Experienced advantages and disadvantages of using blockchain within European municipalities

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My name is Joanna Junros, and I just finished my master's degree at Gothenburg University, in the field of Public administration-management.

I have been working together with BLING since early 2020 as a research assistant and I did my internship within BLING as well. I live in Partille, around 10 minutes outside of Gothenburg.

Thesis Theme

- Exploring experienced advantages and disadvantages of using blockchain in public administration in three European municipalities: Roeselare, Edinburgh and Groningen.

- With the aim to provide information to public officials aiming at implementation of the blockchain solutions about the lessons drawn from three cases.

Why it is important?

- A lack of similar studies was identified within the field of my institution.

- To make public sector in Sweden aware of the actual experiences and reflections of advantages and disadvantages.

- In order to gain a better understanding on what this technology can bring, not only for the Swedish public administration but also perhaps for similar neighboring countries in the North Sea Region.

What I did?

- The study is a multiple case study, the data used comes from 9 conducted semi-structured interviews.

- The respondents was chosen since they work within the North Sea Region and cooperate within the region on matters of improvement projects.

- The study brings out the lived experiences that the respondents described during the interview sessions. This leads to better understanding of how blockchain technology is perceived within public administration.

- In order to be able to answer my research questions the empirical as well as the theoretical research is divided into three different topics that were found to be relevant to the study.

Findings & Results:

- Advantages & Disadvantages
  -less administrative so less time consuming
  -transparency and tamper proof
  -security to protect data

- Disadvantages
  -difficult to implement
  -more expensive than traditional
  -skepticism from people higher up

Findings & Results:

- Transparency & Security
  -can be used as a tool to enhance security
  -have issues regarding individuals' integrity

- Trust
  -can be used in order to increase the level of trust toward the recorded data

Most interesting or unexpected:

- One interesting thing during the process was to try and understand the lived experiences through the respondents own perspective.

- Interesting discussions around the need to making the technology easier to implement and usable for people and small business to use the technology for enhanced security, making it easier to use smart contracts for improved security.

- One thing that I found interesting, was that blockchain was not a familiar term or technology in my institution.

Challenges remaining:

- Focusing future studies towards different public organizations in Sweden.

- Another challenges or opportunity for future research is to focus the study towards one specific factor.

- Reactions from individuals in decision making positions.

THANK YOU

Any questions?