

EXECUTIVE TRAINING COURSE

PROGRAMME

Blockchain and Decentralised Finance

9 - 10 June 2025

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Introduction

This executive education programme on Decentralised Finance (DeFi) provides a comprehensive overview of how blockchain technology is reshaping the financial industry. Participants will explore how decentralised platforms deliver financial services without traditional institutions, enabling new ways to trade, borrow, lend, and manage digital assets.

The programme begins with an introduction to blockchain technology, covering decentralisation, consensus mechanisms, smart contracts, and comparisons of major platforms such as Bitcoin, Ethereum, and Solana, as well as rollups. Participants will gain practical experience through hands-on exercises, including creating wallets and transacting on test networks.

Next, the course examines the evolving financial architecture on blockchains. Participants will study custodial and non-custodial services, decentralised exchanges, lending protocols, stablecoins, and yield aggregation strategies. Practical exercises include hands-on trading and borrowing on blockchain platforms.

Finally, the course explores digital assets and their applications as tokens for governance, collateral, certificates of ownership, and utility. Participants will also analyse regulatory frameworks such as MiCA and SEC rules, gaining insight into the legal and operational complexities of decentralised finance.

Designed for professionals without technical backgrounds, the course emphasises financial concepts, platform strategies, and regulatory implications, equipping leaders to navigate and innovate in the rapidly evolving digital economy.

Location | EUI Premises in Florence, Italy

Faculty

- Andreas Park (University of Toronto)

Format | Residential

Level | Intermediate

Approach | Quantitative

Learning Objectives:

- Understand blockchain technology, decentralisation, and consensus mechanisms.
- Compare blockchain platforms and their capacity to host financial applications.
- Analyse the roles of intermediaries, users, and platforms in DeFi.
- Differentiate between custodial and non-custodial financial services.
- Learn decentralised trading, lending, borrowing, and stablecoin operations.
- Identify digital asset use cases, including tokens and governance.
- Examine regulatory frameworks and compliance requirements for digital assets.
- Apply practical blockchain skills, such as wallet creation, transactions, and application usage.

MONDAY 9 JUNE

09:30 - 10:00	Introductory remarks and tour-de-table
10:00 - 11:00	Principles of Decentralisation, Blockchain Structure, and Smart Contracts
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 - 12:30	Consensus, Privacy, and Comparison of Different Blockchains
12:30 - 13:15	Interactive exercise: blockchain wallet creation and token transfers
13:15 - 14:15	Lunch break
14:15 - 15:45	Financial Services on Blockchain: Decentralised Lending, Borrowing, and Composite Assets

- 15:45 - 16:00** **Coffee break**
- 16:00 - 17:30** **Asset tokenisation, stablecoins and digital money**
- 17:30 - 18:30** **Aperitif**

TUESDAY

10 JUNE

- 09:30 - 10:30** **Interactive Exercise: usage of decentralised platforms, performing trades, borrowing, and lending, token creation**
- 10:30 - 11:00** **Coffee break**
- 11:00 - 12:30** **Token use cases, digital asset types, and intersection to traditional finance**
- 12:30 - 13:30** **Lunch break**
- 13:30 - 14:30** **Regulatory and legal frameworks for digital assets and decentralised finance**
- 14:30 - 14:45** **Coffee break**
- 14:45 - 17:00** **Interactive exercise: business challenge for blockchain-based service**



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