seeks to gain a profound understanding of how EBSI can be adopted, optimizing functionality and effectiveness.
- **Customized Solutions:** The insights gleaned from these consultations will serve as the foundation for tailoring social security elements integration to the specific needs of social security stakeholders. This collaborative approach ensures that the resulting solutions are meticulously aligned with the intricacies of the social security pillar.

4.3.2 Collaborate with Social Security Institutions

Seamless integration between the EBSI existing social security systems is pivotal. It comprehends the following:

- **Close Collaboration:** EBSI-VECTOR shall establish close-knit collaborations with social security providers to facilitate a smooth integration process. This entails active engagement with technical experts, administrators, and compliance officers within social security institutions.
- **Technical and Administrative Challenges:** Addressing technical hurdles, such as interoperability and data privacy, is paramount. Regulatory compliance will also be meticulously attended to, ensuring that social security credentials integration adheres to all relevant laws and regulations. This collaborative effort seeks to eliminate roadblocks that may impede a secure and efficient transition.
- **Secure Transition:** The collaboration will ensure that the integration of social security credentials within EBSI is not only technically sound but also meets the highest standards of data security and privacy, aligning with social security requirements.

4.3.3 Conduct Pilots to Test Functionality

Validation of social security elements within the EBSI ecosystem is a crucial step. This approach encompasses:

- **Collaborative Pilot Projects:** the project will initiate pilot projects in collaboration with social security institutions. These projects serve as real-world testing grounds to evaluate the practicality and efficiency of using verifiable credentials for social security documents.

- **User-Centric Feedback:** Feedback from social security professionals and patients involved in these pilot projects is required. Their experiences and insights are needed for identifying areas of improvement and optimization within the functionality of social security solutions.
- **Iterative Enhancement:** The insights garnered from these pilot projects will be systematically analyzed and applied to refine and optimize the functionality of social security solutions. This iterative approach ensures that the ecosystem continually evolves to meet the evolving needs of social security stakeholders.

This approach positions EBSI-VECTOR project as a collaborative partner with social security authorities and providers, dedicated to understanding their unique requirements, addressing technical and regulatory challenges, and refining social security solutions for the improvement of social security systems across the European Union by adopting and leveraging EBSI capabilities.

4.4 Research and Innovation Communities

4.4.1 Collaborate with Research Institutions

In pursuit of a deeper understanding of the impact and scalability of verifiable credentials within the EU, EBSI-VECTOR adopts a proactive approach through collaborative partnerships with research institutions. It encompasses:

- **Strategic Alliances:** EBSI-VECTOR will establish strategic partnerships with research institutions, developing an environment of shared knowledge. These partnerships will extend into joint research projects that assess the effectiveness and benefits of EBSI in educational and social security contexts.
- **Research Publication:** The findings and insights stemming from these collaborative research projects will be published widely. By disseminating research outcomes, EBSI-VECTOR contributes to the broader knowledge base surrounding decentralized identity and verifiable credentials. This dissemination also serves as a powerful catalyst for promoting adoption and understanding.

4.4.2 Partner with Innovation Communities

To drive technological advancements and explore novel use cases, EBSI-VECTOR project engages in partnerships with dynamic innovation communities:

- Collaborative Ecosystem: EBSI-VECTOR actively partners with innovation communities, including start-ups, technology hubs, and incubators, creating a thriving ecosystem of innovation. This partnership extends to the organization of joint workshops and innovation challenges (hackathons).
- Encouraging Creativity: By organizing these workshops and challenges, EBSI-VECTOR encourages the development of innovative decentralized applications and solutions that harness the EBSI capabilities of the ecosystem. This collaborative approach sparks creativity and exploration, unlocking new frontiers for EBSI.

4.5 Digital Wallet Developers and Providers

EBSI-VECTOR recognizes the pivotal role played by digital wallet developers and providers in advancing the adoption and success of verifiable credentials and decentralized identity. To engage them effectively, a multifaceted approach is imperative. This approach encompasses:

4.5.1 Engage in Developer Outreach

- Developer Engagement Initiatives: EBSI-VECTOR will proactively conduct outreach activities, enabling a close and collaborative relationship with digital wallet developers and providers. This includes providing technical documentation, APIs, that streamline the integration of EBSI functionalities into their solutions.
- Easy Integration: By facilitating a smooth integration process, EBSI-VECTOR encourages widespread adoption within the digital identity and verifiable credentials landscape. The goal is to make the integration of EBSI capabilities a seamless and attractive proposition for developers.

4.5.2 Jointly Promote the Ecosystem

Collaborative Promotion: EBSI-VECTOR will work closely with digital wallet developers and providers on joint promotional activities. These activities encompass co-hosting webinars, publishing informative blog posts, and participating in industry events. The objective is to jointly showcase the benefits of utilizing EBSI-compliant solutions and foster greater awareness and adoption.

