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VIA Don Bosco invests around 9 million euros in quality education around the world every year. With the implementation of the newly developed blockchain application by SettleMint, the NGO takes the next step in ensuring that every donation is used in the most effective way. By taking advantage of the shared database capabilities of blockchain technology, all financial proof is visible, verified and validated by all stakeholders in near real-time. The immutability of data ensures that the whole system is tamper-proof and thus fraud-resistant. Since only information that is already compliant with donor rules is accepted into the system, it also simplifies the process, drastically reducing the administrative overhead and leaving the NGO more time to focus on its core mission: providing education around the globe.

Where blockchain technology can be very complex, the system itself is set up in a very user-friendly way. Users work with Facebook Messenger to enter data (expenses etc.) and reporting is done on a simple website. The distributed middleware solution offered by SettleMint handles the blockchain connection. This even allowed VIA Don Bosco to implement the solution without an IT department.

“This is not about the technology, but about building a new relationship with our donors and beneficiaries. We owe it to all of them to become more transparent and

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to get final approval. Without consensus, an expense will never be accepted. The reporting tool then offers insight into the complete audit trail and the quality of financial management of partners involved. Reducing the time needed to check the financial information for every school and every office in every country – data that is crucial to continuous improvement – from months to seconds.

Future development will focus on two main elements: effectively matching donations to invoices, so donors can see exactly what their money was spent on, and the integration of AI to start mapping patterns and gain even more financial insights.

Minister for Digital Agenda, Philippe De Backer: “Trust and transparency is crucial when it comes to development cooperation. New technologies like blockchain can contribute and give signs of trust. Moreover, they diminish the administrative burden. The cooperation between Settlemint and Don Bosco is a good concrete example of how blockchain can contribute to a better society.”

About VIA Don Bosco

VIA Don Bosco is a recognized Belgian NGO supporting educational institutions and youth employment initiatives in Africa and Latin America. For 50 years we have been providing educational and financial support to local schools. The development of the social and professional skills of disadvantaged young people is the common thread throughout our projects. We help them become active global citizens and find a place in the job market. At the same time, we create links between schools in Belgium and elsewhere in the world. This way, VIA Don Bosco contributes to building a fair society that meets the Sustainable Development Goals.

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Bedankt

De Backer en strandclubs ondertekenen engagementsverklaring voor minder plastic

De Backer: "Nooit toelaten dat Zuckerbergs en Facebooks van deze wereld voor gedachtepolitie gaan spelen"

Satelliet beschermt Belgische vloot de klok rond tegen piraten

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