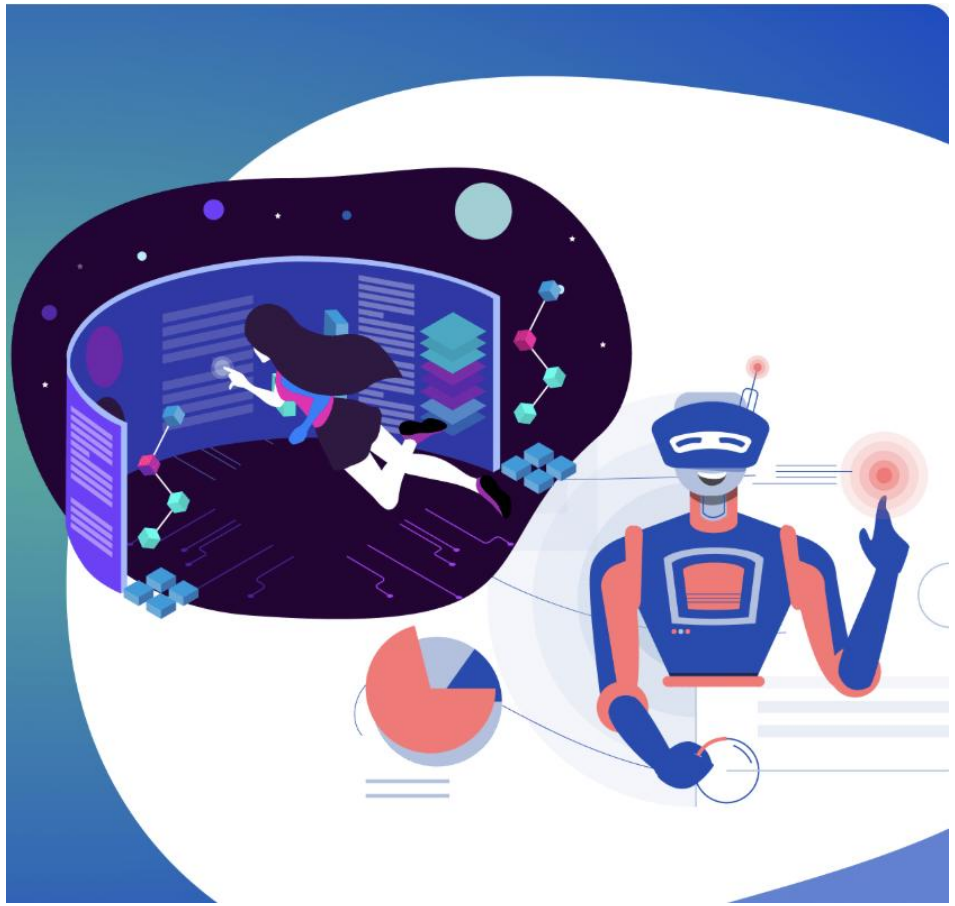
Working Groups

AI and blockchain applications

Background

You will work in teams to design an innovative, practical solution that uses **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** and **Blockchain** to tackle a corruption-related issue in the public sector. Follow the structured steps below to guide your work.



Step 1

Define the Problem (10 minutes)

Discuss and agree on the main corruption gap(s) you want to address.

These could include, but are not limited to:

1. **Bid rigging** (e.g., favoritism or manipulation in procurement)
2. **Conflict of interest** (e.g., officials awarding contracts to relatives or their own companies)
3. **Lack of documentation or transparency** (e.g., missing records, untraceable decisions)
4. **Delays or inconsistencies in payment processing**
5. **Ghost workers or duplicate beneficiaries**
6. **Falsified reporting or performance data**

Document your chosen issue clearly with a few lines explaining its real-world relevance and consequences.

Step 2

How will technology help solve the problem?

A. Blockchain Component

- How will blockchain be used?

  Examples:

  - Timestamping tender announcements or bid submissions
  - Storing procurement records in immutable ledgers
  - Tracking financial transactions transparently
  - Ensuring only verified actors access the system
  - Specify what data will be stored on-chain and why immutability or transparency is valuable in your use case.

Step 3

B. Artificial Intelligence Component

- How will AI contribute?
  - Examples:
    - Detecting unusual patterns (e.g., repeated winners, inflated prices)
    - Flagging anomalies in payment processing or project delivery
    - Classifying risk levels of vendors or contracts using historical data
    - Summarizing long reports to aid decision-making

  Indicate what type of data the AI will analyze and how its outputs will help decision-makers or auditors.

Step 3

C. Stakeholders and Users

- Who are the key users of the system?

  Government entities (e.g., procurement departments)

  Independent auditors or oversight bodies

  Citizens or CSOs (civil society organizations)

  Vendors or service providers

  Explain how these actors will interact with the system.

Step 3

D. Workflow Design

- Draw a simple workflow showing the full journey, for example:
- Tender announced
- Bidders submit offers (digitally, on blockchain)
- AI screens for anomalies
- Decision recorded and timestamped
- Payments issued and monitored
- Public dashboard updated
- Use flipcharts or diagrams to visualize this clearly.

Step 4

Discuss practical aspects that would affect implementation:

- **Data Requirements**

  What data sources are needed (e.g., vendor history, payment logs)?

  Who owns this data and how will it be accessed?

- **Legal and Policy Enablers**

  Are there existing laws supporting digital procurement or open data?

  Are new regulations needed for using AI or blockchain?

- **Risks and Mitigation**

  Could there be **bias** in AI models?

  How will **privacy** be protected?

  What safeguards ensure **human oversight**?

- **Institutional Involvement**

  What ministries or public bodies must be onboard?

  Who needs to champion or approve the system?

  What role can anti-corruption commissions or parliaments play?

Step 5

Prepare Your Presentation (15 minutes)

Your team will have **10 minutes to present**, followed by feedback.

Your presentation should cover:

- **Problem Statement** – Clear definition and real-world relevance
- **Proposed Solution** – Explain both the **AI** and **blockchain** components
- **System Overview** – Show your workflow or system diagram
- **Implementation Plan** – Brief steps and key partners
- **Expected Impact** – How it improves transparency, efficiency, or accountability

Step 6

Present and Receive Feedback (25 minutes)

- Each group will present for **10 minutes**.
- After each presentation, the facilitator and peers will give **brief feedback** on:
  - Feasibility
  - Innovation
  - Real-world applicability
  - Risks and gaps