- Leveraging Capabilities: EBSI-VECTOR encourages developers to harness the EBSI capabilities within their applications. By doing so, the ecosystem's reach and impact are extended, and the benefits of verifiable credentials and decentralized identity are amplified.

This approach positions EBSI-VECTOR as an engaged and collaborative partner with digital wallet developers and providers, actively supporting their integration efforts, providing ongoing assistance, and jointly promoting the ecosystem's benefits.



5 EBSI-VECTOR Complementarities with of other ecosystems/groups of stakeholders, communities

In the framework of the EBSI-VECTOR project, complementarities with other ecosystems, groups of stakeholders, and communities will be achieved through strategic planning, collaboration, and communication. The project recognizes the importance of creating a real impact across Europe by increasing awareness of the project results.

Project will achieve complementarities with:

5.1 Ecosystems and stakeholders

Work Packages WP6 and WP7: The project has defined two work packages, WP6 and WP7, specifically aimed at supporting an innovation ecosystem for EBSI infrastructure and use cases. WP6 will focus on developing a strategy to identify and engage with various actors and key institutions across participating countries. By understanding the needs and value propositions of different stakeholder groups, the project will align its objectives with those of relevant ecosystems and communities. This strategic planning will also involve cooperation with existing EU Ecosystem organizations such as EUBOF (European Blockchain Observatory and Forum) and INATBA (International Association for Trusted Blockchain Applications) to reinforce coordination and leverage the expertise of these established groups.

5.2 Related European Projects

The project actively collaborates as part of a broader ecosystem with related European projects and initiatives like ESSPASS, EHIC, and EUROPASS. In addition to these relevant projects and initiatives are also the projects CHAISE, TRUST CHAIN, BUILDCHAIN, TROUBLE and the EUBOF 3.0. This collaboration creates a synergy between projects with similar objectives, allowing for the exchange of best practices, knowledge, and expertise. By engaging with these projects, EBSI-VECTOR can contribute its technical advancements and use case findings to strengthen the collective efforts towards promoting verifiable credentials and decentralized identity across Europe.

5.3 Complementarities with Communities of each target group

5.3.1 European Commission and Policy Makers

Engaging with European Commission Working Groups.

The project will actively engage with relevant European Commission working groups for use cases and committees related to digital identity, blockchain, and education. It will actively engage with existing EBSI ecosystem and initiatives around EBSI. By participating in these communities, EBSI-VECTOR can align its objectives with the EU's broader digital strategies and policies, ensuring that the project's outcomes support and complement the overall digital transformation initiatives in the region.

5.3.2 Collaborating with Policy Advisors and Think Tanks

EBSI-VECTOR will collaborate with policy advisors and think tanks in the education and social security domains. By involving these communities, the project can leverage their expertise in policy analysis and development, ensuring that the EBSI-VECTOR ecosystem aligns with the regulatory frameworks and policy objectives of the European Commission.

5.3.3 Close collaboration with European Blockchain Partnership and EBSI-EBP-EDIC

EBSI-VECTOR will actively collaborate with EBP representatives and experts and with EBSI-EBP-EDIC. This partnership will strengthen the coordination and integration of EBSI capabilities within the broader blockchain ecosystem. The exchange of knowledge and best practices will enhance the overall impact of verifiable credentials and decentralized identity in Europe.

5.3.4 Educational Institutions

Partnering with National and International Educational Networks: EBSI-VECTOR will form partnerships with national and international educational networks, associations, and consortia. By collaborating with these communities, the project can gather insights into the diverse needs and requirements of different educational settings, ensuring that the verifiable credentials issued on the platform cater to various educational institutions and their unique contexts.

5.3.5 Involving Student Representative Organizations

To understand the perspectives of students and learners better, EBSI-VECTOR will involve student representative organizations in its consultations and feedback collection processes. By engaging

with these communities, the project can tailor the platform's features and functionalities to meet the expectations and preferences of the end-users—students and learners.

5.3.6 Social Security Authorities and Providers

Collaborating with European Social security institutions: EBSI-VECTOR will collaborate with European Social security institutions and organizations to ensure that social security elements integration aligns with existing social security systems and standards. By engaging with these communities, the project can address interoperability challenges and design solutions that seamlessly integrate with the social security infrastructure.

5.3.7 Involving Social Security Professionals in Pilots

To validate the practicality of social security elements functionality within EBSI-VECTOR, the project will involve social security's professionals in its pilot projects. By collaborating with social security institutions, the project can collect valuable feedback on the usability and effectiveness of the integration of social security elements.

5.3.8 Students and Learners

Partnering with Student Associations and Unions: EBSI-VECTOR will partner with student associations and unions to promote awareness and adoption of verifiable credentials and decentralized identity solutions. By collaborating with these communities, the project can amplify its messaging and engage with a broader audience of students and learners.

5.3.9 Involving Learners in Co-Creation Activities

To ensure that the EBSI-VECTOR ecosystem meets the needs of students and learners, the project will involve them in co-creation activities. By conducting focus groups and design thinking workshops, the project can gather user-centric insights and preferences, fostering user-driven development.

5.3.10 Research and Innovation Communities

Collaborating with Blockchain Research Institutes: EBSI-VECTOR will collaborate with blockchain research institutes and academic communities to conduct studies on the impact and scalability of verifiable credentials within the EU. By engaging with these communities, the project can contribute its practical findings and use cases to ongoing research efforts, enriching the understanding of decentralized identity's potential.

5.3.11 Partnering with European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs) and Incubators

EBSI-VECTOR will partner with innovation hubs and incubators to explore new use cases and drive advancements in the adoption of verifiable credentials. By fostering a culture of innovation, the project can encourage developers and entrepreneurs to create innovative solutions that leverage EBSI capabilities.

5.3.12 Digital Wallet Developers and Providers

Engaging with Developer Communities: EBSI-VECTOR will actively engage with digital wallet developers and providers within the blockchain ecosystem. By involving these communities, the project can ensure that the platform's functionalities align with industry standards and best practices, promoting seamless integration and interoperability.

5.3.13 Contributing to Developer Forums and Conferences

The project will participate in developer forums, conferences, and industry events to showcase its technical capabilities and use cases. By actively contributing to these communities, EBSI-VECTOR can foster a collaborative environment, encouraging the adoption of EBSI-compliant solutions in the broader developer community.

Overall, EBSI-VECTOR aims to achieve complementarities with various communities to ensure that its technical developments and use cases align with the needs, perspectives, and objectives of the diverse stakeholders involved in the project. By collaborating with these communities, the project can create a sustainable ecosystem that maximizes the impact and adoption of verifiable credentials and decentralized identity solutions across Europe.

5.3.14 Collaboration with existing and future initiatives around EBSI

The project will upgrade the collaboration with existing initiatives around EBSI, taking into account Early adopters programme, which can contribute to extend of the potential reach of EBSI with piloting verifiable credentials in new domains and scaling of verifiable credentials and reach (in collaboration with group of stakeholders, scenarios that work across border or scenarios that involve multidisciplinary actors, solutions that exchange credentials end-to-end etc.).

5.3.15 Engagement of the communities built upon the Diploma and Social security use cases

EBSI-VECTOR will actively engage with communities and working groups built upon basic Diploma and Social security use case. By involving these communities, the project can ensure that the

knowledge accumulated in the recent years during the development of the solutions will be transferred and upgraded giving additional value to the project.

5.4 Identifying Synergies and Initiatives

The project will actively identify synergies with other initiatives and communities in the field of decentralized identity and verifiable credentials. By understanding the maturity of existing projects and assessing their potential for cross-country use cases, EBSI-VECTOR can foster joint workshops, events, and participation in the European Commission's actions. By serving as speakers at events, disseminating initiatives, and participating in early adopters' programs, the project can enhance its visibility and impact within the broader ecosystem.

5.5 Online Workshops and Knowledge Exchange

To promote knowledge exchange and know-how among stakeholders, the project will organize intermediate online workshops using Agile methodologies such as Design Thinking. These workshops will facilitate discussions, idea sharing, and collaboration among stakeholders from different domains. Additionally, a final workshop in Brussels (foreseen as WP7 KPI) will be organized to maximize project impact among key stakeholders, including representatives from the European Commission, policy makers, industry experts, and other relevant actors. This event will provide a platform to showcase project results, demonstrate practical use cases, and seek feedback for future improvements.

5.6 Communication and Dissemination Strategy

The project will structure its communication and dissemination strategy to tailor messages and channels according to the different target audiences. By utilizing various communication tools such as websites, e-newsletters, publications, social media, and media outreach, the project will maximize user engagement and outreach. The dissemination efforts will aim to inform, educate, and attract stakeholders, fostering a broader understanding and adoption of EBSI capabilities.

Overall, the EBSI-VECTOR project seeks to build strong networks and collaborations with relevant stakeholders and ecosystems to reinforce the deployment and broader use of the cross-border infrastructure and use cases. By actively engaging with various communities, projects, and organizations, the project aims to create a sustainable ecosystem that supports the adoption of verifiable credentials and self-sovereign identity solutions across Europe, benefiting citizens, businesses, and public administrations alike.